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TOLEDO ROTARY CLUB

SPOKE NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 26TH, 2026 | ISSUE 471



DR. JAMES HOLLOWAY | UNIVERSITY OF TOLEDO

Join us on Monday, January 26th, when we are joined by Dr. James Holloway, the University of Toledo's 19th President.

Dr. James Holloway was named the 19th president of The University of Toledo on May 22, 2025, by the UToledo Board of Trustees following an extensive national search. He began his tenure July 15, 2025. A nuclear engineer, Holloway's career has been a mix of research, teaching, administration and global work, including in India, Ethiopia and Ghana. Throughout his career, he has championed inclusive excellence, expanded research capacity and fostered civic partnerships.

Holloway joins UToledo from the University of New Mexico, where he has served as provost and executive vice president for academic affairs since July 2019. He is also a professor in the Department of Nuclear Engineering. As provost, Holloway has been committed to providing students and faculty with the support needed to further the university's academic mission and make a positive impact in a diverse and constantly evolving world. During his tenure, new first-year students increased by over 40%, reversing a long decline in enrollment; research expenditures in Academic Affairs units grew by 46%; and philanthropic giving doubled.

Before that, Holloway served three decades at the University of Michigan, where he was the Arthur F. Thurnau Professor and Professor of Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences (now emeritus). He held leadership roles including vice provost for global engagement and interdisciplinary academic affairs, vice provost for global and engaged education, and associate dean for undergraduate education in the College of Engineering. His research focus is computational and mathematical modeling with applications in areas such as neutron and photon radiation transport theory, inverse problems and uncertainty quantification.

Born in Washington, D.C., into an Army family, he has lived in Thailand, Germany, England and six different U.S. states. Holloway earned bachelor's and master's degrees in nuclear engineering from the University of Illinois, completed advanced graduate work in mathematics at Cambridge University, and earned a doctorate in engineering physics from the University of Virginia. A long-time resident in the Midwest, Holloway and his family, including his wife, Johnna, and son, Patrick, are excited to join Rocket Nation.

[Zoom Link](#)
[Meeting ID: 827 0168 4208](#)



Meeting Location:
Glass City Center,
Ballroom, 2nd floor



In Memoriam
Helyn Bolanis



*Dedicated Rotarian since 1995
Past President & Past District Governor*

The Rotary Club of Toledo Friendship Committee informs you with sadness that Helyn Bolanis has passed on January 12, 2026. She was 74 years old.

Helyn served as our club president in 2008-09 and as Rotary district governor for District 6600 in 2011-12. She was our second female club president, and the district's first female governor. She truly lived Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self," every day. At meetings and events, she was a bright light who radiated kindness, positivity, and grace.

Visitation will be held on Sunday, January 25 from 2-6 p.m., and Monday, January 26 from 2-8 p.m. in Walker Funeral Home, 5155 Sylvania Avenue, Toledo, OH 43623 where a Vigil for the Deceased, including the recitation of the Holy Rosary and a sharing of memories, will begin at 7:00 p.m. on Monday. The Holy Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated by Reverend Joseph J. Mominee at Saint Joseph's Catholic Church, 5411 Main St., Sylvania, OH 43560, at 10:00 a.m., Tuesday, January 27, 2026. Interment will take place at Mount Carmel Catholic Cemetery, 15 East Manhattan St., Toledo.

*Please keep Helyn's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.
Her full obituary can be read here: [Helyn Bolanis](#)*

Congratulations to our Newly Elected Club Officers!

Thank you to our members for participating in our election!

Adam Cassi has been named Vice President, and will serve as Club President for 2028-2029.

These individuals will serve as incoming board members for the 2026-2029 term.



Julia Hage



Jane Marie Rahe



Emily Zarecki

THANK YOU TO OUR CORPORATE MEMBERS!



UPCOMING PROGRAM SPEAKERS



2/2

*Service Above Self Day
Click Here to Sign Up Today!*



2/9

*Jonelle Massey
Meeting at Glass City Center
in Main Ballroom*



2/16

*No Meeting
In Honor of Presidents' Day*

Save the Date!
**SERVICE
ABOVE
SELF** Day

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 2ND

**SIGN-UP TODAY!
GUESTS WELCOMED AND
ENCOURAGED!**

THANK YOU TO JANUARY'S MONTHLY MEETING SPONSOR!

**ABOUT
DAN:**

Dan is a Toledo native, father of young children, and Rotary member since 2012. He's deeply involved in the Northwest Ohio through various civic, professional and social organizations. Dan understands firsthand the challenge of balancing a growing business with family life, and spends his time involved in the various activities three kids bring.

**ABOUT
SKILLFUL
STRATEGIES:**

Skillful Strategies helps business owners build stronger businesses and ultimately prepare owners for their eventual transition and exit. As a Certified Exit Planning Advisor (CEPA), Dan works with owners on what's often called the "three-legged stool" of exit readiness: personal vision for life after the business, financial preparedness, and business value optimization. Most business owners spend decades building their companies but considerably less time planning for what comes next. Dan's practice addresses this gap by helping owners develop clarity around their transition timeline and readiness across all three areas. His work ranges from comprehensive multi-year exit planning to foundational business coaching for businesses of all sizes. He's developed educational programs and works with other professional advisors who recognize that successful business transitions require coordination across multiple disciplines. The focus is on helping business owners understand where they are today and what steps will move them toward their desired future, whether that transition is five years away or fifteen.

