



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,

This past weekend approximately 20 District 6920 leaders met in Savannah for a unique educational opportunity. District Governor Elect Kenan Kern, the Directors, and the Assistant Governors spent Friday afternoon and Saturday in planning for Rotary Year 2008-2009. Eight of the sixteen Assistant Governors will be new to that position. The group was joined by Rotary International Director Barry Rassin of Nassau who represents Zones 33 and 34 and Brian King from The Rotary Foundation at RI in Evanston, Illinois. The group toured the Medical Equipment Transport Service (METS) facility, became more familiar with the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) and DGE Kenan shared the goals

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A Tribute to Bill Blankenship

Immediate Past District Governor Bill Blankenship of the Rotary Club of Camden County died several weeks ago in St. Mary's. Bill

completed his term as DG just last July. He will be remembered for his dedication to Rotary service and his active role on many of the District 6920 committees. During last year, Bill raised funds for the Georgia Rotary Student

Program and The Rotary Foundation with an automobile raffle and auction at the District Conference.

Bill worked tirelessly for the Medical Equipment Transfer Service and was a strong supporter of GRSP and scholarship programs for young adults. Bill was actively involved in a fence construction business with his son at the time of his death. Bill also had a daughter living in Camden County and another daughter in Mississippi.



Just the weekend prior to Bill's death, he served on the team selection committee for the Group Study Exchange to Southern

France. That same evening Bill enjoyed dinner at the Little Ocmulgee State Park in McRae with District Governor Dick Hyer, District Governor Elect Kenan Kern, GSE Coordinator Gordon Matthews, GSE Team Leader Dr. John Ricks and District Diversified Grants Chair Jean Iaderosa. He also enjoyed lunch together that same day with a large group of PDGs when Lloyd Horadan was

selected as Governor for 2010-2011. Bill will be missed by his Rotary friends throughout the district and by many Rotary acquaintances throughout the world. A Recognition of Bill's Life Ceremony was held at Our Lady of the Sea Catholic Church in St. Mary's. Bill joins many good Rotarians in heaven for his efforts to help others and his attitude of "Service Above Self".

Contributions can be made to GRSP in honor of Bill Blankenship.

Conference Registration Now Open

On-line registration to the April 18-20 District Conference in Macon is now open! For those who have never attended a Rotary District 6920 Conference, this is an event you won't want to miss. To register, go on-line at www.rotarydistrict6920.net and click on the "District Conference" link to access the on-line registration and all conference-related information.

This year's conference chairs are PDG Albert and Bebe Reichert Jr., with conference activities being held at the Macon Ramada Plaza. The hotel is holding a block of rooms for District 6920 Rotarians until 3 p.m. on March 28 at a cost of \$89 per night, plus taxes.

Additionally, Rotarians from the

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Happy
Valentine's
Day

DISTRICT 6920 NEWS

Cochran



Cochran Rotarian John Giddens presents recently-elected Macon Mayor Robert Reichert with a gift of appreciation at the Jan. 15 meeting of The Cochran Rotary Club. Reichert was the guest speaker that day and gave a very interesting talk about politics and the history of the city of Macon. (Photo courtesy of Brandy Perry, editor, *The Cochran Journal*)

Centerville



Rotarians from The Rotary Club of Centerville are proud to have once again fill a M.E.T.S. truck full of supplies needed around the world.

"We are grateful that our very own Houston Medical Center continues to be a daily supporter/donor to M.E.T.S.," said Ron Street. "Our Past President, Jack Steed, is diligently collecting bags of medical supplies every week from the hospital and Dr. Toby Hill has been generously giving us space in his storage area. As you can see, M.E.T.S. had to send 'the big truck' for our donations again! We filled it up!"

Centerville Rotarian Frank Powell serves as CFO of Houston Medical Center and has been instrumental in obtaining

donations.

Pictured above are Steve Rately, medical equipment sales representative; Alan Usher, M.E.T.S. driver; TJ Unthank, purchasing agent for Street Home Medical, and Ron Street.

"We had a blast 'cause we know we are helping a whole lot of people," said Street.

THE GOVERNOR'S FORUM

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for the RI President DK Lee Administration.

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) team which is composed of five candidates and Dr. John Ricks, GSE Team Leader, gathered at the METS facility for a Saturday workshop. These individuals are preparing to spend one month with Rotarians in the South of France. The group was joined by former team leaders Jean Iaderosa and John Neely who shared their experiences.

Registration for the District Conference in Macon April 18-20 is now available on the district website.

