



# Rotary District 6920

## SERVICE Above Self

Dallas Simon, District Governor

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## Where Did the Time Go?

The two and a half years of preparation for the position of Governor has come and gone. The year of service as governor is coming to an end. A lot has transpired during these three and one half years. Pat and I have memories for a lifetime, and we can't thank you enough.

Pat and I have traveled 19,520 miles in southeast Georgia and discovered a group of people that are caring, loving and give of themselves. I have met with all the boards in the district. Some very formal; some very informal. All are doing their job of *Service Above Self*. What a wonderful theme for the first year of the next century of Rotary service.

The district has distributed over 10,000 books through outreach programs at the Medical College of Georgia and other community organizations. The goal this year was to make a difference in literacy. We havemad every effort in that area.

The cookbook project headed up by Bill Phillips (Augusta West) and Brenda Keen (Wrightsville) was a success. Because of this project, 73 Paul Harris Fellowships are to be awarded, an additional

six due to the diamond drawing at the district conference. A check for \$54,000 was recently sent to the foundation. Thanks to Jim Hazel for coordinating this effort.



DG Dallas Simon

Twenty Will Watt Fellowships were also awarded for a total of \$20,000. Thanks to Jim Drake for his efforts in coordinating this project. All of this, because the clubs in this district did their part with the sale of the cookbook. There is approximately \$30,000 due from clubs. If this money comes in this year, we will award more Paul Harris and Will

Watt fellowships.

I also need to thank Jeff Fuhrman (Augusta West) for his efforts as conference chair. Jeff coordinated this effort to a T. Even though this was a team effort, there is always one that stands

out. As I have said many times, success just doesn't happen; you have to make it happen. If this year is deemed a success, all credit goes to those who made it happen. It is the efforts of many that make a district successful, not the efforts of one. Pat and I are honored to have been asked to serve. From the moment of nomination, which was very emotional for me, until today. I am still in awe that 18 members of the College of Governors, who I know are smarter and wiser than me, gave me the nomination. I thank them very much for this honor. I also thank Langga and Don Gay for their encouragement to submit my name for the nomination.

I will truly miss this position, but that's the way of Rotary. Bill Blankenship will "Lead the Way" and carry this district to greater heights and that's the way it should be. Bill has my undivided support and I encourage all to support him in his efforts this year. The district fundraiser for the new year is the hybrid raffle. All clubs need to help with this project. Just think what could happen if all members sold two tickets - we could name 200+ Paul Harris Fellowships and 50+ Will Watt Fellowships. We could literally give well over a \$100,000 to the foundation. Let's make it happen. Bill will truly Lead The Way.

**Always,**

**Service Above Self**

**Dallas C. Simon Jr.**

## Bill Blankenship to Lead the District in 2006-07

Bill Blankenship will lead the district as governor in 2006-07. You can't ask for a more dedicated Rotarian than Bill Blankenship. Bill's home club is Camden County and he has been a Rotarian there since 1991.

A few of Bill's accomplishment on the district level are assistant governor, district conference chair, GSE in-bound chair, public relations chair, GSE out-bound chair/team leader and The Rotary Foundation chair. Bill is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a Will Watt Fellow, a bequest society member, Rotary Foundation



sustaining member and GRSP sustaining member. He also started the Paul Harris Society in this district.

A few of his goals this year are to grow the membership by 2%, promote the eradication of hunger in the district, promote literacy projects in the district and reach a goal of \$400,000 for The Rotary Foundation's \$100 per Rotarian.

Bill also plans to sell raffle tickets this year for a hybrid automobile. He plans to sell at venues throughout the district. Although he is asking Rotarians to participate in this worthwhile project, his target group is non-Rotarians.

The team for the year 2006-07 is in place and July 1<sup>st</sup> is coming. We all need to support our new Governor Bill Blankenship.

## Club Awards Presented

Club awards were presented at the district conference last month and there was a lot to celebrate as several club presidents proudly accepted their banners. Below is a complete list of this year's winners in each category.

