



# District 6900 news

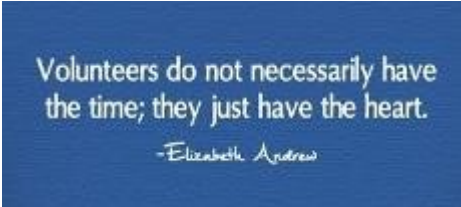


ISSUE 8 February 2016

## Thank You for Being Rotarians with Heart!

You all continue to amaze me with your accomplishments within your clubs, communities, and District 6900. What a privilege it is to visit so many of you a second time! Please feel free to call on me if I can assist you in any way.

February is **Rotary Has Heart Month!** How will your club **Be A Gift To The World** in promoting RHH?



Being the great **Detectives** that we are in District 6900, let's discover how to promote an existing service project or create a new one to benefit our **Seniors**. Please include the RHH logo in all communications and publications this month. **CLUE:** Don't forget to send pictures and stories of your projects to be included in next month's newsletter! Public Image Director Terry Rouse has done an outstanding job creating our own District RHH logo!

The **EVIDENCE** shows February has two celebrations – Valentine's Day and Rotary International's 111<sup>th</sup> birthday on February 23.

**CLUE:** Remember to save March 10<sup>th</sup> as our **FAMILY OF ROTARY** evening at the Shriners Auditorium in Atlanta. This event will be fun

and will help raise money for our work against Polio. Bring your family and friends!

Beautiful beaches and warmer weather are just around the corner! Remember to register for our **DISTRICT CONFERENCE** on Hilton Head Island, on April 21– 24. All of the information is on the District website. Our team promises a fun filled weekend for everyone!

Thank you all for your dedicated efforts! Each one of you is **A GIFT TO THE WORLD!**



DG Bob with **Barnesville Rotarians** as they visited seniors at Christmas. The Club delivered lap blanket and good cheer to 114 residents of the Heritage Inn Nursing Home.

Yours in Rotary Service,  
**DG Bob**



Rotary District 6900 will proudly present the **HARLEM AMBASSADORS vs ROARING ROTARIANS** at a Family of Rotary & Friends Event benefiting End Polio Now on Thursday, March 10, 2016 at 6:30 pm, at the Shriners Auditorium, 400 Ponce de Leon Ave, Atlanta, Georgia.

Ticket Price: \$10 prepaid online; \$12 at the door. See more information on page 5.



## A Special February Focus on Serving Seniors, Showing Rotary Has Heart

By Carolyn Mattingly, District 6900 Serving Seniors Coordinator

We love DG Bob's logo for "Rotary Has Heart" which will help us celebrate our February programs for seniors across our district.

Our Rotary year with a Serving Seniors focus is half way over except for the spirit that will carry forward in your wonderful projects for our aging communities that continue year after year. We are so impressed with and humbled by the creativity, passion and attentiveness of our clubs in helping seniors stay independent and connected to their communities! Congratulations on all the holiday programs and other projects that have been so terrific in 2015.



Carolyn spoke recently at the **Forsyth-Monroe County Rotary Club**

Now it's time to focus on "Rotary Has Heart" with great innovation and fun for seniors. If you haven't developed your club's February and ongoing 2016 senior projects, it will help tremendously to make an appointment with the activities director at a senior facility/center to find out about new opportunities for senior projects! The **Roswell Rotary Club** recently met with their Nursing & Rehab facility and asked the question: "What do your seniors really need from our Rotary club in the new year?" The answers they got really excited the club. They are starting two "Rotary Has Heart" projects at this facility in February that will be ongoing. One is a (once a month) Pennies Auction of small gifts (typically found at dollar stores) provided by the Rotary Club. The seniors are each given 30 pennies and may bid 1 to 5 pennies each on items of their choice. The other project involves stocking a long elapsed but long loved seniors' store with needed items that seniors can purchase for under \$3.

I have so much enjoyed my speaking engagements in clubs and sharing about senior projects. Please be reminded of sample projects and the Fall Prevention Program that are detailed on the District website under "District Services" and then "Serving Seniors." If you have any trouble accessing this information, or need me in any other way please contact me at [cbmatt7255@gmail.com](mailto:cbmatt7255@gmail.com) or 404-502-7072.

Remember, February is a new time to show "Heart" through your Rotary and Interact clubs. Adopt seniors and make them happy with valentine cards, stuffed animals, a visit, flowers, a fall prevention bingo game, or, in so many other creative ways that make a difference in their lives! Partnerships with senior facilities and involving your Interact clubs with Serving Seniors make that special difference!!!

