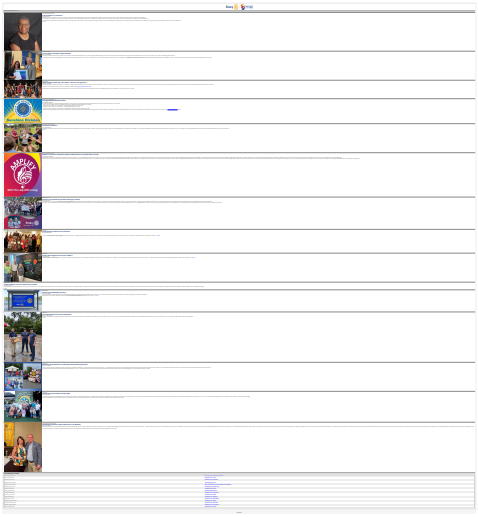
Rotary
District 6900



July 6, 2023

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR JULY, 2023

From Our District Governor

From Excellence to Greatness

By André Martin

Dear District Family: "Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives, choice, not chance, determines your destiny." As we begin our new Rotary Year, let us keep in mind how awesome we are as individuals in this district!!! It will take our combined efforts to 'Create Hope in the World,' to move on from Excellence to Greatness! We can and will do it!! I am so honored to work with you in making this a reality. I have my "Boots on the Ground" and I am ready to embark on this, the 2023-24 Rotary Year, on a journey. I challenge you to develop a plan of action which fits seamless continuity. In doing this, you have the roadmap and guide to reach your destination. [more]

Foundation News

Lottery Raises $170,000 to Help End Polio

By Georgia Grimaldi

You may remember that Darren Jones, brother of our immediate past RI President Jennifer Jones, created a painting entitled "Imagine One's Dream" that was the visual inspiration for her year as President. Each district received one of the paintings and Rotarians were encouraged to share it with their clubs. In our district, Rotarians had the opportunity to win the print by donating $100 to Polio Plus - and were encouraged to do so at each of my official visits during the year. Congratulations to **Julia Houston, Rotary Club of Atlanta**, for winning this beautiful artwork. And congratulations to you - the lottery raised over $170,000 for Polio Plus when the drawing was done. [more]

GRSP Update

GRSP Conclave Slated Aug. 18 in Macon - Reserve Your Spot Now!

By Katherynn Fields

Rotarians and guests are invited to Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2023-24 in Macon August 18-20. Conclave is hosted this year by District 6920 and under the direction of the Rotary Club of Macon, the Rotary Club of Macon North and the Rotary Club of Downtown Macon with Rebecca Grist and GRSP District Director Milton Beard as co-chairs.
Registration is now open for Conclave, please visit the GRSP Calendar at https://grsp.org/calendar-of-events

Hotel Forty Five, historic-boutique hotel in downtown Macon, has a block of rooms set aside for Conclave participants who will need lodging with July 18 as the deadline to reserve the special rate. [more]

Expand Your Rotary Thinking

RLI Opportunities Abound in 2023

By Stephanie Windham

Sunshine Division

Your Rotary Leadership Year will be filled with opportunities to Learn, Share, and Grow through Rotary Leadership Institute. Here are some dates and locations to remember:
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Expand your Rotary knowledge and network by attending RLI in Georgia. The RLI Sunshine Division also offers opportunities across Florida and the Caribbean, as well as virtual opportunities via Zoom. For more information and to register for an online or in-person event, go to sdrlei.org/training/rli/ [more]

Developing Future Leaders

Good Times at RYLA!!!

