



ROTARY DISTRICT 6920

William J. (Bill) Blankenship, District Governor
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HOLIDAY HYBRID RAFFLE CAMPAIGN TICKETS MAKE GREAT GIFTS!

The goal of the Holiday Hybrid Raffle Campaign is to have each Rotarian in our district take responsibility for at least one Hybrid Raffle Ticket - PLUS - Hybrid Raffle Tickets make great gifts for friends, family and business associates.

Club presidents have Hybrid Raffle Tickets. Checks for tickets should be made out to Rotary Hybrid Raffle. Completed raffle ticket stubs and payment should be mailed to Rotary Hybrid Raffle, P.O. Box 931, Kingsland, GA 31548.

Hybrid Raffle Tickets may be purchased online with charge cards at our district web site

www.rotarydistrict6920.net and you can download a form to fill out and send with your check and receive your Hybrid Raffle Tickets by return mail already filled out in your name!

You are encouraged to sell

Hybrid Raffle Tickets. Many Rotarians help in their respective communities with various charitable



On September 7, 2006 President Charles Green, Rotary Club of Valdosta Sunrise presented Governor Bill with two framed Hybrid Raffle tickets and simultaneously announced that the Valdosta Sunrise club had achieved the Holiday Hybrid Raffle goal of one ticket per member.

fundraisers - here is a way non-Rotarian humanitarians can reciprocate and help us support our Rotary Foundation and our Georgia Rotary Student Program.

Our Rotary Foundation has nearly eradicated polio, provided

clean water to families who have never had clean water and provided over 20,000 grants that have helped to make our communities and our world a better place to live while promoting cultural understanding.

Our Georgia Rotary Student Program has produced over 3,000 alumni who are ambassadors for: the United States, Georgia, our Georgia colleges and universities and for Rotary.

Selling and giving Hybrid Raffle Tickets to non-Rotarians is great public relations and a proven approach to introduce Rotary to non-Rotarians who may become inquisitive **and become Rotarians.**

Please, take responsibility for as many Hybrid Raffle Tickets as possible and support the **HOLIDAY HYBRID RAFFLE CAMPAIGN.**

Thank you - District Governor Bill Blankenship

GSE Deadline Fast Approaching

The deadline for submitting applications for the this year's Group Study Exchange trip are fast approaching. Departure and return dates for this year's exchange, which will occur next spring, have not yet been confirmed, but will occur with District 3610 of Korea - Southern Coast and Yeosu City.

According to Justin Godchaux, outbound GSE team chair, the Georgia team will stay in the homes of Rotarians during their visit to Korea and will have the opportunity to meet their professional counterparts. The local team will also give presentations to Rotary clubs about their home country, Rotary district, personal and professional lives.

The Rotary Foundation provides each team member with a round-trip air ticket, while local Rotarians in Korea will provide meals, lodging and travel within their district.

All individuals interested in the exchange must first have their candidacy endorsed by a Rotary club within the district in which they live or work. From there, endorsed applications are sent on for consideration at the district level. All applications must be received by Nov. 10. Completed, signed and endorsed applications can be mailed to Justin at 116 West Bolton Street, Savannah, GA 31401-6340.

Additional information about the GSE is available online at www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/gse/index.html.

Refer a Colleague to Rotary

Do you know a friend, family member, or colleague from your business or profession in another locality who has all the qualities of a good Rotarian? Rotarians are adults of good character and good business or professional reputation, who hold or have held an executive position with discretionary authority in any worthy and recognized business or profession. **If you are an active member of a Rotary club in good standing** and know someone suited to Rotary, then consider referring them for membership.

Once you have identified a qualified candidate, complete and submit an online form at <http://www.rotary.org/membership/prospective/referral.html>. The information you provide will be forwarded to a Rotary club in the candidate's locality. You can also download the form, print it out to be completed by hand, and fax it to RI headquarters at 1-847-866-9446. **Please be advised this form cannot be used to refer a person to your own club. Please see your club secretary for your club's recruitment protocol.**

New Call Center to Field Questions about The Rotary Foundation

English-speaking Rotarians in the USA and Canada can now direct inquiries about Foundation programs to a central location called the Contact Center.

