



The Okra Brothers
Right Back Where We Started

By Gordon Owens
During my official visits to the Columbus area, I was impressed by how the local clubs are working together to serve those in need. Food insecurity, proper medical care and working to reduce violence are just a few challenges Rotarians are tackling in their neighborhood. AG Cedric Hill and I were nicknamed the *Okra Brothers* because we saved a couple cases of okra from the compost pile at the Merci Med garden, but that's only half the story. While it may have been a bit past its prime size to sell, we were convinced it could be put to good use. Cedric made a call to a friend at another non-profit at a local school that teaches students how to grow their own food and how to build a business selling that produce. The director of that program said, "I was just asked if I had okra to use to teach families how to prepare fresh, seasonal produce." After dropping the okra off on the other side of town, it turns out, it will be used for a cooking demonstration in a neighborhood just a couple blocks from where it was harvested. As simple as a couple case of okra may seem to us, by these clubs working together to leverage every available resource, those in need in Columbus are experiencing the *Magic of Rotary*.
[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



District Governor Nominee
Designate

Congratulations to Buck Buchanan

By Gordon Owens

It's official, Buck Buchanan from the Rotary Club of Marietta Metro is our District Governor Nominee Designate. Buck will serve our district as governor during the 2027-2028 Rotary year. The governor team and several past district governors were on hand to make the announcement to the Marietta Metro club. We look forward to working with Buck as he prepares to lead our district. Please join me in congratulating **Buck Buchanan** on this great honor.

[more]

SAVE the DATE

Georgia
Rotary
Districts



Week of Service

January 6 - 11, 2025



Join us the week of Jan. 6-11 for a collaborative Family of Rotary volunteer week to support recovery work in Western Carolina and in the Augusta area. Find the day that works for you!

Small things bring
big changes.

#gautd

Rotary  PEOPLE OF ACTION

January 6-11,
2025

Join Us For A Week Of Service

By Chris Brand
Teams of volunteers from all three Rotary Districts in Georgia will be headed to the Augusta area or up to Western North Carolina to assist with disaster recovery the week of January 6 through January 11. We will clearing debris from yards or removing storm damaged contents from houses. There is plenty of work for all skill levels. Feel free to come for a day or stay for the whole week. **Fill out this quick form** to let us know when and where you can help. We will be in touch with more details about accommodations and travel to each area as we fill out the teams. Thank you for volunteering to help!
[more]

Rotary Member Plan

Next MAP Webinar

YOUR MEMBERSHIP WISH LIST... DELIVERED!

MONDAY | DECEMBER 9TH 5:30 PM EST

REGISTER ON DACDB

Small Clubs Issues

Member Types

Continuity Planning

Energizing Existing Members

This and That (Membership Related)

Monday, December 9 @ 5:30PM

Your Membership Wishlist

By Dave Schwickerath
Santa is coming early to your club membership team.

Join the next Membership Action Plan (MAP) webinar for some great breakout sessions and take a deeper dive into:

- Issues Challenging Small Clubs
- Creating Membership Types
- Continuity In Club Leadership
- Energizing Existing Members
- Membership This & That

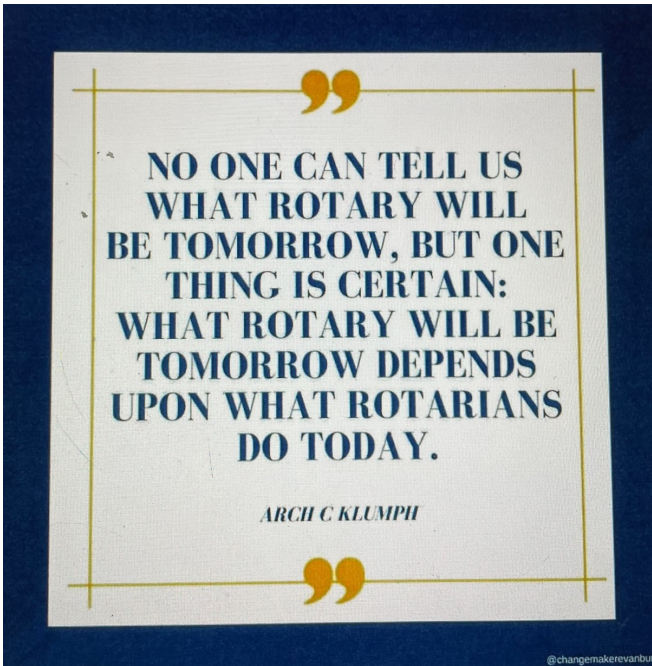
Join this webinar for great ideas to grow Rotary in the new year.
[more]



