DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR DECEMBER, 2021

From Our District Governor

Working and Learning Together to Expand Our Reach

By Mary Ligon

The statement to the left is powerful – the heart of Rotary International's vision for what we can accomplish. As individual Rotarians, as clubs ... all the way up to the RI level, we have a tremendous opportunity to make a positive difference in the world. And to grow ourselves – through contacts, experiences and knowledge sharing. Rotary International gives us many of the tools and resources we need to plan, take action and be successful. You can access many of those resources through Rotary's Learning Center; you can also participate in Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) courses (see an article about RLI later in the newsletter). Take, for example, Membership – an area you know is important to me and the #1 priority of our Rotary International President.

[more]

From Our RI Director

Join Zoomformation Call - Monday December 6 at 1:00 pm

By Mary Ligon

Once again, I am pleased to announce that the upcoming Zoomformation call (login details below) on December 6 at 1:00 pm will include three very distinguished speakers. As December is Disease Treatment and Prevention Month, the focus of each presentation will be on a different aspect of public health. Each of our speakers are leaders in their respective fields. You will not want to miss this Zoomformation call.

Please invite your Rotarian friends to join the call. Join Zoom Meeting at **https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85181928278?pwd=QTZyZVIvcDdCS1lCSklGZ0VpTVcwQT09** [more]

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Meriwether County Students Benefit from D6900 Competitive Grant

By Laurie Lewis

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Membership

Way to Grow! Keep It Going ...

By Jaclyn Donovan

Welcome these new members to District 6900 in November:

- Roswell – Alicia Hughes, Bill Hoban, Clifton Sprinkle, Haniel Jones, Tillie O'Neal
- Vinings Cumberland – Nate Mullet
- Fayetteville – Katie Shawn
- Newnan - Brent Blankenship
- Thomasville - Lindsay Clay
- North Cobb - Marisela Lema, Brenda Fischer, Austin Abney
- Moultrie - Brad Gregory
- Lake Spivey/Clayton County - David Lighten Jr., Larry Vincent
- Columbus – Vivian Bishop
- Carrollton – Keith Carroll
- Buckhead – Alan Redding, Jane Arney
- Alpharetta – Deana Lindo, Victor Jones

Expanding our reach is one of our four strategic action priorities. Congratulations to thee 36 clubs who have a YTD net increase in membership (click more to see the list). Every club needs a strategy for growth. Need help with yours? Please reach out to district membership chair, Jaclyn Donovan so she can connect you with resources that will help your club expand their reach. [more]

The Rotary Foundation

An Update on Giving for 2020-21

By Mary Ligon

Having just wrapped up November where our focus has been on the Rotary Foundation - our charity of choice - special thanks and recognition banners go to these clubs for their gifts to the Foundation in the 2020-2021 Rotary year. As we reported last month, the top three clubs based on per capita giving to the annual fund for 2020-2021 are:

1. Emory-Druid Hills at $1777.78
2. North Fulton at $1625.55
3. Muscogee-Columbus at $1598.08

We also want to recognize the two groups of 24 clubs - one for achieving EREY and 100% sustaining club status, and the other group for giving at least $1,500 in the last Rotary year to polio.

[more]

GRSP 75th Anniversary

Help Celebrate 75 Years of GRSP Next January

By Katheryne Fields

Two special events are planned for Thomasville in January 2022 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Georgia Rotary Student Program. We would love to have you join us for:

- **The GRSP 75th Celebration Dinner on Friday, January 21, 2022** at 6:30 PM at the Plaza Restaurant located at 217 Broad St., Thomasville. The event will feature ... [more]

Youth and Peace in Action

Sign Up for Guiding Young Peacebuilders and Get Involved

By Becky Stone

District 6900 is a designated Champion (!) in the Zones 33 & 34 Youth & Peace in Action (YPA) program, the largest local peacebuilding initiative in Rotary history. Any Rotarian in our District can join in by registering for the online YPA Guiding Young Peacebuilders course, at no cost, and learn what peacebuilding involving Rotarians and young people is all about: **https://tinyurl.com/GYPRotary**. There's a YPA online discussion community available with the course. Read more about the program.

[more]

RI Convention 2022

Join Us in Houston - Last Call for Reduced Rates

By George Granade

Rotarians around the world are excited to gather again in-person to connect, share ideas, and strengthen relationships in an atmosphere of friendship and learning. The 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas offers that opportunity - and we remain optimistic that we'll be joining the world in person June 4-8, 2022. There's already ... [more]

Rotary Leadership Institute

Start the New Year Off Right with RLI

By Stephanie Windham

Rotary Leadership Institute offers a learning experience like no other Rotary training. It provides the opportunity to interact with Rotarians from all over Georgia in person, and all over Georgia, Florida and the Caribbean online. RLI is interactive, fun, and a great way to share ideas with a diverse group of Rotarians outside the confines of one's own club. The bigger world of Rotary is out there waiting for you! Do you know about Rotary Fellowships? Rotary Action Groups? The history of the Four Way Test? The Rotary Foundation and the good it is doing in the world? Do you want to know more about ways to attract new members and keep your current membership engaged and active in your club and beyond? If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, then RLI is right for you!

The Rotary Club of Barnesville graciously hosted RLI at Gordon State College

[more]

For the Club Leadership Team

Reminders As We Move into 2022

By Jackie Cuthbert

As we get ready to turn the calendar to 2022:

- **Presidents-Elect should be selecting their leadership teams for the next Rotary year**. Club officers and directors for 2022/23 year should be entered in myrotary.org system by December 31 so that the incoming team receives messages about training and information to help them get ready to lead in the upcoming year
- **Clubs should update their club membership and officer information in preparation for the January 2022 club invoices** from Rotary International and the District. Make your updates by January 1, using (Mary - please confirm whether it through District site or myrotary.org?)
- **The GRSP student selection process will take place in Thomasville in late January** - clubs wishing to participate in hosting a student must submit their commitment forms to the GRSP office no later than January 14. The Student Selection "book" is all online this year, and club presidents should have received an email November 22 with access to the online site. Contact the GRSP office if you have questions.

[more]

Calling All Rotary Anti-Slavery Superheroes!

By Jackie Cuthbert

The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) - led by District 6900's own Dave McCleary - will hold a Zoom meeting on December 8 at 9:00 AM Eastern time. You may join using this **Zoom link.** The meeting will feature presentations by Matt Friedman, an internationally renowned expert on modern slavery and RAGAS Coordinator Amelia Stansell. RAGAS is committed to connect, empower and equip Rotarians to engage their communities to eradicate all forms of human trafficking/modern slavery, locally and around the globe.

