



From Our District Governor

## Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious!



Supercalifragilisticexpialidocious! That's how I feel about my time this year as your Governor,



and certainly how I felt seeing all of us together in Sandestin last weekend at our District Conference. From the Pony Prix that started us off through the GRSP thank you's in all their native languages at conference close, our Jolly Holiday was inspiring and fun.

On Friday night, several individuals and clubs were recognized for particularly great contributions. I applaud you all - and would like to make special mention of two - PDG Bob Hagan and Becky Stone, both from Roswell.

We all know that PDG Bob has been passionate in his support for End Polio Now. We were proud to nominate Bob for The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service, and prouder yet to present the award at District Conference. It reflects his long-time efforts on behalf of Rotary's #1 goal and his compassion for the children of the world.

Becky was recognized as our Rotarian of the Year, for all she did to support Interact's growth and get Youth & Peace in Action off to a great start in a roller coaster school year. As you will see in Becky's article in this newsletter, we involved 600 high school students in YPA this year, and added three Interact clubs to bring our total to 83 clubs sponsored by the district.

Becky is imagining even more for our next Rotary year and I'm excited that DGE George and DGN Andre are onboard with that. To keep our energy high, I'd like to invite you to join us online on Saturday, May 14 for a

YOUnited Celebration<sup>SM</sup> with students, parents, friends, families, educators, Rotarians, and other nonprofit and civic leaders across the US and Caribbean. You can help celebrate our new peacemakers and learn more about YPA. You can read more in this newsletter and there's a link to registration.

We have achieved some great things so far this Rotary year, but as I said this weekend, our work is not complete. We have two more months to continue to grow our membership, grow our impact and add to our Foundation giving. I thank you for all you have done so far and look forward to seeing all you do as we finish out this year and carry forward to DGE George's year.

**PHOTOS:**







Our District 6900 leadership team: DG ,Mary "Poppins" Ligon, DGE George Granade, DGN Andre Marria and DGNE Gordon Owens,

Posted by Mary Ligon  
May 4, 2022

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Congratulations!



## Honored at District Conference ...



Congratulations to everyone for a great Rotary year (so far) and to the following Rotarians who were honored at District Conference:

- **Rotarian of the Year: Becky Stone from Roswell** (pictured), for her stellar efforts to lead our Interact and Youth and Peace in Action initiatives in a challenging year
- **Citation for Meritorious Service** (awarded by The Rotary Foundation for long-term personal service to the Foundation): **PDG Bob Hagan from Roswell** (pictured), for his leadership surrounding Polio Plus
- **Follow Me Assistant Governor of the Year: Ryan Swertfager, Carrollton Dawnbreakers** (presented by the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain)
- **Sheffield Award Winners** (presented for outstanding leadership by the Rotary Club of Americus):  
Category 1 - **Robert "Al" Griffin, Meriwether County**; Category 2 - **Susan Wood, North Columbus**; Category 3 - **Kenny Phillips, Americus**; Category 4 - **Terry Taylor, Roswell**

Once the Rotary Year ends in June, a separate event will be scheduled - probably take place in August - to honor clubs for their projects, membership achievements and Foundation Giving this Rotary year.

### PHOTOS:





## Inspiration in Youth Voices and Service!



2021-22 has been a great year for Interact! District 6900 has 83 active Interact Clubs, including three new clubs. Over 600 students registered for Youth & Peace in Action in District 6900. If you missed District Conference (or just want to hear from our youth again), Click on the following links to hear what a few of our outstanding Interact Clubs did this year!

- [Furlow Charter - Americus](#)
- [Jackson High School - Jackson-Butts County](#)
- [Roswell High School - Roswell](#)

**Imagine** what Interact will do in 2022-23! Be a part of this great Rotary service! Ask me how!



# Youth and Peace in Action: What About the Future?

Come Find Out: May 14 in a Virtual YOUNited Celebration!



In April 2021, Rotary Zones 33 & 34 announced the launch of Youth & Peace in Action (YPA), the largest local peacebuilding initiative in Rotary International History. Rotarians in D6860 (Alabama) and D6670 (Ohio) joined in. Supported by YPA implementing partner NewGen Peacebuilders<sup>SM</sup>, more than 300 high schools signed up for the 2021-22 journey that introduced the YPA **My Peacebuilder Foundations** online course and **Leading Peace Project Teams** experience.