Disaster Relief
Trailer

\$20,000 Disaster Grant From Zones 33/34

By Chris Brand
Our combined
Rotary Zones 33
& 34 have
raised over
\$1,000,000 to
support Rotarian
led relief efforts
from the recent
storms. Our
Zone Director
Patrick Eakes
encouraged all
the District
Governors to
apply for grants
to help use this
funding to assist
areas in need of
recovery in our
zone. While our
district was not
hard hit this
time around,
several of our
neighboring
districts will
need help for
months or years
to come. We
applied for and
were awarded a
\$20,000 grant
from Zones
33/34 to
purchase and
equip
a **Disaster
Relief
Trailer** that can
be quickly
mobilized to
help those in
need. The trailer
will be ready in
December and
our first trip is
planned for
the **Rotary
Week of
Service in
January.**
[more]



Our Rotary
Foundation
**Consider
the Rotary
Foundation
in Your
Year-End
Giving**

By Bob Hagan
The quote you see to the left from founder Arch C Klumph is circa 1916. It is every bit as true today as it was when he first uttered it. It is also no more profound than it is at the end of the year. How we close out a year sets the stage for what we wish to accomplish in the ensuing year. December is the time of year when we consider what other tax benefits we hope to employ. Our first thought is always going to be about what positive impact we can have with our gifts this year on the world of today. However, we are also aware of the charitable tax deduction available to us for our outright gifts. There are a number of ways we can do so. Are you aware you can gift using your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?
[more]

Zones 33/34

Foundation Matters Monthly Webinar

Join Monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 6 PM EDT



Thursday,
December 19 @
6PM

Foundation Matters Webinar

By Bob Hagan
Mark your calendars for the third Thursday of the month at 6PM EDT and join us for the **“Foundation Matters”**

Webinar. We know you want to have an amazing year at your club, so we’re bringing you experienced leaders to share how to structure your Foundation Committee so you will create an exceptional year of foundation giving. Don’t miss this series! The “Foundation Matters” Webinar Series was developed especially for you- Club Presidents and Club Foundation Chairs. These monthly webinars will provide “bite-sized chunks” of valuable insights and actionable strategies that really work to increase club engagement in The Rotary Foundation.
[more]



Tuesday, December 17 @ 6PM

Public Image Ask Me Anything

By Mandy Timmons

Need help with all things public image? This webinar is for you. The zone's public image and communications team will be on hand to answer all of your questions. From getting the most engagement from social media or how to use canva to make your message pop, come prepare to ask them anything to help your club promote all the great work your club is doing to impact your community. Visit ElevateRotary.org to register.

[more]



Planning Your Year
End Giving

Gifting Securities May Have Added Tax Benefits

By Lee

Hollingsworth


As you plan your year-end giving, consider a gift of appreciated securities to The Rotary Foundation. This is an effective way to fulfill your giving goals and help maximize your tax savings. You may be able to:

Deduct the fair market value of your gift; Avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated stock. You can donate appreciated securities through your broker or by mail. You can use our **stock transfer form** to make a gift today. To learn more, see our **Securities page**. If you are 70½ years or older, you may get extra tax benefits by giving through an **IRA charitable rollover gift**.