[more]

GRSP Spotlight

Meet Some of the Class of 2021/22

By Katheryne Fields

What do Yoonho, Geisha, Sagar and Hanna (clockwise from top left) have in common? All four are among the District 6900 sponsored students in the Georgia Rotary Student Program's Class of 2021/22. Yoonho was VP of the Teach North Korean Refugees Global High School Union in South Korea; Geisha was Interact Club president in Colombia before coming to Georgia; Sagar comes to us from Australia - and is competing in Rowing at Georgia State, and Hanna traveled from Norway to Wisconsin to participate in a Rotary World Affairs seminar in 2019. All four are here for a year's scholarship, thanks to the support and involvement of Rotarians throughout the State of Georgia. Learn more about them.

[more]

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Global Grant Project Focuses on Downs Syndrome Learning in Brazil

By Bob Koncerak

Six Alpharetta Rotarians traveled to Pelotas, R.S., Brazil. They were hosted by the Rotary Club of Pelotas-Oeste (D4680) as the clubs made progress on a Down Syndrome learning center and education project. Meetings and events included city, regional and federal officials. During the visit, Pelotas-Oeste finalized a $2,500 commitment for a Basic Education and Literacy (BEL) program, and D4680 announced a $5,000 BEL commitment. These funds, along with financial participation from the **Stone Mountain, Dunwoody, Peachtree City, Roswell and Alpharetta** clubs support funding of a $63,000 BEL global grant project now in development. All six of the Pelotas Rotary clubs joined the Alpharetta team at a November 18 celebration dinner.

[more]

Membership

Are you looking for ways to engage current members?

By Jaclyn Donovan

Use these Rotary resources to learn strategies that will keep members involved:

- Best Practices for Engaging Members — Take this Learning Center course to develop strategies for engaging people at all stages of membership.
- Practicing Flexibility and Innovation — Take this Learning Center course to help you better serve the needs of members and prospective members.
- Find ideas, a FAQ, and other resources on rotary.org/flexibility.
- Enhancing the Club Experience — Tailor this member satisfaction survey to get opinions

[more]

Laws of Life

Laws of Life Essay Contest: You Be the Judge

By Jackie Cuthbert

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay contest is coming up this winter/spring, with thousands of essays from high school students around the state. Volunteers are needed as Essay Judges for the Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest. As a Contest Sponsor you and your club members are invited to participate in the judging process. The response from schools has been tremendous this year. We expect to reach the number of essays we had in 2019, doubling last year's numbers! Thus, now more than ever, we need your help. The judging process kicks off on February 14, 2022 - read on to see how you might help.

[more]

Club News

East Cobb Honors Public Safety; Welcomes New Member

By Fred Hanna

Many members of the **East Cobb Rotary Club** attended a celebration for the East Cobb Law Enforcement Division. East Cobb Rotary has been a founding sponsor since the inception several years ago.

In addition, during her official visit, DG Mary helped the club welcome Dustin McCormick as a new member.

Club News

Dunwoody Continues 20+ Year Tradition of Magic

By Jackie Cuthbert

For more than 20 years, Dunwoody Rotarians have gathered early in December to do magic - converting elementary school books into magical holiday presents for each student at Dresden Elementary School. Rotarian Roy Ethridge and his wife Franci took the lead on these efforts for many of those years - inviting us to their home and garage the first Saturday in December to enjoy coffee and breakfast goodies and add book labels and English/Spanish vocabulary cards to about 1,000 books. It was the start to our holiday season ... followed by delivering the books to Dresden and receiving hundreds of thank you cards from the children.

[more]

Interact Update

Welcome Jackson High Interact!

By Becky Stone

Congratulations to the new Interact Club at Jackson High School! Officially chartered November 16, 2021, the club boasts 15 members and Kelly White as its faculty advisor. Assistant Governor Bonnie Pfrogner, District Governor Elect George Grenade and Rotarian Carlos Duffey (also Jackson Mayor Elect), all gave inspiring motivational talks to the ...

[more]

Club News

Thomasville Raises $25,000 for United Way

By Adrian Burns

For several years, the Caterpillar Corporation in Thomasville sponsored a golf tournament to raise money for the United Way. Unfortunately, Caterpillar closed their doors in 2016 and their manufacturing was relocated from Thomas County's community. Rotarian Scooter Grubbs came to the Board and asked if the club would consider carrying on this tradition since the United Way of Thomas County supports over 18 organizations in the community. The Board approved it and on August 26, 2017, Rotary Club of Thomasville held its first annual Rotary Golf Classic to support the United Way. The club raised over $11,000 the first year and in year four the club raised and presented United Way a check for $25,000.

[more]

Club News

New Moultrie Projects Focus on Kids

By Jaclyn Donovan

The **Rotary Club of Moultrie** participated in two new service projects recently: "Story Walk" and "Kicks for Kids." The club sponsored two different books - "Buckets, Dippers, and Lids" and "The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet" for a literacy event held on the second Saturday of each month in downtown Moultrie. "Kicks for Kids" was a partnership with the Moultrie Junior Woman's Club to provide a new pair of shoes to our local elementary school students. The shoes were purchased through a local retailer and each pair was tagged with a Rotary tag which lists the 4-Way Test on the back of the card.

[more]

Club News

Americus Rotarians Offer Comfort to Cancer Patients

By Angela Smith

Chemotherapy Port Pillows Funded by District Grant

What seems like just a small pillow can prove to be a much-appreciated item for someone with a port-a-cath, the device used to draw blood and give treatments, including intravenous fluids, blood transfusions, or drugs such as chemotherapy and antibiotics. The port is placed under the skin, usually in the right side of the chest. The Phoebe Sumter oncology clinic in Americus administers about 2,300 chemo treatments per year and with over 350 cancer patients who access the clinic, the Americus Rotary Club wrote for and was awarded a district grant to manufacture and distribute chemo port pillows to help ease the discomfort from seatbelt irritation at the chemo port site. They worked with a local woman-owned clothing manufacturer to make 415 chemo port pillows in a number of colors and designs, and logged over 100 volunteer hours over several days.

[more]

From GRSP ...

