



Rotary District 6920

Richard E. Hyer Jr., District Governor 2007-08

rhyer@cox.net

www.rotarydistrict6920.net

www.rotary.org

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THE GOVERNOR'S FORUM

Dear Rotarian Friends,

The beginning of the holidays signals the happiest time of the year. I hope you had a wonderful Thanksgiving with family and friends and that these few weeks before Christmas will be filled with joy for you and your family. Your contributions to Rotary service have provided joyful occasions for many people around the world. Thanks for your support of Rotary in your communities and throughout the nations of the world.

Assistant Governor training will be in Savannah in February at the Planter's Inn. DGE Kenan Kern will be in touch concerning registration and the scheduled activities. Register now to be a part of the District 6920 leadership for 2008-2009.

Presidents Elect Training Seminar – Peachtree City, Georgia. Those of you who will serve as club presidents during 2008-2009 should register immediately for the March 8-9 activities. If you are a President Elect or President Nominee, please register for PETS online at the district website. Over 400 Rotarian leaders will gather at the Wyndham Conference Center in Peachtree City for Rotary education and fellowship. DGE Kenan Kern will lead the

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Paul Harris Fellows Honored by St. Simons Rotary Club

Rotary District Governor Dick Hyer of Macon attended a recent meeting of the St. Simons Rotary Club to assist in presenting Paul Harris Fellow designations to 14 club members. Hyer called The Rotary Foundation, the "heartbeat of Rotary International."

Noting that foundation funds have helped eradicate polio from 95% of the world, he urged all club members to become at least sustaining members of the foundation.

Twelve Rotarians were recognized by Wally

Forsythe as new Paul Harris Fellows. They are Bob French, Erik Kaufmann, Marion Moore, Joe Mruk, Mike Muldowney, Roger Peterson, Willard Snyder, Maria Vogt and Martin Worthy. District Governor Hyer, assisted by club members Jim Bruce and Stan Humphries received certificates, lapel pins and medallions.

Next, three generations of the Sanders family, Paul Sanders Jr., Paul Sanders III and Paul Sanders IV were recognized as Paul Harris Fellows. "We believe it may be unique, not only for our club but for Rotary International, to have three generations of one family so recognized," Forsythe said.

To conclude the program, club



Paul Sanders Jr., Paul Sanders IV and Paul Sanders III are all Paul Harris Fellows.

president Jim Bruce and member Leon Jorgensen were also recognized as Multiple Paul Harris Fellows. Governor Hyer made the presentations assisted by member, Stan Humphries. Governor Hyer expressed his appreciation for this high dedication to The Rotary Foundation through being a Paul Harris Fellow.

DISTRICT 6920 NEWS

METS Project Close to Members' Heart

This article appeared in The Valdosta Daily Times on Nov. 5, 2007

About \$250,000 worth of used medical equipment was transported to Savannah this past week to be shipped to a small hospital in Chile.

The project was made possible through the generosity of medical facilities, businesses and individuals. Valdosta Technical College Commercial Truck Driving Program transported the equipment for free,

and through the collaborative efforts of the Valdosta Rotary Club and its counterpart in Pitrufquen, Chile.

The project is very close to the heart of Joe Cordova of Valdosta, a member of the Rotary initiative METS (Medical Equipment Transport Service). His wife, Pat, is a native of Pitrufquen who came to the U.S. as a Rotary Foundation Ambassadorial Scholar for her 1968-69 school year at the University of Georgia.

"They have a little bitty hospital poorly equipped (in Pitrufquen), but they have excellent medical students," Cordova said. "One of them was married to the president of the Rotary Club in Pitrufquen. She asked the Rotary Club to help get surgery equipment. The Rotary Club then asked Pat to help find them some."

Cordova, who was a member of the hospital authority, approached James McGahee, CEO of South Georgia Medical Center, with the request.

"You're in the right place at the right time," McGahee replied.

SGMC was changing out its laproscopic surgery equipment, and the hospital storage facilities were packed full not only with surgery equipment, but "everything else under the sun," Cordova said.

John Fretti, a Rotarian who's in the shipping business, agreed to ship it, and another Rotarian Ray Devery and Cordova worked to get a grant for the money to ship the equipment.

That was in 2001.