Contact **Lee Hollingsworth** with any questions. Let's continue Doing Good in the World together. Your actions today will shape our Foundation's future. [more]


Doing Good in the World

Future-Proofing Rotary:
Maximizing District Impact with the 2.025 by 2025 Endowment
5 December 2024 at 09:00 CT



Mark Daniel Maloney Trustee Chair, The Rotary Foundation	Olayinka Hakeem Babalola Past Vice President, Rotary International	Dominiek Willemse Endowment/Major Gifts Advisor, The Rotary Foundation	Maria Gina Africa Sy Assistant Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, The Rotary Foundation
---	---	--	--

with Karena Bierman, Director of Planned and Principal Gifts



December 5,
2024 - 10AM

Future Proofing Rotary Webinar

By Lee Hollingsworth
Gifts to Rotary's Endowment play a vital role in providing districts with a reliable income stream to support projects and grants. **Join**

us this

December to

explore how Rotary's Endowment complements Annual Giving to enhance district sustainability and support impactful initiatives.

Panelists will discuss how a well-funded Endowment contributes to membership growth and community engagement by funding scholarships, humanitarian grants, and district grants. Additionally, the session will cover strategies for engaging your district leaders and club members in raising awareness of the

Endowment's importance. Discover how effective use of Rotary's Endowment can drive long-term success and amplify your district's impact. [\[more\]](#)



Thank You For
Supporting
Laws of Life

**We
exceeded
our Meet
Our
Match
campaign
goal!**

By Carol Gray
Walker

We are
delighted to
announce that
the Georgia
Laws of Life
Essay Contest
has exceeded
its Meet Our
Match
campaign goal,
raising an
incredible
\$80,911—far
surpassing our
\$60,000 target!
This success is
a testament to
the generosity
and dedication
of our donors,
Rotary Club
sponsors, and
corporate
partners who
believe in the
power of strong
character
values.

As Helen Keller
wisely said,
“Alone we can
do so little;
together we can
do so much.”

Your support
inspires
students to
embrace
character
values that lead
to lifelong
success.
Together, we
are making a
difference—one
essay, one
student, and
one life lesson
at a time.

[more]

North Cobb Rotary Club — Peace Summit Series 



Rotarians Promoting Peace

Friday, Dec 6, 2024
2:00PM EST | 7:00PM WAT

Brenda Fischer
 Peace Chair, North Cobb
 IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

Via Zoom
 Meeting ID: **810 9789 3217**
 Passcode: **PEACE**




In partnership with-
 Rotary Cub of Umuahia, D9142

Join in the Conversation






Robert C Masse
 PP, Port Au Prince

PDG Grace C. Okaro
 Rotary Positive Peace Activator
 IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

PAG Jude C. Ohanele
 IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

Friday, December 6
 @ 2PM

North Cobb Peace Summit Series

By Ada Wikina
 North Cobb Rotary
 peace builder Club
 invites you to the
 second 'Rotarians
 promoting Peace
 Summit. This will
 take place on the
 6th of December
 2024 via zoom. Use
 Meeting ID **810
 9789 3217** and
 passcode **PEACE** to
 join the summit.
 Our conversation is
 with the Rotary
 Club of Umuahia,
 district 9142 in
 Nigeria ably
 represented by
 PDG Grace Okaro
 who is also an IEP
 peace ambassador
 and PAG Jude
 Ohanele, also an
 IEP ambassador.
 Details are in the
 flyer below. We
 hope you can join
 the conversation.
 [more]



ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE'S BIG IMPACT AUCTION

Offering:

- High-end & Unique Items
- Spectacular Vacation Stays
- One-of-a-kind Experiences and Adventures

BIDDING STARTS
11/21 @ 12PM

BIDDING ENDS
12/5 @ 7PM

Benefitting Rotary's Good Works in our Community: monthly free produce markets, vegetables/grow bags, events honoring first responders, National Guard unit, senior adults, and youth services programs.