**Dekle Attendance Award:** 93.47% - Centerville; 91.69% - Perry; 91.97% - Dublin

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SERVICE Above Self

# Awards Presented at Conference

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**Best Club Bulletin Award:** small club, runner-up: Pooler; winner: St. Simons Island - Marshes of Glynn; medium club, runner-up: Augusta West; winner: Savannah Sunrise; large club, runner-up: Warner Robins; winner: Dublin

**On-Line Bulletin Award:** small club, runner-up: McIntosh; winner: Kings Bay; medium club, runner-up: Skidaway Island; winners: Hawkinsville and Savannah East; large club, runner-up: Milledgeville; winners: Downtown Macon and Dublin

**Rookie of the Year:** Jeanette Rasche, Augusta South Rotary Club

**Club Service Award:** small club, runner-up: McIntosh; winner: Wrightsville; medium club, runner-up: Eastman; winner: Camden County; large club, runner-up: Warner Robins; winner: Dublin

**Community Service Award:** small club, runner-up: McIntosh County; winner: Wrightsville; medium club, runner-up: Perry; winner: Augusta West; large club, runner-up: Warner Robins; winner: Dublin

**International Service Award:** small club, runner-up: Kings Bay; winner: Centerville; medium club, runner-up: Skidaway Island; winner: Augusta West; large club, runner-up: Warner Robins; winner: Dublin

**Vocational Service Award:** small club, runner-up: McIntosh County; winner: Wrightsville; medium club, runner-up: Metter; winner: Skidaway Island; large club, runner-up: Brunswick; winner: Dublin

**Presidential Citations:** Rotary clubs of Ashburn, Pooler, Brunswick, Camden County, Kings Bay, Jekyll Island, Effingham Sunrise, Waynesboro, Centerville, Wrightsville, Savannah West, St. Simons Island - Marshes of Glynn, Downtown Statesboro, Vidalia, Milledgeville, Millen, Augusta South, Skidaway Island, Claxton, Hawkinsville, Fitzgerald, Savannah East, Cochran, Metter, Swainsboro, Augusta West, Valdosta Sunrise, Glennville, McRae, Richmond Hill, Warner Robins, Jones County, McIntosh County, Macon, Savannah South, Jefferson County, Tift County, Greater Byron, Tennille, Downtown Macon, Effingham County, Sylvania, Douglas, Statesboro, Valdosta, Jesup, Dublin and Perry

**Best Club Web Page:** runner-up: Savannah South; winner: Milledgeville

**Scrapbooks:** small club, runner-up: Wrightsville; winner: Pooler; medium club, runner-up: Perry; winner: Skidaway Island; large club, runner-up: Dublin; winner: Valdosta

**Best Club Display:** small club, runner-up: Augusta South; winner: Wrightsville; medium club, runner-up: Skidaway Island; winner: Savannah Sunrise; large club, runner-up: Milledgeville; winner: Dublin

**Interact Awards:** school project: Lowndes High, Valdosta; community project: Lowndes High, Valdosta; vocational: Edmund Burke Academy, Waynesboro; international project: Eastman High, Eastman

**Citations for District Conference Attendance:** Augusta South, Augusta West, Dublin, Greater Byron, Kings Bay, McIntosh County, Metter, Millen, Savannah South, Savannah Sunrise, Tennille

**Best Percentage of Conference Attendance:** small club: Augusta South; medium club: Augusta West; large club: Dublin

**Club of Year Award:** small club, runner-up: Centerville; winner: McIntosh; medium club, runner-up: Waynesboro; winner: Augusta West; large club, runner-up: Warner Robins; winner: Dublin; overall: Dublin

## Bob Ashley Announces Departure from METS

With a desire to help in so many other ways, Bob Ashley, the district's World Community Service chair, announced at last month's district conference that he will be leaving as manager of the Medical Equipment Transport Services project at the end of the calendar year.

"I want to do other projects that I can't do as long as I'm managing METS," said Bob, who brought the METS idea to the district in 2003. "We are looking for a club to take over and oversee the METS program."

Bob, who has put his heart and soul into the project, began asking for donations of medical equipment and supplies several years ago, when the idea was just that: an idea.

With approval from the district and support of all of the clubs in District 6920, a total of 12 40-foot containers have been



Bob Ashley

shipped to areas of need, including Guatemala, the Philippines, the Dominican Republic and Chile.

