



The Okra Brothers  
**Right Back Where We Started**

By Gordon Owens  
During my official visits to the Columbus area, I was impressed by how the local clubs are working together to serve those in need. Food insecurity, proper medical care and working to reduce violence are just a few challenges Rotarians are tackling in their neighborhood. AG Cedric Hill and I were nicknamed the *Okra Brothers* because we saved a couple cases of okra from the compost pile at the Merci Med garden, but that's only half the story. While it may have been a bit past its prime size to sell, we were convinced it could be put to good use. Cedric made a call to a friend at another non-profit at a local school that teaches students how to grow their own food and how to build a business selling that produce. The director of that program said, "I was just asked if I had okra to use to teach families how to prepare fresh, seasonal produce." After dropping the okra off on the other side of town, it turns out, it will be used for a cooking demonstration in a neighborhood just a couple blocks from where it was harvested. As simple as a couple case of okra may seem to us, by these clubs working together to leverage every available resource, those in need in Columbus are experiencing the *Magic of Rotary*.  
[more]

**LEADERBOARD** Check out the full district scoreboard

Here are the clubs that are leading the way in our district for membership, annual fund and polio plus.

Category	NET MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
I	<b>Fayetteville</b>	<b>North Atlanta</b>	<b>Brookhaven</b>
II	<b>North Columbus</b>	<b>North Fulton</b>	<b>Vinings Cumberland</b>
III	<b>Marietta</b>	<b>Dunwoody</b>	<b>Carrollton-Dawn Breakers</b>
IV	<b>North Atlanta Professional Alliance</b>	<b>Roswell</b>	<b>Peachtree City</b>

**Key Dates**

- Saturday, June 6th, 2026 **Americus RYLA - DISTRICT 6900**
- Saturday, June 6th, 2026 **Americus 2026 Rotary Sheffield Gala**



District Governor Nominee  
Designate

## **Congratulations to Buck Buchanan**

By Gordon Owens

It's official, Buck Buchanan from the Rotary Club of Marietta Metro is our District Governor Nominee Designate. Buck will serve our district as governor during the 2027-2028 Rotary year. The governor team and several past district governors were on hand to make the announcement to the Marietta Metro club. We look forward to working with Buck as he prepares to lead our district. Please join me in congratulating **Buck Buchanan** on this great honor.  
[more]

# SAVE the DATE

Georgia  
Rotary  
Districts



## Week of Service

January 6 - 11, 2025



Join us the week of  
Jan. 6-11 for a  
collaborative Family of  
Rotary volunteer week  
to support recovery  
work in Western  
Carolina and in the  
Augusta area. Find the  
day that works for you!

Small things bring  
big changes.

#gautd

Rotary  PEOPLE of ACTION

January 6-11,  
2025

### Join Us For A Week Of Service

By Chris Brand  
Teams of  
volunteers from  
all three Rotary  
Districts in  
Georgia will be  
headed to the  
Augusta area or  
up to Western  
North Carolina to  
assist with  
disaster  
recovery the  
week of January  
6 through  
January 11. We  
will clearing  
debris from  
yards or  
removing storm  
damaged  
contents from  
houses. There is  
plenty of work  
for all skill  
levels. Feel free  
to come for a  
day or stay for  
the whole  
week. **Fill out  
this quick  
form** to let us  
know when and  
where you can  
help. We will be  
in touch with  
more details  
about  
accommodations  
and travel to  
each area as we  
fill out the  
teams. Thank  
you for  
volunteering to  
help!  
[more]

Next MAP Webinar

# YOUR MEMBERSHIP WISH LIST... DELIVERED!

 MONDAY | DECEMBER 9TH  9:30 PM EST  
 REGISTER ON DAC/IB



Monday, December 9 @ 5:30PM

## Your Membership Wishlist

By Dave Schwickerath  
Santa is coming early to your club membership team. Join the next Membership Action Plan (MAP) webinar for some great breakout sessions and take a deeper dive into:

- Issues Challenging Small Clubs
- Creating Membership Types
- Continuity In Club Leadership
- Energizing Existing Members
- Membership This & That