Support
Thomasville
Rotary

1st Annual Big Impact Auction

By Mary Beth Donalson
Rotarians,
friends, and
business
associates
donated a
wonderfully
eclectic mix of
high-end items
for our first
annual BIG
IMPACT
AUCTION. We're
asking friends
and neighbors
near and far--to
place your
bids. **Everyone
is invited to
participate!**

Rotary Club of
Thomasville
does good work
in the
community and
around the
world. Auction
proceeds will
help fund those
good works.
Club projects
range from
monthly fresh
produce market
for those in
need to
honoring first
responder
heroes to
celebrating
those who serve
in the National
Guard and other
branches of
service to
supporting
senior adults.
Youth projects,
scholarships,
and recognition
programs also
are a priority.
Our aim is to
make a big
impact in as we
work to make
our community
a better place
for all. [more]



GRSP Update

Oslo Summer 2025 GRSP Scholarship Opens for Georgia College Students

By Katheryne Fields
Norwegian Rotarians will partner with Georgia Rotary Student Program to sponsor two college students from Georgia to attend Oslo International Summer School. Dates will be June 28-July 15, 2025. Application is now open and closes Jan. 15, 2025. Applicants must have completed their first year of college by Spring 2025 and have the recommendation of Georgia Rotarian. For questions regarding requirements or obtaining the Rotarian endorsement, please email grsp@grsp.org for assistance. Please reference the **attached Oslo flyer** for more information, dates for the summer session and the January 15, 2025 application deadline. Visit GRSP website: www.grsp.org to apply. [more]



Club News

Carrollton Dawnbreakers Honors Local Veterans

By Sarah Powell

To honor local veterans this Veteran's Day, the Carrollton

Dawnbreakers Rotary Club recently collected clothing and hygiene items and delivered them to the Trinka Davis Veterans Village. The village offers

primary care and specialty health services, including dentistry, treatment for lung disease, and more to US veterans. One of the most heartwarming aspects of the event was the involvement of

Rotary members' children, who played an active role in sorting and organizing supplies for the Veterans Village. By engaging the next generation in hands-on service projects, the

Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club is fostering a sense of responsibility, compassion, and leadership in young people. [more]



Club News

Clubs Collaborate to Promote Peace

By Mandy
Timmons

The Rotary Clubs
of Peachtree City,
Senoia, Tyrone,
and

Fayetteville joined
forces to celebrate
a significant
milestone at the
Healing Bridge
Clinic in Peachtree
City. Together, we
proudly
dedicated *The
Rotary Room*, a
project made
possible through
grants and the
collective service
of our clubs.

The day's highlight
was the unveiling
of a Peace Pole,
symbolizing
Rotary's
unwavering
commitment to
global peace and
understanding.

Built and
coordinated by DG
Gordon Owens, the
Peace Pole serves
as a poignant
reminder of our
mission to foster
peace locally and
globally. DG
Gordon shared his
heartfelt thoughts,
saying, "As
Rotarians, we are
out in our
communities
creating peace....
Think about the
people that are
coming here for
healing."
[more]



Club News
**Roswell
Puts DG
Gordon
to Work!**

By Kathryn Igou
As the Roswell Rotary Club prepared for our own DG Gordon Owens visit in November, we knew that we couldn't just have lunch and a program. Gordon is a Rotarian of ACTION and nothing is better to honor him than a solid service project. So we took our club meeting "on the road" and met at the Chattahoochee Nature Center, bringing along our traditional fried chicken lunch. While there, we built ADA accessible picnic tables and installed a peace pole.
[more]



Club News
**Dan Amos
of Aflac
Inspires at
Rotary
Club of
Columbus
Meeting**

By LeighAnn DiCesaris
The Rotary Club of Columbus had the honor of hosting Dan Amos, CEO of Aflac, at their weekly meeting. Attendees were captivated by Mr. Amos's presentation, which detailed Aflac's incredible journey from its humble beginnings to becoming a globally recognized brand with a remarkable 90% name recognition rate. Mr. Amos highlighted Aflac's roots in Columbus, Georgia, where the company was founded in 1955 by three visionary brothers—John, Paul, and Bill Amos. What started as a small insurance business grew into a powerhouse in the industry, transforming lives with its innovative supplemental insurance policies. Despite its global success, Aflac has remained deeply connected to its hometown, continually investing in the community and exemplifying the spirit of giving back. [more]

