



Rotary District
6920



THE 4-WAY TEST

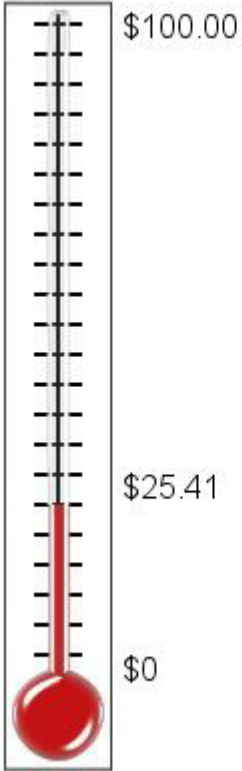
“Of the things we think, say or do:
Is it the TRUTH?
Is it FAIR to all concerned?
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?”

John Parkins, District Governor
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Issue No. 6
December 2004

Ronda Rich Will be Keynote Speaker at District Conference



Measuring our success!

This thermometer measures the annual funds giving (per capita). Currently, the district is at **\$25.41** per member for the period. Please see page 3 for individual club contributions to this fund.

Audiences love the comic charm and warmth of best-selling author and southern humorist Ronda Rich and often express it with standing ovations. While she tailors her presentations to the client’s needs, offering thought-provoking motivation and enjoyable storytelling to secular audiences or moving inspiration to Christian audiences, one element remains constant - she always entertains with hilarious anecdotes and witticisms.

Give her an audience - any audience - and she’ll give whatever it takes. Perfect for female and mixed audiences, the former sportswriter is also popular with all male audiences as she delves into her own experiences to talk about “*We Learn From Sports.*”

She follows up her national best seller, *What Southern Women Know (That Every Woman Should)* with a humorous and heart-tugging look at life on the Winston Cup Circuit. *My Life In The Pits* reveals the behind-the-scene life of stock car racing in a way it has never seen before through a woman’s eyes.

Ronda discovered the sport, then ruled solely by men, as a young sportswriter while she was still in college. Later, she would become a publicist working with team sponsors and would be only one of a few women to travel on the circuit full-time. As one of the first women to be permitted in the pits, she would spend the next 10 years mentored by the likes of Dale Earnhardt, Richard Petty, Bill Elliott, Darrell Waltrip and many of the most

famous racers in NASCAR history. Along the way, she would become the first woman to win Associated Press’ top honor for sports writing. Her coming-of-age story is one of lessons learned the hard way, then fun way and the sad way.

Released in May amidst a storm of media attention, including a CNN spotlight news segment, *My Life In The Pits* has earned a tremendous amount of critical acclaim. The *New York Times* called it “the most satisfying” of all the NASCAR books and says that it’s “vivid and provocative” while *Kirkus Reviews* wrote that Ronda has “plenty of storytelling verve and insider’s knowledge; she excels in bringing to life the big players.” The *Daytona Beach New-Journal* reported that, “It’s not the typical racing book. Far from it. Rich spins fascinating tales...delightful, name-dropping



Ronda Rich

romp through the garage area.” Perhaps the book’s biggest endorsement came recently when renowned broadcaster Paul Harvey touted it in his national radio show calling it “informative and thoroughly entertaining.”

A native of Gainesville, Georgia, Ronda, a former award-winning journalist, has appeared on dozens of television shows, including *The View*, where she was interviewed by Barbara Walters and *The Other Half* where she was interviewed by the legendary Dick Clark. Her first book, *What Southern Women Know*, continues to be a strong seller and is now in its 17th printing.

Like all Southerners, she firmly believes “that nothing beats a good story, well told and retold.”

Wheelchair Donations

Governor John has asked that each club give a wheel chair to him for METS in lieu of the traditional DG gift.

As of Nov. 19, 2004:
59 Clubs Visited
211 Chairs Donated

(see details on p. 3)

DISTRICT NEWS

Centennial Chatter

... Preston Johnson, District Centennial Chairman

LADIES...special shopping information just for you, while at the Rotary International 100th anniversary convention in Chicago, June 18-22, 2005!

Water Tower Place, across from the limestone landmark, is Northern Michigan Avenue's most famous mall, anchored by Marshall Field's and Lord & Taylor department stores.

Bloomington's anchors the shops at 900 North Michigan.

Saks Fifth Avenue is the star retailer at Chicago Place.

Nordstrom is the main attraction at the shops at North Bridge, where a whole level is devoted to children's merchandise (for the grandkids!).