**Join this webinar** for great ideas to grow Rotary in the new year. [more]



Disaster Relief  
Trailer

## **\$20,000 Disaster Grant From Zones 33/34**

By Chris Brand  
Our combined  
Rotary Zones 33  
& 34 have raised  
over  
\$1,000,000 to  
support Rotarian  
led relief efforts  
from the recent  
storms. Our Zone  
Director Patrick  
Eakes  
encouraged all  
the District  
Governors to  
apply for grants  
to help use this  
funding to assist  
areas in need of  
recovery in our  
zone. While our  
district was not  
hard hit this time  
around, several  
of our  
neighboring  
districts will need  
help for months  
or years to come.  
We applied for  
and were  
awarded a  
\$20,000 grant  
from Zones 33/34  
to purchase and  
equip a **Disaster  
Relief  
Trailer** that can  
be quickly  
mobilized to help  
those in need.  
The trailer will be  
ready in  
December and  
our first trip is  
planned for  
the **Rotary  
Week of  
Service in  
January.**  
[more]

”

**NO ONE CAN TELL US  
WHAT ROTARY WILL  
BE TOMORROW, BUT ONE  
THING IS CERTAIN:  
WHAT ROTARY WILL BE  
TOMORROW DEPENDS  
UPON WHAT ROTARIANS  
DO TODAY.**

*ARCH C KLUMPH*

”

@changemakerevanbur

Our Rotary  
Foundation  
**Consider  
the Rotary  
Foundation  
in Your  
Year-End  
Giving**

By Bob Hagan  
The quote you see to the left from founder Arch C Klumph is circa 1916. It is every bit as true today as it was when he first uttered it. It is also no more profound than it is at the end of the year. How we close out a year sets the stage for what we wish to accomplish in the ensuing year. December is the time of year when we consider what other tax benefits we hope to employ. Our first thought is always going to be about what positive impact we can have with our gifts this year on the world of today. However, we are also aware of the charitable tax deduction available to us for our outright gifts. There are a number of ways we can do so. Are you aware you can gift using your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?  
[more]

Zones 33/34

# Foundation Matters — Monthly Webinar

Join Monthly on the 3rd Thursday  
at 6 PM EDT



Thursday,  
December 19 @  
6PM

## Foundation Matters Webinar

By Bob Hagan  
Mark your calendars for the third Thursday of the month at 6PM EDT and join us for the **“Foundation Matters” Webinar**. We know you want to have an amazing year at your club, so we’re bringing you experienced leaders to share how to structure your Foundation Committee so you will create an exceptional year of foundation giving. Don’t miss this series! The “Foundation Matters” Webinar Series was developed especially for you- Club Presidents and Club Foundation Chairs. These monthly webinars will provide “bite-sized chunks” of valuable insights and actionable strategies that really work to increase club engagement in The Rotary Foundation. [more]



**AMA**  
**Ask Me Anything**  
A virtual, live, Q & A session  
with Public Image experts!

Rotary  
Zones 33/34

Tuesday  
December 17  
6pm EDT

Tuesday, December 17 @ 6PM

**Public Image Ask Me Anything**

By Mandy Timmons  
Need help with all things public image? This webinar is for you. The zone's public image and communications team will be on hand to answer all of your questions. From getting the most engagement from social media or how to use canva to make your message pop, come prepare to ask them anything to help your club promote all the great work your club is doing to impact your community. Visit [ElevateRotary.org](https://ElevateRotary.org) to register.  
[more]



Planning Your Year  
End Giving

## **Gifting Securities May Have Added Tax Benefits**

By Lee  
Hollingsworth  
As you plan your  
year-end giving,  
consider a gift of  
appreciated  
securities to The  
Rotary Foundation.  
This is an effective  
way to fulfill your  
giving goals and  
help maximize your  
tax savings. You  
may be able to:  
Deduct the fair  
market value of  
your gift; Avoid  
capital gains tax on  
the appreciated  
stock. You can  
donate appreciated  
securities through  
your broker or by  
mail. You can use  
our **stock transfer  
form** to make a gift  
today. To learn  
more, see  
our **Securities  
page**. If you are  
70½ years or older,  
you may get extra  
tax benefits by  
giving through  
an **IRA charitable  
rollover gift**.  
Contact **Lee  
Hollingsworth** with  
any questions. Let's  
continue Doing  
Good in the World  
together. Your  
actions today will  
shape our  
Foundation's future.  
[more]

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**Doing  
Good  
in the  
World**

