



District 6900 news

ISSUE 4

October 2015

Thanks for All You're Doing to Be a Gift to Each Other

September was an exciting month! I have enjoyed meeting and visiting with so many club members. Let's begin with the **evidence**...As of October 1, we've inducted 132 new members into our **World Class District 6900!!** I've completed 45 official visits and there is even more extraordinary news throughout this month's newsletter! **October 23 is World Polio Day... Let's all join together to promote this day throughout our District!**

Coming in February, ROTARY HAS HEART. *Have you heard?* The Harlem Ambassadors will be putting on a District wide **Family of Rotary & Friends Event**, March 10, 2016, at the Shriners Auditorium. April 21-24 the 2016 District Conference is at Hilton Head. *Save the dates!*

My official visits this month continue to amaze me! The Rotary Club of Smyrna is a small club if you look at their membership, but they are one of the largest clubs in the Rotary World if you look at their service and commitment to **being a gift to the world**. They hosted my first visit in September. I was most honored to visit with Sam Whitfield and Jimmy Freeman, who together have over 100 years of Rotary service (see picture, page 6)! Then you have Smyrna President Narayan, who has personally sponsored 12 Rotarians!

It's always great to see **my** District Governor, PDG Ted Propes, at the Rotary Club of Vinings (picture, page 2). North Cobb has four *active* charter members while South Cobb has 18 *active* Rotary projects this year! I'd like to recognize and thank President Matt and the Rotary Club of North Cobb for the very generous contribution made in my honor to a Senior Project.

When we look at the value of our work on behalf of our communities and the future, the **evidence** is clear. The Rotary Clubs of North Fulton and Roswell chartered the Rotaract Club of North Fulton with 26 members! Evan Coyle, son of President Jim of Roswell, is the President.



Clue. We now have two Presidents Coyle!

The Rotary Club of Roswell held their major fundraiser (see article on page 13), while President Scott and the Rotary Club of Thomasville announced that their club is becoming a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club. Rotary Club of Fayette Daybreak had their annual, "Paws for a Purpose" - what an enjoyable event! And, what a privilege to meet our oldest, active Rotarian in District 6900, Cliff Glover of the Rotary Club of West Point (see picture, page 6). We shared many Rotarian moments. A member since 1944, he is truly **a gift to our world!**

It appears I'm not the only parent proudly sponsoring a child for Rotary membership. Melinda Taylor from the Rotary Club of Bainbridge was the proud mother on hand as I inducted her daughter, Kelsey Holt.

*"I've always believed that if you put in the work, the results will come. I don't do things half-heartedly. Because I know if I do, then I can expect half-hearted results."
... Michael Jordan*

October is Vocational Service Month.

This is the one service project that I would say has a 100% participation rate from our district. You see, vocational service is sometimes difficult to articulate, but as Rotarians, it's really our way of life. This month offers an opportunity for you to introduce meaningful vocational service projects that make a mark in your club, and your community. Check the RI website for suggested projects, and to sign up for Vocational Service update, Rotary's free e-newsletter of vocational news and resources. If you have more questions, contact RI directly at Rotary Service Department, rotary.service@rotary.org

District 6900 is **WORLD CLASS!** Together, we are **a gift to the world!** Until next month ...

Yours in Rotary Service,

DG Bob

In search of DG Bob?

This captures DG Bob's schedule and some key district dates. You can also view the calendar on the website.



October

- 2 Decatur
- 8 Blakely
- 10 RLI - Barnesville**
- 13 Quitman County
- 14 Lake Spivey, Clayton County
- 15 Peachtree City
- 17 Fall Interact Conference**
- 18 RunDunwoody**
- 20 Dougherty County
- 20-25 Zone Meeting**
- 25 Nov. Newsletter deadline**
- 26 Coweta-Fayette
- 27 Moultrie
- 28 Johns Creek—North Fulton
- 29 North Atlanta

November

- 2 Buckhead
- 3 Jackson-Butts County
- 4 Harris County
- 5 Forsyth-Monroe County
- 7 RLI graduate class - Peachtree City (The Rotary Foundation)**
- 10 Paulding County
- 12 Roswell
- 18 Dawson
- 19 Albany
- 24 Polk County
- 25 Dec. Newsletter deadline**

December

- 1 Cuthbert
- 2 Clayton County
- 4 Pelham
- 8 Meriwether County
- 9 LaGrange
- 10 Atlanta Airport
- 29 Jan. Newsletter deadline**

Upcoming Events

- February 14: Rotary Has Heart**
- March 10: Harlem Ambassadors**
- April 21-24: District Conference, Hilton Head**



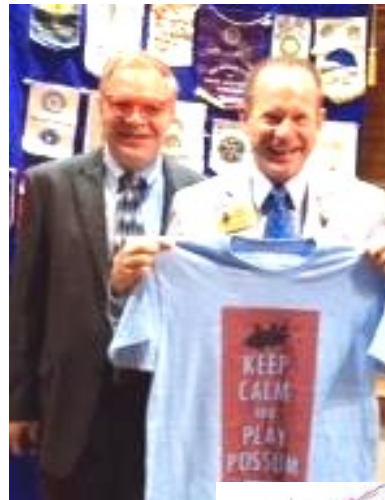
North Cobb Rotary Club President Matthew Riedemann was honored to present DG Bob with a check for \$500 that will go to the charity of Bob's



DG Bob enjoys his visit with West Point Rotarians..