More than **7,000 students (including Interactors), teachers, and Rotarians** will have completed **45,000 hours of peace learning and project design** in this first year. In January, YPA was recognized within an award for excellence in US conflict resolution and peacebuilding.

**[Use this link to RSVP online Now for YOUNited on May 14!](#)**

**Saturday, May 14, 2022**

**1:00-3:30pm ET**

**1:00-2:00pm**

**Why Youth and Peace?**

Patricia Shafer, Executive Director,

NewGen Peacebuilders<sup>SM</sup>, YPA

Highlights: The 2021-22 YPA Journey

Achievements: Special Awards & Recognition

## **2:00-3:00pm**

### **Building Positive Peace**

Michael Collins, Executive Director,  
Institute for Economics & Peace  
Showcase: Team Action Peace Projects  
#YPAvoices Panel: Shaping School Culture

## **3:00-3:30pm**

### **Hope for the Future**

Lexia Gianopoulos, Certified NewGen Peacebuilder and YPA Ambassador  
Interactive Conversation: Youth at the Center of Peace  
Preview: YPA 2022-23

Posted by Mary Ligon  
May 5, 2022

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GRSP Update

## **Celebrating Our Connection with District 6900**





As our students approach the end of their GRSP year, they will have great memories of their experiences - most recently their attendance at District 6900's conference in Sandestin. They enjoyed participating in every aspect of district conference - from acting as Sargeant at Arms ... to showcasing their experience in the special Saturday brunch ... to visiting with Rotarians ... to spending time with each other and at the beach ...to helping close out the conference with special thanks you's in each of their native languages.

Some special GRSP awards were announced at conference - and we would like to extend our congratulations and our thanks:

- **Pedro Arujuo from Brazil** (sponsored by the **Rotary Clubs of Atlanta West End, Atlanta Airport, Newnan and Senoia**) received the **William A. Watt Memorial Award** (from the **Rotary Club of Pelham**) as the student that most exemplified the spirit of GRSP (pictured)
- **Rotarian Scott Rich (Rotary Club of Thomasville)** received the **Frank E. Bentley Sr. Leadership Award** (presented by the **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs**). Scott has served as a GRSP Trustee and as chair for the GRSP 75th Anniversary Celebration and the GRSP Plaza and William A. Watt Memorial Fountain
- Four clubs were honored for the highest per capita GRSP giving in their size categories: **Muscogee (Category 1 - \$125.00)**, **North Columbus (Category 2 - \$185.42)**, **Dunwoody (Category 3 - \$121.13)** and **Thomasville (Category 4 - \$603.24)**.

Thanks to everyone who has made this year a great one for the Class of 2021-22. As one student put it in

their remarks Saturday morning, " This might not be the experience of a lifetime, but it's definitely living a lifetime in a year."

