

From Our District Governor

Rotary Opens Opportunities

By Kirk Driskell

As the year begins, there are several things that I would like to address as it relates to the safety of members. I am absolutely confident that, while the current conditions will challenge our traditions, this year's Rotary International theme "Rotary Opens Opportunities" will come to life in ways previously impossible as we navigate through the coming days. I will be a year of firsts, full of innovation and adaptation. What I can assure them is that, while we may not know exactly where the journey ahead, and I hope you can join me in this excitement. As we navigate what may seem to be huge obstacles, I challenge us all to see the year ahead full of huge opportunities. Sometimes opportunities are disguised as 500 pound Gorillas. Our District will be committed to providing as much information and support during this year as possible to our clubs.

[more]

Opportunity to Serve During Pandemic

District Targets \$500,000 Contribution to Feed Hungry During Pandemic

By Bob Hope

The novel coronavirus pandemic has left corporate kitchens dormant or grossly underutilized, while growing unemployment is driving the city's food insecurity numbers to unprecedented levels. Feeding America and The Atlanta Community Food Bank estimate that 16% of people in the 28-county service area of the Food Bank will be food insecure this summer. And, if food use for the summer, 20% of them, is in a 4-, could go hungry this summer. To address this staggering dilemma, The Atlanta Community Food Bank and Second Helpings Atlanta have joined forces to launch the Atlanta Community Kitchens Project. This first-ever public/private partnership in the region connects hunger relief agencies with commercial kitchens with a goal to provide five hundred thousand meals to Atlanta families in need this summer. And this unprecedented initiative is being funded in large part by the city's top corporate leaders who comprise the **Atlanta Rotary Club**.

[\[more\]](#)

Rotary International Awards
Congratulations PDG Bob Hagan, RI Service Above Self Award Recipient
 By Jason Colburn
 PDG Bob Hagan has been recognized with Rotary International's highest honor for an individual Rotarian, the ROTARY SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD - for his enthusiastic support and hard work on behalf of Rotary's End Polio Now initiative, as well as his tireless efforts to support all things Rotary. The award is an internationally competitive award granted to a maximum of 150 Rotarians per year who are exemplars of Service Above Self. Congratulations Bob!
 [read]

Congratulations to Sheffield Award Winners, Clubs of Year, Clubs of Decade
By Raymond Eby, Jr.
At our year-end celebration in Columbus, these Presidents were recognized as Sheffield Leadership Award winners

- Category 1: **Joe Ma-Mack, North Fulton**
- Category 2: **David Schweikert, North Cobb**
- Category 3: **Ryan Swertfager, Carrollton Dawnsbreakers, and Rene Smith, Americus**
- Category 4: **Gordon Owen, Roswell, and Kimberly Walden, Thomasville**

We also continued our tradition of recognizing Clubs of the Year. And because it was the end of the decade, we recognized Clubs of the Decade. [\[more\]](#)

Awards
Thanks to Some Amazing District 6900 Rotarians
 By Jim Square
 I wanted to take a moment to tell you about four very important awards at the District level - recognizing the work of **Barbara Henigin from the Rotary Club of LaGrange**, **PDG Claudia Meritt from the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County**, **Terry Rouse from the Rotary Club of Thomaville** and **Jaclyn Donovan from the Rotary Club of Moultrie**.
 (more)

Your Rotary Foundation Dollars at Work Today in South Georgia
By Steve Stanfield

We shared in our last newsletter that District 6900 directed \$6,400 of our District Designated Funds (DDF) from The Rotary Foundation to purchase food from food banks within the southern part of the District. Today, we'd like to show those dollars at work in our South Georgia communities. These photos are from the Food Poverty distribution in Americus and Sumter County. Notice the farmer's produce wagon, the prepackaged food boxes with 25 lbs of food (cost to us \$3.95 each), donations by Berdon's Dairies. This is your Rotary Foundation money at work!

[more]

The Rotary Foundation
Awards for 2019-20 Rotary Foundation Giving
By Cheryl Greenway
Thanks to the clubs and individuals who have supported The Rotary Foundation this year. We have been able to make a difference in the world and our communities because of your generosity and the hours many of you put into projects here and around the globe. Take a look at the giving for 2019-20. [\[more\]](#)

 Rotary Foundation Award for Meritorious Service
Congratulations to Kathy Brandt!
By Jackie Cuthbert

The Rotary Foundation recognizes a special group of Rotarians around the world each year for their active service on behalf of the Foundation. A Rotary district may nominate one person to receive the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. It does not recognize giving, but actual personal service to the Foundation for a long period of time. It is the second highest award you may receive from The Rotary Foundation. And to be eligible to receive the highest Foundation honor you must have received the Citation for Meritorious Service.

This year, District 6900 nominated Kathleen Brandt to receive this high honor from The Rotary Foundation for her many years of work on the Global Grant Scholar program. The program focuses on finding scholars who will make a long-term difference in the world. Kathy has served on the district scholarship committee for 11 years – as Chair since the 2011-12 Rotary year. [more](#)

Awards
Clubs Recognized for Membership, Projects, Fund-Raising and Operations
 By Raymond Ray, Jr.
 All of the Rotary Clubs of District 6900 achieved great things in 2019-20 ... in membership growth, projects that made a difference in their communities, the world and their clubs. After reviewing all the reports of great work submitted, the District recognized a number of clubs for their accomplishments in many categories. [\[more\]](#)

Serving During the Pandemic

Rotary Clubs Make a Difference in Their Communities

By Jackson Coulbert

Editor's Note: See how the Rotarians in **Barnesville**, **Fayetteville**, **North Cobb**, **Henry County** and **North Columbus** have served their communities during the pandemic. We captured these stories from the Club pages on Facebook. Read on to see 1) when it's OK to get your hands dirty and 2) how clubs are feeding the community.

[more]

DG Bestows Special District Service Above Self Awards
By Raymond Ray, Jr.
DG Jim Squire recognized the several individuals at the club and district leadership team levels with District 6900 Service Above Self Awards for their "outstanding contribution of time and resources in prominently promoting Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation's goals of world understanding and peace." [\[more\]](#)

Serving During the Pandemic
Keeping Families Connected
By Jackie Cuthbert
The **Rotary Club of Pelham** was able to donate a dozen tablets to Pelham Parkway Nursing Home to help residents communicate with family during these unprecedented times. The **Rotary Club of Roswell** donated four iPads to Wellstar North Fulton Hospital so patients who can't have visitors can stay connected to family.

Sharing Our Stories

Thomasville Creates a Video Message, "Rotary People of Action"

By Kim Walden

A few members of the **Rotary Club of Thomasville's** Public Image team met before the start of the last Rotary year to begin thinking about how they would approach the task of creating awareness and understanding of Rotary in the community. One of the tools we discussed was a video that would showcase Rotary's impact and influence in this community and around the world. We envisioned that such a video would be used as part of Rotary Club, Interact, and Rotaract members' presentations at area schools, the local Chamber, other community events, fundraisers and Family of Rotary events. In short, we wanted to share it widely! And now we'd like to share it with you.

[more]

GRSP Update

New District GRSP Leaders, Awards, Thanks and Thoughts from an Alumnus

By Lynn Clarke

This program is one-of-a-kind. We have been bringing nations together since 1946. The program has been with only four scholars, and now we are proud to say that we have more than 3,600 alumni from all over the world. The program's purpose is to broaden the understanding of world peace by offering ambassadorial scholarships to international students for one year of cultural immersion and study in Georgia colleges and universities.