Michigan Avenue also boasts prestige boutiques, from Giorgia Armani to Gucci.

The block of Oak Street between Rush Street and Northern Michigan claims the most exclusive shops, including Prada, Hermes, and Barney's of New York.

On Michigan Avenue these days you also find familiar chain stores like the Gap, Banana Republic, and Marshall's.

Need to relax from shopping? Try the lunch or dinner at the Signature Room, perched on the 95th floor of the 100-story John Hancock Center. Or, to just catch your breath, on the 94th floor observatory of the nation's fourth tallest building, brave souls venture out into the open-air Skywalk to feel the wind and hear the commotion 1,000 feet below!

(Note: The above data from a Travel America magazine article by writer Randy Mink).

Guys, save your special lady some money for shopping by registering for the Chicago convention prior to December 31, 2004. Afterwards, it will cost you more!

And...for the 100th time, if you don't have your hotel reservation yet, you had better get busy! Please refer to my hotel article in the November Governor's Newsletter.

SEE YOU IN CHICAGO!

Dublin Rotary Club Adds 18 New Paul Harris Fellows

Wow is the best word used to describe our delight at the Dublin Rotary Club for its recent addition of 18 new Paul Harris Fellows. The club has worked diligently to recruit new Paul Harris Fellows and it is evident that their efforts are paying off.

The club's newest Paul Harris Fellows are Susan Brandon, Arthur



Paul Harris

Carder, Philip Faircloth, Joe Forness, Gary Ford, Albert Glass, Fred Glenn, Randy Green, David Kellam, Joshua Kight, Dan King, Craig Lasting, Jim Nelson, Jerry Pitts, Louis Shackelford, Lauren Veal, David Westerfield and Joe Yanken.

Congratulations are in order to all of you for making the commitment to Annual Funds Program.

Matching Points Program Complete

District 6920 Foundation Chair and DGN Bill Blankenship has announced that the Matching Points program is 100 percent complete.

"There are no matching points remaining," he said in a Nov. 5 email to club presidents,

assistant governors and district directors and foundation committee members. "All matching points have been applied and assigned."

According to Bill, the matching points program was announced in late August and now the district has more than 50 additional Paul Harris Fellow awards in the process of being awarded or already awarded.

"And, The Rotary Foundation Annual Fund has an additional \$25,000," he said. "Sincere appreciation is extended to all of you for your support and success in helping to make our world a better place to live."



DGN Blankenship



Visit

www.rotarydistrict6920.net
for the latest news and information

DISTRICT NEWS

Taiwanese Exchange Opportunity Abounds for High School Students

Rotary District 3480 Youth Exchange Chair Dr. Andren Chen in Taiwan is seeking to establish a high school exchange program with District 6920, according to DGN Bill Blankenship.

An email sent to DGN Bill in early November described how the program has worked for nearly 10 years.

“District 3480 is the longest-established Rotary District in Taiwan and located in Taipei, the capital of Taiwan,” writes Dr. Chen. “Our district YEC, set up in 1995, is also the first of its kind in my country. We are having our regular long-term exchange with many countries.

“For example: USA, Canada, France, Germany, Norway, Austria, Australia, Japan, Korea, Brazil, UK,

Denmark, etc.,” he continues. “We send around 40 to 60 youths overseas each year on our Youth Exchange Program, while receiving the same number of inbound foreign students.”

The program aims to provide six to eight hours of Mandarin Chinese lesson each week and a culture class once a week.

“Hopefully, our inbounds will have a happy, unforgettable and productive stay in Taiwan,” wrote Dr. Chen.

If there are high school students in your community that your club would like to go to Taiwan, please contact DGN Bill via email at rotarybill@tds.net. There are also opportunities for local families to host Taiwanese students.

Clubs Give to Annual Funds Program

The following is a report of the Annual Giving **per capita** for the July 1, 2004 to November 2004 period.