South Cobb President Michael Martin presents DG Bob with special teeshirt, "Keep Calm and Play Possum"



DG Bob and his DG Ted Propes with Vinings President David Pope and AG Jim Squire.

AG Christine Barrett, DG Bob, North Fulton President James Marosek and Past President (also AG) Ben Hunter

District Conference: Watch for Clues in October

Clue #1: We promise fun and fellowship when you join DG Bob Hagan and the District 6900 Rotary Family at the Hilton Head Marriott Resort from April 21-24, 2016 to celebrate your accomplishments this Rotary year!

Clue #2: Conference registration and hotel reservations will open later in October. Watch your email and the newsletter, and expect information from your club!

Clue #3: Mark your calendar now and plan to join us in Hilton Head!



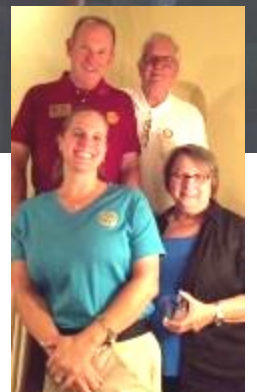
Valentine's Day 2016

You can find more information on the web site www.rizoness33-34.org

under events. Here you will find a sample proclamation, sample press release, and new logos for your events.



Thomasville Rotarians - including PDG Fran Millberg - turned out to welcome DG Bob.





The Rotary Foundation - “Doing Good in the World”

By Ray McKemie, District Foundation Committee Chair



FIRST..... Wonderful News..... On September 25, 2015 World Health Organization removed Nigeria from the Polio Endemic Country List. There are now only **TWO** polio endemic countries in the world: Afghanistan and Pakistan. There were 125 endemic countries in 1988.

SECOND..... More Wonderful News..... the Global Commission for the Certification of Poliomyelitis Eradication on September 20, 2015 declared that indigenous wild poliovirus type 2 has been ERADICATED worldwide.

It is our pleasure to announce Rotary’s annual World Polio Day kickoff event on 23 October in New York City. We'll use this occasion to shine a light on Rotary’s leadership in the fight that has brought us This Close to ending polio. The Livestream event, cosponsored by UNICEF, will bring together our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, government officials, and global health leaders from nongovernmental organizations and will mobilize more than 30,000 supporters.

We invite you to [join us](#) and watch the event live, starting at 6:30 pm EDT—or to view a recording later on the rotary.org site. We also ask you to raise awareness of our polio eradication effort in your own community and build a local audience for our World Polio Day event. Visit the End Polio Now website to download [resources](#) that can help you raise awareness and funds.

Opportunities to Contribute to The Rotary Foundation (TRF)

There are a variety of ways you can help our Rotary Foundation to continue “doing good in the world” with your time, your talents and your resources. Take a look at the summary below and act to share those with people in need in your community, our state and around the world. Together we can make a difference! **THANK YOU!!** – for your support.

POLIOPLUS FUND

Rotary’s top priority is polio eradication. Rotary has contributed more than \$1.2 billion to global polio eradication. Money contributed to the PolioPlus Fund is used solely for the purpose of achieving the worldwide eradication of polio. As you can see above, we are making progress.

WORLD FUND

This provides the Foundation’s portion of funding for approved Global Grants and other program support. These funds are available to all Rotary Districts for the matching portion of global grants and for packaged grants.

THE ANNUAL FUND

The Annual Fund is the primary source of support for Foundation grants and programs each year. Your generous support funds local and international projects that advance The Rotary Foundation’s mission. All contributions to the fund are spent on quality Rotary/Rotarian-led projects. Annual Fund contributions support district and global grant activities.

Donors can direct their Annual Fund gift to **SHARE**, the **World Fund**, or an **Area of Focus**. Our District requests that donors designate their gifts to **Annual Fund - SHARE** because it is the only Annual Fund designation that generates funding for the District Designated Fund (DDF). Here’s how that works—at the end of each Rotary year:

- ◆ 50% of our district's contributions to the Annual Fund -- **SHARE** is credited to our District Designated Fund (DDF)
- ◆ The other 50% is credited to the World Fund.

Annual Fund contributions are eligible for the Club and donor recognition opportunities - see page 4 for more details.

TRF has a unique funding cycle that invests donations for programs for the first three years after they’re received. The earnings from these investments are used to fund administrative and fund development costs. After three years, the 50% that is DDF is returned to the District to pay for Foundation activities that we choose to participate in, such as District Grants or Global Scholars.

THE ENDOWMENT FUND

Contributions to the Endowment Fund are invested to preserve and grow the principal. Only a portion of the earnings generated are used currently to support Foundation activities that relate to Rotary’s highest priorities, including global and packaged grants, PolioPlus and the Rotary Peace Centers.

The Foundation has set a goal of \$1 billion in Endowment Fund assets by 2025, ensuring its capacity to meet future needs. The opportunities include bequest commitments, life insurance, marketable securities, real estate, charitable trusts or annuities.

