

From Our District Governor

Just a Little Bit More ...



Jim and DG Mary Ligon with daughter Anna and her husband, Graham Ford. Anna is President of the Rotary Club of Moultrie

Yes it's true - we're about to wind down an amazing year of devoting our best efforts to Serve to Change Lives - and enter a world where we continue to Imagine Rotary and all we can do to make a difference.

Thanks so much for everything we've achieved - from the phenomenal giving of money and time for the people of Ukraine and their neighbors providing relief ... to inspiring youth to take on initiatives through Youth & Peace in Action like the one in Americus focused on more opportunity for college and learning to the young people in the rural parts of our state. You can read about Ukraine and Americus later in the newsletter. And you've done so much more- including our global projects and the district grants that made a difference in each of your communities.

With just a few weeks left in this Rotary Year, I ask for your help in two areas: Rotary Foundation giving and Membership.

Our Rotary Foundation giving appears to be down this year – by nearly \$200,000. I am hoping we have clubs or individuals who just haven't sent their contribution in yet, and hope you will before the end of June. Remember that it's our Annual Fund giving in a Rotary year that determines what we will have in Rotary Foundation funds three years from now to fund global grants and district grants, so help us if you can. There's still time for clubs to achieve EREY and Sustaining status this Rotary Year.

You'll read later in this newsletter that we have welcomed 503 new Rotarians so far this year – thank you. If you [follow the link to our membership statistics](#), however, you'll see we're up just 73 members net, so there's still work to do to be sure we keep our members engaged and part of Rotary. I hope you'll make membership a focus of your efforts not just for the next few weeks but well into the future.

Finally, I'd like to ask you to save August 20 for District 6900's Year End Celebration at Atlanta Motor Speedway. We promise fun and recognition for all you've done this year! Watch for details.

Thanks again for all you do!

Posted by Mary Ligon
June 2, 2022

Thank You!

D6900 Rotarians Make a Difference in Ukraine



I cannot express my gratitude enough for the tremendous support you and the district have provided in the efforts to assist with the crisis in Ukraine.

So far, combining all the efforts from cash fundraising, purchased equipment, and donated medical

equipment and supplies, we have delivered or are in the process of delivering about \$1 million in value of aid.

The \$29,000 that we sent to District 2241 (Romania, Moldova) was used for purchasing basic supplies and for facilitating transportation of equipment and supplies into Ukraine. So far, Rotary D2241 has organized transportation of 300+ trucks filled with donated and purchased food, water, hygiene supplies, medical supplies, and medical equipment - with an estimated value of about \$16 million.

Through the leadership, guidance and resources of AG Chris Brand, D600 has also used \$100,000 of donated funds to purchase specifically requested surgical equipment for use in orthopedics and negative pressure wound treatment systems. Chris has also arranged shipment of 250,000 MREs to Ukraine. Rotary club members have volunteered many hours at FODAC to micro sort donated items in preparation for shipment to Ukraine.

Editor's Note: If you still have funds to send in to District 6900 Charitable Fund, please get those in by June 15.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Radu Zernoveanu
May 26, 2022

YPA Continues for 2022-2023 Rotary/School Year



Our district and clubs were leaders this year investing in the YPA initiative – the largest local community-led peacebuilding initiative in RI history. While this pilot project encountered some challenges due to COVID, we had 77 students complete the My PeaceBuilder Foundations online course and become certified PeaceBuilders. Additionally, students from **Furlow Charter School** sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Americus** completed the Leading Peacebuilder Project Team training and were recognized at the YOUnited event. Their teacher, Joanna Arnold was recognized as one of two Peace Activators of the Year from across the Zones. [You can watch the video where the students talk about their project](#) - it's quite impressive.

For 2022-23, YPA will be separated into two distinct, affordable, sustainable initiatives:

- **My Peacebuilder Foundations:** Any high school can sign up for YPA for \$100, and make online content and certification available to any/all students and teachers to use and adapt as needed. This is possible because the YPA platform is in place.
- **Leading Peace Project Teams:** This “premier peace product” will be available to any participating high school through a \$500 Rotary Club sponsorship. This supports YPA peace project training and mentoring for an Interactors or other students. Up to 10 students can participate and become certified.

YPA will market to schools and help “match” interest with Rotary Clubs that weren’t able to board the Peace Train in 2021-22. All are welcome to join in this year!

