



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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Celebrating a Century of Service

Names of Seminar Attendees Needed

September 30 has come and gone. Many of you have not sent me the names of your club members who will be attending the Seminar. If you have not done so, **Please, THIS WEEK, send me the names of your club members who will be attending and please encourage all of your club members to come and learn the most current information on The Rotary Foundation, Membership, and Public Relations.**

So that I can adequately plan for materials to be used in the Seminar and refreshments I need to have a fairly accurate count of those who will be attending.

On another point, the Matching “POINTS” program to promote more Paul Harris Fellow awards that I announced approximately a month ago is progressing. Club and club members have used approximately \$13,000 worth of the \$25,000 in available district matching recognition points.

Have all of your club members been informed of this tremendous opportunity to obtain a PHF for just half of the regular cost?

Yours in Rotary, DGN Bill Blankenship

District Seminar & Foundation Chair

RI Nominating Committee Selects

William Boyd as 2006-07 President

William B. Boyd, of the Rotary Club of Pakuranga, Auckland, New Zealand, is the selection of RI’s Nominating Committee for President of RI in 2006-07, which met on 13 September. He will become the president-nominee on 1 December if there are no challenging candidates.

A former member and past president of the Rotary Club of Wellington South, New Zealand, Boyd has served RI as district governor, director, treasurer, member and chair of regional and international committees, group discussion leader and moderator at the International Assembly, and RI presidential representative to local and international conferences. As a Rotary leader, he has conducted training seminars in New Zealand, as well as Cook Islands, Fiji, and Western Samoa.

Devoting much of his time to supporting Rotary’s PolioPlus program, Boyd

has served as a member of the PolioPlus Task Force, coordinator in the PolioPlus Partners program, and consultant to the International PolioPlus Committee. He also chairs the management committee of *Rotary Down Under*, a Rotary regional magazine. He is a recipient of The Rotary Foundation’s Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award.

Before his retirement in 1995, Boyd was general manager of Gordon & Gotch (NZ), Ltd., New Zealand’s largest magazine distributor. He is a trustee of New Zealand’s Trees for Survival Trust. He was an RI representative to the National Kidney Foundation and Intellectually Handicapped Society, and is a former elder and youth leader in the Presbyterian Church and a warranted Scout master. He was also a rugby referee for 31 years.

Wheelchair Donations

Governor John has asked that each club give a wheel chair to him for METS in lieu of the traditional DG gift.

As of Oct. 1, 2004:

42 Clubs Visited
152 Chairs Donated
6 Chairs Promised
158 Total

(see details on p. 4)

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

DISTRICT NEWS

District Seminar

The District Seminar is slated for Saturday, Oct. 23 in Vidalia. Southeastern Technical College will be the site of all seminar meetings, including the Assistant Governor training, which will be conducted from 1-5 p.m. Friday, Oct 22, in a classroom adjacent to the small auditorium at Southeast Tech.

The College of Governors will meet on Friday at 10 a.m.

Our rescheduled District Joint Seminar will include The Rotary Foundation, Public Relations, and Membership," said seminar chair DGN Bill Blankenship. "Registration will start at 9 a.m. The program will begin at 9:45 a.m., with completion planned for 3 p.m. Registration is \$20 and checks should be made to 6920 District Seminar and may be one check for all club members attending - club checks, personal checks, and cash will be accepted at the door."

The agenda will be similar to that planned for August with the same keynote Rotary Foundation speaker PDG John Smarge.

Foundation Funds

DG John reminds all Rotarians that it is important to get RI Foundation money in by May 15 in order for everything to be posted and proper recognition occur.

"A very good idea for each club is to send their money in each month so that the clerical overload doesn't happen," said DG John.

Centennial Tag

We are on the verge of not having the Georgia Prestige Rotary Centennial Tag in time for our Rotary Centennial.

There were a lot of people who worked very hard to make sure we had this for our Rotary Centennial year. The Three District Governors last year

Group Study Exchange



Steve Acuff, team leader, Shelly McLean of Douglas and Orlando Montoya of Savannah depart for Japan from Savannah on Tuesday, Sept. 28. The team, including Christopher Gwinner of Savannah and Jennifer Smith of Macon, who met up with the Savannah group in Atlanta, will return Oct. 23.

met at the capitol to have Governor Perdue sign it in to law.

