



District 6900 news

ISSUE 9 March 2016

District 6900 Has a Huge Heart!

Clue: Did you know our Clubs participated in over 50 service projects during the month of February? We had 42 projects dedicated to embrace and enhance the lives of seniors.

Our district received 32 official proclamations from City, County and State Governments recognizing District 6900's Rotary Has Heart month. Thank you



District Ambassador Roger Wise for displaying the evidence and making so many of these proclamations possible. **Shanna Derby, a member of the Rotary Club of Thomasville,** did a fantastic job designing our District logo for Rotary Has Heart. Thank you, Shanna, for your dedicated efforts.

The **evidence** shows we have a tremendous response in early booking for our **District Conference** on April 21-24 at Hilton Head Island's Palmetto Dunes Resort.

I am so happy to announce that our **special guest speaker is Rotary International President Elect John Germ!** John and his wife Judy will be attending our conference. We are so fortunate to have this very rare opportunity to host an incoming Rotary International President at our District Conference. Come join us as we all celebrate an exciting District Conference and our achievements, and witness **Mystery Solved.**

I have **witnessed our membership continuing to grow!** Recently, I inducted three new members into the Rotary **Club of Sandy Springs**, marking our 190th new member in District 6900 this year. You are all doing a wonderful job increasing our membership. Thank you!



Georgia State Senator John Albers presenting certificate honoring DG Bob Hagan for his work in our community and Georgia. — with Chad Hagan, Brandon Beach, Brooke Hagan McGee, Jim Squire, Bob Hagan, Carol Abreu, Lynne Lindsay, Casey Cagle, Jim Coyle and State Senator John Albers

Exciting things continue to happen in our District to promote Service Above Self. And, this month has been memorable as I see the impact of our Senior Projects on our beloved seniors.

Remember to join me at our Family of Rotary Event on March 10th at 6:30 pm at Riverwood High School in Sandy Springs. Bring your family and friends to cheer on our own Roraring Rotarians as they demonstrate their skills against the Harlem Ambassadors. All proceeds from this event will go to our Polio Plus Program. Let's all support this event and help eradicate Polio.

Clue: You are all **A GIFT TO THE WORLD!**

Yours in Rotary Service,

DG Bob



Kicking off rotary has heart month at Alpharetta Rotary Club. President Kirk

with son Kolton who opened the meeting with a special prayer. He even said God bless our DG!! A future Rotarian for sure

Note from the Editor:

As DG Bob says, we have lots to celebrate with regard to our February projects in support of Seniors all over District 6900. Unfortunately, your editor collected these stories in a document on my home computer - outside the March newsletter folder—so they didn't follow me on my travel computer to California. As a result, we will publish a **special edition later this month** that just focuses on Rotary Has Heart!

Clubs that submitted articles will receive credit toward the Governor's citation.

My apologies! Jackie



Thoughts from Terry Rouse,
District Public Image Chair



Zone 34 Public Image Citation

The **March 31 deadline** for the Zone 34 Public Image Citation award is fast approaching. This award available to all clubs who send in their application and project write-ups/photos. Information has been sent to all PI Directors, Presidents, President Elects and AG's. You may also get the application directly from the Zone website. Go to www.rizones33-34.org and click on Zone info/Zone coordinators/Rotary Public Image Coordinators/ and finally Resources.

Remember this award is very easy to get and you have already completed enough projects to meet all the required criteria. Send your application in to Betsy Owen, pdgbetsyowen@gmail.com, before the March 31 deadline and be sure to copy DG Bob and me.

Program Thoughts on March's Rotary Theme: Water & Sanitation.

How well protected are we from water and sanitation hazards? Maybe your club could put on a Public Awareness program to get updated on the current outlook of PPCP's and human health. Invite someone from the EPA to talk on their research in this area or ask a Process Engineer from an Engineering Consulting firm to discuss the advanced waste treatment process in getting PPCP's out of the waste stream. Your local Municipal Water Quality Specialist can also be a good source for such a program.

We often think of Water and Sanitation health issues as being outside the US, but studies by the US Department of Interior and the US Geological and others have shown that the effect of PPCP's, pharmaceuticals, products used by individuals for personal health or cosmetic reasons, and Agribusiness products used to boost growth or health of livestock present potential human health hazards. The affect of these chemicals on humans is not yet known. While there is no scientific evidence that they have an impact on human health, the potential for harm is there. Improper disposal of unused or expired drug residues is one source of such potential. Incineration gets rid of some potential hazards, advanced waste water treatment facilities can be used to treat waste that is flushed down toilets (but not those flushed into septic tanks) or through storm water systems, but some municipalities cannot afford the cost of advanced waste treatment. Agribusiness chemicals can easily slip into our groundwater system. Flooding can cause waste treatment facilities to overflow and pollute our streams and rivers and dumping waste offshore eventually finds it way back to our shores.

