



Rotary District 6920

SERVICE Above Self

Dallas Simon, District Governor

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The Year of *Service Above Self*

What an honor to be asked to serve this Rotary District for the first year of the next century of Rotary service.

Pat and I began our travels in early July, and we continue at a fast pace. The clubs we have met with all seem to be enthusiastic and eager to serve. We have also seen many centennial projects throughout the district that have been completed and some that are a work in progress and will be for some years to come.



Dallas Simon

The theme for the year *Service Above Self* could not be more applicable. President Carl-Wilhelm Stenhammar explained that for the first 95 years of service this motto carried the group through the first century of service. What better way to begin the next century of service than to continue with this mission? A great message for the next century of service.

The other areas of emphasis this year are literacy, water and hunger. I am asking all clubs to be a part of these endeavors. In our travels we have already received over 3,500 children's books that will be distributed through out-reach programs at the Medical College of Georgia. The books will go to at-risk children throughout the state. I am also asking clubs to work with a literacy project in their community or a third world country. We are asked to work with water projects in our community or world. The District will provide



water in several third world countries this year. If you would like to be a part of this effort, contact grants chair Bob Ashley at boba1946@aol.com

I am also asking that all clubs work with or donate food to a food bank in their community and to help the people in need in their community.

One other request this year is to partner with other service organizations. President Carl feels that with the help of others, we

can complete larger and more complex projects.

I know many have heard this message when I visited your clubs, but it's a message that needs to be heard over and over again.

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Camden County Rotary the Leader in the District

Hal Weathers, president of the Camden County Rotary, has announced that his club has already achieved their EREY goal for the year. The check has been sent to the Foundation. Camden County is the first club in the district to meet the goal for the year, truly a great accomplishment.

This is a great example of *Service Above Self*. We all need to be mindful that the Foundation is the heart and soul of Rotary. Without the Foundation we all would be just another social club. Thanks President Weathers for being the first.

Rotary Foundation Seminar Slated

Has your club become a meet and eat club? Is your club the best kept secret in the community? Is there a growing lack of understanding in your club concerning what the Rotary Foundation is or what it does? Does your leadership know how to obtain grant support for club projects? Get the answers to these questions and many more in Vidalia on August 20.

You will hear professional information to help your club build your Rotary Foundation contributions, grow your membership, and establish an effective Public Relations program. Make your year of Rotary leadership a memorable year for your club and your community.

The District 6920 Rotary Foundation Seminar is a must for all district officers, club board members, committee chairs as well as all newer club members!

Featured Speaker: William M. "Bill" Mulkey is PDG of District 6900; served as District 6900 Education and Training Chair from 1999 – 2002; District 6900 RI Foundation Chair 1999-2002; Rotary International Annual Programs Fund Strategic Advisor 2003 – 2006; RI FAR G Assistant General Coordinator 2005 – 2006.

Program Agenda

- 8:30 Registration
- 9:30 Welcome
- 9:35 Call to Order
- 9:45 Introduction of William "Bill" Mulkey
- 9:50 Rotary Foundation
- 11:00 Break
- 11:20 Creative Strategies for Achieving EREY
- 11:40 Funding Flow for Rotary Foundation and Strategies for Successful Grants
- 12:20 Catered Lunch
- 1:00 Membership Development
- 1:30 Public Relations
- 2:00 Group Study Exchange
- 2:15 Wrap Up

District Literacy Partnership Announced

We have exciting news! DG Dallas has announced the formation of a partnership between our District and The Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy. Our District hopes to be joined by the other two Georgia Districts to carry this program across Georgia. It's a hallmark moment for Rotary, The Ferst Foundation and Literacy in Georgia.

Here's the bottom line – Every Rotary Club EVERYWHERE has been asked to take on a literacy project of some sort – and we're going to coordinate our clubs across the District and across Georgia!

The project is called The Imagination Library – created by Dolly Parton as a way to get books into the hands of children as early as possible. The program was brought to Georgia by Robin Ferst Howser through the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy. It works like this: local committees are formed and work to register as many children under age 5 as they can find – through hospitals and doctors, day care centers, and at grocery stores – anywhere you find young children. Then every month until age 5 the child receives a hard-bound age-appropriate book in the mail (like “The Little Engine That Could”) – to be their very own – up to 60 books in all! The idea is to encourage mom, dad or a friend to READ to that child.

