



South Cobb Rotary Christmas

From Our District Governor  
**Celebrating Accomplishments and Service, Looking Ahead**

By Steve Ivory  
Happy New Year! We are now at the halfway point in the Rotary Year. I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season and had a chance to spend quality time with friends and family. I know some of you saw the holiday video message on our district web site. I think the holiday season is a great time to recharge and reflect on what you plan to accomplish in the upcoming year. Along those lines, I hope you all are as excited about the second half of the year as you are the first and that we all plan to complete 25-26 strong. As a district, we are well along the path to achieving some of our 25-26 goals. We are currently at 3818 members in our 67 Rotary clubs, have achieved \$287,325 of annual fund giving, \$175,047 towards Polio eradication and with endowment and other giving, we have achieved over \$706K in charitable giving! I could not be more proud of you all! We still have 6 months left to give, do many more service projects and take action on the club's strategic plan. Please use your time wisely. At the same time, we are only a few months away from district conference so please be aware of this and register for the April 16-19, 2026 District Conference at Lake Lanier! We have an amazing event planned.

I enjoyed doing several impactful service projects for children in December. I want to tell you two very quick stories. I had 2 incredible "Rotary moments" a few weeks ago as I was doing holiday season service projects with two Rotary clubs - the **South Cobb Rotary Club** and the **Atlanta Southern Crescent Rotary Club**.  
[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**

## Connect with Rotary in the Greater Atlanta Area

**REGISTER NOW** for an evening of networking, food and drinks (cash bar). Learn more about Rotary, how to join, serve, and make an impact in your community.

January 13, 2026  
Copelands of New Orleans - Vinings-Cumberland, GA  
6:00 pm-7:30 pm

Rotary  
District 6900



## Membership "Discovery Rotary" - An Event for Prospective Rotarians Only

By Audley Knight District 6900 is planning a special evening of networking, food and drinks (cash bar) to give **prospective Rotarians in the Greater Atlanta** area an opportunity to learn more about Rotary, and how to join, serve and make an impact in our Georgia communities. The event will take place on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at Copelands of New Orleans - Vinings-Cumberland, GA from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.  
[more]



Our Rotary  
Foundation  
**Foundations  
Working  
Together**

By Bob Hagan  
Hard to believe we have reached a new year, but here we are! Welcome 2026 and let's look forward to another great year in Rotary and our work with the Foundation. There was some great news that came out of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation earlier in December that you may have missed in the midst of all the hustle and bustle of the Thanksgiving to the Christmas and Hanukkah holidays. The Gates Foundation has pledged \$1.2 billion dollars for 2026-2029 to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) dedicated to vaccinating 370 million children annually as well as focusing on disease tracking and surveillance and working to beef up the healthcare systems in the endemic countries of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The announcement of this initiative came on December 8 during a summit being held in Abu Dhabi. [more]

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RYLA  
**Happy  
New  
RYLA in  
2026!**

By Jaclyn  
Donovan  
It's a new  
year and that  
means it's  
time to start  
thinking  
about RYLA!!  
Not that we  
ever really  
*stop* thinking  
about RYLA...  
but now we  
can say that  
RYLA is  
happening  
This Year!!  
RYLA 2026  
will be held  
June 6-10 on  
the campus  
of Georgia  
Southwestern  
State  
University.  
Cost per  
student is  
\$500, and  
this covers all  
necessary  
expenses  
related to  
attending  
RYLA. For any  
students  
riding our  
charter buses  
from the  
Atlanta area,  
there is an  
additional  
\$50/per  
student cost.  
[more]

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End Polio Now  
**District 6900 Celebrates World Polio Day with Remarkable Fundraising Efforts**

By Wynita Cannon  
On **October 24, 2025**, Rotary clubs across **District 6900** came together to commemorate **World Polio Day**, marking another milestone in the global fight to eradicate polio. On this special day, the district raised an impressive **\$22,000** for the **PolioPlus Foundation**, reinforcing Rotary's commitment to ending this devastating disease.  
[more]



From Our DG Elect  
**Training for District Leadership Staff January 24, 2026**

By Cynthia Edwards  
On January 24, 2026, the District Leadership Learning Seminar (DLS) for Assistant Governors and staff leading the district as officers and/or committee chairs. will be held at Cooper Lighting Solutions, located at 1121 Highway 74 S, Peachtree City, GA 30269. Breakfast snacks and registration will be available at 8:00 a.m. Training will begin at 9:00 a.m. District leaders included in training should confirm their attendance via email to Mandy Timmons at [d6900secretary2526@gmail.com](mailto:d6900secretary2526@gmail.com) by Friday, January 9, 2026.  
[more]



Laws of Life

## **A New Year, A New Opportunity to Change Students' Lives**

By Carol Gray Walker

As we begin a new year, Rotary clubs across Georgia have a powerful opportunity to make an immediate and lasting impact on young people through the **Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest**. January marks a pivotal moment—for recruiting essay judges, strengthening school partnerships, and planning for the year ahead.

