



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
johnhparkins@cs.com

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Issue No. 9
March 2005

PeachState PETS Set for Coming Weekend in Peachtree City



Measuring our success!

This thermometer measures the annual funds giving (per capita). Currently, the district is at \$48.87 per member for the period. Please see page 4 for individual club contributions to this fund.

The agenda for this year’s PeachState PETS, slated for March 11 and 12 at the Wyndham Peachtree Conference Center in Peachtree City, has been set and organizers say there is something for everyone. PeachState PETS is mandatory for all incoming club presidents and is highly encouraged for club presidents-elect.

A premier training event for Rotary leaders, PeachState PETS provides information, inspiration and fellowship. Structured to meet the needs of incoming club presidents, incoming assistant governors and governors nominee, this two-day training seminar serves all of the Rotary clubs in three Georgia Rotary Districts - more than 200 clubs. Using inspiring speakers and experienced discussion leaders, this event is designed to encourage participation. An intensive training seminar, the event is structured to enable the participants to extract maximum benefits from the materials presented as

well as from each other.

District 6920 PDGs Preston Johnson, Bruce Montgomery and Albert Reichert Jr. will be among the discussion leaders for this year’s event. Among agenda items for this year’s seminar are “Leadership & Goals: The Road to Success” and “Resouce and Knowledge, Two Keys to Success.” Additionally, attendees will participate in plenary sessions and hear from noted speakers, including PDG John T. Capps, District 7730 Rotary Club of Morehead, N.C., PDG Charlie Laine, District 6760, Rotary Club of Franklin, Tenn., and PDG Anne Matthews, D 7770, Rotary Club of Columbia East, N.C.

The complete agenda, which outlines what District 6920 members will discuss during their plenary sessions, can be downloaded by accessing the PeachState PETS Web site at www.peachstatepets.org.

Conference Program Information Needed by March 14

District Secretary Joe Converse is in the process of putting together the District Conference Program. If you have not gotten the following information to Joe, please do so NO LATER than Monday, March 14. The information can be sent to Joe at converse@knology.net or faxed to him at (706) 733-1205. If your club has nothing to report, please send a negative report so he can keep track of those responding. Please include your club name on your submission. Please send the following:

- The name of any Rotarian who has died since the last District Conference, April 23, 2004.
- The name of any Rotarian with 50 or more years of service - include the number of years of service.
- The name of any Rotarian with 15 or more years perfect attendance - include the number of years of perfect attendance.
- All Paul Harris Fellows named since the last District Conference, April 23, 2004

District 6920’s Goals for 2004-05

Earn the Presidential Citation

Every Rotarian Every Year \$100 per capita - The Rotary Foundation

Grow your membership by 3%

DISTRICT NEWS

Organizers Revving Up for District Conference

With little more than a month to go before the 100th birthday celebration of Rotary International in Augusta, District 6920 Conference Chair Bill Phillips and his host of committee chairs are working to pull out all the stops to make this year's event the most memorable and enjoyable of them all.

Bill, who is urging registrants to go ahead and make hotel reservations now due to limited availability, is stressing that all clubs remember to bring a few important items. Among them are their club banner AND stand,

at least two valuable items for the auction, door prize items clearly marked with the donating club name, the club's centennial display and the club's scrapbook.

Above all, Bill is asking that all clubs play up the importance of this year's conference and encourage all of your club Rotarians and their spouses to register for the April 15-17 event. "Bring a great attitude to enjoy and celebrate our Rotary centennial," he said.

Interested Rotarians can register for the conference by logging on to the

District Web site at www.rotarydistrict6920.net. Registration is available both online and by mail. Credit card and check payment is being accepted.

As of March 5, 153 Rotarians and guests had registered, according to Jim Bruce, Webmaster and one of this year's conference registration chairs.

Don't miss this exciting event. There will be plenty of opportunities for meeting fellow Rotarians and learn more about Rotary International. This is a celebration you won't want to miss. See you in Augusta on April 15!

District 6920 Rotary Golf Tournament

Saturday, April 16th

River Golf Club

1:00 Shotgun start

Captain's Choice Format

DON'T MISS THIS GREAT AFTERNOON OF GOLF & FELLOWSHIP!



Set along the banks of the Savannah River, The River Golf Club has established itself as one of the premier new course designs in the Southeast.