North American Rotarians can call or e-mail to check on donations and recognition points, deadlines for grants and applications, whom to contact regarding applications, and any other questions about the Foundation.

Call 1-866-9ROTARY (1-866-976-8279) or e-mail the Contact Center at contact.center@rotary.org.

A team of Foundation specialists will answer calls Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. CST.

The volume of calls and Rotarian satisfaction levels will determine the sustainability and expansion of the center into additional geographic areas and languages.

Committee Nominates

2008-09 RI President

The 2006-07 Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International in 2008-09, having functioned in accordance with the bylaws of Rotary International, has indicated that it unanimously nominated Dong Kurn "D.K." Lee of the Rotary Club of Seoul Hangang, Seoul, Korea for the office of President of Rotary International for the year 2008-09.

Lee is chair of the Bubang Co. Ltd. and Bubang Techron Co. Ltd. manufacturing companies in Seoul and formerly served as a trustee of the Bank of Seoul. In 2005, he was appointed an international goodwill ambassador by the president of Korea.

Lee has also served as honorary consul to the Italian consulate in Korea since 1994 and was awarded the Order of Industrial Merit by the Korean government. He and his wife, Young Ja, have two sons and two daughters.

A Rotarian since 1971, Lee has served RI as a director, treasurer, district governor, training leader, regional Rotary Foundation coordinator, and membership task force coordinator in Asia. He began his tenure on the Foundation's Board of Trustees in 2003-04 and is a recipient of the Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service.

**Visit
www.rotarydistrict6920.net
for the latest
district news
and to purchase
your
Mercury Hybrid
raffle tickets**

Savannah Newspaper Article Prompts Response for METS

*Since the below article was first published a few weeks ago in The Savannah Morning News, two retired individuals have come forward to volunteer their time and take over the administrative responsibility for METS. METS can get an additional one- or three-year lease on the current warehouse. Since inception, the METS warehouse lease payment has been made by a private donar and that lease expires in January 2007. **NOW, METS NEEDS A MAJOR DONOR(S) TO TAKE FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE EXISTING WAREHOUSE LEASE OR PROVIDE METS WITH A WAREHOUSE APPROXIMATELY 10,000 SQUARE FEET IN OR NEAR SAVANNAH.** Please, Lead The Way and give METS the opportunity to continue its life saving mission. Thank you - Governor Bill*

by Carol Megathlin

When Bob Ashley sees a need, he does something about it. With his own hands. Which is why I found myself standing in a warehouse bursting with medical paraphernalia.

When Bob Ashley sees a need, he does something about it. With his own hands. Which is why I found myself standing in a stuffy warehouse bursting with medical paraphernalia last week. Feeling worried.

The Rotary Clubs of southeast Georgia rent the warehouse, the medical supplies are donated by area medical facilities - chief among them Memorial and St. Joseph's/Candler hospitals - and Bob is the man who coordinates the transfer of the goods from Savannah to non-profits in poor developing countries. The program, called Medical Equipment Transfer Service, or METS for short, is underwritten to the tune of \$55,000 by the Rotarians of southeast Georgia.

Bob, a retired Savannah dentist, initiated the program six years ago after an expedition with Faith in Practice, a non-profit organization that sends teams of medical personnel to Guatemala. There he met John Bell, an American who heads a non-profit called Transitions, which provides wheelchairs and prosthetics to the needy of that country. Transitions is a struggling effort, but worthwhile and noble - just the kind of operation that appeals to Bob's rare brand of generosity.

"How can I help?" Bob asked.

"Send me supplies," John replied.

Bob returned to Savannah, wangled the donation of temporary warehouse space, and started knocking on doors for donations. Ten months later, a 40-foot freight container, packed with items from John Bell's wish list, left Savannah on a cargo ship bound for Guatemala.

Hey, that was pretty easy, thought Bob. Why not do it on a regular basis? So Bob, a longtime Rotarian, drafted a proposal and presented it to the Board of Governors of Rotary District 6920. After the membership of District 6920 voted to underwrite the cost of the project (shipping, warehouse rental, occasional labor), Bob began to solicit donations of medical supplies.