"This district has made a tremendous difference in the lives of people around the world," said Bob.

Equipment shipped includes, among other items, x-ray machines, film processors and wheelchairs.

"I have had the opportunity to visit the recipients of some of the donated equipment," said Bob. "When they receive one of these containers, there's more stuff in there than they've ever had before in their life. There are people alive today because of you. There's a tremendous amount of pain and suffering reduced because of you. There's mothers holding their babies today because of you."

## Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust

Barbara Botts presented a \$5,000 check to PDG Jeanette Caneega and District CART Chair Bill Phillips for Coins for Alzheimers Research Trust on behalf of the Rotary Club of Augusta during this year's district conference. Barbara was presented the CART Rotarian of the Year Award, while the Rotary Club of Augusta received the Eugenia C. Phillips CART Fund Award in recognition of the most money donated to CART. This award is named after Bill's mother who passed away in 2003. The Allen Gibson CART Fund Award, named after Jeanette's father who died in 1998, was presented to the Rotary Club of Ashburn for the highest per capita giving to CART.

For the latest district news, visit  
[www.rotarydistrict6920.net](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net)

# District Conference Highlights

## District, Clubs Must Set Tone for Giving

It is at the club and district level that Rotary Foundation gets its support. That was part of Rotary International Director Ken Morgan's presentation during the district conference.



RI Director Ken Morgan

In giving an update on RI Ambassadorial Scholarships, Ken said the number of those scholarships awarded has decreased significantly from 1,400 in 1999 to only 952 in 2004-05. He said that it is up to the individual districts to determine if the ambassadorial scholarship program is one it wants to be involved in and support.

"The trustees are trying to figure out how to impact the ambassadorial scholarship program and to make sure the number of ambassadorial scholars doesn't decrease," said Ken, who along with his wife, Winnie, are guests at this year's district conference, "but the ultimate decision lies with the districts. Each district has to discuss and debate how it affects their district and the long-term effect on The Rotary Foundation."

Ken reported that the district still had time to make its fiscal year foundation goal. "If you look at your giving last year, you had a tremendous success and were almost at the \$100 per capita mark. There is still some time to reach that goal this year, but that has to be done in the clubs."

In other news, our RI director reported both the good news and flip side of the polio eradication efforts.

"We have some good news and also perhaps news that's not so good," he said, adding that World Health Organization experts have said that if polio is not eradicated in 12 to 18 months, it won't happen. "The optimistic news is that the job will be done."

There are four countries where polio still exists and efforts to immunize those communities against the virus are ongoing. Ken urged the encouragement of governments to support the effort that Rotary has begun, adding that nearly \$650 million has already been spent by Rotary on polio eradication efforts.

## Dooley Headlines Opening Luncheon with Laughter

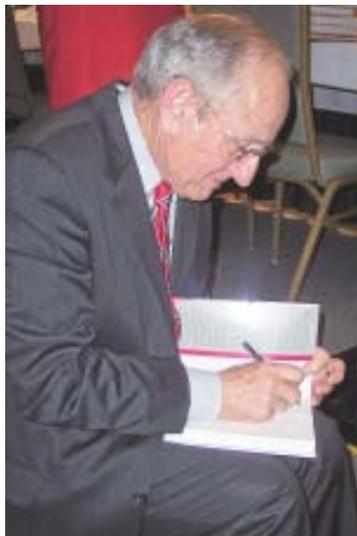
Former University of Georgia Head Football Coach Vince Dooley, decked out in his legendary black and red, opened this year's conference with humorous tales of his years at UGA and of growing up in Alabama.

"I think the idea of bringing bears and books for third world countries is wonderful," he said as he stepped to the podium. "But, it could have been bulldog bears and books and they could have received them just as well."

Dooley served 25 years as the University of Georgia's head football coach from 1964 to 1988. In 1979 he accepted the responsibility of both head football coach and athletic director, a position he held for almost 25 years prior to leaving UGA in 2003. He now serves the school as athletic director emeritus. During his tenure at the school, he led the Bulldogs to numerous championships and coached thousands of athletes.

"I have coached probably thousands of players and been around them and it reminds

me of the poem 'Ulysses' by Alfred Lloyd Tennyson. 'I am a part of all that I have met,'" said Dooley, quoting the poem. "I think that's true. You learn from them and that's just like it is with you Rotarians."