At the present time the environmental impact of PPCP's is largely speculative, but when will it become factual? Just a thought about how your club can use the March Rotary Theme to promote our Public Image.



Harlem Ambassadors vs. Roaring Rotarians Shooting Out Polio

Thursday, March 10, 0216 at 6:30 pm
Riverwood High School, 5900 Raider Drive NW,
Sandy Springs, GA 30028

Cost: \$10 in advance; \$12 night of event

Some ticket were mailed to Club Presidents. You may also buy advance tickets at www.rotary6900.org/basketball or call 404-630-5298

All clubs are encouraged to buy tickets for this event. If you are unable to attend in person, please donate the tickets back to Yamin Farhat or Chris Brand so they can be used by underprivileged kids.

Yamin Farhat:
404-988-3537; yaminfarhat@yahoo.com
Chris Brand:
770-491-9014; chrisbrand@fodac.org



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!

EXTRA EXTRA!! READ ALL ABOUT IT: DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN HILTON HEAD IS THE PLACE TO BE: April 21-24

Rotary International President Elect John Germ is attending the 2016 Conference being held by Rotary District 6900. It is extremely rare for a Rotary International President Elect to attend a District's Conference. John and his wife Judy will be there to enjoy barbeque on Thursday night and spend the rest of the weekend with us as we share our clues and enjoy fellowship.



He will speak to us on Friday night along with a polio survivor. On Saturday night, a few District members will briefly share their experience with Alzheimers. Then a doctor who works with the CART program will update us on what is going on in our fight against this disease. And believe it or not he will discuss the disease in terms and words that we can all understand.

Are You Ready to Party???

Since this is a Rotary Newsletter, we expect the answer is a resounding "YES," especially if the party is in Hilton Head in April! We can promise that the District conference committee has made plans for the most fun EVER!

If you haven't already made your reservations, register **TODAY** for the conference and your hotel room. Come prepared to be celebrated and to celebrate with each other! We have

Register right now for District 6900's fun-filled conference at Hilton Head — April 21-24. Just visit www.rotary6900.org.

followed the **Clues** all year long...now it is time to **Solve the Mystery!** Enjoy the speakers, the hospitality suites and the celebration of another wonderful year by the clubs of District 6900. Oh, the beach too!

Celebrate Our Achievements; See the Evidence!

Of course, we know that there has been acknowledgement of good works all year long. DG Bob created the Possum Award to note remarkable accomplishments as the year progresses. Your club has had moments of recognition for projects, events and individuals as they enact the goals your club has set. Each Paul Harris Fellow, every CART Dollar, funds raised to eradicate Polio, Senior Projects and so much more provides a moment to celebrate in your club. Year-end Awards are will be announced in Hilton Head. The deadline for entering your club data is **March 15**, so I know your club leadership is very busy! Between March 16 and April 21, the Assistant Governors, Awards committee, and district Leadership completes the judging in preparation for the announcements made throughout the district conference festivities.

The theme this year for RI is **BE A GIFT** and DG Bob plans to let every club know what a gift you are to the District. Each of you has made this year very special to him. Also, the theme for our district is **MYSTERY SOLVED?** so plan to participate in the Parade of Clubs in your finest Sherlock Holmes or other related attire! We can't wait to see the scrapbooks that will be displayed in the Evidence room (aka House of Friendship). We all look forward to enjoying your Evidence Room displays!

Join Us at District Assembly: April 2

To ensure each Club has the proper tools to "DARE TO BE BETTER" in 2016-2017, we invite all Club Membership Chairs, Foundation Chairs, Public Image Chairs, Club Secretaries, Club Treasurers, Club Officers and Directors to register for the District 6900 Training Assembly at the Iron Works, located at 801 Front Avenue, Columbus, GA 31901 on April 2. We will have meaningful and focused training for all who attend from each club. Registration is open to all Rotarians within the district. We will have a light continental breakfast and buffet lunch. On-site registration begins at 8:00 am at the Iron Works. The registration fee is \$45 per person. We plan to end the Assembly about 2:00 pm. Club attendance is mandated by the 2016-17 Governor's Citation requirements.

Registration for the training event and for the hotel is on-line now on the district web-site at <https://www.rotary6900.org>. Go to the "Calendar" icon and then go to April 2. You can click on register and register for the Assembly and your hotel room, if you wish to stay overnight. You may register yourself and others from your Club under "bulk reserve," or register one at the time. If you can, please get the names of all people attending and have one person make and pay for the reservations for your Club. Usually the Club pays for the District Training assembly registration. The District Training Assembly on-line registration will end at the close of the business day of March 25.