**PHOTOS:**

















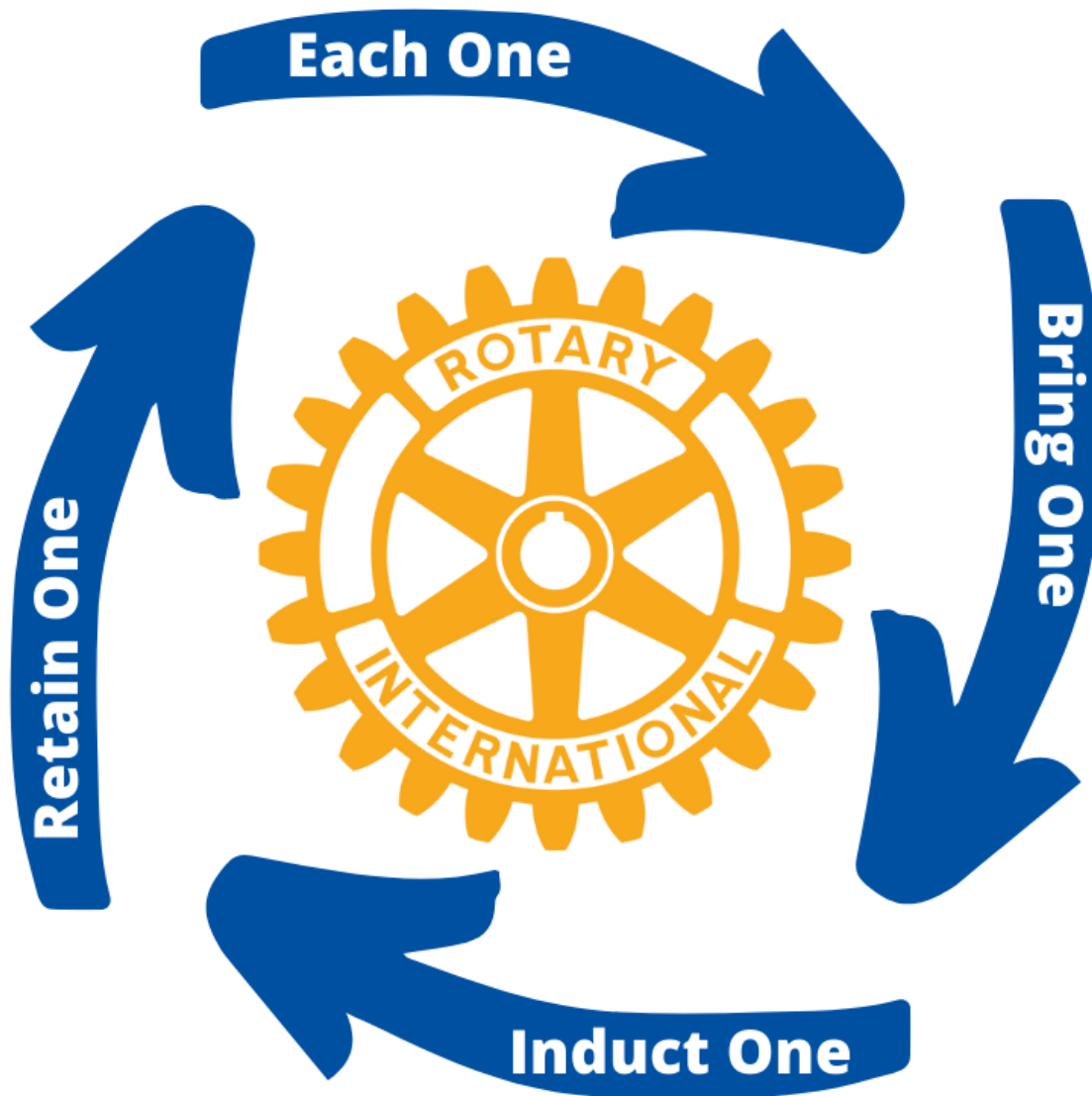


Posted by Katheryne Fields  
May 5, 2022

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Membership

## Watch Us Grow - How the Numbers Look May 1, 2022



Comparing July 1, 2021 to May 1, 2022, District 6900 has grown by 73 members so far this year. How is your club doing? [Click the link to see.](#)

Posted by Mary Ligon  
May 5, 2022

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# 23rd Annual Roswell Remembers Memorial Day Celebration



In 1995, a group of Vietnam Veterans along with the cooperation of the City of Roswell, raised money to construct a Memorial. The "Roswell "Remembers" Memorial Day Ceremony was established in 1998 after the completion of the "Faces of War" Memorial. The desire was to create an annual non-political, non-commercial ceremony incorporating the Holiday, Families, and Community into one "great day of remembrance" honoring those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy today.

A joint effort between **Roswell Rotary Club** and the City of Roswell, this year the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual event will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Monday, May 30th at Roswell City Hall, 38 Hill Street. **This is the largest Memorial Day Ceremony of its kind in the Southeast and attracts visitors throughout Georgia and the Southeast.**

The grounds open at 10:00 a.m. with displays for the public. Pre -ceremony music provided by Roswell New Horizons Band begins at 10:15 a.m. The program will include a military ceremony, presentation of colors, the national anthem, Pledge of Allegiance, POW/MIA tribute and the laying of the wreath.

New this year is Roswell Garden Club's dedication of the Blue Star&Gold Star Families Memorial Markers. The Blue Star Marker is a tribute to all those who have served, are serving and will serve in the United States Armed Services. The Gold Star Families Marker is a tribute to those who have lost a loved one in service to the United States. Blue Star & Gold Star markers are a program of the National Garden Club.

Past DG Al Lipphardt VFW Gold Legacy Member and a member of the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** is the Blue Star Speaker.

Massee McKinley will provide special music followed by a 21-gun salute and taps by Jon Andersen.

At the conclusion of the program, lunch may be purchased through food trucks on the grounds.

This is a great opportunity for all Rotarians to serve those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy today.