Endowment Fund recognition opportunities include:

- ◆ **Benefactor** - For a gift of at least \$1,000
- ◆ **Bequest Society** - For a gift of at least \$10,000
- ◆ **Arch C. Klumph Society** - For a minimum gift \$250,000



The Rotary Foundation (TRF) Recognition Opportunities

CLUB RECOGNITION	
100% Foundation Giving Club (New Designation & Banner For 2015-16)	Club average giving of \$100 per capita to any/all designations including the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund, approved global grant, and the Endowment Fund (Total Giving) during the Rotary year. All club members contribute.
100% EREY Sustaining Club (New Designation & Banner For 2015-16)	All club members contribute at least \$100 to the Annual Fund
100% Paul Harris Fellow Club	A moment in time recognition when all club members are Paul Harris Fellows
100% Paul Harris Society Club (New Designation & Banner For 2015-16)	Every active club member gives a minimum of \$1,000 outright to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund and/or an approved global grant during a given year
Top Three Per Capita in Annual Fund Giving	Banner given to the top three per capita giving clubs to the Annual Fund

MEMBER RECOGNITION	
Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member	Individual who contributes at least \$100 to the Annual Fund each year
Paul Harris Fellow	Individual who contributes at least \$1,000 to TRF
Paul Harris Society Member	Individual who contributes at least \$1,000 per year to TRF
Major Donor	Individual or couple whose combined TRF giving is at least \$10,000
Arch C. Klumph Society Member	individual or couple whose combined TRF giving is at least \$250,000

Join District AIDS Prevention/Human Trafficking Initiatives to Keep Our Youth Safe and Healthy

New data reveals that Georgia is #5 in active HIV and AIDS cases in the U.S. Perhaps you have also read that Atlanta is #1 in Human Trafficking. Both of these horrendous facts involve our young people. How so? HIV is usually contracted in teen years, and trafficking most frequently involves teens. How are these facts relevant to Rotary? Since 1998, the AIDS Awareness program has taken the message to middle and high school students, resulting in hundreds of thousands of Georgia students hearing from speakers with AIDS the impact the disease has had on their lives. Rotary partners with AID Atlanta to find and offer honorariums to these brave speakers.

Last year, the news of Human Trafficking was added to the message delivered to students in 90-minute sessions in Georgia schools. The speakers are riveting. The results are dramatic. The cost of these life-saving messages is minimal, especially when one considers that lives can be saved! One presentation costs a club \$200-\$300, the amount given to the speakers for their travel and their time.

Each club in our district should have an AIDS Awareness representative who contacts the schools in its area (information on this is available.) The representative introduces the program, for which a script is available. That's it! AID Atlanta does the rest.

The AIDS Awareness/Human Trafficking board will be glad to answer any questions you have. Just contact Dottie Toney at toneydot@me.com. Another motivational fact is that DG Hagan has made involvement in this program #2 on the Governor's Citation list of requirements. Go for it!

DG Bob is District 6900's Newest Arch Klumph Society Member

In September, DG Bob Hagan (pictured with Carol Abreu) became the District's newest Arch Klumph Society member. Congratulations and thanks to DG Bob! Bob also shared this recognition with his family and, of course, the possum (see below).





Spotlight on Our District Leaders

Each month, DG Bob will be asking two of his district leaders to share clues about their Rotary journeys and what makes Rotary important to them.

**Jim Squire
Assistant Governor
Sandy Springs Rotarian**



Along my Rotary path there are two RI Presidential road markers that have had the greatest impact on me. "Engage Rotary, Change Lives" was the theme my year as club president, and Rotary truly changed my life that year. Since then I have seen time and time again a family in trouble, a student in desperate need for a scholarship, or a charity needing assistance and Rotary was there changing lives. Rotary opens doors. Rotary makes a difference in thousands of lives, one person at a time, every day. Add me to the list. Rotary is a chance to learn and grow. I have seen volunteers work hard, new skills develop, and leaders emerge as Rotary service opportunities empower members to act.

Fast forward to the current RI Presidential theme of "Be a Gift to the World." Today, the news is filled with stories of disasters, crises, violence, poverty...the list is long. Yet in the midst of it all Rotary is there as an unconditional gift to the least and the lost. Truly a gift that keeps on giving. And serving this year as an assistant governor for four amazing clubs and as a member of the "meritorious" District leadership team, I am continually blessed by the hearts and souls of the Rotarians who I have come in contact with and who I can now truly call friends.

**Clue. Fall 2015 Interact Conference:
October 17**

The conference will combine fun with education on topics of interest to our Interact Clubs and their advisers. Our theme, "Be a Gift to the World," will be illustrated by our disaster relief efforts with Shelter Box!

Date: October 17, 2015
Time: 9:30am – 1:30pm
Location: North Springs Charter School
7447 Roswell Road

**Jacque DiGieso
Awards Chair
Roswell Rotarian**



My childhood as an Air Force brat afforded me the opportunity to travel around the world and experience a variety of cultures. That life style contributed to a wanderlust that has characterized my life over the many decades since. When my husband and I settled down to raise our two sons, I found my world had become very contained. A close friend and business leader invited me to a Rotary meeting and I was hooked. I appreciated the commitment to both our local and our international community. As a headmaster for a school, I also wanted to provide an avenue for our students to practice charitable activities. Rotary filled that bill in more ways than I could have imagined. I cherish the unique adventures, the inspirational achievements and the rewarding friendships that have filled my life through Rotary.