Oslo Scholarship Applications Due By December 31

By Katheryne Fields

The Norwegian Rotary Advisory Board partners with GRSP each year to offer a scholarship to three Georgia college students to study in Norway as part of their International Summer School for June 27-August 22, 2022. Interested students can apply through the GRSP website; the deadline to apply is December 31, 2021. Requirement informational flyer and application are now available online: **https://grsp.org/oslo-application**

[more]

Club News

Roswell's Focus on Membership Paying Dividends

By Becky Nelson

Roswell Rotary President Terry Taylor, "The **Roswell Rotary Club** is proud of all our new 2021 members! Coming off the COVID restrictions where we lost so many members for so many reasons, Roswell took a proactive approach to recruiting and marketing. We asked former members if they were ready to return and we invited new ones ... [more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, December 14th, 2021	**Polk County Official DG Visit**
Wednesday, December 15th, 2021	**Vinings Cumberland Official DG Visit**
Thursday, December 16th, 2021	**Thomasville District Governor Official Visit**
Tuesday, December 21st, 2021	**Dougherty County (Albany) Official DG Visit**

From Our District Governor

Working and Learning Together to Expand Our Reach



The statement to the left is powerful – the heart of Rotary International's vision for what we can accomplish. As individual Rotarians, as clubs … all the way up to the RI level, we have a tremendous opportunity to make a positive difference in the world. And to grow ourselves – through contacts, experiences and knowledge sharing.

Rotary International gives us many of the tools and resources we need to plan, take action and be successful. You can access many of those resources through Rotary's Learning Center; you can also participate in Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) courses (see an article about RLI later in the newsletter).

Take, for example, Membership – an area you know is important to me and the #1 priority of our Rotary International President. Engaging members is our #1 strategy for growth. That's because enthusiastic members stay in Rotary and want to share the Rotary experience with the people they meet and know. – bringing in more members and more partners to help in the work we do.

So how do we help clubs create engagement strategies? Rotary offers a great resource through the Learning Center Course, **"Best Practices for Engaging Members."** The course is open to any Rotarian – and with a 15-minute investment of time, you can learn how you might help energize the club experience, keep members interested and involved, and prevent your club from becoming stale. See Membership Chair Jaclyn Donovan's article in this newsletter to learn about other Rotary learning opportunities related to membership.

You'll find a wealth of information in Rotary's Learning Center that can help you plan and act successfully on a variety of topics – from membership to service projects to The Rotary Foundation. Access the center through My Rotary, then look for courses that meet your needs. Mobile access to the Learning Center is now available in all Rotary supported languages.

I thank you for all you are doing for your communities and the world, and wish you and yours the best of holiday seasons!

Posted by Mary Ligon
December 5, 2021

From Our RI Director

Join Zoomformation Call - Monday December 6 at 1:00 pm

From RI Director Peter Kyle



Once again, I am pleased to announce that the upcoming Zoomformation call (login details below) on December 6 at 1:00 pm will include three very distinguished speakers. As December is Disease Treatment and Prevention Month, the focus of each presentation will be on a different aspect of public health. The three presenters are:

1. Dr. John Philip, MD: "The pleasures and pitfalls of engaging in health improvement programs." Dr. Philip is the Chair of the International Rotary Fellowship of Healthcare Professionals, a Past District Governor (District 1040) and a member of the Technical Cadre.
2. Dr. John Ward, MD: "Progress on the Elimination of Hepatitis." Dr. Ward created and directs the Coalition for Global Hepatitis Elimination of the Task Force for Global Health - guiding the development of a global viral hepatitis elimination program. He will speak on Rotary's involvement in this initiative.

3. Brad Howard: "Update on Rotary Family Health Days." Rotary Family Health Days is the signature program of the Rotary Action Group for Family Health and Aids Prevention (RFHA). Brad is a member of the Board of Directors of RFHA. He is also a Past Director of RI and currently serves as the Aide to RI President-Elect Jennifer Jones.

Each of these speakers are leaders in their respective fields. You will not want to miss this Zoomformation call. Please invite your Rotarian friends to join the call.

Join Zoom Meeting at
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85181928278?pwd=OTZyZVIycDdCS1lCSklGZ0VpTVcwQT09

Meeting ID: 851 8192 8278 Passcode: 586184

Posted by Mary Ligon
December 4, 2021

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Meriwether County Students Benefit from D6900 Competitive Grant



When District Governor Mary Ligon made her official visit to the **Rotary Club of Meriwether County,** she toured the Wrap Around Care Center at Manchester High School - the beneficiary of one of the competitive $10,000 grants awarded by Rotary District 6900.

A school and community-based partnership providing one-stop Community Access to Resources and Education (CARE) the resource center focuses on the whole child by providing access to resources, services, and opportunities for Meriwether County students. The care centers provide a way for students

to come to school or stay in school and not leave campus during the day. Benefits for students include access to school supplies; personal hygiene products, a food pantry for take-home food for students; access to a laundry center to wash and dry clothes; a counseling center offering professional counseling for students during school hours; a Computer Center providing student access to computers and WIFI, student mentoring through the Check and Connect program, and much more.

The Rotary Club of Meriwether County plays a prominent role within the Wrap Around Care Centers located within Unity Elementary, Mountain View Elementary, Manchester Middle School, Manchester High School, and Greenville Middle High School. In addition to financial support, Rotary members volunteer their services by crafting individual "It's a Girl Thing" bags (building a weekly supply of feminine products in a unique bag). Creating Personal Care bags for students (Washrag, toothbrush, toothpaste, soap, and shampoo in a bag), organizing clothes items within storage bins at each school, arranging, coordinating, and distributing the food items within the Food Pantry and arranging, coordinating, and distributing school supplies.

"Within the teaching profession and with other individuals that work with our students, we have a heart for kids," explains Todd McCrae, Manchester High School principal. "Before the CARE Center was opened, staff members took it upon themselves to purchase items for students, and today we are blessed to have a place for students to access the services and resources they need to stay in school."

Most of the clothing closet stock comes from donations from teachers, staff members, and other individuals or groups within the community. Private contributions from foundations such as the Rotary Foundation, civic clubs, and other organizations continue to donate other items, like hygiene products, food, and school supplies.

If you would like to take a virtual tour of the wrap around center, click https://youtu.be/CdN43InQugQ, to visit the website click https://sites.google.com/mcssga.org/wraparoundcarecenters/home, and to see testimonials click here https://youtu.be/o53Z-qSnFpE.

For more information, contact Kay Williamson, Wrap Around Services Coordinator, Meriwether County School District. kay.williamson@mcssga.org 706-302-2614

PHOTOS:





Posted by Laurie Lewis
December 3, 2021

Membership

Way to Grow! Keep It Going …

Welcome these new members to District 6900 in November:

- Roswell – Alicia Hughes, Bill Hoban, Clifton Sprinkle, Haniel Jones, Tillie O'Neal
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Expanding our reach is one of our four strategic action priorities. Congratulations to these 36 clubs for their YTD net increase in membership. Every club needs a strategy for growth. Need help with developing a plan, please reach out to district membership chair, Jaclyn Donovan so she can connect you with resources that will help your club expand their reach.