By Jaclyn Donovan

Summertime in District 6900 means it's time for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, better known as RYLA!! RYLA is designed for young adults with proven leadership ability and a commitment to community service. The District 6900 RYLA camp was hosted by the Rotary Club of Americus June 17-21 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University and included 106 students sponsored by over 40 clubs.
[more]

District Conference 2024

Register Now for the 2024 Rotary District 6900 Conference in Jekyll Island, Georgia

By Stephanie Windham

With This Lady With A Song

District Conference returns to Jekyll Island, Georgia March 21-24, 2024. Join us as we Amplify Rotary and feature the Lady with a Song, none other than our Rotary President Elect Amy Beaton. Jekyll Island's temperate climate is unique around most of the country; Jekyll Island averages around 72 degrees during the month of March, with low humidity. It's perfect weather for walks on the beach, outdoor activities, and fun for the whole family! This island features a mix of calmness and curiosity with its white sandy beaches, natural beauty, and tons of greenery. This city also houses almost 33 historic structures. There is something for everyone on Jekyll Island.
Rotary Night Out, Friday, March 22, at this conference will be filled with music, laughter, fun, and fellowship. Let's celebrate all the ways our clubs make Rotary BIGGER, BETTER, AND LOUDER! Make your plans to attend District Conference March 21-24, 2024 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center in beautiful Jekyll Island, GEORGIA. We look forward to seeing you there!The Jekyll Island Club Resort has a block of rooms reserved for District 6900. Several hotels have room blocks reserved through February 21, 2024. Jekyll Island is booming, so you are encouraged to book your hotel room NOW! Once our room blocks are sold there is no guarantee that additional room nights will be added.
[more]

Rotary New Year

Peachtree City Rotarians Join 50th Annual July 4 Parade

By Holly Dunaway

Along with over 115 other participants, **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** President Amy Beaton participated in her first "official" event of the new year with the 50th Annual Peachtree City July 4 Parade! While a majority of the participants are decked out in red, white and blue golf carts for the three-mile route, PTC Rotarians ride in and walk alongside two of our Dragon Boats! Amy, Holly and Jim Dunaway walked the route. It is a great opportunity for our presidents to choose a music genre to represent their club and/or community and to help share the theme through the next year as we "Amplify Rotary". In order to share our story of the oldest and largest service organization in our community, President Amy Beaton has chosen to focus on 1967 - our charter year! [more]

Club News

Sandy Springs Celebrates Local Teachers

By Ruth Richmond

In May, the **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** held a special celebration, recognizing one teacher from each of the 11 schools serving our community as Teachers of the Year. Chartered in 1972, the club just celebrated 50 years of serving the community ... [more]

Club News

North Fulton Supports Local Foster Children

By Mike Mudd

The **Rotary Club of North Fulton** has a long history of working with children both in our community and around the world. This year, we wanted to focus on children in our community who have been placed in the Foster Care system. A committee was formed with past presidents Mike Mudd, Kristi Crockett and James Maroosis ... [more]

New Satellite Club

Atlanta Southern Crescent Adds Its First Satellite

By Claudia Merli

The Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent is proud to announce that we have formed our first Satellite Club - the Satellite Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent/Cobban-Emory. The approval came from Rotary International on June 30 and the Club started with 9 members. The new members are Yassin Farhat, Karina Hatcher, Fia Valeriano, Vivek Singh, Jeevan Markam, Kamlesh Patel, Djebo Gourmason, Aapaj Acharl, and Angelli Alirol Daggal.
[more]

Membership

What's Your Membership Strategy?

By Jackie Cuthbert

As we enter 2023-24, with a continued focus on growing our membership, we'd like to make the newsletter a place where we can learn from each other about successful strategies for recruiting, engaging and retaining new members. While the idea we're sharing this month comes from the **Rotary Club of North Atlanta**, the pictures you see here ... [more]

Club News

East Cobb Supports Local First Responders

By Jenny Strickland

In June, Guy Gebhardt of the Rotary Club of East Cobb delivered 14 boxes of Patink Wood's brats, knockwurst, sauerkraut and all the trimmings to station 14 of the Cobb County Fire Department for distribution to all three battalions which staff East Cobb's seven fire stations. The Club regularly supports Cobb County's first responders.
[more]