The **Alpharetta Rotary Club** recently donated \$3,000 to Senior Services of North Fulton to help with their mission to care about older adults, their quality of life, independence and continuing potential; they build programs, services, and relationships to meet the needs of this growing population; and they serve the community by empowering seniors, assisting families and enhancing lives. Their programs include Meals on Wheels, Care Management, Transportation and Operating Senior Centers in Alpharetta, Milton, Roswell and Sandy Springs, providing a home away from home for hundreds of citizens each week. Rotarians gathered to assemble bags filled with food and then delivered them to Dogwood Terrace for all the residents to help celebrate the holidays.



### Griffin Daybreak and Rotary Club of Griffin

Rotarians kicked off Rotary Awareness Month by receiving a Proclamation from the Spalding County Commission declaring February 14, 2016 as Rotary Has Heart Day in Spalding County. Pictured are DGE Raymond Ray, AG Stephanie Windham, Rotary Club of Griffin President Allen Edwards, Griffin Daybreak Rotary President Terry Colling, and Spalding County Commission Chair Rita Johnson.





*DGE Raymond Ray and Edie with RI President Elect John and Judy Germ. Rotary's theme for 2016-17 will be Rotary Serving*



*Our own Robert Hall joined other RI Directors in dressing as Gifts to the World during the recent San Diego training sessions.*

## District 6900 Nominating Committee Report

The District Nominating Committee met on Saturday, January 9, 2016 and interviewed qualified candidates nominated by their own Rotary Clubs.

The Committee interviewed qualified candidates for the role of District Governor – 2018-2019. Court Dowis of **the Rotary Club of Harris County** was selected and his name will be placed before the assembled Rotarians at the District Conference in April. Court is owner and President of Pine Mountain Club Chalets Resort. He was President of the Rotary Club of Harris County in 2007-2008 and received the Sheffield Leadership award that year. Court has 16 years of service to Rotary and has served both his club and the district with distinction. He served as an AG for three years and on numerous committees including Vocational Chair and PETs Leadership Training. Court currently serves as TRF Annual Fund



*Court Dowis*

Co-Chair, as a member of the Awards and Finance Committees, and as Chair of the Evidence Room for the upcoming District Conference.

He is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow and a Level 3 Bequest Society member.

While Court will be nominated for this position, District Resolution 86-9, adopted at the 1986 District Conference clearly states that "Nothing in this resolution shall be construed as forbidding nominations from the floor at the District Conference. A Club intending to nominate from the floor at the Conference shall (no later than 60 days before the Conference), be required to: (a) Notify the District Governor in writing of its intentions, (b) Give him/her the name of the candidate, and (c) Submit all documentation required as if the candidate had been initially submitted for consideration by the Nominating Committee. If no nominations are received from the clubs by the District Governor in accordance with this paragraph, then the District Governor Nominee selected by the Committee shall be declared the Nominee by the District Governor." This means that such information must be received by DG Bob no later than February 21, 2016.



## Clue: It's Time to Register to Join Us at Hilton Head for District Conference

Hilton Head - a setting ideal for fellowship and celebration! Luxury rooms on the beach, first class accommodations and spectacular conference space make this a "Do Not Miss" event! The conference committees are busy making preparations for plenary sessions, entertainment, club displays, networking and FUN!



- ◆ Just visit the District website at [www.rotary6900.org](http://www.rotary6900.org) and click on **2016 District Conference** in the left navigation bar NOW before prices go up on March 1! And take time while you are there to reserve a room at the Marriott (where the conference will take place) and take advantage of the great discounted pricing they have offered to Rotarians. **To get the type of room at the Marriott you'd like at the Rotary price - you must book your room by March 19 at 5:00 pm.**



## Visit the "Evidence Room" - A Destination You Won't Want to Miss!

The Evidence Room (AKA the House of Friendship in past years) promises you a plethora of Clues about what's the key to a successful Rotary service project. Learn from your fellow Rotarians as they display their significant projects for 2015-16 ... across all of Rotary's Six Areas of Focus.

And consider this a place to Search for new Rotary friendships that can last a lifetime ... or to catch up with your Rotary friends and family from around

### The Evidence Room: Get Ready to Share Clues

DG Bob has asked you to exhibit your local and international projects in the Evidence Room. Please provide a display of at least one club project. Emphasize significant service or signature projects that address the avenues of service or Rotary's Six Areas of Focus. Contact Court Dowis at [cdowis@pmccresort.com](mailto:cdowis@pmccresort.com) to reserve your space. Download reservation form and electrical request form from [www.rotary6900.org](http://www.rotary6900.org).

