



The Magic of Rotary  
**Rotary Is A Family Sport**

By Gordon Owens

During the conference weekend we hosted a special dinner for our club presidents and district leaders. None of our leaders do it alone, our members certainly support us along the way, but often, it's the family that really pitches in to help. One of the things Ashley and I love about Rotary is that family is not just included but encouraged. The family of Rotary has welcomed us with open arms all across our district this year. However, it has been especially nice to share this journey with our real life family. George Stewart, Ashley's dad, is a long time member of the Dunwoody Rotary Club and he and his wife Amy have supported us every step along the way. I was able to pull off a nice surprise for Ashley and the Stewart family, by creating the *Jane Stewart Memorial Fund* in honor of George's mom and our "Grandma" as a way to thank them for all they have done to encourage and support me during the last three & half years serving in the governor line. Thanks again Stewart family!  
[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**



GeorgiaUnitedDC.com

## **Thank You From Georgia Rotary!**

By Gordon Owens  
On behalf of DG  
Bobby from 6910, DG  
Todd from 6920 and  
me, we want to  
extend our sincere  
thanks to all of the  
hard work that went  
on behind the scenes  
to make the magic of  
the first-ever Georgia  
Rotary District  
Conference happen.  
Carol Colón who used  
to be in the  
Fayetteville Club in  
our district but has  
since moved to  
D6910, served as our  
overall conference  
chair and had the  
tough task of helping  
us blend all of our  
traditions and crazy  
ideas into one  
spectacular event.  
Ryan Clements  
helped us manage  
the show from the A/V  
desk, Elwyn Gaissert  
served as Sgt. at  
Arms, Mandy  
Timmons handled  
decor & public image  
and Becky Stone  
organized the tailgate  
party. There were  
countless other  
volunteers that  
helped manage  
registration, served  
as referees or helped  
setup/breakdown to  
make sure everything  
went off without a  
hitch. We have  
received nothing but  
rave reviews and we  
look forward to the  
next Georgia Rotary  
event to bring our  
new friends together  
soon. Thanks again!  
[more]



GeorgiaUnitedDC.com

## Check Out All The Fun We Had

By Ryan Clements  
This year at conference we used a Kululu Photo Wall to allow all the attendees to upload photos at anytime during the event to share with our group. We had TVs in the Hall of Friendship that always displayed the action and open each session with the latest pics.

The **Georgia United DC photo wall** will remain live for the next year, so feel free to check it out and download your favorite pictures. We also selected a ton of great pictures that capture the weekend and put them in a **video slide show** on our YouTube Channel. It was a great weekend and I enjoyed being a part of the team that made the A/V magic happen.

[more]



## Congratulations! **Club of The Year Winners**

By Gordon Owens  
This year we made the Club of the Year awards more transparent and published a **scoreboard** that any member could access at any time to see how their club's stats compared to others in their category. We set a finish line of March, 31, 2025 and at that point, we checked the stats to select the winners.

Congratulations to our clubs that lead the way in giving more, growing more and doing more:

- Category I | Meriwether County | North Atlanta (runner up)
- Category II | North Fulton | Vinings Cumberland (runner up)
- Category III | Dunwoody | Decatur (runner up)
- Category IV | Peachtree City (tie) | Roswell (tie) [more]

# Sheffield Leadership



Sponsored By The  
Rotary Club of  
Americus  
**Sheffield  
Leadership  
Class of  
2025**

By Gordon Owens  
This may be the single hardest task a governor in our district has. We have 67 clubs that do amazing work in their communities that are all led by great Rotarians. So, picking just one person in each category takes a lot of careful consideration. While the scoreboard drives the decision on which clubs will win Club of the Year and is based on numerical stats, the Sheffield Leadership Award has much more to do with an individual effort in setting a club up for success today and carry that club well into the future.