Each year, students from all over the world make friends in the United States and other parts of the world with different cultures and lifestyles. Georgia Rotarians believe "Peace is Possible" and through GRSP promote international goodwill through friendship and understanding. The students become adopted members of a Georgia "host family," living on-campus at the school they attend. This is an ambassadorial program, not an exchange! This will be the first time in nearly 75 years that we will not have students, but we intend to keep the dream alive. This program has never been more relevant than now with negative information about the United States circulating around the world.

[more]

Atlanta Rotary Reaches Out to Community for Positive Change

By Bob Hope

Consistent with our purpose and heritage, the Rotary Club of Atlanta looks to engage with our communities in thoughtful leadership to help bring positive change. Following the tragic deaths of individuals like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, our club formed an exploratory committee to outline initial steps for our response to racial and economic injustices. Our work expands into a broader standing committee, and we hope many of you will get involved in what will be a long but productive journey. Even as we develop our plans, we want to be visible now and begin dialog. To that end, we will be releasing this letter to the media over the next few days. It was approved by the Board of the Atlanta Rotary Club on June 11.

[more]

 Serving During the Pandemic
Clubs Honor First Responders and Health Workers
By Jackie Cuthbert
See how the **Rotary Clubs of South Cobb, Newman and Thomaston-Upton** all took time to say thank you to first responders and hospital workers.
[\[more\]](#)

From Facebook

Serving Before and During the Pandemic

By Jackie Cathbert

While the **Rotary Club of Paulding County** supported the Paulding 4H UGA Extension, the **Jackson-Butts County Rotary Club** helped seniors celebrate Valentine's Day before the pandemic, the **Rotary Club of Polk County** helped to support the police K-9 project and the **Rotary Club of Fayette** **Daybreak** presented a check to the **Royal Animal Refuge** for funds raised during a pre-pandemic wine tasting event. [\[more\]](#)

Serving During the Pandemic

Americus Year-End Party Supports Local Businesses

By Angela Smith

Each year, the **Rotary Club of Americus** holds a year-end celebration with its annual Trip Raffle, complete with drawings for door prizes and trips for the top three winners. Though the event is normally held in person as a highlight and in celebration of the Rotary year, used to reflect on the projects that were accomplished and the friendships developed, it was decided that this year's event would need to be virtual out of an abundance of caution for all members. Necessity is the mother of invention and if the pandemic has taught any lessons, creativity reigns supreme...the event took on wings of its own and became an event the club would not soon forget.

[more]

From Facebook
Happy Rotary New Year!
 By Jackie Cutlbert
 Unique photos and stories from the year-end celebrations of the **Rotary Clubs of Atlanta West End** and **Meriwether County** - taken from their Facebook feeds, [more]

From Facebook

Celebrating a Changing of the Guard

By Jackie Cathbert

Congratulations to all the Immediate Past Presidents and all of the incoming Presidents as our new Rotary Year get underway! We captured the pictures above and below this article from Facebook ... and here are the stories that go with each numbered picture.

[more]

From Facebook

Rotary and Rotaract join in Atlanta Metro and Columbus Changing of Guard

By Jackie Cuthbert

Both the **Rotary Club of Atlanta Metro** and the **Rotary Club of Columbus** shared their year-end celebration with local Rotaractors. One was totally in person, the other featured some online connections. [\[more\]](#)

Club News

Happy 60th Birthday to Lake Spivey/Clayton County Rotary

By Ron Swadlow

During its June 10 Zoom meeting, the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** experienced an event unique in its 60-year history - a virtual birthday party. This well-attended meeting, with fellow Rotarians facing each other and only a computer screen apart, included DJ Jim Squire leading the group in a chorus of "Happy Birthday" and PDG Claudia Merrill providing a beautiful virtual birthday cake, which all in attendance feasted on without absorbing any calories.

[more]

 From Facebook

Recognition for Rotarians and Community Leaders

By Jackie Outthett

LaGrange Rotarians and the local community recently gathered to celebrate fellow Rotarian Dr. Bob Copeland, who was honored by Wellstar for his years of serving the community's health needs by the renaming of its Georgia Heart Clinic at West Georgia Medical Center as the Copeland Heart Clinic. "We couldn't possibly be more proud of our own Rotarian Dr. Bob Copeland for a life dedicated to service above self! Thank you for all you continue to do for our community and huge congratulations!"

We also collected stories from Facebook about the Rotary Clubs of **Milton, Bremen, Dallas, Lake Spivey/Clayton County, Carrollton Dumbarsiders and Johns Creek North Fulton** recognizing individual Rotarians and community leaders for their service.

[more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, July 16th, 2020	Quitman County Official Visit & Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 21st, 2020	Jaytonville Official Visit & Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 21st, 2020	Emory-Clifton Official Visit & Board Meeting
Wednesday, July 22nd, 2020	East Cobb Official Visit & Board Meeting
Tuesday, July 28th, 2020	Thomaston-Lupson County Official Visit & Board Meeting
Thursday, July 30th, 2020	Forsyth-Monroe County Official Visit & Board Meeting
Monday, August 3rd, 2020	Marietta Metro Official Visit & Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 4th, 2020	Smayna Official Visit & Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 11th, 2020	Douglas County (Albany) Official Visit & Board Meeting
Thursday, August 13th, 2020	Camilla Official Visit & Board Meeting

From Our District Governor

Rotary Opens Opportunities



As the year begins, there are several things that I would like to address as it relates to the safety of members. I am absolutely confident that, while the current conditions will challenge our traditions, this year's Rotary International theme "Rotary Opens Opportunities" will come to life in ways previously impossible as we navigate through the coming days. It will be a year of firsts, full of innovation and adaptation. While our year might look different, I am more than excited for the journey ahead, and I hope you can join me in this excitement. As we navigate what may seem to be huge obstacles, I challenge us all to see the year ahead full of huge opportunities. Sometimes opportunities are disguised as 500 pound Gorillas. Our District will be committed to providing as much information and support during this year as possible to our clubs.

Official Club Visits, Events and Awards

While the world shutdown, District 6900 Rotarians and Clubs took action. What a privilege to see all that each of you and our clubs have been doing in our communities. Carol Lipphardt has coordinated with all clubs prior to COVID-19 to schedule the official visits. I want to let each of you know that upon availability, I am more than happy to rearrange if needed. If you would like to make any changes, please contact Carol at carol@lipphardt.org

The Vibrant Club workshop that was scheduled for August 29 in Columbus has been canceled. Those that paid already will have their payments returned. We are preparing for a virtual interest-based training event. More information will be coming out in the next couple of weeks. It will not be limited to one day so know that you will be able to coordinate for a time that is convenient for you.

The D6900 Awards and Governors Citation are being reviewed and will be amended as needed. Any reward that was based on physical participation will be removed to honor everyone's safety. We will have them revised and distributed prior to August 1.

I am excited for the year ahead, and I am on the road in the new Rotary D6900 Command Center - pictured here at last Saturday's RI Convention virtual breakout session on ending Human Trafficking, led by Roswell Rotarian Dave McCleary. Follow along as we travel around the District seizing opportunities. Rotary Opens Opportunities...let us continue to open those opportunities to serve our community and our world.

