

From Our District Governor

Thanks for Your Commitment and Your Energy



DG Jim and his grandsons at District Conference last April in SanDestin

To say that this year in Rotary has been unique would be an understatement, and I cannot believe we are in the last month of the Rotary year. As we wind down the year, Donna and I sincerely want you to know how profoundly grateful we are for the opportunity to serve as your District Governor and First Lady.

When we started the year last July, who would have expected that the Rotary theme for the year, Rotary Connects the World, would mean be connecting the world and our District through Zoom meetings from mid-March through mid-June. It's certainly been a challenging time recently. We have lost some good people and watched and prayed for other struggling with COVID-19, and many of us have faced new financial challenges or the difficulties of confinement. But not even the pandemic has dampened our determination to make this world and our communities a better place.

I am glad that Donna and I were able to spend time with all of you in our club visits during the first part of the year - to see firsthand your enthusiasm and commitment to your communities. Thanks to all of you for the work you do - from reading to students in Marietta, Vinings and Cuthbert ... to cooking for MUST Ministries in Cobb County ... to hosting a human trafficking awareness event in Dunwoody and providing supplies for an emergency children's shelter in Lake Spivey/Clayton County's backyard ... to refurbishing a school in Moultrie, providing back packs in Douglas County, buying computers for the Boys and Girls Club in Americus, supporting scouting in Bainbridge or teaching financial literacy courses in Atlanta West End. A shout out to all of you who sponsor Interact and Rotaract Clubs! And a big thanks for so many more club projects and individual efforts that I can't begin to cover here.

As a District, we all came together under Roswell's leadership to send supplies to victims of Hurricane Dorian, to continue the fight to eradicate polio, and to further peace in the world through programs like Rotary Youth Exchange, our own Georgia Rotary Student Program and our sponsorship of Global Grant Scholar and Army Captain Sean Minton in his Master's program and King's College in London (our second scholar, Kaitlin, hopes to start her students in New Zealand soon). We learned from each other - through the Rotary Leadership Institute, our business networking groups and the Annual Health Symposium sponsored by Emory-Clifton.

And your spirit of Service Above Self still comes through loud and clear in this season of "shelter at home." You are watching out for each other, making sure that children are fed, that our first responders are properly equipped and feeling appreciated, and that we're continuing our work to end human trafficking - all the while supporting our local businesses and schools and recognizing our high school seniors.

I'm proud of the service projects we've done around the world through our Global Grants - tapping into the power of The Rotary Foundation - and equally proud that The Rotary Foundation (thanks to your strong support over the years) is as I write, helping us feed the people of Southwest Georgia and distribute hand sanitizer and other healthcare supplies in those communities that have been hard hit by COVID 19. Thanks to DGN Mary Ligon, PDG Steve Stanfield and our District Rotary Foundation team led by PDG Cheryl Greenway, for helping make all this happen.

The honor of being District Governor is all tied into connecting with the People of Action that make up District 6900. Thank you for sharing your energy and your commitment for making a difference with Donna and me. We hope that we will be able to thank many of you in person at the District Celebration on June 20 in at the Bibb Mill Center in Columbus,

May our simple District theme this year of Connect with Rotary continue to resonate into the future.

PHOTOS:



DG Jim and First Lady Donna at District 6900 Night at the Braves Game



DG Jim with Dougherty County (Albany) President Jennifer Dozier, charter member Joe Watkins and DGN Mary Ligon



DG Jim and Pelham Rotarians Larry Frosteg, Ray MacKemie,, Club President Cody Shiver, and AG Terry Terry Rouse

Posted by Jim Squire
June 1, 2020

District 6900 Celebration - June 20, 2020

Celebrate a Unique Year in Rotary



2020 District Celebration

June 20th, 2020

Bibb Mill Event Center

Columbus, Georgia

Schedule of Events

8:30 am	Registration opens for Presidents and District Leadership – Foyer
9:00 am – 10:15 am	RI Convention Opening Session Live Streamed – RiverCrest
10:15 am – 11:30 am	Presidents and District Leadership Meeting – Highlands
11:00 am – 12:30 pm	Registration for Rotarians and Guests – Foyer
11:30 am – 12:30 pm	Happy Hour – Foyer and Bibb Room
12:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Jimmy's Fish Camp Seafood Luncheon and Awards – RiverCrest Invocation Pledge 4 Way Test Patriotic Music Lunch District Awards RI Awards Closing Remarks Adjourn

The Rotary year is rapidly coming to an end and District Governor Jim has planned a District Celebration as a culmination of the efforts and accomplishments for the past Rotary year. The purpose of the celebration is to recognize the Rotary clubs of District 6900 and their leadership for all the Humanitarian projects that they have undertaken. It is a celebration of Rotary; it is a celebration of the good things we do to help the less fortunate people in the world.