# Future-Proofing Rotary: Maximizing District Impact with the 2.025 by 2025 Endowment

*5 December 2024 at 09:00 CT*



**Mark  
Daniel Maloney**

Trustee Chair,  
The Rotary Foundation



**Olayinka  
Hakeem Babalola**

Past Vice President,  
Rotary International



**Dominiek  
Willemse**

Endowment/Major Gifts  
Advisor,  
The Rotary Foundation



**Maria Gina  
Africa Sy**

Assistant Regional Rotary  
Foundation Coordinator,  
The Rotary Foundation

*with Karena Bierman, Director of Planned and Principal Gifts*



December 5, 2024  
- 10AM

## **Future Proofing Rotary Webinar**

By Lee Hollingsworth  
Gifts to Rotary's Endowment play a vital role in providing districts with a reliable income stream to support projects and grants. **Join us this**

**December** to explore how Rotary's Endowment complements Annual Giving to enhance district sustainability and support impactful initiatives.

Panelists will discuss how a well-funded Endowment contributes to membership growth and community engagement by funding scholarships, humanitarian grants, and district grants. Additionally, the session will cover strategies for engaging your district leaders and club members in raising awareness of the Endowment's importance. Discover how effective use of Rotary's Endowment can drive long-term success and amplify your district's impact. [more]



Thank You For Supporting Laws of Life

**We exceeded our Meet Our Match campaign goal!**

By Carol Gray Walker

We are delighted to announce that the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest has exceeded its Meet Our Match campaign goal, raising an incredible \$80,911—far surpassing our \$60,000 target!

This success is a testament to the generosity and dedication of our donors, Rotary Club sponsors, and corporate partners who believe in the power of strong character values. As Helen Keller wisely said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Your support inspires students to embrace character values that lead to lifelong success. Together, we are making a difference—one essay, one student, and one life lesson at a time.

[more]

# North Cobb Rotary Club — Peace Summit Series



**Brenda Fischer**  
Peace Chair, North Cobb  
IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

## Rotarians Promoting Peace

**Friday, Dec 6, 2024**  
**2:00PM EST | 7:00PM WAT**

**Via Zoom**  
**Meeting ID: 810 9789 3217**  
**Passcode: PEACE**



**Ada Wikina**  
President, North Cobb  
IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

In partnership with:-  
Rotary Club of Umuahia, D9142

## Join in the Conversation



**Robert C Masse**  
IP, Port Au Prince



**PDG Grace C. Okaro**  
Rotary Positive Peace Activator  
IEP Positive Peace Ambassador



**PAG Jude C. Ohanele**  
IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

Friday, December 6  
@ 2PM

## North Cobb Peace Summit Series

By Ada Wikina  
North Cobb Rotary  
peace builder Club  
invites you to the  
second 'Rotarians  
promoting Peace  
Summit. This will  
take place on the  
6th of December  
2024 via zoom. Use  
Meeting ID **810  
9789 3217** and  
passcode **PEACE** to  
join the summit.  
Our conversation is  
with the Rotary  
Club of Umuahia,  
district 9142 in  
Nigeria ably  
represented by  
PDG Grace Okaro  
who is also an IEP  
peace ambassador  
and PAG Jude  
Ohanele, also an  
IEP ambassador.  
Details are in the  
flyer below. We  
hope you can join  
the conversation.  
[more]

Support Thomasville  
Rotary

## 1st Annual Big Impact Auction

By Mary Beth Donalson  
Rotarians, friends, and  
business associates  
donated a wonderfully  
eclectic mix of high-  
end items for our first  
annual BIG IMPACT  
AUCTION. We're asking  
friends and neighbors  
near and far--to place  
your bids. **Everyone is  
invited to  
participate!**

Rotary Club of  
Thomasville does good  
work in the community  
and around the world.  
Auction proceeds will  
help fund those good  
works. Club projects  
range from monthly  
fresh produce market  
for those in need to  
honoring first  
responder heroes to  
celebrating those who  
serve in the National  
Guard and other  
branches of service to  
supporting senior  
adults. Youth projects,  
scholarships, and  
recognition programs  
also are a priority. Our  
aim is to make a big  
impact in as we work  
to make our  
community a better  
place for all. [more]



# ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE'S BIG IMPACT AUCTION



## Offering:

- High-end & Unique Items
- Spectacular Vacation Stays
- One-of-a-kind Experiences  
and Adventures

## BIDDING STARTS

11/21 @ 12PM

## BIDDING ENDS

12/5 @ 7PM

Benefitting Rotary's Good Works in our Community: monthly free produce markets, vegetables/grow bags, events honoring first responders, National Guard unit, senior adults, and youth services programs.