Initially, I attended my local Rotary Club as a means of expanding my awareness and an outlet for my desire to be involved in local projects. I very quickly became attached to my club members and their faithful demonstration of the Rotary Motto "Service Above Self!" Each week I marveled (and continue to do so) at the generous and creative ways that my club members responded to the needs of others. It became easy for me to make time in my schedule to participate in projects because I knew we made a difference and we had a lot of fun! I tried to model the selfless and joyful attitudes of those around me.

Since my induction in 1993, I have loved every minute of my Rotary adventure. I served as President of my club the same year that my father served as President of the Westminster, SC club. I have attended International Conventions in Singapore, Montreal, New Orleans, Thailand and Brazil. I have worked on Habitat houses, fitted Haitian children with glasses, canned food for food banks, packaged supplies for disaster victims and our troops, mentored children, visited the elderly, stuffed food bags for the homeless, supported our local public servants and more. Although my goal has always been to help others, I cannot deny that my life has been enriched by the gift of Rotary. As we approach the successful completion of our End Polio Now campaign and prepare for the 2017 International Convention in Atlanta, my love affair with Rotary International is stronger still! Thank you, Rotary, for being a gift to ALL.



Rotary Membership and Retention

Thoughts from Dr. Benjamin Wilds, Thomasville Membership Director

Membership and **Retention** in Rotary International are absolutely essential elements for the continued growth and relevance of this outstanding service club organization. These two elements are inextricably linked and must become a focus for each local Rotary Club.

Attracting new Club members while losing current members is like trying to fill a water bucket with holes in the bottom. The more holes you have the greater the attrition rate. Some holes come with the bucket regardless. You will lose members who move out of your area. Hopefully they will continue as a Rotarian in their new location. Others may encounter health, social or financial challenges that mandate resignation. All Rotarians (hopefully not all at once) will eventually go on to their eternal reward. While certain holes are expected and unavoidable, **retention** should not be one of them.

Retention, I submit, is the “red-headed stepchild” that is often not given the full attention, nor support that it deserves. I believe that **Retention** begins with **recruitment**, continues with **responsibility** and is realized with **rewards!**

- ◆ **Recruitment:** Every Rotary prospect for membership should be approached with the intention of adding a life-long partner into your Club. He or she should be pursued and selected with the thought that they will become part of the “DNA” of your club. None of us chose the families we were born into, but we do just that for our Rotary family. We should choose wisely.
- ◆ **Responsibility:** New Rotarians need the responsibility of ownership and involvement in various aspects of their new Rotary Club home. Responsibility activates and reinforces passion. As new members develop a sense of responsibility for projects and activities in their Club, they also develop a sense of accomplishment and are often eager to engage in future Club endeavors.
- ◆ **Rewards:** Nobody wants to work for nothing. We all expect some kind of return for our rendered time, talents and treasure. Every Rotarian, new or seasoned, must realize some value for their efforts on behalf of the Club. Rotary is a volunteer organization and members aren’t expecting financial gain as a prime reward, however, members do need to be recognized, praised and encouraged for their “Service Above Self.” Rewarding the good works of a Rotarian pays off “in spades.” They’ll keep coming back for more!



New **Roswell Rotarian** Ed Vaught was the 100th new member in the district since July 1 . At last count before this newsletter, we have 132 new Rotarians.



DG Bob, Cliff Glover and **West Point Rotary Club** President Stephen Hulse. Cliff is the oldest/active member of District 6900 at 102 years young!!!

Building Our Future: Roswell Club President Jim Coyle and DG Bob present check to our newest Rotaract Club, sponsored by Roswell and North Fulton. The North Fulton Rotaract president: Evan Coyle, son of Roswell Rotary Club’s president.



DG Bob and **Smyrna Club** President Narayan with Smyrna Rotarians Sam Whitfield and Jimmy Freeman . Sam and Jimmy share more than 100 years of Rotary service between them.



Promoting the Rotary Brand through Social Media, Big Events & Public Service Announcements

By Terry Rouse, District Public Image Chair

Do you have Rotary road signs along the main roads leading into your community, big 30" or larger signs showing visitors and the community that you have a Rotary Club and where you meet and when? Do you have a personalized car/truck tag that shows you are a Rotarian to those who are following? Do you have a signature block for your emails and other Rotary correspondence that lets other know you are a Rotarian? If not, Why Not?



One of our outstanding club presidents, Lisa Ellington, of the Thomaston-Upton Rotary Club has contacted the Department of Transportation (DOT) about the possibility of making Rotary road signs and possibly installing them where they have district DOT offices. We will let you know

when that is worked out. In the interim there is one company that I know of that makes Rotary road signs - Russell-Hampton at www.bestclubsupplies.com. I think the price for a 30" sign is about \$80. You would have to provide the mounting hardware, the meeting information and the mounting post.

Your local tag office can arrange for a personalized Rotary license plate for your car or truck. Cost a bit more than a regular tag (about \$30 per year), but the tag will make your car or truck look and run better.

Speaking of Public Service Announcements we recently had a request to provide PSA information from the Rotary website. I enlisted the help of Betsy Owens, Zone 34 Public Image Coordinator in trying to find that information. She was surprised to find out that there was very little PSA information on the RI site. She contacted RI and found out there was just not enough time to update with all the changes being made. In the interim, Betsy has volunteered to help us with PSA needs. Just send me what you would like to see in a PSA announcement - for example, Recruiting Rotarians, Polio Day, what is happening in Polio, Branding or something in that order and I will work with Betsy to provide the announcement. For now, enjoy the samples of building community awareness shared on this page.