Congratulations to this year's class of club presidents honored with the Sheffield Leadership award:

- Category I | Rick Perry, Henry County
  - Category II | Rick Clark, North Fulton
  - Category III | Dudley Larus, Decatur
  - Category IV | Nancy Alterman, Roswell
- [more]



## Rotarian of the Year **Our District MVP, Mary Ligon!**

By Gordon Owens  
Having a great season takes a ton of hard work and preparation. Your club presidents started to get into game shape in July of 2023, a full year before they became the captain of the team. While it was my job to give them the playbook to make their clubs irresistible and to help them show their communities the Magic of Rotary, it was our MVP's job to prepare me to lead. The journey from District Governor Nominee Designate to serving as District Governor is two and a half years and Mary was in my corner every step along the way. From helping me draft a team of district leaders to planning all the events that went into getting our clubs ready for the 2024-2025 Rotary season, she was there. When it came time to make improvements to our processes to make life easier for our club presidents, she was a great sounding board. And on the occasion we had to throw a penalty flag, her knowledge of Rotary policy & procedure was invaluable. Probably her most important role is that of Momma, as she is who PDG André and I call when we get into a sibling squabble. Congratulations to my dear friend, mentor and our Rotary District 6900 Rotarian of the Year, my MVP, Mary Ligon. [more]



Sponsored By The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain

## **Follow Me Award To Cedric Hill**

By Gordon Owens  
Cedric Hill has been a standout Assistant Governor throughout this Rotary year. During PETS he worked on bringing the Atlanta Southern Crescent, Columbus, Muscogee Columbus, & North Columbus clubs together to work on projects and have a bigger impact in the community than any one club could achieve on its own. The three Columbus clubs, hosted one of our 3-day law enforcement trainings for ending human trafficking, taking great care of the various agencies in attendance. Cedric never misses an opportunity to show up and support his clubs in their service projects or make a connection across town to expand the impact Rotary has in the area. I look forward to seeing how Cedric continues to bring this area together to support his real passion for service, helping youth create peace through his Cure Violence program. Congratulations to Cedric Hill for being named this year's Follow Me award winner. [more]



Foundation,  
Polio Plus &  
Membership  
**GOAT  
Award  
Winners**

By Gordon  
Owens  
While the  
cutoff for  
awards at  
conference  
was March  
31, 2025, the  
Rotary year is  
far from over.  
We treated  
this like the  
All Star break  
and gave the  
club in each  
category an  
All Star  
medal for  
being in the  
lead on  
March 31st.  
Just like in  
sports, there  
can only be  
one greatest  
of all time in  
per capita  
giving and  
membership  
growth so we  
gave out  
some GOAT  
awards to the  
following:

- Per Capita TRF | \$698 | North Atlanta
  - Per Capita Polio Plus | \$914 | Vinings Cumberland
  - Net New Members | +15 | Johns Creek North Fulton
  - Members Sponsored | 8 | Michael Griffin, Henry County
- [more]



Certificate For Meritorious Service

## **Congratulations To Kay Williamson**

By Bob Hagan

It was my pleasure to present Kay Williamson with the Certificate For Meritorious Service from The Rotary Foundation. It was extra special to have Vice Chairman of The Rotary Foundation, Larry Lunsford, on hand to help me present the award to Kay during a special dinner for club and district leadership at our Georgia United District Conference. Kay, a long time & active member of the Meriwether County Rotary Club, has worked tirelessly to make sure our clubs take full advantage of our district grant funding and all the appropriate documentation is maintained. Kay is a key member of our district foundation team, please join me in congratulating her in this prestigious award.  
[more]



Membership  
Hall of Fame  
**46 New  
Members  
In 3  
Years**

By Audley Knight  
As the incoming District Membership Chair, I have big shoes to fill. Our current chair, Dave Schwickerath, was awarded with a Membership Hall of Fame award as he has sponsored 46 new members in just three years. Talk about leading by example! I was so pleased that Dave's passion for bringing more people into the family of Rotary won't stop just because he is no longer the chair. He is going to stay a part of the district membership team next year and I look forward to continuing to work with him to grow Rotary in our district. [more]

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The Magic of Rotary Awards

## **Our Best Service Projects**

By Gordon Owens

While our generosity to The Rotary Foundation funds the good work we do and growing our clubs helps lighten the load, we truly show the Magic of Rotary to our members, our community and around the world through the service we do. I asked for clubs to submit their best projects in 6 categories this year and here are the overall winners:

- Club Fundraiser | Alpharetta | Freeze For A Reason Polar Plunge
- Member Engagement | East Cobb | Magic of Rotary Passport
- Impactful Service | Atlanta Southern Crescent | The Giving Side of Christmas
- New/Improved Project | Dougherty County | Helping Hands Food Packing
- Peace Pole Install | North Cobb | The Extension +10 more...
- World Polio Day | Peachtree City | \$50 Matching Challenge [more]

# END POLIO NOW

EndPolio.org  
**\$400,000  
Match To  
End Polio**

By Bob Hagan  
A generous donor in our state has committed \$400,000 in matching funds to Polio Plus for any Georgia Rotarian that **gives at least \$100** to help us eradicate polio between now and the end of the Rotary year. Your \$100 gift will get matched by our donor, turning it into \$200 and then the Gates foundation will double that gift making it \$400. So for just \$100, you can help us save 667 children around the world by providing them with the polio vaccine. Please consider giving at least **\$100 to Polio Plus** and help us take advantage of this extra matching opportunity. [more]



Unite For Good  
**DGE Steve Is Ready To Go!**  
By Gordon Owens  
My wife, Ashley, has served as DGE Steve's chief hazing officer, as her brother is a West Point grad and Steve went to the Naval Academy. As a fun way to give Steve some advice as he prepares to lead our district in July, I had Ashley help me with some props in her Go Army, Beat Navy t-shirt. Read the full article to see how his Naval Academy background will help him lead our district in July. I wish Steve and his wife, Anna, along with all the district & club leadership the best of luck leading the way next year!  
[more]



Check Out  
The Fun  
**Our 360  
Photo  
Booth**

By Mandy Timmons  
It was cheaper to buy a 360 Photo Booth than rent one for the conference weekend. Check out the great time people had when they stopped by the 6900 Magic booth in the Hall of Friendship at the Georgia United District Conference. If you want to use the booth at your next event, reach out to me to make arrangements as there will be a small fee but a fraction of the cost of renting one. **Watch the 360 Video** [more]



# GEORGIA OPIOID CRISIS ABATEMENT TRUST

Georgia Opioid  
Crisis Abatement  
Trust

## **Opioid Grants Coming Soon**

By Kay Williamson  
At Georgia United  
DC we announced  
that the 3 Rotary  
districts in Georgia  
are working with the  
Georgia Opioid  
Crisis Abatement  
Trust to do local  
projects funded by  
settlement money.  
The trust has  
committed  
\$500,000 to be split  
between the three  
districts for projects  
like placing Narcan  
boxes in schools or  
establishing  
awareness  
campaigns. We had  
a well attended  
breakout session  
and clubs are raring  
to go on these  
projects. Be patient,  
we are in the final  
stages of dotting the  
i's and crossing the  
t's with the trust.  
Once we have  
everything in place  
we will send out  
communications  
about how to  
leverage this  
funding in your local  
area. To learn more  
visit

**[GAopioidtrust.org](https://GAopioidtrust.org)**  
[more]

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# \$11,250



**ROTAVETTE** 

Rotavette.com  
**\$11,250  
Given  
Away**

By Gordon  
Owens  
Congratulations  
to former  
Roswell  
Rotarian and  
current  
member of the  
Big Canoe  
Rotary Club,  
Don Rolader for  
winning the  
Rotavette  
Raffle.

According to  
the **raffle  
rules** we  
needed to sell  
1001 tickets to  
give away the  
car. We ended  
up with a pot of  
\$22,500 to split  
between the  
winner and The  
Rotary  
Foundation.  
Thanks to all  
who purchased  
tickets and  
helped us raise  
some extra  
money for The  
Rotary  
Foundation and  
congratulations  
to Don who is  
\$11,250 richer.  
[more]



GRSP Honorees  
**Thank you  
for your  
support of  
GRSP!**

By Kathy Fields  
A big thanks to District 6900 for your continued support of GRSP! The flag ceremony is always one of the highlights of district conference. This year, GRSP chair Ian Bond surprised Carolina Klockner from Brazil who is hosted by the Rotary Club of Savannah with the William A. Watt award for the best GRSP student. The award is sponsored by the Thomasville Rotary Club. On Sunday, the Sandy Springs Rotary Club announced their selection for the Frank E. Bently GRSP Leadership award as Betty Price from the Rotary Club of Roswell. Last but absolutely not least, on Thursday night at a leadership dinner hosted by DG Gordon, the Griffin Rotary Club recognized the following clubs with the Jake Cheatham award for the best per capita giving in each category:

- I | Muscogee-Columbus
- II | North Columbus
- III | Dunwoody
- IV | Thomasville

[more]



## Promoting Peace with a Simple Message

By Ada Wikina  
*Editor's Note: While this month's newsletter is focused almost exclusively on all the district conference news (we are saving club stories for our June edition), we felt this story belonged with this issue. Why? Because it highlights our focus on peace and the power of working together, across districts and clubs, to make a difference.*

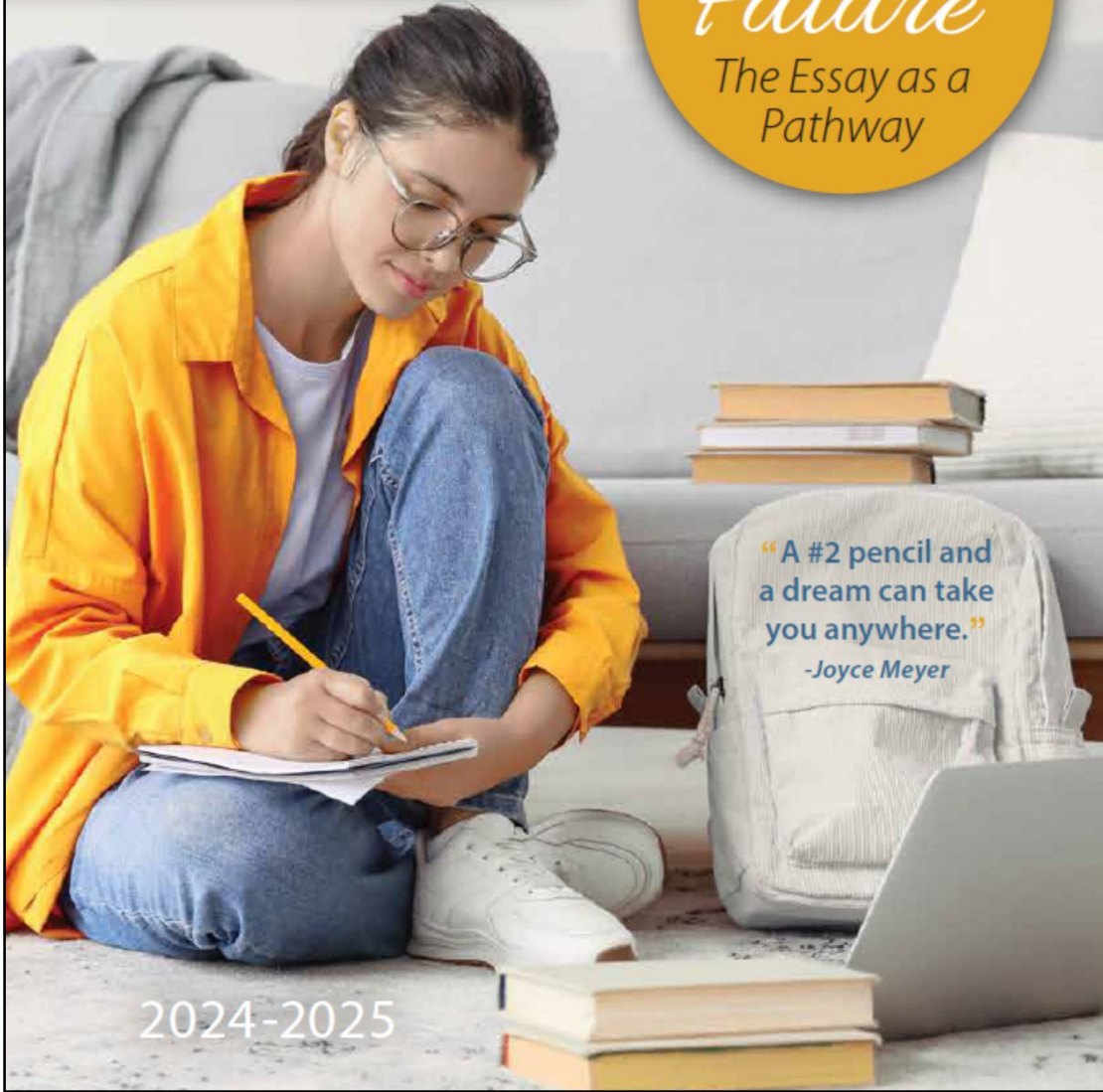
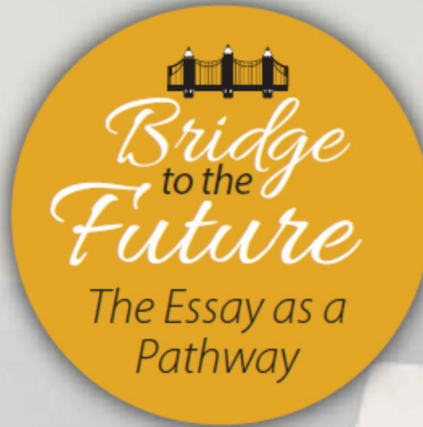
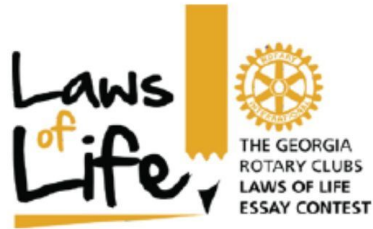
On April 31, the Rotary Club of North Cobb collaborated with the Rotary Club of Winder and its President Al Darby, as well as other Barrow area Rotary Clubs to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Apalachee High School by planting a Peace Pole in front of the school. This was followed by a sumptuous barbecue for over 250 staff, students, first responders, supporters and community members.