Club News

Dunwoody Kicks Off 40-Year Celebration with Fourth of July Parade

By Jackie Cuthbert

There is a famous quote that embodies yesterday's Fourth of July celebration in Dunwoody - "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass ... It's about learning to dance in the rain." Dunwoody Rotarians turned out yesterday morning in the rain to kick off the Rotary Club's 40th anniversary with the city's annual parade and Fourth of July Festival with its hot dog stand.
President Jack Sparks and his family joined other Dunwoody Rotarians to "dance" in the parade that started just as the deluge began. His family also hosted the revival of the club's "float building party" on the Saturday before July 4. [more]

Club News

Roswell After Hours Holds Comedy Night

By Becky Nelson

Roswell Rotary's After Hours Club (BRAH) hosted a Comedy Night recently at Lucky's Burgers & Brews as a fundraiser for the Stan Grover Foundation. The club sold 125 tickets, raising over $2,500 for this "close-to-home" organization. Comedy night is a relaxed environment where people can laugh at the things that happen when having goes too far. It was a fun-filled & Beautiful night to listen to multiple stand-up comedians, socialize and do good night.
NOTE: The BRAH Club meets at 6:30 pm every 1st & 3rd Tuesday evening in the loft at The Artillery Room on Canton Street. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn more. [more]

Final Thought From the Editor

Thomasville President Captures What We're All Thinking

By Jackie Cuthbert

When Mary Beth Donahoe, 2023-2024 President of Rotary Club of Thomasville, gave her opening remarks to kick off the new Rotary year, she could have been speaking for all the presidents of the Rotary Clubs in District 6900. "I stand here before you now as the 101st President of the Rotary Club of Thomasville. I am honored to be the 101st, but I am also very humbled by the 100 Presidents who have passed on. I am humbled and honored that this club has chosen me for this role. I think you will find our upcoming year will be full of exciting projects, engaging community service as we live the Rotary International theme for this year, Create Hope in the World. This club creates hope in this community by supporting our youth through our Rotary Youth programs, meeting our local heroes who serve, and having a heart for our seniors. I know this year we will continue to create that hope with all we have planned and am excited to be leading the charge."
Our projects, histories and members are different but we all look to create and nurture a Family of Rotary that Creates Hope for the World. Happy New Year!
[more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Thursday, July 6th, 2023	**District Governor Official Meeting-Tucker**
Monday, July 10th, 2023	**DG Official Visit- Senoia**
Tuesday, July 11th, 2023	**DG Official Visit- Fayetteville**
Wednesday, July 12th, 2023	**DG Official Visit- Tyrone**
Wednesday, July 12th, 2023	**Dinner with Peachtree City Board of Directors and Spouses**
Thursday, July 13th, 2023	**DG Official Visit- Peachtree City**
Friday, July 14th, 2023	**DG Official Visit-Newnan**
Monday, July 24th, 2023	**DG Official Marietta Metro**
Tuesday, July 25th, 2023	**DG Official Visit- North Fulton**
Thursday, July 27th, 2023	**DG Official Visit- Roswell**
Friday, July 28th, 2023	**DG Official Visit- Alpharetta**
Monday, July 31st, 2023	**DG Official Visit- Sandy Springs**
Wednesday, August 2nd, 2023	**DG Official Visit- Vinings**
Thursday, August 3rd, 2023	**DG Official Visit- North Cobb**
Thursday, August 3rd, 2023	**DG Official Visit- North Atlanta**
Friday, August 4th, 2023	**DG Official Visit- Decatur**

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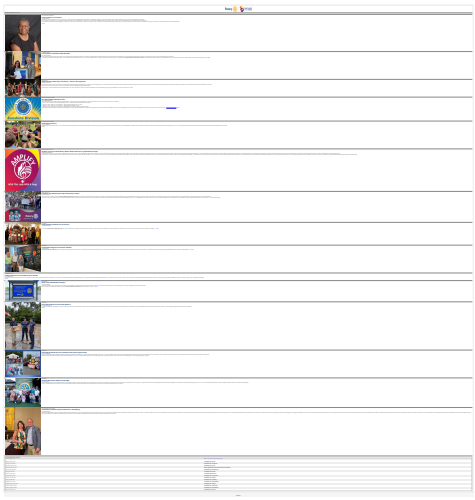

From Our District Governor

From Excellence to Greatness

Aristotle once said: “Excellence is never an accident. It is always the result of high intention, sincere effort, and intelligent execution; it represents the wise choice of many alternatives, choice, not chance, determines your destiny.”

