



Rotary District 6920 *Sow the Seeds of Love*

Bruce Montgomery
District Governor

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Vidalia Club First in State to Boast 100 Percent PHF

The Vidalia Rotary Club kept it a secret until DG Montgomery visited their club; then, the cat was out of the bag: all 62 members of the club had become Paul Harris Fellows, making it the first club in the state to record such a feat.

“Being a part of a club that committed to being 100 percent PHF and 100 percent Rotary Foundation sustaining members is an honor,” said Lisa Adams, president of the Vidalia Rotary Club. “Our membership is a group of individuals who want to make a difference. It proves our membership believes in the Rotary Foundation, its goals and objectives. We would challenge all clubs to have this as their



goal and to truly realize the effect it has on people all around the world.”

Immediate Past President Doug Baird is said to have been the driving force behind the 100 percent PHF campaign. “It really was a team effort,” Baird contends. “It’s a reflection on the whole club to get 62 people to commit to being Paul Harris Fellows. It’s quite a feat, but without the support of each member, we wouldn’t have been able to do it.”

The Vidalia Rotary Club surprises DG Montgomery during his official visit by announcing that the club has become 100 percent Paul Harris Fellows. Doug Baird, immediate past president and the driving force behind the effort, is presented with a plaque to commemorate the event. Pictured (l-r) are DG Montgomery; Past President Otha Dixon, Victor Hart, Past President Doug Baird, Lt. Gov. Don Gay, President Lisa Adams, District Director Langga Gay and Hal Chesser.

Dublin Club Names 10 Hue Thomas Fellows

The Dublin Rotary Club honored 10 new Hue Thomas Fellows at a special meeting Aug. 16.

Ronnie Waller, GRSP Immediate Past Chairman/Chairman Emeritus, presented the awards and was a guest speaker. Waller praised the Dublin Rotary Club for its accomplishments, indicating that 10 Hue Thomas Fellows at one time and two Rotarians becoming Hue Thomas Fellows and their wives becoming Will Watt Fellows were both a first in Georgia! Gerald Smith, a GRSP Endowment Trustee, and Phil Thacker, the Dublin Rotary Club President-Elect, were presented their Hue Thomas Fellowship awards and their wives were honored with Will Watt Fellowship awards.

Waller added that the Dublin Rotary Club has “raised the bar” and he hopes other clubs will follow the example. Additionally, he praised the club for its continuing support of the Rotary Foundation.

Dublin Rotary has contributed \$125,325 to GRSP. The club has 58 Will Watt Fellows, not including spouses and others who are Will Watt Fellows. The club boasts 11 Hue Thomas Fellows, three Governor’s Associates and 81 Patrons, with others giving on a scheduled basis.



District 6920 Governor-Elect Leon Benefield (far left) congratulates new Hue Thomas Fellows from the Dublin Rotary Club. Pictured are (from left) Phil Thacker, President-Elect; Nancy Thacker, Joe Hooks, Joe Uliano, Johnny Warren, PDG Jake New, Endowment Trustee Gerald Smith, Janet Smith, Mike Cauley, GRSP Chairman Emeritus Ronnie Waller and Jim Hilburn. Louie Livingston and Farrell Nichols are not pictured.

Correction

An article in the August newsletter on membership increases in the District last year reported incorrect totals. The total membership gain for the 2001-02 year was 170 new members under the leadership of DG Jim Puryear.





The Governor's Corner by Bruce Montgomery

My Fellow Rotarians,

Where do I start? We have two clubs in our district that have accomplished stunning achievements this month. The Rotary Club of Vidalia, under the leadership of Lisa Adams and the Dublin Rotary Club, under the leadership of Alan Barfoot, have attained statuses that were, until now, unknown in Georgia.

The Dublin Rotary Club recognized 10 new Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) Hue Thomas Fellows and two of the members made their spouses Will Watt Fellows. A Will Watt Fellowship is recognition of a gift of \$1,000 to the GRSP and a Hue Thomas Fellowship is recognition of a gift of \$2,500 to the GRSP. This has never happened in the GRSP and is one of the big reasons we are leading the state in GRSP contributions through August.

The Rotary Club of Vidalia has become the first Rotary club in all of Georgia to become 100 percent Paul Harris Fellows. This, my friends, is a very rarified atmosphere. They sprung this on me during my official visit. I was, and still am, so excited for them I almost couldn't speak to the club.

Past President Doug Baird led the effort. Doug gives Hal Chesser, the President-Elect, and several other members credit for helping, but Doug was the driving force behind getting the deed done. They will join a very short list of clubs to be honored at Rotary International headquarters by having their name inscribed on a plaque honoring those few clubs that have attained this status.

I don't know how to top that except to say that in addition to becoming a 100 percent Paul Harris Club, one of the members of the Vidalia Club, David Lovins and his wife, Ann, just became a Bequest Society member at the \$100,000 level. You know, you shake the trees and shake the trees and nothing falls out. Then all of a sudden it's raining golden acorns. Who knew?

Vidalia and Dublin and David and Ann I thank you and honor you all for these amazing accomplishments.

Who will be next to step up to the plate?

Yours in Rotary,
Bruce Montgomery
District 6920 Governor

GRSP Participants Arrive in Country; Have First Visit with Sponsoring Clubs



More than 80 students have arrived

in Georgia from abroad, eager to begin their year as Georgia Rotary Student Program participants. According to GRSP staff in Savannah, there are more than 30 countries represented this year, with students attending 30 Georgia schools for undergraduate and graduate programs.