## District Conference Hospitality Suites

The Hilton Head Marriott has small, medium and large hospitality suites. All suites have adjoining bedrooms. The hospitality suites do not have a full kitchen. You will want to bring ice chests, blenders, etc. We will provide you with information regarding grocery stores and party supply places closest to the hotel at a later date.

If your club is interested in having a Hospitality Suite, please assign one person from your club to coordinate the suite and have them email Cheryl Greenway at [cgrotarydg1213@aol.com](mailto:cgrotarydg1213@aol.com) as soon as possible.

Please let Cheryl know what nights you need the hospitality suite and adjoining bedroom for and if you are willing to share with another club. If you are already partnering with another club, please let us know that also.

Elwyn Gaissert and Cheryl Greenway will assign the hospitality suites shortly after March 19 based on registration as of that date. If you have any questions, please email Cheryl.

## Join Us Thursday Night: at Honey Horn Plantation: April 21 at 6:00 pm

Enjoy a nice evening of fellowship with Rotarians from around the district on a majestic, beautiful plantation with some awesome BBQ. There is plenty of room to sit, relax, talk with fellow Rotarians or walk around the plantation area to view some the beautiful land on Hilton Head Island. Just \$55 per person gets you all the fixins' for an awesome BBQ, along with tea, lemonade, water, and Haganade. That includes chicken, pulled pork, baked beans, loaded potato salad, mac and cheese, banana pudding and key lime pie.

You are allowed to bring your own adult beverages. We will also have a fire pit, so if you are interested please bring your s'mores fixins' and enjoy the fire.

This is a Family of Rotary event so all are invited – ticket required to join in. Tickets are available via the District website as part of District Conference Registration—at a cost of \$55 per person. Maps will be provided at the conference registration desk which will be open on Thursday from 2:00 to 5:30. You can pick up your tickets after 5:30 at the event site registration table.



## DISTRICT AWARDS AND THE WINNERS ARE.....

DISTRICT 6900! In this season of award shows and championships, we can turn our attention to the annual District Conference and the celebration it promises to be! Every year, hundreds of generous and fun loving Rotarians descend on the conference site, share their year's accomplishments, reunite with old friends, make new friends and bask in the awards earned through hard work and charitable giving. There is no better party than a District Conference Party!

RI President Ravi has provided the perfect platform for Rotarians to Do Good in the World with his theme **BE A GIFT TO THE WORLD**. Rotary clubs world wide have planned and implemented hundreds of thousands of deeds and dollars to ease suffering and improve their local and global communities. It is the goal of every Rotarian to contribute gifts of community service, international service and charitable giving. Each of you is a gift to RI, your club and your community. DG Bob and his Leadership Team have certainly been a gift to our clubs.

One of the highlights of every conference is the recognition for the accomplishments of our clubs - senior services, literacy, youth programs, water projects, feeding the hungry, honoring our veterans and public servants, hosting GRSP students, eradicating Polio, contributing to the Foundation, and more. The list of Good Works for every club is very impressive! You have my word that this year's awards will be impressive as well!

During the year, each club documents their projects on the District Website. In accordance with each year's theme, clubs plan their display for the District Conference, known this year as the **Evidence Room**. DG Bob's theme of **Mystery Solved** has provided a fun scenario for clubs to **Prove Their Case**. The **Evidence Room** will be packed with club displays, great ideas for projects, space for fellowship and celebration. There will be more opportunities for club recognition at this year's conference so you do not want to miss a thing!

In addition to the Sherlock Holmes theme, DG Bob's Possum Award, which emerged from one of our fun-filled leadership sessions last summer, has been a coveted presentation as DG Bob has visited each club in the district. His Possum Bob, complete with red glasses, has accompanied him to every club meeting! Every Club President has coveted the Possum Award, unique to this Rotary Year. Be on the lookout for more Possum Awards in Hilton Head!

Has the Mystery Been Solved? Has your club presented the strongest Evidence? Who has earned the coveted awards? The answers will be revealed in Hilton Head! SEE YOU THERE!

PLEASE LET ME KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

Jacque Digieso, District Awards Chair, Rotary Club of Roswell

[digieso@bellsouth.net](mailto:digieso@bellsouth.net)

770-851-3435



## More About the Harlem Ambassadors Event on March 10

This event is a fundraiser - with the money earmarked for End Polio Now. Donations will be matched 2:1 by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. Your ticket purchases are a donation, and any additional donations (large or small) will be appreciated by The Rotary Foundation, so we encourage you to be generous.

You can order and pay for tickets online through the District website - visit <https://rotary6900.org/event/reserve/638>. The event is open to friends and family of Rotary too, and the general public can purchase tickets too.



