



ROTARY DISTRICT 6920

William J. (Bill) Blankenship, District Governor
P.O. Box 931
Kingsland, GA 31548
rotarybill@tds.net

New District Governor Offers Message to District

As we start our new Rotary year, I look forward to meeting each of you and a continuation of the excitement and productivity that has given our district an excellent reputation.

My first thought of you as individuals is praise. It is my opinion that today Rotary is the organization in the world with the most potential to positively influence world peace and understanding. Rotarians are special and wonderful people. The Rotarians of our district have time and again turned their benevolent thoughts into sincere words and taken actions that personify Service Above Self. Thank you.

We have goals to accomplish. Start now. Procrastination is a long word for wasting time. Be the first Rotarian in your club to propose a new member. Be the first Rotarian in your club to buy Hybrid raffle tickets. Plan now to attend district meetings. Circle on your calendar May 4-6 and attend the fun and excitement of our district conference at the Marriott in Savannah. Come meet new friends and enjoy this annual celebration of Rotary.

Rotarians should feel a strong desire to support our benevolent foundation: The Rotary Foundation. If you make a monthly

\$10 contribution to our foundation, you will exceed the EREY goal of a \$100 annual contribution. Please, take action this month and every month.

Please support our Georgia Rotary Student Program. This 50-year-old program has brought foreign students to Georgia who have become life-long friends and ambassadors. The GRSP program results in accom-

plishing a prime objective of Rotary: to provide for service through acquaintance.

There is no limit to what enthusiastic, action-taking Rotarians can accomplish. We will find much joy as we Serve Above Self and practice self example and ask as our strategies as we work to Lead the Way this Rotary year.

- DG Bill Blankenship

Blankenship to Serve as Governor

Bill became a member of The Rotary Club of Camden County in 1991.

Professionally, he has worked in applied meteorology and oceanography for 29 years while on active duty in the United States Navy. In his second career, he was the director of the St. Marys Public Library in Camden County, Ga., for 11 years. Now, he is one of the owners of Georgia Fence Company.



DG Bill Blankenship

Reading, seashell collecting, digging a lake and travel are Bill's favorite sources of relaxation.

His district-level assignments include Assistant Governor, District Conference Chair, Group Study Exchange In-Bound Chair, Public Relations Chair, District Raffle Vice-Chair and Group Study Exchange Team Leader.

Bill is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, member of The RI Foundation Bequest Society, Will Watt Fellow and

Paul Harris Society member.

READ ABOUT IT INSIDE

July 2006

Hybrid Raffle
Tickets Are Now
on Sale
Page 2

RI President Urges
Rotarians to
Lead the Way
Page 2

Past Director
Morgan Delivers
Message
Page 3

District Hybrid Raffle Tickets Now On Sale

Club presidents received tickets for the District Hybrid Raffle at the President-Elect Training in Peachtree City.

The Mercury Hybrid Raffle tickets are \$50 each and can be written off as a charitable tax deduction. The drawing will be held Saturday night at the district conference in Savannah the first weekend of May.

Let's give our best shot between now and Christmas. Our goal is to have each Rotarian in the district participate in a campaign to buy and sell the raffle tickets. The Hybrid Raffle Ticket will make an excellent Christmas gift to friends, family, employees and business associates.

In addition to your club president, you can obtain tickets on-line at our district Web site

www.rotarydistrict6920.net where you can use a major credit card to purchase tickets.

With the high price of gasoline today, a hybrid is attractive, plus it makes a positive environmental statement. The Mercury Hybrid will give the winner about 35 miles per gallon on the highway and 40 miles per gallon in city traffic. The Ford Escape Hybrid that I am driving now will be auctioned off at the district conference right after the winning ticket is drawn for the NEW Mercury Hybrid.

All of the proceeds will go to support our charitable Rotary programs.

Please, Lead the Way and buy your Hybrid Raffle tickets now. Thank you.

- Governor Bill

'We Are the Ones Who Must Lead the Way'

Rotary International's incoming president, William B. Boyd, has chosen *Lead the Way* as the theme for the 2006-07 Rotary year.

"This will be my theme and an affirmation of my belief in the power of Rotarians to change the world, one positive act at a time," he told incoming district governors at the International Assembly in San Diego, Ca., in February.

The challenge of finding a theme is that it must be short, inspirational and translatable. Boyd doesn't remember the moment *Lead the Way* popped into his head. All he knows is that "it just felt right."

