



# ROTARY DISTRICT 6920

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

## Literacy Projects Abound Throughout District

*During my club visits, 34 so far, it has come to my attention that all of these clubs have conducted local literacy programs in the past and plan to conduct local literacy programs during this Rotary year. The following article is from The Rotary Club of Centerville, one of our most recently chartered clubs is an excellent example of what I am seeing district wide.*

- Governor Bill

Did you know that September 8th is International Literacy Day? Currently, we are in year three of what was proclaimed the Literacy Decade by the United Nations in 2003. Today, although there are almost four billion literate people in the world, sadly, another 860 million people remain illiterate. Perhaps the greatest tragedy is that 100 million of the world's children have no access to schools or education. Literacy for all continues to be an elusive goal and ever-moving target. One of the major obstacles to world literacy is a lack of resources.

Rotary International asks each of its clubs to sponsor a community literacy program. The Centerville Rotary Club accepted that challenge and is doing its part to help ensure

literacy for our world's children. At its weekly morning meetings, each guest speaker is asked to write words of encouragement about reading and learning and then sign a new book purchased with club funds. The books are presented to the Centerville Elementary School, Eagle Springs Elementary School and Thomson Middle School for their libraries. The club has purchased more than 100 books for their libraries since its charter meeting in 2004. Centerville Rotarians strongly encourage everyone to find ways, no matter how large or small, to help us create a literate community, society and world.

## *Focus on Literacy*

The first step in solving a problem is to educate people on the fact that there is a problem. Until Rotary began to show concerns for literacy, I had no idea that the literacy problem in this country and in our state is a large one. Rotary International President, Bill Boyd, and our District Governor, Bill Blankenship, have made literacy a primary focus of 2006-07.

We are asking clubs to educate your members and the rest of the community about this serious problem. We further ask that clubs conduct literacy projects in your respective communities. To help with the first step of educating we have mailed material to each club president and a literacy power point presentation is being made available on the district website. It is also available on a CD by simply contacting the district literacy chair, Jim Puryear (706 733 5742).

As the year progresses we look forward to sharing literacy information in the directory and over the internet.

Jim Puryear, PDG  
District Literacy Chair

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### **GSE**

The district's next Group Study Exchange will be with South Korea in the spring of 2007. Justin Godchaux, a member of the Rotary Club of Savannah East, is the district's outbound GSE chair.

The Group Study Exchange program of The Rotary Foundation is a unique cultural and vocational exchange opportunity for young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 and in the early years of their professional lives. The program provides travel grants for teams to exchange visits between paired areas in different countries. For four to six weeks, team members experience the host country's institutions and ways of life, observe their own vocations as practiced abroad, develop personal and professional relationships, and exchange ideas.

For each team member, The Rotary Foundation provides the most economical round-trip air ticket between the home and host countries. Local Rotarians in the host area provide for meals, lodging, and group travel within their district.

To contact Justin regarding the outbound GSE team, send him an email at [justingodchaux@aol.com](mailto:justingodchaux@aol.com).

### **Ambassadorial Scholarships**

Bill Bohling is conducting interviews for Ambassadorial Scholarship and it looks like the district will select three recipients this year. If you have an application, it should be sent immediately to District Ambassadorial Scholarship Chair Bohling, as no applications can be accepted after the end

of September.

The Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholarships program is the world's largest privately sponsored international scholarship program. Focused on humanitarian service, personal diplomacy and academic excellence, the program has sponsored more than 30,000 Rotary Scholars abroad since it began in 1947. Designed to promote international understanding and goodwill, the scholarships give students the opportunity to study in one of the more than 150 countries where Rotary clubs are located. While abroad, Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholars speak to Rotary clubs and districts, schools, civic organizations and other forums where they act as "ambassadors of goodwill." Recipients receive funding to cover round-trip transportation, tuition and fees, room, board and necessary educational supplies for one academic year, up to a maximum amount of \$25,000.

For more information about ambassadorial scholarships available in the district, contact Bill via email at [wbohling@knology.net](mailto:wbohling@knology.net) or by phone at (706) 868-6528. Ambassadorial scholarship applications can be downloaded at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org).

### **Rotary Peace Scholarship**

Applications for the Rotary Peace Scholarship program are being received by District Rotary World Peace Fellowships Chair PDG Lynn Hadwin.

Announced in 2002, the Rotary World Peace Scholarship program sought to bring an increased attention to the more than 30 armed conflicts that were currently raging throughout the world. In a press release announc-

ing the program, RI officials wrote, "Since 1945, more than 100 million people have been killed or seriously injured due to national and international struggles. There is a major shortage in trained mediators, who are an essential element of any peace process. Rotary has undertaken a major long-term initiative aimed at filling that void.

"To help prepare this next generation of diplomats and future leaders, Rotary has teamed up with eight universities around the world to establish new centers focused on peace and conflict and will annually award scholarships to promising leaders."

Those universities include:

- Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA (both universities jointly host one Rotary Center)
- International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan
- Sciences Po (L'Institut d'Études Politiques), Paris, France
- Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England
- University of California-Berkeley, California, USA
- University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

All Rotary World Peace Scholarships are for two academic years and include tuition and fees, room, board, and other expenses.

