Rotary District 6900

# District Newsletter

APRIL 1, 2026



*DG Steve in Honduras*

From Our District Governor

## A Season of Growth, Service, and Connection

By Steve Ivory

As we move into April, we find ourselves in one of the most exciting and active seasons of the Rotary year. With spring in full swing, this is a time of renewed energy, continued service, and strong momentum across District 6900. As I continued to travel around the district, I had my last "official visit" with Emory Druid Hills, traveled to Honduras with Atlanta Rotarian Bob Hope and Rotarians from eight clubs, helped Roswell celebrate 75 years and $2 million in contributions to The Rotary Foundation, honored teachers and Rotarians at the DeKalb Rotary Council breakfast, attended Peach State PELS training for next year's leaders, and more! And there's so much more coming this Rotary year - read on to learn about new Rotary and Rotaract Clubs, our April 11 District Learning Assembly and District Conference at Lake Lanier. [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 | **Atlanta Brasil** | **Emory-Druid Hills** | **Brookhaven** |
| II | **Sandy Springs** | **Muscogee-Columbus** | **Muscogee-Columbus** |
| III | **North Atlanta Professional Alliance** | **Vinings Cumberland** | **Vinings Cumberland** |
| IV | **Dunwoody** | **Dunwoody** | **Marietta** |
| V | **Peachtree City** | **Alpharetta** | **North Cobb County** |

## Key Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, November 17th, 2026 | **Forsyth-Monroe County Governor Visit** |
| Tuesday, November 17th, 2026 | **Discover Rotary - Columbus Area** |
| Wednesday, November 18th, 2026 | **Emory-Druid Hills Governor Visit** |
| Thursday, November 19th, 2026 | **Roswell Governor Visit** |
| Thursday, November 19th, 2026 | **Atlanta Ascent GOVERNOR VISIT** |
| Tuesday, December 1st, 2026 | **Fayetteville Governor Visit** |
| Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026 | **Tyrone Governor Visit** |
| Tuesday, December 8th, 2026 | **Atlanta Metro Governor Visit** |
| Thursday, December 10th, 2026 | **South DeKalb County Governor Visit** |




District Conference 2026

## Almost Time for Fun and Fellowship at Lake Lanier!

By Lisa Carlisle
Looking for inspiration, connection and fun, your 2026 District Conference is designed to balance meaningful Rotary content with relaxation and fellowship. Join us April 16-19, 2026 at Lake Lanier Island for all this and more! You can **register now on the District 6900 website** ! [more]