Club Name	**Members 7/1/21**	**Members 12/1/21**	**Net Change**	**% Change**
Total for District	**3887**	**3934**	**47**	**1%**
Johns Creek-North Fulton	29	40	11	**38%**
South DeKalb County	22	29	7	**32%**
Bremen	18	22	4	**22%**
Camilla	41	48	7	**17%**
Carrollton-Dawn Breakers	62	72	10	**16%**
Polk County	13	15	2	**15%**
Atlanta Airport	16	18	2	**13%**
Midtown Atlanta	73	80	7	**10%**
Fayette Daybreak	11	12	1	**9%**
Muscogee-Columbus	24	26	2	**8%**
Fayetteville	13	14	1	**8%**
Griffin	97	104	7	**7%**
Americus	65	69	4	**6%**
Lake Spivey/Clayton County	33	35	2	**6%**
Atlanta Metro	36	38	2	**6%**
Meriwether County (Warm Springs)	18	19	1	**6%**
Emory-Druid Hills (Dekalb County)	19	20	1	**5%**
North Cobb County	61	64	3	**5%**
South Cobb	21	22	1	**5%**
Griffin Daybreak	25	26	1	**4%**

Thomasville	125	130	5	**4%**
Marietta	78	81	3	**4%**
Henry County	28	29	1	**4%**
Peachtree City	112	116	4	**4%**
Tucker	29	30	1	**3%**
North Columbus	36	37	1	**3%**
Stone Mountain	37	38	1	**3%**
Alpharetta	146	149	3	**2%**
Barnesville	49	50	1	**2%**
Moultrie	55	56	1	**2%**
LaGrange	112	114	2	**2%**
Vinings Cumberland	61	62	1	**2%**
Roswell	221	224	3	**1%**
Decatur	74	75	1	**1%**
Albany	93	94	1	**1%**
Columbus	279	282	3	**1%**

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
December 5, 2021

The Rotary Foundation

An Update on Giving for 2020-21

Having just wrapped up November where our focus has been on the Rotary Foundation – our charity of choice - special thanks and recognition banners go to these clubs for their gifts to the Foundation in the 2020-2021 Rotary year.

As we reported last month, the top three clubs based on per capita giving to the annual fund for 2020-2021 are:

1. Emory-Druid Hills at $1777.78
2. North Fulton at $1625.55
3. Muscogee-Columbus at $1598.08

We also want to recognize the clubs below - 24 in each category for giving in the last Rotary year:

100% Sustaining and EREY Clubs	Polio Plus Contributors ($1,500 or more)
- Albany	- Americus
- Alpharetta	- Atlanta
- Blakely	- Barnesville
- Bremen	- Buckhead
- Carrollton Dawnbreakers	- Carrollton Dawnbreakers
- Dallas-Paulding	- Columbus
- Dunwoody	- Dougherty County
- East Cobb	- Dunwoody
- Forsyth-Monroe	- East Cobb
- Griffin Daybreak	- Emory-Druid Hills
- Henry County	- Griffin
- LaGrange	- Henry County
- Marietta	- LaGrange
- Marietta Metro	- Marietta Metro
- Meriwether County	- Midtown Atlanta
- Newnan	- Muscogee-Columbus
- North Cobb	- Newnan
- Paulding County	- North Atlanta
- Senoia	- Peachtree City
- Smyrna	- Roswell
- South Dekalb	- Sandy Springs
- Thomasville	- Thomasville
- Tucker	- Tucker
- Vinings Cumberland	- Vinings Cumberland

Banners recognizing the 100% Sustaining and EREY clubs will be delivered in the next few weeks. Remember that a portion of donations to the annual fund is returned to the district three years later to be used for district and global grants.

Thanks to all of these clubs for their focus on the Rotary Foundation and the impact we have in our communities and across the globe through the Foundation.

Posted by Mary Ligon
December 5, 2021

GRSP 75th Anniversary

Help Celebrate 75 Years of GRSP Next January



Two special events are planned for Thomasville in January 2022 to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the Georgia Rotary Student Program. We would love to have you join us for:

- **The GRSP 75th Celebration Dinner on Friday, January 21, 2022** at 6:30 PM at the Plaza Restaurant located at 217 Broad St., Thomasville. The event will feature a spotlight on GRSP success, a salute to the Generations of Generosity donors to the GRSP Peace Plaza and Will Watt Memorial Fountain along with Trustee Foundation award recognitions. The dress for the Friday gala is semi-formal (coat and tie with dress pants for men and dress skirts, dress suits or cocktail dress for women). The cost is $50 per person and includes heavy hot and cold appetizers, salad, baked potato, green beans w/carrots, rolls with one entrée option including prime rib, Greek chitscken or salmon. Choice of homemade pies (chocolate, lemon or coconut), tea, coffee and one drink ticket for wine or beer. **Click here to register.**
- **Dedication of the GRSP Peace Plaza and Will Watt Memorial Fountain on Saturday, January 22** at 11:30 AM next to the Courtyard by Marriott Downtown in Thomasville.

These events are being held in conjunction with the GRSP winter trustee meeting; current students will not be attending. See more information at **https://grsp.org/calendar-of-events**.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
December 5, 2021

Youth and Peace in Action

Sign Up for Guiding Young Peacebuilders and Get Involved



District 6900 is a designated Champion (!) in the Zones 33 & 34 Youth & Peace in Action (YPA) program, the largest local peacebuilding initiative in Rotary history. On Int'l. Peace Day, Sept. 21st, Youth & Peace in Action (YPA) launched with founding support from Rotary Zones 33 & 34 and collaboration from D6860. This is the largest local peacebuilding initiative in Rotary Int'l. history. Early on, 300+ high schools and youth clubs were first to apply, and across the Zones, 4,300 students are now registered!

The heart of YPA is an Online Peace Platform with Courses, Challenges, Case Studies, Communities. The first module for the My Peacebuilder Foundations student course opened Nov. 15th. In our district, 57 high schools and youth clubs in District 6900 are signed up. **Student registration, available at no cost to schools and clubs, closes December 31.** Contact: info@youthpeaceaction.org for more information. Students who complete the course are equipped to imagine peace projects and qualify for a follow-on training in early 2022 called Leading Peace Project Teams.

Teachers, student club advisors and Rotarians in participating Districts can take a parallel course: Guiding Young Peacebuilders. Any Rotarian in our District can join in by registering for the online YPA Guiding Young Peacebuilders course, at no cost, and learn what peacebuilding involving Rotarians and young

people is all about: https://tinyurl.com/GYPRotary. There's a YPA online discussion community available with the course.

YPA is endorsed by Rotarian Action Group for Peace, Rotary International strategic partner Institute for Economics & Peace, and Alliance for Peacebuilding. Building on this year's strong YPA launch, future plans are already underway. **Watch this short video** about YPA 2021-22, and reach out to learn more and express interest for 2022-23!