Sincerely,

DG Kirk

PHOTOS:





Posted by Kirk Driskell
July 6, 2020

Opportunity to Serve During Pandemic

District Targets \$500,000 Contribution to Feed Hungry During Pandemic

The novel coronavirus pandemic has left corporate kitchens dormant or grossly underutilized, while growing unemployment is driving the city's food insecurity numbers to unprecedented levels. Feeding America and The Atlanta Community Food Bank estimate that 16% of people in the 29-county service area of the Food Bank will be food insecure this summer. And, with school out for the summer, 26% of children, 1 in 4, could go hungry.

To address this staggering divide, The Atlanta Community Food Bank and Second Helpings Atlanta have joined forces to launch the Atlanta Community Kitchen Project. This first-ever public/private partnership in the region connects hunger relief agencies with commercial kitchens with a goal to provide five hundred thousand meals to Atlanta families in need this summer. And this unprecedented initiative is being funded in large part by the city's top corporate leaders who comprise the **Atlanta Rotary Club**.

The Rotary Club of Atlanta initially provided \$100,000 as one of the earliest supporters of the Atlanta Community Kitchen Project, enabling the distribution of the first 25,000 meals. Based on the

initiative's success, and in keeping with Rotary's mission to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service, Rotary has further committed an additional \$100,000, which is being matched by an anonymous donor coupled with another \$100,000 matching raise, for a total of up to \$400,000 to support the Atlanta Community Kitchen Project.

Clubs and individuals can contribute to this effort on the District 6900 website at [Feed the Hungry](#).

Posted by Bob Hope

July 7, 2020

Rotary International Awards

Congratulations PDG Bob Hagan, RI Service Above Self Award Recipient



PDG Bob Hagan has been recognized with Rotary International's highest honor for an individual Rotarian, the ROTARY SERVICE ABOVE SELF AWARD - for his enthusiastic support and hard work on behalf of Rotary's End Polio Now initiative, as well as his tireless efforts to support all things Rotary. The award is an internationally competitive award granted to a maximum of 150 Rotarians

per year who are examples of Service Above Self. Congratulations Bob!

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert

July 13, 2020

Awards

Thanks to Some Amazing District 6900 Rotarians



I wanted to take a moment to tell you about four very important awards at the District level:

- **Barbara Henigin from the Rotary Club of LaGrange** was named District 6900 Rotarian of the Year - in recognition of her amazing efforts with our Interact Clubs. Thank you Barbara.

- **PDG Claudia Mertl from the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** received a District Meritorious Service Award - and a BIG thanks from me for all her hard work as our District Trainer.
- **Assistant Governor Terry Rouse from the Rotary Club of Thomasville** received the Follow Me Award. This special award sponsored by the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain in honor of PDG Al Lipphardt is presented to the top Assistant Governor of the year.
- **Jaclyn Donovan from the Rotary Club of Moultrie** received the Al Daniel Membership Award. Jaclyn serves as our District Membership Chair. She also leads our RYLA program and will continue in both these roles under DG Kirk, at the same time she's serving as president of the Moultrie club.

Posted by Jim Squire
July 14, 2020

Your Rotary Foundation Dollars at Work Today in South Georgia



We shared in our last newsletter that District 6900 directed \$6,400 of our District Designated Funds (DDF) from The Rotary Foundation to purchase food from food banks within the southern part of the District. Today, we'd like to show those dollars at work in our South Georgia communities. These photos are from the Food Pantry distribution in Americus and Sumter County. Notice the farmer's produce wagon, the prepackaged food boxes with 25 lbs of food (cost to us \$3.95 each), donations by

Bordon's Dairies. This is your Rotary Foundation money at work!

PHOTOS:







Posted by Steve Stanfield
June 12, 2020

The Rotary Foundation

Awards for 2019-20 Rotary Foundation Giving

The Rotary Foundation



Thanks to the clubs and individuals who have supported The Rotary Foundation this year. We have been able to make a difference in the world and our communities because of your generosity and the hours many of you put into projects here and around the globe. Take a look at the

- The Albert and Esther Thomas Award (sponsored by the Rotary Club of Pelham) recognizes the **Rotary Club of Emory Druid Hills** for Best Foundation Giving overall - based on its \$25,000 in contributions. This is a Category 1 club (our smallest) and they took Best Total Giving and Per Capita Giving (\$1,785.71 per member) in their category. In that category, the **Rotary Club of North Fulton** was runner-up for total giving (\$10,168) and the **Rotary Club of Muscogee-Columbus** for Per Capita Giving (\$426.47 per member)
- In Category 2, total giving and per capita giving honors went to **Paulding** (\$20,278 for \$482.81 per member) and **East Cobb** (\$19,604 for \$326.79 per member)
- In Category 3, **Vinings Cumberland** took top awards (\$16,573 for \$258.95 per member) and **Dunwoody** took runner-up (\$12,450 for \$172.93 per member)
- In Category 4, **Alpharetta** took top honors (\$85,797.50 for \$654.94 per member) and **Thomasville** took runner-up (\$44,985 for \$330.77 per member)

Posted by Cheryl Greenway
July 13, 2020

Rotary Foundation Award for Meritorious Service

Congratulations to Kathy Brandt!



The Rotary Foundation recognizes a special group of Rotarians around the world each year for their active service on behalf of the Foundation. A Rotary district may nominate one person to receive the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. It does not recognize giving, but actual personal service to the Foundation for a long period of time. It is the second highest award you may receive from The Rotary Foundation. And to be eligible to receive the highest Foundation honor, you must have received the Citation for Meritorious Service.

This year, District 6900 nominated Kathleen Brandt to receive this high honor from The Rotary Foundation for her many years of work on the Global Grant Scholar program. The program focuses on finding scholars who will make a long-term difference in the world. Kathy has served on the district scholarship committee for 11 years - as Chair since the 2011-12 Rotary year.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 13, 2020

Awards

Clubs Recognized for Membership, Projects, Fund-Raising and Operations

All of the Rotary Clubs of District 6900 achieved great things in 2019-20 ... in membership growth, projects that made a difference in their communities, the world and their clubs. After reviewing all the reports of great work submitted, the District recognized the following clubs for their accomplishments in many categories.

Best Membership Growth

Cat 1

Winner

Cuthbert / 6

Cat 2

North Cobb / 17

Cat 3

Carrollton Dawnbreakers / 7

Cat 4

Alpharetta / 7

Runner Up

Atlanta Metro / 5

Atlanta West End / 10

Carrollton / 5

Roswell / 4

Best Membership Retention

Cat 1

Winner

22 Clubs

Cat 2

14 Clubs

Cat 3

6 Clubs

Cat 4

2 Clubs

Runner Up

Best Overall Service Project

Cat 1

Winner

Emory Clifton

Cat 2

East Cobb

Cat 3

Vinings-Cumberland

Cat 4

Roswell

Runner Up

Meriwether County

Stone Mountain

Carrollton-Dawnbreakers

Alpharetta

Best Community Service Project

Cat 1

Winner

Muscogee-Columbus

Cat 2

Stone Mountain

Cat 3

Marietta

Cat 4

Peachtree City

Runner Up

Brookhaven

Marietta Metro

Dunwoody

Alpharetta

Best International Service Project

Cat 1

Cat 2

Cat 3

Cat 4

Winner**Emory Clifton****North Cobb****Dunwoody****Roswell****Runner Up****Meriwether County****East Cobb****Vinings-Cumberland****Columbus****Best Vocational Svc Project**

Cat 1

Cat 2

Cat 3

Cat 4

Winner**N/A****Marietta Metro****Carrollton Dawnbreakers****Thomasville****Runner Up****N/A****Atlanta West End****Marietta****Roswell****Best Club Administration**