I know that there is a lot of concern in getting together because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but I assure you, that everything is being done for this event with the safety of all of our Rotarians taken into consideration. We are operating within the constraints of the latest rules set down by Governor Kemp. We are adhering to these guidelines as the minimum. There has been some confusion as to what the latest order says, however, I am providing you with the two key major points that raised the most questions among Rotarians:

1. What is the age of the elderly and immunity compromised in the Sheltering In Place Order? THE SHELTERING IN PLACE ORDER IS FOR 65 AND OLDER AND THE MEDICALLY FRAGILE. IT EXPIRES ON JUNE 12, 2020. IF THE GOVERNOR EXTENDS IT PAST THE JUNE 12th DATE, WE WILL CANCEL THE CELEBRATION. The overall Public Health State of Emergency Order was extended until July 12, not the Sheltering in Place part of the order, and this has been somewhat confusing. Again the 65 and older and medically fragile order does expire on June 12th.
2. What is the maximum size allowable in a person to person event group? THERE IS NO LIMITATION ON THE GROUP SIZE AS LONG AS THE GOVERNMENT SPECIFIED RULES ARE FOLLOWED. Tables that usually seat 10 will have a maximum of six. All service personnel will go through strict screening and the entire facility will be sanitized. You will note also that all food will be provided by employees in a cafeteria type environment where only you can touch your food plate and service personnel will place the food on your plates. There is a list of the rules attached, and I assure you they are all being followed.

From the agenda at the left, you can see that the event is relatively short, and that the cost is minimal (\$20.20). I am hoping you will join us in Columbus at the Bibb Mill for our District Celebration and that you will encourage other Rotarians to attend. The awards in the lunch meeting will not only be for the best Clubs of the Year but also for the Best Clubs of the Decade!

We can't stay locked down forever and I can't think of a better way to end this lock down then celebrating with your fellow Rotarians. Rotary Connects the World is our theme this year, and I can't wait to personally reconnect with my District friends on June 20.

Posted by Bill Woulfin
June 1, 2020

From Our District Chaplain

One Lone, Solitary Flag



The picture says it all; one lone, solitary flag. Usually 18,000 flags are placed prior to commemorating Memorial Day honoring the men and women laid to rest in the Marietta National Cemetery who have given their lives serving our Nation's Armed Forces. But, not this year.

Not this year.

No. Not this year. So much has changed and perhaps rightly so. As my wife and I ventured up the hillside to the Memorial Dais on Memorial Day in the cemetery, there were only a few folks reverently, respectfully pacing the rows of the fallen. I recognized a mother of a soldier, a fine son, whose funeral service I had officiated a few years ago at the Georgia National Military Cemetery in Canton.

“Pastor Mark”, yes. “What is the time limit on depression?” “What is the timeframe for sorrow?” Her questions were not really answerable. But I did my best to be her friend. To listen. Even with the pandemic circumstance, my wife hugged her after we talked and we all prayed together. As we parted and strolled on, “you hugged her,” I said almost accusingly. “Pandemic or no pandemic, “we have to do what we have to do...”. Hmmm...well said.

But the question of this mother of the Army Officer Son who died serving our country prompted me to consider: what is the time limit for crisis? What is the timeframe related to anxiety? Apprehension? Avoidance? And how does faith, hope, and trust enter into this “odd, peculiar, puzzling, and unprecedented difficult and sad time”? (quoted from last month’s ‘Chaplain’s Corner’ prayer).

As we all *eventually* venture “back out” into our routines and return to our customary schedules and typical, frequented places, I hope and pray we will go affirming, celebrating, and reinforcing our Rotary “distinctiveness.” Space limitations here will not allow me to pontificate all the EXCEPTIONAL Rotary qualities and virtues that make us who we are, and why we are, who we are. But I wholeheartedly believe that we need to consider the time limit, the timeframe, the necessary, decisive time for stepping out and away from fear, anxiety, apprehension, and avoidance. I’ve had the COVID-19 virus, my wife has had the virus as well. I have lost friends to the virus. But, can I live in isolation, anxiety, apprehension, and avoidance forever? Ponderances to consider for sure. Faith over fear? Hope over heartbreak? Trust over trepidation.

What will be beneficial to all?

One lone, solitary Rotarian can, should, and will always make a difference. Our distinctive commitment to the Truth, Fairness, Goodwill, Friendship, Beneficiary conduct, and Service Above Self will prevail.

So, again, God, please guard us, guide us, protect us... provide for us as only you can as we try to press on. Increase our faith, hope, and trust in you. This is our prayer. AMEN and AMEN.

Posted by Mark Barbour

May 28, 2020

Remembering a Past RI President



Past Rotary International President Frank Devlyn passed away last week after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. Frank was the founder of Ópticas Devlyn and an internationally recognized humanitarian who worked endlessly to help the underprivileged, provide free glasses to those in need and to sponsor vaccination drives throughout the world. He was RI President in 2001-2002 and later served as a trustee of The Rotary Foundation.

During my year as District Governor, Frank joined us in Jekyll Island for District Conference as our RI President's rep. There were over 1500 in attendance and Frank made a point to shake hands with everyone and signed 500 copies of his book about Rotary and relationships, "Frank Talk."