The After- Smiles from Mimosa Kids



Our Rotary
Foundation at
Work

Roswell Grant Helps Keep Children Warm

By Kathryn Igou
Grants from the
Rotary
Foundation have
enabled **Roswell
Rotary Club** to
take on
significant
projects this
year, including
providing warm
winter gear for
children in Star
House. This
month we have
continued to
highlight the
incredible impact
of the Rotary
International
Foundation and
how, with
generous
contributions
from Rotarians,
we can fund
meaningful
service projects
in our
community and
beyond. Thanks
to grant support,
Roswell Rotary
received the
maximum grants
this year: a
\$2,000
community grant
and a \$5,000
competitive
grant. [more]



Join Us for Rotary Means Business in January

By Carter
Stout
Rotary Means
Business will
not meet in
December, but
watch for
more about
when and
where we are
meeting in
January 2025.
It's a great
opportunity to
network! In
the meantime,
enjoy your
holidays!



Club News

RCC

Supports our Furry Friends for Christmas; Donates to the Rotary Foundation

By Mandy
Timmons

The Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps, made up of enthusiastic and caring young adults with special needs, just completed a heartwarming service project! They packed stockings full of treats and toys for dogs and cats in local shelters, bringing joy to our furry friends this holiday season. On top of that, they made a generous donation to our Rotary Foundation, with fellow Rotarians matching their gift to bring the total to \$1,000! We're so proud of this group and their dedication to service. Thank you to these amazing young adults for their kindness, spirit, and community support! [more]



Club News

Dunwoody Supports Family Food Needs for Thanksgiving

By Jackie Cuthbert
The Rotary Club of Dunwoody continued its holiday tradition of helping fill food baskets for local Kingsley Elementary families in need. Led by Honorary Member Anita Augello and her daughter Claudia, our efforts included the purchase of 89 turkeys (in a Publix visit we've come to know as the Turkey Trot), pick up of a massive quantity of food at Costco, assistance with packing the boxes AND with loading very heavy boxes into recipients' carts. The baskets contain a full Thanksgiving dinner and more. Rotary is one of the community groups who come together to deliver these baskets. All Kingsley students will also receive a brand new book this holiday season - as part of another Dunwoody tradition that's been around for nearly 30 years.
[more]



Club News

Marietta Serves Record 153 Meals at MUST Ministries

By Jacob Southerland
Professional Chefs Emma and Ean McShane were welcomed again by MUST Ministries - volunteering for the monthly lunch service provided by the Rotary Club of Marietta at MUST and whipping up a five-star lunch for 153+ residents and the homeless. They organized and trained willing-but-not-highly-skilled Rotarian cooks (with the exception of father, Harold). Have you witnessed ten pounds of potatoes peeled in less than ten minutes and on the stove cooking? Working together, [Rotarians take note, this teamwork stuff really works]; Chefs Emma and Ean utilized only the freshest ingredients - no canned soup, canned vegetables, canned meat, or fruit cocktail for these two. [more]



Club News

Douglas County Hears from RYLA Students

By Nell Boggs

Members of the Rotary Club of Douglas County enjoyed hearing from the two students the club sponsored for RYLA! Aaliyah Mason and Amiah Jackson are both members of the Interact Club at New Manchester High School. The girls enjoyed forming friendships and participating in team-building and leadership activities with students from around the state. The program took place June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The Rotary Club of Douglas County paid all expenses for the two students to attend the camp, including bus transportation from Atlanta to Americus.