Cat 1

Cat 2

Cat 3

Cat 4

Winner**Muscogee-Columbus****East Cobb****Dunwoody****Roswell****Runner Up****North Fulton****Lake Spivey / Clayton County****Americus****Thomasville****Best Public Image**

Cat 1

Cat 2

Cat 3

Cat 4

Winner**Emory Druid Hills****Douglas County****Marietta****Columbus****Runner Up****Cuthbert****North Cobb****Vinings Cumberland****Roswell****Best Fund Raiser Project**

Cat 1

Cat 2

Cat 3

Cat 4

Winner**Brookhaven****East Cobb****Vinings-Cumberland****Alpharetta****Runner Up****North Fulton****Sandy Springs****Carrollton-Dawn Breakers****Roswell****Best Internal Service Project**

Cat 1

Cat 2

Cat 3

Cat 4

Winner**N/A****N/A****Newnan****Thomasville****Runner Up****N/A****N/A****N/A****N/A****Best Senior Service Project**

Cat 1

Cat 2

Cat 3

Cat 4

Winner**Meriwether County****Sandy Springs****Dougherty County****Alpharetta****Runner Up****Cuthbert****Johns Creek - North Fulton****N/A****Roswell****Best PI Service Project**

Cat 1

Cat 2

Cat 3

Cat 4

Winner**Brookhaven****North Atlanta****Vinings-Cumberland****Alpharetta****Runner Up****Thomaston-Upson****Douglas County****Dougherty County****Lagrange****Best Overall Youth Service**

Cat 1

Cat 2

Winner**Muscogee-Columbus****Sandy Springs****Runner Up****Atlanta Airport****North Atlanta**

Cat 3	Carrollton	Carrollton Dawn Breakers
Cat 4	Thomasville	Columbus
Best Rotary Has Heart	Winner	Runner Up
Cat 1	Cuthbert	Brookhaven
Cat 2	Marietta Metro	Lake Spivey / Clayton County
Cat 3	Dougherty County	N/A
Cat 4	Alpharetta	Thomasville
Best CART Participation	Winner	Runner Up
Cat 1	Polk County	Muscogee-Columbus
Cat 2	Sandy Springs	Lake Spivey / Clayton County
Cat 3	Americus	Newnan
Cat 4	Peachtree City	N/A
Best Bulletin	Winner	Runner Up
Cat 1	Fayette Daybreak	N/A
Cat 2	Sandy Springs	Atlanta West End
Cat 3	Marietta	Newnan
Cat 4	Thomasville	Peachtree City

Posted by Raymond Ray, Jr.
July 14, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Rotary Clubs Make a Difference in Their Communities



Editor's Note: We are sharing these stories captured from the pages of Facebook.

Picture 1: In an era of washing your hands, the **Rotary Club of Barnesville** is getting its hands dirty! Thank you to Andrew and Kellie Lively Mercer, Paul Stinson, Linda Olivier, Sherry Farr, Bob

Taylor, Kathy Davis Oxford for helping get the Health Department fixed up for next spring!

Picture 2: The **Rotary Club of Fayetteville** partnered with a local market to deliver these bountiful baskets to Fayette Senior Services to benefit its most vulnerable citizens. Covid 19 won't stop our mission.

Picture 3: **North Cobb** President Joe Stockman, fellow Rotarians Shelley Elder, Nancy Prochaska, and Jennifer Wires, along with Friends of Rotary Robin Mann and Abbie Stockman (not pictured), joined together to help Forever Fed's Mobile Food Pantry delivering food support to the community.

Picture 4: These folks from **Henry County** took to the outdoors to clean up a section of Highway 81.

Picture 5: The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee reported that they were "tearing up a little bit over this lovely note we got yesterday from the **North Columbus Rotary Club**! (We drew the .) It was accompanied by an equally lovely check, which we'll work with our United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley partners in the Coronavirus Response Fund to put to immediate good use where it's needed most. Best of all, the gift will be matched 1:1 by Aflac up to \$2,000, effectively almost doubling their money!

PHOTOS:





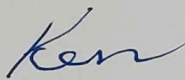


May 18, 2020

To: Betsy Covington
The Community Foundation of the Chattahoochee Valley

Betsy, the enclosed check is a donation to the Coronavirus Response Fund by the North Columbus Rotary Club. Our Club feels that your fund represents an effective way to support the community during this crisis. While we are making some other donations to individual non-profits serving the community during the crisis, we are donating the largest part of our savings from not having our normal Club meetings to your fund. We value the professional expertise represented by your organization and the United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley.

Best wishes,



Ken Townsend

cc: Rick Gonzalez

North Columbus Rotary Club

Synovus
Columbus, GA

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 6, 2020

Awards

DG Bestows Special District Service Above Self Awards

DG Jim Squire recognized the following individuals with District 6900 Service Above Self Awards for their "outstanding contribution of time and resources in prominently promoting Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation's goals of world understanding and peace."

Club Presidents

- Wynita Cannon, Cuthbert
- Lakisha M Taylor, Muscogee-Columbus
- Donna Drakes, Vinings Cumberland
- Paige McKay Kubic, Atlanta West End
- Catherine D Brumfield, Dunwoody
- Christopher M. Bethel, Marietta
- William H Daniels, Alpharetta

District Leadership Team

- Chaplain Mark Barbour
- Neill Ferrill, Vinings Cumberland
- Brenda Hodge-Tiller, Albany
- Jackie Cuthbert, Dunwoody
- Jaclyn Donovan, Moultrie
- PDG Margie Kersey, Stone Mountain
- PDG Blake McBurney, Atlanta
- James Marosek, North Fulton
- PDG Alec Smythe, Buckhead

Posted by Raymond Ray, Jr.
July 14, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Keeping Families Connected



The **Rotary Club of Pelham** was able to donate a dozen tablets to Pelham Parkway Nursing Home to help residents communicate with family during these unprecedented times. The **Rotary Club of Roswell** donated four iPads to Wellstar North Fulton Hospital so patients who can't have visitors can stay connected to family.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 6, 2020

Sharing Our Stories

Thomasville Creates a Video Message, "Rotary People of Action"



A few members of the **Rotary Club of Thomasville's** Public Image team met before the start of the last Rotary year to begin thinking about how they would approach the task of creating awareness and understanding of Rotary in the community. One of the tools we discussed was a video that would showcase Rotary's impact and influence in this community and around the world. We envisioned that such a video would be used as part of Rotary Club, Interact, and Rotaract members' presentations at area schools, the local Chamber, other community events, fundraisers and Family of Rotary events. In short, we wanted to share it widely! And now we want to share it with you - at <https://vimeo.com/415232098/31474e0f43>

Planning for the video began in earnest in December 2019 with meetings between the PI leadership team and Justin Allen, principal of Broad Street Media, the local company who produced the video. Over the next few months, footage for the video was shot at one of the club's Thursday meetings and throughout the community. Recorded interviews with a number of Thomasville Rotarians provided additional critical content to tell our Rotary story. In late April, the final footage for the video was shot at the dedication of the club's Peace Pavilion at Cherokee Lake.

The finished video tells the compelling story of our club's influence and impact. We hope you like it and encourage you to use it wherever possible in the course of your service through Rotary. Special thanks to our outstanding Public Image Team - Director Mike Bixler, Lauren Vann, Susie Shin, Kim Walden. We hope you love it as much as we do!