Because of the significant investment made by our district in the pilot project, those investing clubs and sponsored schools already have tickets for the 2022-2023 Peace Train. Check with DG Mary to know if your club and school already have a Peace Train ticket for 2022-2023. Information on the professional development will be coming soon.

Posted by Mary Ligon
June 2, 2022

RYLA

RYLA: The Countdown is ON!!



RYLA 2022 is coming to District 6900 June 18-22! Is your club going to participate? If that's a Yes, here are a few things to check on as the date gets closer:

1. Have your sponsored students submitted all the required forms?
2. Do your students have a ride to and from RYLA? Transportation to and from RYLA (or to/from the Atlanta charter bus) is a club responsibility. If your students are not riding the charter bus from the Atlanta area, please arrange transportation to and from Americus for each student. If

your students are riding the bus from Atlanta, please make sure that they know when and where to catch the bus. Appoint a Rotarian or a parent to be at the bus stop and see that they get on. The bus schedule is carefully planned, so delays will interrupt the scheduled camp program. A copy of the bus schedule will be sent to you well ahead of the camp dates.

3. Are your students ready to have a blast at RYLA?

If you have questions or need more information, contact Jaclyn Donovan. The RYLA staff is PUMPED for the opportunity to meet your young leaders and give them the tools they need to expand their skills.

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
June 2, 2022

Membership

Welcome to Our 500+ New Members This Year!



So far this year, we have welcomed 503 new members to District 6900! Here's the latest batch - drawn from the District database:

- **Albany:** Cam Kirbo, Shaunae Motley, Andrew Wulf
- **Alpharetta:** Michael Conner, Tim Chisholm, Zachary Hipes, Tony Van Gelder, Howard Smith, Andrew Sullivan, Clay Jones
- **Americus:** Paul Farr
- **Atlanta Southern Crescent:** Tom Mertl, Claudia Mertl, Ramona Bivins, Lata Chinnan, Ricky Pearson, Subra Bhat, Donya Sartor, Dawn Massenburg, Paddy Sharma, Morcease Beasley, Mahli Lowder, Nick Roberts, Steven Richardson, Tonya Smalls, Joyce Baul, Sandea Harris, Pam Ferguson, Stacy Richardson, Anna Bhat, Chalonda Smith, Larry Grady, Troy Hodges, Feroze Yusufji
- **Bainbridge:** Joe Battles
- **Blakely:** Jordan Mulkey, Gregory Matson, Claude Bell
- **Bremen:** Kim Jennings, Tonya Fulks
- **Buckhead:** Brandi Smith, Becca Baldwin, Tarby Bryant, Bender Vaught
- **Carrollton Dawnbreakers:** Michael Ferrara, Robbie Robinson, Caitlin Harris
- **Columbus:** Deborah Bordelon, Eric Cross, Lauren Davidson-Chambers, Stanley Wright
- **Cordele:** Tim Powers
- **Emory Druid Hills:** Hareshkumar Patel
- **Forsyth Monroe:** Jodi Pharo, Nolen Howard

- **Griffin Daybreak:** James Brackett, Dylan Blasingame, Angie Dillon
- **Henry County:** Jerry Mays
- **Johns Creek North Fulton:** Kyndel Cunningham, Devon Dabney, Justin Stevenson, Stephen Fuller
- **LaGrange:** Ladale Lane, Jared Jones, Sandy Lee, Leon Childs Jr.
- **Marietta:** Kevin Miller, Brian Hambrick
- **Marietta Metro:** Michael McCracken
- **Atlanta Midtown:** Miguel Garcia-Rechani
- **Moultrie:** John Joiner
- **Muscogee:** Mark Hill
- **Newnan:** Chris Thomas, Meredith Brunen
- **North Cobb:** Julie Fogg, Angela Brown, Mara Clauson
- **Paulding County:** Danny Alsobrook
- **Peachtree City:** Kevin Housley, LeeAnne Ryan
- **Polk County:** Shelia Jennings, Andrew Carter
- **Roswell:** Leigh Gould, Evan Coyle, Davonte Hill, Amanda Verdin, Brooke Foxman, John Connell, Ashley Doran, Mitch Stone, Tori Alterman, Michael Brown, Lindsay Davies, Doug Smith, Allison Ziants, Isabelle Prothero, Carly Kozar, Michael Davis, Joseph Gillispie, John Davies, Richard Parsons Jr, John Rock, Grace Peoples, Natalie Cook
- **Sandy Springs:** Aniedi James
- **Senoia:** Christine Mercer
- **Smyrna:** Josie Brockman
- **South Cobb:** Timothy Durham
- **Stone Mountain:** Ed Outlaw
- **Thomasville:** Rich Massa Jr.
- **Tucker:** Lana Forte, Derrick Miranda, Donald Johns
- **West Point:** Daniel Meadows, Erin Vick, Monroe Smith

