



Rotary District 6920 *Sow the Seeds of Love*

Bruce Montgomery
District Governor

102 East 44th Street
Savannah, GA 31405

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Contributions to GRSP Endowment Soar

District 6920 Surpasses District 6910 in 2001-02 Donations

Contributions to the Georgia Rotary Student Program Endowment Fund swelled to \$162,961 for the 2001-02 year, according to Dr. Hamsa Thota, District Campaign Chair.

Total contributions for the year surpassed those of District 6910, which recorded \$162,364 for the same time period.

"We are real excited to see District 6920's enthusiasm for this program as evidenced by the year's contributions," Dr. Thota said, adding that the push for the three-year campaign continues.

"This is an ongoing initiative to raise funds for the GRSP in an effort to minimize costs to sponsoring clubs."

The Dublin Rotary Club contributed more than \$15,000 for the fund, raising more money than any other club in the District. The Dublin club is led by Alan Barfoot. Last year's club president was Jeff Cannon.

According to Dr. Thota, the praises of GRSP are being sung throughout the state. Gary Bertsch, Director of the Center for International Trade and Security at the University of Georgia, recently wrote to GRSP in

regards to 2000-01 participant Tomas Bryndolfsson of Iceland.

"Let me say a few words about my most recent experience," Bertsch wrote. "Last year I had an outstanding student in my international relations class who was adding so much to our class discussions. After class one day, he told me that you Rotarians had given a fellowship that made his trip from Iceland and study at our university



honor of one of America's most distinguished diplomats, Amb. Martin Hillenbrand.

"Incidentally, Thomas graduated from UGA today and is headed to Brussels where he will take up a summer internship with NATO," Bertsch continued. "He also recently won The Chevening Scholarship awarded by the British Council to pursue

graduate study in one of England's top universities. I have no doubt that Tomas Bryndolfsson will go on to serve his, our and other countries, and do much to contribute to a better world."

According to Dr. Thota, 89 students will participate in the 2002-03 GRSP. "It is vital for members to continue their contributions to the GRSP Endowment Campaign," Dr. Thota emphasized. "It is imperative that we work toward our goal of \$2 million. The cost of scholarships is ever increasing and we want to increase the number of students each year by reducing the total scholarship cost to the sponsoring Rotary clubs."



Anne Louise Kaern, a 1998-99 GRSP student, lunched with The Savannah Sunrise Rotary Club during her July visit to the United States. Ms. Kaern, who lives in Denmark, was sponsored by The Savannah Sunrise Rotary Club, The Richmond Hill Rotary Club, The Skidaway Island Rotary Club and The Hinesville Rotary Club.

Letters Sing Praises of GRSP

Following are excerpts from two letters regarding the Georgia Rotary Student Program. There is a three-year effort to increase funding for the GRSP through the GRSP Endowment Campaign.

"I've been meaning to let you know that Antoine Yazebek, your Rotary student from two years ago, was elected Student of the Year by the faculty! He is a wonderful person and we are fortunate to have him as an alum. Thank you for sending him to us.

*-Ann Scott, Director of Graduate Programs
Georgia Institute of Technology*

"You Rotarians add so much to our community and world. Among other good things, the international students you bring to our campuses contribute greatly. I have worked with many of these Rotary-sponsored students over the years and am always impressed. Our American students and communities benefit in so many ways from working with these outstanding international students Your Rotary sponsored programs influence many, in so many positive ways. Our university, our country and the world are all beneficiaries. Thank you for all you are doing."

*-Gary Bertsch, Director, Center for International Trade and Security
University of Georgia*

and knowledge about world affairs. Tomas was a true star in this program and received our university's Outstanding Student Ambassador Award, named in

Visit the District's Web site at
www.rotarydistrict6920.org
for the latest attendance report and news



Use Media Outlets to Tell Rotary Story

Bill Blankenship, Public Relations Chair for District 6920, is excited about telling the Rotary story. In fact, he's so excited that he wants District Rotarians to join in the effort.