**Roswell Rotary** [hopes to see you there.](#)

Posted by Lynne Lindsay



Imagine Interact Early

## **Progressive Interact - Growing Future Servant Leaders**



Progressive Interact is a program that engages our youth in Interact Clubs as they progress from elementary school, to middle school and then to high school. Its goal is: To grow leaders from an early age with a love for community service and to provide students a strong support system through major transitions from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade through member connection and community service. The Interact Clubs provide a needed link during these critical transitions. Interact Clubs encourage students to demonstrate “Service Above Self” by implementing their own service projects and working with their sponsoring Rotary Club. These students learn to lead their clubs and service projects—each year becoming better leaders and better people.

Progressive Interact works! Since 2013, Roswell Rotary has implemented and sponsored a dozen Interact Clubs, including 5 elementary school, 2 middle school and 5 high school Interact Clubs. The Interact Clubs in the elementary schools select officers, hold meetings and serve their community with a wide range of projects, including writing letters to the troops, visiting nursing homes, and collecting food for others. As they move into middle school, those students have a familiar club to join and many join right away. The Interact Clubs in the middle schools select officers, hold meetings and serve their school and community with projects like food drives, raising money for local charities and serving at the local humane society. They also participate in projects with the high school Interact Clubs and the sponsoring Rotary Club. As these students transition to high school, the Interact Clubs at the high schools are there to welcome them and put them to work on projects that are familiar to them, like eradicating polio, clothing drives for youth in other countries, End Human Trafficking, Be THE Voice®, food drives, blood drives, and volunteering at non-profits.

Interact grows leaders. By the time the Interact Club members get to high school, they are ready to lead others in projects that make a difference. They know how to organize a group, they follow-up and engage others—not just in their club but throughout their school. Their leadership skills are strong and continue to be strengthened by the leadership opportunities offered by Interact and Rotary. One example is RYLA, where the Rotary liaisons and Interact faculty advisors select active Interact leaders for RYLA each year. These students return to their schools with the leadership skills needed to lead the Interact Club their junior and senior years.

Rotarians are actively engaged with the youth through Interact and the youth have access to our community's leaders and great role models through Interact. Interactors want to hear from people in all types of careers and club meetings are a great place for Rotarians to highlight career options. Progressive Interact provides students a strong support system through major transitions from 5<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> grade and from 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> grade and grows leaders. Progressive Interact provides a wonderful platform for these extraordinary students, teachers and Rotarians to impact their schools, their community and the world! That's success by any measure.

Posted by Becky Stone  
May 5, 2022

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## Club News

### North Fulton Rotary Council Plans for 2022-23



The North Fulton Rotary Council held its annual Leadership Summit for the presidents elect and incoming boards for the **Rotary Clubs of Alpharetta, Johns Creek-Fulton County, North Fulton, Roswell, and Sandy Springs**. District Governor Elect George Granade shared President Elect Jennifer Jones' vision for Rotary International and his focus for the District next year. The group then broke into roundtables by board or committee roles for the coming year to cross pollinate ideas from the different clubs.

Posted by Jim Squire  
May 4, 2022



## Welcome Atlanta Southern Crescent Rotary Club!



The newest Rotary Club in District 6900 is the **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent**, chartered on April 29, 2022. This Club is the former Rotary Satellite Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County. Pictured is the Satellite Club social and we gained two members there!

We formed as a Satellite Club in March and there was so much interest and so many people working to secure new members, that we were able to charter a Club in one month with 22 people. Seven people came from the Host Club and formed the Advisory Committee and three others asked to join us.

Nick Roberts is the President of the new Atlanta Southern Crescent Club and Troy Hodges is the President-Elect. We have 12 new people who have never been in Rotary or were in Rotary years ago.

Our Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent's format is two Zoom meetings a month on the first and second Fridays at noon. The third week we have an in-person social and the next week, every other month is a service project. We have already had our first service project and are looking forward to our first meeting as a club this Friday at noon on Zoom.

The club has created an electronic flipbook to share club basics with potential members. [You can check it out here.](#)

Posted by Claudia Mertl  
May 4, 2022



## Celebrate 100 Years of Rotary in Moultrie!



Chartered on May 1, 1922 and sponsored by the Rotary Club of Valdosta, the **Rotary Club of Moultrie** just passed the 100-year mark as a club. The Honorable Saxby Chambliss was our guest speaker for the day and DG Mary Ligon was also in attendance. In honor of this special birthday, the club will donate \$10,000 to a variety of local organizations, including Humane Society, Hero House, Forgotten Initiative, Serenity House, Leadership Legends, Breath Ministries and YMCA Seniors.

