



*DG Jim with the Rotaract Club of Atlanta and the Atlanta Metro Rotary Club in early March - before our days of social distancing*

From Our District Governor

**Connecting to Rotary in a Whole New Way**

By Jim Squire  
 Rotary is secular. Our membership is global and represents many different religions as well as non-believers. But there are challenging times when we all need to look to each other for strength while also seeking the comfort and courage from our individual faith. In my case, there is comfort in knowing that one of the most often repeated phrases in the Bible is four simple words, "This too shall pass." [more]

**LEADERBOARD** Check out the full district scoreboard

Here are the clubs that are leading the way in our district for membership, annual fund and polio plus.

Category	NET MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
I	<b>Fayetteville</b>	<b>North Atlanta</b>	<b>Brookhaven</b>
II	<b>North Columbus</b>	<b>North Fulton</b>	<b>Vinings Cumberland</b>
III	<b>Marietta</b>	<b>Dunwoody</b>	<b>Carrollton-Dawn Breakers</b>
IV	<b>Roswell</b>	<b>Roswell</b>	<b>Peachtree City</b>

**Key Dates**



*This photo comes from Global Grant Scholar Sean Minton, who is sheltering in place with wife Amy in London and working on getting ethical approval for interviews related to his masters dissertation, which he will begin writing in June. Amy is recovering from an upper respiratory infection due to COVID-19 and Sean tested positive as well but is asymptomatic.*

The Rotary  
Foundation  
**As the  
World  
Shakes,  
Rotary  
District  
6900  
Rocks!!!**

By Anne Glenn  
We hope every  
District 6900

Rotarian is  
well and safe  
at home, far  
away from the  
COVID - 19  
virus. If you're  
out there  
working  
among our  
Healthcare  
Heroes, the we  
send our  
thoughts,  
prayers,  
support and  
deepest  
gratitude to  
surround you  
daily as you  
fight to save  
our friends and  
neighbors.

Thank you.  
The past five  
weeks brought  
immense  
challenges into  
Georgia -  
nightly news  
media  
displayed  
issues "front  
and center"  
that were  
unimaginable  
in January or  
February,  
2020. The  
numbers of ill  
and dying  
people were  
too large to  
comprehend;  
yet they  
climbed higher  
daily as the  
lines of people  
needing food  
grew longer.  
[more]



Serving During the  
Pandemic

**Urgent  
Request for  
Disaster Relief  
Funds -  
District 6900  
and The  
Rotary  
Foundation**

By Anne Glenn

Today is May 1, 2020 -  
the virus is still with us  
at home and across the  
world.

What are we doing today  
that makes tomorrow  
different?

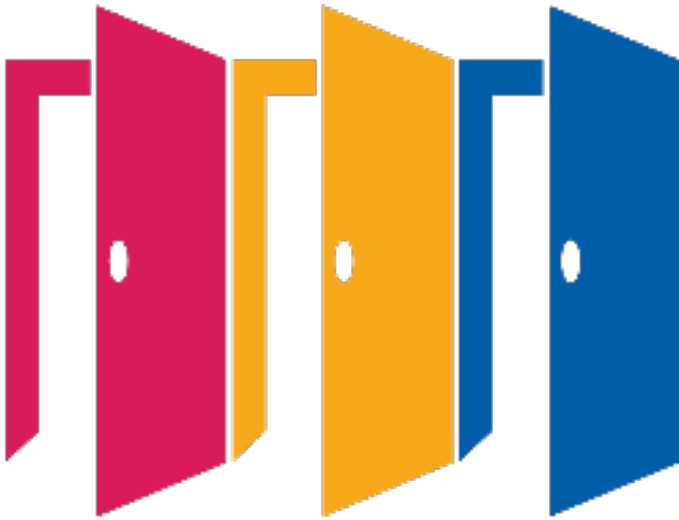
Here are two actions  
you, with your Rotary  
Club, can take now that  
help other District 6900  
Rotarians give life  
changing care in their  
corners of the world.

• **Opportunity #1 - At  
Home** - This world's  
corner is Southwest  
Georgia, where all types  
of PPE and hand  
sanitizers are needed in  
every community.

• **Opportunity #2 - Far  
Away** - Remote  
Bangladesh is this corner  
of our world, where  
District 6900 has  
supported a Rotary-  
sponsored rural hospital  
as they expanded cancer  
detection and treatment  
services to remote  
communities. Now the  
hospital has been  
designated a COVID-19  
center, the city is  
quarantined, and food,  
ventilators and COVID-19  
testing kits are needed.