While public service announcements are loved by the media - television, newspaper and radio - they often are not used as a public relations tool, according to Mr. Blankenship.

"I want District clubs to tell the Rotary story in the media," he says. "If your club helped at a community service function, project or on going entity, then write an article for your local newspaper and radio station so that they can get it in print and on the air as public service announcements."

Mr. Blankenship also emphasizes telling the global Rotary story. "Tell what has been done outside your community, like the bore wells in India," he says.

During the Aug. 17 District Seminar, Jim Bently, a member of The Jekyl Island Rotary Club and former newspaper editor, presented a workshop on what information to include in an article or announcement and how to submit the information.

Mr. Blankenship adds that he is preparing a District-wide public service announcement that will be sent to all southeast Georgia media outlets in the fall. The announcement will relate the good works done by Rotary International and describe the District's fund-raiser. This year's fund-raiser will include the raffling of a new Ford Thunderbird. Tickets, which will sell for \$50 each and are tax deductible, will go on sale in late fall. The drawing for the car will be held at the District Conference in May.

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The Governor's Corner by Bruce Montgomery

Fellow Rotarians,

Congratulations to each of you and to Leon Benefield and Jim Puryear for all of the hard work for the Rotary Foundation last year. District 6920 had a record year in annual fund giving of \$255,653.54 for an average of \$67.37 per Rotarian district-wide. The Rotarians in District 6920 really stepped up to the plate in a trying year. Leon, Jim and I thank you, and the hurting people of the world thank you.

It is my pleasure to announce the top clubs in Rotary Foundation giving for 2001-02. They are: The Rotary Club of Savannah - \$22,717 gross; The Rotary Club of Augusta - \$19,920 gross; The Rotary Club of Vidalia - \$267.49 per capita and The Rotary Club of Valdosta Sunrise - \$190.17 per capita. Congratulations to each of you. These four clubs have earned the right to send one or more representative to the SHARE committee meeting in Vidalia on Oct 26. Each of these clubs will have one vote as to how the district divides up the SHARE funds, otherwise known as the District Designated Fund

As good as this last year was, please remember that the world has a continuing need for help with the basics of life. District 6920's goal this year for the annual fund is \$250,000. In addition to this, the Rotary Foundation estimates that it will take \$275 million to finish the eradication of Polio in the world by 2005. Rotary has been challenged to raise \$80 million, to be pledged this year and paid in over three years. If we are able to raise the \$80 million, several foundations have pledged to match these funds to bring the total to the \$275 million needed.

We must finish the job on Polio. If we don't, it will reemerge as the child killer andcrippler it is. Please help us get this job done.

I thank you for what you did last year and hope that you will join me in keeping the string of record years for District 6920 going.

Yours in Rotary,

Bruce Montgomery
District 6920 Governor



Fulfilling Our Promise: Eradicate Polio

Rotarians are on the verge of ridding the world of polio. The number of polio cases has declined by 99 percent in the 16 years since Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation made polio eradication the highest priority.

In this period, many of the challenges and obstacles in the path of the ultimate goal have been overcome through the pioneering work of PolioPlus. But because of the changed priorities following the terrible events of Sept. 11, 2001, it is now clear that without a special effort, governments, agencies, non-governmental organizations and the private sector will not be able to fill the \$400 million funding gap that threatens to snuff Rotary's dream of a polio-free world.

The RI Board of Directors and the Foundation Trustees have unanimously resolved to introduce a new campaign to raise

additional funds for PolioPlus. The campaign, "Fulfilling Our Promise: Eradicate Polio," will last only through the 2002-03 Rotary year with the goal of raising \$80 million.

The funds raised through this campaign will multiply quickly because they will be matched or surpassed by funding from the World Bank, the Gates Foundation and the United Nations Foundation. In some cases, every dollar brought in by Rotary will become a contribution of up to \$5 that will go to governments, the World Health Organization or UNICEF to buy and distribute vaccine.

To help spread the word about this new campaign, Rotarians are invited to download a presentation and accompanying script from the Rotary International Web site at www.rotary.org/foundation/polioplus/promise.html.



