



UNITE FOR GOOD

KeyWay Weekly Newsletter

This Week's Program:

Spencer Hardin, Advocacy Manager, Alzheimer's Association--GA Chapter



In his role, Spencer educates and trains advocates across the state, leads year-round grassroots policy initiatives, and helps strengthen relationships with Georgia's state and federal lawmakers. The Alzheimer's Association is a nationwide organization with a strong presence in Georgia, providing crucial resources, advocacy, and support for those living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, as well as for their caregivers and families.

July is Transition Month: Fridays: 4, 11, 18, 25



KeyWay Report on Our AWER CLUB ASSEMBLY July 18, 2025 | AWER Weekly Meeting

Dr. Victoria Seals kicked off her first RY2026 meeting as our President. She led Club Assembly which began with RY2025 president **Jared Evans** presenting information and a pictorial review of Rotary International's Annual Convention, held in Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The Parade of Flags featured Rotary Clubs from 140 nations, displaying huge levels of comradery among Rotarians from throughout the world. (Interestingly, Jared noted a consensus among Rotarians who usually attend Rotary International conventions considered the 2017 Convention held in Atlanta as was the best; the Atlanta Downtown Club's Bob Hope chaired the event.) Jared also reported that The Rotary Foundation has doubled its endowment to \$2.025B! The interest from endowment provides funds for programs of local Rotary Clubs - also known as District Grants - throughout the world, among Rotary programs of service.

Promoting Peace and Understanding are mainstays of Rotary worldwide. In that tradition and to strengthen awareness of Rotary within the West End, AWER is seeking to locate a Peace Pole in the West End, probably on the Atlanta Beltline or city park. Property owners along the Atlanta Belt Line will be approached to serve as a joint sponsor of the Peace Pole with AWER. A Peace Pole is a monument that displays the message May Peace Prevail On Earth in the language of the country where it is placed and 3 to 7 additional languages meaningful to the host site. Peace Poles are intended to inspire unity and reflection.

Eric John reported the July 2025 issue of Rotary magazine contained an announcement of a new Rotary International President, **Mr. Francesco Arezzo**, a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy. He was selected following the unexpected resignation of RI President-elect **Mario César Martins de Camargo** on June 8th.

AWER Past president and formerly longtime AWER Treasurer **Don Schewe** was asked to describe how AWER became the first Rotary Club in the world to have a legally elected woman member. Don explained that a small RC in Southern California approved for membership a woman in the mid-1980s. Rotary International sued the Club to invalidate her election. Over several years of litigation, the case came before the Supreme Court of The United States (SCOTUS). The father of Richard Gerakitis was club president during this time and asked Don to monitor LexisNexis for updates. He discovered the SCOTUS Unanimous Opinion in favor of the defendant - the RC of Southern California - at about 9AM. AWER had previously agreed to nominate **Ms. Sharon Adams** for membership as soon as it became legally permissible. Once the U.S. Supreme Court issued its decision allowing women to be admitted to Rotary clubs, AWER immediately held expeditious board votes and club unanimously approved her membership. As a result, Ms. Adams was officially elected as a member of the club and the first female rotarian. These actions all occurred on the morning of May 4, 1987.

President Victoria presented three Pillars for a successful RY26 for AWER:

- (1) *Innovation* - ensuring opportunities to set AWER on a path of awareness and productivity - mentioning the City of Atlanta's Streets Alive events in which AWER has participated in.
- (2) *Continuity* - making sure the leadership of AWER has depth and succession plans in place. To the end, she noted that **Ms. Debra Stokes and Mr. Chris Hempfling** will serve as co-presidents elect for the RY2027 year.
- (3) *Partnerships* are critical to expand AWER's awareness and impact, such as AWER's several years commitments of support with M. Agnus Jones Elementary School and Booker T. Washington High School.

She urged each member to define a role for themselves in one of more of the Pillars.

President Victoria also re-emphasized the need - voiced by others - for better awareness, visibility and service: AWER should find a way to locate its weekly meetings in the West End. Atlanta Technical College was mentioned as an ideal location.

Respectfully,

Neil Shorthouse, *Keyway Meeting Reporter*

The Power of Local Action

Building stronger communities through everyday service and civic responsibility

Civic engagement is more than just voting or reacting to national headlines. It is the work that happens between elections that strengthens communities and drives meaningful change.

Rotary has always supported active citizenship. Whether through neighborhood cleanups, youth mentorship, or partnerships with local organizations, our actions at the community level are powerful expressions of democratic values. These efforts reflect a belief that lasting change begins close to home, right here in the West End.

As we plan for the Rotary year ahead, let us remember that civic engagement is about more than policy. It is about showing up, building relationships, and offering support where it is needed most. Rotary teaches us that small, consistent acts of service can shape a more just and connected society.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 8/1: Wren's Nest Summer Youth, Laila
- 8/5: WEND National Night Out
- 8/15: Caroline Ramos–Member Showcase
- 8/16: Safe at Home Game
- 8/22: Imara Canady, Board President, Hammonds House Museum
- 8/29: Rebekah Enoch; Freedom United.
- 9/14: Streets Alive! Peachtree St.
- 10/25: ATL Tech. College 5K
- 10/26: Streets Alive! West End

Sign up to be a program chair [here](#) today!

CELEBRATIONS

Happy Birthday

8/11 Debra Stokes
8/17 Victoria Seals, PhD
8/18 Robert Stephens
8/19 Jared Evans

Happy Anniversary

8/23 Richard & Mary Gerakitis

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation & Pledge
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Tasse Trivia
5. DEI Moment
6. Announcements
7. Program/Speaker
8. The Four-Way Test
9. Adjournment

RY2025–2026 Board of Directors

President: *Dr. Victoria Seals*
Co-Presidents-Elect: *Debra Stokes & Chris Hempfling*
Immediate Past President: *Jared Evans*
President-Nominee: *TBD*
Secretary: *Neil Shorthouse*
Treasurer: *Rose Caplan*
Club Admin. Co-Chairs: *Debra Stokes & Chris Hempfling*
Membership Chair: *Sonia Hantman*
Public Image Chair: *Jared Evans*
Service Projects Chair: *Carolina Ramos*
The Rotary Foundation Chair: *Debra Stokes*
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair: *Marilyn Jackson*

JOIN ONLINE

Zoom Link - [Click here](#)
Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307
Passcode: Service

Dial In

1-646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307
Passcode: 846122

Never a Bad Time to Catch Up!

Your membership dues help to keep our service strong. Click [here](#) to pay on the District 6900 website. Your club, your club treasurer, and your community will thank you!

Stay Connected with AWER

 **Email:** inforotaryawe@gmail.com  **Website:** atlantawestendrotary.org
 **Facebook:** facebook.com/RotaryAWE  **Instagram:** [@rotaryatlantawestend](https://www.instagram.com/rotaryatlantawestend)

THE FOUR-WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do



- first* [Is it the TRUTH?](#)
- second* [Is it FAIR to all concerned?](#)
- third* [Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?](#)
- fourth* [Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?](#)