All tickets are Open Seating - First Come First Served. Tickets can be mailed to purchasers, delivered via an email link online, or held for pick up at the door. Note: the online prepaid price is \$10 per ticket; tickets purchased at the door will be \$12.



## Let's Make It a Great Year for the Rotary Foundation

By Ray McKemie, District Foundation Committee Chair

As we enter the second half of the 2015-16 year, two things are on my mind ... First, giving to the Annual Programs Fund (APF) ... Second, completion of our 69 District Grants – including reports due to TRF by February 28, 2016.

**Congratulations!!!** to the 29 clubs who have already given at least \$100 per capita and the 58 clubs who have made a contribution to the Foundation. However, ten clubs have yet to send a contribution to our Foundation.

As of January 23, 2016, our District Rotarians have made donations of more than \$462,133 to the Annual Fund of the Foundation, with 23% - or about 994 of those Rotarians - giving at least \$100. If the remaining, +/- 3,333 Rotarians were to match this pattern our total at end of the year will be over **\$795,000**.

I think ... no, **I know** that with a little extra effort from every District 6900 Rotarian we can go well over **\$800,000** by June 30, 2016. Our district has the most generous Rotarians in the world. What will you do to help?

Since July 1, 2015 we have added **300 new Paul Harris Fellows**. John Hipes and the Foundation Giving team are ready to assist your members in becoming Paul Harris Fellows, Paul Harris Society Members, and Major Donors. The Foundation Giving Team also has specialists who are ready to help your club achieve Every Rotarian, Every Year (EREY), 100% Sustaining Member status, or 100% Paul Harris Fellow status. And **Kathy Myers Memorial Recognition Points** are available through the end of the year. So, give them a call today should you have questions or need someone to visit your club.

On the grant side, things continue to move forward. We have now had two Global Grants approved this year and expect to have several more approved by the end of the year. In addition, we have two Global Scholar applications pending in Evanston.



**Our TRF Giving Team**

Chair: John Hipes

Annual Giving: Dave Galloway and Court Dowis

Major Gifts: PDG Margie Kersey

Paul Harris Society: Mike Hart

100% Paul Harris Fellow Club: Gerry Bilbro and Sandy Buhler

Kathy Myers Recognition Points: Gerry Bilbro

As I previously reported, the District Grants committee has approved 69 grants for the 2015-16 year totaling \$285,000. Our clubs added \$50,000 to that for a grand total of **\$335,000**. **Wow!** If your club received a District Grant this year, it is **imperative that you turn in your Final Report to Mary Ligon on or before February 28, 2016**. The Rotary Foundation requires us to have 100% completion before they will release next year's grant funds. Any club that does not turn in its Final Report by February 28th is at risk of **not receiving** a District Grant in 2016-17. Please don't put the District Leadership in the position of having to deny your club or community the opportunity to apply for these beneficial grants.

Generosity and stewardship are the hallmark characteristics of our district's clubs and Rotarians. We have Clubs and Rotarians who:

- ◆ have done, are doing, and will do many wonderful projects to help people in their communities and around the world.
- ◆ have cared enough to take the risk to make a difference in the world.
- ◆ have earned our deepest gratitude for what they have done and for what they will continue to do to help others in need.... *"To Do Good in the World."*

### District Grant Dollars at Work



#### Paul Harris Recognitions

DG Bob was on hand when the **Rotary Club of Johns-Creek North Fulton** recognized new Paul Harris Fellows. Rotarians honored included Rory Robichaux, Shirley House, Rich Voelz, Bev Miller, Trudy Provo, and Dave Tannen.



Members of the **Buckhead Rotary Club** recently completed the first of several wheelchair ramps being built for Multiple Sclerosis sufferers. The ramp project is funded by the Club's 2015-2016 District Grant.



**Supporting Adult Community Education**



Each year, the **Forsyth-Monroe County Rotary Club** strives to make a supporting donation to the local Adult Community Education (ACE) program. One of ACE’s missions is to assist adults with obtaining their General Education Diploma (GED) by providing the education and testing required to

succeed with the final test. Based on funds raised during the year, Rotary President Mike Hickman presented a check for \$3,360 to ACE Coordinator to sponsor 21 adults to earn their GED.



**Hunting for Scholarship Dollars**

The **Moultrie Rotary Club** held a dove shoot event in early January to raise funds for its scholarship program. Moultrie Rotary offers a scholarship to one high school senior each year. The scholarship provides \$1000 every year the student is in college for up to four years. The students are nominated by the high school counselors, they then compete via a process that includes written essays which are reviewed and scored by a panel of Rotarians. The hunters enjoyed a lunch of barbecue catered by Joe Kem Barbecue followed with an afternoon of skeet shooting and bird hunting.