District Posts Membership Gains in 2001-02

It's official: District 6920 posted a 120-member increase during the 2001-02 year, bringing District membership totals to 3,935, according to Joe Converse, District Secretary.

During the 2001-02 year, which was led by District Governor Jim Puryear, District 6920 added one new club. The Jones County (Gray) Rotary Club held a chartering ceremony on May 23, inducting 27 charter members. Another new club, The Pooler Rotary Club, held a chartering ceremony on Aug. 2, adding 26 new members to District rolls.

The Pooler Rotary Club will be led by

President Phil West and President-Elect David M. Henry. Other charter members are William C. Casterlin, secretary; Brian P. Smith, treasurer; David A. Skadeland, Sergeant at Arms; Tim W. Inglis, Wilson E. Roberts III, Frankie Fort and Preston Peacock, board members; Earl L. Carter, Gary Godman, Anne L. Hales, Isaac G. LaRoche, Ben A. Rozier, Lester H. Shearouse, Kenneth L. Tootle, Alan Usher, Richard Allison, Jeffrey L. Anderson, Lawrence J. Drescher, William L. Edwards, Maurice L. Green, Michael B. Potts, Charles E.

Rogers, Steven E. Scheen and James R. Stephens.



RI's Global Quest Continues

As the RI Global Quest continues to work toward increased Rotary membership worldwide, an effort to increase membership in District 6920 also continues. The goal for each club this year is a net growth of 10 members.

"That is a big number, but it certainly can be achieved and the potential new energy and manpower - or more specifically, "Rotarianpower" to benefit each and every club in the district is enormous," says

Leslie Mattingly, Chair of District Membership Development. "In the coming year we will be implementing several new and very exciting programs developed by DG Bruce Montgomery to help focus on new members and member retention."

Among the programs are a District-wide Red Badge program that will help orient new Rotarians to their club and Rotary International.

New members will be presented with a red badge and will earn points by completing their choice of Rotary-related tasks. When 100 points are accumulated, the new member will receive the traditional blue badge. It is hoped that by the time a member receives the blue badge, he or she will be fully acclimated to their new Rotary club and will be actively involved in the work and social life of their club.

"It's truly a win-win program for the

member and the club in terms of member involvement and retention," says Ms. Mattingly. "Clubs with existing Red Badge programs can attest there is nothing better!"

A new award, termed District Rookie of the Year, will also be presented this year. Each club will be allowed to nominate an outstanding first-year Rotarian as their "Club Rookie of the Year." During the annual District Conference in May 2003, a selection committee

will consider all nominees and select a District Rookie of the Year. Both the member and their club will be recognized at the conference.

"Of course, the guidelines within the District's Red Badge program will be a foundation for the award; however, the key will be member initiative and a demonstration that the member has

put his or her energy into following the Four Avenues of Service and into placing Service Above Self," Ms. Mattingly explains. "The District Rookie of the Year will set the mark for individual involvement of each new member and will require the full support and encouragement of the rookie's club and its older members. Thus, the Rookie of the Year Award will reflect strongly on not only the new members, but also on the vitality and character of each club in the District."

"I believe so strongly in Rotary membership. I am a product of a wonderful club in Indiana which saw me as a young professional, apparently, they thought, with potential to serve the community. I was extended an invitation to membership and felt honored to be asked to join. I was well taught by the older members about Rotary on every level and was quickly involved in the work of the club. Those members became my friends and my mentors and through the years shared in the most important moments of my personal and professional passages. At the same time, they gave me opportunities to serve the club in an ever increasing manner, including as Club President. When I married and moved to Georgia, they celebrated my happiness and sent me off with tears and sent letters of introduction to The Rotary Club of St. Simons Island, where I now live. They gave me a wealth of wonderful new friends in my new home. To this day, they follow my progress - personally, professionally and in Rotary - though we are three states and several years apart. I can say honestly that I am a better, more capable person and professional because of the sincere and careful guidance of those good people. That's why I'm excited about Rotary membership. Because we as Rotarians can be such great mentors and friends to others - young or not so young - in our communities and can teach them the skills they will need to serve their towns and the State, as well as the entire Rotary World."