Remember the Zone 34 Public Image Citation award that each club can easily earn.



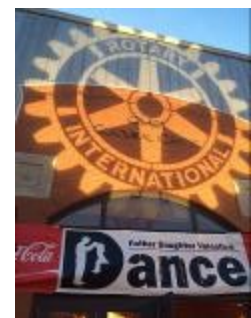
The Rotary Club of Sandy Springs (above) brought the club's MERT (Medical Equipment Recycling Trailer) and its members volunteered during the 2015 Sandy Springs Festival in September. Thousands of people attend the festival every year.

MERT is normally housed at the Morgan Falls Recycling Center. When it's full of medical equipment, the club takes the trailer to FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children) for distribution to those in need. Pictured are Sandy Springs Rotarians Phil Leek and Joe Jones, along with Taser, the wire-haired fox terrier who represented the club earlier that morning in the Pet Parade.

Several Rotary Club of Midtown Atlanta members worked with the Atlanta Beltline as ambassadors for the Lantern Parade Saturday, September 12. Pictured below are Rotary members and spouses working the Lantern Parade - and a sample of the parade's floats..



The Rotary Club of East Cobb (left) had a GREAT turnout for September's East Cobber Parade. More than 30 folks, including Rotarians and family, tossed candy to the kiddies.



Left: Rotary Club of Cairo's sign to promote its Father-Daughter Dance.



By Lynn Clarke, District 6900 GRSP Chair

We can tell already that this year's class of GRSP students is very involved in making sure that they see everything they can in one year. My student, in particular, has not spent one weekend on campus and yet, since her first couple of weeks at my house, she has not been to visit, except to attend Rotary meetings! Host families in our little group of hosts have really stepped up to the plate because they realized early in the year that it was actually fun to do things with your student! What a novel idea!



Many students went to Music Midtown in September and many were trying to figure out how to get to Six Flags one weekend. But for six weekends during the year, students are given the opportunity to gather courtesy of a Rotary Club in Georgia. Most recently, the clubs of Clayton County, Henry County, Lake Spivey and Griffin Rotary Clubs hosted the 2015 Maynard Memorial GRSP Weekend. For those of you who knew Maynard Knestrick, you also know why the weekend was named for him. For those of you who don't, Maynard and Kay Knestrick hosted 13 students during his short life and gave so much more to the program by organizing the students each year for our district conference. The weekend began with a barbeque dinner at the Clayton County International Park. Saturday continued with team building exercises and fun in the sun at the lake.

GRSP Endowment Update

We are pleased to announce that clubs that donated at least \$50 per capita last year will be receiving checks from the Georgia Rotary Student Program Endowment. Three years ago, trustees for the endowment voted to increase the amount given back to the clubs and to particularly reward those clubs that were donating to the endowment. The first year any club that donated \$25 per capita received a credit on their second semester bill for their student. The second year any club that donated at least \$50 to the endowment received a credit on their second semester bill for their student. This year the trustees voted to actually send out checks to the clubs that donated at least \$50 to the endowment last year. If your club qualified, your district chair or trustee will be delivering that check to your club within the month. This year we will be delivering checks to 17 clubs. Clubs can use these funds to offset their GRSP costs or use it for other programs. Some clubs may decide to give out additional scholarships with this extra money coming back and can even give it to another club to help them sponsor a student. This year we have an extra student because of the generosity of a club that chose to assist another club. Next year we hope to be delivering a check to every club that sponsors a student.



Barbara M and Donald L. Thomas Peace Award Nominations Due by November 15

The Roswell Rotary Club will once again award The Barbara M. and Donald L. Thomas Peace Award to a deserving GRSP student this year. The continued generosity and support of the Thomas family allows the club to make an award of \$1500 to a deserving student who exhibits the spirit of GRSP and is in need of additional financial assistance. The application form can be retrieved from your trustee or the president of your club, but it must be returned no later than November 15, 2015. If you have any questions please contact Pat DiGeorge, Roswell Rotary Club, 770-605-5725 (cell) or by email at pdigeorge@gmail.com.

Nominate a Georgia Student for Oslo Scholarship

Don't forget about the wonderful opportunity for a deserving American to receive a scholarship apply to the Oslo summer school program – an all expense paid trip to Norway for six weeks to be among 600 of the brightest students in the world. No need for brushing up your language skills as the University is English speaking. The Norwegian Rotary Advisory Board as a thank you for our GRSP gives a scholarship to each Georgia district every year. You can visit the Oslo Summer School website at www.uio.no/summerschool for further information. Your application must be submitted to the GRSP office and not through the website in order to receive the scholarship. We are asking that your club select a candidate for this award. The final selection will be made by a committee of trustees in each district. The dates are June 25 – August 5, 2016 and applicants must be between the ages of 20-24, single and have completed their college sophomore year.



First US Tennis Championship All About Fun, Fellowship

Eugene McNease (pictured to right with DG Bob) had competed in world championship tournaments of the International Tennis Fellowship of Rotarians in such world-class cities as Vienna, Barcelona, Montreal and Zagreb, Croatia, so he felt a bit brash when he proposed that the first one in the United States be held in Thomasville, GA, population 18,718. But the retired Social Security Administration executive and self-appointed ambassador for Rotary loves the charm of his historic hometown, and he was convinced the friends he had made during his years in the fellowship would appreciate the city as he does and enjoy its warm, southern hospitality.