Frank is survived by his wife, Gloria Rita Gómez de Devlyn, and three daughters, Melanie, Stephanie and Jennifer.

The Rotary Foundation at Work in Our Communities



The Rotary Foundation

Serving Our Local Front Line Super Heroes ... and Making a Huge Difference

District 6900 has a long history of serving the world through our Global Grants. Our financial contributions support other parts of our country, the Caribbean and the world when disaster strikes. This time around Southwest Georgia hard hit by COVID-19. And District 6900 received a \$25,000 COVID-19 Disaster Relief Grant from The Rotary Foundation. Money from the Foundation's recently created Disaster Relief Fund made it possible for this grant to (in the words of **Americus** Rotarian Reda Rowell) "provide

us an amazing opportunity to bring relief to strained, or impossible, budgets. The supplies not only represent care and concern, they most likely saved lives in this region that has been hit so hard by the often deadly coronavirus."

District Governor Nominee Mary Ligon led the collaborative effort to get this grant and has coordinated with local businesses and our Rotary clubs - including **Albany, Americus, Bainbridge, Cordele, Cuthbert, Moultrie, Pelham and Thomasville** - to distribute hand sanitizer and face shields that would make a huge difference. "We appreciate the leadership of Mary Ligon in spearheading the grant application process and the efforts of local Rotary clubs across the region to help those in need."

The products these Rotary Clubs are distributing have been made or sold by local businesses:

- The hand sanitizer comes from Pretoria Fields Collective, a brewery in Albany, Georgia that was quick to pivot its business to fill this critical needs. Pretoria's CEO is a new member of the **Dougherty County Rotary Club**.
- In Americus, the 220 face shields distributed were manufactured by TSG Resolute in Americus and the 25 N95 face shields were purchased at Shiver Lumber in Americus.

Mary Ligon has been able to work with each of the participating Rotary Clubs to identify the specific needs in their communities:

- **Moultrie** Rotarians delivered hand sanitizer to the Moultrie Police and Fire Departments, Colquitt County Sheriff's Office, the Colquitt County Volunteer Firefighters' Association, and the police departments of Norman Park, Berlin and Doerun
- The **Rotary Club of Cuthbert** delivered hand sanitizer to city and county police, sheriff and fire departments in Randolph and Terrell Counties, and to the city halls in Cuthbert and Shellman, the Randolph County Chamber of Commerce, and Georgia State Patrol Post #39.
- **Albany** provided hand sanitizer to The ARC of Southwest Georgia (an advocate for individuals with disabilities) and is waiting to hear from the Phoebe Health system about what items would be most beneficial for their facilities in Southwest Georgia.
- **Americus** distributed supplies to 14 Sumter County agencies and organizations including police, sheriff and fire departments as well as nursing homes, medical facilities, a church and the homeless shelter.
- **Bainbridge, Cordele and Pelham** are also distributing hand sanitizer to first responders in their communities, and **Thomasville** is assessing community needs.

The individuals and clubs involved in this special disaster relief effort are unanimous in their appreciation for this grant. Moultrie President Elect Jaclyn Donovan said, "Our community has been appreciative of any and every little bit of support it can get. I think it means a lot for these First responder/law enforcement agencies to know that someone else is trying to look after them too." Cuthbert President Wynita Cannon said, "It is an honor and privilege to belong to an amazing group of humanitarians that pull together in a time of need."

And Americus Rotarian Reda Rowell summed it all up by saying, "The ability to serve our community, especially these front line heroes, is a source of great pride for our entire club and has given us the opportunity to spread the love and care of Rotary in a special way. Every recipient is so very deserving of this support and each one has been extremely appreciative. Their work during this time has been intense and emotional, and just knowing that others recognize their efforts and care for them has been almost overwhelming at times. One agency said that vendors are not returning their calls and without community support, they don't know what they would have done. Our club has worked diligently to stay aware of our

community needs during this time and to respond where possible."

District 6900's Disaster Relief Grant brings The Rotary Foundation's goals and ideals into our own back yards and displays a "homegrown" sample of our Rotarians and Foundation at work. This is one big reason so many of our Clubs are strong supporters of The Rotary Foundation.

Posted by Anne Glenn
June 1, 2020

The Rotary Foundation at Work in Our Communities #2



Posted by Anne Glenn
June 1, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Stone Mountain Creates Signs to Thank Community Essential Workers

Sign Sales Also Benefit Stone Mountain Food Coop



The **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** is showing appreciation for community medical and other essential workers in the month of May. The club created yard signs recognizing these essential workers for their commitment and sacrifice during the COVID-19 pandemic. The signs were sold in May for \$30 apiece, with a percentage of the proceeds benefiting the [Stone Mountain Cooperative Ecumenical Ministry](#), which provides food, clothing, and personal care items to those in need.

The club has been holding virtual weekly meetings since March, adhering to local and state recommendations to stem the spread of the virus. With the members observing shelter-in-place and social distancing recommendations, the club was unable to undertake its regular community projects which benefit a lot of local organizations like the Stone Mountain Coop. The sign project was one the club could do under the COVID-19 restrictions, since most of the sales were done through phone and email work; then members placed the signs at locations indicated by the buyers.