GRSP Update

## Oslo Summer 2025 GRSP Scholarship Opens for Georgia College Students

By Katheryne Fields  
Norwegian Rotarians will partner with Georgia Rotary Student Program to sponsor two college students from Georgia to attend Oslo International Summer School. Dates will be June 28-July 15, 2025. Application is now open and closes Jan. 15, 2025. Applicants must have completed their first year of college by Spring 2025 and have the recommendation of Georgia Rotarian. For questions regarding requirements or obtaining the Rotarian endorsement, please email [grsp@grsp.org](mailto:grsp@grsp.org) for assistance. Please reference the **attached Oslo flyer** for more information, dates for the summer session and the January 15, 2025 application deadline. Visit GRSP website: [www.grsp.org](http://www.grsp.org) to apply. [more]



Club News

## **Carrollton Dawnbreakers Honors Local Veterans**

By Sarah Powell

To honor local veterans this Veteran's Day, the Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club recently collected clothing and hygiene items and delivered them to the Trinka Davis Veterans Village. The village offers primary care and specialty health services, including dentistry, treatment for lung disease, and more to US veterans. One of the most heartwarming aspects of the event was the involvement of Rotary members' children, who played an active role in sorting and organizing supplies for the Veterans Village. By engaging the next generation in hands-on service projects, the Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club is fostering a sense of responsibility, compassion, and leadership in young people. [more]



Club News

## Clubs Collaborate to Promote Peace

By Mandy Timmons

The Rotary Clubs of Peachtree City, Senoia, Tyrone, and

Fayetteville joined forces to celebrate a significant milestone at the Healing Bridge Clinic in Peachtree City. Together, we proudly dedicated *The Rotary Room*, a project made possible through grants and the collective service of our clubs.

The day's highlight was the unveiling of a Peace Pole, symbolizing Rotary's unwavering commitment to global peace and understanding. Built and coordinated by DG Gordon Owens, the Peace Pole serves as a poignant reminder of our mission to foster peace locally and globally. DG Gordon shared his heartfelt thoughts, saying, "As Rotarians, we are out in our communities creating peace.... Think about the people that are coming here for healing."

[more]



Club News  
**Roswell  
Puts DG  
Gordon  
to Work!**

By Kathryn Igou  
As the Roswell Rotary Club prepared for our own DG Gordon Owens visit in November, we knew that we couldn't just have lunch and a program. Gordon is a Rotarian of ACTION and nothing is better to honor him than a solid service project. So we took our club meeting "on the road" and met at the Chattahoochee Nature Center, bringing along our traditional fried chicken lunch. While there, we built ADA accessible picnic tables and installed a peace pole.  
[more]



Club News

## **Dan Amos of Aflac Inspires at Rotary Club of Columbus Meeting**

By LeighAnn  
DiCesaris

The Rotary Club of Columbus had the honor of hosting Dan Amos, CEO of Aflac, at their weekly meeting. Attendees were captivated by Mr. Amos's presentation, which detailed Aflac's incredible journey from its humble beginnings to becoming a globally recognized brand with a remarkable 90% name recognition rate. Mr. Amos highlighted Aflac's roots in Columbus, Georgia, where the company was founded in 1955 by three visionary brothers—John, Paul, and Bill Amos. What started as a small insurance business grew into a powerhouse in the industry, transforming lives with its innovative supplemental insurance policies. Despite its global success, Aflac has remained deeply connected to its hometown, continually investing in the community and exemplifying the spirit of giving back. [more]

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## The After- Smiles from Mimosa Kids



Our Rotary Foundation at Work

### **Roswell Grant Helps Keep Children Warm**

By Kathryn Igou  
Grants from the Rotary Foundation have enabled **Roswell Rotary Club** to take on significant projects this year, including providing warm winter gear for children in Star House. This month we have continued to highlight the incredible impact of the Rotary International Foundation and how, with generous contributions from Rotarians, we can fund meaningful service projects in our community and beyond. Thanks to grant support, Roswell Rotary received the maximum grants this year: a \$2,000 community grant and a \$5,000 competitive grant. [more]

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## Join Us for Rotary Means Business in January

By Carter Stout  
Rotary Means Business will not meet in December, but watch for more about when and where we are meeting in January 2025. It's a great opportunity to network! In the meantime, enjoy your holidays!