As it turned out, the affable Rotarian with the easy grin knew his friends well. "I love the place, I want to live here," said Daniela Macias, an Argentinian Rotarian who attended the week-long tournament with her 12-year-old son, Mariano.

The 46 competitors had traveled from nine countries, ranging from Italy to Romania and Paraguay, and from U.S. states as far away as Connecticut. Being aficionados of the sport, they arrived to play tennis, but, as was apparent from the high spirits at the annual event, they came as much for the fellowship and camaraderie.



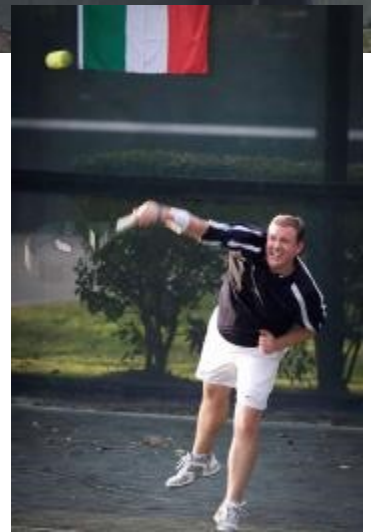
"Where else in Rotary can you spend an entire week with other Rotarians from around the world and make friends whom you see year after year?" McNease, ITFR's vice chairman, said. "Even the international conventions are only four days."

When the day's matches were finished, the tennis players and the family members who accompanied them remained courtside late into the evenings, playing tennis pickup games with gusto and laughing and enjoying one another's company. The southern Georgia site gave the international visitors a chance to experience a slice of American culture overlooked by most tour packages.

Veh Balazs, a Rotarian from Hungary, joined a group tour of the National High Magnetic Field Laboratory, one of several excursions to regional cultural sites such as a storied plantation and a state park where visitors viewed alligators and other wildlife.

The week wrapped up with a gala on Saturday, in time for some of the players to move on to New York City to watch the U.S. Open at the beginning of September.

"To have a week in Thomasville was wonderful for all of us," ITFR Chairman Mladen Novakovic of Croatia told the 135 people present for the awarding of the tennis trophies.





GRSP Student Gets Grand Introduction to Barbecue

(excerpts from eMetro Times contributor and Conyers Rotarian Gary Bridgewater)

Did you know that one of the hottest Bar-B-Q joints in the country these days is in New York City.....NEW YORK CITY! What the Hey! I know, New York City got a bad rap years ago from the Pace Picante Sauce Folks but from what I hear this New York City Bar-B-Q joint is the real deal. Now it ain't bad enough that one of our great southern traditions has high-tailed it across the Mason Dixon Line. I hear tell you can now find ribs in Europe. In fact they are serving those baby's (and spares) in Germany. What is next, pizza?



I found this little tidbit out not by traveling via Delta to the land of Oktoberfest, but by traveling via my Nissan to Henry County, Georgia [where I] recently had the honor of smoking some pork and ribs along with a few other sides for a big going away party for Kyle Wetzel, who was headed back to his US Army post in Germany. Kyle is the son of a good friend and she asked me to help out preparing the food for the event. NOW because Kyle was headed back to Germany don't go thinking that is how I found out about ribs in Germany. That as they say is....the rest of the story! (Sorry, Paul Harvey). As the guest list grew my "Big Green" cooking space got smaller. So I needed to call in reinforcements. I decided to call on my good friend Wells Wheeler, a competition Bar-B-Q man and he had the machine to help me out. After talking to Wells he realized he was smoking some pork on the very same day and he invite me to throw my pork on along with his (whewoff the hook.)

Upon arrival I noticed a young man out at the side of the house trimming the Pork Butts that Wells was about to prepare. Not sure if Wells had a son his age, I introduced myself and noticed an unusual accent. At that time Wells introduced me to his GRSP student Simon Herrmans. As a fellow Rotarian I am very familiar with the program since our club in **Conyers** had just welcomed our student, Julia Alvaer from Norway. Before the day was out I also met another student from Estonia, George Astok. George and his host family also stopped by to see what was going on in that big smoker.

Both young men had never been around the actual process of smoking the pork, etc. so we had a great afternoon "teaching them the ropes." Simon had eaten ribs and all but was not familiar with the way we do things here in the South so he had a very, if not important, learning experience less than two days on Georgia soil. You can't learn everything from a book or the internet!! I think we got him off to a great start. Not only did we teach him the fine art of smoking pork in the South but we made a new friend as well.

Service Above Self: That's What Rotarians Do!

Marietta Rotarian Norman Aiken, who just returned from a tour of Maine's coast, recounts the following waterfront adventure that occurred in Boothbay, about 1/3 of the way ENE between Portland and Bar Harbor. As they crossed a bridge in Boothbay, where local artists had set-up a fair of drawings and paintings, Norman and his wife Dorothy came upon an open wallet containing \$498, five credit cards, a driver's license, a company's ID badge and several business cards. Norman immediately called 411. After almost an hour, he reached a hospital in Massachusetts where the wallet's owner, a Mrs. U, worked as Human Resources manager. The person who answered at first said she couldn't help Norman because the lady he was seeking was out that day on vacation. The lady did leave a voice phone message with the hospital staff, but that number could not be given to Norman. Norman persisted. The hospital said they would try to reach the HR manager by her cell phone while Norman stayed on the line.