“Fred Rogers called upon us to look for the helpers during dark times,” said Lizbeth Dison, president of The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain. “During this pandemic, there are helpers everywhere - in our hospitals, picking up our garbage, stocking our shelves, delivering our packages, and so much more. They’re keeping us safe and healthy - and we wanted a way to thank them publicly.”

Posted by Lizbeth Dison
May 28, 2020

Alpharetta Virtual Donation Derby Party Supports Community in Big Way



Saturday, May 2, the **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** had its first virtual Donation Derby and Party. The idea was to have 20 Alpharetta Rotarian Jockeys race in a virtual Kentucky Derby. Each jockey represented one of 20 different local organizations to raise money. The jockeys used their networks, and the club relied heavily upon social media to get the word out. We used Classy.org as the vehicle to collect the donations and Zoom and Facebook Live to do the virtual race party. Our goal was to raise \$75,000.

On the day of the event, incoming District Governor, Kirk Driskell was the Grand Marshall. We had over 100 people attend on Zoom; custom mint julep cups were distributed, we sang the National Anthem and Old Kentucky Home, we had a virtual fashion show, a bourbon bar battle, and, of course, we replayed footage of a previous Kentucky Derby.

When everything was said and done, we had raised \$110,000. Major thanks go to Rotarian Mary Ulich for conception and execution of the idea. We are incredibly proud of the citizens of Alpharetta and our Club. In one month, in the middle of a pandemic, the club raised over \$100k. I am beginning to believe the Rotary Club of Alpharetta can do anything.

The list of organizations that participated included: Alpharetta Business Association, Alpharetta Chamber of Commerce, Alpharetta Public Safety Foundation, Alpharetta Rotary, BrewAble, Child Development Association, Community COVID Relief, Drake House, End Polio Now, Family Haven, Homestretch, Lionheart, Meals by Grace, North Fulton Community Charities, North Fulton Senior Services, Out of Darkness, St. Vincent De Paul, Stand Up for Kids, Vision Warriors, YMCA

PHOTOS:



Posted by Clark Savage
May 28, 2020

District 6900 Cookbook

Last Call for Recipes - June 5!

District Governor Jim Squire has some of us busy working on the Rotary 6900 Cookbook. His intent is to have it printed in cookbook form and made available to each of us.

Many clubs have already sent some pretty interesting recipes. We have Old Fashion & Mint Julep beverages along with recipes for Shrimp and Grits, Buttermilk Pound Cake, Samosa, Fried Chicken, Amaretto Shrimp to name a few!

Final call for recipes will be this Friday, June 5, so that we can get them organized and sent to the printer. If you have not sent your recipe, please take the time to do so now. There is no limit to the type of recipe we would like to include. Anything that has been served at your club meeting, fundraising events or potluck gatherings! Don't miss out on this opportunity to share the "personality" of your club.

All submissions should be sent to MaryTrapp@kw.com

Posted by Mary Trapp
June 1, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

North Cobb Supports YMCA Program for Children of First Responders



Joe Stockman (President Elect) and Shelley Elder (Service Chair) take break from volunteering to distribute food for Forever Fed in Kennesaw, GA to present a check for over \$1600 to Betsy Matthews (Development Director at YMCA Of Metro Atlanta)

The YMCA is so much more than a gym. Now in the face of the uncertainty caused by the coronavirus, the Y has quickly adapted programs to meet the most pressing needs of Atlanta's children, seniors, and families. The needs the Y is serving today are **compelling and urgent**. The YMCA has activated a **childcare program** that serves children ages six weeks to 12 **to support essential workers:** hospital staff, first responders, and frontline workers (law enforcement, firefighters, grocery store workers, etc.) who must continue working. The Childcare Program for children of essential workers is morphing into Summer Camp for the children of essential workers. It is serving the same function of providing childcare so essential workers can go to work but it is in a fun, camp, environment.

The YMCA needs equipment for the safety of our children in the First Responder Camp programs. This is one of the three community focused programs introduced immediately to respond to the needs of the most critical needs our community faces due to the Covid crisis.

- Temporal Thermometers - are needed for wellness checks as the children enter into camp, and for the staff team who take care of the campers, in an effort to keep both safe.
- Restroom Trailer - because of COVID this is needed to keep the children in camp separate from the members who now have access to the Y facilities. So far during the pandemic, the campers have had access to the building with no other guests present. Going forward to keep them safely and socially distanced, this will be imperative.

North Cobb Rotary has been a long-time supporter of the Northwest Cobb Family YMCA. It is our club's honor to sponsor a generous District 6900 Disaster Relief Grant of over \$1600 in support of the YMCA's camp program.

Editor's Note: This district grant also comes from the dollars we receive back from The Rotary Foundation ... once again working for us here at home!