As we begin our new Rotary Year, let us keep in mind how awesome we are as individuals in this district!!! It will take our combined efforts to ‘Create Hope in the World," to move us from Excellence to Greatness! We can and will do it!!!

I am so honored to work with you in making this a reality. I have my “Boots on the Ground." I ask you to revisit your “Why” in Rotary as we embark on this journey. I challenge you to develop a plan of action which focuses on continuity. In doing this, you have the roadmap and guide to reach your destination.

Relationships are at the core of growing Rotary. Membership growth is essential for our success. May I suggest, we develop those relationships with like-minded hearts; who have a passion for service; first giving of themselves, intentionally, and authentically.
I look forward to our year as we build on the foundation of those who have gone before us. Together we will Amplify Rotary, as we Create Hope in the World! Let's make it happen one relationship at a time!

PHOTOS:

Changing of the guard - PDG George and DG Andre as we toured Australia after RI Convention

Posted by André Marria
July 5, 2023

Foundation News

Lottery Raises $170,000 to Help End Polio

You may remember that Darren Jones, brother of our immediate past RI President Jennifer Jones, created a painting entitled "Imagine One's Dream" that was the visual inspiration for her year as President. Each district received a copy of the print to use to inspire continued support of Polio Plus.

In our district, Rotarians had the opportunity to win the print by donating $100 to Polio Plus - and were encouraged to do so at each of my official visits during the year. Congratulations to **Julia Houston, Rotary Club of Atlanta**, for winning this beautiful artwork. And congratulations to you - the lottery raised over $170,000 for Polio Plus when the drawing was done.

Posted by George Granade
July 5, 2023

GRSP Update

GRSP Conclave Slated Aug. 18 in Macon - Reserve Your Spot

Now!

Rotarians and guests are invited to Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2023-24 in Macon August 18-20. Conclave is hosted this year by District 6920 and under the direction of the Rotary Club of Macon, the Rotary Club of Macon North and the Rotary Club of Downtown Macon with Rebecca Grist and GRSP 6920 Director Milton Heard as co-chairs.

Conclave is the kickoff event for GRSP and allows the international college scholarship students to interact with one another as well as GRSP leadership, GRSP Foundation board, trustees, emeritus members, host families, club presidents, alumni and Rotarians throughout the state. Students, trustees, officers and host families will participate in a general session at 12:30 p.m. Friday at First Presbyterian Church Macon. The welcome dinner for registered Rotarians and guests will be held from 6:30 to 9:30 pm at Fall Line Brewing Company Friday, featuring a taco bar for $45 per person. Students will provide a short introduction along with naming their trustee and their sponsoring Rotary Club or Clubs.

Students and registered Rotarians will spend Saturday morning in sessions in an orientation and overview of GRSP. Students will also rehearse for Saturday's "GRSP Live," the popular variety-style performance and parade of flags, which is scheduled from 6-9 pm with a coat-and-tie dinner and program at First Presbyterian. The Southern-fare dinner will be $55 per person. Saturday concludes at Hotel Forty Five with a student mixer in the Reckon Café and a Rotary mixer at the Hightales Rooftop Bar.

A special thanks to Macon-area Rotarians who will serve as weekend hosts to our students. **Hotel Forty Five, historic-boutique hotel in downtown Macon, has a block of rooms set aside for Conclave participants who will need lodging with July 18 as the deadline to reserve the special rate.** The hotel link is in the registration information below.