**Marietta Meets Kentucky**



Recently, **Marietta Rotarian Dale Covington** had a special make-up with the Lexington, KY Rotary Sunrise Club. The speaker was Sarah Jordan, Special Events & Promotion Coordinator for the Ronald McDonald House Charities in the Bluegrass state. The fabulous RMHC house near Commonwealth Stadium accommodates 21 families. On average, families stay 11 days. All the Lexington hospitals are looped into the work of RMHC. Roughly 80% of their focus is helping eastern Kentucky children and their families. Pictured: Club President Seth Lawless, Dale and Sarah.



**Sandy Springs Honors Senior Caretakers**

The **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** held the 2016 Senior Adult Health Care Professionals of the Year Awards as part of Rotary Has Heart. Award recipients were nominated by their respective employers and work with senior adults throughout the Sandy Springs/Perimeter area. DG Bob was a guest speaker. Recipients included:

- ◆ Jacqueline Smith, Personal Care Coordinator, Campbell -Stone
- ◆ Hezenia White, Public Health Nurse Technician, Dorothy C. Benson Senior Complex Adult Day Care
- ◆ John Moore, RN, Staff Nurse, Nurse Scholar, Emory Saint Joseph’s Hospital Emergency Department
- ◆ Joan Wilkins, Resident Assistant, Hammond Glen
- ◆ Alison Schlenger, Nurse Practitioner, Hollander Senior Living of Sandy Springs
- ◆ Katie Jones, Owner, CareMinders of Buckhead, The Mansions at Sandy Springs
- ◆ Babet Walton, Caregiver, Sterling Place
- ◆ Bernice Mellman, Activity & Volunteer Coordinator, Sunrise of Huntcliff



**Meet Your Future Employee: March 1**  
**The Brookhaven Rotary and the Covenant House are offering you an opportunity to meet your future employee at a job fair set for March 1 from 10am-12pm.**

As an employer you know that one exceptional employee is better than two average employees. An exceptional employee is the one who brings a level of work ethic and motivation above all others ... an individual who shows up early, works those extra hours when need and does not question when asked to do something.

You may ask yourself how can I get these people, and where can I get them earlier in their careers? The answer is the Covenant House. The Covenant House not only provides shelter for homeless young adults (18-20 years old) it provides guidance, helping these young adults get their lives back in order, and preparing them to enter the work force, to be productive citizens.

We want you to come and meet these residents as they transition out of homelessness. Not every resident at Covenant House is ready for employment, so residents will be pre-screened, so that you see only those we believe are ready to move out of homeless. In addition the Covenant House will make sure these residents will have a home and transportation while employed by you or transitioning out of the Covenant house.



## Spotlight on Our District Leaders

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

### Marlene Free, Assistant Governor, Rotary Club of Bainbridge



#### What Rotary Means to Me

In 1995 I was asked to be a co-advisor to a new Interact Club at the school where I was employed. At the chartering ceremony I said to a group of sponsoring Rotarians, you should ask my husband to be a member of your Rotary Club. In 1996 my husband, Dean, joined the Crystal City-Pentagon Rotary Club. I immediately became involved as a supporting spouse. The "Service above Self" attitude, commitment, and fellowship of the Rotarians won my full support for Rotary. Their involvement in the Interact Club was unbelievable. I wanted to be a Rotarian.

My work prevented me from attending a morning or lunch Rotary Club meeting. In 2004 I was introduced to members of the Rotary Club of Mount Vernon, Virginia, who met in the evening. I immediately joined, and the rest is history. I loved the networking, fellowship, generosity of time and money, and passion of the members for local, regional, and global peace and understanding. The memories of my Rotary District 7610 family are precious.

The Rotary Club of Bainbridge and District 6900 became my Rotary home in 2005. I love the spirit of District 6900 Rotarians. This spirit encourages involvement, purpose, and loyalty. I am glad that I can contribute to my local Club, the district leadership, international projects, the GRSP, and the Rotary Leadership Institute. I am proud to be associated with Rotarians who exemplify the motto of Berry College, my undergraduate *alma mater*, "Not to be ministered unto, but to minister," through Service Above Self.



The **Rotary Club of Johns Creek – North Fulton** presented the Johns Creek Symphony Orchestra with a \$1,500 donation. "The arts are a vital component of Johns Creek," said Ron Jones, President of the Rotary Club of Johns Creek – North Fulton. "We're thrilled we're able to help the Johns Creek Symphony Orchestra in bringing arts to the community."

