



LEAD THE WAY

ROTARY
DISTRICT 6920

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January - Rotary Awareness Month

“A BRIEF HISTORY OF ROTARY”

The world's first service club, the Rotary Club of Chicago, Illinois, USA, was formed on 23 February 1905 by Paul P. Harris, an attorney who wished to recapture in a professional club the same friendly spirit he had felt in the small towns of his youth. The name “Rotary” derived from the early practice of rotating meetings among members' offices.

Rotary's popularity spread throughout the United States in the decade that followed; clubs were chartered from San Francisco to New York. By 1921, Rotary clubs had been formed on six continents, and the organization adopted the name Rotary International a year later.

As Rotary grew, its mission expanded beyond serving the professional and social interests of club members. Rotarians began pooling their resources and contributing their talents to help serve communities in need. The organization's dedication to this ideal is best expressed in its principal motto: Service Above Self. Rotary also later embraced a code of ethics, called The 4-Way Test, that has been translated into hundreds of languages.

During and after World War II, Rotarians became increasingly involved in promoting international understanding. In 1945, 49 Rotary members served

in 29 delegations to the United Nations Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings and promoting the United Nations in Rotary publications. Rotary International's relationship with the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) dates back to a 1943 London Rotary conference that promoted international cultural and educational exchanges. Attended by ministers of education and observers from around the world, and chaired by a past president of RI, the conference was an impetus to the establishment of UNESCO in 1946.

An endowment fund, set up by Rotarians in 1917 “for doing good in the world,” became a not-for-profit corporation known as The Rotary Foundation in 1928. Upon the death of Paul Harris in 1947, an outpouring of Rotarian donations made in his honor, totaling US\$2 million, launched the Foundation's first program — graduate fellowships, now called Ambassadorial Scholarships. Today, contributions to The Rotary Foundation total more than US\$80 million annually and support a wide range of humanitarian grants and educational programs that enable Rotarians to bring hope and promote international understanding throughout the world.

In 1985, Rotary made a historic commitment to immunize all of the world's children against polio. Working in partnership with nongovernmental organizations and national governments through its PolioPlus program, Rotary is the largest private-sector contributor to the global polio eradication campaign. Rotarians have mobilized hundreds of thousands of PolioPlus volunteers and have immunized more than one billion children worldwide. By the 2005 target date for certification of a polio-free world, Rotary will have contributed half a billion dollars to the cause.

As it approached the dawn of the 21st century, Rotary worked to meet the changing needs of society, expanding its service effort to address such pressing issues as environmental degradation, illiteracy, world hunger, and children at risk. The organization admitted women for the first time (worldwide) in 1989 and claims more than 145,000 women in its ranks today. Following the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, Rotary clubs were formed or re-established throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Today, 1.2 million Rotarians belong to some 32,000 Rotary clubs in more than 200 countries and geographical areas.

Paul P. Harris established the first Rotary Club in 1905, with the first Rotary convention held five years later in Chicago. In 2001, the 30,000th Rotary club was chartered and in 2005, Rotary's centennial celebration was held.

Make Plans Now to Attend District Conference

Don't forget to mark your calendar for the District Conference in Savannah May 4, 5 and 6. Not only does it promise to be informative and fun at the conference, but Historic Savannah will lend itself to many activities and opportunities for sight-seeing, including:

Friday, May 4, 2007

Tour of Private Homes

1:00 p.m.-4:00 p.m.

Cost is \$50 per person based on a minimum of 30; maximum of 90

Friends of the Historic Savannah Foundation will welcome you into their private homes and garden in the Historic District of Savannah. Your tour will feature some of the most beautiful and historically significant private residences in a colonial city dating back to 1733. This tour will include visits to four private homes, mini bus rental, tour guide to tour between homes and refreshments served in one home.

Saturday, May 5, 2007

Overview Tour of Historic District, entrance to Owens-Thomas House

10:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Cost is \$47 per person based on minimum of 30; maximum TBD

Includes lunch at Johnny Harris Restaurant

Let Savannah, the "Hostess City," open up and reveal surprises and long-kept secrets. Learn what makes her so fascinating that people return again and again, always to gain new insights into her charm and mystique. Within this 2.2 square mile area, beautiful streets and squares have a tale to tell at every corner ... over 270 years of history are spoken eloquently in exquisite ironwork and ancient cobblestones, in splendid mansions and picturesque cottages. You will be introduced to America's finest living collection of eighteenth and nineteenth century buildings, located in Savannah's National Historic Landmark District. We will guide you through the squares of Savannah and The Owens-Thomas House.

William Jay, a young architect from Bath between 1817 and 1819, designed **The Owens-Thomas House**. Historians regard this house museum to be the finest example of Regency architecture in America. It contains many architectural innovations as well as original and fine period furnishings. The interior of the house is an outstanding interpretation of the Regency Style: the columned foyer; the unique bridge spanning the stairwell at the second story level; the filtered lighting of the dining room; and the trompe l'oeil effect of the salon are highlights.