GRSP scholars are pre-registered for the event and meals. Rotarians and guests may register for Friday and/or Saturday dinners through the registration information below as well.

On Sunday morning, the students will have breakfast with their weekend host families before returning to their respective colleges and universities or their club host family.

Registration is now open for Conclave, please visit the GRSP Calendar at **https://grsp.org/calendar-of-events/**

The first GRSP class consisted of four students from Norway, France, Czechoslovakia and Greece. Since the program's inception in 1946, Georgia Rotarians have brought 3,775 students from 109 different countries and every continent except Antarctica. Ninety-seven Georgia Rotary Clubs participate in this program which is exclusive to Georgia and not replicated in Rotary. The most recent class of 2022-23 featured 44 students consisting of 27 females and 17 males from 21 countries, including our first student from the Democratic Republic of the Congo. These students study in 23 colleges and universities throughout Georgia, and as the GRSP logo states, we have literally been "bringing nations together since 1946!" Full and partial scholarship options are available. For more information or to have a GRSP representative provide a program for your club, please email **grsp@grsp.org.**

Posted by Katheryne Fields
July 5, 2023

Expand Your Rotary Thinking

RLI Opportunities Abound in 2023

The 2023-2024 Rotary year will be filled with opportunities to Learn, Share, and Grow through Rotary Leadership Institute. Here are some dates and locations to remember:

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Expand your Rotary knowledge and network by attending RLI in Georgia. The RLI Sunshine Division also offers opportunities across Florida and the Caribbean, as well as virtual opportunities via Zoom. For more information and to register for an online or in-person event, go to **https://rlitraining.org/**

Posted by Stephanie Windham
July 5, 2023

Developing Future Leaders

Good Times at RYLA!!!

by Jaclyn Donovan, District RYLA Chair

Summertime in District 6900 mean it’s time for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, better known as RYLA!! RYLA is designed for young adults with proven leadership ability and a commitment to community service. The District 6900 RYLA camp was hosted by the Rotary Club of Americus June 17-21 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University and included 104 students sponsored by over 40 clubs.

Through RYLA, these young people from different backgrounds - home, educational, religious, and lifestyle - are brought together to work, learn, and discuss the issues that exist within their generation. They have the chance to learn and challenge themselves through team activities, large group activities, and candid, round-table discussions. RYLA programming includes individual personality profiles, conflict resolution styles, and ropes course activities designed to encourage teamwork, communication, and trust. Included once again was the opportunity to participate in a service project which allowed the students to

experience the Rotary motto of “Service Above Self” firsthand – the group painted inspirational “RYLA Rocks” to be placed around the campus.

One of the recurring themes of RYLA is the student who accomplishes a feat he/she would have never dared to imagine before coming to camp. The most memorable of these culminating events are always the board break, which allows students to break through their fears to reach their goals, and the Trust Fall from a 5-foot platform into the waiting arms of teammates. And just as always, most of the students who were very hesitant to spend the weekend with over 100 strangers became the friends who did not want to part ways at the end. This speaks volumes to the benefit of RYLA and the positive changes it can create in young lives.

Even more telling of the long-lasting influence of RYLA is the fact that 90% of the counselors were once RYLA participants themselves – they believe in it enough to commit the time and energy to make RYLA the best experience possible. Approximately 75 Rotarians assisted with RYLA in some capacity, with most contributing on the club level with the nomination and selection of student participants while others provided transportation to and from RYLA, and the brave few who agreed to serve as chaperones in the dorms. Special guests this year were DG George Granade, DGE Andre Marria, DGN Gordon Owens, and DGND Steve Ivory who joined us for several days volunteering as Chaperones and spending time with the student teams.