### Christine Barrett, Assistant Governor, Rotary Club of Milton-Windward

#### Why I am a Rotarian

In 1985 I found a definition of love on which I could agree. That definition is: Love is work. When I joined Rotary in 1998, our Motto - Service Above Self caught my attention and then I found that in Rotary, service is action. To me, service is the work of love.

Rotary has changed my life. The education, leadership opportunities and fellowship continue to challenge me to grow beyond what I know.

The greatest treasure of Rotary is the many friendships developed by participating in so many Rotary activities.

I am a Rotarian because we change the world by doing the work of love.



### Douglas County Rotarians Feeding Children

The Gift of Love is an organization that works to meet the physical needs of children from under-resourced families in Douglas County. The children are identified by school counselors. Currently, they assist approximately 650 students. They provide the students hygiene items and school supplies at the beginning of each semester and send them home every Friday with food for the weekend. The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** provided 650 backpacks with Rotary's emblem and packed them full of hygiene and school items. Those backpacks are then refilled with food every weekend.





By Lynn Clarke, District 6900 GRSP Chair

GRSP trustees traveled to Savannah in mid-January on their own dime to review selection procedures, discuss GRSP policies and procedures, and select students for the Class of 2016-17.



On Friday, we reviewed how the process works and discussed the rising cost of tuition and how to plan for this. We discussed the \$5,250 donation from the GRSP Endowment to offset tuition as well as how to get the word out about the extra money available to clubs who donate more than \$50 per capita per Rotarian. We discussed the downturn in the stock market and how this will affect contributions from the endowment for next year. Fortunately, investments in bonds yield enough interest to assist with tuition costs.

Bright and early Saturday, the Trustees met at the GRSP office to review applications in detail before making final student selections. We all feel there are many scholarships offered to the top students, so some students had never responded to the GRSP office when asked for additional information. Some had difficulty finding venues to take their SAT and TOEFEL, so their files were not complete by the selection date. This year, Clubs selected 14 male students and 37 female students for a total of 51 GRSP students for 2016-2017. This is a net increase of four students in Georgia who will be spreading the Rotary ideals of peace and understanding around the world.

Several clubs received their first choice; other clubs participated in the “eraser draw” to determine which of the multiple clubs who had selected a particular student as #1 would get that student. were given the opportunity to draw against other clubs to determine who would sponsor a particular student. Yes, the archaic method of the blue eraser is not a myth and we have pictures to prove it. Some trustees seem to be blessed with good luck and always draw the blue eraser, while others know they will not win, so they wait in the wings to hear who was the winner — surely not them!!!!

**GRSP officers recognize the need for strategic planning and are looking to Rotarians in all three districts for recommendations. If you have suggestions, you may send your comments to me or directly to the GRSP office in Savannah. We need all input.**

This year some clubs dropped out, but others stepped in and others returned to the program after a brief absence. Sometimes, it is hard for the clubs not sponsoring a student to hear discussions from other clubs about what they did with their student over the holidays.

Congratulations are due to two D6900 trustees. **Tony Wright of the Rotary Club of Columbus** made a donation to the GRSP Endowment and was awarded a Ronnie Waller Fellow. Tony has been very active in GRSP and has really thought outside the box to keep international



*Trustee John Quinn of the Rotary Club of Griffin, new Jake Cheatham Fellow*

students attending universities in the Columbus area. And, **John Quinn of the Rotary Club of Griffin** donated enough money to be awarded the first Jake Cheatham Fellow. John has been a trustee for several years and has been instrumental in working with his clubs to stay informed about the program.

## Register Your Student for District Conference

Plans are being made for students to attend our District Conference. DG Bob requested that costs for these students remain the same and that invitations be

extended to the other districts for GRSP students to spend one final weekend together with our District Rotarians. Neither of the other districts are able to enjoy the pageantry of the entire class of GRSP students. Each year, the students talk about how the generosity of our district allows the tradition of this final assembly of students and, believe me, they appreciate it as much as we do.

## How Does One GRSP Student Make a Difference?

Never underestimate the power of one. We hear those stories every day and some can be found at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com). Search for Georgia Rotary Student Program. You may also be able to access the GRSP Youtube Channel at [www.youtube.com/channel/UC5NjG5qEX9x-S14\\_gvMhuCQ](http://www.youtube.com/channel/UC5NjG5qEX9x-S14_gvMhuCQ)

## Barbara M. and Donald L. Thomas Peace Award Goes To ...

**Nipuna Ambanpola from Sri Lanka**, with a \$1,500 scholarship check. Nipuna was president of the Interact Club in Sri Lanka and conducted motivational workshops for other student leaders. He is hosted by the **Rotary Clubs of Savannah South and Savannah West** and attends Armstrong State University in Savannah, where he has already assumed leadership positions. His goal is to create a network of university Rotaract clubs for prospective Rotarians all over District 6920—and he already has a detailed plan to do that.