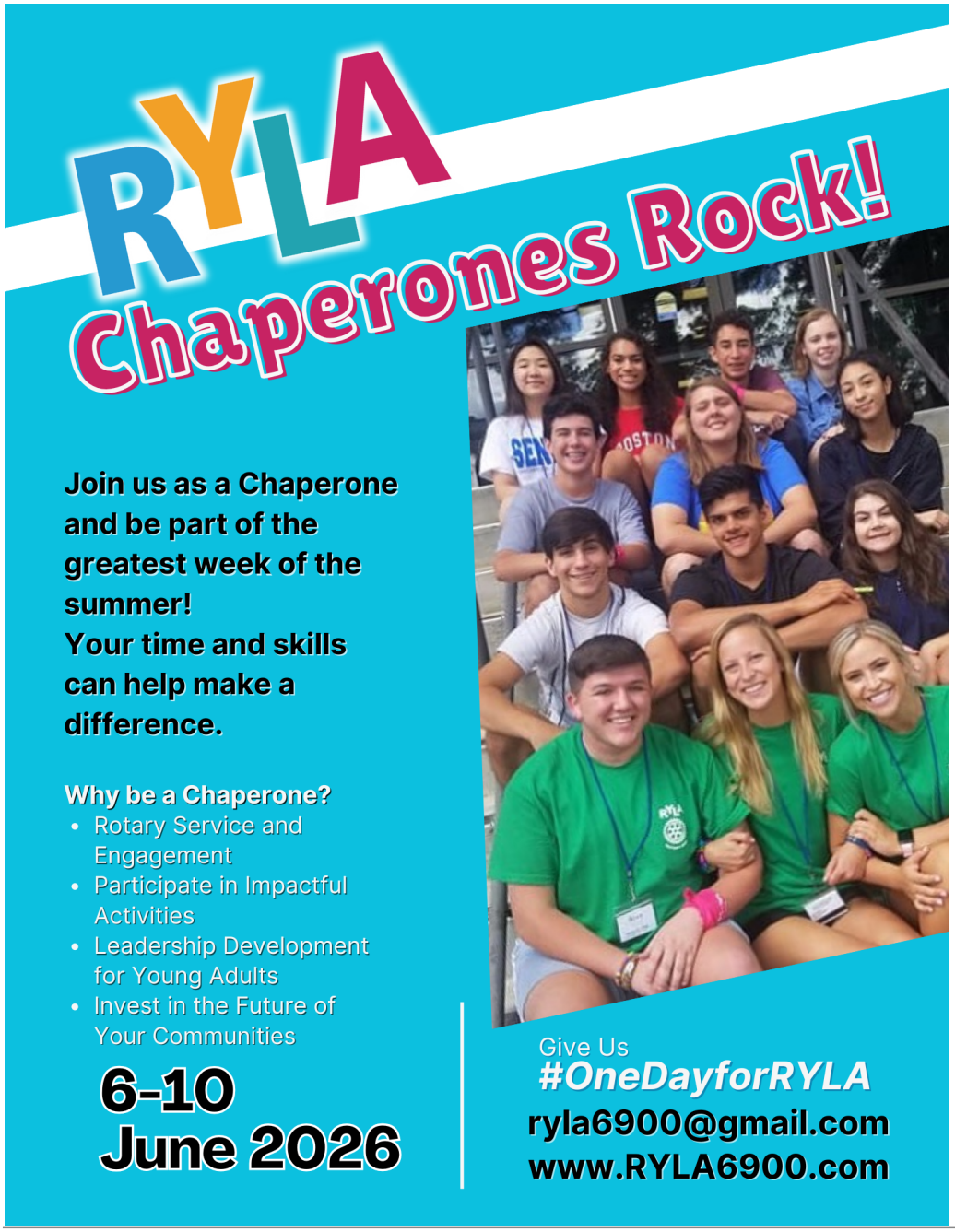

Our Rotary Foundation

## Up and Over!

*by Bob Hagan, District Foundation Chair*

By Bob Hagan

How wonderful it is that month after month we have something to celebrate! This month it may seem oddly self-serving, but I certainly am pleased to do so for this. My home club, the **Rotary Club of Roswell**, has exceeded the $2 million mark for total giving all time. Roswell is the second club in the district to attain that level. The first to do so, very appropriately, was the **Rotary Club of Atlanta**, as they are the oldest club in Georgia. As the District Foundation Chair, my role is to help raise and track the funding coming into The Rotary Foundation; let me share some of the numbers and encourage you to keep pushing on Foundation giving to make an even bigger difference in the future. [more]




RYLA Update

## One Day for RYLA

By Jaclyn Donovan

Hey Rotary District 6900 members! Do you ever wish you could experience RYLA for yourself? Do you want to peak behind the curtain and see where all the magic happens each summer? If you answered yes, and if you can give us just *One Day* of your summer we can make the magic happen for you too!

We are always looking to bring new Rotary members into the wonderful world of RYLA, offering the opportunity to experience the RYLA energy and explore a new avenue of Rotary service. Chaperones help us keep things running smoothly each night and each morning but have no assigned duties during the day. We think you are perfect for the job! If you are willing and able - even just for 1 day out of the 4 - to give us One Day for RYLA we would love to have you! And you never know, it just might change your life too. Reach out to Jaclyn Donovan or Susan Ruckman for more details and they'll sign you up!

[more]




## Join Rotary Friendship Exchange to India - December 2026

By Ada Wikina
Come along on this fantastic adventure. India's Rotary District 3182 is ready to welcome us with open arms during the first week of December 2026. An extraordinary combination of vibrant city life, profound Rotary fellowship, meaningful service projects, cultural immersion, vocational exchange, and stunning landscapes creates a journey that is not just a visit—but a transformative experience.
Participants will leave Karnataka not only with incredible memories and photographs, but with lifelong friendships, renewed inspiration, and a deep connection to the spirit of Rotary in India.
The detailed itinerary follows. We have six spots left. If you'd like to join us for this amazing trip or you have added questions, email me on awikina@hotmail.com or call me on 404-421-5825.
[more]