Posted by Becky Stone
December 3, 2021

RI Convention 2022

Join Us in Houston - Last Call for Reduced Rates



Rotarians around the world are excited to gather again in-person to connect, share ideas, and strengthen relationships in an atmosphere of friendship and learning. The 2022 Rotary International Convention in Houston, Texas offers that opportunity – and we remain optimistic that we'll be joining the world in person June 4-8, 2022. There's already a group from District 6900 who is registered and ready!

The deadline to register at the reduced rate is fast approaching. You have until December 15, 2021, so sign up and pay today to take advantage of significant savings. You'll have the chance to cancel for a full refund until April 30, 2022, minus a $50 per person administration fee.

The Rotary convention provides opportunities to expand your network, share best practices, and stay informed. Plus, you won't want to miss the Houston Host Organization Committee's lineup of ticketed events, like the Discovery Green Welcome Event at a 12-acre park steps from the convention center. Don't delay your convention registration and the prospect of meeting up with old and new friends. Perhaps you can even encourage a friend to join you so they, too, can be inspired with the family of Rotary.

Posted by George Granade

December 5, 2021

Rotary Leadership Institute

Start the New Year Off Right with RLI



Rotary Leadership Institute offers a learning experience like no other Rotary training. It provides the opportunity to interact with Rotarians from all over Georgia in person, and all over Georgia, Florida and the Caribbean online. RLI is interactive, fun, and a great way to share ideas with a diverse group of Rotarians outside the confines of one's own club. The bigger world of Rotary is out there waiting for you! Do you know about Rotary Fellowships? Rotary Action Groups? The history of the Four Way Test? The Rotary Foundation and the good it is doing in the world? Do you want to know more about ways to attract new members and keep your current membership engaged and active in your club and beyond? If you answered "YES" to any of these questions, then RLI is right for you!

The **Rotary Club of Barnesville** graciously hosted RLI at Gordon State College on December 4. Thanks to Past President Kelly Hughes and President Kathy Oxford for all their help. Special thanks to Rotarian Bob Taylor for waking up bright and early to put out directional signs, and to Rotarian and Gordon State President Kirk Nooks for hosting us on the campus of Gordon State College, and for participating in RLI as a Part One participant.

The **Rotary Club of Thomasville** will host RLI on January 15, 2022 and registration is open. Parts 1, 2 and 3 are being offered.

Registration is also open for dozens of online opportunities. Head over to **www.rlitraining.org** and register for RLI. Don’t miss these awesome opportunities to grow as a Rotarian and a leader.

Posted by Stephanie Windham
December 3, 2021

For the Club Leadership Team

Reminders As We Move into 2022

- As we get ready to turn the calendar to 2022:
- **Presidents-Elect should be selecting their leadership teams for the next Rotary year.** Club officers and directors for 2022/23 year should be entered in myrotary.org system by December 31 so that the incoming team receives messages about training and information to help them get ready to lead in the upcoming year
- **Clubs should update their club membership and officer information in preparation for the January 2022 club invoices** from Rotary International and the District. Make your updates by January 1, using (Mary - please confirm whether it through District site or myrotary.org?)
- **The GRSP student selection process will take place in Thomasville in January** - clubs wishing to participate in hosting a student must submit their commitment forms to the GRSP office no later than January 14. The Student Selection "book" is all online this year, and club presidents should have received an email November 22 with access to the online site. Contact the GRSP office if you have questions.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
December 5, 2021

Calling All Rotary Anti-Slavery Superheroes!



The Rotary Action Group Against Slavery (RAGAS) - led by District 6900's own Dave McCleary - will hold a Zoom meeting on December 8 at 9:00 AM Eastern time. You may join using this **Zoom link**. RAGAS is committed to connect, empower and equip Rotarians to engage their communities to eradicate all forms of human trafficking/modern slavery, locally and around the globe.

The meeting will feature special guest, RAGAS Board Member and founder/CEO of Mekong Club, Matt Friedman. Matt is an internationally renowned expert on modern slavery with over 35 years of experience in the field. He will share ways you can engage your community in the fight against human trafficking/modern slavery in the world and share his new book "Where Were You?"

RAGAS Coordinator Amelia Stansell will share the RAGAS Community Action & Prevention Education

(CAPE) strategic action plan. She will share our newly developed toolbox to help you begin implementing CAPE in your District, Clubs and your Communities. RAGAS is offering ten grants to help Districts and Clubs execute local community awareness and prevention education projects through a competitive request for proposal which will be introduced during the call. The deadline to submit a project proposal is February 28, 2022.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
December 4, 2021

GRSP Spotlight

Meet Some of the Class of 2021/22






UNIVER
West


39
EORGIA
LLDOGS

Yoonho Kim of South Korea is a UGA freshman with a game plan! Yoonho said he is used to large crowds at home but was not prepared for opening day and the tailgating scene in Athens this fall. “It was amazing,” he said. “In my home country, we just watch pro games, not college. I’m learning about the game.” Yoonho is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Griffin. In high school, he was the vice president in the Teach North Korean Refugees Global High School Union, which is a community service club. Next year, Yoonho will return to South Korea for a year of mandatory military service. He plans to return to UGA after service and graduate with a degree in sports management. He likes to run and cycle, having participated in triathlons and many races. He also likes gaming and is highly competitive in League of Legends. Yoonho is learning his away about the South one meal at a time. He’s discovered the Chick-fil-A on campus, stating, “It is very good but always has a long line outside of the Tate Center. I really like the waffle fries!” He is fairly independent and text his family weekly, mainly to check on his cat, Nabi, who is 24 pounds!

Geisha Haddad from Colombia says her friends describe her as a relentless dream seeker. She describes herself as an extrovert who likes traveling and meeting people around the world. She sees life as an adventure. Geisha attends Columbus State University and is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Columbus. She said that her host family, Margaret and Charles McCall, along with her peers at CSU have graciously shared their customs with her as she tries to embrace and treasure the memories she is making in her year in Georgia. Her parents expressed their gratitude for her opportunity in a video she shared this week with her Rotary Club.

Before coming to GRSP, Geisha served as the president of her Interact Club which included about 150 high school students. In the initial stage of the pandemic, the club had to adopt an online format and adapt to a new process. She also served as the Carnival Queen when she was 17 and an active member of the dance team and the softball team. An honor student who credits her school as setting the foundation for her leadership, Geisha is dedicated to serving others. Geisha is majoring in marketing and communications. She quickly got involved with a Women’s Empowerment movement at CSU. Geisha will join the Rotary Club of Columbus on a service project to Guatemala on her spring break.