Club News

## **RCC Supports our Furry Friends for Christmas; Donates to the Rotary Foundation**

By Mandy Timmons  
The Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps, made up of enthusiastic and caring young adults with special needs, just completed a heartwarming service project! They packed stockings full of treats and toys for dogs and cats in local shelters, bringing joy to our furry friends this holiday season. On top of that, they made a generous donation to our Rotary Foundation, with fellow Rotarians matching their gift to bring the total to \$1,000! We're so proud of this group and their dedication to service. Thank you to these amazing young adults for their kindness, spirit, and community support! [\[more\]](#)



Club News

## **Dunwoody Supports Family Food Needs for Thanksgiving**

By Jackie Cuthbert  
The Rotary Club of Dunwoody continued its holiday tradition of helping fill food baskets for local Kingsley Elementary families in need. Led by Honorary Member Anita Augello and her daughter Claudia, our efforts included the purchase of 89 turkeys (in a Publix visit we've come to know as the Turkey Trot), pick up of a massive quantity of food at Costco, assistance with packing the boxes AND with loading very heavy boxes into recipients' carts. The baskets contain a full Thanksgiving dinner and more. Rotary is one of the community groups who come together to deliver these baskets. All Kingsley students will also receive a brand new book this holiday season - as part of another Dunwoody tradition that's been around for nearly 30 years. [\[more\]](#)

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Club News

## **Marietta Serves Record 153 Meals at MUST Ministries**

By Jacob Southerland  
Professional Chefs Emma and Ean McShane were welcomed again by MUST Ministries - volunteering for the monthly lunch service provided by the Rotary Club of Marietta at MUST and whipping up a five-star lunch for 153+ residents and the homeless. They organized and trained willing-but-not-highly-skilled Rotarian cooks (with the exception of father, Harold). Have you witnessed ten pounds of potatoes peeled in less than ten minutes and on the stove cooking? Working together, [Rotarians take note, this teamwork stuff really works]; Chefs Emma and Ean utilized only the freshest ingredients - no canned soup, canned vegetables, canned meat, or fruit cocktail for these two. [more]



Club News  
**Douglas  
County  
Hears from  
RYLA  
Students**

By Nell Boggs  
Members of the Rotary Club of Douglas County enjoyed hearing from the two students the club sponsored for RYLA! Aaliyah Mason and Amiah Jackson are both members of the Interact Club at New Manchester High School. The girls enjoyed forming friendships and participating in team-building and leadership activities with students from around the state. The program took place June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The Rotary Club of Douglas County paid all expenses for the two students to attend the camp, including bus transportation from Atlanta to Americus. Pictured along with Aaliyah and Amiah are Rotary Club President John Baker and New Manchester High School Counselor Pamela Cummings. [more]