The following story unfolded. Mrs. U was at an art exhibition in Boothbay, ME. She had opened her wallet to retrieve a business card to hand an artist and set her wallet down. A bit later, she missed her wallet. "Oh, you left your wallet in the car, Dear," her husband said. The couple retraced their steps to their car and found—no wallet. Unadulterated despair and panic ensued. Arrangements were made over the phones for Norman and Dorothy to meet the distraught couple 15 minutes later on the same bridge where the wallet was found.

Rotarians Wayne and Marla Blackstone (Rotary Clubs of Marietta and South Cobb, respectively) celebrated their 33rd wedding anniversary in Cody, Wyoming, visiting friends, sighting grizzlies, and riding the range. For any Rotarian traveling to Yellowstone National Park through Cody, WY, the Cody Rotary Club meets at noon Thursdays at the Sunset Hotel on 8th St. It is a great place to make friends and have lunch. The club's website states ten reasons to join the Cody Rotary and even more reasons for visiting Rotarians to make-up there. Around 1890, "Buffalo Bill" William Frederick Cody founded the beautiful city (pop. 9500) 50 miles east of the SE entrance to Yellowstone.





East Cobb Provides Fall Break Lunches



When the final school bells ring and Fall break begins, tens of thousands of Cobb kids are at risk of going hungry. In September, the **Rotary Club of East Cobb** volunteered with the YMCA's Fall Break lunch program. This program helps hungry children get meals that they would not otherwise receive when school is out. The club sponsored food that fed 160 children.



Left: Griffin Rotary President Allen Edwards, GSCS Director of Communications Judy Parker, Griffin Rotarian Ann Walker

Griffin Program to Increase High School Graduation

The **Rotary Club of Griffin** donated \$2,500 to the Griffin-Spalding County School System's "Destination Graduation" program. The money will go specifically toward the school system's ninth-graders, who will sign a pledge to stay in school and graduate within four years. Rotary joined the school system in a professional learning day. The student's dressed for success and were treated to a presentation by motivational speaker Keith Brown. The club initiated this multi-year project with the school system in 2014.

Rotary Partners with FODAC Ship Medical Equipment to Nepal Earthquake Survivors

Rotary District 6900, including the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain**, partnered with Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC) to provide \$500,000 of medical equipment and supplies to survivors of this year's earthquake in Nepal. The 40-foot container included orthotics, therapy tables, standers, crutches, walkers, wheelchairs (including 100 pediatric wheelchairs), hospital beds and mattresses and commode chairs.



Members of Rotary Club of Stone Mountain pose in front of the container before they begin loading medical equipment and supplies headed to Nepal. Lonnie Anderson, Chris Brand (president and CEO of FODAC), Scott McEvoy, Scott Rippy, Donna Jensen (club president), Gillian Leggett, Gene Fleeman and Harry Strack

FODAC supplied the equipment and supplies, and funds from Rotary District 6900 covered shipping costs. Members of the Stone Mountain club helped collect, clean and load equipment and supplies into the container, which will be trucked to Charleston, South Carolina and loaded on a ship headed for Kolkata, India. Once unloaded in Kolkata, the container will be transported over land via truck to Kathmandu, Nepal. The Karuna Foundation will supply logistical support in India and Nepal to transport and distribute the equipment.

Newnan Rotary Supports "Fall Prevention Bingo"

The **Rotary Club of Newnan** recently hosted a "Fall Prevention Bingo" game for senior citizens at Christian City in Union City. This is the first of several planned games. Over 30 senior residents were given key educational tips on how to avoid and prevent falls in the home.

Research shows that falls are the leading cause of death due to injury among the elderly, and 87 percent of all fractures in the elderly are due to falls. Because most falls can be prevented by understanding the primary risks for falling and how to avoid them, Newnan Rotarians committed to hosting the event, educating seniors to help prevent any injuries sustained by falls. Members led games of bingo for residents, and provided tips throughout such as "using a night light in the bathrooms" and "clearing pathways from clutter."



Among those participating in the Newnan Rotary Club's "Fall Prevention Bingo" event at Christian City recently were Rotarian Sharon Rogers, Derriagh Lowe of Christian City, Rotary President Sam Madaris, Christian City resident Grace Jerrell, and Newnan Rotarians Rob Muzio, Chuck Posta, and Ashley Bonner



North Columbus Supports Senior and Family Health

The **North Columbus Rotary Club** presented MercyMed of Columbus with a donation of \$3,500 for durable medical equipment - things like canes, walkers and knee braces, with the goal of restoring mobility to seniors and injured patients. MercyMed was founded by Dr. Grant Scarborough and offers medical care for economically disadvantaged individuals and families who otherwise would not get the help they need. This grant was made possible through the generous bequest of deceased Rotarian, Kathy Myers to District 6900's Designated Funds.