Posted by Joseph Stockman
June 1, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Henry County Provides Lunches for Healthcare Workers at Piedmont Henry



Pam Milling, Auxiliary Services Liaison for Piedmont Henry, Torrie Sunstrom and Wells Wheeler with the Rotary Club of Henry County

On April 24, The **Rotary Club of Henry County** teamed up with a local McDonough restaurant - P.J.'s Café located on the McDonough Square - to provide 100 hot lunches to the healthcare workers at Piedmont Henry Hospital.

As Rotarians, we proudly call ourselves "people of action." We serve our community year-round, and especially during times of crisis. We wanted to help motivate them and let them know they're not forgotten and much they are appreciated for what they are doing.

Posted by Torrie Sunstrom
May 28, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Operation Chick-Mar



It's a great day to be a ROTARIAN, especially from The Rotary Club of Marietta!", exclaimed President, Christopher Bethel. On this day, Tuesday May 12, and the day before, under the code name "Operation Chick-Mar," the **Rotary Club of Marietta** served Chick-fil-A lunches to the two Section 8 Senior Housing facilities (Walton Renaissance on Henderson and The Tower at Dorsey Manor) in the City of Marietta. The project was joint effort of Chick-fil-A, the Rotary Club and the Marietta Housing Authority.

- All the lunches were generously donated by **Sandeep Kapoor**, the Owner/Operator of the Macland Road Chick-fil-A) and a member of The Rotary Club of Marietta
- Lunches were served by Club volunteers
- **Mark Wright**, Chief Operating Officer for the City of Marietta Housing Authority) also a member of the Rotary Club of Marietta, coordinated with these two outstanding facilities. Mark stated that the residents were very excited because their "Senior" Prom in April had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. "It is nice to be able to spread some Rotary love and Chick-fil-A with them!", said President-Elect Mary Ansley Southerland.

"It was a lot of fun meeting and connecting with some of the residents", said attorney Joe Atkins. Residents who came out and agreed to take pictures include Mrs. Brown (the first brave Resident to get her picture taken) and Ms. Mason (who had the best sign on her door)! ["BEWARE - Guard Chihuahua on Duty. Due to Corona Virus, I am self-isolating. No one may enter except: George Clooney and Johnny Depp and those firefighter guys holding puppies who we see on calendars!"] The residences were so appreciative for the thoughtfulness and gesture of being served a delicious Chick-fil-A meal. "A lot of smiles were made today", said Brett Edwards, who was one of five new members inducted into The Rotary Club of Marietta just a couple of weeks ago during a Zoom meeting.

Lunches seen served by Rotarians, Joe Atkins (Attorney) and Brett Edwards (Head of School at The

Stonehaven School), and delivered by the efforts of Don Barbour (Sr. VP AT&T), Marlys Williams (Retired Coca-Cola Executive) and Rotary President Christopher Bethel (Attorney).

During the pandemic, The Rotary Club of Marietta has served children, college students, not-for-profits and now Senior Citizens.

PHOTOS:







Posted by Christopher Bethel
June 1, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Lake Spivey/Clayton County Delivers Needed Healthcare Supplies



During the last several weeks, Rotarians from the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** have reacted to the Coronavirus as people of action, responding to the current needs at several hospitals, rehabilitation, and nursing facilities in the community by providing critical supplies of sanitizer, gloves, and masks. One of the recipients has been Piedmont Henry Hospital.

The first photo shows Hospital Community Engagement Specialist Pam Milling, Hospital Rehab Director Brenda Chupp, and Hospital Director of Community Relations Donna Braddy near a wagon filled with supplies. The second includes Rotarians Manohar Nallathambi, Tom Mertl, and Paddy Sharma, Hospital Director of Community Relations Donna Braddy, and Rotarians Claudia Mertl and Lata Chinnan are holding baskets and a banner near the Hospital door.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Ron Swofford
May 28, 2020

Griffin Club Caterer Serving Wellstar Spalding Regional



Who are these masked souls? Connie and Bess McGhin of Touch of Grace Catering and Tamara Ison, President of Wellstar Spalding Regional, with staff members who received and then distributed the meals.

Showing their support of all our families, neighbors and community, the **Rotary Club of Griffin** has extended their personal practice of social distancing through virtual club board meetings and the club's weekly lunch meetings. This was unusual, but most are enjoying the short-term change. However, several members of the club noted that longtime Rotary meals provider and small business in Griffin, Touch of Grace Catering, was hurting by the need for social distancing throughout the community. Club President Charles Penny and the club members wanted to utilize the funds that were not being spent on the weekly club meals to help the community. The decision was made to feed the entire hospital staff at Wellstar Spalding Regional, and to utilize the club's caterer to keep them in business until the club resumes regular meetings.

Rotary of Griffin was proud to be able to step up and support both this local business and those frontline health care workers impacted by Covid-19. Rotary provided lunches and dinners the week of April 20th to every staff member of Spalding Regional Hospital, allowing us to show support for those most impacted right now by the virus. Touch of Grace made incredible lunches and then dinners for every staff member and the unusually large order went a long way to supporting their catering company as well. Several hospital staff contacted hospital President and Rotary of Griffin member Tamara Ison, who told us, "These gourmet meals were such a treat for our staff and remembering our night crew was a great bonus."