CART: 3 Things to Know

As Rotarians, many of us support CART. Here are some key points to use in presentations or articles.



1. **CART Pins are available:**
50 cents each – email Woody Sadler lorwood@embarqmail.com
2. **Bexarotene:** CART funded Dr. Gary Landreth's bexarotene research at Case Western. While the Landreth findings have yet to be replicated, recent news is that bexarotene has shown potential in halting the first stages of Alzheimer's disease. Researchers are now looking at developing a treatment that can be taken as a preventative measure long before symptoms develop. Read the article here: <http://1drv.ms/1QfwVvm>
3. **Dementia Trends:** Incidence of Dementia over Three Decades in the Framingham Heart Study ... *From Dr. John Trojanowski:* "For some good news on declining incidence of all cause dementia from the Framingham study, see the attached with commentaries. Of course coupled with declining incidence in Europe and the US are the rising number of individuals >65 so the prevalence of dementia will continue to rise and not everyone has a high school education which was linked to the reduced incidence reported here so there is still more we can do with our CART efforts to advance therapies to treat or prevent AD." Read the commentaries here: <http://1drv.ms/1RoMEHy>

Celebrate World Rotaract Week: March 7-13

Rotaractors around the world will celebrate how they build stronger communities and develop the leadership skills necessary to change the world. Here's how you can join our World Rotaract Week global celebrations:

- ◆ **Take action.** Rotaract is Rotary in action! Plan a service project and post your success story on [Rotary Showcase](#).
- ◆ **Stand Up & Be Counted.** Rotaract club leaders, [report all your members](#) to make sure every Rotaractor is counted. Show the power of Rotaract.
- ◆ **Connect with Korea.** Register now to experience Rotary on a global scale at the [2016 Rotaract Preconvention, 28-29 June](#).
- ◆ **Join Leaders.** Use the [Worldwide Rotaract Directory](#) to meet new international service partners, plan a joint meeting, or find a twin club.
- ◆ **Celebrate Rotaract!** Sponsor Rotary clubs, show your support and present your Rotaract club with a [World Rotaract Week Certificate of Recognition](#)

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.

Jaclyn Donovan, Assistant Governor, Rotary Club of Moultrie



Why I Choose to Be a Rotarian

I joined Rotary in 2008, perhaps not truly aware of all the Rotary was doing in the world. What I found in Rotary was not only an opportunity to grow as a professional by interacting with others in my community, but also – and more importantly – an opportunity to serve those around me. I believe in Servant Leadership, and Rotary's "Service Above Self" motto puts that into action. The ability to give back in ways both big and small, at home and around the world, is the most rewarding benefit of being a Rotarian.

I have found that my passion in Rotary is in the realm of Youth Service and specifically in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program. I am honored to serve as the District Chair for RYLA, but even more honored to serve as a counselor for the program each year. Being able to work with the many promising young leaders in our district is an amazing experience. Most of the RYLA students are very apprehensive at the start of the event, but by the end of four very short days they are bonded as tight as a family and don't want to leave us. To see them grow personally and realize the capacity they have as leaders – to see the look on their faces when they arrive at that "Ah-ha" moment – is what truly touches me and makes every minute of work and planning so very worth it.

I choose to be a Rotarian for those moments – for every opportunity I get to have a positive impact on the world around me and the future that is yet to come.

RLI Corner

The next RLI session being held in our District is scheduled for May 21 at the Fulton County North Learning Center at 450 Northridge Parkway in Sandy Springs. We are offering Parts 1, 2, and 3 along with the Graduate Class on The Rotary Foundation. We will also have a training class for those who would like to be Discussion Leaders.

If you are interested in becoming a discussion leader, please email Cheryl Greenway at cgrotarydg1213@aol.com

Remember RLI helps us to retain our members and learn more about Rotary. It may be call Rotary Leadership Institute but it really is Rotary Learning Institute.

Hope to see you there. Go to rlitraining.org to register today.



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

By Ray McKemie, District Foundation Committee Chair

February was a good month. Annual giving increased to a better level with support from many of the clubs. March should also be a good month, as you all should have remitted any contributions that you want counted towards awards at the District Conference. The following information will give you a better look at Annual Giving for this year. With four months to go, this is the profile of where we stand in District 6900.

Per Capita Giving	No. of Clubs
Less than \$10	12 (10 at \$0)
\$10.00 - \$49	10
\$50.00 - \$99	14
\$100.00 - \$200	21
\$200.00 - \$299	5
\$301 +	7

While I am not going to list all the clubs this month, I will in the future as all of the clubs above \$100 per capita certainly deserve special recognition, and will be recognized at the Foundation meeting in August.