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
June 2, 2022

Membership

Zone 34 Competition Continues through June 30!



Remember that the Zone 34 Membership Competition is still going through the end of June. If you do the stuff that helps grow a club, you get points:

- 1 point for each new visitor
- 5 points for each new member induction
- 5 points for a Member Retention Program
- 10 points for each Rotary Social Recruiting Event
- 20 extra points for doing all four of the above

The more your club does, the greater chance it has to win recognition and – more importantly – grow its impact. The details are in the [attached flyer](#) and you can contact your District Membership Chair with any questions.

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
June 2, 2022

Fight Human Trafficking

Grant Sponsors Speakers from Rescuing Hope

The average age of a victim when first approached by a sex trafficker:

11-14

As people of action, let's do something about this.
Invite Rescuing Hope to speak to your club and learn how your members can make a difference in this fight.



Email reagan@rescuinghope.com
to schedule a speaker today

Rotary Action Group
Against Slavery



WWW.RESCUINGHOPE.COM

The **Rotary Clubs of Alpharetta, Marietta, North Cobb and Smyrna** have teamed with Rotary Action Group Against Slavery to offer Rescuing Hope as a resource for speakers and materials to fight Human Trafficking. We have \$4,500 in grant funding is available for clubs to invite the Rescuing Hope team to enlighten, educate and empower Rotarians in this fight and connect the resources they offer to schools, law enforcement, medical providers and other community organizations.

Funding is available for travel expenses for the speakers as well as the educational material to be distributed. To learn more about Rescuing Hope visit <https://www.rescuinghope.com/> and for more info on RAGAS visit <https://ragas.online/>

To request speakers from Rescuing Hope for your club you may contact Hicks Malonson from North Cobb at hicks.malonson@harrynorman.com or Reagan at Rescuing Hope at

Club News

Celebrating 100 Years by Giving in Moultrie



In honor of its 100th Anniversary, the **Rotary Club of Moultrie** donated over \$10,000 to local organizations to support their efforts in making our community a better place. The selected groups include The Forgotten Initiative, Serenity House, YMCA Seniors, Hero House, Leadership Legends, Breathe Ministries, and the Humane Society. We look forward to seeing these groups change lives!

After much success placing seven *Little Free Libraries* (repurposed newspaper boxes) in the Moultrie community during the 20-21 Rotary year, the club had the opportunity to partner with Colquitt County Schools to build six additional libraries this year. The libraries were built by the construction classes at C.A. Gray Junior High School and will be registered with the national organization. These new *Little Free Libraries* will be and located at C. A. Gray Junior High School as well as Cox, Stringfellow, Okapilco, Norman Park, and Funston Elementary Schools. While they are located at schools, everyone in the community is encouraged to use them to share and borrow books.

With more than 775 million people over the age of 15 (nearly 17 percent of the world's adult population) being illiterate, the club hopes this initiative will strengthen the capacity of Moultrie and Colquitt County to support basic education and literacy.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
June 2, 2022

Club News

East Cobb AVID Program Jumpstarts Wheeler High Student Futures



The Advancement Via Individual Determination or (AVID) program was started at Wheeler High School in 2017 by the **Rotary Club of East Cobb** to assist students who are from groups traditionally underrepresented in higher education and/or may become the first members of their families to attend college. In addition to rigorous coursework, AVID students also receive additional academic, social, and emotional support as they prepare for college. Rotarians have donated more than \$60,000 and their time for mentoring since the program started.

The Cobb County School District announced last month that 13 Wheeler seniors in the current AVID program have been accepted to college and have received more than \$5 million in scholarship offers. The district said, "After graduating from Wheeler, the AVID students plan to major in sports medicine, political science, biology, forensic science, psychology, chemistry, international business, and more. One is set on being a pediatric surgeon, while another aims for law school."