Georgia Laws of Life is here to help you and your club get involved. Together, we can give more students the opportunity to reflect, write, and grow—while strengthening Rotary's connection to the communities we serve. Read more about the opportunities here. To learn more or schedule a presentation for your club, contact **Carol Gray Walker, Executive Director**, at [carol@georgialawsoflife.org](mailto:carol@georgialawsoflife.org).  
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Club News

## Stone Mountain People of Action at Work in South Africa!

By Cynthia Edwards

A new member of the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain**,

Jeremy Anderson and his wife, Traci, have been living Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self" and making an impact for many years.

In 2018, Jeremy and Traci launched their nonprofit, Next Level Living, Inc. Since then, they've fed an average of 1,000 starving children every week in Cape Town, South Africa —nourishing not only their bellies but their hearts and minds.

On Thanksgiving night 2025, the Andersons were joined in Cape Town by ten individuals, including DGE Cynthia Dorsey Edwards and her husband, Lonnie; PE Maxine Cain and her daughter, Lauren; Eric Baker (an executive with Audacy, a multi-platform audio & entertainment company) to participate in their service to the community. [more]



Club News  
**North  
Cobb  
Uses  
District  
Grant for  
Christmas  
Gifts for  
Georgia  
National  
Guard  
Families**

By Jose Gonzalez  
In the spirit of the holiday season, the **North Cobb Rotary Club** used a \$2,000 district grant from D6900 and a \$500 contribution from the club's own community grants to share the joy of the holidays with children of service men and women going into active duty with the Georgia National Guard. Club President Jose Gonzalez with the help of his wife Jordon and kids, shopped for the gifts one early Sunday morning to ensure each kid received a gift of their choice.  
[more]

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*Bedros Sharian Jr. and Decatur Club President Alison Weissinger*

Club News

## **Decatur Celebrates Bedros Sharian Jr. at 100 Years**

By Dudley Larus  
On Friday, November 21, at the Historic Decatur Courthouse, the **Rotary Club of Decatur** and the City of Decatur, Georgia honored long-time member **Bedros Sharian Jr.** as he approached his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Thanksgiving Day. City Manager and Rotary member, Andrea Arnold, read the proclamation signed by Mayor Patricia M. Garrett that proclaimed November 25, 2025, as Bedros Sharian Jr. Day. Former Decatur Mayor Walt Drake also provided a historical perspective on Bedros' rich life and his impact on the Decatur Community. Bedros is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Decatur and has been a Rotarian for almost half his life. Happy birthday Bedros!  
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Club News  
**North  
Fulton  
Launches  
Phase 3  
of  
Greenway  
Mural  
Project**

By Lisa Gelber  
Fall was the time for another exciting phase of the **Rotary Club of North Fulton's** Greenway Mural Project! Our latest efforts began in late September with a **Design Workshop**, where student artists learned how to translate their creative concepts onto a challenging cylindrical, concrete canvas. Reflecting one of Rotary's seven areas of focus, this year's theme was "**Clean Water for All.**" We were thrilled to receive **36 concept submissions** from local high school students—proof that word is spreading about how meaningful this project has become for young artists. With Phase 3 now complete, the Greenway proudly showcases 32 vibrant murals spanning two miles. [more]



Club News

## **Meriwether County Scores Big for the Rotary Foundation Through “Foundation Football”**

By Kay Williamson

As the college football season kicked off, the **Rotary Club of Meriwether County** - joined by enthusiastic “friends of Rotary” - selected their favorite teams to follow and cheer for throughout the season. Each week, members gathered at Rotary meetings to track and discuss their teams’ scores, fostering camaraderie, spirited conversation ... [more]

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Club News  
**Paulding  
Hosts  
Dallas  
Christmas  
Parade**

By Alex  
Crenshaw  
The **Paulding  
Rotary Club**  
was privileged  
to host the  
annual Dallas  
Christmas  
parade. The club  
once again  
brought the  
community  
together with a  
successful and  
well-attended  
parade. Families  
lined the streets  
to enjoy festive  
floats, local  
organizations,  
marching bands,  
and community  
leaders who  
helped make the  
event a  
memorable  
celebration. ...  
[more]

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## Paws, Claus, and Applause: Buckhead Rotary Serves Pets in Need