PHOTOS:



Posted by Kim Walden
July 7, 2020

GRSP Update

New District GRSP Leaders, Awards, Thanks and Thoughts from an Alumnus



GRSP - THE PROGRAM

This program is one-of-a-kind. We have been bringing nations together since 1946. The program began with only four scholars, and now we are proud to say that we have more than 3,600 alumni from all over the world. The program's purpose is to broaden the understanding of world peace by offering ambassadorial scholarships to international students for one year of cultural immersion and study in Georgia colleges and universities.

Each year, students from all over the world make friends in the United States and other nations and learn about differing cultures and lifestyles. Georgia Rotarians believe "Peace is Possible" and through GRSP promote international goodwill through friendship and understanding.

The students become adopted members of a Georgia "host family," living on-campus at the school they attend. This is an ambassadorial program, not an exchange! This will be the first time in nearly 75 years that we will not have students, but we intend to keep the dream alive. This program has never been more relevant than now with negative information about the United States circulating around the world.

LEADERSHIP CHANGE IN GRSP

The Georgia Rotary Student Program, Inc. has been a separately operated 501(c)(3) organization, which was organized by the three districts in Georgia with the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** taking the lead. GRSP has always had a separate board, which is elected each year by the trustees in all three districts. The District Governor of each district selects the trustees that will be representing their district, who are nominated for three-year terms. Each district is allowed one trustee for every six clubs.

In July, all trustees select a chair, vice chair, secretary and treasurer. This year because of a change in bylaws, the trustees also selected an assistant secretary and will soon select an assistant treasurer. I am pleased to announce that your District 6900 GRSP trustees have just elected **Ian Bond from the Rotary Club of Columbus** to be your next District Chair for GRSP, and that **Aadu Allpere from the Rotary Club of Buckhead** and **George Siggins from the Rotary Club of Henry County** will be your new District 6900 GRSP Directors. Each of these individuals has invested a great deal in GRSP and we look forward to their leadership going forward. **Jackie Cuthbert from the Rotary Club of Dunwoody** has been selected as assistant secretary.

DISTRICT AWARDS

At our District celebration in Columbus, several GRSP awards were presented. Jackie Cuthbert received the Frank E. Bentley Leadership Award from the **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs**. and these clubs received Jake Cheatham Memorial Awards for having the highest per capita contributions to the GRSP Endowment in their categories:

- Category 1 - **Atlanta Airport**: \$94.12 per capita
- Category 2 - **North Atlanta**: \$59.12 per capita
- Category 3 - **Carrollton**: \$41.24 per capita
- Category 4 - **Thomasville**: \$280.00 per capita

THANK YOU

It has been a pleasure serving as your District Chair. I have worked with **Bill Smith from the Rotary Club of Brookhaven** and **Ian Bond from the Rotary Club of Columbus** as our Directors for six years and I received valuable advice from them. We were able to:

- institute an incentive program for clubs giving at least \$50 per capita to the GRSP endowment
- initiate a long term strategic plan for GRSP
- initiate the idea that the operational part of GRSP and the endowment should be bifurcated and
- promote the idea of a new program to diversify students and reduce costs to clubs – these ideas all coming from District 6900.

While serving on the strategic planning committee, we were able to get officers' terms reduced to three years, so that District 6900 will have more opportunities to serve at that level in the future. We started a new program, currently called "The Pilot Program" that will allow clubs to work directly with the universities to offer qualified students from different countries the opportunity to get involved with Rotary and GRSP. We hope to attract students from countries we are unable to attract via our traditional route and the costs are much less to the sponsoring clubs. We have a new logo for GRSP and a new website. We are currently in an IT audit, which should allow our office to become more efficient, and in the process of hiring a development director to bring some of our ideas to fruition. There were those that did not want to change, but we were able to vote in these ideas.

Thanks to the anonymous donor in our District that donated \$100,000 to the GRSP Endowment. Because of this donation Trustees voted last summer to fund another leadership award in our district to a student to be chosen by yours truly, who most exemplifies the standards of the Georgia Rotary Student Program. Since the students had left for home before awards were handed out, we decided to wait until next year to start giving out this award.

No, we won't have students this year because of circumstances beyond our control, but it appears that because we won't have a student this year, we will likely be receiving twice as much money from the GRSP Endowment in the following year, making it very economical to have a student. Many clubs who previously were unable to host a student because of costs, may be able to once again host a student. Conservative investing throughout the roller coaster ride in the stock market has allowed the Endowment to remain strong and, barring some unforeseen circumstances, should allow us to commit to a year of additional funds to the clubs.

Much still needs to be done and the new District 6900 leadership in GRSP are more than capable of carrying the torch. It has been a ride – sometimes bumpy and sometimes smooth. The students and host families have made it all worthwhile. Thanks to this District for the support it has given. I will continue as a host family in the future and, hopefully, hosting my 23rd student next year. You can't get rid of me that easily!!!!

A WORD FROM WILLIAM ANDREW PATERSON, SCOTLAND, HOSTED BY LAGRANGE, CLASS OF 2018-19

The GRSP was first brought forth to my attention by a previous scholar when I started high school. I had always wanted the opportunity to visit and live in America so when I heard about this opportunity I made sure to find out more. I was, of course, devastated to hear that you had to be 18 or over (at the time I was 12) but from then on I did what I could to find out more and prepare for this year - such as the SAT and talking to a couple of previous students about their experiences and how they got themselves ready.

I would like to thank my host family (Mark, Jolene and Chase), who immediately made me feel at home and showed me what the true southern hospitality was. Giving me a lovely bed to stay in, helping me get set up and organised for the start of Fall semester in August, and of course, taking me to Walt Disney World, Florida. The process for getting my driver's license back home had been delayed. Thanks to Mark and Jolene, however, both gave me tips on driving and helped me get my

Georgia ID. I also appreciate my trustee, Ken Townsend, for taking me to so many student weekends, like: Savannah, Young Harris, Alpharetta and Oglethorpe. I owe so much to the Rotary Club of LaGrange for having been so welcoming.

The courses I've taken overall have been Music Theory, Acting, Choir, and Math. I hadn't sung properly until I came here. And I am now part of two choral groups - LaGrange College Choir and West Georgia Choral Society amongst whom are a number of fellow Rotarians. I thoroughly enjoyed my brief time on stage for my acting practical exam (I did The Odd Couple) and having been a part of the theatre department's black-box show Blithe Spirit - I was but a mere butler and stage hand but had a great time nonetheless. Music Theory (which I'm taking further this semester) has been fascinating and has well-improved my appreciation for classical and modern music. For Jan-term I was lucky enough to be able to take two courses: a study of musicals, in which we went to see and review various musicals; and a car mechanic/Thai Chi/cooking/first aid course - great for student life-skills.

I have been adopted by the Danes from GRSP and plan to visit as many of the countries that my fellow students come from in the future. I am so thankful to Rotary for having provided this opportunity of a lifetime and realise that I am incredibly lucky to have been chosen. The memories I've made from this experience will stay with me for a very longtime.

Posted by Lynn Clarke
July 13, 2020

Club News

Atlanta Rotary Reaches Out to Community for Positive Change



June 11, 2020

Dear Fellow Atlantans:

The Rotary Club of Atlanta was founded in 1913 by our city's top business leaders with a mission that included tackling the most challenging issues of the time guided by the ideal of Service Above Self. Today we are faced with the greatest challenge in our history — helping eliminate racial and economic injustice in our city and beyond.