Please register and make your hotel reservations for what promises to be a grand Rotary celebration. Special guests will be the RI President's representative from Toronto, Canada, the parents of a GRSP alumnus who serve as district leaders in Denmark, and several Peace Scholars. These individuals will address the entire conference. The weekend will kick off with Friday lunch and an address by the new Mayor of Macon. There will be a cookout and party at the Walnut Creek Hunting Preserve on Friday night. Saturday night is reserved for the banquet, speech

contest, special musical entertainment and a presentation by the GRSP students. Please plan to attend this Rotary celebration.

Our get well wishes go out to Assistant Governor Don Gay of the Millen Rotary Club who is currently undergoing cancer treatment. Don has served as an Assistant Governor and his wife Laanga is an Assistant Governor and a former Ambassadorial Scholar. We wish Don a speedy recovery.

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

DISTRICT 6920 NEWS

Milledgeville



The Rotary Club of Milledgeville was responsible for the delivery of over 100 food baskets to local families that needed a helping hand during the holiday season. The baskets were assembled by the club's members on Dec. 22, as pictured. The club wishes to thank Bobby Murphey Jr., for heading up this project and to their local Wal-Mart and Piggly Wiggly stores for supporting the project.

Eastman

The Rotary Club of Eastman was pleased to have Carla Jessup, Director of Heart of Georgia RESA Even Start, present the program at its Jan. 18 meeting. Even Start is a program that provides funds to help break the cycle of poverty and illiteracy by improving the educational opportunities of low-income families. Carla discussed the Reading is Fundamental (RIF) program, which places special emphasis on early childhood literacy. As Eastman Rotary Club and the Saul J. Ruben and James W. Spradley Rotary Foundation has made a commitment to literacy in Dodge County, the club and the Foundation has partnered with the RIF program to provide the secured local funds required to obtain federal grants for two years. Combined with the federal grant, the club's contribution of \$1,881 per year brings close to \$8,000 of funds per year to Dodge County to be used to fight illiteracy. These funds have bought three books per year for each K-5 student in the county at a cost of \$1.60 to \$2 per book.



The Eastman Rotary Club holds an Annual Rotary Auction each year as a fund-raiser to support our local projects such as the RIF program and many other local projects. This year's auction is scheduled for Friday, March 28, at the Boy's and Girl's Club. Mrs. Ann Dobbs and Ms. Debra Seay are in charge of this year's event.

"All proceeds have been used in the past and will be used in the future to fund local projects. The Rotary motto for 2008 is Rotary Shares. The Eastman Rotary Club is very proud and pleased to

continue to make these and many other contributions to our community," said Jim Kimmons, president of The Rotary Club of Eastman..

Above, Freddie Dwozan, chairman of the Saul J. Ruben and James W. Spradley Rotary Foundation, presents a check for \$1,881 to Carla Jessup and Jennifer Greer, assistant to Carla Jessup, and Mr. Kimmons.

Important Dates 2008

- 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

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

DISTRICT 6920 NEWS

Conference Registration Open *-continued from Page 1*

Downtown Macon Rotary Club are providing complimentary lodging in their homes for up to 10 Rotarians, and their spouses, who have been in Rotary less than two years and have not been to a District Conference. Please indicate your interest on the registration form.

A break from tradition is scheduled for Friday night, when conference attendees will be bused to the Walnut Creek Shooting Preserve, owned by a local Rotarian, for a cookout.

Numerous activities have been planned for the Saturday afternoon break, so bring the family and enjoy fellowship with your fellow Rotarians!

For more tourist attractions in Macon, go to www.visitmacon.org and begin planning your stay now!

District Leadership

Twenty one members of District 6920's Leadership Team met at the Planters Inn in Savannah, Georgia, for the annual Leadership Training Seminar. The leadership staff of 16 Assistant Governors and 3 District Directors met Friday and Saturday, February 8 & 9, 2008 in preparation for the upcoming Peach State PETS as well as formulating plans for the 2008 - 2009 Rotary year. Joining this group were Rotary International Director Barry Rassin, from Nassau, Bahamas and Brian King, Sr. Annual Giving Officer from The Rotary Foundation. Governor Dick Hyer, District Governor Elect Kenan Kern, and District Governor Nominee Clyde Taylor were also part of this leadership group. District Trainer, PDG Jim Puryear served as one of the presenters.



Pictured are (seated, l-r) AG Pat Storino, AG Alfie Cofield, AG Tommy Walker, DGE Kenan Kern, DD Jim Drake, AG Charles Green, (standing, l-r) DD Bill Booth, DD Ron May, AG Tommy Jefferson, AG Bruce Peyton, PDG Jim Puryear, AG Paula Goodnow, AG Ron Maulden, AG Phil Thacker, DGN Clyde Taylor, AG Ben Harvill, RID Barry Rassin, AG Doug Lambert, DG Dick Hyer, AG Jeff Kublin, and AG Joan Puryear.