



LEAD THE WAY

ROTARY DISTRICT 6920

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Membership Growth

Rotary International President Bill Boyd has established **Membership Growth** as the number one priority for all **Rotarians** during this Rotary year.

The completion of our goals, our ability to further world peace and understanding, community interaction and the success of all aspects of our **Rotary** will all be enhanced

through **Membership Growth!**

Many clubs have lost members who still reside in the community of the club where they were members. For those in good standing when they left Rotary, we need to encourage them to return to the fold.

For recruiting new members, remember how you first learned of Rotary. Most every **Rotarian** experienced being

invited to attend a meeting of a Rotary club. In the process of attending that first meeting, the potential new member enjoyed a meal with the **Rotarian** who extended the invitation, plus the potential new member met other **Rotarian** community leaders, plus the potential new member got some basic introduction to what Rotary is, plus the potential new member got to hear an interesting guest speaker.

I implore each **Rotarian** to use the proven strategy of the acronym "**SEA**" wherein **S=Self, E=Example, A=Ask!** It is now our turn. If each of us bring and propose one new qualified candidate to membership of our respective **Rotary** clubs, success will be ours and we will, by far, exceed our **Membership Growth** goals!

It is that time of year when we start considering New Year's resolutions. Please join me in my resolution to propose a new member. Thank you.

HYBRID RAFFLE HOLIDAY CAMPAIGN

Giving gifts of tax-deductible Hybrid Raffle tickets this **Holiday Season** is catching on district wide.

Some **Rotarians** have taken responsibility for several Hybrid Raffle tickets and announced to their fellow Rotarians that Hybrid Raffle tickets are gifts that they will give this **Holiday Season!**

The net proceeds from the Hybrid Raffle will be divided between **OUR GEORGIA**

ROTARY STUDENT PROGRAM and OUR ROTARY FOUNDATION.

Congratulations to the Rotary clubs of **Camden County, Dublin, Valdosta Sunrise and Vidalia**. As of November 30, 2006, these four clubs have turned in Hybrid Raffle completed ticket stubs and payment for at least one Hybrid Raffle ticket for each **Rotarian** in their respective clubs.

- DG Bill Blankenship

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Literacy Projects Abound Throughout District

At this year's District Conference in Augusta, more than 240 books were collected from conference participants. Those books were distributed to a most deserving Augusta area school. The faculty member who accepted the gift said the books provide great flexibility in their reading program and are most helpful.

The Rotary Club of Dublin is helping to establish a library for an elementary school on the Caribbean island of St. Vincent. The club has taken on the task of purchasing more than 1,000 books at a reduced rate to ship to the Rotary Club of St. Vincent for distribution to the elementary school, which houses grades 3-6. The project is being done without any grant money and through donations from the club's local Rotaract club at Middle Georgia College. Club Rotarians have also donated books.

"In addition to this, we are in the process of distributing an age-appropriate book to every kindergarten through third grader in Laurens County," said Dublin Club President Lawton Davis. "Trying to keep literacy alive and well!"

Below is a list of other literacy projects that District 6920 clubs are sponsoring this year.

Augusta South - donates books to schools

Centerville - donates a book each week to Centerville Elementary School in honor of the club speaker

Dublin - helping to start a library at an elementary school with book donations; sponsor of Communities in Schools Literacy - Rotarians read to elementary school classes weekly; renovating a building to provide GED classes in a needy neighborhood; sponsors adult literacy program

Eastman - gives dictionaries to all third grade students; books donated to school in name of speaker each week; goal - one member to read one hour during year at a literacy program

Glynn County - presents labeled children's books to local charitable organizations in honor of weekly Rotary speaker

Jones County - donated \$1,000 to ninth grade to purchase books for a new library; provides Rotarian volunteers to read to students

Downtown Macon - donates books weekly in honor of club speaker to Literacy Library at the local technical college; recognizes outstanding teacher each month

Marshes of Glynn, St. Simons Island - provides quarterly motivational speakers for the Adult Learning Center students who are earning their GED

Savannah West - members bring books one day per month to donate to needy children, who are identified through the housing authority

Skidaway - provides one-on-one tutoring; supports junior achievement; sponsors career day in which 40 club members participate; supports science projects; provides dictionaries

Downtown Statesboro - club volunteers read to elementary school children during Reading is Fundamental week

Valdosta Sunrise - read to disadvantaged second graders for one hour, twice a week

Vidalia - provides GED sponsorships; provides reading programs at grammar schools

Governor Endorses, Supports Comely Bank Project

To pay respect and tribute to Paul Harris by having “Comely Bank” as a historical site where we can visit is a wonderful idea. I strongly endorse the campaign for the purchase of “Comely Bank” in honor and memory of our founding father. I invite each Rotary Club and each Rotarian in our district to help with this worthy project. I will make a contribution from our district funds and I will make a personal contribution to help with this project.