The River Golf Club course combines a fantastic layout with a spectacular setting to create a golfers' paradise. Designed by internationally acclaimed golf course architect Jim Fazio, The River Golf Club offers a unique setting which includes large bent grass greens, numerous lakes, wetlands and dramatic bunkers. Designed with true golfers in mind of all levels, The River Golf Club offers five sets of tees, a challenging but fair layout and all the amenities to ensure a memorable golf experience.

- Named one of the top 5 new affordable golf courses in America, 1999 by Golf Digest
- 2002 U.S. open qualifying site
- Site Host of Hooters Golf Tour: 1999-2001

Augusta Canal Georgia's only designated National Heritage Area.

At the Augusta Canal National Heritage Area Interpretive Center at Enterprise Mill you'll learn the stories of people, progress and promise of a unique piece of American history. The Canal Interpretive Center tells the story of how a city used its waterways to reinvent itself and define its destiny. The Center has been developed by the Augusta Canal Authority in partnership with the National Park Service.

The award-winning interactive exhibits take visitors from the Canal's initial conception and construction in the 1840s and expansion in the 1870s, through its role in the Civil War and its aftermath to the New South industrial growth and electrification of the city. Displays include functioning textile looms, life-sized models of canal construction and depictions of mill worker life.

Petersburg Boats Canal Tour

The 40-passenger open boats leave the docks at Enterprise Mill for excursions past 19th Century textile mills and an 18th Century trading post. Then it is on past the Lake Olmstead Bulkhead where egrets, gray and green heron, along with other fishing birds and wildlife, make their appearance. The captain comes about (that means turns around for you landlubbers) at the Augusta Water Pumping Station and heads back as passengers scout for sliding turtles and river otter as their lively tour guide narrates tales of Augusta's past and present.

History

Built in 1845 as a source of power, water and transportation, the Augusta Canal is the only intact industrial canal in the American South in continuous use. During the Civil War it was the site of the Confederate State of America Powderworks complex. Deepened and widened in the 1870s, the canal brought an industrial boom to the city, especially in textile manufacturing. In 1975 the Canal and its mills were listed on the National Register of Historic Places and declared a National Historic Landmark in 1978.

What to wear/ bring

The Petersburg boats are uncovered, so dress for the weather (hats, sunglasses, sunscreen, etc.). Flat-soled deck or tennis shoes are strongly recommended.

DISTRICT NEWS

Best Club Display Award Critique Changes

In a letter to Rotary District 6920's club presidents last month, Jeremy Coghlan, district conference centennial display chair, announced a change to this year's award for best club display.

The Best Club Display Award typically goes to the club with the best display at the district conference based

on the display's appeal and its effective communication of Rotary fellowship and service. This centennial year, however, the judging of the Best Club Display award will be focused on each club's centennial project and how the club has presented to it's local community Rotary's 100 years of service.

"This year, each club will have

an equal opportunity to show their Rotary spirit," wrote Jeremy. "If you or your Club's Display Chairperson has any questions, I will attempt to be of assistance, 706-736-6700. I look forward to seeing you and your display in Augusta."

Jeremy can also be reached via email at jmcoghlan@wbek.com.



Phinizy Swamp Nature Park

Located on 1,100 acres and just minutes from downtown Augusta, Phinizy Swamp Nature Park offers visitors the chance to see blue heron, red-shouldered hawk, otter, alligator and the elusive bobcat in their natural surroundings. As a result of years of careful bird censuses by state and wildlife departments and local Audubon members documenting the high diversity of birds in the area, the park has been designated an "Important Bird Area" by the Audubon Society. On any given day at the park, birders are sure to catch glimpses of an astonishing array of songbirds, wading birds, birds of prey and waterfowl. Too, the botanical diversity rivals that of the bird diversity. The park encompasses a wide variety of habitats, ensuring sightings of everything from stately cypress and oaks, to colorful wildflowers, epiphytes and numerous wetland species. Of course there are a large number of elusive invertebrates, fish, reptiles, amphibians and mammals that provide fascinating encounters for the patient (and quiet) visitor. You will also see trails through the marsh plants made by beaver, river otter and muskrat.



There are several observation points and trails for the casual explorer, most of which are wheelchair accessible. You'll be amazed by the stillness and natural beauty of this area.



Guided Historic Tour of Augusta

You will be taking a driving tour of historic areas of Downtown Augusta and Summerville. You will then visit the **Ezekiel Harris House Museum** – built in 1797 by a prominent tobacco merchant, this house is an outstanding example of 18th century architecture. Finish the tour at the **Augusta Museum of History** – Explore "Augusta's Story", an award winning multi-media exhibition which traces 12,000 years of local history. Sit at the control panel of a space shuttle, and walk through a 1914 locomotive. Take a leisurely walk along Augusta's beautiful **Riverwalk** – a red brick, two-tiered promenade offering pedestrian access to the Savannah River. Augusta's Riverwalk is known as the city's "Front Porch".