But, 1,000 orders must be made for the state to make up the tags. As of mid-September, only 350 had been ordered.

To reserve this tag, fill out the form and take it to your local tag office, along with a \$25 check. The

state is working with us to give us a little extra time to get the 1,000 but that time is running out if we hope to have it for the Centennial. This is a tag that you can use for the next several years. Please help us Celebrate Rotary and our 100 years of service by ordering your tag today.

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Macon Rotary Board from left to right: - Harold Causey, Vocational Service; Dr. John O'Shaughnessey, past President; Amy Rawls, Programs; Henry Whitfield, Club Service; Gary Bechtel, Secretary; Susan Allen, Georgia Rotary Student; Ed Bond, Club Development, and Charles Jay, President.

DISTRICT NEWS

Centennial Chatter

... Preston Johnson, District Centennial Chairman

Folks are expressing interest and enthusiasm for the Chicago Rotary International 100th Anniversary Convention, June 18-22, 2005. Several have contacted me regarding additional information, which I am pleased to furnish...if you have a question, let me know: 478/272-6386 or pj1134@bellsouth.net

You can delay for a time on registering for the convention, if you wish, but my advice is to get on the list for a hotel room as soon as possible..they are going fast...Bev and I already have ours.

Again, as soon as you register for the convention, please send me the names from your Rotary club, including the number of young persons who are 19 and older. We must have this information for the incentive program, which will result in money for our District that can be used for beneficial projects.

The Chicago Convention fees are:

Rotarian and spouse: \$400. After December 31, 2004: \$450.

After March 31, 2005: \$500, on site.

Rotarian, club/district employee, or guest 19 years and over: \$250.

After December 31, 2004: \$275. After March 31, 2005: \$300, on site.

Roteractor, non-Rotarian Foundation alumnus(a), or Foundation Scholar: \$60. After December 31, 2004: \$80. After March 31, 2005: \$100, on site.

Guest 18 years and under, Youth Exchange student, or Interactor: \$20. After December 31, 2004: \$30. After March 31, 2005: 40, on site.

Since there will be thousands of people attending the convention, you need to avoid having to register on site.

If your Rotary club has numerous persons planning to attend the convention, and you desire to all stay at the same hotel, you must use the group block hotel form and register for a minimum of 20 rooms, up to 100. If you don't have enough for 20 rooms, try contacting other Rotary clubs to reach that number...the District is not coordinating this.

If your club has not already, get started planning a centennial project(s). The Rotary International Web site has a list of 100 suggested projects, as well as information regarding a Twin Club Project. One District-wide project that I want to remind you of is the supplement in your local newspaper about your Rotary club, and Rotary internationally, on Rotary International's actual birthday, February 23, 2005.

Governor John has informed me that most all Rotary clubs that he has visited thus far are planning to participate in the Rotary International Rose Bowl parade float...it is going to have a centennial theme. As you know, each club is being requested to contribute a minimum of only an average of \$3 per Rotarian, which can be from individual club members, from the club, or a combination of both. The football season has already started, and the Rose Bowl will be here before we know it!

CELEBRATE ROTARY! 100 YEARS!

2005-06 AG Training Dates Announced

The Assistant Governor training for the 2005-2006 AG team will be held at the Jekyll Island Club hotel February 11 and 12, 2005. This session is NOT to be confused with the October refresher for the current AGs in Vidalia.

The February training will start at 1 p.m. Friday and will continue Saturday morning, ending at lunch. The district will pay for 1/2 of a room for Friday night, dinner on Friday night and breakfast and lunch on Saturday. If you wish to have a single room you must let me know and expect to pay the difference. Spouses are invited and their meals only will be included.

ALL 2005-2006 AGs and Directors are expected to be there. Past RI Director David Michaux will be the keynote speaker and Jackie McGuire, Rotary Foundation, will be there to bring you up to speed on the Benefactor program and Bequest Society.

Please make plans to attend now. You will hear more later.

PDG Bruce Montgomery
District Trainer

Change of Contact for DSG Applications

Jean Iaderosa, past president of the Rotary Club of Savannah East, has joined the District Foundation Committee.

Please send completed DSG applications to Jean instead of DGN Bill Blankenship, as previously requested.