Dolphin & Barrier Island Cruise

12:30 p.m.-3:30 p.m.

Cost is \$47 per person based on minimum of 30; maximum of 40

(Bus transportation to and from marina and box lunch is included)

Children under 12: \$25

Learn about the twelve unique barrier islands that protect the Georgia Coast against the force of the Atlantic Ocean. As you near the mouth of the Savannah River and Atlantic Ocean, enjoy the excitement of watching the Atlantic Bottlenose dolphins play around historic Tybee Beach where you will see the Tybee Lighthouse and Cockspur Island Lighthouse. This cruise is an experience you'll never forget!!

Golf Outing at the beautiful Club at Savannah Harbor

The Club is home for The PGA Tour's Champion Tour Liberty Mutual Legends of Golf Tournament and offers an 18-hole championship course designed by renowned architect Robert Cupp in conjunction with the legendary "Slammin' Sam" Snead. Recently named one of the "Top 60 Golf Resorts in the United States," by Conde Nast Traveler Magazine and awarded a "Four Star Best Places to Play" by Golf Digest, The Club at Savannah Harbor offers unparalleled views of historic downtown Savannah while it gently winds its way through tidal wetlands.

You can register for the conference online at www.rotarydistrict6920.net. Hotel accommodations are not included in the online registration and must be made separately.

District Simplified Grants Support Communities

For the past four years, Rotary District 6920 has been involved with the Foundation's District Simplified Grant (DSG) program. District Simplified Grants are a tool for Rotary districts to support short-term, humanitarian projects that benefit the community. The use of funds from The Rotary Foundation must promote active and personal participation of all Rotarians involved in the implementation of the grant. DSG funds must assist in the development of stronger Rotary networks as Rotarians implement projects that have been initiated by a Rotary Club in a project location.

Projects which receive TRF support should satisfy the real humanitarian needs of the receiving community. Districts can request up to 20 percent of District Designated Funds (DDF) for a grant to support multiple projects locally or internationally. Only districts may

apply for a DSG and they must ensure all expenditures are eligible according to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) policies and guidelines.

Interested clubs are required to submit a DSG application form in the fall. The application is reviewed by District 6920's DSG committee. This year, our district received \$22,169 for distribution to the clubs that applied. There were fourteen of our district's clubs that received grant funds. In past years, we've had as many as 18 clubs receive these funds.

Clubs that received the DSG funds this year have identified worthy projects within their communities that exemplify the meaning of Rotary, "Service Above Self." From purchasing groceries for needy families to distributing books to elementary age children, Rotarians throughout our district are working hard to make a difference in the lives of those

less fortunate. Clubs have until May 1, 2007 to complete their club project and submit their final report forms to the DSG chair.

If your club did not apply for District Simplified Grant funds this Rotary year, please seriously consider submitting an application this fall in our next Rotary year. You can use DSG funds to match club funds or plan a fundraiser in advance to use in combination with the DSG funds. Each club president and secretary will receive an announcement and an application via email.

To learn more about what District 6920 is doing with District Simplified Grant funds, use this link from our district website: http://rotarydistrict6920.net/Rotary_Foundation/Matching_Grants.htm You'll find a wealth of information there. And if you've got any questions, please email Jean Iaderosa at rotary6920@comcast.net or call her at 912-629-3913.

Macon Club Works with Liberian Institute to Provide Supplies

The Macon Rotary Club's literacy projects were omitted from the listing of district-wide literacy projects in last month's newsletter. We apologize for the omission.

The Macon Rotary Club has four literacy projects going so far this year. During Literacy Month in July, they collected school supplies to send to Rick's Institute in Liberia, which is the only school providing free education to Liberia's children after a 14 year civil war which devastated the campus. The Macon Club worked with Mercer University and area churches to send a shipping container

full of school supplies, school books and equipment to Rick's Institute. The headmaster of Rick's is a Mercer University graduate.

The country of Liberia was founded with support by many people from the United States after the U.S. Civil War. Over 1500 residents of Macon helped found Liberia. Locally, the Macon Club has the "Rotary Reader's Project" where members of the

Club visit intercity schools to read to children. The Club also has two high school students from the various local high schools attend Club meetings, where the students and their achievements are recognized. Last, the Macon Club is also a sponsor of the Georgia Literary Festival occurring in Macon this year on November 4, 2006. (The Club acknowledges that is supporting "advanced literacy").

In 1985, Rotary announced the PolioPlus program to immunize all the children of the world against polio. Nine years later, the Western Hemisphere was declared polio free. Just a few years later, in 2002, Europe was declared polio-free, with more than \$118 million raised the following year, 2003, to support the final stages of polio eradication.



Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

Object of Rotary

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and, in particular, to encourage and foster:

FIRST. The development of acquaintance as an opportunity for service;

SECOND. High ethical standards in business and professions, the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations, and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society;

THIRD. The application of the ideal of service in each Rotarian's personal, business, and community life;

FOURTH. The advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace through a world fellowship of business and professional persons united in the ideal of service.