The Peace Pole was created by the students of Devereaux Advanced Behavioral Center (some of the most vulnerable children in our community). Its message - "May Peace Prevail on Earth" - was translated to the Cherokee language and Spanish, in addition to its English version. [more]



RYLA Update  
**Countdown  
to 2025  
RYLA  
Experience:  
June 7-11!**

By Jaclyn Donovan  
Only one month until RYLA! We are so excited that our favorite time of year is rolling back around again. If your club is sponsoring a student (or multiple students) for RYLA 2025, here are a few final reminders to check off:  
1. Make sure you are paid the fees for each student you are sponsoring: \$500 each plus \$50 for each student riding ... [more]



2024-2025

Laws of Life

## Join the Laws of Life Honor Roll Society; Read 2024-25 Essay Collection eBook

By Carol Gray Walker  
The Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest is proud to announce two exciting opportunities this spring:

- We are launching the second annual Honor Roll Society, offering the opportunity to make a donation to the Georgia Laws of Life Program and honor a teacher, coach, mentor or roll model who has made a difference in your life

- We have released the 2024-25 Georgia Laws of Life Essay collection ebook, featuring our State Winners, a list of School Winners, program highlights, impact statistics and recognition of our valued Rotary partners and supporters.

Learn more about both - and make your donations - at [www.georgialawsoflife.org](http://www.georgialawsoflife.org) [more]

**“A #2 pencil and a dream can take you anywhere.”**

*-Joyce Meyer*



GRSP Update  
**GRSP  
Establishes  
New Lynn  
Clarke  
GRSP  
Women in  
Leadership  
Award**

By Kathyrene Fields  
The Georgia Rotary Student Program is proud to announce the inaugural Lynn Clarke GRSP Women in Leadership Award. The first recipient is GRSP student Atche Bilbao, who received her award from District 6910 GRSP District Chair James McCoy at the April 22 meeting of the Rotary Club of Hall County, one of Atche's three sponsoring clubs. At he is a student at Brenda's University, and is sponsored by the Hall County, Gainesville and White County Rotary Clubs. She received this honor for "advancing World Peace through Understanding, exhibiting extraordinary leadership and serving as an international ambassador for Bulgaria and GRSP. Read more about Atche and why she has been selected for this award. [more]