



Rotary District  
**6920**



Lend a Hand

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Register  
On-Line  
Today

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# Valdosta to Play Host to District Conference

Join District 6920 leaders and Rotarians for this year's district conference in Valdosta, dubbed the "Azalea City."

"Come to the Adventure" is the theme of the 47th annual conference, which is scheduled for April 23-25. Valdosta is Georgia's newest metropolitan city and we are excited to be visiting the city with our 2004 conference.



Valdosta offers fun for the entire family. Wild Adventures Theme Park ([www.wild-adventures.com](http://www.wild-adventures.com)) is only a few miles away from the Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center ([www.valdostatourism.com](http://www.valdostatourism.com)) where the conference is being held. Or, visit old, historic homes like the Crescent and the Converse-Dalton-Ferrell in the city. You'll want to visit the beautiful Valdosta State University campus before leaving town.

Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox will be the guest speaker at Friday's luncheon.

Register online today so you don't miss the adventure!



Valdosta-Lowndes County Conference Center



Visit our new Web page at  
[www.rotarydistrict6920.net](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net)

## Secretary of State will be Speaker at Opening Conference Luncheon

Georgia Secretary of State Cathy Cox is serving her second term as Georgia's Secretary of State, having first been elected in 1998. In 2002 she earned re-election with over 61 percent of the vote, winning 146 out of 159 counties. Cathy is the first woman to serve as Georgia's Secretary of State. Because of her efforts, Georgia has become a national leader in election reform. Her initiative made Georgia the first state in America to deploy a modern, uniform electronic voting system in every county. The new touch screen system has won acclaim throughout the state and across the nation, and has made Georgia elections more accurate and more accessible to the



Cathy Cox,  
Georgia Secretary of State

disabled and visually impaired.

Before her election, she served three years as Assistant Secretary of State. From 1993 to 1996, Cathy represented Miller, Seminole, Early and Decatur counties in the Georgia House of Representatives.

Secretary Cox has received numerous honors for her public service. The Georgia Commission on Women named her the 2000 Woman of the Year. For the past five years Georgia Trend magazine has chosen her as one of the 100 Most Influential Georgians. In 2002 Governing magazine named her one of its 11 Public Officials of the Year - the first Secretary of State in the nation to receive this prestigious honor.

## Knecht will Serve as President's Representative

Ed Knecht will attend and speak at this year's conference as RI President Jonathan Majjiyagbe's representative.

Knecht was born in Brooklyn, NY, where he attended elementary and high school. His freshman college year was spent at Temple University in Philadelphia. Ed enlisted in the Navy during WWII. Upon his discharge, he married Boots of Baltimore and they went off to Indiana University where Ed received a degree in business management and Boots received her PHT ("Pushing Hubby Through") degree.

Boots and Ed returned to New York where Ed attended New York Law School. Upon his graduation and passing of the bar exam, Ed was immediately recalled to service during the Korean Conflict. After his discharge, he and Boots decided to leave New York City and settled in a very small village in upstate New York. Ed established a successful country law practice. Boots and Ed had one child, Debra, who graduated from law school and now teaches legal research on computers.

Ed has been a Rotarian for 51 years. He served as District Governor from 1970-71; director from 1986-88; chairman on the constitution and by-laws committee in 1991; and member of various other committees, delegate to the Council on Legislation five times and president's representative at district conferences in Korea, The Philippines,

Columbia, Argentina and various districts in the states.

Ed and Boots have been active in their communities; Ed having served his American Legion Post as commander, master of his Masonic Lodge, secretary of the volunteer fire department and ambulance driver and president of his B'Nai B'Rith Lodge. He and Boots have been members of various community organizations, including the United Fund, Boy Scouts/Girl Scouts Council and Alzheimer's committee. Boots is a past matron of Eastern Star. Together they have attended Rotary Club in 56 countries.

Ed and Boots decided shoveling snow for 40 years was enough and are now permanent residents of Sun City Center, FL, where Ed is a member of that Rotary Club.

Prior to Ed's retirement, he was an assistant attorney general for the State of New York.



