



**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?

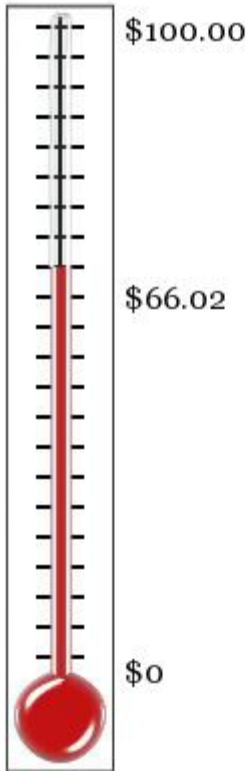
Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?  
Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?”

**John Parkins, District Governor**  
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**Issue No. 11  
May 2005**

# District Conference Draws Big Crowd



**Measuring our success!**

This thermometer measures the annual funds giving (per capita). Currently, the district is at **\$66.02** per member for the period. Please see page 6 for individual club contributions to this fund.

This year’s District Conference, celebrating Rotary’s **100** years, was held in Augusta, with more than **400** people in attendance. Bill Phillips served as conference chair.

Among special guests during this year’s conference was author Ronda Rich, who spoke at the opening luncheon on Friday. Rich spoke about herself and her upcoming books, both of which are set to be released on the same day.

Other guests included GRSP Alumna Alice Rabeler of Cologne, Germany, The Andrew Thielen Big Band and The Headliners. Special recognition was paid to Paul Harris Society charter members, club presidents and incoming club presidents.

Mac Leask of Fairfield, Conn., served as Rotary International President Glenn Estess’ representative at the conference, bringing wishes from RI headquarters in Chicago.

One of the highlights of the conference for DG John was to be able to present each of the clubs in the district with the presidential citation. Never in the history of the district has this feat been accomplished.



*Rich opened the conference as Friday’s luncheon*



*Mac Leask and DG John*



*Between 4,500 and 5,000 teddy bears were collected to be shipped with METS equipment. St. Simons Rotarian Bernie Swafford, who is in the Hallmark business, emptied his warehouse of promotional bears. The first shipment of the wheelchairs and teddy bears - both projects the brainchild of Mary Ellen Parkins - will go to Romania.*

**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 CONFERENCE PHOTOS



*More Door Prizes*



*DGE Dallas Simon and his wife, Pat*



*Conference Chair Bill Phillips*



*Attendees Enjoyed Dancing the Night Away*



*Rotarians and Guests were welcomed at the Radisson Riverfront Hotel in Augusta, site of the conference*



*Members of the Incoming GSE Team from Japan Attend the Conference*



*The Andrew Thielen Big Band provides entertainment during Saturday night's banquet*



*GRSP Students Donned Their Native Country's Attire for Saturday's Banquet*



# DISTRICT CONFERENCE NEWS

## Yearly Awards Presented During District Conference

### ***Club Service Award***

Winners: Wrightsville (small club); Eastman (medium club) and Dublin (large club). Runners-Up: Kings Bay (small club); Metter (medium club) and Warner Robins and St. Simons Island (large club).

### ***Porter Carswell Community Service Award***

Winners: Wrightsville (small club); Augusta West (medium club) and Dublin (large club). Runners-Up: Kings Bay (small club); Perry (medium club) and Downtown Macon (large club).

### ***International Service Award***

Winners: Wrightsville (small club); Augusta West (medium club) and Dublin (large club). Runners-Up: Kings Bay (small club); Eastman (medium club) and Savannah South (large club).

### ***Vocational Service Award***

Winners: Kings Bay (small club); Metter (medium club) and Dublin (large club). Runners-Up: Wrightsville (small club); Eastman (medium club) and Warner Robins (large club).

### ***Best Club Bulletin Award***

Winners: Savannah Sunrise (small club); Augusta West (medium club) and Dublin (large club). Runners-Up: Marshes of Glynn (small club), Perry (medium club) and Savannah South and Downtown Macon (large club).

### ***Best Club On-line Bulletin Award***

Winners: Kings Bay (small club) and Savannah East (medium club). Runners-Up: Savannah West (medium club).

### ***Best Club Web Page Award***

Winners: Effingham (medium club) and Dublin (large club). Runners-Up: Skidaway (medium club) and Downtown Macon and Savannah South (large club).

### ***Best Club Scrapbook Award***

Winners: Wrightsville (small club); Eastman (medium club) and Dublin (large club). Runners-Up: Kings Bay (small club); Perry (medium club) and Statesboro (large club).

### ***Best Club Display Award***

Winners: Wrightsville (small club); Perry (medium club) and Dublin (large club). Runners-Up: Kings Bay (small club); Waynesboro (medium club) and Warner Robins (large club).