Laws of Life

# Announcing Your 2025–26 Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest School Winners

By Carol Gray Walker

We are proud to announce the school-level winners of the 2025–26 Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest! View the complete list of this year's School Winners on our **website**. We extend our sincere thanks to the 136 volunteer essay judges who dedicated their time and thoughtfulness to reviewing more than 1,300 submissions . Through their efforts, 138 Grade Winners and 48 School Winners were selected and recognized for their exceptional writing and reflection. In total, $19,250 in cash awards and honorariums was distributed to students and educators. [more]




*DG Steve Ivory & DFC Bob Hagan with North Atlanta Club President Catherine Bernard, Major Donors Christopher Drew, Mike Emanuele, Tom Friedrichs and Major Donor 2 Don Millen.*

Our Rotary Foundation

## Inspire Generosity – Giving by Receiving

By Lee Hollingsworth

How can a 22-member Club LEAD the District in per capita Foundation giving? **Do a great global grant project!** Just ask the **Rotary Club of North Atlanta** about its Spina Bifida project half a world away, and how the club saw three Rotarians become Major Donors, one of them at Level 2 ($25,000). Incredibly, they lead the District by far with $1,189 in per capita giving to The Rotary Foundation through March! How does a global grant inspire giving? [more]




Club News

## Roswell: Celebrating 75 Years of Making a Difference

By Trummie Patrick, III

*"Gratitude is not only the greatest of virtues, but the parent of all the others." Cicero*

There are moments in life when "thank you" doesn't feel like an adequate response. Saturday night, March 14, was one of those moments. As I stood in a room filled with more than 200+ Rotarians celebrating the 75th anniversary of the **Roswell Rotary Club**, I couldn't help but feel a deep sense of appreciation. Appreciation for the people in that room, for the generations who came before us, and for the privilege of leading this club during such a meaningful year. [more]

Rotary Means Business

## Engage Rotary Means Business to Grow Membership

By Carter Stout

Rotary Means Business is a great way to grow and retain your Club's membership. RMB gatherings provide an opportunity for fellowship, fun and learning that can help with member retention and attraction, engaging younger professionals, offering value-added programming and mentoring. To learn more about what RMB can do for you, contact Carter Stout, cstout@stoutkaiser.com or 770-349-8201. [more]




Club News

## Join Senoia's "Aim for Impact" Charity Clay Shoot

By Beth Hughes

The **Senoia Rotary Club** invites fellow Rotarians across District 6900 to join us for our “Aim for Impact” Charity Clay Shoot on May 8, 2026, at the beautiful Big Red Oak Plantation. Proceeds from the event will benefit Backpack Buddies and i-58 Mission. To register your team, simply scan the QR code in the picture. Learn more about the event ... [more]




Club News

## Celebrating an Atlanta Southern Crescent Rotarian

By Trina Kolawole

The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent** celebrates the recognition of Dr. Annapurna Bhat, Rheumatologist, who received the National Women's History Month Award – "Leading the Change: Women Shaping a Sustainable Future" from the City of Stockbridge. [more]



Club News

## Buckhead Serves Dinner at Shepherd Center

By Shelley Hammell

Patients recovering from spinal cord and brain injuries at the Shepherd Center enjoyed a family-style dinner served by 15 **Buckhead Rotarians** and their guests who turned out for an evening of volunteering serving a family-style dinner for the patients and their families before joining in on a spirited game of bingo. [more]



Club News

## A Night of Gratitude: Peachtree City Celebrates Rotary Foundation Major Donors

By Jason Aldrich

The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** continued a cherished tradition this week as we gathered for our annual Major Donor Dinner — graciously hosted by the *"hostess with the mostest,"* Mary Chapman. This special evening is our opportunity each year to celebrate the extraordinary generosity of our club members who make significant contributions to The Rotary Foundation. [more]




Club News

## Vinings Downhill 5K Fuels Nearly $100,000 in Support for Children's Charities

By Thomas House

The Vinings Downhill 5K, an annual community tradition hosted each second Saturday in August, continues to make a meaningful impact across Atlanta and Cobb County. Thanks to strong community support, the **Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club** was able to distribute nearly $100,000 from the 2025 race to organizations dedicated to serving children in need. We are gearing up now for the 30th running of the race on Saturday, August 8, 2026 - you can read all about it and **register to run on the race website**. [more]




Club News

## Peachtree City, Tyrone and Senoia Make Beds for Children

By Jason Aldrich

Rotarians experienced an incredible day of service in action this March. Our friends at Sleep in Heavenly Peace are on a mission to make sure no child sleeps on the floor, and the need is real — they built and donated over 400 beds last year, yet more than 200 children in Fayette County are still waiting for a bed of their own. Thanks to a **Peachtree City Rotary** grant, we were able to fund materials for 20 beds, and we were proud to host the build at Cooper Lighting Solutions. We also loved partnering with the **Rotary Clubs of Tyrone and Senoia**, [more]