"In the coming year, I ask each of you to take your places as leaders in your districts and your communities," Boyd told the incoming governors. "I ask each of you to lead in the Rotary way, by living as role models of tolerance, unselfishness, and integrity. And because the best leaders have humility, I ask you to do all of this with friendliness and a smile, so that others will be happy to walk beside you."

Boyd concluded by saying, "As Rotarians, we are not content to let matters stay the way they have always been in our clubs or in our communities. We are not content with the status quo, and we do not look at a problem only to say someone else will solve it. We are the ones who ask, 'Why not us?' We are the ones with the skills and the desire to build a better future. And we are the ones who must *Lead the Way*."



Bill Boyd to Lead the Way in 2006-07

Bill Boyd will Lead the Way as President of Rotary International this year. Below is more information about this great organization's leader for 2006-07.

Treasurer, Rotary International 1999-2000; Director, Rotary International 1998-2000; District Governor, 1983-84

Bill retired in 1995 as General Manager of Gordon & Gotch Magazines, Ltd., New Zealand's largest magazine distributor. He is a trustee of New Zealand's Trees for Survival Trust and the June Gray Trust and has represented Rotary on the National Kidney Foundation and the Intellectually Handicapped Society. He has been an elder and Youth Leader of the Presbyterian Church and a warranted Scout Leader, and has refereed rugby union football for 31 years. He was chair of the Rotary Down Under Management Committee.

A Rotarian since 1971, Bill is a member of the Rotary Club of Pakuranga.



RI President Bill Boyd

He has served Rotary International as district governor, training leader, moderator of the International Assembly, committee member and chair, including deputy chair of the New Zealand National PolioPlus committee, assistant deputy coordinator of PolioPlus Partners, task force assistant general coordinator, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, director and treasurer of the RI Board. He is a recipient of The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and its Distinguished Service Award. He has also received a Meritorious Service Award from *Rotary Down Under*.

Bill and his wife, Lorna, live in Howick, Auckland, New Zealand. They have two sons and two daughters and 11 grandchildren.

Visit www.rotarydistrict6920.net

for the latest district news

and to purchase your Mercury Hybrid raffle tickets

Past Director Delivers Final Message to Rotarians

The following has been extracted from the July 2006 RI Zones 33-34 newsletter and is written by Past Director Ken Morgan

So what does a director do during his term, other than many miles of driving, many airline flights and worn out suitcases? Here are a few of the highlights of the past two years.

- Providing leadership to two Zone Institutes and closely working with two Executive Committees.
- Visiting projects in Caribbean Districts 7020 and 7030, and attending a Centennial Celebration in D7000, Puerto Rico.
- Serving as Assistant Moderator in 2005 and Moderator in 2006 for the RI BOD Orientation sessions.
- Multi-District PETS: I am a big believer in the strength of districts working together on training and projects that can be strengthened through the synergy of two or more districts working together. As we close out the year, the eight districts in Florida are now part of Florida PETS; the three districts in Georgia are working together on Peach State PETS; and seven districts in North Carolina and South Carolina continue as part of Carolinas' PETS. The two districts in West Virginia are part of West Virginia PETS and two districts in Virginia are cooperating on PETS. So, 22 of our 27 districts are now part of a multi-district PETS.

• Foundation Leadership Seminar: Beginning in 2001, the 13 districts in Zone 33 have been meeting for Rotary Foundation training. This event began in 2001 with about 20 district Foundation leaders and this year had over 100 participants. Under the leadership of Rocky Jacobs in 2004 and 2005 and Anne Matthews in 2006, Zone 33 has become a model for training of district Foundation leadership teams. Zone 34 is now conducting a training seminar in Evanston, under the leadership of RRFC John Smarge.

• International PolioPlus Committee: It has been my honor to serve on the International PolioPlus Committee (IPPC) during my two years on the Board. Under the leadership of past RI vice president, Bill Sergeant, the IPPC provides the leadership for the polio eradication efforts.

This is going to sound like a LONG Academy Awards acceptance speech but here it is, sincere and from the heart. Thanks to all our friends and family that have kept us in their constant prayers for our safe travels during this journey of many miles in Zones 33 & 34, trips back and forth to Evanston, and around the world during the past two years. We have many people to thank and I am sure we will forget someone because everyone we have encountered has truly made this experience one of fond memories and one of pride in being a Rotarian. A few individuals deserve our special thanks.

Sue Poss, D7750, for her tremendous efforts with the newsletter. We have received compliments from our friends all over the world for the consistent quality of the newsletter. The quality of the newsletter has been a gift from Sue.