In a recent meeting with the club, one student said, "I'm really grateful for every single person and the [Wheeler] program and teaching staff, everyone and all the people that have supported us. It's been some of the greatest years of my life."

Posted by Joe Mayes
June 2, 2022

Club News

Rotary "Service Above Self" National Medal of Honor Recipients Recognized



In Rotary's ideals of Vocational Service, our Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, First Responders, and other public safety personnel serve above self within their profession each day. They ask for a fair wage and the opportunity to serve, yet their level of service has the potential to far exceed normal expectations of "Service Above Self." Rotary International developed a method for Rotary Clubs to honor those community heroes who share its motto of "Service Above Self" within their professions and the club reached out to leaders in law enforcement and public safety for nominations.

In this second year of awarding the Rotary National Medal of Honor, the **Rotary Club of Americus** recently recognized four public service personnel for providing exemplary service to the citizens of the Americus and Sumter County community. The club honored them with a luncheon held on Tuesday, May 10 in the Marshall Private Dining Room on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University.

Corporal Sherman Anthony of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office was awarded the Rotary "Service Above Self" National Medal of Honor for Deputy of the Year. Corporal Anthony has served as a dedicated public servant with the Sheriff's Office since July of 2011 and was nominated by Sheriff Eric Bryant. His work ethic paired with a professional and courteous attitude sets him apart and he is heralded for providing exemplary service to the citizens of Sumter County.

Theo Baldwin was recognized with the National Medal of Honor for Firefighter of the Year, nominated by Chief Jerry Harmon of the Sumter County Fire Department. Baldwin was recognized for going the extra mile in everything he does and for constantly striving to do more and learn more, making him a wealth of knowledge and an invaluable asset to the department.

Scott Manucy, was nominated by Chief Roger Bivins and awarded the National Medal of Honor for Firefighter of the Year. He is an engineer with 15 years of exemplary service with the department and embodies a “can do” attitude and a true spirit of service. He has consistently put the citizens, City of Americus, and the fire department needs as a primary goal, interacting with every member of the public with the professionalism expected. His work habits and compassion serve as a good example for everyone and he is very well-respected within the department.

Detective Sergeant Cedric Smith received the National Medal of Honor for Police Officer of the Year, having selflessly served the Americus Police Department for 16 years. He was nominated by Americus Police Chief Mark Scott. Described as hardworking, dependable, and positive, he has received a number of accolades, including the department’s Meritorious Service award. He approaches every task and assignment with a “can-do” attitude and is always the first to sign up for extra assignments. Whether supervising criminal investigations or volunteering his time, energy, and talents in the community, Cedric Smith’s life reflects Service Above Self.

The Rotary Club of Americus is honored to honor these first responders who share a core value of the 1.2 million Rotary International members, worldwide, which is “Service Above Self”.

Pictured are Rotary “Service Above Self” National Medal of Honor recipients Corporal Sherman Anthony, Detective Sergeant Cedric Smith, Engineer Scott Manucy, and Firefighter Theo Baldwin

Posted by Angela Smith
May 11, 2022

Club News

Peachtree City Hosts GRSP Students for Fun and Service-Filled Weekend



In early May, the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** hosted 24 GRSP students and four additional international students from UGA for a final weekend together before the students begin their last travels across the US and return to their home countries. The students arrived on Friday to a dinner / pool party hosted at the beautiful home of PTC Rotarian Gordon Fleming and his wife Christine. After the fellowship on Friday night, the students split among host families with 10 students staying with the Flemings, two students staying with GRSP Trustee Cyndi Plunkett and 18 students with Immediate Past President/Assistant Governor Steve Ivory.

On Saturday morning, the students split into teams on eight golf carts - all donated by Rotarian Patti Kadkhodaian (Owner, Golf Rider) and Rotarian Chavdar Zdravkov (Owner, GolfCart Masters). With the help of Chavdar (Civics Project Coordinator) and Steven Newton (Community Service Chair), the students split time among four different projects -working alongside Rotarians to clean-up and paint city properties sponsored by the Rotary Club. This was well received and efforts were recognized by Mayor Kim Learnard on the city's social media platforms.