Rotarian support means so much to all of us at the hospital as we work hard to care for those afflicted with Covid-19 and all of our patients. The food was incredible, but the thoughts behind these meals meant so much to every technician, nurse, physician and staff member.”

Posted by Charles Penny
May 28, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Peachtree City Busy on All Fronts



When times get tough in our local community, the **Peachtree City Rotary and Rotaract Clubs** are here to respond! Over the last eight weeks of quarantine, these organizations have come together to support multiple groups in the community.

- Our HEROES at Fayette Piedmont – PTC Rotary wanted to ‘Feed our MEDs’ and put out a call to action on a Friday afternoon. The plan was to be able to feed one or two departments at the hospital. With the response from the club members, other local individuals and Webb & Taylor, LLC, with financial donations and the support of Rotarian, Ant Murphy (Georgia Shrimp), they were able to feed all 300 members on staff at the hospital.
- Our local grocery store workers at Walmart, Kroger and Publix – PTC Rotaract delivered baskets of snacks and thank you notes for these essential employees who continue to go above and beyond during the quarantine to keep the shelves stocked.
- Shut-in seniors at Arbor Terrace Senior Home – PTC Rotaract members took baskets of puzzle books, arts and crafts supplies, yarn and crochet hooks along with over 100 hand-written letters for the residents just to brighten their day.
- PTC Rotary made a donation to Fayette Factor to help support their efforts to keep our school meals going during the school closings.
- Bloom highlighted several items needed to support the foster kids in our area. The PTC Rotary Club responded by donating hundreds of items including diapers, formula, and baby wipes.
- Real Life Center noted specific items that were in need for their food pantry as they continue to support local families in need. The PTC Rotaract Club once again went into response mode and purchased over 250 items on that list.
- Rotarian Will Garner, executive director of Midwest Food Bank, mentioned all of the good work they were doing during the quarantine to keep food pantries, churches and other organizations in stock

with nutritious meals for our community. With that in mind, the PTC Rotary Club was able to purchase a full pallet of Tender Mercies from Midwest Food Bank for them to continue to distribute to those most in need. This pallet will allow them to touch so many individuals as there are over 1300 bags at 4 servings per bag that are loaded with rice, beans and protein.

“The Rotary Club is blessed to be part of this community who loves to SERVE those in need,” said President, Steve Ivory. “It is times like this that allow us to show how we are People of Action and truly put Service Above Self – the mottoes of Rotary International.”

PHOTOS:



Posted by Mandy Timmons
June 1, 2020

Join Rotary International's Virtual Convention June 20-26

As most of us know, the Rotary International Convention scheduled for Honolulu, Hawaii this June was cancelled due to the Coronavirus. Rotary International recently announced that it would be welcoming the world of Rotary to a virtual convention - from June 20-26.

RI has issued a list of dates and times for Virtual Convention programming. As you can see, the convention does not run the entire day, but instead will be broadcast at a few set times each day. Additionally, if you miss the live broadcasts, they will be readily available on the convention website, providing some flexibility for you and your event attendees to participate at your own convenience. The Virtual Convention is free to all attendees, however, there will be a sign in process in order to access the programming. Detailed Instructions for this process will be provided before the event.

We hope that you will take the time to join these sessions and to participate in some of the fun features of the Virtual Convention: wearing and sharing photos and videos of us in our Aloha wear, the Virtual Walking Challenge, and interacting with others in the virtual House of Friendship.

Here's what we know of the schedule now:

- *Saturday, June 20, 9:00 - 10:15 am Eastern Daylight Time (UTC-5): Together We Connect - Virtual Convention General Session 1**
- *Sunday June 21, 9:00 - 10:15 am Eastern Daylight Time (UTC-5): Together We Learn - Virtual Convention General Session 2*
- *Monday 22 June - Friday 26 June: Featured Breakouts: Each day, one breakout will be offered at each of the following times (all listed here in Eastern Daylight Time) ... 9:00 - 10:00 am, 1:00 - 2:00 pm and 7:00 - 8:00 pm. You can view the list of [breakout sessions](#) on the convention website - keep in mind that times there are shown in Chicago time.*

More detailed information about the Featured Breakouts, the platform that will be used, and instructions for accessing the programming and transitioning back and forth between events will be shared as soon as it is available on the [convention website](#).

**This session coincides with the date of our District Celebration in Columbus - which starts at 11:30 am - but you could still enjoy both as the convention session will be available to watch at your convenience on the Convention website.*

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
May 28, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Rotary Club of Americus Salutes High School Heroes



The **Rotary Club of Americus** is proud to recognize local high school seniors who have chosen to enlist in the United States Armed Forces following graduation. Recognizing that over 70% of our nation's youth are not eligible for recruitment into the armed forces, Americus Rotary sought to recognize those high school heroes from Sumter County who made the decision to enlist in military service.