Ashburn: \$66.67	Jekyll Island: \$0	St. Simons Island: \$28.13
Augusta South: \$28.63	Jesup: \$0	Statesboro: \$5.59
Augusta: \$2.60	Jones County: \$0	Swainsboro: \$0
Augusta West: \$12.07	Kings Bay: \$80.00	Sylvania: \$0
Blackshear: \$0	Macon: \$11.50	Tennille: \$5.26
Brunswick: \$6.92	McIntosh Co.: \$0	Tift County: \$0
Camden County: \$112.73	McRae: \$0	Tifton: \$0
Claxton: \$7.27	Metter: \$21.79	Valdosta Sunrise: \$17.22
Cochran: \$0	Milledgeville: \$5.00	Valdosta: \$39.17
Douglas: \$0	Millen: \$0	Valdosta North: \$43.90
Downtown Macon: \$7.63	Nashville-Berrien: \$0	Vidalia: \$0
Downtown Statesboro: \$0	Ocilla: \$0	Warner Robins: \$55.85
Dublin: \$41.85	Perry: \$55.09	Waycross: \$6.88
Eastman: \$0	Pooler: \$9.90	Waynesboro: \$0
Effingham Co. Sunrise: \$0	Reidsville: \$0	Wrightsville: \$7.14
Effingham Co.: \$0	Richmond Hill: \$0	TOTAL for District: \$25.41
Fitzgerald: \$10.71	Sandersville: \$7.81	
Glennville: \$101.56	Savannah East: \$23.13	
Glynn County: \$9.57	Savannah South: \$213.38	
Greater Byron: \$64.00	Savannah Sunrise: \$80.56	
Hawkinsville: \$0	Savannah West: \$67.19	
Hazlehurst: \$25.00	Savannah: \$40.78	
Hinesville: \$0	Skidaway Island: \$44.92	
Jefferson Co.: \$0	St. Simons/Marshes of Glynn: \$38.16	

Wheel Chair Donations

CLUB	CHAIRS GIVEN
Brunswick	1
Camden County	0
Effingham County Sunrise	1
Hinesville	1
Skidaway Island	0
St. Simons Island	1
Wrightsville	2
Jones County	1
Dublin	11
Claxton	1
Reidsville	0
Augusta	1
Augusta South	1
Jefferson County	1
Augusta West	23
Blackshear	1
Waycross	4
Glennville	1
Richmond Hill	1
Valdosta – North	1
Valdosta	2
Valdosta – Sunrise	1
Centerville	10
Warner Robins	26
Hazlehurst	1
Douglas	1
Vidalia	2
Dn. Statesboro	1
Effingham Cty.	1
Savannah	1
Savannah South	1
Pooler	1
Savannah West	0
Macon	1
Tennille	1
Greater Byron	1
Dn. Macon	1
Ashburn	12
Eastman	33
Nashville-Berrien	1
Hawkinsville	1
Milledgeville	7
Cochran	1
Marshes of Glynn	0
Metter	1
Fitzgerald	1
Glynn County	8
Sandersville	1
Savannah East	2
Tift County	1
Tifton	1
Jesup	1
Perry	21
McRae	1
Jekyll Island	0
Kings Bay	3
Swainsboro	11
Waynesboro	7
Millen	2
TOTALS	211

DISTRICT NEWS

Literacy Committee Report

Chair - PDG Jim Puryear

Members - Leslie Mattingley, St. Simons ; Joe Greene, Augusta

Goals:

To increase awareness among members about the need for the promotion of literacy in Southeast Georgia; To facilitate literacy projects by individual clubs and thereby increase the number of literacy projects by individual clubs in the district; To organize and conduct one literacy project for the district.

Action Plans:

Provide club presidents with announcement material for the clubs (accomplished); Provide club newsletter editors with news clips on literacy for the club newsletters (in progress); Inventory club literacy projects throughout the district and share the inventory via the District Newsletter; Facilitate the publication of one article on literacy in the District Newsletter; Conduct a district literacy project (probably will be in conjunction with the District Conference).

Evaluation:

If the club literacy projects are increased by 15% then the goals will have been achieved.

25% of adults in the US have no high school diploma or GED

Literacy Projects District 6920 Clubs

Augusta - Provides scholarships for GED registration fee

Augusta West - Provide funding for support of local university adult literacy program

Centerville - Presents books to local school in honor of Rotary speaker; Supports Rolling Reader Program

Douglas - Supports local - The Hope Center

Dublin - Joins with county schools and technical college to provide support for a literacy center including childcare, tutors, supplies and other support; Provides publicity through news articles and editorials

Greater Byron - Provides Rolling Reader program; Furnishes books to schools

Eastman - Provides books for schools and Boys/Girls clubs; Provides 4-Way Test coloring books; Literacy in Action Program

Metter - Provides scholarships for local students' GED examination fees

McRae - Provides scholarship each year for a graduating high school senior; Sponsors GED examination fee; Downtown Macon - Supports "Macon Reads" by distributing dictionaries to third graders, providing volunteer readers