We are currently at approximately **\$513,899** in Annual Giving through late- February. This is an increase in giving since December but is about **\$15,000** below last year. With Thirty-six (36) clubs at **less than \$100** per capita and seven (10) of those clubs at \$0.00 per capita, I hope that these 46 clubs and many other clubs will be sending in funds during March and that our last quarter will be our strongest this year. Remember, that we need a total of at least **\$800,000** to continue to fund our global grants, district grants, scholarships, and disaster relief efforts at the current levels.

PDG Margie Kersey Named District Foundation Chair Staring 2016-17 Year



PDG and Stone Mountain President-Elect Margie Kersey was appointed to the position of District Rotary Foundation Committee (DRFC) Chair for the period July 1, 2016 through June 30, 2019.

Pictured at the announcement : DGE Raymond Ray (Griffin Daybreak); Margie Kersey; DGN Alec Smythe (Buckhead); DGN Nominee Court Dowis (Harris County).



For those clubs that have had global projects approved; remember, you must send in your monies to Annual Giving when the project is approved. The District will then send in the District Designated Funds to get The Rotary Foundation matching funds.

I would like to remind you of several issues that will arise in the near future:

- ◆ You must turn in final reports for any outstanding District Grants from DG Bob's year. If you have an outstanding final report, you won't be considered for any grants during 2016-17.
- ◆ If you want to apply for a District Grant in 2016-2017, you must have turned in you District MOUs at PETS.
- ◆ If your club intends to apply for a District Grant in 2016-17, you **must** attend the District Grants session at District Assembly to learn about the **new** online application process (see page 3).
- ◆ If your club anticipates applying for a Global Grant in 2016-2017, you **must** attend the Global Grants sessions at District Assembly and the Foundation Seminar. Attendees should include anyone you feel will be involved with the grant preparation and administration.
- ◆ Lastly, remember we will possibly have to prioritize Global grants in upcoming years. This will be done using several parameters one of which will be per capita giving to the Annual Fund (SHARE).

The Rotary Foundation's ability "to do good in the world" relies on you – indeed on Every Rotarian. Do your best to help make your club be an EREY club this year. It's easy, and it's important to the people in our communities and around the world that we support with our projects.

THANK YOU! for the great support in February. I look forward to seeing all of you at the District Conference in Hilton Head as we "Follow the Clues" to success.

Harris County Achieves 100% PHF Status

DG Bob Hagan presents Harris County Rotary Club's Foundation Chair Tom Cheatham the certificate and banner for becoming a 100% Paul Harris Fellow club.





Promoting Atlanta 2017

The Atlanta Host Organizing Committee (HOC) attended the 2016 Rotary International Assembly in San Diego in January to promote the 2017 Rotary International Convention. This was the first major opportunity for the HOC to promote the 2017 Atlanta convention to the 530+ District Governor Elects (DGE's) from around the world who will be serving as District Governors during the 2016-17 Rotary year.

The DGE's were all very enthusiastic and looking forward to coming to Atlanta in June 2017 to attend the convention and join in the Centennial Celebration of The Rotary Foundation.

To create a festive Southern atmosphere, the HOC team wore blue seersucker blazers, white shirts, yellow bow ties and straw hats. PDG Dick and Marsha Hyer (D6920) dressed as Rhett Butler and Scarlett O'Hara. Rhett and Scarlett were the stars of the show and were constantly in demand for selfies and photographs with the visiting Rotarians.

The HOC had a joint booth with the Atlanta Convention and Visitors Bureau (ACVB), which has been a tremendous partner with the HOC in promoting the 2017 Atlanta convention. The ACVB developed a custom brochure for the HOC which highlights the convenience and accessibility of the Georgia World Congress Center convention venue to downtown hotels and the many tourist attractions around Centennial Olympic Park. The HOC gave away "Join Me" buttons, luggage tags, and "Save the Date Cards" to each DGE in exchange for a card from the DGE that indicated how many Rotarians would attend the Atlanta convention. While only two-thirds of the cards were turned in, the totaled estimated attendance by the DGE's exceeded 27,000.

One of the highlights of the International Assembly was Friday's closing banquet where RI President John Germ gave a stirring and motivational speech to the DGE's. Everyone who attended the banquet received a commemorative Coke bottle for the 2017 Atlanta convention.

