



DG George with Thomasville Rotarians receiving the governor's award coin Danny Braddy, Fran Milberg Mary Beth Donaldson, DGE Andre Marria, and Teri Hurst White

From Our District Governor

## Take Time During the Holidays to Imagine and Celebrate All We Can Do

By George Granade

I hope you all enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends and are looking forward to more celebrations as we move through the rest of the holiday season. There are two celebrations coming in 2023 that I'd like to remind you about:

- **District Conference will take place April 27-30 at the SanDestin Beach and Golf Resort.** We are going to have fun with the "Green Acres" theme. Be sure to look at some reruns of the TV show so you will know who the characters are.

There just might be a contest to see who will be best dress as one of the characters from the show. You'll be able to register for conference and make hotel reservations through the District Website starting December 15.

- **The world of Rotary will celebrate in Melbourne, Australia this year at RI Convention - May 27-31.** You can register for convention now, and I also encourage you to take a look at the Australia and New Zealand trips put together by our District 6900 Australia team (John Neill, Cheryl Greenway and Lorri Christopher) and featured here in the newsletter. I'd love to have you join us.

As we near the end of the calendar year, we are halfway through the Rotary year. It's a good time for club leaders to be sure you are updating your membership, service project and other Rotary items, so you know - and we know as a District - how we are doing in these areas. [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



## **RFHA Receives Funding Support to Boost Polio Eradication Efforts**

By Marion Bunch

The Rotary Action Group for Family Health and AIDS Prevention (RFHA) is honored to announce the award from the Bill & Melinda Gates

Foundation for a two-year pilot program in the amount of \$3 million. This will support the roll out of the Rotary Family Health Day Program in a number of countries and will include messaging, advocacy, education and surveillance on Polio as part of our integrated Disease Prevention program at Community level. The focus will be to integrate Polio specific activities and vaccination into the Rotary Family Health Days, and to support expanding the programs into countries where these have not been held previously. [more]



District  
Conference  
Update

## **Save the Date for 2023 District Conference**

By Cheryl  
Greenway

We hope you are planning to join DG George and Jill Granade for a Green Acres extravaganza in beautiful SanDestin, Florida! Mark your calendars now to attend District Conference April 28-30, and get ready to register and make your hotel reservations starting December 15 on the District Website.

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Rotary Convention  
**Add  
Australia  
and/or  
New  
Zealand to  
Your 2023  
Rotary  
Convention  
Experience**

By John Neill  
Are you considering attending the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia next May 27-31? If you are, we have an opportunity for you to not only attend the convention but also see the major sights in Australia and New Zealand with a group of fellow District 6900 Rotarians. You can avoid all the hassle making all your own air, hotel, tour reservations etc. and reap the benefits of group discounts. We are working with Indus Travels, a well-known and respected international tour provider to offer two all-inclusive\* trips from Atlanta. If you are interested in booking a trip we must hear from you by December 22. [more]

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District Leadership  
**Nominating  
Committee  
Selects  
Steve Ivory  
as District  
Governor  
Nominee  
Designate  
(DG for  
2025-26)**

By George  
Granade

The District  
Nominating  
Committee met on  
Saturday, November  
19, 2022 and  
interviewed qualified  
candidates  
nominated by their  
Rotary Clubs. I am  
pleased to announce  
that **Steve  
Ivory from  
the Rotary Club of  
Peachtree City** has  
been selected by the  
committee.

Steve served as  
President of the  
Rotary Club of  
Peachtree City in  
2020-2021 and was  
recognized with the  
Sheffield Leadership  
Award. He is a Will  
Watt Fellow and  
Paul Harris Major  
Donor. Steve  
currently serves as  
an Assistant  
Governor. He is  
married to Anna and  
they have two  
daughters, Kayla and  
Claire. Steve is  
passionate about  
Rotary, community  
service and GRSP.  
[more]

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Value of GRSP

## **Oglethorpe Students Value GRSP for Personal and Professional Development**

By Kathyrynne Fields  
Four Georgia Rotary  
Student Program  
scholars believe  
Oglethorpe University  
provides the perfect  
backdrop to help  
achieve their  
professional as well as  
personal goals. The  
group agreed that  
participating in GRSP  
has benefitted them in  
many ways. They said  
they appreciate the  
efforts Georgia  
Rotarians are making  
on their behalf.