Everyone pitched in - hospitals, nursing homes, medical supply companies and physicians in private practice. Rotary provided a truck to pick up donations, faithful Rotary volunteers showed up on Saturday mornings to box up the items, and Bob matched supplies and equipment with the needs of non-profit medical facilities in Guatemala.

Now, four years later, the METS containers make landfall in Chile, the Philippines, and the Dominican Republic, too. Nigeria will soon be added to the list. The project ships four to five containers a year. "We should be shipping twelve," Bob says. Right now, the effort requires maybe two days per week of his time.

In the warehouse last week, Bob gestured to a half-acre of stacked pallets. "This will save hundreds of lives. Directly. And it was all destined for a landfill."

I extracted a package of IV tubing from a gigantic bag of items. "What's wrong with this that it couldn't be used here?" I asked, thinking of skyrocketing medical costs.

"That was part of a sterile pack," Bob said. "Sterile packs contain up to 20 items, but any given procedure will use only a percentage of the contents. It's just not cost-effective to re-sterilize the packets of individual items, sort them, and make up new sterile packs. So the leftovers usually have to be dumped. But the doctors in many developing countries are desperate for this stuff."

And the hospital beds, operating tables, and X-ray machines? "They're a little out-of-date, but still adequate."

So why was I worried?

Bob is leaving Savannah in January, heading out West for training in water purification, well-drilling, and pump repair. Hand pumps. He's going to strike out for Africa then, and search for struggling efforts in need of help.

Bear in mind that Bob is a man who put his college education on hold, enlisted in the Army, and volunteered for Viet Nam. Why? "Because there was a war going on and I didn't want to miss it." While he was there, he ran across a frantic mother seeking help for her ailing baby. Bob took her to the Special Forces clinic in Pleiku, in the central highlands of Viet Nam. The medics discovered that the baby was dehydrated from diarrhea caused by dirty drinking water. A simple rehydration solution saved the baby's life.

When pressed for the motive behind his selfless energy, Bob is evasive. "It's the right thing to do," he says simply. I suspect his passion took root at Pleiku.

Bob Ashley is a hard act to follow, but if METS doesn't find someone to replace him, the containers will stop moving, precious supplies will disappear in city dumps, and Death will start smirking.

For months, people have been telling Bob what he needs to do to keep METS going after he leaves. He's heard it all. Now he wants to hear from people who have something to offer.

Do you think a child's life is worth saving, no matter where he lives? The operation is already up and running. All it needs is a leader. Bob's number is (912) 925-5075.

Carol Megathlin is a freelance writer in Savannah.



Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

Why the Pins?

By Nina Mandell

The Rotarian

While looking for a good way to promote a new club program, Don Garner, a member of the Rotary Club of Chicago, decided to try a well-tested tactic to do the obvious: hand out lapel pins with the program's logo.

"You know Rotarians and their pins," he says.

Rotarians do seem to have pins for *everything*. But why?

Quick history lesson

The first lapel pin in Rotary history was created in 1909 for the Rotary Club of New York. It wasn't given to every member, though: Only the club's president, Bradford Bullock, wore the first pin. After Bullock left office in 1911, the pin changed forms a few times. Today, it depicts the official Rotary emblem.

Now all Rotarians are encouraged to wear pins, if not for a specific program or club, at least for Rotary in general to show pride and membership.

But exclusive pins are still around, such as those given to Paul Harris Fellows or handed down in individual clubs, such as the Rotary Club of Laredo, Texas, USA. In Laredo, as a nod to the club's roots, the president proudly wears a pin passed down from its first district governor.

Pins also have been popular fundraising tools, as the Rotary Club of Orange, California, USA, knows well. In 1969, the club president began fining people who didn't wear their pins to meetings — a practice that continues today. The money goes into the club's general fund.

The pins provide some of the best publicity in the world for Rotary, especially when notable people wear them, says Randy Strong, a member of the Rotary Club of Westlake Village Sunrise, California, USA, and owner of a nonprofit marketing firm. According to Strong, "There are a lot of good organizations, but from the standpoint of publicity, if there's someone famous wearing the pin, that strengthens the image."