This year was the third time medical equipment has been sent to the hospital in Chile. The project has been so successful that the little hospital is now fully equipped with last week's shipment. Rotarians will now send used medical equipment to METS in Savannah where it will be shipped anywhere in the world it is needed, such as to Ghana, Africa, and Guatemala in Central America where previous loads have gone.

The second load sent from Valdosta was from the old Smith Hospital in Hahira when the new Smith Northview was built here. A couple of doctors came from Chile to

look through the medical equipment available to determine what they needed back home in Pitrufquen.

"In addition, Fellowship Home gives us wheelchairs and walkers from patients who have passed away," Cordova said. "Individuals give us stuff occasionally."

"Now it's gotten to the point where people know we are doing this and call us. SGMC called and said, 'We're replacing beds; do you want the old ones?'"

The effort mushroomed when the Rotarians put out the word of another shipment.

"Fellowship Home supplied us with potties," Cordova said. "Home Instead Senior Care owned by Rotarian Jack Hartley contributed and called around and asked others to contribute. Barnes Home Care gave us a bed, and Ameri-Med Pharmacy in Hahira contributed."

But it's not only the folks at home who help.

"A Rotary Club in Valpariaso, Chile, gets it through customs duty free," Cordova said. "Another Rotarian in the Pitrufquen Club hauls it 500 miles to the club, and they sort and distribute it. If the little hospital can't use it, it goes to a larger hospital with the understanding the Pitrufquen patients get its use free."

Cordova said if the 40-foot container of medical equipment is not full from the Valdosta Rotarians' acquisitions, Rotary's METS will fill it up so Chile can receive a full container of equipment.

The third shipment makes a total of \$750,000 in medical equipment to the little hospital in South America.

And the people in Chile are very grateful.

"The last time we shipped — two years ago — they had a dedication ceremony at the hospital attended by the Rotary district governor, the governor of the province, the regional head of Chilean health services, their congressman, mayor and other dignitaries," Cordova said. "They put a

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Your Service Means Joyful Times for Others

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activities for District 6920 and prepare each of you for a successful administration. Please be sure to report the names of Presidents-Elect to AG Paula Goodnow.

Please report the name and contact information for your President Elect to AG Paula Goodnow as soon as possible.

We will have finished visiting almost 60 clubs when you read this newsletter. It feels as though the holidays began last July when we made our first official visits to the Camden County area. Everyone has treated us with warm hospitality and Marsha and I are grateful for each of you who have made our visits a success. It is difficult not to repeat oneself when marveling at the many service activities that occur in District 6920. The theme "Rotary Shares" describes the everyday and holiday spirit throughout our district. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Yours for Better Rotary Service,
Richard E. Hyer, Jr.
District Governor

DISTRICT 6920 NEWS

Tift County Club Hosts Breakfast with Santa



The Tift County Rotary Club hosted its annual Breakfast with Santa event Dec. 1 as part of the town's Hometown Holiday celebration.

Held near a low-income public housing area in Tifton, the fundraiser benefits several activities by the club and serves as a club service project in which children are given the opportunity to "purchase" gifts for their parents at low prices.

The event is attended by 400-500 people each year, with Rotarians cooking, selling tickets, setting up, cleaning up and photographing the children with Santa. Most supplies for the event are donated.

PDG Leon Benefield does his best Santa impersonation.

Dublin Rotary Club Hosting Event to Raise Money for Well

The Rotary Club of Dublin is hosting a fundraiser to raise money that will be used to drill a water well to support an Angola, Africa, orphanage. To raise money for the well, the club is sponsoring "Broadway Spectacular" starring Elizabeth Anne Claxton and Friends. The Dec. 22 event will be held at Theatre Dublin at 7:30 p.m. Donation is just \$20.

"Elizabeth is a world-class singer who has studied in Europe for 13 years and now performs on Broadway in New York," said Jep Craig, president of The Rotary Club of Dublin. "This would be a great family outing while friends and family are visiting during Christmas."

The Rotary Club of Dublin hopes to raise \$25,000 this year to drill a water well for the Mama Muxima Orphanage. The well will be drilled on property owned by the Catholic Church to protect the integrity of the well and its future, said Jep.