HOC team members included Hector & Carl Colon, Sonny & Judy Deriso, Linda Glass, Bob Hope, PDG Dick & Marsha Hyer, PDG Blake McBurney, PDG Bill Strickland, and PDG Bill & Les Woulfin. In addition to the HOC team, RI Director Robert Hall, PDG Fran Milberg, D6900 DGE Raymond Ray, D6910 DGE Kim Waters and D6920 Pamela Lightsey also attended International Assembly and actively promoted the 2017 convention.

Join D6900 at This Year's RI Convention in Seoul, Korea: May 28-June 1, 2016

There is still time to register for the RI convention in SEOUL at <http://www.riconvention.org/en/seoul/register>

What your convention registration fee includes:

- ◆ Inspiring and entertaining speakers, including top leaders in our organization
- ◆ Informative breakout sessions to help you build your communication, leadership, and project management skills
- ◆ Opportunities to network and exchange ideas while browsing the project and fellowship booths in the House of Friendship
- ◆ Entertainment provided by local artists and musicians in the House of Friendship and the general sessions
- ◆ *Preconvention events, Rotary and HOC-ticketed events, accommodations, and meals are **not** included in your registration fee.*



We have a fantastic hotel in the heart of SEOUL where District 6900 will gather - the Fraser Suites Namdaemun. You can check it out at <http://namdaemun-seoul.frasershospitality.com/en> Book your rooms quickly before they sell out. The rates are as low as \$152 USD per night which includes breakfast for one and free wifi; the hotel is on the RI Convention bus line. **You must go through the RI website to register for the hotel to get this special pricing.**

We hope you can all attend the **Southland Reception on Sunday, May 29**. Click on this link <http://rizoness21-27.org/international-conference-dinner-cruise/> and follow the prompts. This is a lovely dinner cruise through the heart of Seoul. Tickets are \$80 per person and are going fast, so please hurry and sign up!

Barry Oxford, of the Rotary Club of Carrollton Dawn Breakers, has helped arrange our **District Dinner for Monday, May 30th**. SEOUL is a very clean, organized, and exciting city with many fine restaurants to choose from. A few more details are still being worked out but this is one District Dinner you don't want to miss!



Atlanta HOC team members (L-R) Bill Strickland, Blake McBurney, Marsha Hyer, Dick Hyer, Carol Colon, Robert Hall, Judy Deriso, Bob Hope, Linda Glass, Hector Colon, and Sonny Deriso



Early Literacy Project in Puerto Rico

Rotarians from the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** and the **Rotary Club of Henry County** visited Rotary District 7000 in Puerto Rico, the site of a Global Grant for teaching basic literacy skills to preschoolers attending local Head Start programs. This project is an extension of a relationship between RD6900 and RD7000 that began in November of 2011 and has involved two Matching Grants and two Global Grants. Recipients have been in both Puerto Rico and Georgia, altogether reaching over 10,000 children.

Our visiting group of nine from D6900 spent four days with Rotarians from clubs throughout Puerto Rico - including Rio Piedras (Host Club), San Juan, Junco, Manatee, Mayaguez and Ciudad Del Turabo - attending Club meetings and visiting Head Start sites where the SOUNDS program was being implemented with materials provided by the grant. The grant was a result of the efforts and financial support of Rotarians in both districts, lead by RC Peachtree City and RC Henry County in RD6900, and RC Rio Piedras in RD7000.

We attended several English and Spanish speaking Rotary Club meetings, providing us the opportunity to exchange club banners and interact with many Rotarians. The Rotarians of District 7000 and their District Governor, Jesus A. Vivas, could not have given us a more welcoming and enthusiastic reception.

We visited nine classrooms in the three Head Start programs – San Juan, Caguas, and Mayaguez - talking with administrators, teachers, sponsoring Rotarians, and children. We were very impressed with the facilities, other teaching materials, and the professionalism of the staff. Imagine where these preschool children will be as emergent readers entering kindergarten when they are five years of age. The children in the image are building “peso” and have discovered who has the /o/.... playing to learn to read.

Friday and Saturday, the last two days of the trip, we were invited to attend an annual D7000 celebration of “Being a Rotarian.” This year’s theme was OCTOBERFEST.

To sum up the trip, it was a great experience for the nine D6900 Rotarians and spouses. It gave us a chance to see with our own eyes how the grant was successfully benefitting young children from difficult circumstances and to meet Rotarians from another country who have a real desire to build a better tomorrow for their children. Beyond that, our team got to know and enjoy each other while engaging in the hands-on work of Rotary!



Rotarians going to work (in a school bus)! Pictured are President Russ Heil, PP Ed Outlaw, and Amy Matussek of RC Peachtree City, PP Laura Crumbley and husband David, PP George Siggins and wife Mary Jane of RC Henry County, and Antonio Santos of RC Rio Piedras. Taking the pictures: Peachtree City Rotarian Brenda Erickson and husband Norman Hough.