[more]

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What in the world is **RYLA**?

Let me tell your club all about it!

*Jaclyn Donovan*  
District 6900 RYLA Chair

RYLA  
**Want to Learn More About RYLA?**

By Jaclyn Donovan  
 If your club has never participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program - or if it's been a while - and you'd like to know more, all you have to do is invite Jaclyn Donovan to visit your club. She'll be happy to share with you about all things RYLA and the great opportunities it could provide for young leaders in your ...  
 [more]



Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## **Global Grant Supports Down Syndrome Education/Literacy Center in Brazil**

By Bob Koncerak

The Rotary Club of

Alpharetta just returned from a fantastic project trip to Pelotas, R.S. Brazil. With support from the Peachtree City, Dunwoody, Atlanta Brazil, Stone Mountain and Roswell clubs, Alpharetta serves as the international partner for both an Education/Literacy Global Grant and a Down Syndrome training & service center building project. Two clubs from District 7710 in Maine are also participating.

Carolyn and Peter Johnson, both District 7710 PDG's, joined the group in Brazil.

Carolyn is a Cadre Partner, and at one point had global RI oversight for all Education & Literacy projects. Her support and enthusiasm was key to getting global grant approval. The sponsored organization, known as "APADPEL" (Association for Parents of Down Syndrome Pelotas) will be featured in the December edition of RI's Education and Literacy newsletter.

Fundraising and grants to date have raised more than \$150,000. [more]

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Club News  
**Douglas  
County  
Supports  
Local  
Schools**

By Nell Boggs  
The Rotary Club of  
Douglas  
County counts the  
support of students  
and families at our  
local schools as one  
of our top missions.

Recently the club  
helped make a field  
trip to the Georgia  
Aquarium possible  
for all first graders  
at Beulah  
Elementary by  
paying for bus  
transportation. This  
was the first group  
at Beulah to go on a  
field trip since  
COVID. Rotarians  
Tekmekia Gilchrist  
and Michelle Porter  
were at the school  
early that morning  
to send students on  
their way! Rotary  
believes that out-of-  
the-classroom  
experiences are an  
important part of  
learning.

On November 16,  
the club delivered  
turkeys and all the  
trimmings for 20  
families in need at  
Lithia Springs High  
School. Rotarian Joe  
Williams headed up  
the project, and  
Mitzi Blackstone,  
head counselor at  
Lithia, coordinated  
with the families.  
[more]

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A GRSP Opportunity for Georgia Students

## Oslo Summer GRSP Scholarship Opens for Georgia College Students with Jan. 10 Application Deadline

By Katherine Fields

While Georgia Rotary Student Program spends the year hosting international college students, we are thankful for the one opportunity that allows college students from Georgia to spend the summer attending school and exchanging cultural customs in Norway. The GRSP scholarship application for International Summer School at the University of Oslo for summer 2023 is open.

The Norwegian Rotary Advisory Board partners with GRSP each year to offer the scholarship. The scholarship dates are June 26 to August 4, 2023 and includes students from all over the world in a diverse cultural program in the beautiful city of Oslo, Norway with six weeks of academic achievement and international goodwill. Students must have recommendation of Georgia Rotarian. Application deadline is January 10, 2023 through GRSP website: [www.grsp.org/oslo-application](http://www.grsp.org/oslo-application). Applications will be reviewed and all applicants will be notified by the end of January. [more]

Drawing December 15, 2022



Club News

## Dunwoody Invites You to Join Second Annual Whiskey Raffle

By Bob O'Brien

You have an opportunity to participate in this year's drawing for a special bottle of Blanton's Gold whiskey - in the third phase of this year's Rotary Club of Dunwoody Whiskey Raffle. Proceeds benefit the Rotary Club of Dunwoody Charitable Fund. The drawing will be held on Thursday, December 14 at the Dunwoody Tavern, as part of the club's monthly Thirsty Thursday event.