An application for the Rotary World Peace Scholarship is available online at [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org), or by contacting PDG Lynn at [lhadwin@earthlink.net](mailto:lhadwin@earthlink.net) or via phone at (912) 236-2705.

Visit [www.rotarydistrict6920.net](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net)  
for the latest district news  
and to purchase your Mercury Hybrid raffle tickets

# RI President Boyd Encourages Participation at Convention

*The following letter from RI President Bill Boyd can be found in the September issue of The Rotarian.*

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Rotary International presidents can't have favorites among Rotary programs. But throughout our many years as part of the family of Rotary, Lorna and I have always had a special fondness for Rotary's programs for young people.

Programs like Interact, Rotaract, and Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) have tremendous value, not only to their participants, but to the future of Rotary. By introducing volunteer service at an early age, these clubs teach the lifelong lessons of Rotary: the satisfaction that comes from helping others and the fun of good work with good friends. Everyone benefits, including the communities, the young people, and the Rotary clubs that sponsor young people. These benefits are immediate, in terms of the work members do and the lessons they learn, and they are long-lasting, in terms of raising a new generation of potential future Rotarians.

Programs like Rotary Youth Exchange and The Rotary Foundation's Ambassadorial Scholarships open everyone's eyes. Exchange students and Ambassadorial Scholars further their educations while fostering international understanding, gaining new appreciations of their homelands, and building bridges to new and different cultures.

The idea of building bridges is central to Rotary. Together, we work to create connections around the world by sharing projects, by sharing knowledge, and by coming together in fellowship at our annual RI Convention. No matter how many conventions you attend, each one is different and special. The 2007 convention in Salt Lake City promises to be a wonderful experience, and I urge you all to attend.

If you live in the United States, Salt Lake City is easily accessible by road or rail, and it is a scenic trip from most parts of the country. If you will be arriving by air, it is an easy trip from most major hubs, and downtown is just a few minutes from the airport. With its clean streets, friendly inhabitants, and great natural beauty, Salt Lake City is the perfect site for an RI Convention and a wonderful destination for a family vacation.

This year, convention registration will begin a month earlier than usual. For the lowest rates, register by 1 December 2006. (If you're 18 or younger, a member of an Interact or Rotaract club, a Rotary Youth Exchange student, or the recipient of a Rotary Foundation scholarship or fellowship, be sure to check out the reduced rates available to you.) Registration forms and more information can be found at [www.rotary.org/events](http://www.rotary.org/events).

Whether you are a longtime conventiongoer or are thinking about planning your first trip, this convention promises everything that RI Conventions are known for: good friends, warm fellowship, inspiring presentations, and an international experience like no other. Lorna and I look forward to seeing you there.



*RI President Bill Boyd*

## *Hybrid Raffle Proceeds to Benefit District, World RI Programs*

The district's Mercury Hybrid raffle is in full swing. Proceeds from the raffle will be used to support programs for improving health, literacy, and world peace. The Rotary International Foundation 1965-2005 gave the world 20,000 grants.

Polio Plus, one of Rotary's keynote programs that started in 1985 has reduced from hundreds of thousands down to hundreds of new polio cases reported world wide each year. New polio cases were reported in only a few countries in 2005. Rotary is committed to the worldwide eradication of polio.

The Georgia Rotary Student program brings 50-100 foreign students to Georgia for one year of study at the college level. These students are hosted by Rotarian families and attend colleges where they live on campus. This program provides for cultural acquaintance and understanding.

The Medical Equipment Transport Service was started by Rotarians in Rotary District 6920 in recent years and is instrumental in providing non-profit medical facilities in poor countries with equipment and supplies for clinics and hospitals.

Other Rotary good works projects include well boring, water works projects, safe fireplaces, medical service, sanitary facilities, and literacy projects in needy countries.

When you buy Rotary Hybrid Raffle Tickets you are making a charitable contribution that will help others – plus – you may win a new 2007 Mercury Hybrid SUV!

The drawing for the hybrid will be held at the District Conference at the Marriott in Savannah, May 5, 2007.

“Nothing great was ever achieved without enthusiasm.”

-Ralph Waldo Emerson



# Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

## Did You Know?

There sits a clock in the Savannah City Market, which was dedicated last December by six Savannah Rotary clubs - Downtown, West, South, East, Skidaway Island and Sunrise.

The clock, standing 15 feet tall, commemorates the centennial of the founding of Rotary International.

Built by Fancy Street Clock & Light Company of Rock Island, Ill., the clock was installed by the DePue Monument Company.

The two-sided clock, which also chimes, is securely mounted and can withstand winds of 140 mph.



THIS ROTARY CENTENNIAL CLOCK  
IS A GIFT TO THE CITIZENS OF SAVANNAH  
FROM THE MEMBERS OF THE ROTARY CLUBS  
OF SAVANNAH TO COMMEMORATE THE  
HUNDRETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE FOUNDING  
OF ROTARY INTERNATIONAL IN CHICAGO  
ON FEBRUARY 23, 1905