Laura Crumbley and Brenda Erickson working with a group of Head Start students using the materials provided by the Grant. It was amazing to see that these preschoolers knew enough about letter-sound associations to build words by listening to the sounds in them. Children are happily building “sopa” in the photo. In each of the programs we visited, this readiness was demonstrated. Great work teachers!





By Lynn Clarke, District 6900 GRSP Chair

Reminder: Register Your GRSP Student for District Conference

This is the last official gathering of the GRSP Class of 2015-16 ... we know the students will enjoy this time together at the beach, and we'll love having them. You need to register your student to ensure housing – you can register them easily on the District website and the cost again will remain the same. Don't forget that GRSP student registration also includes hotel room, and that your clubs will have to transport their student to the Conference.



Schedule Your Student's Year-End Presentations

Be sure you set aside time at your club to have your student share his or her experiences this year as a GRSP student. You will want to be sure that your student has enough time to share, so try not to schedule another speaker on the same day as your student. Some schools will be out as early as the first of May and it will be easy to forget with all the other Rotary activities at the end of the year. Your student deserves to be heard and you deserve to hear their thoughts about their time in the US.

Endowment Updates

Currently, 15 clubs in District 6900 are scheduled to get money back from the GRSP Endowment Fund in August. As a matter of fact, we were able to give checks to 17 clubs last year, so we are right on track to give out at least as many checks as last year. Already, we have several more clubs who are just a few dollars short of the \$50 per capita and there is no doubt that they will attain that magic mark before the June 30 deadline. Your presidents have received a reminder from the GRSP office to have any contributions that you want counted prior to District Conference sent in prior to March 15. This allows them to have enough time to get these contributions properly posted and to send a report to the District Awards Committee in time. We are on track for a record year with many clubs and clubs that have traditionally not contributed are contributing this year. This just goes to show the real heart of Rotarians.

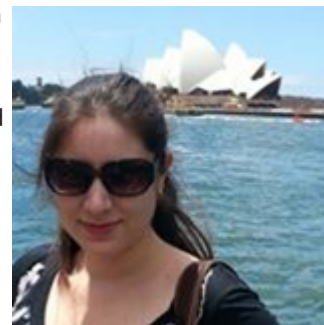
Former Students Working to Make a Difference

When **Marcela Restrepo**, Colombian student from the Class of 2003-4 visited recently, there was a great reunion with the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody** and host mom Jackie Cuthbert, but what's really worth noting is what Marcela has done with her life since her GRSP year. She was in Atlanta to represent Amigos de Americas, a US non-profit that coordinates service-based experiences for US high school and college students in Latin America. She visited several Atlanta area high schools to explain the summer program opportunities. Marcela first worked for Amigos as a volunteer, helping to create and lead their first service trip to Colombia just before she returned to the US for graduate school. While in town, she also talked to Dunwoody Rotarians about how Rotarians and GRSP had provided her with the inspiration to focus on how she could make a difference in the world.

Dorte Krogsgaard, Marietta Rotary Club's GRSP student in 1981-82, has sent an excellent video for the GRSP archives. Dorte is a news anchor for P1 Morgen, a three-hour live daily morning current affairs program covering national politics, foreign affairs, economy, culture, and debate through live interviews, which is something like of PBS over here.

Carolina Mesa, who was sponsored by the **Bremen, Dallas and Carrollton DawnBreaker Clubs**, was a student in 2009-2010 at the

University of West Georgia. When she arrived at the Atlanta Airport and was driven down Camp Creek Parkway, she immediately noticed the Old Navy store and had to do her first shopping – not 30 minutes off the airplane. This would prove to be an indicator of the year to be. When her host family came to move her out of her dorm, she was surprised by the amount of luggage for just two students, but was doubly surprised to find that it was only for Carolina. Her GRSP roommate, Jannie, had moved out two days before and was just helping! Much time has passed and Carolina finished her schooling in Medellin, Colombia and began her career with the diplomatic corps. Her host family was thrilled to hear that she has just moved to Australia for a year and will be keeping up relations between Australia and Colombia. What a tribute to GRSP!!!!





The **LaGrange Rotary Club** held its Annual Meeting in December, featuring DG Bob Hagan as the guest speaker. This was DG Bob's 68th club visit of the Rotary year. Pictured: DG Bob and LaGrange Club President George Henry with their red rimmed glasses and Possum Bob.