To add fun, the teams had a scavenger hunt around the golf cart paths. Intense competition between the teams, but one team amazingly completed all 25 items! The winning team had a little help from long-time PTC resident and Rotarian Tammy Soulakos and included Thomas Carlsten and Hanna Larsen from Norway, Sofie Bohl from Sweden and Csenge Tar from Hungary. The winning team won Mary Poppins District 6900 umbrellas and the second place team received Chick-fil-a or Starbucks gifts cards.

After a great lunch at Partners II Pizza, the team headed back to Steve Ivory's home to spend the afternoon socializing and writing in each other's personal books about the great year they have experienced through the GRSP program. On Saturday evening, the Flemings hosted again and with the help of President Adam Glendye, had an awesome Georgia barbeque highlighted by banana pudding from Rotarian Paige Munk (district conference attendees will remember this from our progressive dinner evening). The evening was spent swimming, singing karaoke, spending time by the bonfire and saying final goodbyes to each other.

It was a very unique and rewarding experience for the Rotarians and the GRSP students to have this one final weekend together. Thanks to all of the GRSP host families and clubs across the state who helped with the logistics for the weekend for these students! It was such a fun and memorable weekend.

Posted by Mandy Timmons
June 2, 2022

Club News

Griffin Daybreak Presents Paul Ragan Mighty Acorn Awards



Paul Ragan Mighty Acorn Award



The **Griffin Daybreak Rotary Club** proudly presented the Paul Ragan Mighty Acorn Award to 11 fifth grade recipients in Spalding County in May. The award is made in loving memory of our past member Paul Ragan and his selfless service to others.

Daybreak works with the Griffin-Spalding County School System to present the Paul Ragan Mighty Acorn Award to one student in each elementary school within our community. The school helps identify the student who strives to succeed in school, their neighborhood and community through hard work and determination. The recipient of the Paul Ragan Mighty Acorn Award is regarded as strong and persevering in his or her efforts to grow and succeed to become a role model for peers.

Club members were able to attend honors programs, present the award and declare, "Our mighty acorn is only a seedling today, but like an acorn that grows into a mighty oak tree through continued character building, selfless service to others, academics and spreading of good will. It is our hope the recipient of this award will someday give back to our community in a way that builds character, and self-esteem in others."

Recipients received a medallion, certificate along with an acorn seed with planting instructions and a gift certificate from Chick-fil-A of Griffin for an entree.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
May 26, 2022

Club News

Marietta Metro Rotary Club Outfits Community Garden; Furnishes Youth Center



In May, the **Rotary Club of Marietta Metro** purchased three new picnic tables, which were made from recycled materials, and power tools including a lawn mower, blower and weed eater for the Reconnecting Our Roots Community Garden. Located on Lemon Street in Marietta on property owned by Zion Baptist Church, the garden is an oasis in the city for local gardeners to grow their own fruits and vegetables. This gives neighbors with no yards the chance to enjoy healthy foods they cultivate themselves. In addition, the garden serves as an educational center guided by the Master Gardeners of Cobb County under the direction of the Cobb County Extension Service, to conduct classes on cultivation, insect control, composting, and the life cycle of plants. "Having the nice picnic tables now enhances the functionality of the space and the new tools will make it easier to keep the garden area neat and attractive," shared Rotarian

"Having the nice picnic tables now enhances the functionality of the space and the new tools will make it easier to keep the garden area neat and attractive," shared Rotarian Bob Brown, the club's project chairman. "The community utilizes this space for gatherings of many kinds like lunch away from the office, bridal showers and birthday parties, so we can be a part of our community in so many ways in addition to helping the environment and providing nutritious food," stated Garden Co-Chairs Kathy and Dennis Esler.

The club also provided new living room furniture to the Center for Children and Young Adults. "It is so important and valuable for these young people to feel they are in a safe and homelike setting. The new furniture helps accomplish this and we are grateful to the Rotary Club for the furnishings as well as their support throughout the year in other ways," stated Jennifer LaBrecque, Grants and Facilities Director for the Center. The mission of the Center for Children & Young Adults (CCYA) is to provide safe and suitable housing, youth development activities and comprehensive supportive housing services for at-risk homeless youth who have been abandoned, abused, neglected and/or sexually exploited.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Rene Lanier
June 2, 2022
