



Rotary District
6920



Lend a Hand

Leon Benefield, District Governor
lwbcdb@friendlycity.net

2203 Emory Drive, Tifton, GA 31794
(229) 386-4657

In This Issue

Issue No. 4
February 2004

Presidential Celebration Page 1
District News Page 2
 Skidaway Island Rotary Club
 Dublin Rotary Club
 Group Study Exchange
 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards
 District Conference
Message from DG Page 3
College of Governors Page 4

Join us April 23-25
for the
District Conference
in Valdosta

Contact Us

Leon Benefield (229) 386-4657
lwbcdb@friendlycity.net
Deborah Steele (706) 854-1690
dsteele76@comcast.net

Presidential Celebration Comes to Macon

RI President Jonathan B. Majiyagbe has slated 15 one-day Presidential Celebrations for the 2003-04 Rotary year to spotlight outstanding Rotary projects and initiatives in various parts of the world. Each mini-conference will have a specific focus. The Celebration planned for Macon on March 18 will bring the Rotary spotlight to literacy, a challenge of surprising proportion, even here in the United States. The Macon Celebration will be held at the Macon Centreplex.

According to Majiyagbe, "Literacy is the cornerstone of human well-being. It is vital that everyone have the opportunity to learn to read. My goal is that this event will serve as a catalyst for future action by the participants and their clubs and districts in the area of literacy. I want this to be the start of something dynamic and exciting for everyone in this part of the Rotary world".

Celebration participants will hear expert presentations on literacy and have the opportunity to hear Rotary literacy success stories, and to share their experiences and insights.

To attend the program, participants must submit a \$30 registration fee. Cost to attend the program and gala is \$60,

while the cost of attending President Majiyagbe's breakfast on March 19 at 8 a.m. is \$30.

Registration forms can be obtained by going to <http://www.rizones33-34.org/PresConfRegForm.htm> or e-mailing Al Lipphardt, registration chairman, at alipphardt@mindspring.com. Mr. Lipphardt can also be contacted by calling 770-717-5020.

Literacy is the Key

A Presidential Celebration on Literacy

Macon, Georgia

March 18, 2004

Improving Peoples' Lives through the Wonders of Reading

AGENDA:

Program: 2 to 5:30 p.m.

Why are we here?

Eagle Award

Rotary President Jonathan Majiyagbe

DTAE Commissioner Ken Breeden

Goodwill Industries

Rotary Literacy Projects

Open Discussion

Explanation about Breakout –

Model of Rotary/DTAE relationship

Regional Workshops

Break: 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Projects Exhibits, Social Hour

Gala Dinner: 7 to 9:30 p.m

Opening/Welcome

Dinner/Entertainment

Rotary President Jonathan Majiyagbe

Ade Majiyagbe Literacy Project

Celebration Convenor:

RI Director David Roper, Martinez, GA



Lend a Hand



... host of the 2004 Rotary
District 6920 Conference

DISTRICT NEWS

Skidaway Island

The Skidaway Island Rotary Club conducted a reverse raffle/silent auction on Feb. 20 in the Plantation Club at The Landings. The event featured a \$2,000 grand prize and many opportunities to win additional prizes through the raffle, game boards and bingo.

Money generated from the event benefitted local organizations, including Communities in Schools, Royce Learning Center, Safe Shelter, Bethesda Boys Home, Savannah Health Mission and the Community Health Care Club. Some funds will be used to support the Club's RYLA, Rotoract, GRSP and other international efforts.

Dublin Rotary Club

The West Laurens High School Interact Club worked with the Dublin Rotary Club during their Coats for Caring Day. More than 400 coats were collected by the Interact Club, which enabled the Dublin Rotary Club to contribute more than 600 coats, including more than 200 coats collected by the Dublin Rotary Club, to the area's needy through the Salvation Army.

Clift Crews, chairman of the Partners in Service committee, coordinated the project. Kudos to both the West Lauren High School Interact Club and the Dublin Rotary Club for their work on this community project.

The Dublin Rotary Club has provided 1,000 Bible packages through the club's international service project to troops abroad. Russell Burch, chairman of the club's international committee, is coordinating the project. Russell found out that there was a need for 18,000 Bibles a month for our troop overseas. He arranged through Campus Crusade to buy 1,000 "Do You Know Jesus?" packets which included a camouflage New Testament along with other literature.

Group Study Exchange

This report is from District 6920 GSE Team Leader Bill Blankenship:

In December, the district's Group Study Exchange Team Selection Committee met and interviewed applicants. The Selection Committee members included DG Leon Benefield, Gordon Mathews, John Neely, Bill Blankenship, PDG Carolyn Ishee, PDG Jeanette Caneega and DGE John Parkins.

The team selected is composed of two ladies and two gentlemen. Sean Brandon is a public administrator for the City of Savannah. Karin Best is a health and physical education teacher from Savannah. Joan Dare is in the design architecture business in Savannah. Jason Mehler is a pediatric physical therapist from Milledgeville. The team leader is Bill Blankenship from the Rotary Club of Camden County.

The GSE team is scheduled to depart for Santiago, Chile, on March 23 and visit in Rotary District 4340 until their return on April 26.

The Group Study Exchange Program is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 24 and 40 in the initial years of their professional life. The program provides travel grants for teams of young participants to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members study the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships and exchange ideas.

RYLA 2004

Valerie Palmer, Chair of the Rotary Youth Leadership Award committee for the district, sends in this report:

"I look forward to working with you as Rotary Youth Leadership Award coordinator for your Rotary club. It's

time to submit the names of those youth your club would like to sponsor for RYLA 2004. This is our sixteenth year, and each year we strive for 100 percent participation. If your club has not participated in the past, please consider making this investment in youth and in your community!