This project isn't hard to carry out – it's a matter of forming a literacy committee – the committee can be from your club, or a joint committee with other clubs in your county or community, and you can include non-Rotarians on the committee (a great way to find future Rotarians). The committee's job is to find and register kids, provide local news to include in the newsletter written by the Foundation and to find local financial support. The Ferst Foundation sends out the books – writes and sends the newsletter and parent tips. Your job is the easy part! The Ferst Foundation has all the “how to” info you'll need – there are people to come and explain everything to your club and help you set up - you can get this up and running in a few weeks – it isn't very expensive - AND we've even got some potential funding sources if you live in an area where funds are limited. Nervous about what you're getting into? Just create the committee and register 10 kids this year, or 5 (we don't care). Just see how easy it is.

What's the catch? There isn't one! This is an easy program for childhood literacy – already succeeding in many counties around Georgia. The Ferst Foundation has significant financial support from corporations and foundations – and with Rotary's involvement,

the doors fly open to additional funding sources. Rotary is needed because it is projected to take The Ferst Foundation five more years to physically set up the program in every one of Georgia's 159 counties, going, as they are now, one county/community at a time. So, they need a way to reach and teach – to set up committees across Georgia – NOW – not three years from now. They need people who understand and are able to organize. They need people who care about literacy.

They need Rotarians! This is a marriage made in heaven!

Decide your club will explore this project – or commit to make it happen. Call or e-mail one of the people below to ask questions and get answers. Someone will happily come to your club, if you like, to explain everything in detail.

For an overview, go to www.ferstfoundation.org. We can also send you a power point presentation.

That's the overview, now here's more. Approximately 61% of low-income families do not have a single piece of reading material suitable for a child in their home. In Georgia, a third of our children come to school unprepared to learn – and playing “catch up” is very difficult for the child -and their teacher. Seventy-five percent of students who are poor readers in the third grade will remain poor readers in high school. We know where Georgia ranks on the SATs, and one in four adults in Georgia operates at a low literacy level. Low literate workers cost Georgia businesses \$7 billion a year.

Educators have identified preschool reading and parent involvement as among the most important steps toward a child's success in school, and ever-growing research strongly supports that. Children develop much of their capacity to learn in the first three years of life, when their brains grow to 90% of their eventual adult weight. Just as children develop language skills long before being able to speak, they also develop literacy skills long before being able to read. They learn letter names and shapes. They associate sounds with letters. They hear good grammar and a wider vocabulary. They develop familiarity with books. They associate reading with love, and fun, and closeness of a caring adult. The key is to start at birth. To immerse a child in a literacy environment can be a better predictor of literacy and academic achievement than family income. Think about it – we've all known - or gone to school with - kids without advantages of money - who nevertheless excelled in school. What made up for the lack of advantages? Usually it was parents who understood the importance of reading and learning to give their children a chance in life. The Ferst Foundation

and Rotary can give thousands of children in every community in Georgia that same chance.

So how does it work? You register as many children as you can. Once or twice a year you set up tables at the local grocery – or a convenience store. Leave forms in doctor's offices – family doctors, pediatricians, the dentist – local child care centers, inner city churches – wherever! Put the form in the newspaper so neighbors can help register a child on their street. Anyone can register with a computer on-line as well. Once the child is in the system – a book is mailed to them each and every month until they are five – up to 60 books in all! “The Little Engine That Could” is the first book each child receives – and “Look Out Kindergarten, Here I Come” is the final “graduation” book – sent when the child turns 5. There is even a neat set of book ends to display their own special books. The parents receive a Parent's Guide with tips on reading aloud with a child. There is also a monthly communication piece – providing a book guide, child activity page, a variety of relevant community literacy announcements and sponsor acknowledgement (i.e. your local Rotary club). Rotary is key to all this because parents normally hesitant to give out a child's name will KNOW and TRUST Rotary.