The Ezekiel Harris House, circa 1797, is a reminder of the days when tobacco was the primary cash crop in Georgia. Following the Revolutionary War, the area which now includes Wilkes, Elbert, Franklin, Lincoln, Warren, Oglethorpe and Greene counties was opened for settlement. Liberal land grants and rich soil attracted tobacco planters who had depleted their farmlands in Virginia and North Carolina by planting tobacco year after year. Towns sprang up around the tobacco inspection stations and warehouses. Tobacco merchant vied with tobacco



Ezekiel Harris House Museum

merchant and town competed with town for the market. Competition was very fierce between Augusta and Harrisburg.



Augusta Museum of History

DISTRICT NEWS

Centennial Chatter

... Preston Johnson, District Centennial Chairman

As of February 14, there were approximately 28,000 people, from 141 countries, registered for the 100th anniversary Chicago convention. The December deadline is past, and the March 31 deadline is coming up fast...if you register prior to March 31, you save \$50 (think what you could do with that at one of Chicago's famous restaurants). Also, if you do not register before March 31, you must register at the convention. If I can be of assistance, please let me know.

Those attending the Chicago convention, be sure to get your tickets for the Southland Breakfast...always a fun event at each Rotary International convention! The breakfast will be held on June 20, at 7:00 AM, at the Chicago Hyatt Hotel. Tickets are \$35, and can be obtained from Governor-Elect Dallas Simon. Make your check to Dallas Simon and mail to: 2225 Wheelless Road, Augusta, Georgia 30904. Do this soon!

The numbers are coming in slowly for the Centennial automobile license plates. We need many more to reach the required 1,000 in order to have them produced. It will only cost you \$25 in order to have a plate that proudly advertises that you are part of an organization that has been involved in *Service Above Self* for 100 years! Information has been available for quite some time now, but if I can be of assistance, please contact me.

CELEBRATE ROTARY!

Celebrating Rotary's 100 Years

Rotary District 6920 clubs have been asked to present a report on what their club is doing to celebrate Rotary's 100th birthday. This month, the Greater Byron Rotary Club shares its project.

Greater Byron Rotary Club

Greater Byron Rotary Club held a Celebrate Rotary Breakfast on the 100th Birthday of Rotary International, February 23, 2005. Invited guests represented other community volunteer organizations and civic clubs from Byron and Peach County. Rick Lanford of the Macon Methodist Children's Home was the featured speaker. His presentation focused on volunteers in the community. Also featured on the program was Byron Mayor Larry Collins and Peach County Commissioner Martin Moseley who presented proclamations of Rotary Day in Byron and Peach County to club president, Vicky Davis. Both of these officials are club members. Each club member and guest was asked to bring a stuffed animal to the celebration in an effort to collect 100 of these toys to be delivered to the District 6920 METS

project. The club is proud to report the collection of 671 stuffed toys for this project. Past president Earl Spivey ended the program by telling the group about the travels of the Rotary Centennial Bells. Each person had a miniature Rotary bell at his or her place and all were rung to end the event.



Monte Thompson, vice president of the Greater Byron Rotary Club, Eugenia Powell, event chair, and Vicky Davis, club president, show off some of the stuffed animals their club collected for the District METS project. The club's original goal of 100 was surpassed by more than 550. V

DISTRICT NEWS

Annual Funds Report

The following is a report of the Annual Giving **per capita** for the July 1, 2004 to January 31, 2005 period.