The DSG program is an excellent opportunity to use up to \$1,500 to do some good work in your community - no club matching funds required!

If you have any questions about DSG, please ask Jean. All applications for a DSG should be mailed to: Jean Iaderosa, Development Director, Chatham Area Transit Authority, 900 E. Gwinnett Street, P.O. Box 9118, Savannah, Georgia 31412-9118.

DISTRICT NEWS

WHEEL CHAIR DONATIONS

As of October 1, 2004

CLUB	CHAIRS GIVEN	PROMISED	TOTAL
Brunswick	1	0	1
Camden County	0	1	1
Effingham County Sunrise	1	0	1
Hinesville	1	0	1
Skidaway Island	0	1	1
St. Simons Island	1	2	3
Wrightsville	2	0	2
Jones County	1	0	1
Dublin	11	0	11
Claxton	1	0	1
Reidsville	0	1	1
Augusta	1	0	1
Augusta South	1	0	1
Jefferson County	1	0	1
Augusta West	23	0	23
Blackshear	1	0	1
Waycross	*	0	*
Glennville	1	0	1
Richmond Hill	1	0	1
Valdosta – North	1	0	1
Valdosta	2	0	1
Valdosta – Sunrise	1	0	1
Centerville	10	0	10
Warner Robins	26	0	26
Hazlehurst	**	0	**
Douglas	1	0	1
Vidalia	2	0	2
Dn. Statesboro	1	0	1
Effingham Cty.	1	0	1
Savannah	1	0	1
Savannah South	1	0	1
Pooler	1	0	1
Savannah West	0	1	1
Macon	1	0	1
Tennille	1	0	1
Greater Byron	1	0	1
Dn. Macon	1	0	1
Ashburn	12	0	12
Eastman	31	0	31
Nashville-Berrien	1	0	1
Hawkinsville	1	0	1
Milledgeville	7	0	7
TOTALS	152	6	158 (+\$)

* Gave \$500 check to METS in lieu of wheel chair

** Gave \$100 check to METS in lieu of wheel chair

RYLA Chair Reports Another Successful Year

I am pleased to report another successful Rotary Youth Leadership Awards event at South Georgia College. Seventy six students representing 36 Rotary clubs in District 6920 attended the four-day event, which featured eight classes and three banquets. Class topics included ethics, personality styles, communication styles, and global issues. The keynote speaker for this year's program was Dr. Vaughn Grisham of the University of Mississippi.

The past two years have been especially exciting because the students themselves have selected a member of their RYLA class to be nominated to attend the international RYLA in Chicago in 2005. Ten dollars of every RYLA application fee has gone to a District fund to pay for this trip. Two names were submitted, one from the Class of 2003 (Crawford White - Savannah South) and one from the Class of 2004 (Pat Pow - Douglas), and we should receive notification in October as to whether one (or both!) have been chosen to attend.

My personal goal has always been to have 100% participation, that is for every club in the district to sponsor at least one qualified student. I think a total of 90 students for 2005 is a very reachable goal. I will gladly visit any club to present a program on RYLA so members can see first hand how valuable this program is to youth and to their communities.

Beginning in November I'll communicate with each club to determine who their RYLA contact is, then in February 2005 I'll send out information about actual applications. We put a lot of time and effort into selecting speakers and instructors who have a clear, positive and inspiring message for these youth. All these details will be taken care of and we'll be ready for another RYLA – the 16th for us in District 6920 – on June 9 – 12, 2005.

Valerie Palmer, Chair

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

CLUB VISIT PHOTOS



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DOWNTOWN
STATESBORO



CENTERVILLE



DOUGLAS



GREATER BYRON

Celebrating a Century of Service

Meet 'Big Jim' Davidson, the 'Marco Polo of Rotary'

By David C. Forward

In nearly 100 years, Rotary grew from a small group of four men in Chicago to a worldwide force of 1.2 million Rotarians worldwide in 164 countries. The 1920's was the greatest decade in terms of Rotary's expansion: The movement had spread to 50 new countries on six continents in less than 10 years. This growth was no accident. Many individuals were committed to spreading Rotary's ideals during this time, but perhaps its greatest missionary was Jim Davidson (1872-1933), once dubbed the "Marco Polo of Rotary" in the pages of *The Rotarian* for his work in helping Rotary take root in Europe and Asia.