Ed and Boots Knecht

## B.J. Thomas will Entertain Friday Night

District 6920 is excited to present B.J. Thomas as Friday night's entertainment. Since the mid-1960's, when he became one of the most successful artists on the American musical landscape, B.J. Thomas has recorded an incredible string of successes in several genres - 15 Top 40 pop hits, 10 Top 40 Country hits, five Grammys, two Dove awards, two platinum and 11 gold records, and chart-toppers on the pop, country, gospel and adult contemporary charts. Along the way, he has become one of the most recognized and respected voices of his generation.

Among B.J.'s gold records are "The Eyes Of A New York Woman," "Hooked On A Feeling" and "It's Only Love". Labelmate Dionne Warwick, who'd been working with the Burt Bacharach/Hal David songwriting team, recommended B.J. for "Raindrops Keep Falling On My Head," which was written for the motion picture Butch Cassidy & The Sundance Kid. "I was in the right place at the right time," B.J. says, "and probably got their best song ever." "Raindrops" was Bacharach/David's first million-seller; it won an Academy Award and B.J. sang the song on the 1970 Academy Awards telecast.

He's had 10 Top 40 hits on the country charts with hits like "What Ever Happened To Old Fashioned Love" and "New Looks From An Old Lover." His country success led him to become, on his 39th birthday, the 60th member of the Grand Ole Opry.



B.J. Thomas



OFFICIAL REGISTRATION FORM
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 6920

47th Annual Conference
Valdosta, GA
April 23-25, 2004



Rotarian's Full Name, Badge Name, Other Rotarian/Spouse/Guest Name, Spouse/Guest Badge Name, Classification, Spouse/Guest Classification, Mailing Address, City/State/Zip, Rotary Club of, Daytime Phone, Evening Phone, Registration Fee (Rotarian: \$30; Guest: \$25)

Indicate which of the following applies for Rotarian: President, Past President, President-Elect, Past District Governor, Secretary, AG/DD, Secretary-Elect, PHF, Treasurer, WWF, Director, Rotarian. Indicate which of the following applies for Spouse/Guest: President, Past President, President-Elect, Past District Governor, Secretary, AG/DD, Secretary-Elect, PHF, Treasurer, WWF, Director, Rotarian.

Additional Saturday Afternoon Activities: Annual District Golf Tournament (\$75 per person), Child Care for ages 3-12 (\$50), Tour of Valdosta (\$15 per person). Number of Participants, Number of Children.

\*\*MEAL TICKET PACKAGE\*\* Save \$25. Includes all 5 meal functions listed below. Rotarian Meals: Meal Package at \$125 or Choose Individual Meals. Spouse/Guest Meals: Meal Package at \$125 or Choose Individual Meals. Lists meal options and prices for both Rotarian and Spouse/Guest.

Mail to: Earl Bennett, Conference Registration Chair, 128 Lewis Street, Tifton, GA 31794. Make Checks Payable to Rotary District 6920 Conference. Conference Registration Fee, Saturday Afternoon Activity Fee(s), Meal Fee(s), TOTAL REMITTED. CREDIT CARD INFORMATION IF PAYING BY THIS METHOD: VISA, MASTERCARD, AMERICAN EXPRESS. CREDIT CARD NUMBER, NAME AS IT APPEARS ON CARD, EXPIRATION DATE. OFFICE USE ONLY: DO NOT WRITE IN THIS SPACE.



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TOUR  
**ADVENTURE**

VALDOSTA-LOWNDES COUNTY  
Conference Center  
& Tourism Authority  
Valdosta Meeting Stats:  
1-800-569-TOUR (8687)  
valdostatourism.com

3 hr drive to most SE destinations | Valdosta Regional Airport  
Sports Commission and Convention & Visitors Bureau  
47,000 sq. ft. of Flexible Meeting Room Space  
11,000 sq. ft. Exhibit Hall | Over 4,300 Guest Rooms  
Moody Air Force Base Tours | Wild Adventures Theme Park  
Four 18-Hole Golf Courses | Historic Downtown  
Shopping, including Valdosta Mall & two Outlet Centers

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