Bremen Rotarians Keeping Haralson Beautiful

A couple of years ago, the **Rotary Club of Bremen** helped start Keep Haralson Beautiful; now it is a fully functioning 501(c)(3) organization that is educating the public about litter in our county and is continuing Rotary's effort to clean up the existing problem. The club felt that Haralson County was falling behind in getting new businesses to move here, and one thing the Development Authority noticed was the amount of litter along the roadsides in our communities - indicating a lack of education and respect from our inhabitants. Strangely, the club found that the worst area was between the fast-food restaurants and the technical college, so that area was targeted first. Keep Haralson Beautiful (KHB) has worked on educating our youth in particular and we are studying other ways to educate society, including newspaper and radio advertising about litter clean-up.



AG Ryan Clements, NC Rotarian Pat Daniels, NC Rotarian Ben Stahl, MercyMed staff, NC Rotary President, Lisa Scrivner, Dr. Grant Scarborough, NC Rotarian Leigh Anne Thomas, NC Rotarian Verona Campbell, and NC Rotarian Robbie Green.

Third Annual Whiskies of the World (WOW) Fundraiser: October 23

The **Rotary Club of North Atlanta** will host its third annual "Whiskies of the World" fundraiser on Friday, October 23 at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Buckhead. Proceeds are used for Rotary Foundation charitable causes.



The event offers whiskies and other alcoholic beverages for sampling, excellent food and hors d'oeuvres, and educational workshops that include cigar tastings and whiskey masterclasses. Gary Laden and Alan Friedman of Atlanta's Cigar Guys Radio Show on "AM 920 The Answer" will be handling the cigar classes, as well as the cigar and spirits pairing on a special smoking patio.

Last year's event received glowing reviews from attendees, including, "This is the most fun I've ever had at a Rotary event," and "Be sure to invite me to the next one!" In 2014, there were approximately 125 distillery representatives giving away samples and 750 attendees.

For more information or to purchase tickets, please visit: <http://www.whiskiesoftheworld.com/Atlanta>

Creativity and Generosity Benefit Children of Promise Place

At the **Rotary Club of Thomaston-Upton's** volunteer meeting, many items were donated to Promise Place for the children who seek refuge there with their parent.



One Rotarian went above and beyond and prepared these quart size Ziploc bags of toiletry items, tissues, toys ...AND notice the little pumpkin bracelets wrapped around the tissues in the girls' bags! How precious...and SO thoughtful! These are sure to delight some little ones going through some uncertain, rough times when they'll receive these items.

Getting Seniors Nourishment

Bremen Rotarians are working to gather Ensure for the elder poor in our community. We've already taken two large donations to Haralson County Ministries for distribution.



Supporting Engineering Careers

The **Rotary Club of North Atlanta** President Ralph Peeler’s medical practice is just a stone’s throw from the Chamblee Charter High School (CCHS). For several years, Dr. Peeler has been involved with the high school in health education Career Day, and the Interact Club of student volunteers.

This year, in keeping with Rotary’s focus on vocational and community service, Ralph applied for a special matching District Grant to assist Chamblee High School’s engineering program. The \$3500 grant will be used to fund two Chamblee Engineering activities, the Robotics and Electrathon programs.

Robotics involves designing and building robots. The Electrathon is a competition for battery-powered vehicles.

Instead of high speed and a finish line, the goal of an Electrathon race is to go the furthest distance in one hour of operation.

High school students gain engineering knowledge and practical hands-on experience working with both programs, along with team building and problem-solving skills. Chamblee High School students participate in a state competition for



robotics and a Georgia Technology Student Association (TSA) contest for the electric cars. During the 2014- 15 school year, CCHS Robotics team earned five tournament championship awards, and the Electrathon team built a car and earned “a respectable showing” at the TSA competition.



Alpharetta Supports Dept. of Public Safety Distracted Drivers Program

Distracted Drivers? Do you see them? Are you distracted at times? If you have younger drivers in your home, what about them? To help address this growing problem, the Alpharetta Department of Public Safety has been raising funds to launch a Distracted Drivers Awareness program. Their goal is to raise \$16,000 to pay for two golf carts, a trailer for carrying the carts to various locations, and goggles that allow the driver of the cart to seem under the influence of alcohol. This is needed for young drivers so they can experience the effects of being distracted and trying to drive at the same time.

The **Alpharetta Rotary Club** contributed \$3,000 to support this valuable community program. Police Officers John Allen and Dan Lambert have already raised \$5,000 toward the program. The additional \$3,000 from Rotary helps them reach their goal of \$16,000 after acquiring a matching grant.

On this historic day (9/11), Rotary President Kirk Driskell said, “I am very proud that our club can donate to this needed program which is just another example of how Alpharetta Rotary continues to live up to its motto of “Service Above Self.”

Roswell Golf and Tennis Raises \$175,000 for Charitable Efforts

The **Rotary Club of Roswell** held its 37th annual Aubrey Greenway Golf Tournament and third annual Hagan Cup Classic Tennis Tournament on September 14. Nearly 250 golfers and more than 70 tennis players participated in this wonderful event which is held each year to benefit many worthy charitable causes in the North Fulton community.

According to this year’s Golf Chair, Walt Woliver, “We stand on the shoulders of those who preceded us and our continued success is due to building on our past successes! Thank you to all of our Past Czars who have been so helpful to our committee in helping to make things even better and more successful.”

This event is one of the largest non-profit tournaments in the Southeast and regularly injects over \$175,000 into our charity endeavors.