This profile of one of Rotary's greatest early leaders is excerpted from *A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International* © 2003 Rotary International. To order the official commemorative book of the Rotary Centennial, visit the Shop pages of the RI Web site.

Colonel James Wheeler Davidson was a consummate adventurer. Born in Austin, Minnesota, in 1872, he excelled at only one subject in school: geography. He dreamed of visiting faraway lands. At age 18, an uncle introduced him to Admiral Robert E. Peary, whom young Jim persuaded to take him along on his historic expedition to the North Pole in 1909. He returned from the epic journey and landed a job as a reporter for the *New York Herald*, which promptly dispatched him to Asia to cover the war between China and Japan.

Davidson was so fascinated with Japanese culture that he joined the Imperial Army, learned the language, and wrote an acclaimed book, *Formosa, Past and Present*. The emperor of Japan awarded him the Order of the Rising Sun for saving a community from marauding Chinese pirates. Davidson then joined the U.S. Foreign Service. As consul-general in Shanghai, he won praise from US presidents William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt. Roosevelt sent him to map out Manchuria. Even the Russian government employed him as a special commissioner to report on the economic potential of its proposed Trans-Siberian Railroad.

The only thing that stopped him was typhoid. When he contracted the disease in 1906, the 34-year-old Davidson, lingering near death, was sent to San Francisco. Lillian Dow, whom he had met in Shanghai, accompanied him home and tended to him during his long recuperation. They later married and settled in Calgary, where he joined the Rotary club in 1914.

Davidson had established a reputation at Rotary International after his successful South Pacific expedition with Ralston. For several years he served on international extension committees, but remained, at heart, a "doer" rather than a "discusser." In 1928, the RI Board appointed Davidson honorary general commissioner, with the mandate to add the missing links in the chain of Rotary clubs between Europe and Asia.

Armed with a portfolio of glowing testimonials — including letters of introduction from ambassadors, two kings, three presidents, and five prime ministers — 66-year-old Jim, Lillian, and their young daughter, Marjory, set sail from Montreal on the *Duchess of Athol* on 23 August 1928. He had spent months laying the groundwork and had planned meetings with local civic and business leaders at every stop. In many cases, he even arranged audiences with the head of state.

Davidson's work began in Turkey, and the family traveled there on the Simplon-Orient-Express from Paris. Ironically, this first stop was one of the only places where Jim could not organize a Rotary club right away. Then he moved on to Greece, which had been embroiled in a civil war. Davidson met with Prime Minister Venizelos and pointed out that Rotary was an ideal vehicle for bringing people from different religious and political sides together. He later wrote of the satisfaction he felt when, at the organizational meeting of the Rotary Club of Athens on 14 December 1928, traditional sworn enemies sat side by side and shook hands.

Rotary headquarters had for years vainly tried to start a club in Cairo, Egypt. Within two weeks of arriving from Athens, Davidson had convened an organizational meeting, and the Rotary Club of Cairo, with 22 charter members, became official on 2 January 1929. The Cairo club quickly set about establishing a Rotary presence in six other Egyptian cities. Davidson's fruitful journey took him next to Palestine, Syria, across the desert to Iraq, and then, by steamer, to Bombay, India.

He followed the same successful formula at every stop: first, meet with the highest-ranking official in town and "sell" him on what a Rotary club could do for the community. Then, meet individually with as many civic, business, and professional men as he could, many of whose names he had obtained from his first meeting. A few days later, he would bring them all together for an organizational dinner; and with Davidson as the eloquent and informed keynote speaker, those present usually signed up on the spot. After completing his report to headquarters and charging the new club's officers with their duties and responsibilities, Davidson and his family would move on to the next city.

Jim, Lillian, and Marjory Davidson journeyed around the world on every form of transport known at the time, from steam train to canoe to elephant. While Jim met incessantly with prospective Rotarians, Lillian tutored their daughter, exposing Marjory to sights and cultures that few children before or since have experienced. At night, Lillian wrote colorful travelogues for *The Rotarian*, so that members around the world could follow their exploits. Lillian later put these all together into a book, *Making New Friends*.



James Wheeler Davidson, who traveled nearly 150,000 miles in his quest to establish Rotary clubs in Europe and Asia.