Don Thomas, a longtime member of the **Roswell Rotary Club**, and his wife Barbara were passionate supporters of GRSP. Through the years, they entertained GRSP students and were special friends to them. In 2001, they established this Peace Award to be given annually to a GRSP student who exhibits the spirit of the program and is in need of added financial assistance. After the passing of their parents and according to their wishes, Don, Jr. and Rhys Thomas have made it possible to continue this legacy.

It has been an honor for the **Roswell Rotary Club** to handle the administration of the Peace Award. A committee of past presidents oversees the selection process each year, a challenging task since so many worthy applications are submitted.





Thoughts from Terry Rouse,  
District Public Image Chair

## Public Image and Membership Go Hand in Hand

There are several reasons why people join Rotary. Most of those reasons, if not all, have something to do with the Image that Rotary portrays to civic minded individuals who want to be part of something greater than themselves. I recently ran across a top ten listing of reasons to join a Rotary Club and all have roots in the Public Image of Rotary.

1. **Rotary provides a forum for professional and business leaders** (networking). Does your community think of Rotary in those terms?
2. **Members experience the fulfillment that comes from giving back to the community.** Does your community know all the good things that you do for your community?
3. **Rotary provides for personal growth and development.** Leadership skills, organization and planning, fundraising and teaching are just a sampling of the skills that can be experienced and enhanced through Rotary. Can you identify with those development opportunities?
4. **Rotary helps build not only community, but also District and International enduring friendships.** The benefits of fellowship is an important ingredient in the success of your club.
5. **Rotary clubs contain a cross section of the world's leaders.** They practice and promote tolerance and it is this cultural exchange that brings us all a little closer together.
6. **Membership in Rotary makes one a better citizen by being informed about what is taking place in the community through club programs and informal networking.** Have you noticed how many members of your club are involved with service in your community outside of Rotary? It might surprise you to discover just how many there are.



7. **Rotarians gain an understanding of humanitarian issues through the International Service Projects and Exchange programs of RI and its Foundation.** The promotion of peace is one of Rotary's highest objectives as is human trafficking, illiteracy, poverty. Are you letting your community know your involvement? These are not just International issues anymore, they are local as well.
8. **Every Rotary Club and District offers diversion from one's personal and business life.** Conferences, conventions, assemblies and social events provide entertainment as well as education and service. Does your club offer "wine and whine" events for your members or family events outside of the regular meetings?
9. **The Rotary Foundation is a "not for profit" Corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation.** Does your club promote this as a fundraising opportunity within the club and from those seeking the benefits of charitable contributions?
10. **Rotary supports an Ethical Environment.** Rotarians practice the Four-Way Test and encourage high ethical standards in all worthy vocations in professional and private life. Does your club promote the Four-Way Test through banners, posters, agenda's, website, Facebook postings and correspondence? Is it part of your opening or closing, along with the invocation, pledge and singing of God Bless America?

By increasing the public's understanding of Rotary we're strengthening our ability to make an impact in our community and make a positive contribution to our growth as a Rotary Club.



*The Rotary Clubs of East Cobb (left) and Alpharetta (below) both had good turn-outs for Adopt-A-Mile events.*





### Packing Meals for Project Open Hand

**Buckhead Rotarians** Scott Godwin, Rebecca Johnson and Kathleen Geegan help prepare some of the 5,000 meals served every day by Atlanta’s Project Open Hand. Open Hand is a three-year signature project for the Buckhead Club, and members help in preparation, packing and delivery of the meals throughout the metro Atlanta area.

### Johns Creek Supports Public Safety Foundation

The **Rotary Club of Johns Creek – North Fulton** presented the Johns Creek Public Safety Foundation with an \$800 donation. The funds were raised during the Rotary Club’s annual Patriot Day commemoration held on Sept. 11.

“Johns Creek’s first responders are the reason the city is one of the safest in the country,” said Ron Jones, president of the Rotary Club of Johns Creek – North Fulton. “Our club gladly supports all they do for this community.”

The club also recognized three Rotary members who have each recruited at least two new club members. Shirley House, Mike Kopp, Angela Harvey and Bob MacDonald.