What does all this cost? Each book with postage is about \$2. So if a child is enrolled at birth, all 60 books and the book ends will run about \$150. You can register as many kids as your club/committee can afford –and that's where several local Rotary clubs creating a joint committee can be a great option - and again, there are probably other funding sources out there to help.

You'll be hearing a lot more about this project – but you don't have to wait - to get going now – contact:

*Shauna von Hanstein: Executive Director of The Ferst Foundation and a Rotarian

706-343-0177 (w) 1-888-565-0177 The Ferst Foundation shauna@ferstfoundation.com

*Leland Sanders: Pres. Elect of RC of Effingham County & Bd Member of Ferst Found.

(When contacting please indicate you are calling or e-mailing about Rotary)

912-754-6270 (W) 912-826-3551 (H) lsanders@temcor.com

*Leslie Mattingly: Past Pres. of RC of St. Simons Island & involved with Ferst Foundation 912-638-5430 (H)

mlmattingly@juno.com

*Joan Puryear: District Literacy Program Chair

(H) 706 733-5742 (F) 706 733-5715 Cell: 706 831-3930 joanpuryear@comcast.net

August is Membership and Extension Month

Rotary membership needs to grow and is one of the areas of emphasis this year. At last count, the membership in District 6920 was 3,888. This district should have a membership of 4,100-4,200. All clubs are required to grow by at least one member by April 1, 2006, in order to qualify for the Presidential Citation. I personally feel that we can grow by three percent. There are so many potential Rotarians who have just not been asked to join. Another important part of the equation is orientation. Members are retained

by involvement and feeling a part of your club.

When asked to join Rotary, many people ask, "What is Rotary?" Here's the answer: Rotary is a diverse group of professional leaders working to address various community and international service needs. Through community service and other means, Rotarians help promote peace and understanding throughout the world. You will be the force that allows Rotary to carry out its many humanitarian efforts and achieve its mission.

Rotarians Dick Hyer, chair of Extension Committee for District 6920, and Elizabeth W. Hardin and Jan Carolton, co-chairs of the district's Membership Committee, are available to discuss with your club how to grow your membership and retain members.

And, let's not forget that Rotary is largely about fellowship. In fact, the original reason Rotary Founder Paul Harris gathered a few acquaintances together for the first meeting was for fellowship.

METS is Saving Lives, Reducing Pain and Suffering

Below is an update on the District's Medical Equipment Transport Service from Bob Ashley, Director of the METS project

METS, the Rotary Medical Equipment Transport Service, is alive and doing well. You may visit our new and improved Web site at www.MedicalEquipmentTransport.org. If anyone out there knows of a potential recipient of our services, please direct them to our Web site.

Remember that we ship in 40-foot containers to large medical facilities or programs. We do not ship single items or quantities less than a container. To date, we have shipped eight containers and hope to ship two more in the month of August. In addition to medical supplies and equipment, we have shipped powered milk and pharmaceuticals. The milk and pharmaceuticals come from MAP International and are paid for by individual donors.

I can tell you this, this program has saved lives and reduced pain and suffering. Just the milk alone has kept many alive whom would otherwise have died. We will be shipping two more pallets, over 10,000 bottles of baby milk, in the next two containers. Other items shipped to date are too numerous to list, but include an anesthesia machine, an operating room table, many hospital beds and mattresses, numerous wheelchairs, stuffed animals, gurney, cribs, ventilators, a large X-ray machine, large steam autoclave, office furniture, computers and much, much more.

In the past year, we have built a large area inside the warehouse for sorting. It is climate controlled so that when volunteers come to work, it is a more pleasant environment. The warehouse itself can get exceedingly hot in the summer and very cold in the winter. Volunteers usually come in groups of eight to 10 and work from 8 a.m. to noon on Saturday mornings.

As we progress, we are getting better each day at what we do. We are at a point now where

we would like to hire someone parttime to help manage the warehouse. So far, we have all been volunteers and will continue to be. But finding just the right person will not be easy. Additionally, we need to think about a strategy for raising funds to buy our own warehouse so that our

efforts will reach far into the future for the next generations. The current funding for our building is exhausted in 2009.