Partnering Across The Continents: TRF Matching Grant Project for Bangladesh

The **North Columbus Rotary Club** partnered with District 6900, the Rotary Clubs of Padama, Uttara, and Polton of District 3280, Bangladesh, and The Rotary Foundation for a Global Grant Project to help reduce women's cancer in Bangladesh. Cervical cancer kills an estimated 275,000 women every year and 500,000 new cases are reported worldwide. Bangladesh ranks 4th in the world in the cervical cancer death count and together with breast cancer, constitutes 38% of all female cancer cases. Through our partnerships with the Rajshahi Cancer Hospital and Research Center (RCHRC) in Bangladesh, the project goals are to:

- ◆ Reduce the incidence of cervical cancer through HPV vaccinations to women living in ten villages around Rajshahi city;
- ◆ Reduce breast and cervical cancer mortality by raising awareness about symptoms; and
- ◆ Train female village paramedics.



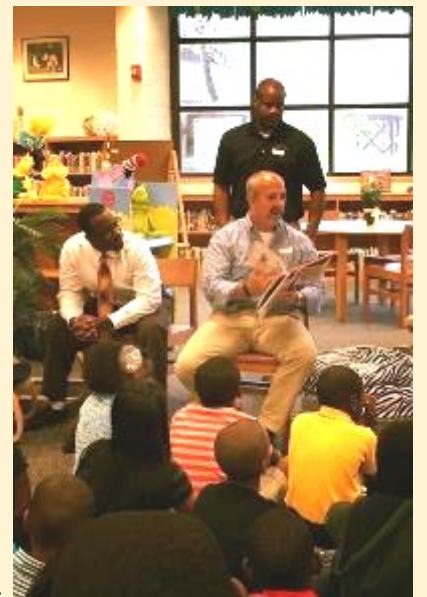
Marietta Metro Rotary President Charles Lassiter and Cobb Commission Chairman Tim Lee, who clearly enjoyed the rousing welcome as he "stepped up to the plate" to deliver his State of Cobb County address. Members gave a tomahawk-chopping, war-chanting welcome, donning Atlanta Braves caps and waving pennants as Chairman Lee came to the podium. He credited SunTrust Park for a number of the many great things happening in Cobb County.



Supporting Literacy

In February, members of the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** (left) distributed over 1,000 dictionaries to third graders in 11 DeKalb elementary schools. Pictured here is Stone Mountain member Irvine Weeks (left) with Rayner Bettendorf, instructional support specialist at Indian Creek Elementary.

The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** (right) appreciates the emphasis of Rotary on literacy. In an effort to assist in improving the literacy level of one of the Title One schools in our county, the Club partnered with Burnett Elementary in their Literacy Day. purchasing a book for every kid to read. Writing a check is one way to feel good about supporting literacy. What we discovered was that reading to kids make you feel even better, and it increases the impact of the project on a child's life.



Run for Kids Benefits Many

The **Vinings Rotary Club** presented checks totaling over \$85,000 to many charity and community organizations throughout the Cobb County and surrounding areas. This money was raised during the clubs 5K race that was held last August in Vinings where over 1200 runners participated. The race began at major sponsor Printpack's Vinings Mt Wilkinson's headquarters, and finished at the Lovett School. In the photograph Vinings Rotary President David Pope presents a check for \$2700 to Rev. Julie Schendel, the pastor of Vinings United Methodist Church.





Alpharetta Team Serves in Nicaragua

This February, a group of **Alpharetta Rotarians** participated in an international service trip coordinated through HOI, Inc. and Comunidad Connect. The team consisted of club president Kirk Driskell and his wife Deena, John and Karen Hipes, Bennie Shaw, Bill Weeks and Tori Alterman.

The Rotary team traveled to the mountains of northern Nicaragua and stayed on a coffee plantation overlooking the east shore of Lake Apanás called Finca El Peten. They worked in the nearby Los Robles community and provided concrete floors for houses with dirt floors thereby improving the health of



those families; built an indoor stove that vents smoke outside the house to improve the health of that family; cleared land to help establish a new cemetery for the community; promoted health and sanitation for 60 children in the community; and provided the local clinic with medical supplies and hygiene kits that were donated by Alpharetta Rotary club members. At the conclusion of the trip, the team spent a day in the colonial city of Granada, Nicaragua and toured the city, took a boat ride on Lake Nicaragua, and visited the Mombacho volcano.

The Alpharetta Rotary team traveled to Nicaragua to work with and learn from the people of Los Robles, to help improve the health and quality of their lives, and to further Rotary's mission of "Service above Self." Team leader John Hipes said, "Nicaragua is the land of lakes and volcanoes. It is a beautiful country inhabited by beautiful people. While the people who live in the remote mountainous area of Nicaragua are poor and have many needs, they are rich in spirit, industrious, and very welcoming. It was a privilege to work with them in their community, learn about their lives, and as a result, learn more about ourselves."