### ***Dekle Attendance Award***

Winners: Millen (small club); Vidalia (medium club) and Dublin (large club).

### ***Best Percentage Attendance at District Conference***

Winners: Augusta South (small club); Augusta West (medium club) and Dublin (large club).

### ***Citation for Attendance***

Presented to Augusta South, Augusta West, Centerville, Dublin, Kings Bay, McIntosh County, Metter, Savannah Sunrise, Waynesboro and Wrightsville

### ***Rookie of the Year***

Presented to William J. "Billy" Johnson Jr. of The Rotary Club of Waynesboro

### ***Interact Award***

School Project: Burke County High School; Community Project: Edmund Burke Academy; Vocational Project: Dodge County High School and International Project: Edmund Burke Academy

### ***Club of the Year***

Winners: Wrightsville (small club); Augusta West (medium club) and Dublin (large club). Runners-Up: Kings Bay (small club); Eastman (medium club) and Warner Robins (large club).

### ***Club of the Year***

Presented to The Rotary Club of Dublin

# DISTRICT NEWS

## District 6920 Assembly May 21, 2005

Heart of Georgia Technical College  
560 Pinchill Road, Dublin  
Registration fee\*: \$10

### AGENDA

Registration: 9 a.m.  
Assembly: 10 a.m.

10 a.m. - Opening Comments  
DGE Dallas Simon

10:05 a.m. - Secretaries  
Josh Durden

10:30 a.m. - Treasurers  
PDG Bruce Montgomery

11 a.m. - New Computer Program  
PDG Bruce Montgomery

### LUNCH

1:05 p.m. - Cookbook Project  
Brenda Keen

1:25 p.m. - Membership  
Jan Carlton & Elizabeth Hardin

1:40 p.m. - EREY  
Lloyd Hordan

2 p.m. - Group Study Exchange  
Jean Iaderosa

2:15 p.m. - Closing Comments  
DGE Dallas Simon

2:30 p.m. - Adjourn

\* Includes breakfast pastries, coffee,  
soft drinks and lunch

## Register Now for Opportunity to Meet RI President Glenn Estess at Dublin Meeting

RI President Glenn Estess will speak to The Dublin Rotary Club on June 1 at 12:30 p.m. The luncheon meeting will be held at the Dubose Porter Center on the campus of The Heart of Georgia Technical College in Dublin. Registration check-in will start at 10:45 a.m. and the serving line will open at 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be called to order at 12:30 p.m. The cost will be \$35.

Register before May 25 by sending your payment to Dublin Rotary Club, P.O. Box 1074, Dublin, GA 31040. Please include your name, club, and district.



Glenn Estess

“We are excited about Rotary International President Glenn Estess’ visit to Dublin June 1, and want as many Rotarians and guests as possible to have the opportunity to hear him and possibly meet him,” said Tim Veal, president of the Dublin Rotary Club, and PDG Preston Johnson, in a joint statement. “We will have seating for 800 persons, so please make your reservations early in order to not be left out.

Remember...reservations must be made in advance...no walk-ins. We look forward to seeing you and your guests June 1 in Dublin.”

For driving directions to the college, go to [http://heart9.hgtc.org/college\\_profile/drive\\_dir.htm](http://heart9.hgtc.org/college_profile/drive_dir.htm).

For any Rotarian who would like to fly in, the Dublin Rotary Club will have transportation to the Center leaving the Dublin Airport at 11 a.m. In order to have proper transportation, please call Danny Jones at 478-277-5060 or 478-279-3533 or e-mail [dtjones@nlamerica.com](mailto:dtjones@nlamerica.com) if you plan to fly. For information on the Dublin Airport, visit [www.airna.com/airport/DBN](http://www.airna.com/airport/DBN).

## TRF: Mail All Contributions ASAP

The Rotary year is almost over and that means that if you want any contributions made to The Rotary Foundation to count toward this year, the collected money must be mailed by the end of June.

“Please confer with your club treasurer and foundation chair and insure that all collected contributions are sent to The Rotary Foundation soon,” said DGN Bill Blankenship, who serves as the district’s Rotary Foundation chair, in an e-mail to club presidents. “Contributions to TRF will not count in your year unless they are received at The Rotary Foundation before the end of June.

“Next month will end your year as president and leader of your club,” he continued. “I know that you have had experiences in your Rotary role as club president that you will never forget. Thank you for stepping up and taking on the responsibilities of the most important job in Rotary.”



## We're on the Web!

Visit

[www.rotarydistrict6920.net](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net)

for the latest news and  
information



# RI & DISTRICT NEWS

## Past RI President Carter Dies

PDG Preston Johnson remembers having "high tea" with the Past RI President William C. Carter of Berkshire, England, who passed away on April 15. The late Mr. Carter served as RI president in 1973-74.