Whiskey aficionados will recognize Blanton's Gold is a higher proofed version of Blanton's. The bottle we are offering is valued at \$400. It is generally available only in International markets and duty-free outlets (if you are lucky). Tickets are \$30 apiece, and we are only selling 150 tickets. You can purchase tickets online at



Club News

## **Columbus Helps Build Community Farm**

By Julie Bond

The Rotary Club of Columbus recently completed service project days at the George Washington Carver Garden.

Volunteers helped clear the land by cutting down trees, clearing thick briars, and clearing tall weeds. This work was to prepare the area for the construction of a greenhouse in that space. The club will return later to complete that phase of the service project and has invited members of the public and other civic organizations to collaborate for future service dates.

[more]

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**Our children are in danger! Human traffickers are using personal and online connections to coerce our children. It is happening right here in North Fulton!**

**The Rotary Club of Alpharetta and End Human Trafficking Now are hosting:**



**You will learn:**

- What state and local officials are doing to combat trafficking.
- How everyone from corporations to our own children are involved in the fight against HT.]
- How to identify the characteristics of HT grooming.
- How to monitor your child's online activity.
- What to watch for throughout your community.
- How to get directly involved.

**When: Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (Doors open at 8:00am, coffee and refreshments will be available)**

**Where: Innovation Academy, 125 Milton Ave., Alpharetta, GA.**

*This is a free event, but there is limited seating so you must register through Eventbrite to attend. Scan this code to register:*



**Donations are encouraged, but not required.**



Interact  
Update  
**Newnan  
Interact  
Club  
Says  
Thank  
You!**

By Becky  
Stone  
The District  
6900  
Interact  
Conference  
was held on  
Nov. 5 at  
Global  
Impact  
Academy.  
One of the  
service  
projects the  
students  
participated  
in was  
collecting  
school  
supplies for  
Newnan  
High School  
students and  
teachers  
after the  
tornado  
destroyed  
their school  
in 2021. This  
project not  
only provides  
needed  
supplies, but  
let students  
and teachers  
know that  
they are not  
forgotten.  
The Newnan  
High  
Interact Club  
responded  
...  
[more]

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GRSP

## **Applications Open for 2022-23 Barbara M and Donald L Thomas Peace Award**

By Jacque Digieso

Since 2002, The Rotary Club of Roswell has administered an annual award established from the Charitable Remainder Fund established for GRSP by a generous donation from the Thomas family. This award recognizes a deserving GRSP student from the current class who exemplifies the Rotary motto of Service Above Self. The funds make it possible for Georgia Rotarians to financially assist deserving GRSP students.

Due to COVID restrictions, the award had been suspended. However, we are pleased to announce, the award has been reinstated for the 2022-23 Rotary Year. Each Club President will receive a copy of the application form and instructions.

[more]

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GRSP Update  
**GRSP  
Weekend  
in  
Alpharetta  
Focuses on  
Helping  
School**

By Katheryne  
Fields

From fireside chats, to sprucing up a park and school plus learning how to tailgate, Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars made many memories in their student weekend sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** in mid-November. Any time all or most of our 44 international college students serve, sweat and gather in one spot is always encouraging. GRSP scholars washed the playground and buses at The Lionheart School for children with autism or other communication needs and helped spread pine straw in nearby Wills ParkSpecial thanks to weekend chair and GRSP Trustee John Norton along with President Katie Rocco for their excellent hospitality, plus to Rotarian Mickey Rogers for his pit-master barbecue skills and the Rotary Club of Roswell for helping serve as weekend hosts. Students will spend the holidays apart and gather in February for the GRSP Leadership Weekend.  
[more]