In early May, six local seniors were recognized by Rotary and presented duffel bags for their send off. In the pocket was a Four Way Test Coin - included with the hope that each question emblazoned on the coin serves as a guidepost for the six high school heroes: Is it the TRUTH? Is it FAIR to all concerned? Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS? Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

"Your commitment to serve on behalf of a grateful nation - a nation that strives for peace and prosperity throughout the world - is an admirable decision worthy of honor and distinction," remarked Rene Smith, President of the Americus Rotary Club, as he addressed the group gathered on the front steps of Americus Sumter High School. Of the recruitable age range (18 to 28) in the United States today, less than 30% are eligible for military service. This alarming statistic has been called by some to be a national defense crisis. What has made this number so high are young people not meeting the military's academic, physical, and conduct standards.

"The motto of Rotarians is *Service Above Self*, reminding each of us to think of how they help others," said Smith. "With your commitment to enlist in the United States Armed Forces, you have already proven yourselves to be heroes with a heart of service." Americus Rotary sought to encourage other youth to strive to become the elite of their peers who meet the armed services standards by recognizing those who are raising their right hand to enlist.

2020 Americus Sumter High School Graduates being honored this year are Safaria Carson, US Army, enlisted, Pvt. E-2; Travion Gardner, US Army, Report: June 2020; Devante Green, US Marine Corps, Report: August 2020; Jarvis Hartage, US Army, Report: July 2020; Jada Thomas, US Navy, Report: July 2020; and Kameron Thorton, US Army, Report: June 2020. The Rotary Club of Americus commends the 2020 enlistees and expresses its gratitude for their commitment to our country and to their future by

enlisting in the United States Armed Forces and for Guarding America's Future!

You can see President Rene's presentation at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yjJFXhMnkEU&t=21s>

Posted by Angela Smith

May 28, 2020

Club News

What Midtown Atlanta Learned While Sheltering at Home



Midtown Atlanta's President Meredith Regains was recently featured in a "City Lifestyle of Atlanta" article entitled "Meet 5 Midtown Atlanta Women Who Influence Our Community. You can read the article about this Executive Director of Georgia Lawyers for the Arts by clicking the link at the end of this Midtown Atlanta story

Editor's Note: Sounds like the title of a paper a teacher might ask a student to write on return from summer vacation. Here's Midtown Atlanta's perspective on the silver lining of our shelter at home.

Like every other club on the planet, **Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club** has had to make some adjustments to their meetings during the Covid crisis. ZOOM has been a resource to many, and we are no exception. Rather than wait, we started hosting our meetings on that platform in late March. The club has about 77 members and we have been averaging about 62% attendance which is about the same as we were getting at Ansley Golf Club!

Our meetings start with a prayer, and then 20-25 minutes of check-in as members talk about how they are doing. Club President Meredith Regains may call on a few but others chime in and we learn a lot about their lives during the pandemic. We have had remarkably interesting programs, have continued with our membership recruiting with the result of two new member inductions and two classification talks, and we have approved for membership a prospective member who has only attended these ZOOM meetings! He will be inducted in June. We have a robust list of prospective members.

One of our members is the medical director at the Shepherd Center, another is with the Red Cross; so, we have heard firsthand from the front line, and have had the benefit of their experience, guidance and encouragement. While we miss the time together, and look forward to its return, the silver lining for Midtown Atlanta has been improved attendance from those who had been chronically absent, more time talking and listening to everyone - not just those at your table - and a greater appreciation for what we're all going through.

During this time, we also conducted a self-reflective survey in which 80% of our members participated. The results provided an effective mirror; we can see our strengths and weaknesses through the eyes of our members. An *ad hoc* committee will help up determine the wealth of ways in which we can do a better job of supporting and serving the Midtown Community and beyond.

By the way, Atlanta Midtown is proud that President Regains was recently featured as one of five Midtown Women who Influence the Community. Read more about Meredith and four other midtown influencers at <https://citylifestyle.com/atlanta-ga/articles/life...>

Posted by Rocky Ford
June 2, 2020

GRSP Update

Sad News for Students and Rotarians



For the first time in nearly 75 years, we will miss smiling faces like these, as there will be no students coming from all over the world to participate in a program unlike any in Rotary. The executive committee of the Georgia Rotary Student Program made the unhappy decision to defer the program until next year - Fall 2021 - to make a small attempt to keep students, Rotarians and Rotarian families a little safer and to allow students to make alternate plans for their academic year.

The committee recognized there was in fact no way to have a full program with a full experience for all concerned given consulates around the world are still not open and with no opening in sight, delays in issuing the required I-20s from the schools for a visa, and no real information on what universities will be doing in the Fall. The mission of the GRSP goes beyond just academic studies offering cultural exchange among 40 or so students from different nations, their host families and Rotarians. It had become apparent that we would be lucky if a couple of students were able to get their visas in time to get to Georgia for their academic year. GRSP has been a dream for many students for more than a year and the committee did not take the decision lightly.

Contrary to normal rules, Trustees and host families are encouraged to stay in touch with their chosen student over the next few months to ascertain whether the student will be available next year and whether the club would still like to have first priority for that student. The clubs will not be held to their commitments for this year; however, at some point (date certain currently under discussion), the clubs and students will be asked to recommit.