*Both of these needs are  
urgent. Read more and if  
your Club or individual  
Rotarians want to  
support either or both of  
these efforts, please  
contact Anne Glenn,  
Grants Chair Rotary  
District 6900 at  
[adillardglenn@gmail.com](mailto:adillardglenn@gmail.com)  
[more]*

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## Rotary Opens Opportunities

The Rotary  
Foundation  
**District  
2020-21  
Grant  
Deadline  
Extended  
to  
Monday,  
June 1,  
2020**

By Gillian  
Leggett  
Due to the  
current  
situation with  
COVID-19, the  
deadline to  
submit your  
District Grant  
application for  
2020-2021 has  
been extended.  
The new  
deadline is  
**Monday, June  
1, 2020**. This  
should allow  
extra time for  
you to evaluate  
community  
needs and to  
work with your  
community  
partners to  
determine the  
best use of  
funds to meet  
those needs ...  
[more]

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From Our  
District  
Chaplain  
**May Day  
2020  
Rotary  
District  
6900  
Prayer**

By Mark  
Barbour  
Father God, we  
are so very  
grateful for  
these days, as  
challenging as  
they are, while  
we all are  
dealing with  
such odd,  
peculiar,  
puzzling, and  
unprecedented  
difficult and  
sad times, we  
are ever-  
humbled by  
your  
watchcare  
over us.  
Father, there  
are so many  
emotions  
related to the  
intrusion of  
death, the  
disruption of  
our work-life,  
Rotary life,  
and all  
activities that  
we certainly  
have taken for  
granted prior  
to this awful  
pandemic.

[more]

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District  
Celebration  
**Join Us at  
Jimmy's  
Fish  
Camp -  
Saturday,  
June 13**

By Blake  
McBurney

We invite you to  
join us for a  
District 6900  
celebration on  
Saturday, June  
13 at the Bibb  
Mill Event  
Facility in  
Columbus, GA  
on the banks of  
the beautiful  
Chattahoochee  
River.

We are taking a  
page from the  
playbook of  
what would  
have been this  
weekend's  
District  
Conference -  
celebrating at  
Jimmy's Fish  
Camp with a  
Happy Hour  
from 11:30 AM  
to 12:30 PM  
followed by a  
Lunch and  
Awards  
Presentations.  
Stay tuned for  
more  
information on  
the event and  
how to register.  
[more]

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*Elin Fyhrlund with host family Ken and Janice Townsend, North Columbus*

GRSP Update  
**What's In  
Store for  
GRSP in  
Today's  
Environment?**

By Lynn Clarke  
NEWS FOR STUDENTS  
NEXT YEAR AND MORE  
We have received no information in regards to next year at newsletter submission date; however, a decision is to be made shortly as to whether or not we will even have a program this year in order to allow students who were offered scholarships before the pandemic to explore other options. My gut feeling is that we will have a program and I have already made inquiries to some host families and all the trustees in regards to next year, i.e., if the dorms close, would the host families be able to house the student or would the clubs want to sponsor a student for the next semester? Our district stands at about 50% wanting to sponsor a student for next year; however, the other two districts are overwhelmingly in favor of continuing the program through next year. [more]

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From a GRSP  
Alumnus ...

## **The Joy of Learning New Cultures**

By Lynn  
Clarke  
Going to a  
foreign  
country, in  
another  
continent,  
thousands of  
miles away  
from home...if  
that doesn't  
sound  
terrifying  
enough,  
imagine  
counting on  
people that  
are at the  
time just  
names at the  
end of emails  
or on  
documents, to  
be waiting at  
the airport  
when you  
land. They  
were there  
when I landed  
holding a  
placard that  
read  
"Welcome  
Ivy!" They  
were ...  
[more]

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## Membership **Until We Meet Again... Membership at a Distance**

By Jaclyn Donovan  
Are you looking for ideas to engage members while we're physically distancing ourselves from each other? Has your club started meeting online? Here are some of our favorite resources to help:

- Watch membership webinars and speeches from recent conventions and the International Assembly in the new Club Programming collection on Vimeo.
- Share the updated State of Membership presentation at your next meeting.
- Discover the professional and personal development opportunities in the Learning Center. From Leading Change to Building Rotary's Public Image, these online courses allow you to learn new skills from your home.
- Encourage your members to exchange ideas in the Meeting Online learning topic in the Learning Center.
- Invite DG Jim Squire to help with an online New Member Induction at your next virtual meeting - no need to wait to make new members official!

Find more resources at [rotary.org/membership](https://rotary.org/membership).  
[more]

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# RYLA 2020 CANCELED



**BUT WE'LL SEE YOU IN 2021!!**

## RYLA 2020 Cancelled

By Jaclyn  
Donovan  
In the midst of  
all that is  
happening  
around us and  
the uncertainty  
that comes with  
COVID-19,  
Georgia  
Southwestern  
State University  
has decided  
that its campus  
will not be open  
to students or  
camps this  
summer. So  
that  
unfortunately  
means that  
RYLA 2020 will  
not happen. All  
clubs that  
submitted  
sponsorship  
commitments  
should have  
already heard  
from ... [more]