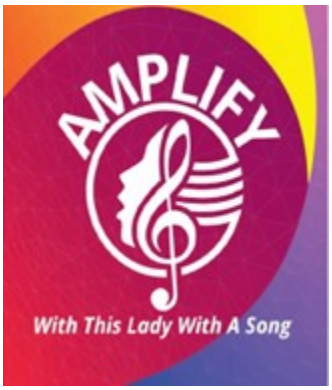
RYLA aims to help students discover their potential and develop the skills needed to be leaders in their communities, careers, and everyday lives. And they achieve these goals while having fun, building friendships, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. We’re already looking forward to 2024 when RYLA will be held June 8-12. We hope to see you and your students there!

PHOTOS:

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
July 5, 2023

District Conference 2024

Register Now for the 2024 Rotary District 6900 Conference in Jekyll Island, Georgia



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A word to the wise: It's much easier to make your hotel reservation by calling the hotel! Trying to reserve online will only frustrate you! When making your reservation, please be sure and reference the group Rotary District 6900. We have room blocks reserved with The Westin Jekyll Island, which is within walking distance of the Convention Center; the Courtyard by Marriott and The Residence Inn, which have a free island-wide shuttle; Hampton Inn & Suites; Seafarer Inn & Suites; Holiday Inn Resort; and the Beachview Club Hotel. There are other hotels on the island, as well as short-term rentals and camping opportunities, but as of right now only the hotels listed here are offering reduced rates for conference attendees. We will keep you posted if other hotels are added.

To register for conference, login to rotary6900.org and click on "Register for the 2024 District Conference at Jekyll Island." The registration fee is $275. There are also special rates for guests, students, and children under the age of 17. The registration fee will go up in September ($295), so it pays to register early!

There is a new Cancellation Policy in place for the Registration Fee only. Hotel cancellations will be per the hotel policy. Any cancellation before November 1, 2023 will receive a full refund less $25. Cancellations between November 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024 will receive a 75% refund. Cancellations between January 2, 2024 and March 1, 2024 will receive a 50% refund. Cancellations between March 2, 2024 and March 15, 2024 will receive a 25% refund. There will be no refunds after March 15, 2024.

Posted by Stephanie Windham
July 5, 2023

Rotary New Year

Peachtree City Rotarians Join 50th Annual July 4 Parade

Along with over 115 other participants, **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** President Amy Benton participated in her first "official" event of the new year with the 50th Annual Peachtree City July 4 Parade! While a majority of the participants are decked out in red, white and blue golf carts for the three-mile route, PTC Rotarians ride in and walk alongside two of our Dragon Boats!

The club is ready to kick off our new year! DG Andre challenged each of her presidents to choose a music genre to represent their club and/or community and to help share the theme through the next year as we “Amplify Rotary”. In order to share our story of the oldest and largest service organization in our community, President Amy Benton has chosen to focus on 1967 – our charter year!

The year 1967 delivered a rainbow of innovative music, movies, art and fashion, leading to the huge “Summer of Love” gathering across multiple cities. Music fueled much of the spirit of the times and brought HOPE to the youth of America. Eight years after the founding of our beautiful town of Peachtree City, leaders in the community and with support from the Rotary Club of Newnan, chartered the Rotary Club of Peachtree City on November 13, 1967. This started an era of service to those in our community and a membership like none other of like-minded citizens and business leaders. Fifty-six years later and

116 members strong, we continue to “Create Hope in the World."

With this in mind and the fact that DG Andre will be visiting our club in early July, we are kicking off our year with the theme of “Amplifying Rotary since 1967”. President Amy has already begun the year with some kick-start ideas and opportunities. Our club has been awarded the first collaborative district grant and the largest funding ever received in our district - $30,000 – to support a program with Midwest Food Bank in partnership / collaboration with the Rotary Clubs of Barnesville, Fayetteville, Griffin, Griffin Daybreak, Lake Spivey/Clayton County, Newnan and Tyrone! President Amy also implemented our new application process for Community Grants to help us make better decisions on local non-profit organizations to partner with throughout the year with our funding as well as hands-on projects. We have already received approvals from Booth Middle School to charter a new Interact Club this fall and will be implementing the Be THE Voice program here as well.