Vince Dooley autographs books

Dooley's volunteer work is extensive, ranging from the Boy Scouts to the Salvation Army and the Easter Seals, among numerous others, and he lauded the work that Rotarians are doing to impact others.

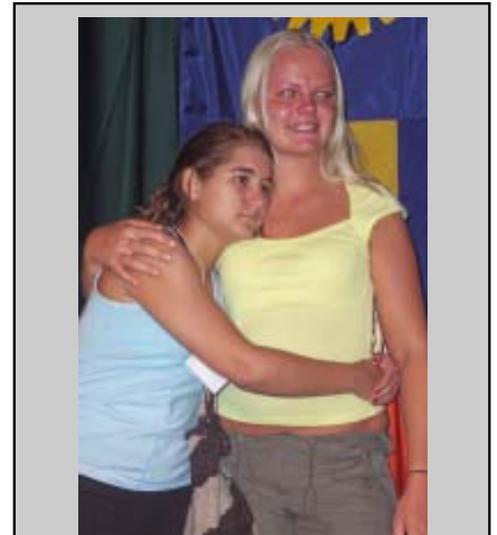
"Volunteers are the backbone of our American way," he said. "So much rises and falls with leaders and trust is the most important thing in a true leader. True leaders do not what's best for themselves, but for all

involved."

In closing, Dooley related a story of Billy Payne, the newly appointed chairman of the Augusta National Golf Club and the man responsible for bringing the 1996 Summer Olympics to Atlanta. Payne had achieved many goals in his life, but still something was missing when, one day he went to his former football coach and laid out plans for a great dream. That dream was to have Atlanta

serve as host of the Olympics.

"To dream anything you want to dream is the beauty of the human mind," said Dooley. "Trust yourself to test your limits. That is the courage to succeed. You can feel the satisfaction of doing something, of Service Above Self."



GRSP students Maria Bermudez of Colombia and Triin Saag of Estonia hug one another during the GRSP presentation. The group shared with conference attendees their experiences over the past year. "I know that I'll take back with me a better understanding of Service Above Self," said one of the students.



# Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

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## One Million Paul Harris Fellows

Dear Amigos,

We need 10,000 new Paul Harris Fellows for The Rotary Foundation to reach the milestone of naming its **one millionth Paul Harris Fellow**.

By putting our hearts and minds together with our philanthropy, we can reach one million Paul Harris Fellows — and reach our world-wide Annual Programs Fund goal of US\$105 million by 30 June 2006.

I urge you to *Create Awareness and Take Action* in your Rotary clubs to make this happen. Clubs seeking to name new Paul Harris Fellows should take action now. Contribute today to become a Paul Harris Fellow. Contribute to name as a Paul Harris Fellow your spouse, your children, your grandchildren, a special friend, a family member, or a prominent member of your community.

Recognize all of the Paul Harris Fellows at your district conferences and assemblies, as well as at the presidential changeover ceremonies this year, and reflect on the good works of our Rotary Foundation. Since the first Paul Harris Fellow was named in 1957, each US\$1,000 Paul Harris Fellow contribution has significantly helped our Foundation accomplish the following:

- 37,000 Ambassadorial Scholars from 110 countries
- 52,000 Group Study Exchange team members from 102 countries
- 180 Rotary World Peace Fellows from 50 countries
- 276 Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grants in 74 countries
- 22,000 Matching Grant Projects in 166 countries
- 2 billion children immunized against polio
- 686 Individual Grants projects
- 406 grants for university teachers
- 772 District Simplified Grants in 57 countries

Achieving our one millionth Paul Harris Fellow is a significant way to end this first year of Rotary's second century of service.

Upon reaching this milestone, one new living Paul Harris Fellow will be selected from every zone to represent the one millionth Paul Harris Fellow.

In addition to receiving the Paul Harris Fellow medallion set and certificate, the 34 representatives also will receive a commemorative one millionth Paul Harris Fellow plaque and be featured in Rotary publications and on our Web site.

Take time now to *Create Awareness and Take Action*, and help us reach our one millionth Paul Harris Fellow by 30 June!