"Bill was a personal friend to my wife, Beverly, and me," said PDG Preston. "We enjoyed having high tea with him at Jekyll Island, visiting with him at the R.I. Convention in Melbourne, Australia, and exchanging Christmas cards and communications over the years. He would keep us posted to his health, and inability to travel anymore in his latter years. We feel that we have lost a close relative."

At 98, Carter was the oldest surviving past RI president and only 18 months younger than Rotary. A Rotarian since 1949, he was a member of the Rotary Club of Battersea and a past president of Rotary in Great Britain and Ireland (RIBI).

Funeral services will be held at the parish church of St. Peter and St. Andrews in Old Windsor on April 27. Carter is survived by his daughter, Rosalind, and her husband, Neil Pielou.

Memorial contributions may be sent to The Rotary Foundation in Carter's name. Condolences may be addressed to Rosalind and Neil Pielou at Friary Orchard, 100 Straight Road, Old Windsor, Berkshire, England SL4 2SB.

## Become a Charter Member of the PHS

District Foundation Chair and DGN Bill Blankenship noted a large interest among District Conference attendees to become chartered members of the Paul Harris Society.

According to Bill, during the Saturday morning breakfast, the 14 charter members of the district's PHS were recognized.

"Conversation during the remainder of our weekend in Augusta indicated that other Rotarians would also like to become charter members of the Paul Harris Society," he said in an e-mail to club presidents. "If the application, payment and attached commitment form reach me by June 20, the sending individual will be designated a charter PHS member and receive the appropriate recognition items."

The Paul Harris Society of District 6920 is a new level of recognition for those donors who make a commitment to contribute \$1,000 or more each year

to The Rotary Foundation.

Their pledge is to make their initial and future annual gifts of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation Annual Programs Fund towards being recognized as a Major Donor of The Rotary Foundation.

This giving is Nonrestricted Annual Giving. Contributions are designated to the Annual Programs Fund and 50% of these funds are returned to our district in three years as District Designated Funds (DDF) to be used by our Rotary Clubs to support the humanitarian and educational programs of The Rotary Foundation.

Members will receive a beautiful and distinctive gold and blue PHS lapel pin and a Paul Harris Society member certificate of recognition.

If you are interested in obtaining this honor, please ask your club president for the various forms or e-mail Bill at [rotarybill@tds.net](mailto:rotarybill@tds.net).

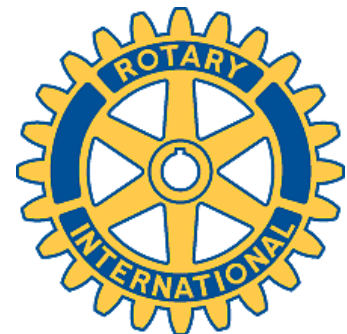
## Celebrate Rotary in the City Where it All Began!

The greatest celebration in Rotary's history - the 2005 Rotary International Convention - commemorates the organization's first one hundred years of service and will take place on 18-22 June 2005, in downtown Chicago, where Rotary was born.

This Centennial Convention will be anything but conventional. It features an extra day of festivities and a Rotary parade through downtown Chicago!

As of May 2, more than 37,800 people had registered from the conference, with more than 150

countries represented. An April 20 RI report indicates that of the 3,869 Rotarians in District 6920, only 53 had registered for the conference. DG John has set a goal of 200 Rotarians in attendance from our district. So, please register now for this once in a lifetime event. To find out more about the convention, visit [www.rotary.org/centennial/convention/index.html](http://www.rotary.org/centennial/convention/index.html)



*"[Rotary has] proven how much can be accomplished when a group selflessly uses every ounce of the political capital it has to help the world's most disenfranchised children."*