- Leslie Mattingly
Chair, District Membership Development

RI Membership Increases

Rotary clubs added 54,939 members to their rolls in the 2001-02 Rotary year, bringing net membership worldwide to 1,243,431, a 4.6 percent increase over the previous year and the best one-year growth ever. More than 1,100 Rotary clubs were chartered in the year ending June 30, bringing the net total to 31,256 clubs in 163 countries.

The greatest percentage membership growth was in Asia, where six countries registered double-digit percentage increases. Membership in Rotary clubs in India grew almost 18 percent, for a net gain of 14,209 members, making the country the world leader in the number of new Rotarians.

Indicative of Rotary dynamism in the region, The Rotary Club of Daegu-Eagle, Korea, which was chartered on July 12, 2001 with 25 members, grew to a membership of 173 in less than a year and sponsored another new club, The Rotary Club of Daegu-Banya, in May 2002.

Growth occurred in virtually every area of the world. Besides India, 10 other countries with at least 2,000 Rotarians each netted more than 1,000 members last year. They were: the United States, 8,618; Korea, 7,398; Philippines, 2,929; Italy, 2,495; Brazil, 2,166; Germany, 1,971; Nigeria, 1,637; Bangladesh, 1,577; England, 1,429; and Turkey, 1,272.



Phil West (left) is president of The Rotary Club of Pooler. David M. Henry is the club's President-Elect.



Charter night ceremonial events were held Aug. 2 for The Rotary Club of Pooler. DG Bruce Montgomery and PDG Jim Puryear inducted 26 members. The club will be led by President Phil West and President-Elect David M. Henry. Other charter members are William C. Casterlin, secretary; Brian P. Smith, treasurer; David A. Skadeland, Seargent at Arms; Tim W. Inglis, Wilson E. Roberts III, Frankie Fort and Preston Peacock, board members; Earl L. Carter; Gary Godman, Anne L. Hales, Isaac G. LaRoche, Ben A. Rozier, Lester H. Shearouse, Kenneth L. Toole, Alan Usher, Richard Allison, Jeffrey L. Anderson, Lawrence J. Drescher, William L. Edwards, Maurice L. Green, Michael B. Potts, Charles E. Rogers, Steven E. Scheen and James R. Stephens.



Jim Puryear, not pictured, was elected Chairman of the Council of Governors during its first meeting of the year. Pictured are Preston Johnson, Dublin, 1979-80; Lynn Hadwin, Savannah South, 1997-98; Jim Cooper, St. Simons, 1994-95 (Connecticut); Frank Moore, Vidalia, 1993-94; Marion Franklin, Vidalia, 1995-96; Pat Donahoo, St. Simons, 1994-95; Billy Adams, Dublin, 1991-92; Bill Kemp, Augusta, 1998-99; Jeanette Caneega, Wrightsville, 1999-2000; Albert Reichert Sr., Macon, 1960-61; Albert Reichert Jr., Macon, 2000-01; and Bruce Montgomery, Savannah East, 2002-03.



DG Montgomery visits with Skidaway Island President Bill Hammack during his visit with the club.



Board members of The Dublin Rotary Club enjoy a dinner at Louie and Anne Curry's lake house.



The Dublin Rotary Club went all out to greet DG Montgomery to their city by having a welcome displayed on a hotel marquee.



Members of The Greater Byron Rotary Club socialize during a dinner meeting.



The Macon Rotary Club presents scholarships to Ashley Avery, Katherine Hart, Michael Baronowski and Kristin Taylor. Scholarships were also presented to Lindsey Burgess and Ruth Leadbetter.



The Macon Rotary Club recognized new Paul Harris Fellows Robbo Hatcher, Danny Bullington, Amelia Alderman and Bill Hambricht (second award) during a recent meeting. Paul Harris Fellow awards also were presented to Elmo Richardson and John Batts.