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*At Paul Duke STEM High School in Gwinnett County, participation in the Georgia Rotary Clubs sponsored Laws of Life Essay Contest soared from 12 students last year to 718 students for the 2019-2020 contest.*

## Laws of Life **Georgia Laws of Life Announces State Winners**

By Natalie Marshall

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest announced state winners for the 2019-2020 contest. Cindy Huynh, an 11th grader at Brookwood High School in Snellville, won the competition with her essay about standing up to bullies. Sha'niya Rogers, a 9th grader at Westover High School in Albany, won the George A. Stewart Jr. Character in Action award with her essay about working through homelessness to achieve in school and for her family. Each of these outstanding student writers will receive a \$1,000 prize. Savannah Johnson, in 11th grade at Lafayette High School, was awarded 1st runner-up. Faith Fitzgerald, a 9th grader at Thomasville High School, won 2nd runner-up. The 3rd runner-up winner was Reagan Beach, a senior at North Cobb High School. Wade Chappell, a 10th grader at North Springs Charter High School, was awarded 4th runner-up. Hyuk Lee, a senior at Lambert High School, won 5th runner-up. [more]



Serving During the Pandemic

## Bringing Virtual Joy to Atlanta Neighborhoods

By Jackie Cuthbert  
Paige McKay Kubik is the President of the **Rotary Club of Atlanta West End** - and the current "Semi-Conductor" (band director) of the all-volunteer Seed & Feed Marching Abominable. The last Saturday of April, the S&FMA led an "unparade" that visited Atlanta neighborhoods and hospitals ... [\[more\]](#)



Serving Before and During the Pandemic

## Muscogee-Columbus Leaps into 5K to Benefit Mercy Med

By Lakisha Taylor  
On leap day 2020, the Rotary Club of Muscogee-Columbus hosted its very first 5K run to support a local healthcare organization, Mercy Med. Mercy Med provides healthcare services including medical, dental, counseling, physical therapy and other services to the local community at low or no costs. No one is turned away because of their inability to pay. Nestled in the middle of a lower socioeconomic area, Mercy Med ensures the most vulnerable in our community have access to good health. In addition to healthcare services, the organization also has a robust garden where locals can get fresh, organic fruits and vegetables. For these residents, Mercy Med is the only place for miles to get fresh fruits and vegetables. [\[more\]](#)



Serving During the  
Pandemic  
**Lake Spivey-  
Clayton  
County  
Provide  
Needed  
Medical  
Supplies**

By Ron Swofford  
Rotarians from the  
Rotary Club of Lake  
Spivey/Clayton County  
are reacting to the  
Corona virus not only in  
the usual way of  
practicing social  
distancing, limiting  
travel only to what is  
essential, and  
conducting meetings via  
Zoom, etc. but also by  
implementing a major  
new service project. This  
project is based on the  
immediate and profound  
need for critical supplies  
such as sanitizer, gloves,  
and masks as stated by  
many organizations that  
are battling the  
pandemic [more]



Serving During the  
Pandemic  
**Marietta  
Rotarians  
Flatten  
COVID-19  
Dilemma  
Facing 80  
International  
Students at  
Reinhardt  
University**

By Dale Covington  
P.T. Barnum  
observed, "Without  
promotion,  
something terrible  
happens. . .nothing!"  
Nothing, that's what  
gnawed at Abigail  
Merchant's heart.  
Abigail, a senior at  
Reinhardt University  
in Waleska, GA, along  
with almost all of  
Reinhardt's student  
body of more  
than 1700 individuals,  
was at home  
embracing the  
university's ... [more]



Serving During the  
Pandemic

## **Douglas County Sponsors Meals for Hospital Workers**

By Samantha Rosado

The Douglas County Chamber and Douglas County Economic Development Authority joined forces to support our Douglas County restaurants and provide daily meals to the over 500 healthcare workers at Wellstar Douglas Hospital and public safety workers serving on the front lines during the Coronavirus pandemic. They created the Douglas Strong Fund to support this effort as well as create a fund for the recovery effort of COVID-19. 100% of funds will be used to purchase meals which will be delivered to Wellstar Douglas Hospital and public safety departments. All meals will be provided by Douglas County restaurants who will be paid for these meals. This is a win-win-win .... front line workers need our support, local businesses need our patronage, and the residents of Douglas County want to do what they do best, help each other. [more]

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Club News  
**RI Past  
President  
Barry Rassin  
Speaks to  
Lake Spivey-  
Clayton  
County via  
Zoom**

By Ron Swofford  
During the current COVID-19 quarantine, many clubs in the district are conducting their regular meetings using the popular software program, Zoom. The Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County jumped on this early, and Program coordinators Gina McCombs and Claudia Mertl quickly recognized that meeting via Zoom not only addressed the quarantine limitations but also removed geographical limits on who could be invited to present programs at the meetings. As a result, the Club has enjoyed several speakers from well beyond Jonesboro, Georgia. [more]

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