- DG Bill Blankenship

Dear District Governor:

It has been eight months since we attended training session in San Diego, and our year is nearly 50% completed. I do hope you are having as much fun as I in perpetuating the mission of Rotary in your District. It is a wonderful experience, as you will agree.

In early 2002, five preservation minded Rotarians from Illinois, Michigan and Texas incorporated the PAUL & JEAN HARRIS HOME FOUNDATION for the purpose of acquiring and preserving Comely Bank. This is the home in which Paul and Jean lived for more than 35 years. This objective was accomplished in May 2005, one month prior to the Centennial Convention in Chicago.

Once the home has been restored to its original state, it will be available for

reservations by Rotary Clubs supporting the effort, Rotary International dignitaries, Youth Exchange students and other Rotary activities.

In order to pay the loan of \$500,000 owed for the purchase of Comely Bank, restore the property to its original state when Paul and Jean Harris lived there, and have an adequate corpus to support the property and the cemetery site in perpetuity, the PJHMF TRUSTEES are implementing a \$5 million fund-raising effort, which will commence in January 2007.

District 6450 is known as the “Birth Place of Rotary” and we are in the process of soliciting all of our clubs for tax-deductible contributions for the PJHMF. I am hopeful we will have 100% participation from our 64 clubs. District

6450 is LEADING THE WAY!

I am writing to seek your approval to solicit the clubs in your District to help us in this historic effort. Since we may carry over the fund-raising into the 2007-08 year, we would suggest the District Governor Elect give his/her permission, as well.

All participating Districts, along with the name of the current District Governor, and the clubs which support the effort, will be listed in an audiovisual display near the front entrance of the home. Major benefactors with photos and personal comments will also be displayed there. See paulharrishome.com for additional information.

- Emma Sue Smallwood, District 6450 Governor, 2006-07

DISTRICT CONFERENCE

May 4-6, our District Conference will be conducted at the Marriott Riverfront Hotel in Savannah, GA.

There are going to be many tourist type entertainment functions including tours, a golf tournament and the opportunity to walk around Bay Street, River Street and the Historic District of downtown Savannah.

Our Georgia State Governor, Sonny Perdue and First Lady Mary Perdue have been invited to join us and Governor Sonny has been requested to be our keynote luncheon speaker at the opening ceremony Friday, May 4.

There will be wonderful music at dinner Friday and Saturday evenings. We will again have the honor of hearing the finalists in our district's annual speech

contest. Our Georgia Rotary Students will put on a show that all of you will want to see!

We will hear how Rotary changed the lives of two Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars. Rotary International President Bill Boyd is sending his special representative to give us the big picture of Rotary today and our direction for the future.

PDG Albert Reichert, Jr. will give us a report on some of the significant changes adopted by the Council on Legislation which meets in April, just prior to our District Conference.

There will be a silent auction. There will be a raffle drawing for a brand new silver Mercury Mariner SUV Hybrid followed by a live auction that will include

several high value items, including a weekend at the Greyfield Inn on Cumberland Island and the Ford Escape SUV that I have been driving.

The information, fellowship, camaraderie and fun to be enjoyed by one and all will enhance the joy in the lives of all who have an opportunity to attend.

PLEASE MARK THE DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON YOUR CALENDARS ... MAY 4-6. REGISTRATION WILL BE AVAILABLE SOON ON OUR DISTRICT WEB SITE www.rotarydistrict6920.net.

I hope to see you all in Savannah.

- DG Bill



Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW!

College of Governors

The College of Governors will meet January 6 at Little Ocmulgee State Park for the purpose of selecting the governor for 2009-2010. The meeting will begin at 10 a.m.

Long Range Planning

The Long Range Planning Committee will convene following the selection of the governor nominee. Any AG who would like to attend is welcome, although attendance is not mandatory.

AG Training

The annual Assistant Governor training at the Jekyll Island Club hotel will be held starting at 1 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16. We will work until 5:30 p.m. on Friday. It is imperative that AGs and invited district leadership personnel be in attendance, said DGE Dick Hyer.

Dr. Ann Matthews from Columbia, S.C., and Lona Pope from District 6910 will be special guests. They will discuss The Rotary Foundation and membership.

Breakfast will be served on Saturday morning, with work continuing until noon. Lunch will be provided, with all participants on the road home no later than 1:30 p.m.

“Make room on your calendars now for this event,” said PDG Bruce Montgomery, district trainer. “We always have a lot of fun and learn a lot about Rotary.”

For additional details about the Assistant Governor training, contact PDG \Montgomery via email at BruceMontgomery@comcast.net.