Ashburn: \$66.67	Hazlehurst: \$25.00	Savannah Sunrise: \$108.33
Augusta South: \$28.63	Hinesville: \$0	Savannah West: \$69.76
Augusta: \$41.86	Jefferson Co.: \$45.45	Savannah: \$49.62
Augusta West: \$81.55	Jekyll Island: \$0	Skidaway Island: \$168.13
Blackshear: \$73.53	Jesup: \$0	St. Simons/Marshes of Glynn: \$50.26
Brunswick: \$6.92	Jones County: \$0	St. Simons Island: \$40.53
Camden County: \$269.88	Kings Bay: \$102.22	Statesboro: \$17.48
Centerville: \$0	Macon: \$24.19	Swainsboro: \$0
Claxton: \$25.45	McIntosh Co.: \$1.47	Sylvania: \$0
Cochran: \$0	McRae: \$0	Tennille: \$5.26
Douglas: \$0	Metter: \$21.79	Tift County: \$0
Downtown Macon: \$67.20	Milledgeville: \$64.25	Tifton: \$16.94
Downtown Statesboro: \$0	Millen: \$32.26	Valdosta Sunrise: \$22.78
Dublin: \$89.82	Nashville-Berrien: \$0	Valdosta: \$51.77
Eastman: \$0	Ocilla: \$0	Valdosta North: \$114.02
Effingham Co. Sunrise: \$31.91	Perry: \$136.44	Vidalia: \$0
Effingham Co.: \$0	Pooler: \$45.87	Warner Robins: \$79.95
Fitzgerald: \$10.71	Reidsville: \$0	Waycross: \$6.88
Glennville: \$101.56	Richmond Hill: \$14.70	Waynesboro: \$76.92
Glynn County: \$9.57	Sandersville: \$7.81	Wrightsville: \$7.14
Greater Byron: \$64.00	Savannah East: \$23.13	
Hawkinsville: \$51.48	Savannah South: \$216.41	TOTAL for District: \$48.87

Clubs Urged to Work Toward Every Rotarian, Every Year Goal

The following letter was sent to club presidents late last month by DGN Bill Blankenship.

Dear Club Presidents,

We are now in the home stretch to achieving our "EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR" goal. It would be a wonderful experience to hear our District Governor John Parkins announce in Augusta that district 6920 achieved the Rotary International goal of having every Rotarian in district 6920 make a contribution this year.

For you club presidents whose club members have already met the EREY goal for this year - THANK YOU.

Sending a check and a completed 094-en form from your club's treasury for a \$10 contribution from each of your club members is a strategy that would make your club 100% in the "EVERY ROTARIAN EVERY YEAR" goal. Implementing, talking up, promoting EREY with the \$10 seed contribution will get the attention and additional contributions from your club members as we strive to achieve an average of \$100 per Rotarian contributed to TRF every year.

We will be on our way to the District Conference in just 45 days. Please, make every effort to have your club treasurer and club foundation chair send all contributed funds to The Rotary Foundation as soon as possible so that at the District Conference Governor John will have a clear view of the results of our efforts during this Rotary year.

Thank you for all of your hard work. I am looking forward to seeing you in Augusta.

Yours in Rotary, DGN Bill Blankenship

District 6920 TRF Chair

P.S. The March issue of *The Rotarian* has a super "In Focus" section that debunks some Rotary myths and gives considerable insight into the good works accomplished by Rotary and The Rotary Foundation.

Visit www.rotarydistrict6920.net for the latest news and information

DISTRICT NEWS

Hosts Needed for GSE Team from Japan

District 6920 Rotarians:

The in-coming Japanese Group Study Exchange team will arrive in Savannah on March 28. They will depart on April 19th (from Savannah), just after the District Conference in Augusta. I am writing to club presidents, district officers and others who have helped with or shown interest in hosting GSE teams in the past two years or so.

As explained below, I need an indication of interest from you and the club in your city about hosting the team from Japan so that I can firm up the calendar.

Having been a GSE team leader myself (Brazil), and having helped host teams from Chile, Brazil and India, I know how rewarding it is to spend quality time with GSE team members from other countries. There are dozens of District 6920 Rotarians who feel the same way. If you want to know more about the GSE Program, go to <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/gse>.

In the short time we have to plan for the arrival of the Japanese team, we need to:

1. Establish a reasonable schedule for the team's visit in the District, including which cities and clubs to visit, and the best route to take

2. Designate host clubs and city coordinators for each community visited

3. Identify host families for home stays

4. Plan interesting and fun activities for each day the team is in your area

In the past two years, the Chilean and Brazilian teams visited Savannah, Augusta, Sandersville, Dublin, Macon, Tifton, Valdosta, Douglas, Waycross, Camden County, St. Simons/Jekyll and Brunswick. I am assuming most of you will want to host the Japanese again this year. We only have them for about 3 weeks (last year was close to 4 weeks), so we will be very efficient in planning the schedule.

Note that the team should end up in Augusta for at least part of the District Conference on April 15-17, so probably they should go south and west from Savannah at the beginning of their trip.