Sagar Badve of Australia starts his day at 4 a.m. about half the week, as he travels to the Atlanta Rowing Club in Roswell in preparation for competition. Sagar is a student and member of the Rowing Club at Georgia State University (GSU), sponsored by the Rotary Club of Atlanta. Hailing from a notoriously hot country, Sagar has favored the weather that Georgia has brought on. However, he is not opposed to new climates, having spent a semester abroad in Europe on a university exchange. An avid traveller, Sagar has come to gain a truly international perspective.

As Sagar approaches the three-month mark of his time in Atlanta, he is learning to embrace the uniqueness of the South. “Having previously visited Los Angeles, Chicago, and New York, I thought I had a decent understanding of all things America,” Sagar said. “It wasn’t until I arrived in Atlanta that I realized that each city is truly unique. Atlanta and its people have treated me very well. I extend a huge thank you to Rotary members, from all clubs, and Georgians who have afforded me many opportunities and experiences, thus far.” Experiences that include attending: a Black Crowes concert, Atlanta United soccer game, Atlanta Braves baseball game as well as an “American Football” game for the University of Georgia. “I didn’t realize tailgating started at 10 a.m. for a 7 p.m. game,” Sagar exclaimed recalling his first trip to Athens. The short time he has spent in Atlanta has been nothing short of electric and next year, Sagar plans to return to Australia to finish his law degree with aim of returning to work in the United States, and particularly Atlanta, Georgia.

Hanna Larsen of Norway misses the taste of moose, among other delicacies in her home country. Raised on a farm tending sheep, she understands multitasking more than many young adults. Her focus has

shifted as she adapts to life in the United States via GRSP. Hanna is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Lake Spivey/Clayton County and Henry County with Mike and Doris Griffin serving as her host family. She attends the University of West Georgia where she is taking courses in world studies, world religion and world literature. She is considering a career in international relations. In 2019, Hanna spent a week in Wisconsin as part of Rotary's World Affairs Seminar.

In Norway, Hanna played handball and enjoyed ice skating, skiing and hiking. She spent time traveling through Europe before coming to Georgia for a year. Some of her objectives are to learn more about Rotary, improve her English and visit other states. In October, she and a handful of GRSP students visited Chicago. "I feel like my English is better already in just four months," Hanna said. "I am surprised how far apart the other states are from Georgia. "I'm learning more about Rotary and spending time with my host family. I've been to Georgia Tech football games and enjoyed a glider ride. I am so thankful for this opportunity."

Posted by Katheryne Fields
December 5, 2021

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Global Grant Project Focuses on Downs Syndrome Learning in Brazil



Six Alpharetta Rotarians traveled to Pelotas, R.S., Brazil. They were hosted by the Rotary Club of Pelotas-Oeste (D4680) as the clubs made progress on a Down Syndrome learning center and education project. Meetings and events included city, regional and federal officials. During the visit, Pelotas-Oeste finalized a $2,500 commitment for a Basic Education and Literacy (BEL) program, and D4680 announced a $5,000

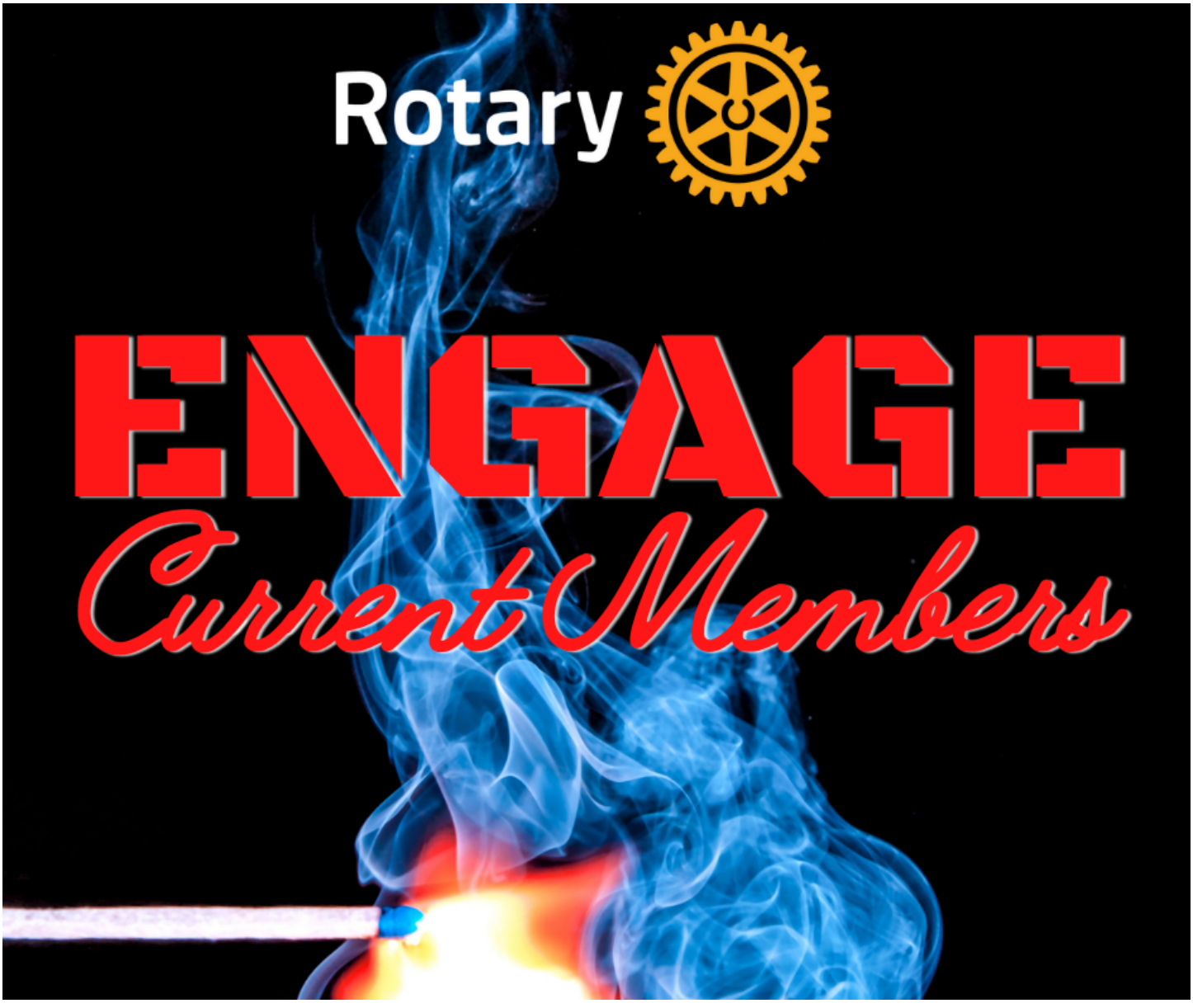
BEL commitment. These funds, along with financial participation from the **Stone Mountain, Dunwoody, Peachtree City, Roswell and Alpharetta** clubs support funding of a $63,000 BEL global grant project now in development. All six of the Pelotas Rotary clubs joined the Alpharetta team at a November 18 celebration dinner.