Macon - Sponsors Rotary Readers

Savannah East - Provides funds for required summer reading program for the public library reading in the area

Savannah South - Has partnership with local middle school; Supports education program for people in mountains of Cambodia

Tifton & Tift County - Extensive involvement with literacy with the Tift County Board of Education Excellence and the Tift County Foundation for Educational Excellence (preschool literacy)

Vidalia - Provides scholarships for GED exam fee; Gives donations to local technical college literacy program; provides night basketball life skills (including literacy programs) locally

Warner Robins - Provides all third graders in local county with dictionaries; Sponsors scholarships for GED exam fee at local technical college; Rotarians read to students in local classrooms

Waycross - Provides tutoring; Provides reading with public library

Wrightsville - Provides media materials to local technical college; Sponsors financial support to technical college remedial program; Provided tutoring for students taking GED exam

46% of adults in the U.S. function at or below level 2 (a 4th grade education) based on the National Adult Literacy survey. Georgia ranks within these numbers.

CLUB VISIT PHOTOS



Rotary Club of Cochran



Rotary Club of
Glynn County



Rotary Club of Marshes of Glynn



Rotary Club of Fitzgerald



Rotary Club of Sandersville



Rotary Club of Savannah East

Celebrating a Century of Service

How Rotary Won Over its Outspoken Critics

By David C. Forward

As the Rotary movement spread across America and Britain, it became a favorite target for cynical writers and social critics. One newspaper editorial opined: “The Rotary club is composed of business men. The functions of a Rotary club are summed up in one word — talk. That is about all the members of the club do. The Rotary club never takes any action. Its members simply talk, or listen while others talk.”

“Where is Rotary going? It is going to lunch,” sneered playwright George Bernard Shaw.

Rotary’s most outspoken critics in the 1920s and 1930s included Shaw, Sinclair Lewis, Clarence Darrow, H. L. Mencken, and G. K. Chesterton. Mencken, the acerbic editor of the *American Mercury*, wrote of his contempt for Rotary’s “commercial civilization.” He also derided Rotarians for their habit of greeting one another by their first names or nicknames: “The first Rotarian was the first man to call John the Baptist, ‘Jack,’” he scoffed.

Sinclair Lewis touched on the same point in his 1920 novel *Main Street* but it was his 1922 novel, *Babbitt*, that caused howls of protest from Rotarians. In it, the title character was a bumbling middle-class small-town businessman who was a follower, whose weekly highlight was the backslapping singing camaraderie of like-minded men at his booster club.

Taking their lead from such famous authors, other writers joined in the parody parade with potshots of their own. They were rarely scathing attacks, but *Babbitt*, especially, was such a best seller that the criticism endured for decades. By then, the word *Babbitt* had even entered the official national vernacular. Dictionaries started including it, with the definition in Webster’s New Collegiate: “A business or professional man who conforms unthinkingly to prevailing middle class standards.”

When in 1934 another dictionary leaked that it was considering equating its own definition of *Babbitt* with *Rotarian*, Editor Leland D. Case of *The Rotarian* had had enough. One steamy August morning he took matters into his own hands and paid an unannounced visit to Sinclair Lewis’ summer home in Vermont.

“Who the hell’re you, and what do you want?” growled the sleepy cynic as he opened the door in his blue pajamas. Case explained that he edited Rotary’s magazine in Chicago and had come to find out what Lewis disliked about Rotarians.

“Sit down,” Lewis commanded. “First, we’ll have breakfast. Then we’ll talk.”

When they got to the discussion, Lewis stated his first objection: “I don’t like their singing!”

“Neither do I,” Case concurred. “What else?”

“Calling strangers by their first names,” Lewis continued. “I visited a Rotary club near here and right away they were calling me ‘Sinclair,’ something I hadn’t heard since I last saw my mother.” Case knew that Lewis hailed from the tiny town of Sauk Center, Minnesota. He told him the story of Rotary’s founder, Paul Harris, another young man from a small village who felt lonely in the big city and how using the nicknames and first names of his new friends enhanced their camaraderie.

The amicable meeting lasted all morning. When Case arrived back at his Chicago office, he found a telegram from Lewis saying that their chat had “made me approve of Rotary.”

Case later persuaded Lewis, Darrow, Mencken, and Shaw to write for *The Rotarian*, and nobody ever heard a sarcastic remark about Rotary from them again.



Past RI President Frank L. Mulholland (left) with *Babbitt* author and former Rotary critic Sinclair Lewis