Our members, all leaders of top companies and nonprofit organizations, are committed to listen with open hearts and learn, and to step up to participate in and lead in our own organizations, communities and families to bring about the long overdue changes.

It starts with getting our own house in order. Over the past six years, we have made the active commitment to improve diversity in our membership and in our program speakers. We view this commitment as vital to remain relevant to Atlanta. We have made progress, but our work in many respects has just begun. In the coming years, our goal is to be at the forefront in representing the diverse and talented leadership of this great city.

With this letter, we are soliciting help of those of YOU who are willing to join us in committing our heads, hearts and resources to address systemic challenges in race and economic inequality. The roots of these issues are complex, and the solutions to inequality will be multifaceted.

We want to live up to the image of Atlanta as a civil and human rights beacon for the world.

Sincerely,
The Rotary Club of Atlanta

Consistent with our purpose and heritage, the **Rotary Club of Atlanta** looks to engage with our communities in thoughtful leadership to help bring positive change.

Following the tragic deaths of individuals like George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmaud Arbery, our club formed an exploratory committee to outline initial steps for our response to racial and economic injustice. Our work will expand into a broader, standing committee, and we hope many of you will get involved in what will be a long but productive journey. Even as we develop our plans, we want to be visible now and begin dialog. To that end, we will be releasing this letter to the media over the next few days. It was approved by the Board of the Atlanta Rotary Club on June 11.

Dear Fellow Atlantans:

The Rotary Club of Atlanta was founded in 1913 by our city's top business leaders with a mission that included tackling the most challenging issues of the time guided by the ideal of Service Above Self. Today we are faced with the greatest challenge in our history — helping eliminate racial and economic injustice in our city and beyond.

Our members, all leaders of top companies and nonprofit organizations, are committed to listen with open hearts and learn, and to step up to participate in and lead in our own organizations, communities and families to bring about the long overdue changes.

It starts with getting our own house in order. Over the past six years, we have made the active commitment to improve diversity in our membership and in our program speakers. We view this commitment as vital to remain relevant to Atlanta. We have made progress, but our work in many respects has just begun. In the coming years, our goal is to be at the forefront in representing the diverse and talented leadership of this great city.

With this letter, we are soliciting help of those of YOU who are willing to join us in committing our heads, hearts and resources to address systemic challenges in race and economic inequality. The roots of these issues are complex, and the solutions to inequality will be multifaceted.

We want to live up to the image of Atlanta as a civil and human rights beacon for the world.

Sincerely, The Rotary Club of Atlanta

Posted by Bob Hope
July 10, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Clubs Honor First Responders and Health Workers



*Editor's Note: Thanks to the **Rotary Clubs of South Cobb, Newnan and Thomaston-Upson** for their service to the community and sharing their stories on Facebook.*

Picture 1: The **South Cobb Rotary Club** and Sweetwater Mission in Austell, sponsored the 2020 Nurses Appreciation Week for all the Nurses and front line workers at Wellstar Cobb Hospital by inviting the Cobb Public Safety (Police/Fire/Sheriff's Dept/EMS/) personnel parade in front of the hospital with lights and sirens as a display of everyone's appreciation of their service to the community during the Covid-19 pandemic. Lunch and dinner was also provided to the 1500 staff members of Wellstar Cobb Hospital as a special way to say thanks for all they do for this community.

Picture 2: Rotary continues to support our First Responders during the COVID 19 Pandemic. **The Rotary Club of Newnan** served the entire Coweta County Sheriff's Office - both shifts. Thank you again Life of the South Catering for your wonderful brisket sandwiches, potato salad, cookies and other treats! The Club is thrilled to honor our community's first responders - Piedmont Newnan Hospital Staff, Newnan Police Department, today the Coweta County Sheriff's Department and will be expanding into our local Fire Departments.

Picture 3: In June, the **Thomaston-Upson Rotary Club** and Thomaston Housing Authority say "Thank You" to the Thomaston Police Department, Thomaston Fire Department and our local EMS personnel. Each agency received coffee, doughnuts and popcorn.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 6, 2020

From Facebook

Serving Before and During the Pandemic



Picture 1: **Paulding Rotary Club** member John Grant presents Paulding 4H UGA Extension. The Extension's agents, staff and trained volunteers keep local communities informed through county Extension offices, offering reliable information and programs in the areas of agriculture, food, families, the environment, and 4-H youth development. 4-H reaches more than 242,000 people annually through county Extension offices and 4-H facilities. Pictured: Josie Davis, John Grant, and Mary Carol Sheffield

Picture 2: Before the pandemic, the **Jackson-Butts County Rotary Club** helped community seniors celebrate Valentine's Day.

Picture 3: Before the pandemic started, the **Rotary Club of Polk County** presented a \$500 check to the City of Rockmart Police Department to start the "City of Rockmart K-9 Fund!" We are PROUD to be the first to donate! This is only the beginning of the fundraising to follow within our supportive community!! Accepting the check, Chief Turner said, "If we find one missing child or a lost and vulnerable adult, this program pays for itself. Our goal is to expand the services that we are able to provide to our citizens without making all taxpayers pay for it. K-9's have proven to be valuable in terms of drug enforcement, criminal apprehension, and search and rescue. They are also great for community policing at special events and functions."

Picture 4: The **Rotary Club of Fayette Daybreak** was happy to finally present Royal Animal Refuge with funds from our Wine Tasting Event in February. The pandemic has made so many things

complicated, but we were glad to finally be able to provide support to this great organization. We also made donations to Fayette Humane Society and Hearts N Homes. Many thanks to all the groups looking out for animals during these COVID-19 times.

PHOTOS:







Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 6, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Americus Year-End Party Supports Local Businesses



Rotary Club of Americus

Each year, the Rotary Club of Americus holds a year-end celebration annual Trip Raffle, complete with drawings for door prizes and the COVID-19 pandemic devastating lives and the economy, the club opted to turn away from the normal format and instead support local County businesses by way of gift cards and instead support local businesses by way of gift cards and services! Rotary is happy to support and buy local and hopes that your business is stronger than ever!

Each year, the **Rotary Club of Americus** holds a year-end celebration with its annual Trip Raffle, complete with drawings for door prizes and trips for the top three winners. Though the event is normally held in person as a highlight and in celebration of the Rotary year, used to reflect on the projects that were accomplished and the friendships developed, it was decided that this year's event would need to be virtual out of an abundance of caution for all members. Necessity is the mother of invention and if the pandemic has taught any lessons, creativity reigns supreme...the event took on wings of its own and became an event the club would not soon forget.

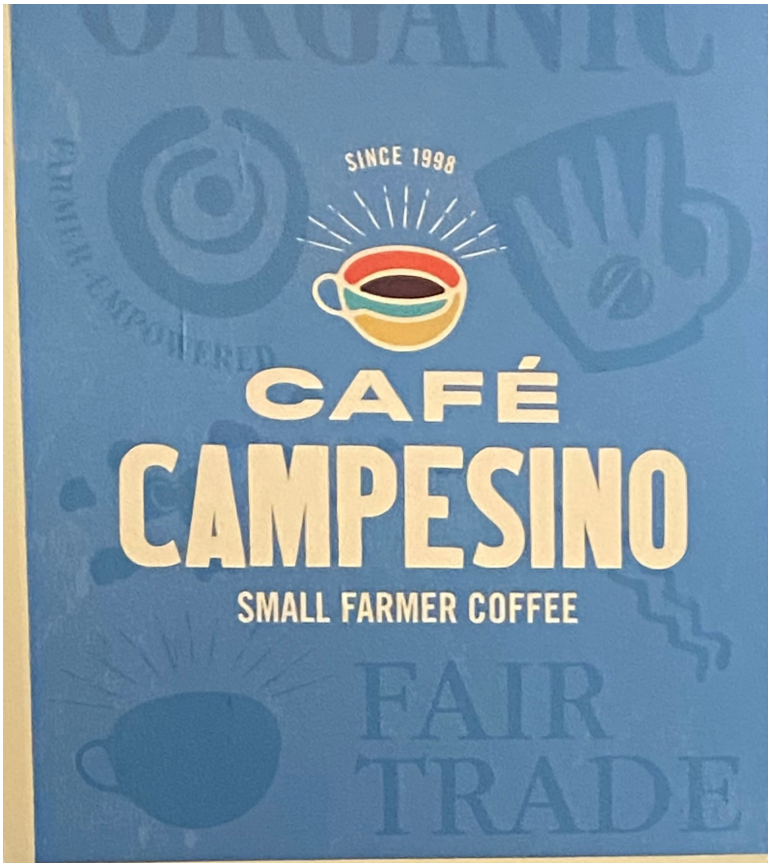
With the COVID-19 pandemic devastating lives and the economy, organizers altered the format of the celebration and attention turned away from trips and back to providing real monetary support of the local business community. As a result, cash prizes were off the table and traded instead for gift cards and certificates for merchandise and services provided by local small businesses.

As an added layer of fun, there was a Pandemic Treasures Hunt (scavenger-style), with members sent searching for toilet paper, antibacterial wipes, hand sanitizer, bread loaves, and more. Coordinators for the event certainly didn't anticipate the competitive nature of Rotarians and underestimated the level of participation.

The virtual get-together turned out to be an unprecedented party with record attendance and organizers cannot help but think it is because it was supporting Sumter Strong. With nearly 70 Rotarians and their guests logged on, the raffle resulted in \$4,000 invested into about 50 Sumter County businesses! The event was a win-win for everyone as the money, collected throughout the year, was redistributed (in the form of local gift cards) to all Rotarians who logged into the virtual party.

Rotary Club of Americus is happy to support and buy local and hopes that Sumter County businesses bounce back stronger than ever!

PHOTOS:



MADE CERAMIC
COFFEE MUGS

by local artist
Zemblowski
\$20 each

Rotary
Club of America

Each year, the Rotary Club of America holds a year-end convention with its members from all over the world. This year, the convention was held in Orlando, Florida. The Rotary Club of America is a nonprofit organization that works to improve the lives of people around the world. It does this by providing humanitarian aid, promoting peace, and supporting local communities. The Rotary Club of America is a great organization to join if you want to make a difference in the world.

Rotary Club of America
2020-2021
\$50.00
Café Campesino
11/15/20
Café Campesino
11/15/20
Café Campesino
11/15/20







Posted by Angela Smith
July 13, 2020

From Facebook

Happy Rotary New Year!



Picture 1: Who knew these two would grow up to lead the **Rotary Club of Atlanta West End**? Eleven years ago they were reading to children at Sheltering Arms Early Education & Family Centers. Today, the gavel passes from 2019-2020 President Paige McKay Kubik to our 2020-2021 President, Kimberly Weaver. Thank you for your Service Above Self!

Picture 2: The **Rotary Club of Meriwether County** held their annual induction ceremony of the new President and officers for 2020-2021 year. Thanks to Laurie Lewis, Past President, for her excellent leadership this past year. Congratulations to the incoming President Lisa Bennett Thompson (head biker chic). We look forward to great things for the coming year.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 6, 2020

Changing of the Guard - Photos 1-6



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 7, 2020

From Facebook

Celebrating a Changing of the Guard

Congratulations to all the Immediate Past Presidents and all of the incoming Presidents as our new Rotary Year get underway! We captured the pictures above and below this article from Facebook ... and here are the stories that go with each numbered picture.

1. It was great to get together in person last night and socialize at the **Lake Spivey-Clayton County** induction ceremony for incoming officers. Thanks to PE Troy Hodges for putting the event together and to Paddy Sharma for all the delicious food. Kirk Driskell installed the officers.
2. This Facebook ad recognized Jerold Sobelson as the new **Brookhaven Rotary** leader.
3. New **Buckhead Club** President, Mark Johnson receives his President's Pin from now Immediate Past President Greg Davis.
4. At **Carrollton Dawnbreakers**, Ryan Swertfager passed the presidency to Ben Lambert!

5. **Cordele's** outgoing President Lauren Fletcher hands receives a plaque and hands over the reins to President Becca Stackhouse
6. Cindy Wisham gave **Dougherty County Rotary Club** President Jennifer Cohen Dozier her end of term present
7. **Johns Creek North Fulton's** new President, Kathryn Albright, as she starts the 2020-2021 Rotary year for us! Kathryn is a graduate of Michigan State University, works as the Director of Community Relations and Volunteer Services for Emory Johns Creek Hospital, and resides in Johns Creek with her husband and children. Kathryn has served our community for years and will be an amazing ambassador for Rotary as well as leader for our Club's missions!
8. DG Kirk Driskell attends virtual induction ceremony at **Marietta Metro** - where Mitch Simmons is the new President.
9. **Peachtree City** Rotarian Gordon Fleming (our 'most experienced' Rotarian with over 46 years in the club) and his wife graciously hosted the year-end event in their little slice of paradise! We were blessed to have PDG Bob Hagan and Carol at the event to induct our new president, Steve Ivory, and our past president, George Martin, to induct the new board! We even had DG Kirk Driskell on FaceTime for the event! Pictured: President Steve and his famiy with PDG Bob and Carol.
10. PDG Cheryl Greenway with **Roswell's** incoming President Lynne Lindsay and outgoing President Gordon Owens
11. Immediate Past President Scott Outland points to Sam Morris takes over as **Senoia Rotary Club** President for 2020-2021.
12. A virtual round of applause as **Vinings Cumberland** new president Ray Gadd is inducted
13. In a **Rotary Club of North Atlanta** virtual routine meeting, our incoming president Fazle Khan talks about his upcoming Rotary year!
14. PDG Bob Hagan and Carol, and the Driskell family join the **Emory-Druid Hills Club** for its installation. Chatur Chhabhaya is the incoming President.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 6, 2020

Changing of the Guard - Photos 7-14



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 7, 2020

From Facebook

Rotary and Rotaract Join in Atlanta Metro and Columbus Changing of Guard



The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Metro** celebrated a new member induction and the end to our club's first full Rotary year. We shared the celebration with the **Rotaract Club of Atlanta**. This was our first change over ceremony and we cannot be more thankful to both President Warren Turner of the Rotary Club of Atlanta Metro, and President Caroline Lazaro of the Rotaract Club of Atlanta, for their hard work and dedication this year. These two clubs worked together all year to help spread the Rotary mission and grow membership between both clubs.

This year's change in leadership was like none other, but the **Rotary Club of Columbus** still managed to celebrate this significant time in the Rotary year through the use of technology. Instead of a long line of past presidents at the front of the room, we recognized each virtually. Instead of a crowded room full of people, we had only a small crew. -Instead of shaking hands and giving hugs, we wore masks and kept our distance. But it was clear today that our club's spirit and tradition of committed leaders was alive and well. Many thanks to Tyler Townsend @tylertownsendtwm for an amazing year as president. And we're excited at what's to come under Joe Young's leadership this year and during Lori Auten's term following. We're also proud to celebrate Jeremy Ackles' year as president of the **Rotaract Club of Greater Columbus** and look forward to another great year under Lamar Fortson. Last but certainly not least, we appreciate that AG Tracy Van Norman was there to celebrate with us.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 6, 2020

Club News

Happy 60th Birthday to Lake Spivey/Clayton County Rotary



During its June 10 Zoom meeting, the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** experienced an event unique in its 60-year history - a virtual birthday party.

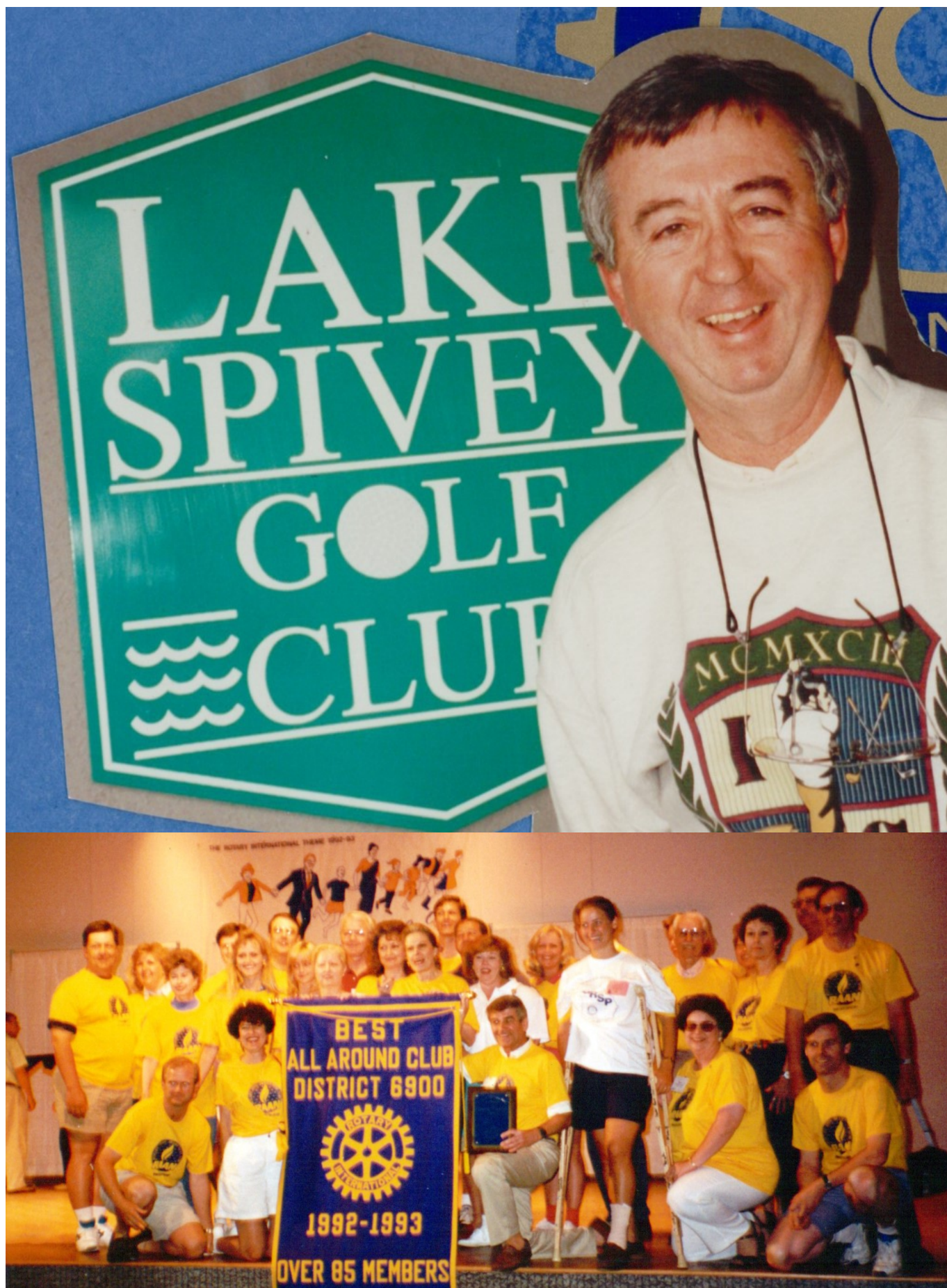
This well-attended meeting, with fellow Rotarians facing each other and only a computer screen apart, included DG Jim Squire leading the group in a chorus of "Happy Birthday" and PDG Claudia Mertl providing a beautiful virtual birthday cake, which all in attendance feasted on without absorbing any calories.

The club also enjoyed a five-minute PowerPoint presentation with background music of "We Are the Champions" that presented a brief history of club activities through the years. A few highlights from that history include:

- Our start on June 10, 1960 as the Rotary Club of Forest Park, sponsored by the Rotary Club of East Point - with 21 members and Richard Bowdon as our first President.
- Changing our name to the Rotary Club of Clayton County in 1984.
- Sponsoring the creation of the Rotary Club of Clayton County Daybreak, which in 2003 changed its name to the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey. Joe Hamilton (pictured here) served as the first President of the new club.
- The two clubs merging of the two clubs in 2016 to form the current Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County.

During the 60-year history of their club, members have lived the Rotary International theme of "Service Above Self" by providing much vital service to many organizations and citizens of Clayton County. The dedicated service of these Rotarians has resulted in many awards from District 6900, including several Club of the Year and Runner-Up Club of the Year designations, as well as the honor of having club member Claudia Mertl serve as the 2005-2006 District Governor.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Ron Swofford
July 7, 2020

From Facebook

Recognition for Rotarians and Community Leaders



Editor's Note: These four sets of pictures and stories were collected from club Facebook posts.

Picture #1: **LaGrange Rotarians** and the local community recently gathered to celebrate fellow Rotarian Dr. Bob Copeland, who was honored by Wellstar for his years of serving the community's health needs by the renaming of its Georgia Heart Clinic at West Georgia Medical Center as the Copeland Heart Clinic. "We couldn't possibly be more proud of our own Rotarian Dr. Bob Copeland for a life dedicated to service above self! Thank you for all you continue to do for our community and huge congratulations!"

Picture #2: The **Rotary Club of Milton** is really going to miss this John Williams, who served as club treasurer for 18 years...as long as the club has been in existence. He's retiring and moving to Blue Ridge. "Thank you for your many years of service, John! Wishing you well in the next phase of your life!"

Picture #3: The **Rotary Club of Bremen** recognized James Rafferty as its 2019-20 Business Person of the Year. Our community is blessed to have butter'dudder and we appreciate all that Mr. Jim and his family do for us. "Upon opening of their first location, they quickly became part of our family. Mr. Jim is a prime example of Rotary's motto, Service Above Self. If you are in the store , be sure to congratulate him!"

Picture #4: Four of the Club Rotarians of the Year (from top left clockwise) ... Mike Mason, the **Rotary Club of Dallas**, Lata Chinnan from **Lake Spivey/Clayton County**, Becky Preston from **Carrollton Dawnbreakers**, and Ron Jones from **Johns Creek North Fulton**

PHOTOS:





BUEMIEN ROTARY
BUEMIEN, GEORGIA



Business Person of the Year
2019 - 2020

Presented to

Jim Rafferty

*In Recognition Of All Of Your
Contributions To Our Community.*



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 13, 2020