In the meantime, if your club is looking for Zoom programs, we might suggest asking your alumni to visit a Zoom meeting. Rotarians seem to enjoy reconnecting with their students and, as always, the students are anxious to let everyone know how they are doing and what they are seeing in their own countries.

PLANNING FOR INCENTIVE CHECKS

Once again, for those clubs that wish to receive a rebate for next year, it is not too late to get in your donations to make the \$50 per capita in giving that is required to receive an incentive check. A club can ask their trustee for that information or can make a request from me or the Savannah Office. Any of us would be happy to review what is needed to assure a club some extra funds to be used in whatever way the club desires.

Posted by Lynn Clarke
May 28, 2020

From a GRSP Alumnus ...

Yes Peace Is Possible!

Adaobi Princess Nwofor from Nigeria, Oglethorpe University ... sponsored by Midtown Atlanta, Tucker and Sandy Springs - 2018-19



I remember vividly the day I got accepted into the GRSP program, I screamed and woke my family up in the middle of the night, I could not contain my joy. Coming to America for the first time in my life I would say was a bit scary because I did not know what to expect and how I would be treated but so far my experience has been nothing short of amazing. I arrived here and the people who welcomed me were as warm as ever, and that was when I knew that this would be the best year of my life.

One of my greatest joy in being part of GRSP was meeting my host families and clubs and honestly they felt like being home, I never felt different with any of them and was treated like 1 was part of the family. We had breakfast together, cooked and baked together and whenever I spoke to my family back home, they were always excited to know that I was being well taken care of and believe me I was truly happy.

Being a graduate from my home country, I was also looking forward to the college life in the US and due to the program, I was able to explore it and for that I am so grateful. It was different and it was good, I learnt a lot and also noted the differences which made me decide to pursue a second degree here, all these would not have been possible if 1 was not part of the GRSP program and I am so blessed to be here. I made some friends here, met people from all over the world and I came to the conclusion that peace is possible despite race, age, status etc. We could exist together and still be happy. GRSP taught me that, I will forever be grateful to my uncle who told me about the program, to my rotary clubs: Midtown, Tucker and Sandy Springs who made it possible for me to be here and to have a home away from home.

Thank you GRSP for the best year GRACIAS!!

Membership

Flexibility in Membership



Maintaining flexibility as a club may prove to be a valuable strategy to attract and retain members as we look forward to resuming a more “normal” meeting schedule sometime soon. Having the ability to engage members while still practicing social distancing as needed may become the new rule rather than the exception, so it’s never too soon to start gathering ideas on how you and your club might make things work.

- **Meeting Online:** If you’re already doing this (or not) consider keeping a virtual meeting in the mix once a month or so... Zoom is a great tool for this! You can also put together a “virtual meeting” for everyone to watch (at their convenience) and share via YouTube. Check out this example from the Rotary Club of Tucson: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zv0yPmVH8QM>
- **Encourage Prospective Members to Visit Online:** An easy, no-strings-attached opportunity for someone to see what your club is all about.
- **Change Your Meeting Schedule (by Not Meeting Every Week):** Throw a socially distanced social event into the mix or even a virtual “happy hour.” Schedule a service activity instead of a meeting. Offer up some of the many online resources for members to explore during the “off weeks” for a virtual make-up.

- Watch membership webinars and speeches from recent conventions and the International Assembly in the new [Club Programming collection](#) on Vimeo.
- Discover the professional and personal development opportunities in the [Learning Center](#). From [Leading Change](#) to [Building Rotary's Public Image](#), these online courses allow you to learn new skills from your home.
- Encourage your members to exchange ideas in the [Meeting Online learning topic](#) in the Learning Center.

When you're ready to add new members, don't forget to invite DG Jim Squire to help with an online New Member Induction - no need to wait to make new members official!

And remember to look for more resources at rotary.org/membership!

Does Your Club Have a Membership Chair?

As the new Rotary year approaches, we will focus once again on Membership to attract, engage, and retain good Rotarians in our clubs. A key player in that process will be the Club Membership Chair, but many of our District clubs have yet to name a Rotarian to that position. If you have someone in mind, login to Rotary Club Central and assign them the role officially. If you don't have anyone yet, start looking for that energetic go-getter in your club who is just waiting for you to ask him/her to help. We'll all be in this together, but a Membership Chair will help lead the way. Looking forward to a great year!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
May 28, 2020

Sorry for the Error

District Family of Rotary



Apologies to **Lisa Carlisle of the Roswell Rotary Club** - our District Family of Rotary Chair - for not presenting her name correctly in the Memorial Day Edition of the District Newsletter. And thanks for the challenges she's provided to each of us during the Stay at Home ... to learn more about each other and honor those serving our community and country. Take a moment as you read this to think about someone you appreciate for keeping Rotary going during the Stay at Home and/or to reach out to someone from your club who you haven't talked to for awhile. It's all in the spirit of our Family of Rotary. Thanks Lisa for inspiring us!

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
May 28, 2020