President Kirk Driskell stated, "I've served a lot in Central and South America and this is the first time I served with the community rather than serving the community. The community of Los Robles and their willingness to help those in need is

Rotarians Provide School Supplies in Cancun

Three elementary schools in Mexico received much-needed supplies in Feb 2016 through a coalition of four Rotary clubs. The fun and friendly Rotary clubs of Cancun and Cancun Hotel Zone, both in Quintana Roo, Mexico (District 4200) collaborated with the **Rotary Clubs of South Cobb and Marietta**. South Cobb Rotary was represented by its past president Wayne Blackstone, and Marietta Rotary was represented by Marla Blackstone.

This year's collaborative effort included pooling resources, contacts and "boots on the ground" to purchase wholesale school and dental hygiene supplies and then enjoyed a fun-filled day of service and fellowship transporting and delivering the supplies.

Deliveries and support visits were made to: 1) The Little Yellow Schoolhouse, servicing underprivileged, abused, and special needs children of Isla Mujeres, 2) the beautiful children of Tres Reyes outside Cancun, whose needs cannot be overestimated, and 3) the downtown Cancun school servicing children with cerebral palsy and other handicaps.

This international Rotary service project is in its sixth year, and the service, fun and fellowship continue to grow.



Fayette Daybreak Celebrates 22 Years of Service

This year marks the 22nd anniversary of **Fayette Daybreak Rotary Club**. Originally chartered as the Tyrone Rotary Club in 1994, the club changed its name to Fayette Daybreak in 2001. At a celebration meeting in January of this year, members were honored to have PDG Claudia Mertl and her husband Tom as guests. As always, PDG Mertl shared an inspiring talk and reminded everyone why Rotary is so important in their lives. Plus, there was cake!

Serving Tyrone, Peachtree City, and all of Fayette County - Fayette Daybreak Rotary takes pride in being a club where members and visitors alike can “feel like family”. As a morning club, they offer an inspiring and fun way to start the day.

In the spirit of Service Above Self, Fayette Daybreak members support the Tyrone Library and its literacy and GED programs, make donations to local, national, and international organizations, and engage in community service projects across Fayette County. The signature event - Paws for a Purpose Charity Dog Walk and 5K-9 Run - raises funds for animal welfare organizations each year.

“Just as our members are committed to our community, we are committed to each other as Rotarians,” says Lee Dodds, current club president. “We enjoy the projects we do together and the fellowship we have with each other. These people aren’t just my club members - they’re my friends - and that’s what makes Fayette Daybreak so special to me.”



Lake Spivey Clayton County Rotarians Celebrate

The newly merged **Lake Spivey Clayton County Rotary Club** had a unique meeting with a triple celebration of the continuity of Rotary:

- ◆ **The First Celebration** – the celebration of the 18th birthday of the chartering of the Lake Spivey Rotary Club (right). DG Bob Hagan and PDG’s Claudia Mertl and Margie Kersey were on hand for a wonderful party with cupcakes and an invigorating presentation on the state of the district by DG Bob.
- ◆ **The Second Celebration** – the induction of a new member, Geoff Hamilton, the 187th induction of the year for District 6900. Geoff is the son of Lake Spivey Charter member Joe Hamilton.
- ◆ **The Third Celebration** – the celebration of the life of **Arthur Morrison**, who passed away on Feb.13. Arthur was the last living Charter member of the Rotary Club of Clayton County, which was chartered as the Rotary Club of Forest Park. He was born in Savannah in 1929, graduated from UGA, served in the Navy and then graduated from Emory University Law School. Arthur was looking for a service organization to join and his father-in-law (a past President of the Rotary club of Athens, GA) suggested



Rotary. In 1960 there was no Rotary Club in Forest Park even though it was the fastest growing city in the nation at the time. So Arthur learned about Rotary and became enthused. He recruited the requisite 20 members from the business community of Forest Park and arranged for the Rotary Club of East Pint Georgia to sponsor the new club. The charter was granted in 1960. Arthur served in many club capacities over the years (including President). He was always a gentleman and a gentle man. He remained a stalwart of the club until he was incapacitated about nine months ago. Arthur will be missed.

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Griffin Rotarians Claim Top Honors



When the Griffin-Spalding Chamber of Commerce held its Annual Dinner in January, Rotarian Steve Crouch was named as the 2016 General Griffin and joins a number of **Griffin Rotarians** who have been so honored in past years. Other recognitions received were Brett Bell as Member of the Year, Joy Gaddy and the Griffin Daily News as Small Business of the Year, and Ben Johnson and Liberty Technology as Good Corporate Citizen of the Year.