We invite you to connect with him directly and learn more about Skillful Strategies today!



Dan@skillfulstrats.com



Toledo Rotary Club's Monthly Coffee Connection

Friday, February 6
at 8 am

Jamii Cafe
1300 Jefferson Ave,
Toledo, OH 43604
(Entrance on 14th St.)



SAVE THE DATE!

Rotary District 6600 | Community Peace Summit

The 2026 Rotary District 6600 Peace Summit will take place on Saturday, February 7, 2026, at LCCC's Stocker Arts Center, in partnership with the Elyria YWCA. The event will run from 8:30 am - 4:30 pm with meals included. This free event, themed "Uniting For Good," will feature keynote speakers **David Orr** and **Chase Farris** discussing courage. Breakout sessions by **Facing History and Ourselves** will address critical thinking and communication in a polarized world.

For more information, contact Jeanine Donaldson at jpd@elyriaywca.org

RotaryWORKS WEEKLY HIGHLIGHT

PROMOTING BUSINESS WITH LIKEMINDED ROTARY MEMBERS WHO SHARE VALUES AND ETHICS

Be featured next!
[CLICK HERE](#)



Patrick Bluso

General Manager
Window World of Toledo

419-265-9953

pbluso@windowworldtoledo.com



Services

Windows, Doors, Patio Doors, Siding, Gutters.



Ideal Client

The community.



Key to Success

Collaborations with all parties involved on projects.



Which pillar of the 4-Way Test resonates most with your professional life and why?

Is it the truth?

Is it fair to all concerned?

Will it build goodwill and better friendships?

Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

All of the Above.



JANUARY JUMPSTART

Vocational Service Month Challenges

CAREER ADVICE CORNER

ROTARY ISN'T JUST ABOUT SERVICE—IT'S ALSO A POWERFUL PLATFORM FOR PROFESSIONAL GROWTH. WHETHER YOU'RE LOOKING TO BUILD MENTORSHIP RELATIONSHIPS, EXPAND YOUR SKILLS, OR STRENGTHEN YOUR LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE, HERE ARE SOME PRACTICAL WAYS TO JUMPSTART YOUR JOURNEY:

- **Cultivate a Personal Board of Mentors**
 - Rotarians are leaders—tap into that wisdom!
 - Offer reverse mentorship in return (tech tips, generational insights).
- **Network with Purpose**
 - Rotary meetings and service projects are built-in networking opportunities.
 - Set a goal: meet one new professional at each meeting.
 - Attend multi-club events and conferences to broaden your reach.
- **Step Into Leadership Roles**
 - Club and district positions build real, transferable skills.
 - Document accomplishments—leading events, managing budgets, guiding teams—to strengthen your résumé.
- **Explore New Industries Through Service**
 - Volunteer on projects led by members outside your field.
 - Shadow a fellow Rotarian for half a day to learn about their work.
- **Showcase Your Service on LinkedIn**
 - Share project involvement and lessons learned.
 - Community leadership is part of your professional brand!
- **Mentor and Be Mentored**
 - Guide early-career professionals or Rotaract members.
 - Treat mentorship as a two-way learning opportunity.
- **Build Lasting Relationships Through Service**
 - The strongest connections often come from working side by side.
 - Pick one project each year where you take an active leadership role.
 - Follow up after projects—turn service partners into professional partners.

challenge
FOCUS ON 2 POINTS ABOVE FOR 2026

WE LOVE OUR MEMBER "CHECK-INS"!

Keep "checking in" to each Rotary event you attend to earn points and prizes!



**GREETERS
NEEDED!**

[CLICK HERE TO SIGN UP](#)



STAY CONNECTED

If you aren't following our Club's social pages yet, click here:



**Watch
Past Meeting
Videos Here!**



Missed a meeting that you wanted to catch? Not to worry! You can always view past meeting videos here: [Past Meeting Videos](#)

JANUARY 2026

NOTE: NEW Google LINK!



Thanks to Rotarian Curt Church for creating a Google Calendar for you to sync to your personal calendars! Here is the link: [GoogleCalendar](#)



SUN	MON	TUES	WEDS	THURS	FRI	SAT
	29 <i>NO ROTARY In Observance of a Long Holiday Weekend</i>	30	31	Jan. 1  <i>Happy New Year!</i>	2	3
4	5 <i>Speaker: Toledo Police Next Door</i>	6	7	8	9 <i>Golf Outing Committee 8 AM Original Pancake House</i>	10
11	12 <i>Speaker: Charlene Page Membership and Finance at 1 PM</i>	13	14	15 <i>Happy Hour Pro Golf Fairways Ontario St. Downtown 4-6 PM RSVP HERE</i>	16	17
18	19 <i>No Meeting In Honor of Martin Luther King Jr. Day</i> 	20	21	22	23 <i>Golf Outing Committee 8 AM Original Pancake House</i>	24 <i><u>District Advisory Council</u> <u>VIRTUAL</u> <u>9AM</u></i>
25	26 <i>Speaker: Dr. Holloway Peace Committee at 1 PM</i>	27	28	29	30	31
Feb. 1`	2 <i><u>Service Above Self Day</u> = <u>Sign Up Today!</u></i>	3	4	5	6 <i>Coffee Connection 8 AM Jamii Cafe Downtown</i>	7 <i><u>District Peace Summit</u> <u>Free to Attend</u> <u>RSVP HERE</u></i>