We are also kicking off two new fundraising efforts this year (on top of our 16th annual Dragon Boat festival) – the 1st Annual Bourbon & Bow Ties, Pinot & Pearls (cocktail event) scheduled for Thursday, November 2, 2023 on the Great Lawn at Town of Trilith (focused on fundraising specifically for the Rotary Foundation) and the 1st Annual PTC Half Marathon planned for January 13, 2024 to be held on the golf carts paths of Peachtree City.

Looking forward to next year as well, our District Conference committee has already started the planning events and are looking for a record turnout at Jekyll Island in March! Stay tuned to our website – peachtreecityrotary.org or follow us on social media (@peachtreecityrotary) for more information on these events and to see the great things we are doing in our community throughout the year!

PHOTOS:

Sisters Amy Benton (Incoming PTC Club President on the right) and Mandy Timmons (D6900 PI Chair and PTC Club Secretary)

Posted by Holly Davanzo
July 5, 2023

Club News

Sandy Springs Celebrates Local Teachers

In May, the **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** held a special celebration, recognizing one teacher from each of the 11 schools serving our community as Teachers of the Year. Chartered in 1972, the club just celebrated 50 years of serving the community!

Posted by Rollin Richmond
July 5, 2023

Club News

North Fulton Supports Local Foster Children

The **Rotary Club of North Fulton** has a long history of working with children both in our community and around the world. This year, we wanted to focus on children in our community who have been placed in the Foster Care system. A committee was formed with past presidents Mike Mudd, Kristi Crockett and James Marosek leading the effort. Our exploration began with a lunch program by Jessi Williams, a licensed social worker, with the local non-profit Promise 686. The Promise 686 goal is to see every child in a safe, loving family. Jessi suggested we focus our efforts on Because One Matters, which operates the Wrapped in Love Clothing Closet in downtown Lawrenceville.

Our club grant of $3,500 was used to purchase hygiene items, pajamas, clothing, diapers and gift cards. Over 1700 items were delivered to Wrapped in Love before the end of June. We completed this project by having the founder of Because One Matters, Andrea Barclay as our special guest at our last meeting of 2022-23. Andrea shared with us her inspirational path to establishing the Wrapped in Love Clothing Closet in 2022. The club was honored to provide some much needed support to this worthy organization.

Posted by Mike Mudd
July 5, 2023

New Satellite Club

Atlanta Southern Crescent Adds Its First Satellite

The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent** is proud to announce that we have formed our first Satellite Club - the **Satellite Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent/Clifton-Emory**. The approval came from Rotary International on June 30 and the Club started with 9 members. The new members are Yamin Farhat, Karina Hatcher, Pia Valeriano, Vivek Singh, Jeevan Markam, Kamlesh Patel, Djebo Gourmanon, Anpuj Achari, and Angelii Abroi Duggal.

- Chair: Angelii Abroi Duggal
- Secretary: Jeevan Makam
- The meetings will be every alternate Tuesday from 6-7 pm, Room 226, 6th floor, Randall Rollins Building,1518 Clifton Road, Atlanta 30322.
- Preferred mailing address: Dr. Yamin Farhat, , P.O. Box 81, Rydal, Ga 30171, yaminfarhat@yahoo.com, 404-988-3537.

They will be joining the Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent for the first meeting on Friday, July 14th at noon on Zoom.

Congratulations to all!

Posted by Claudia Mertl
July 5, 2023

Membership

What's Your Membership Strategy?

As we enter 2023-24, with a continued focus on growing our membership, we'd like to make the newsletter a place where we can learn from each other about successful strategies for recruiting, engaging and retaining new members.

While the idea we're sharing this month comes from the **Rotary Club of North Atlanta**, the pictures you see here are from a bus stop poster inviting people to learn about Rotary, and a service project involving whole families in **Thomasville**.

Jonathan Yaeger at North Atlanta shares that his club has invited prospective new members to join them at the Atlanta Community Food Bank sorting food. Afterwards, everyone would go out to eat and drink. The service event came before anything else, and the fellowship and club interaction followed.