So District 6920, keep up the good work and contact me with any questions. My email is BobA1946@aol.com. Put the word "Rotary" in

Call for Recipes Yields Success

We received more recipes than we ever imagined, or ever wanted, but that's another story altogether!

We are in the process of putting the recipes together to go in the new District Fundraiser – A Rotary District 6920 Cookbook. The cookbook will contain helpful cooking hints, recipe category dividers, a table of contents, an index and special pages related to Rotary. The cookbook will be typeset in an easy-to-read format and professionally printed and bound.

We anticipate that these will be back to you and your clubs in time to sell for the holiday season. A portion of the proceeds from each cookbook sale will go the Rotary Foundation, GRSP, METS and your local club.

Stay tuned because the cookbooks are coming!

Simon Expects a Memorable Year

-Continued from Page 1

Pat and I have enjoyed our club visits, and we look forward to future visits. The hospitality of the clubs is unbelievable and we thank all for their efforts. This is truly going to be a year in our lives that will always be remembered. Not because of anything we do, but because of the Rotarians in this great district. I know with your help we will make a difference and serve humanity with peace and world understanding.

We have completed only one month of service, and it seems the year is flying

by.

Please remember the upcoming Foundation, Membership and Public Relations Seminar in Vidalia the 20th of this month. I look forward to seeing the presidents, presidents-elect, foundation, membership and public relations chairs and any other Rotarian who want to increase their knowledge of Rotary.

Let's all remember our motto and theme for the year: *Service Above Self*.

Dallas Simon, Governor



The Rotary Club of Downtown Macon



GSE Looking for Interested Parties to go to Italy

The Group Study Exchange (GSE) is gearing up for another great year, this time with a trip to Viterbo, Italy. The purpose of a GSE is to promote international understanding and goodwill through person-to-person contact. While in Italy, team members will stay in the homes of Rotarians and will have the opportunity to meet their professional counterparts. They will also give presentations to Rotary clubs and other groups about their home country. The team will also attend the annual conference of our pairing district 2080. The conference will take place in May in Viterbo.

According to Jean Iaderosa, the outbound GSE chair, The Rotary Foundation provides each team member with a round-trip air ticket, and local Rotarians in the host country provide meals, lodging and travel within their district. The four team members pay only for their own passport and personal expenses.

All interested applicants must first have their candidacy endorsed by a

Rotary club in the district where the applicant works or lives. From there, endorsed applications are sent on for consideration at the district level. Club and district deadlines for applications vary, often six months before travel. Applications sent to the Foundation without club and district endorsement will be returned. The application for team members and additional valuable information about GSE is available at <http://www.rotary.org/foundation/educational/gse/index.html>

All applications must be received by Friday, Nov. 11, 2005. Signed,

endorsed and completed applications must be mailed to Jean L. Iaderosa, 414 Oxford Dr., Richmond Hill, GA 31324.

Applications will be reviewed by the Rotary District 6920 GSE committee. Interviews to select team members will be held on Saturday, Dec. 3, 2005, in Savannah.

A complete list of member eligibility criteria can be found on the district Web site at www.rotarydistrict6920.net/GSE/Group_Study_Exchange.htm. The site also lists important meeting dates for the selected team members.

AG Training is Set for Aug. 19 in Vidalia

Assistant Governor training will be held on Friday, Aug. 19, at Southeastern Technical College in Vidalia. PDG Bruce Montgomery, chair of district training, is requesting that all assistant governors attend this meeting.

“We will focus on problems that AGs run into and how to solve those problems,” said PDG Bruce. “We need all of you there.”

Following the 2 p.m. session, there will be a barbeque at Otha Dixon’s pole barn with the Vidalia Rotary Club.

Club Visit Photos



The Rotary Club of Brunswick



The Rotary Club of Eastman



The Rotary Club of Glennville

*See more photos
from DG Dallas'
club visits
on pages 4 & 6*

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill



*See more photos
from DG Dallas'
club visits
on pages 4 & 5*



The Rotary Club of Savannah East



**The Rotary Club of Skidaway
(above right and below)**