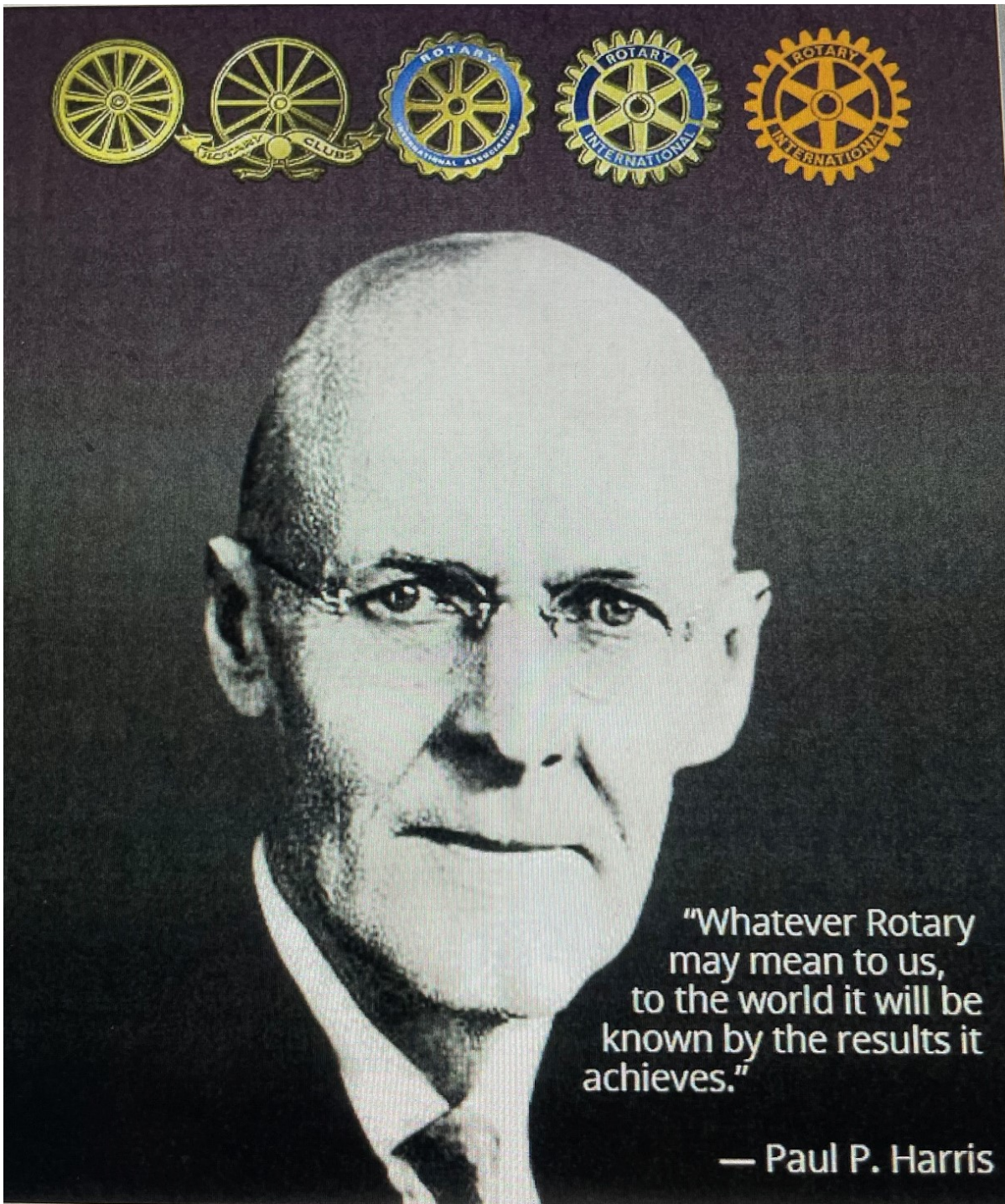
Club News  
**Wreaths  
Spread  
Cheer  
and  
Support  
Good  
Works**

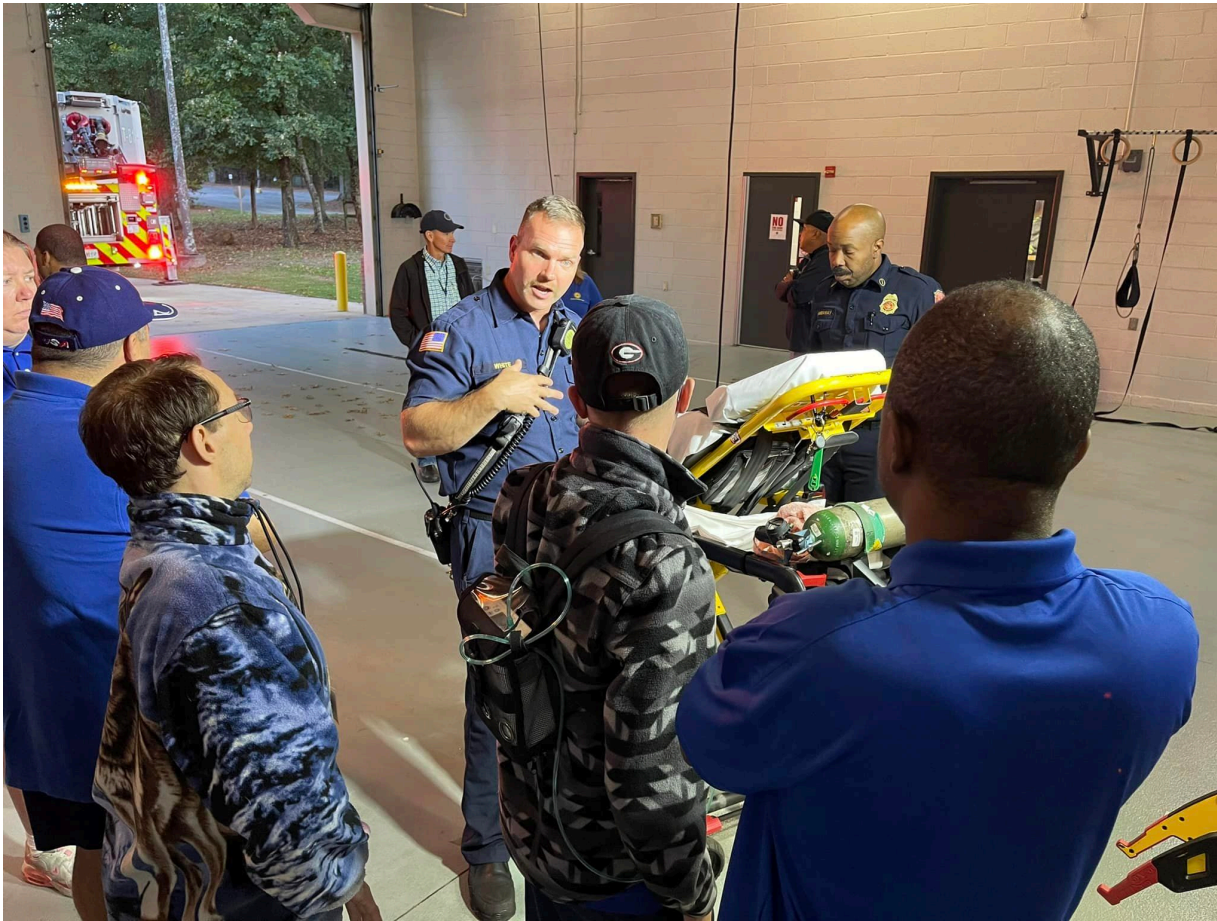
By Debby Daniel-Bryant  
The Rotary Club of Griffin Daybreak is spreading Christmas cheer and raising money for all it does in the community with its annual wreath sale. Debby Daniels-Bryant and Jackie Wilson helped get the truck loaded at Georgia Farmers Market with wreaths to deliver. [more]