During December, the global grant project entry will be finalized and presented to D6900 and D4680 for approval and advancement to the RI Global Grant committee. HATS OFF to Olga Narvaez, who spent many hours with the Pelotas club, refining global grant documentation. Another trip is planned in 2022.

Posted by Bob Koncerak
December 4, 2021

Membership

Are you looking for ways to engage current members?



Use these Rotary resources to learn strategies that will keep members involved:

- Best Practices for Engaging Members — Take this Learning Center course to develop strategies for engaging people at all stages of membership.
- Practicing Flexibility and Innovation — Take this Learning Center course to help you better serve the needs of members and prospective members.
- Find ideas, a FAQ, and other resources on rotary.org/flexibility.
- Enhancing the Club Experience — Tailor this member satisfaction survey to get opinions on your club's future. Then act on the results and consider implementing your members' ideas.
- Improving Your Member Retention — Learn when and why members leave your club and generate strategies to keep them engaged.
- Connect for Good — Encourage members to get involved in their club, community, and the Rotary world for a more meaningful experience.
- Understanding Why Members Leave — Use this exit survey to address the reasons that members may be leaving your club.
- Club Innovation Stories (audio recordings) — A series of recorded stories highlighting the innovative work being done by clubs all around the world.
- Recognize members for their dedication and service to the club, community and to our organization.
- Connect members with opportunities to develop their professional skills and expand their networks.
- Club Programming Vimeo Channel – Use these videos from recent Rotary events to supplement your club meetings. Videos range from 10-25 minutes.

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
December 4, 2021

Laws of Life

Laws of Life Essay Contest: You Be the Judge



THE GEORGIA ROTARY CLUBS LAWS OF LIFE ESSAY CONTEST

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay contest is coming up this winter/spring, with thousands of essays from high school students around the state. Volunteers are needed as Essay Judges for the Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest. As a Contest Sponsor you and your club members are invited to participate in the judging process. The response from schools has been tremendous this year. We expect to reach the number of essays we had in 2019, doubling last year's numbers! Thus, now more than ever, we need your help.

The judging process kicks off on February 14, 2022 when essays are due.

- School-level Winners are announced by March 25, 2022.
- State Winners are announced by April 1st.

Using the Submittable online platform, we hope to reach a maximum number of volunteer judges throughout the state. Virtual training sessions will be held prior to judging and first-time volunteers are encouraged to attend.

Please share this information with your club. Volunteers are asked to sign up now by clicking on **THIS LINK.** Volunteers can serve as School-level Judges, State Judges or both. All volunteers only need to attend one training session.

School Level Judge Training

- Wednesday, February 9, 2022 12:00 - 1:00 PM
- Wednesday, February 9, 2022 5:30 - 6:30 PM

State Judge Training

- Monday, March 21, 2022 12:00 - 1:00PM
- Tuesday, March 22, 2022 12:00 - 1:00PM

For those not able to attend a training session, video training will be made available at a later date.

How the Judging Process Looks

- Round One - School Level Winners
  - Essay Judges will work in teams of 3 (1 Team Lead & 2 volunteers) to read and score up to 48 essays by grade by school via Submittable.
  - Essays will be scored using a rubric tool.
  - Volunteers will have approximately one week to score their assigned essays.
  - Teams will meet once virtually for approximately one hour to discuss their assigned student essays; and at this meeting they will select grade winners, school winners and honorable mentions.
- Round Two - State Finalist selection
  - All School Winners will be considered for State Finalist selection
  - Staff and a limited number of Essay Judges will review and discuss each School Winner to select the 15-18 State Finalists
- Round Three - State Winners
  - State Judges will select the 7 State Winners from 15-18 State Finalists
  - State Judges will read and rank State Finalists essays via Submittable
  - Most finalist judges find that it takes 2 to 3 hours to complete the assignment

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
December 4, 2021

Club News

East Cobb Honors Public Safety; Welcomes New Member



Many members of the **East Cobb Rotary Club** attended a celebration for the East Cobb Law Enforcement Division. East Cobb Rotary has been a founding sponsor since the inception several years ago.

In addition, during her official visit, DG Mary helped the club welcome Dustin McCormick as a new member.

PHOTOS:


EXIT
EXIT

Posted by Fred Hanna
December 4, 2021

Club News

Dunwoody Continues 20+ Year Tradition of Magic



For more than 20 years, **Dunwoody Rotarians** have gathered early in December to do magic - converting elementary school books into magical holiday presents for each student at Dresden Elementary School. Rotarian Roy Ethridge and his wife Franci took the lead on these efforts for many of those years - inviting

us to their home and garage the first Saturday in December to enjoy coffee and breakfast goodies and add book labels and English/Spanish vocabulary cards to about 1,000 books. It was the start to our holiday season ... followed by delivering the books to Dresden and receiving hundreds of thank you cards from the children.

A few years ago, Anita Augello, wife of Rotarian Charlie Augello, pushed for us to add Kingsley Elementary to our book project - and we did!

Some years, we prepared the books at a Friday morning Rotary meeting. This year, we returned to a Saturday morning event - at President Carter Stout's office space - where 30 people joined together and readied 1,000 books for distribution this holiday season - including our two newest members (inducted the day before) and one prospective member and her son.

Our district grant funded this year's project, and we can't wait to see the faces of the students when we deliver the books.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
December 4, 2021

Interact Update

Welcome Jackson High Interact!



Congratulations to the new Interact Club at Jackson High School! Officially chartered November 16, 2021, the club boasts 15 members and Kelly White as its faculty advisor. Assistant Governor Bonnie Pfrogner,

District Governor Elect George Grenade and Rotarian Carlos Duffey (also Jackson Mayor Elect), all gave inspiring motivational talks to the new Interact Club.

Jackson-Butts County Rotary Club President Ronnie Burch and members were present to congratulate the students and their parents on this historic occasion at The Brickery restaurant. Great things will happen in this community!

Posted by Becky Stone
December 3, 2021

Club News

Thomasville Raises $25,000 for United Way



For several years, the Caterpillar Corporation in Thomasville sponsored a golf tournament to raise money for the United Way. Unfortunately, Caterpillar closed their doors in 2016 and their manufacturing was relocated from Thomas County's community. Rotarian Scooter Grubbs came to the Board and asked if the club would consider carrying on this tradition since the United Way of Thomas County supports over 18 organizations in the community. The Board approved it and on August 26, 2017, **Rotary Club of Thomasville** held its first annual Rotary Golf Classic to support the United Way. The club raised over $11,000 the first year and in year four the club raised and presented United Way a check for $25,000.