**- William H. Gates Sr., Co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation**



# DISTRICT NEWS

## Annual Funds Report

Ashburn: \$66.67	Hazlehurst: \$25.00	Savannah Sunrise: \$108.33
Augusta South: \$28.63	Hinesville: \$0	Savannah West: \$69.76
Augusta: \$42.40	Jefferson Co.: \$45.45	Savannah: \$97.22
Augusta West: \$81.55	Jekyll Island: \$17.86	Skidaway Island: \$170.08
Blackshear: \$80.59	Jesup: \$0	St. Simons/Marshes of Glynn: \$50.26
Brunswick: \$6.92	Jones County: \$96.88	St. Simons Island: \$107.58
Camden County: \$269.88	Kings Bay: \$102.22	Statesboro: \$24.10
Centerville: \$0	Macon: \$25.64	Swainsboro: \$0
Claxton: \$43.64	McIntosh Co.: \$1.47	Sylvania: \$0
Cochran: \$30.85	McRae: \$0	Tennille: \$5.26
Douglas: \$0	Metter: \$78.21	Tift County: \$29.00
Downtown Macon: \$67.20	Milledgeville: \$125.49	Tifton: \$16.94
Downtown Statesboro: \$104.78	Millen: \$49.19	Valdosta Sunrise: \$100.56
Dublin: \$89.97	Nashville-Berrien: \$0	Valdosta: \$65.55
Eastman: \$0	Ocilla: \$0	Valdosta North: \$114.02
Effingham Co. Sunrise: \$34.04	Perry: \$136.44	Vidalia: \$0
Effingham Co.: \$55.49	Pooler: \$45.87	Warner Robins: \$123.50
Fitzgerald: \$46.70	Reidsville: \$0	Waycross: \$6.88
Glennville: \$101.56	Richmond Hill: \$14.70	Waynesboro: \$76.92
Glynn County: \$38.83	Sandersville: \$7.81	Wrightsville: \$7.14
Greater Byron: \$44.00	Savannah East: \$81.34	
Hawkinsville: \$51.48	Savannah South: \$254.55	<b>TOTAL for District: \$66.02</b>

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 Rotary clubs of Augusta are highlighted. The clubs dedicated a marble bench bearing the Rotary logo at the Augusta Riverwalk during the district conference in Augusta.



# Celebrating a Century of Service

## *Tale of a Polio Survivor*

by Alakananda Mohanty  
Delhi, India

It was the end of the summer of **1960** and my family and I had just returned from a rather tedious vacation from my ancestral village. I was getting ready to start school and I was extremely excited about wearing new clothes and meeting new friends. I was out in front of my home when I first experienced what seemed like flu symptoms. What bad timing - school starting and I was getting sick.

The next couple of days were a blur - our doctor visiting me at the house, family and medical personnel whispering in hushed tones. It was extremely difficult to sit up and I couldn't turn or bend my neck without a great deal of pain. Unimaginable pain began to take over my back. Polio never entered my mind.

As a precaution, my mother informed me, I was to have a spinal tap. And there it was - not even a margin-lined diagnosis. Polio. I must tell you, this was not a sympathetic disease in any sense of the word. The next few days were a nightmare and I don't mind telling you that when somebody from Rotary asked me to participate here with my story, it brought back a flood of memories that I had suppressed. Once the word was out, our neighborhood went into immediate panic. Pools were drained. My family was shunned. Quarantine signs went up around my house and my brother was not allowed to go to school.

When I arrived at the city's largest hospital with hundreds of others, I was strapped to a gurney and lined up in the queue, as there were no beds available. My parents were literally dragged away to avoid any contact with me.

As I recall, when I was lifted into a bed, it was by medical staff clothed in long smocks, masks and gloves - again no contact.

If you asked me what was my worst experience while battling this disease, I would have to say the pain - constant, intensified, and horrific physical pain. There was a nurse who had worked with polio patients and developed a treatment procedure that involved massage, exercises, and wrapping affected limbs to reduce muscle spasms and the resultant pain. When I tell you I counted the hours in between these treatments, it is not an exaggeration - my entire torso was wrapped. As a result of these treatments, I was left with blisters, but the submission of pain temporarily was worth it.

After the first few days, I had visitors. First to see me were my parents. You could tell by their eyes they were horrified to see what I looked like. So went my days - sobbing parents and the constant pain.

My best recollection is that perhaps two weeks after I entered the hospital, the pain subsided, and I was to be released to go home. My disabilities not yet compiled, nonetheless, I was deemed not contagious and, with many stipulations, set free. Keep in mind, I had not had the opportunity to try and walk during my stay and the doctors told my parents that I might never walk again without crutches. How I must have looked as I was curled up in a wheelchair while being pushed to my parents. As I approached my parents, I asked the nurse to stop. I stood up and took a few steps into the arms of my father.

My follow up visits were at the hospital for physical therapy and regular visits to the orthopedic department. My residual disabilities were limited to the left side of my body. One leg was shorter and my spine had a curvature. I also had a muscle weakness in my lower back, which has stayed with me.

The road back is never easy, but with the love and support of family and friends, the stigma of polio affliction was soon forgotten. I now approach the over **40** time of my life, and some of the old aches and pain occur once again.

The bottom line is that polio survivors are just that - survivors. We did what we had to do then and we have to make the best of what comes along now. We live with polio everyday of our lives, be it a bad memory, a nagging pain or a fear of a limb that may decide to give up. But we go on. Being a part of the Rotary PolioPlus program seems right to me. If my involvement can spare just one child from the agonies of this dreadful disease, then it will be worth recounting the past.

The centennial gives all of us a unique opportunity to share with the world Rotary's extensive network for doing good.