### Muscogee Invests in Tomorrow’s Future

Today’s children are tomorrow’s future! An education is among one of the most beneficial gifts a child can receive. Instilling knowledge within them ensures that our future is in good hands. Within the **Muscogee County Rotary Club**, efforts are always being made to help children reach their maximum potential – take these recent projects as prime examples.

The Fort Benning elementary schools received a special gift when Rotary members visited in October of this year – thanks in part to a District 6900 TRF grant. Every third grade student at White, Wilson, Dexter, Stowers, Loyd and McBride Elementary schools were given their own dictionary. The reason behind choosing third grade students, according to the inventors of The Dictionary Project, “Educators see third grade as the dividing line between learning to read and reading to learn”. When these students receive dictionaries, they are opened to a whole new world full of words they may have never known existed.

Dictionaries may not seem like something to be excited about, but with pages like the longest known word and showing the solar system, the kids are immediately interested. The children also received a pen with the words “Class of 2025” printed on it. Seeing the year of their graduation is believed to be an incentive to stay in school and continue their love for learning.

After seeing the huge impact at Fort Benning, the club decided to continue The Dictionary Project in a slightly different way. Easter Seals West Georgia is a school that focuses on providing exceptional service to people of all ages living with autism and other disabilities. Students were given a picture dictionary to help them learn by associating the words with colorful images. Santa and his many helpers loaded the dictionaries into bags decorated with jingle bells and visited each classroom.



*Above and left: Fort Benning students. Below: The team who delivered dictionaries at Easter Seals West Georgia*





## What Do Rotary and “The Walking Dead” Have in Common?

Senoia, GA is home to the **Rotary Club of Coweta-Fayette**. Just a few short years ago, visitors to the town strolled up and down a sleepy Main Street, stopping in antiques shops to examine shelves full of memories and to find the perfect treasure in one of the well-stocked gift shops. No longer.

Now the town is a destination for people from all over the world. Why? Because location scouts for a new show called “The Walking Dead” discovered Senoia. This wildly popular serial concerning hard-bitten survivors in a post-apocalyptic world has hordes of zealous fans who converge on Senoia to experience firsthand the places they’ve seen on television.

At the foot of Main Street stands a white gazebo surrounded by flowerbeds and paved walkways. The picturesque structure is often featured in stories about Senoia. Recognizing the need to maintain the gazebo in tip-top shape, the Rotary Club stepped in to paint, clean, plant and weed. The club is proud of the results and our contribution to a picturesque town that hosts visitors from as far as Australia.



## Here Comes Santa Claus ...

The **Rotary Club of Dougherty County** delivered gifts to SOWEGA Council on Aging clients as part of the annual “Santa for Seniors” program. This was the fifth year the club raised money to purchase Christmas gifts for clients who may not normally receive a gift. Club members visited the Council on Aging’s facility for lunch before gathering gifts and making deliveries. More than 150 throws and cookie boxes were delivered to housebound Meals on Wheels clients in Dougherty County this year with the \$1,500 raised by Rotarians through the club’s “Happy Bucks” collection done at its weekly meetings. Rotarians gave the Council on Aging the money to purchase gifts.

“We take for granted that not everyone gets a (Christmas) gift,” said Izzie Sadler, development director for the Council on Aging. “They (the Rotary Club) came to us to see if there was a need.”

“It’s fun playing Santa. And you should see the faces of these seniors,” said Bill Sadler, the club’s president. “Many don’t have family around. It means a lot to them, so it means a lot to us.”

## Doubling the Fun

One way to meet new people, change routines, and bring new energy to your club is to partner and socialize with another Rotary club.

The **Rotary Clubs of Brookhaven and North Atlanta** meet a few miles from each other. They are comparably sized and well established. At a strategic planning session of the Rotary Club of North Atlanta, facilitator AG Candace Klein suggested that the North Atlanta approach Brookhaven for partnering opportunities. Members from the two clubs got together and decided to give it a try.

The first joint project was bell ringing for the Salvation Army at Lenox Mall during the Christmas holiday. North Atlanta was having difficulty filling all of the slots, but the additional Brookhaven volunteers met the challenge.

Do any of these folks ring a bell? Pictured at the top right: “Kettle Club” Chamblee Interact Club Member Darya Philips stands next to Salvation Army Officer Alfonso Martinez along with an elf who happened by, along with Brookhaven’s Bill Smith. North Atlanta President Elect Barbara Bush (bottom right) stirring the pot with President Nominee Julie Koriakin.

Some kettle stations had members from both clubs working together, giving members a chance to meet and socialize over the course of two weekends.

Participants enjoyed the opportunity to meet like-minded individuals from their “sister” club. More joint ventures are being planned to continue the bonhomie and positive energy that comes from working together.

