



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

From Our District Governor

Thanks for Your Commitment and Your Energy

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

When we started the year last July, who would have expected that the Rotary theme for the year, Rotary Connects the World, would mean be connecting the world and our District through Zoom meetings from mid-March through mid-June. It's certainly been a challenging time recently. We have lost some good people and watched and prayed for other struggling with COVID-19, and many of us have faced new financial challenges or the difficulties of confinement. But not even the pandemic has dampened our determination to make this world and our communities a better place. [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	Fayetteville	North Atlanta	Brookhaven
II	North Columbus	North Fulton	Vinings Cumberland
III	Marietta	Dunwoody	Carrollton-Dawn Breakers
IV	Roswell	Roswell	Peachtree City

Key Dates



2020 District Celebration
June 20th, 2020
Bibb Mill Event Center
Columbus, Georgia

Schedule of Events

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

District 6900
Celebration -
June 20, 2020
**Celebrate
a Unique
Year in
Rotary**

By Bill Woulfin
The Rotary year is rapidly coming to an end and District Governor Jim has planned a District Celebration as a culmination of the efforts and accomplishments for the past Rotary year. The purpose of the celebration is to recognize the Rotary clubs of District 6900 and their leadership for all the Humanitarian projects that they have undertaken. It is a celebration of Rotary; it is a celebration of the good things we do to help the less fortunate people in the world. I know that there is a lot of concern in getting together because of the COVID-19 pandemic, but I assure you, that everything is being done for this event with the safety of all of our Rotarians taken into consideration. We are operating within the constraints of the latest rules set down by Governor Kemp. We are adhering to these guidelines as the minimum. [more]



From Our
District Chaplain

One Lone, Solitary Flag

By Mark
Barbour

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

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



Remembering a Past RI President

By Robert Hall
Past Rotary International President
Frank Devlyn passed away last week after a short battle with pancreatic cancer. Frank was the founder of Ópticas Devlyn and an internationally recognized humanitarian who worked endlessly to help the underprivileged, provide free glasses to those in need and to sponsor vaccination drives throughout the world. ... [more]



District 6900 Rotarians... empowered by The Rotary Foundation ... making a difference in our backyard



The Rotary Foundation

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

By Anne Glenn

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

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

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

Check out the photos above and below then click "more" to read the rest of the story. [more]





Serving During the
Pandemic

Stone Mountain Creates Signs to Thank Community Essential Workers

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



Alpharetta Virtual Donation Derby Party Supports Community in Big Way

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

District 6900 Cookbook

Last Call for Recipes - June 5!

By Mary Trapp

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

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



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

Serving During the Pandemic

North Cobb Supports YMCA Program for Children of First Responders

By Joseph Stockman

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



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

Serving During
the Pandemic

Henry County Provides Lunches for Healthcare Workers at Piedmont Henry

By Torrie
Sunstrom

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

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



Serving During the Pandemic

Operation Chick-Mar

By Christopher Bethel

It's a great day to be a ROTARIAN, especially from The Rotary Club of Marietta!", exclaimed President, Christopher Bethel. On this day, Tuesday May 12, and the day before, under the code name "Operation Chick-Mar," the Rotary Club of Marietta served Chick-fil-A lunches to the two Section 8 Senior Housing facilities (Walton Renaissance on Henderson and The Tower at Dorsey Manor) in the City of Marietta. The project was joint effort of Chick-fil-A, the Rotary Club and the Marietta Housing Authority. During the pandemic, The Rotary Club of Marietta has served children, college students, not-for-profits and now Senior Citizens. [more]



Serving During the
Pandemic

Lake Spivey/Clayton County Delivers Needed Healthcare Supplies

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

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



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

Serving
During the
Pandemic
**Griffin
Club
Caterer
Serving
Wellstar
Spalding
Regional**

By CHARLES
PENNY Penny
Showing their
support of all
our families,
neighbors and
community,
the **Rotary
Club of
Griffin** has
extended their
personal
practice of
social
distancing
through
virtual club
board
meetings and
the clubs
weekly lunch
meetings. This
was unusual,
but most are
enjoying the
short-term
change.
However,
several
members of
the club noted
... [more]



Serving During the Pandemic **Peachtree City Busy on All Fronts**

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

- Our HEROES at
Fayette
Piedmont - PTC
Rotary wanted
to 'Feed our
MEDs' and put
out a call to
action on a
Friday
afternoon. The
plan was to be
able to feed one
or two
departments at
the hospital.
With the
response from
the club
members, other
local individuals
and Webb &
Taylor, LLC, with
financial
donations and
the support of
Rotarian, Ant
Murphy (Georgia
Shrimp), they
were able to
feed all 300
members on
staff at the
hospital.
[more]

RI Convention 2020

Join Rotary International's Virtual Convention June 20-26

By Jackie Cuthbert

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

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



Serving During
the Pandemic

Rotary Club of Americus Salutes High School Heroes

By Angela Smith
The **Rotary Club
of Americus** is

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

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

[more]



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

Club News

What Midtown Atlanta Learned While Sheltering at Home

By Rocky Ford

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

Like every other club on the planet, Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club has had to make some adjustments to their meetings during the Covid crisis. ZOOM has been a resource to many, and we are no exception. Rather than wait, we started hosting our meetings on that platform in late March. The club has about 77 members and we have been averaging about 62% attendance which is about the same as we were getting at Ansley Golf Club! Our meetings start with a prayer, and then 20-25 minutes of check-in as members talk about how they are doing. Club President Meredith Regains may call on a few but others chime in and we learn a lot about their lives during the pandemic. We have had remarkably interesting programs, have continued with our membership recruiting with the result of two new member inductions and two classification talks, and we have approved for membership a prospective member who has only attended these ZOOM meetings! He will be inducted in June. We have a robust list of prospective members.

[more]



GRSP Update

Sad News for Students and Rotarians

By Lynn Clarke

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



From a GRSP
Alumnus ...

Yes Peace Is Possible!

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

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



Membership

Flexibility in Membership

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



Sorry for the Error

District Family of Rotary

By Jackie Cuthbert

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

[more]