Club News

# South DeKalb Dedicates Peace Pole

*“May Peace Prevail on Earth”*

By Yolanda Dixon

In conjunction with the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday, the **Rotary Club of South DeKalb** proudly dedicated a Peace Pole at Privi’ at Stonecrest, marking a meaningful milestone in the club’s ongoing commitment to service, unity, and global goodwill . The Peace Pole stands as a permanent and visible symbol of Rotary’s mission of “Service Above Self.” Inscribed with the message *“May Peace Prevail On Earth,”* the pole features four languages—English, French, Hindi, and Spanish—reflecting the diversity of our local community and the international reach of Rotary.

[more]




Club News

## Three Columbus Clubs Partner to Raise $50,000

By LeighAnn DiCesaris
On February 28, the three Rotary Clubs in Columbus came together as one to host the Run for MercyMed 5K, raising more than $50,000 to support the mission of MercyMed and to benefit Georgia Rotary Student Program (GSRP). This marked the first time the **Rotary Club of Muscogee-Columbus** , **Rotary Club of Columbus**,and the **Rotary Club of North Columbus** partnered together to lead the event. Through this unified effort, the clubs more than doubled the funds raised in previous years. [more]




Club News

## Roswell Hosts 31st Roswell Relays Track Meet

By Becky Nelson

The Coaches' Hospitality Suite for the Roswell Relays is the reason you want to volunteer by itself! Celebrating over 30 years of collaboration between the Roswell HS Track & Field team, the Booster Club and the **Roswell Rotary Club,** Saturday, March 21 was a great day to be at the track for the largest AND longest continually running track meet in the State of Georgia. This year we hosted 27 teams - welcoming 47 coaches and almost 1,000 athletes from across the state who threw, jumped, and ran - with over 1100 tickets sold! [more]




Club News

## Atlanta Southern Crescent Enjoys Pizza Night

By Trina Kolawole

In February, the R**otary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent** hosted a memorable Club Social. The evening featured a fun and interactive homemade pizza-making experience, where members had the opportunity to create their own personal pizzas. [more]




Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## Senoia Installs Raised Garden Beds at Park of Hope

By Beth Hughes

The **Senoia Rotary Club** recently completed a community service project at the Park of Hope in Senoia, installing raised vegetable beds with support from a Rotary District 6900 grant. Club members worked together to prepare the site, install landscape fabric, set the beds, and spread gravel, creating a space designed to support community gardening and hands-on learning. [more]



Club News

## North Cobb Competes in Adult Spelling Bee to Support Students

By Jose Gonzalez

On March 13, the **North Cobb Rotarians** stepped up to the microphone - competing in the Adult Spelling Bee to support Communities In Schools of Georgia in Marietta/Cobb. Rotary members are known for their dedication to service and leadership in our community, and now they're bringing that same energy to the spelling stage. Will their teamwork, quick thinking, and spelling skills carry them all the way to the championship? [more]




Club News

## Buckhead Holds Paws in the Park, a Family of Service Day

By Shelley Hammell

**Buckhead's** recent Dog for a Day outing brought together 28 volunteers, (22 Rotarians and guests plus six girls from Scouting America), and seven shelter dogs (with three extra pups joining the fun) for a 2½-mile stroll. It was truly a walk in the park, filled with fresh air, wagging tails, and lots of laughs. The dogs enjoyed a well-deserved break from the shelter and the chance to explore new sights and smells. [more]




Club News

## Columbus Partners with Jordan Vocational High School

By LeighAnn DiCesaris

In partnership with students and faculty from Jordan Vocational High School College and Career Academy, the **Rotary Club of Columbus** recently completed the construction of a new storage shed at the Girls Rise Home, a program of Micah's Promise, meeting a tangible and meaningful need for the organization. [more]



Club News

## North Cobb Rotarians On the Go!

By Jose Gonzalez

**North Cobb Rotarians** were on the go in the month of March: Serving community seniors, restocking the Kennesaw State University student pantry, and continuing their commitment to the Acworth Expanding Horizons Program with a ribbon cutting for the newly renovated North Cobb Rotary Club Learning & Leadership Center. [more]