The three-year effort to raise \$2 million for the GRSP Endowment Fund continues.



DG Montgomery and some of the GRSP trustees pose with the District 6920 students.



Augusta West's Georgia Rotary Student Amy Salem is from England. Salem is pictured (left) with Augusta West Rotary Club President Jean Grover. Bly and Jeremy Coghlan are the host family.

Attendees Draw Ideas from Joint Seminar

The District's Joint Seminar for Membership, Public Relations and The Rotary Foundation was held Aug. 17, with Dr. Aaron Hyatt, former General Secretary for Rotary International, former director of RI and candidate to be nominee for RI President in 2004-05, was the keynote speaker.

Dr. Hyatt spoke at length about the work of the RI Foundation, focusing specifically on the effort to eradicate Polio from the earth by 2005. In fact, huge strides are being made, as the western hemisphere has now been declared Polio free for some years. The Eastern Hemisphere is polio free with the ex-



Dr. Aaron Hyatt was keynote speaker at the District's Aug. 17 Joint Seminar.

ception of a few particularly challenging areas, primarily in Africa and parts of Central Asia. The challenges there are not due, as one might think, to war or terrorist unrest, as experience has shown virtually all people are willing to

put aside acts of war long enough to support disease eradication efforts, said Dr. Hyatt. The primary problems in these areas are related to philosophical beliefs and fear of allowing someone to

'medicate' their children. That's why there is now an enormous effort to educate the local people of these last few areas in order to complete the Polio Eradication efforts on time. The need for money continues, in order to sustain the project through its successful completion. However, if all Rotary clubs will continue to give The Rotary Foundation strong support through the contributions of individual members, the world may be free of Polio



DG Bruce Montgomery presents Dr. Aaron Hyatt with a Hue Thomas Fellowship.

in three years.

ROTARY FOUNDATION

DGN John Parkins, chair of the district's Rotary Foundation Committee, reminded those in attendance of the formal definition of goals for the RI Foundation: to support the efforts of Rotary International to achieve world understanding and peace through international, humanitarian educational and cultural exchange programs.

The Foundation, then, becomes the compass which gives direction to the activities of RI and to each of our clubs, said DGN Parkins. In fact, the Foundation is truly the heart and soul of Rotary because without Rotarians there would be no Foundation, and without the Foundation there would be no purpose, or meaning, for Rotary to exist.

DGN Parkins focused attention on one project of the Foundation, the Wheel Chair Foundation, a partnership of matching funds with Rotarian Ken Behring to distribute wheel chairs to those in need, particularly in the most underdeveloped parts of our world.

Clubs were challenged to become more committed to learning what is going on in the world of Rotary and to encourage all members to become personally involved in worldwide efforts through support of the Foundation. By being strong leaders in our clubs, we can educate and lead our members to look beyond the needs of their own communities to make a difference in the world for today and tomorrow, said DGN Parkins.



Lt. Gov. Johnny Hathcock leads the group in singing.



Lt. Gov. David Pierce of Perry and John Geiger of Perry enjoy a little fellowship.



World Community Service Chair Bob Ashley tells about the HELPS Cooking Stoves in Guatemala.



PDG (2000-01) Albert Reichert Jr. introduces Dr. Aaron Hyatt.



Foundation staff member Jackie McGuire explains how the Foundation works.



District Director Langga Gay checks in at the seminar, while Doug Baird of Vidalia and PDG Jim Puryear, in background, chat.

MEMBERSHIP

During the Membership portion of the program, chaired by Leslie Mattingly, RI's Global Quest was discussed, as well as district membership goals. The new District Red Badge program was discussed at length, as was membership retention and education through membership surveys, open classification lists, club forums and orientation meetings with new members. Also highlighted was the new District Rookie of the Year Award to be presented each year to the rookie and his/her club in recognition of Highest Rotary Service by a new member.

An afternoon session was an open discussion attended by approximately 50 participants, at which a multitude of ideas and suggestions were shared, said Mrs. Mattingly. Problems faced in some clubs were discussed and success stories were shared and adapted for use by other clubs. Additionally, all the plans and programs described in the morning session were further explained and discussed. "The discussion showed the great strengths among the clubs of our district and also the great willingness for clubs, even those in the same town, to help and support each other," said Mrs. Mattingly. "It was a most enjoyable and informative time of fellowship for all."

CLUB VISIT PHOTOS



DG Montgomery visits the Statesboro Rotary Club. Pictured are (l-r) President-Elect Clark DeLoach, President Max Manack, DG Montgomery and his wife, Frosty, and Lt. Gov. Johnny Hathcock.



Lt. Gov. Jim Cottingham and Club Treasurer Steve Roberson enjoy some fellowship prior to a meeting of the Hazlehurst Rotary Club.



DG Montgomery presents Sylvania Rotary Club members Ricky McGhee and Herb Hill with Paul Harris Fellowships.



The Rotary Club of Effingham County Sunrise at breakfast during DG Montgomery's official visit on Aug. 13.



The Swainsboro Rotary Club presents checks to three organizations during DG Montgomery's Aug. 5 visit. Pictured are Carl Tankersley, Swainsboro Rotary Club; Rene McNeely, Reading is



Millen Rotary Club President-Elect John Jackson and members Joey McBride and Ray Miller enjoy a little fellowship at the Jockey Pond House during a recent meeting of the Millen Rotary Club.