"Anecdotally, the younger generations are most interested in the service event itself; not so much in traditional club administration and membership," Jonathan says. "Fellowship and bonhomie seem to be the hooks in combination with the service offering."

Jonathan suggests that clubs consider posting their service events on volunteer websites such as https://www.volunteermatch.org or similar sites, and to advertise service functions on sites like Nextdoor; local Chambers of Commerce, College BBS, etc).

What's your idea for attracting new members? And, what do you do to get them involved once they're members so they'll stay for awhile? We'd like to hear more ALL year long - please share.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 5, 2023

Club News

East Cobb Supports Local First Responders

16
HOT DOG
HOME PRIDE
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HOT DOG
HOME PRIDE
FIRE
EMERGENCY SERVICES
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In June, Guy Gebhardt of the **Rotary Club of East Cobb** delivered 14 boxes of Patak Meat's brats, knockwurst, sauerkraut and all the trimmings to station 14 of the Cobb County Fire Department for distribution to all three battalions which staff East Cobb's seven fire stations. The Club regularly supports Cobb County’s first responders.
Posted by Aaron Strimban
July 5, 2023

Club News

Dunwoody Kicks Off 40-Year Celebration with Fourth of July Parade

There is a famous quote that embodies yesterday's Fourth of July celebration in Dunwoody - "Life isn't about waiting for the storm to pass ... It's about learning to dance in the rain." Dunwoody Rotarians turned out yesterday morning despite the rain to continue a 30+ year tradition of being part of the city's annual parade or and Fourth of July Festival with its hot dog stand.

President Jack Sparks and his family joined other Dunwoody Rotarians to "dance" in the parade that started just as the deluge began. His family also hosted the revival of the club's "float building party" on

the Saturday before July 4.

This year's parade theme honored 50 years of the Dunwoody High School Wildcats and our float highlighted projects from our 40 years as a Club designed to support DHS - things like college scholarships, Interact, Rotary Youth Exchange, support for the football team and band and more!

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 5, 2023

Club News

Roswell After Hours Holds Comedy Night

Roswell Rotary's After Hours Club (RRAH) hosted a Comedy Night recently at Lucky's Burgers & Brews as a fundraiser for the Max Gruver Foundation. The club sold 125 tickets, raising over $2,500 for this "close-to-home" organization focused on educating college/university settings and legislators of the

tragedies that happen when hazing goes too far. It was a Successful & Beautiful night to listen to multiple stand-up comedians, socialize and do good night.

NOTE: The RRAH Club meets at 6:30 pm every 1st & 3rd Tuesday evening in the loft at The Artillery Room on Canton Street. Everyone is welcome to attend and learn more.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Becky Nelson
July 5, 2023

Final Thought From the Editor

Thomasville President Captures What We're All Thinking

OUR-WAY TEST
ngs we think, say, or do
e TRUTH?
IR to all concerned?
build GOODWILL and
ER FRIENDSHIPS?
NEFICIAL to
MARY BETH
DONALSON
Mary Beth
Donalson

When Mary Beth Donalson, 2023-2024 President of **Rotary Club of Thomasville**, gave her opening remarks to kick off the new Rotary year, she could have been speaking for all the presidents of the Rotary Clubs in District 6900: "I stand here before you now as the 103rd President of the Rotary Club of Thomasville, I look around the room today at the faces of past leadership and think about the ones who have passed on, I am humbled and honored that this club has chosen me for this role. I think you will find our upcoming year will be full of exciting projects, engaging community service as we live the Rotary International theme for this year, Create Hope in the World. This club creates hope in this community every month with its produce market, every quarter honoring our local heroes who serve, and having a heart for our seniors. I know this year we will continue to create that hope with all we have planned and am excited to be leading the charge."

Our projects, histories and members are different but we all look to create and nurture a Family of Rotary that Creates Hope for the World. Happy New Year!

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 5, 2023