In 2019 Rotarian Rick Piper established the W.C. Niebaum (Rick's grandfather who introduced him to the game of golf) trophy for the high school competition. This year's high school winner was the Thomas County Central High School golf team.

We enjoy helping our community and United Way is one umbrella that allows us to serve and reach more. This event further exposes our philanthropic organization to this community and surrounding communities.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Adrian Burns
December 4, 2021

Club News

New Moultrie Projects Focus on Kids



The **Rotary Club of Moultrie** participated in two new service projects recently: “Story Walk” and “Kicks for Kids.” The club sponsored two different books – “Buckets, Dippers, and Lids” and “The Rooster Who Would Not Be Quiet” for a literacy event held on the second Saturday of each month in downtown Moultrie. The club purchased over 100 books for the event and members gathered after a club meeting to attach Rotary stickers inside the cover of each book. The “Story Walk” activity itself allows children to explore the book (while on the courthouse square downtown) and at the end of the day they get to take home their very own copy of the book.

“Kicks for Kids” was a partnership with the Moultrie Junior Woman’s Club to provide a new pair of shoes to our local elementary school students. The shoes were purchased through a local retailer and each pair was tagged with a Rotary tag which lists the 4-Way Test on the back of the card. The club used a regular club meeting as a “working lunch” to attach the Rotary tags and divide the shoes into allotments meant for four different elementary schools in the community. Club members also delivered the shoes out the schools and made presentations to the staff.

For more information about "Story Walk," **check out the document posted on the district website**.

PHOTOS:


FILA
FILA
FILA
FILA



Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
December 4, 2021

Club News

Americus Rotarians Offer Comfort to Cancer Patients



Chemotherapy Port Pillows Funded by District Grant

What seems like just a small pillow can prove to be a much-appreciated item for someone with a port-a-cath, the device used to draw blood and give treatments, including intravenous fluids, blood transfusions, or drugs such as chemotherapy and antibiotics. The port is placed under the skin, usually in the right side of the chest. The Phoebe Sumter oncology clinic in Americus administers about 2,300 chemo treatments per year and with over 350 cancer patients who access the clinic, the **Americus Rotary Club** wrote for and was awarded a district grant to manufacture and distribute chemo port pillows to help ease the discomfort from seatbelt irritation at the chemo port site. They worked with a local woman-owned clothing manufacturer to make 415 chemo port pillows in a number of colors and designs, and logged over 100 volunteer hours over several days.

Cancer patients who drive or are driven to and from appointments, doctor appointments, chemo, etc. and who have a port (normally placed on either the left side of the chest above the heart or on the right underneath the collarbone), can experience irritation at the port site, which is often where seatbelt rubs. Having had personal experience with a port, Past President Angela Smith was inspired by a Mother's Day gift of a port pillow with other care items given to her prior to the start of chemotherapy in 2020. "What seemed like such a simple solution ended up being one of the most useful items I was given during my cancer battle," stated Smith. The pillow, which attaches to a seatbelt with Velcro straps, can be used on the right or left side depending on which side port is located or whether patient is the driver or passenger.

Elena Carne, local designer and owner of T31 in Americus provided assistance and oversight, and allowed

use of her facility during lunch and after hours to allow working Rotarians to take part in this worthwhile project. The port pillows are small, but practical items that provide extra comfort during a very tumultuous and emotional time and serve as a free resource for men, women, and children. There were 350 donated to the Oncology Clinic of Phoebe Sumter Medical Center with extras going to other clinics in the region. Americus Rotary is grateful to the Rotary Foundation and for the opportunities that District Grants make possible.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Angela Smith
December 4, 2021

From GRSP …

Oslo Scholarship Applications Due By December 31



The Norwegian Rotary Advisory Board partners with GRSP each year to offer a scholarship to three Georgia college students to study in Norway as part of their International Summer School for June 27-August 22, 2022.

Interested students can apply through the GRSP website; the deadline to apply is December 31, 2021. Nominees will be reviewed and winners will be selected by a committee of GRSP Trustees in each District. The scholarship is open to undergraduate and graduate college students who have completed sophomore year, are between ages 20-24, single, in good health and academic standing, AND willing to serve as an ambassador for Georgia Rotarians.

Scholarship includes air fares from Atlanta to Oslo and return to Atlanta, one weekend excursion (administered by the University of Oslo), room, board and administrative fees for the International Summer School at the University of Oslo. Scholarship recipients must pay their travel expense to and from Atlanta, plus provide their own personal spending money. Requirement informational flyer and application are now available online: **https://grsp.org/oslo-application**.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
December 5, 2021

Club News

Roswell's Focus on Membership Paying Dividends



Roswell Rotary President Terry Taylor, “The **Roswell Rotary Club** is proud of all our new 2021 members! Coming off the COVID restrictions where we lost so many members for so many reasons, Roswell took a proactive approach to recruiting and marketing. We asked former members if they were ready to return and we invited new ones personally and through general solicitations in our social media posts and at local festivals and other events. Furthermore, we added three new levels of membership.”

As a result and in part to adding three new membership levels, Roswell Rotary has new members lined up to join in the fun and give back to our community. RRC Membership Chair Trummie Lee Patrick III is processing applications as fast as our by-laws allow. Patrick states “To date we have inducted 10 new members with more coming!”

The three new added Roswell Rotary membership levels are:

- **Young Professionals** (<35 years of age) play an integral role for sustained growth at Roswell Rotary and have the same invested personality for Service above Self. However, they may not have the financial resources to pay full membership dues or have the professional flexibility to attend weekly meetings just yet. Therefore, the annual dues at this new membership level have been reduced to accommodate these young professionals.
- **Corporate Memberships** have long been discussed but kept at bay to abide by the RI rules for only

individuals. Our “Corporate” membership is now offered to individuals of an organization which includes a Primary Member and an Alternate Member. Both members can attend our events and meeting however only the primary member is listed in the RI roster with full voting rights. Their premium annual dues include an ad in our membership directory and bronze sponsorship benefits at the annual golf/tennis tournament.

- **Non-Profits and Accredited Schools** have attended and been active with Roswell Rotary for decades. However, due to conflicts in schedules the leadership of our local Non-Profits and North Fulton schools have often been unable to attend our Thursday meetings. This new membership level includes a Primary Member and an Alternate Member for flexibility should one member be unable to attend our meetings or events.

The club is excited about the energy surrounding its membership drive and looks forward to inducting many new energetic members to help give back to our community.

Posted by Becky Nelson
December 4, 2021