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
May 4, 2022

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## Marietta Metro Collect Medical Equipment



The Rotary Club of Marietta Metro recently partnered with FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children) for the collection of new and gently used medical devices and equipment like wheelchairs, bath rails, bedside toilets and walkers. The collection was held at the First Presbyterian Church, Marietta, on April 23 and was a great success. Over \$208,300 equipment was donated this year. In thanking the community, Club Community Service Director Rene Lanier said, "Our Club is very thankful to the community for taking advantage of this opportunity to donate equipment. It all will be used to help adults and children throughout our area and overseas. FODAC is recognized internationally and is a highly respected resource for the disabled."

Posted by Rene Lanier  
May 5, 2022

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Interact Update



# **Congratulations to District 6900 - Zone 34 Interact Citation Recipients!!**

The Zone 34 Interact Citation is a prestigious recognition awarded to high achieving Interact Clubs! District 6900 sponsored 13 of the 44 Interact Clubs awarded the Zone 34 Interact Citation! Congratulations to the Interact Clubs and their sponsoring Rotary Clubs for a Job Well Done!!

- Booker T. Washington High School sponsored by Atlanta West End
- Counterpane School sponsored by Peachtree City
- The Foundry School sponsored by Peachtree City
- McIntosh High School sponsored by Peachtree City
- Troup High School sponsored by LaGrange
- West Georgia Community sponsored by LaGrange
- Blessed Trinity Catholic High School sponsored by Roswell
- Mountain Park Elementary sponsored by Roswell
- Roswell North Elementary sponsored by Roswell
- Crabapple Middle School sponsored by Roswell
- Elkins Pointe Middle School sponsored by Roswell
- The Cottage School sponsored by Roswell
- Roswell High School sponsored by Roswell

Posted by Becky Stone  
May 5, 2022

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Club News

## **Roswell RRAH Off to a Great Start!**





In March, the **Roswell Rotary Club** kicked off the Roswell Rotary After Hours Club (RRAH) with an exciting 20 guests. Deliberately intending to create an additional meeting time for those who can't make lunch every Thursday, the RRAH was started with a roundtable chat (literally) and has now grown to 14 new full-fledged Rotary Members! Average age is 29!

A recent meeting focused on creating a Vision Board so the mission, schedule and culture could be better defined. Focused on serving Rotary International through a commitment of serving the community, RRAH meets two evenings a month upstairs at The Artillery Room in Roswell. All are welcome and immediately engaged in the club's upcoming service projects.

President Terry Taylor: "We knew that there were people who had a heart for service but just could not meet at lunch so we thought we would launch an evening meeting. We are overwhelmed with the initial success and are building the organization for community impact, member growth and long-term succession planning with their own leadership in place. We hope that this club serves as a model to others about how to expand the Rotary Service Above Self reach."

Pictured: Davonte Hill & Bob Clarkson

Posted by Becky Nelson  
May 5, 2022

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GRSP Update

**Save the Date: GRSP Conclave Scheduled August 19-21**



*Conclave '22*

**GRSP Class of 2022-23 | Lake Lanier Islands |  
August 19-21, 2022 {Friday to Sunday}**

**SAVE THE DATE**

Before you know it, we will be welcoming the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2022-23. Save the date now for their GRSP Conclave - taking place at Lake Lanier Islands August 19-21, 2022.

All Rotarians, host families, District Leadership, GRSP Leadership, Trustees, Foundation Board, Staff, Emeritus members, former Trustees, friends of GRSP and alumni are invited to attend. Rooms have been reserved at Legacy Lodge. Attendees will pay for their rooms and other amenities at Lake Lanier Islands. Don't miss out on the weekend - especially the student cabaret (talent show) on Saturday night. A link will be forthcoming with training and banquet details.



The Conclave will be hosted by the Rotary Clubs of **Forsyth, Gainesville, Hall County, Lanier-Forsyth, South Forsyth, and South Hall (District 6910).**

GRSP trustees are responsible for getting students to the Conclave. That does not rule out club presidents, club host families, or club members taking them. Once the students are at the Conclave, it is the responsibility of the Conclave host clubs to assign “weekend host families” to transport the students to their meetings and events - please contact Conclave Chair Bill St. Clair at 678-316-2590 if you are interested in assisting.

Conclave will begin about noon on Friday, August 19, They will be available for pick-up on Sunday, August 21, about 9:00 AM.

Posted by Katheryne Fields  
May 6, 2022

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