By Shelley Hammell  
The **Rotary Club of Buckhead**

closed out the year with a festive, service-filled holiday meeting that captured the spirit of Service Above Self. Members came together to pack 100 treat and toy bags for cats and dogs at the Fulton County Animal Shelter, sharing laughter and fellowship while supporting some very deserving four-legged friends. The meeting also featured the holiday spirit with live music from member Drew Amerson, joined by Ty Tippet for a spirited singalong of "Jingle Bells."  
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*State Rep. Gerald Greene of Cuthbert presents a resolution at the Blakely Rotary Club to Robert Collier Jr., left, and Jack Watson that praised the life of Robert W. Collier Sr., who died Oct. 18*

In Memoriam  
**Remembering  
Blakely  
Rotarian  
Robert  
William  
Collier Sr.**

By Charles Gordon  
At a late November meeting of the Blakely Rotary Club, State Rep. Gerald Greene saluted the late Blakely Mayor, businessman and **Blakely Rotarian Robert William Collier Sr.**

Affectionately known as 'Mr. Blakely,' he served his community as mayor of Blakely for two terms, president and director of the Chamber of Commerce, and as longtime member and president of the Blakely-Early County Rotary Club for more than 60 years.  
[more]



Club News  
**North  
Cobb  
Walks in  
Kennesaw  
Holiday  
Parade**

By Jose Gonzalez  
Members of the **North Cobb Rotary Club** walked the City of Kennesaw Parade in style, including North Cobb magnetic stickers on a yellow Nissan, driven by Audley Knight, Club Executive Secretary and a giant North Cobb banner held by members Charity Drabik, Club Fundraiser Chair and Deborah Morton, Club Membership Chair. Additional member walked ... [more]



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Club News

## Hometown Hero Recognition Sparks Grassroots Roswell Rotary Challenge...

By Becky Nelson  
The **Roswell Rotary** Hometown Hero for November story has a sequel!

Brother's Keeper Foundation founder, Chris Cathers, with his body fighting Stage 4 Cancer and PTSD, but his spirit needed to create a foundation where Veterans could find help without barriers and only resolutions. During the inspirational November presentation to Chris, Roswell Rotarian John Michael Brunetti was so moved to throw out a match of \$10,000 so Chris could see veterans getting what they needed fast.

"Match it," he said. "Let's do something worthy of these veterans." The spark was ignited. If that wasn't enough, after the meeting, Chris shared with Roswell Rotary Club President Trummie Lee Patrick III that another donor in his organization had also stepped forward and would match what Roswell Rotary could raise. Anonymous. No fanfare. No spotlight. And that's not the end of the story ... or the matching ... or the challenge!

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Club News

## **Twas the Night of Giving: Buckhead Rotarians Spread Holiday Cheer at the Shepherd Centre**

By Shelley Hammell

Twas the night before Christmas and all through the hospital, Buckhead Rotarians were on the move, bringing holiday cheer to Shepherd Center patients and children during the Christmas Eve dinner service. Instead of sugarplums, members Miriam Falaki, Sam Alston (not pictured), President Shelley Hammell and her husband Joe delivered Elf on the Shelf ...  
[more]



Club News

## **North Fulton Enhances Peace Garden**

By Lisa Gelber

Using funds from a District 6900

competitive grant, members of the **Rotary Club of North Fulton** spent

two Saturdays in November

enhancing the club's Peace Garden at North Park. Originally created in

2013, the garden is centered

around a wooden peace pole that was in

need of significant repair. Thanks to the

dedication and craftsmanship of Rotarian

Andy West, who spent

several weeks restoring it, the peace pole has been brought

back to its original beauty.

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Club News

## **Stone Mountain Rotarians Honored by STEM Atlanta!**

By Cynthia Edwards  
STEM Atlanta, Inc. recently hosted the 2025 STEMii Awards – Futurist 2030: The Royal Christmas Gala. The STEMii Awards fuels the Futurist 2030 Leadership Readiness Initiative, preparing young professionals ages **19-44** to thrive in an AI-driven global economy. Proceeds from the Gala support scholarships, leadership labs and transformative STEM education experiences. This year's gala honored two **Stone Mountain Rotarians - Jeremy Anderson and Cynthia Dorsey Edwards** - individuals whose lives exemplify doing good locally and globally. [more]

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## Pawsitivity in Action: Buckhead Rotary Helps our Two- and Four-Legged Neighbors this Holiday Season

By Shelley Hammell

As part of our ongoing Pawsitivity Partnership,

**Buckhead**

**Rotarians** continued to make a meaningful impact in December with the third pet food delivery. Twenty-five Rotarians and guests came together to serve 45 LifeLine pet owners, ensuring that both pets and their families received much-needed support during the holiday season.

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