



# ROTARY DISTRICT 6920

**William J. (Bill) Blankenship, District Governor**  
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**Issue No. 11 - District Conference Highlights**

## Today's Schedule of Events

- 7:30 a.m. - Paul Harris Fellow Breakfast - Savannah Rooms A/B
- 9 a.m. - Plenary Session I - Savannah Room C
- 10:05 a.m. - Plenary Session II - Savannah Room C
- 11:25 a.m. - Adjourn for afternoon activities
- 5:50 p.m. - Reception - Foyer
- 6:40 p.m. - Banquet - Savannah Rooms A/B

\*Breaks are scheduled at 8:45 a.m. and 9:50 a.m.\*

\*\*The House of Friendship will be open from 6:45-7:25 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-12:55 p.m.; 3-5:45 p.m. and 9:45 p.m.\*\*

## Rep. Kingston Emphasizes Key Issues at Kickoff Luncheon

The war in Iraq, making health care more accessible and alternate fuel programs were issues that U.S. Representative Jack Kingston says are the important issues facing Americans today.

"We are so obsessed with Trump vs. Rosie, Anna Nicole - whose baby is it? -, and Imus," said Rep. Kingston, who has represented Georgia's 1st district for 14 years. "We are making these things the big debate. I think the big debate is Iraq: do we have an interest in it or not?"

Rep. Kingston, who represents 25 Georgia counties, said it must be determined what America is doing in Iraq and what it is going to do.

"These are the things that are worth debating," he said. "It is important when America makes a commitment, that we not establish a reputation of leaving when the going gets tough."

Citing insurgencies as headline grabbers, Rep. Kingston insisted that

America has yet to lose a battle in Iraq.

"Talk to the soldiers or better yet, talk to their spouses who are raising the children alone," he said. "That is definitely inspirational."

Other issues that need to be given the utmost attention by Congress include energy and fuel efficiency, as well as making health care more accessible.

Rep. Kingston, who is a past member of the Savannah South Rotary Club, applauded Rotary's work in Polio eradication.

"Rotary should be very proud of what it has done with Polio, but I think you should also look at some other things," he challenged. "There are 40 million people in this world who have

Aids and HIV."

As he concluded his remarks, Rep. Kingston said the state is a large one

that has great things to be excited about. With the seven-teenth largest economy in the world, Georgia



also boasts the addition of 245 new companies last year alone.

"Eighty million people fly through Atlanta each year," he said. "It is expected that number will rise to 120 million in the next five years. It is the biggest airport in the world."

"I think it's a really exciting time to live in Georgia," said Rep. Kingston. "This is the land of opportunity."

# Reach Out to Give a Helping Hand

Rotary extension was a message echoed throughout Friday night's banquet. RI President Bill Boyd's representative, Rudolph Horndler, spoke about Rotary extension transcending the suppression in Europe to become stronger than ever before, while Georgia Rotary Student Program Alumna Elena Zinchenko spoke of how GRSP broke cultural barriers for students studying in America.

"GRSP has never been more important," said Elena, a GRSP student in the late 1990s. "I do think you literally make us better. Ralph Waldo Emerson said, 'Intelligence without good character means nothing' and I fully subscribe to that because I got good character education in Russia and then through GRSP. It's something that I'll never tire of."

Reaching out, extending into areas where Rotary is not known is what we are called to do.

"RI President Bill Boyd has said that Rotary if working properly it will be attractive enough to retain members and attain new ones," said Rolf.

Although the number of Rotarians has surpassed the million mark, Rolf said the need to grow still exists.

"Why do we need to grow?," he asked. "To this there is an easy answer: More hands are needed to do Rotary work," he said.



*Elena Zinchenko speaks about GRSP*

## Sympathy Offered

It is with deep sorrow that we learn of the passing of two longtime Dublin Rotarians. Jeff Davis and Jim Hilburn were killed yesterday morning in a small plane crash. The pair, along with James Rodney Connell, were on their way to Asheville, N.C., when the plane disappeared from radar and contact with the pilot was lost.

Jeff served as president of the Dublin Rotary Club from 1989-1990, while Jim was club president from 1976-1977.

We offer our heartfelt condolences to the families of those killed in this crash.

## Awards Presented

DG Bill Blankenship presented several awards Friday night, including the Presidential Citation and Governor's Award of Excellence.

Clubs receiving the Presidential Citation were Ashburn, Augusta, Augusta West, Centerville, Camden, Douglas, Downtown Macon, Downtown Statesboro, Dublin, Eastman, Glennville, Jones County, Pooler, Macon, Metter, Milledgeville, Savannah Sunrise, Savannah West, Skidaway, Statesboro, Sylvania, Warner Robbins, Waycross and Wrightsville.

Three clubs were awarded the Governor's Award of Excellence for achieving a five-percent or five member net increase, as well as 100% EREY giving. They were Glennville, Milledgeville and Skidaway.

## Congratulations!

We offer our congratulations to Group Study Exchange team member Jeong-Ki Kang on the birth of his daughter, born yesterday morning.

## Work of Rotary is Magical

John Osterlund believes in the magic of Rotary. As general manager of The Rotary Foundation, John has seen firsthand what Rotarians around the world can do.

"I definitely believe in the magic of Rotary because I've seen it," he said.

"Since 1979, Rotary has been dedicated to eradicating Polio. We have 1.2 million Rotarians who have contributed \$600 million to eradicate Polio. Over two billion children have been immunized and

hundreds of thousands of volunteers have participated in immunization days."

During a November 2006 trip to Delhi, India, where he participated in an immunization day, John said he saw exactly how Rotarians impact other parts of the world with their money and their work.

"I was privileged to put those precious pink

drops into the mouths of children living in Delhi," he said. "And I was thinking about the magic of Rotary."



*John Osterlund talks about the magic of Rotary*