



# Rotary District 6920 *Sow the Seeds of Love*

**Bruce Montgomery**  
District Governor

102 East 44th Street  
Savannah, GA 31405

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Friday District Conference Highlights

## District Conference Newsletter

### Welcome to the Beach Party!

“We are here today in the Rotary theme, ‘Sow the Seeds of Love,’” said District Director Kenan Kern. “But, in the eyes of Governor Bruce Montgomery, I think we’re here to have a beach party!”

“I think I’m the only one who knows how to dress for a beach party,” DG Bruce chided at Friday’s opening luncheon. “I told the guard at the gate

that if anyone showed up wearing a tie to confiscate it from them and return it when they left.”

Bill Donohue, president of the Brunswick Rotary Club and executive director of the Jekyll Island Authority, issued an official welcome to the island. “We’re thrilled you’re here and we hope you have a great weekend,” he said.

### Russell Shares Keys to Success

Erk Russell shared many victories during his tenure as the head football coach at Georgia Southern University and, Friday he shared some keys to his success.

Erk, who entered the 1989 football season as America’s winningest coach with two national championships, 68 wins and 14 All-American victories, said “communication is the most important technique I know” and added that a sense of humor doesn’t hurt.

“As we deal, as all of us do on a daily basis, with people, we must have a sense of humor,” he said.

During his 40 year coaching career, Erk employed numerous attitudes to achieve success. Among those were, “If you don’t have the best of everything, then make the best of everything you have” and “The harder I work, the luckier I get.”

For a man who calls his experience at Auburn, Georgia and Georgia Southern “great,” he realizes that all of his successes couldn’t have been achieved without one thing: teamwork.

*Former Georgia Southern University Head Football Coach Erk Russell, pictured at the opening luncheon and below with District Director Kenan Kern, was Friday’s guest speaker.*



“We had good players,” he said of his teams at Georgia Southern. “We had good players who played good together and that means a good team. And, when you have a good team, you have a chance to be successful.

“If you surround yourself with good people, work hard and do right, good things will happen,” he added.

### Fines Raise Money for PolioPlus

Fred Jean is known among his peers as a man who knows how to have a good time and help a worthy cause, all at the same time. Friday was no exception.

“Our year has been filled with a lot of tragedy,” said District Director Kenan Kern. “In our Rotary styles, we have ways of doing things that are fun. Even in our own midst are terrorists.”

Fred is among those. And, Fred held a number of Rotarians and guests hostage when he fined them for various infractions. Among those called to task were:

- \* Members of the Jekyll Island Rotary Club for “having the island all to themselves everyday,”
- \* DGE Leon Benefield for failing to have his PowerPoint presentation at the P.E.T.S. in March,
- \* All those wearing coats and ties,
- \* Jean Grover, current Augusta West president, for her adage, “You put off today what you can do tomorrow and when tomorrow comes, forget about it,”
- \* DGN John Parkins for setting a record by selling the most Thunderbird raffle tickets,

Tabulations revealed that the fines garnered more than \$40 for PolioPlus. The Rotary Foundation is in the midst of a campaign to raise \$80 million of a \$1 billion dollar effort to supply oral polio vaccines to 500 million children around the world by 2005, Rotary’s 100th anniversary.

# The Kingston Trio Entertains



The Kingston Trio entertained guests at Friday night's Fellowship Banquet. Members are, from left, George Grove, Bob Shane and Bob Haworth. George Grove, top right, and Bob Haworth, bottom right, sell tapes, CDs and other Kingston Trio merchandise to conference attendees.



## Mebus Delivers Message Through Song

Don Mebus, Rotary International's President's Representative at this year's district conference, brought his message through an unusual means ... song.

"All it takes is just your commitment to two bucks a week," he sang. "For peace and understanding is what we seek."

Mebus, who hails from Texas and is a third generation Rotary club president, emphasized Rotary's ongoing programs and projects. He alluded to changes



RI President Bhichai Rattakul's representative at the District 6920 Conference is Don Mebus of Texas.

that would occur during the 2003-04 year, beginning in July.

"RI is always in the process of change," he said. "Rotary is always looking for new leadership and ideas." Among those will be a simplification to the humanitarian grants, which currently includes 12 separate categories. Beginning in July, there will be only three categories.

A new emphasis also will be placed on the Annual Programs Fund in 2003-04, said Mebus, adding that it is critically important that every

Rotarian contribute something.



Mina Brown, the spouse of a Dublin Rotarian, makes a bid during the silent auction. Net proceeds from the auction will benefit the GRSP and Rotary Foundation.

## Conference Draws Large Crowd

Conference Chair Doug Baird, president of the Vidalia Rotary Club, says approximately 480 people had registered for the district conference as of noon Friday.

A special thanks to Doug and all those who have helped work out all the details of this year's conference. We're having a blast!



Rotarians and non-Rotarians bought raffle tickets for this 2003 Ford Thunderbird for \$50 each. A drawing will be conducted tonight to determine who gets to drive this shiny, new vehicle home. The winning ticket holder does not have to be present to win. The net proceeds from the ticket sales will go to Rotary International to help win the war against polio.