Last year, the on-line registration worked very well, so please visit the district web site at www.rotarydistrict6920.net and follow the RYLA link on the right. At the RYLA home page, the link for the on-line application is in the top right corner.

Whether you apply on-line or through mail, please mail your check for \$325 per student to me at South Georgia College, 100 W. College Park Drive, Douglas, GA 31533. The \$325 registration fee is nonrefundable, but you may make substitutions. Please complete one application form for each student and return it to me along with your check made payable to RYLA by May 7.

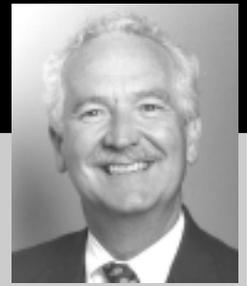
Like last year, \$10 of the tuition will be forwarded to the district office. These funds will be reserved to cover the cost of sending students to the International Convention in Chicago in 2005. RYLA participants will be asked to nominate their peers to attend the convention. Last year's RYLA class chose Crawford White (Savannah South) to attend.

RYLA provides clubs a wonderful opportunity to instill enthusiasm for community service and leadership in our youth. Thank you for your participation and please call with any questions. I can be reached at 912-389-4213, or by e-mail at vpalmer@sga.edu."

District Conference

The District Conference will be held April 23-25 in Valdosta. The next issue of this newsletter will be devoted to the conference, highlighting keynote speakers and entertainment. It is sure to be a fun time you won't want to miss!

A Message from the District Governor



I have had a very enjoyable year serving District 6920. However, my year has not been without trials and tribulations. Since July 1, 2003 I have:

forgotten my briefcase with all my materials and equipment (Vidalia),
been delayed by two traffic accidents on I-285 and I-20 as I visited the Augusta Club,

lost my PDA with all my schedule information (Downtown Statesboro),

lost my wedding ring during my attempts to find my PDA (my ring was recovered), and

lost my theme banner at some club in the district.

With 63 club visits, numerous receptions, dinners, coffee club meetings and 25 extra pounds under my belt, I am looking toward the future. My Rotary year may be in the short rows but it is far from over. Here are several events that we need to place on our calendars and begin preparing for.

February 27 and 28 at the Jekyll Island Club we will have training sessions for Assistant Governors. If there are individuals interested in becoming involved in district activities, contact PDG Bruce Montgomery about participating in this training activity.

March 15 is the deadline for submission of materials for district service awards. Clubs with major activities after this date should submit all materials they can and submit the additional materials no later than March 30. Materials should be sent to Bertha Daniel, 2802 Moore Highway, ABAC 39, Tifton, GA 31793-2601.

March 18 at the Macon Centroplex, Rotary International President Jonathan B. Majiyagbe will host a Presidential Celebration focusing on literacy. We need a large crowd of Rotarians to participate in this celebration. A link to the Celebration registration site is available at the district web site, www.rotarydistrict6920.org.

March 19-20 at the Macon Centroplex, the second Georgia Presidents-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) will occur. All three Rotary Districts in Georgia combine for this exciting event. All Presidents-Elect are required to attend this training seminar and it is strongly encouraged that the Presidents-Nominee also attend.

March 20 at the Macon Centroplex, District Assembly will occur. This seminar is where club secretaries and treasurers, as well as club committee chairs, will receive instructions relating to their responsibilities.

March 21 our incoming GSE team will arrive from Chile. The complete schedule for the GSE team's travels in the district will soon be available on the district web site.

March 30 is the deadline for submission of Presidential Citation materials and scrapbooks. Presidential Citation materials should be sent to Leon Benefield, 2203 Emory Dr., Tifton, GA 31794. Scrapbooks should be sent to Bertha Daniel, 2802 Moore Highway, ABAC 39, Tifton, GA 31793-2601.

April 20 our outgoing GSE team departs for Chile. The complete schedule for the GSE team's travels, as well as photo updates of their in-country experiences, will be available on the district web site.

April 22 our incoming GSE team will depart for Chile.

April 23-25 District 6920 annual conference will be held in Valdosta. Secretary of State Cathy Cox will speak at our opening session and B. J. Thomas will entertain Friday evening. You can register online at www.rotarydistrict6920.net. We will have a Family Adventure with Rotary. Bring your family for food, fun and fellowship.

April 27 Rotary International President-Elect Glen Estes will visit Savannah and make a presentation on PolioPlus.

May 9-10 is the district trip to Rotary World Headquarters in Evanston, IL. Check with DGN Dallas Simon to see if there is any room available for this trip to Chicago and tour of Rotary Center.

There is much to be done and not much time to do it.



College of Governors

The College of Governors met January 10 to select the DG for 2006-2007. There were three well qualified candidates: Assistant Governor Dick Hyer (Macon), AG Bill Blankenship (Camden County) and Dennis Leadbetter (Savannah West). After interviewing all candidates, Bill Blankenship was selected to lead the district in 2006-2007. Congratulations to Bill!

Pictured (left to right): PDG Marion Franklin, PDG Albert Reichert, Sr., PDG Albert Reichert, Jr., PDG Jim Puryear, PDG Lynn Hadwin, PDG Bill Kemp, PDG Preston Johnson, PDG Jeanette Caneega, DGE John Parkins, DGN Dallas Simon, PDG Pat Donahoo, DG Leon Benefieldd, PDG Jim Cooper and PDG Bruce Montgomery.



Bill Blankenship, left, was selected to serve as District Governor for 2006-07. Pictured with Bill are DGN Dallas Simon and DGE John Parkins.

Visit our new Web page at
www.rotarydistrict6920.net