Mike and Connie Thacker, D7710, for their ongoing support of the Zone Web site. If you have visited the other five Zone web sites you quickly realize the professionalism and thought put into the Zone 33 & 34 web site. Mike and Connie kept information current and were always available to add or modify the materials. Our Zone is lucky to have Mike and Connie supporting the Director and the web site has been a tremendous gift from them.

Gary Wilson, D6960, for his efforts to maintain a complete and accurate database for the two Zones. The publication of the Zone Directory is only a portion of the ongoing work done by Gary to support the Zones. He updates and distributes a current database to the leadership on a monthly basis. We are forever grateful for Gary's ongoing efforts, not just the past two years, but for his assistance to several directors.

David and Edna Roper, D6910, our confidant, trainer, and predecessor as Director. David included me in decisions from the moment I was confirmed as Director-Elect. Our two zones are stronger because of the professionalism and commitment of David Roper. We are fortunate that David has continued his involvement at the International level.

Anne Matthews and **John and Cindy Smarge** for their leadership of the two Zone Institutes. We had great events in Charleston and Atlanta due to their efforts and commitment to a great Institute. The quality of speakers, assignments of PDGs from all 27 districts, and great entertainment happened because of their leadership.

Rich & Marla Panyik, Dot and Nat Greene, Johnny & Janet Robertson, Ron & Elaine Ferrill, Bill & Alice MacDonald, Hal & Barbara Salisbury, Bill & Sally McLaurin for the hundreds of hours they spent on the details of the two Zone Institutes.

Carol Summerlin for her leadership of the 2006 Southland Breakfast and **Abe Clymer** for his leadership of the 2005 Southland Breakfast and all the volunteers that helped with those two events.

Thanks to the 54 **District Governors** that served with distinction during the past two years.

Thanks to the 27 members of the **Director's Advisory Committee**. Thanks to our **fellow Board members** for their inspiration, commitment, and friendships.

Thanks to the **Rotary International staff** for their support and assistance. We are very fortunate to have a dedicated staff committed to Service Above Self.

A special thanks to **my staff** and **Board of Directors** that have supported me and have gone the extra mile to allow this opportunity to happen. Many of you have come to know Marie or Jill as a voice on the phone when you call the office, but they have supported us and grown to know the worldwide impact of Rotary.

We want to say thanks again for all the wonderful gifts we have received along the way. Winnie's comment was always: "this is my favorite" and she meant it for every one of them. Now, we will have time to truly enjoy many of them.

We would like to thank our **family and friends** for being patient and understanding of all the events we have missed such as graduations, weddings, family reunions, moves, Thanksgiving and so much more. A special thanks to Winnie's sister, **Polly**, who has taken care of her business calls while we have traveled. She had a challenge to make believers out of folks that she wasn't Winnie on the phone so she had some interesting conversations!

And last, but not least, thanks to **Winnie** for her support and involvement in making our two Zones even stronger. She has been willing to sacrifice her career and friends to support my efforts. She is dedicated to making the world a better place and showed her commitment with the children we met from Nigeria to the Caribbean. Winnie is a Rotarian at heart and our Zones are better because of her involvement.

Our best wishes to **Milt and Alice** as they begin their leadership journey.

We look forward to seeing each of you in Orlando.



Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

District Web Site is a Valuable Resource

There is a wealth of information on the district web site and if you haven't visited it yet, you are strongly encouraged to do so.

Turn your web browser to www.rotarydistrict6920.net to view the 2006-07 on-line district directory where you'll locate the names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of the district and club leaders. You'll also find information regarding district awards in the on-line directory. With this useful information, your club can begin preparing now for award submissions at next year's district conference in Savannah.

Additionally, the district web site is where you'll find past issues of the governor's newsletters, dating back to 2002-03 when Bruce Montgomery served as district governor. You'll also find links

to district club newsletters.

The District and Club Database (DaCdb) is another great resource for the district's Rotarians. Here, club secretaries can submit attendance reports, update club meeting times and location, maintain their member roster and much more.

Another great feature of the district web site, which is maintained by



Webmaster Jim Bruce, a member of The Rotary Club of St. Simons Island, is an independent study of Rotary International information. So, if you want more information about club leadership, click the Rotary E-Learning Center link. Here

you'll find a host of resources at your fingertips.

And, don't forget that you can purchase tickets for this year's Mercury Mariner Hybrid Raffle. This worthwhile effort will raise money for numerous Rotary charitable organizations, including the Georgia Rotary Student Program and the Medical Equipment Transport Service program.

So, if you haven't already visited this great site, you'll surely want to take some time and do so soon. Rest assured, you'll be a more informed Rotarian when you do.



www.rotarydistrict6920.net