Please talk it over in your communities, confirm that your city wants to host the Japanese team, and (most important for me) designate a City Coordinator for me to communicate with. (City coordinators from last year: please either do it again or help find a replacement.) Pass this along to anyone you think might be interested. I will send along background information on the Japanese team members when I get it. Thanks, and feel free to contact me with questions, or better, with decisions.

John L. Neely
GSE Coordinator In-coming
District 6920
912-233-7111-work
912-234-2469-home
912-657-1778-cell
jneely13@comcast.net

District Earns Attention for Wheel Chair Project

Rotary District 6920 gained attention in the February 2005 issue of the Zone 33-34 newsletter for its wheel chair project, which was the brainchild of DG John Parkins and his wife, Mary Ellen.

The newsletter, which is distributed to the Southeastern United States, all of the Caribbean, Puerto Rico, Guyana, French Guiana and Suriname, included a brief article about the program, which netted more than 200 wheel chairs that will go to needy people in other countries through the district's Medical Equipment Transport Services (METS) project.

A second project to serve METS is now underway. Rotarians are asked to provide teddy bears or donate money for the purchase of teddy bears to be shipped with METS containers. The bears will be displayed at the District Conference April 15-17 in Augusta.

WHEEL CHAIR project

District 6920 Governor John Parkins (encouraged by wife Mary Ellen) asked each of his 64 clubs to give him a wheelchair in lieu of the usual gift to the governor during his official visits. This idea was enthusiastically embraced by the clubs, and a total of 228 wheel chairs were donated.

The wheelchair collection goes right along with the district's Medical Equipment Transport Services (METS) project through which used medical equipment and supplies gathered from hospitals and other medical facilities are shipped to Third World countries. The wheel chairs will go in the containers along with other medical equipment being sent.

Additionally, Mary Ellen began a "Teddy Bear" project. John reported that 3,000 teddy bears have already been funded, and will be sent with the medical equipment. "Mobility restores one's confidence and self-respect," John said. "A smile on a child's face is a powerful healing aid."

For more information go to:
www.rotarydistrict6920.net

The district's wheel chair project gained attention in the Zone 33-34 newsletter

CLUB VISIT PHOTOS



Macon Rotary Club



Milledgeville Rotary Club



Nashville-Berrien Rotary Club



Savannah South Rotary Club



Pooler Rotary Club



Savannah Rotary Club

Celebrating a Century of Service

U.S. Post Offices Offer Rotary Pictorial Cancellations

Rotary stamp enthusiasts and collectors of related memorabilia may now get envelopes and cards cancelled with a pictorial cancellation in honor of the Rotary Centennial at the main U.S. post office in Chicago, Rotary's birthplace, and 70 other post offices. Cancellations are available through March 25.

Envelopes may be sent from anywhere in the world for the cancellations. Each envelope sent for cancellation must bear a 37-cent postage stamp and may be either addressed or unaddressed. The post office will mail addressed envelopes directly after the cancellation.

Unaddressed envelopes should be accompanied by a large, self-addressed and stamped envelope so that the post office can return the cancelled envelopes to the sender. Up to 50 envelopes may be cancelled at no charge; after 50, there is a 5-cent per envelope charge. Please enclose a check for the appropriate amount payable to United States Postal Service. Cancellations at Chicago's main post office are available from the following address:

Gwen Horton
Retail Office, 4th Floor
United States Postal Service
433 W. Harrison Street
Chicago, IL 60699-9611
USA

In addition to the main post office in Chicago, just blocks away from where the first Rotary club met 100 years ago, 70 other U.S. postal stations are offering the cancellation service. While there is no post office in Georgia offering the cancellation service, a list of those post offices doing so can be downloaded (pdf) at http://www.rotary.org/newsroom/downloadcenter/pdfs/cent_cancellation_post_offices.pdf

Marks showing that a stamp has been cancelled and is no longer valid as postage have been popular throughout Rotary's history to mark historic dates.

An outpouring of Rotarian interest in the pictorial cancellation project helped make the cancellations available, while RI developed a template for use by local post offices.

To learn more about the history of Rotary stamps, read a centennial feature story on the topic or visit the Rotary-on-Stamps Fellowship Web site.

RI President Estess Offers Downloadable Video Birthday Message

RI President Glenn Estess has prepared a video birthday message for clubs and districts to use in conjunction with their upcoming centennial celebrations.

"There are few organizations that last a hundred years," says Estess in the video message. "The fact that Rotary has reached this important milestone is a sign that there is a tremendous need for all that Rotary offers."

The video is available for download from the Rotary International Web site at www.rotary.org/newsroom/main/news02.html.