End Polio Now

## Give the Gift of Polio Eradication

By Bob Hagan  
The Paul Harris quote to the left is certainly well known as it leads us into our Rotary International History page. It hits the reader squarely between the eyes with the fact that no matter what we might think about the things we do, the world will judge us by what they see us do and how it affects the world. Truly a huge responsibility does each of us have as Rotarians. It is up to us to live up to the words of Paul Harris and the ever-critical eyes who keep watch over us. It has been a tougher year in many ways in that area of the world we are most concentrated on as we fight to end Polio on a worldwide basis. Civil unrest compounded by cultural mores make our task ever the harder climb to success, but success is what we still achieved this year, even in the war-torn areas of our very personal fight against the spread of Polio. [more]





Club News  
**Peachtree  
City RCC  
and DG  
Gordon  
Visit Fire  
Station**

By Mandy  
Timmons  
The Rotary  
Community  
Corps of  
Peachtree  
City had an  
incredible  
experience at  
Fire Station 81!  
They learned  
about the  
intense 16-week  
training required  
to become a  
firefighter and  
got up close with  
some of the  
essential tools  
used on the job.  
One of the  
firemen even  
sued up in  
under one  
minute,  
demonstrating  
just how quickly  
they need to  
respond to  
emergencies!  
[more]



## **Peachtree City Rotarians Honored**

By Mandy Timmons  
Two Sparrows Village, Inc. (located at Christian City) is a dedicated organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing safe, inclusive housing and supportive services to help residents lead independent, fulfilling lives. At the 2024 Bird Bash, two Peachtree City Rotarians received top honors for their dedication to this impactful mission: Steven Newton earned the Wayne Damron Community Champion Award for his community involvement, and George Martin received the Terry Chapman Humanitarian Award for his compassionate commitment to service. [more]



Club News

## **Roswell Hosts Multi-Generational Fishing Derby**

By Kathryn Igou

In October, Roswell Recreation & Parks collaborated with Roswell Rotary to host a Multigenerational Fishing Derby. Bamboo fishing rods being made to the left while catch/release fishing was going on to the right. This first-year event encouraged teams comprised of a youth, a parent-aged person and a grandparent-aged person to work together to build a bamboo fishing rod and then use in the pond at the back of the Roswell Area Park on Woodstock Road. It was a beautiful morning for about 100 folks from all over Roswell to come together to learn how to tie knots, hold a fishing pole and laugh. [more]