Pictured along with Aaliyah and Amiah are Rotary Club President John Baker and New Manchester High School Counselor Pamela Cummings. [more]



Club News

Wreaths Spread Cheer and Support Good Works

By Debby

Daniel-Bryant

The Rotary

Club of Griffin

Daybreak is

spreading

Christmas

cheer and

raising money

for all it does

in the

community

with its annual

wreath

sale. Debby

Daniels-Bryant

and Jackie

Wilson helped

get the truck

loaded at

Georgia

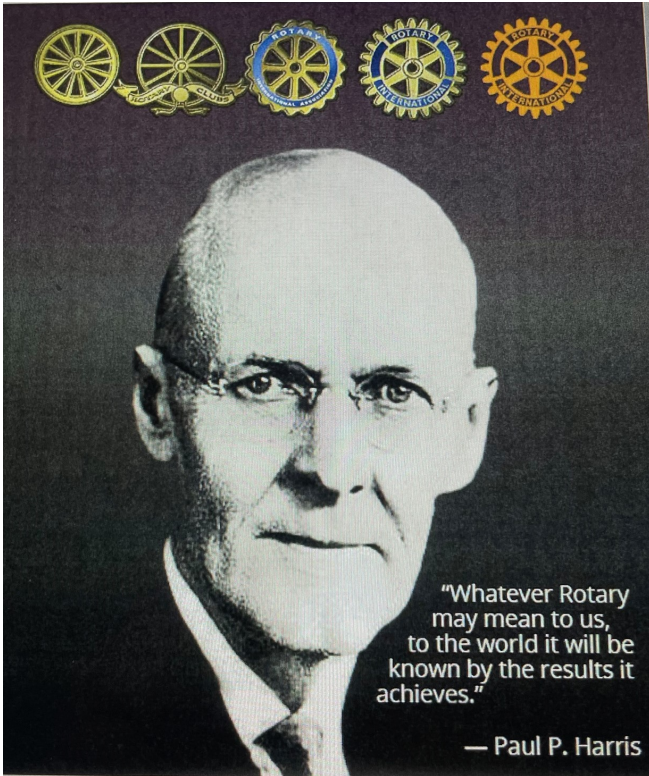
Farmers

Market with

wreaths to

deliver.

[more]



End Polio Now
**Give the
Gift of
Polio
Eradication**

By Bob Hagan
The Paul Harris quote to the left is certainly well known as it leads us into our Rotary International History page. It hits the reader squarely between the eyes with the fact that no matter what we might think about the things we do, the world will judge us by what they see us do and how it affects the world. Truly a huge responsibility does each of us have as Rotarians. It is up to us to live up to the words of Paul Harris and the ever-critical eyes who keep watch over us.

It has been a tougher year in many ways in that area of the world we are most concentrated on as we fight to end Polio on a worldwide basis. Civil unrest compounded by cultural mores make our task ever the harder climb to success, but success is what we still achieved this year, even in the war-torn areas of our very personal fight against the spread of Polio. [more]



Club News
**Peachtree
City RCC
and DG
Gordon
Visit Fire
Station**

By Mandy
Timmons
The Rotary
Community
Corps of
Peachtree
City had an
incredible
experience at
Fire Station 81!
They learned
about the
intense 16-week
training required
to become a
firefighter and
got up close with
some of the
essential tools
used on the job.
One of the
firemen even
suited up in
under one
minute,
demonstrating
just how quickly
they need to
respond to
emergencies!
[more]



Peachtree City Rotarians Honored

By Mandy Timmons

Two Sparrows Village, Inc. (located at Christian City) is a dedicated organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing safe, inclusive housing and supportive services to help residents lead independent, fulfilling lives. At the 2024 Bird Bash, two Peachtree City Rotarians received top honors for their dedication to this impactful mission: Steven Newton earned the Wayne Damron Community Champion Award for his community involvement, and George Martin received the Terry Chapman Humanitarian Award for his compassionate commitment to service. [more]



Club News

Roswell Hosts Multi-Generational Fishing Derby

By Kathryn Igou

In October, Roswell Recreation & Parks collaborated with Roswell Rotary to host a Multigenerational Fishing Derby. Bamboo fishing rods being made to the left while catch/release fishing was going on to the right. This first-year event encouraged teams comprised of a youth, a parent-aged person and a grandparent-aged person to work together to build a bamboo fishing rod and then use in the pond at the back of the Roswell Area Park on Woodstock Road. It was a beautiful morning for about 100 folks from all over Roswell to come together to learn how to tie knots, hold a fishing pole and laugh. [more]