"The well will support 85 full-time orphans and the small village that has been ravaged by civil war in that area," he said. "Today, the only water source available is through the government and a water truck comes around every four days to see if they can afford the potable water."

For more information about "Broadway Spectacular" or to purchase tickets, email Jep at jcraig@heartofgatech.edu or call him at home 478-275-4122.

Warner Robins Club Adds New Paul Harris Fellows

The Rotary Club of Warner Robins has added eight new Paul Harris Fellows and one Paul Harris Fellow +5.

According to Bill Pitts, president of the club, the following individuals have been named Paul Harris Fellows: Tony Alford, John Christy, Dale Cordrey, Jay Flesher, Roy Jardin, David Logan, Robert A. Stewart and Stephen Williams. Bob Sharp has been named a Paul Harris Fellow +5.

Congratulations to all of these Warner Robins Rotarians!

Happy Holidays

**Visit www.rotarydistrict6920.net
for more news and information**

Important Dates 2008

January 4-5: College of Governors
McRae
February 8-9: Assistant Governor Training
Savannah
March 8-9: Presidents Elect Training Seminar
Peachtree City
April 18-20: District Conference
Macon
June 5-8: Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference
Douglas
June 7: District Assembly
Dublin
June 15-18, 2008: Rotary International Conference
Los Angeles, CA

Governor's Club Visit Schedule

2008

Tuesday, Jan. 8: Hinesville, 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 9: Glennville, noon
Thursday, Jan. 10: Downtown Statesboro, 7:15 a.m.
Tuesday, Jan. 15: Savannah South, 12:30 p.m.
Wednesday, Jan. 16: Pooler, 7:30 a.m.

DISTRICT 6920 NEWS

Help Abounds From All Around

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plaque on the hospital saying the hospital is equipped through the cooperative effort of the Rotary Club of Valdosta and the Rotary Club of Pitrufulquen, Chile.

“One of the common rooms where people congregate is a plaque designating it as the Valdosta Room. They go all out of their way to express their gratitude. I walk away from that hospital crying.”

In a letter Hospital Director Jaime Moreno sent to the Rotary Club of Valdosta, he wrote, “We want to leave a permanent testimony of the generosity of Valdosta with our hospital by placing a plaque to remember this project ...

“I want to express sincere and heartfelt appreciation for the welcome the Valdosta Rotary Club extended to me when we visited your beautiful city of Valdosta and for your generosity and efforts in completing this project. We will never forget the warm hospitality you extended to us in each of the activities we were part of. All of this leaves me eternally grateful.”

DISTRICT 6920 GOALS 2007-08

I. PROJECTS

- *Place 120 disabled students in competitive employment district-wide
- *Strengthen and continue Medical Equipment Transport Service (METS) Project
- *Sponsor an International Water Project
- *Promote eradication of hunger in the district
- *Promote literacy projects in the district

II. FOUNDATION

- *Reach a goal of \$400,000 - Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY)
- *Obtain 20 Benefactors; 5 Bequest Society Members

III. MEMBERSHIP

- *Continue the Rotary Rookie of the Year Award
- *Grow the District Membership by 1%
- *Organize 1 new Rotary club
- *Organize 1 new Rotaract club
- *Organize 1 new Interact club
- *Create a District-wide Membership Seminar for 100 club leaders

IV. LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

- *Obtain attendance of 200 at Annual District Seminar
- *Obtain attendance of 150 at District Assembly
- *Obtain attendance of 400 at District Conference
- *Participation by 20 clubs in Group Study Exchange (GSE)
- *Provide a seminar for club secretaries and treasurers

Support RI's Rose Bowl Float

The Rose Bowl parade is just around the corner - Jan. 1, 2008 - and Rotary International will once again sponsor a float. As in past years, we are asking our clubs and the district to support this effort by making a contribution to the Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee. It is suggested that clubs give an average of \$3 per member. Some clubs make the contribution, some ask members to contribute and others have contributed by a combination of both club and members. In any event, let's try to make our District 100% this year.

The theme of the parade is “Passport To The World's Celebrations.” The theme of our Rotary International float is “Sharing World Literacy Day.”

To make a contribution to the RI float, send your club's donations to P.O. Box 92502, Pasadena, CA 91109-2502. Checks should be made payable to Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee.