



# 09 Conference CHATTER



**KENAN KERN, DISTRICT GOVERNOR**

**O**PENING SESSION...The 52<sup>nd</sup> 6920 Conference opened with GRSP Chair and Conference Chair Jim Drake welcoming everyone to Augusta and thanking the 3 Augusta Clubs for all their assistance in the preparations for the conference. Jim introduced DG Kern who introduced our special guests including RI President D.K. Lee's Representative PDG from District 3520 Kamal Sanghvi and his wife Sonal from India, who we are sure win the award for traveling the farthest! DG Kern also recognized PRID David Roper, RRFC Rich Panyik, Zone 34 Polio Plus Coordinator Robert Hall, and DG for District 6910 Gary Moore. He then proceeded to introduce his "dream team" Directors and Assistant Governors.

After a wonderful lunch, DG Kern had all the PDG's stand for recognition and a round of applause for all they continue to do for Rotary. Kenan also informed everyone of other events taking place in Augusta this weekend. Tomorrow is Armed Forces Day and there will be entertainment, car shows, and other events downtown as well as a fireworks display on Saturday night at 9:15. Others include the National Science Olympiad and the Annual Georgia Trust. All of which contributed to the filling up of the hotels in Augusta.

DG Kern then showed a very moving video of the news coverage of September 11<sup>th</sup>, followed by the introduction of Mr. Joe Dittmar- a survivor of the World Trade Center attack. Joe's passion and life goal is to ensure that the 3,000 victims of 9/11 will always be remembered. He is an insurance representative and was in a meeting on the 105<sup>th</sup> floor of the South Tower on 9/11. He walked us through the decisions he made that day which saved his life. Joe emphasized that every decision is important- making the right one is not easy, but if you trust yourself – it will lead you to the right one.

In appreciation, Joe was presented with one of the infamous Masters Green Jackets and a donation to the Rotary Foundation making him a 5-time Paul Harris Fellow!



## **First Plenary Session... METS**

### **Did you know...**

- Over 11 million children die each year from preventable diseases
- \$15 of your annual Rotary dues finance METS.
- METS stands for Medical Equipment Transport Service.
- METS has shipped 26 containers over the past 5 years.
- The Mets website is [www.rotaryMETS.org](http://www.rotaryMETS.org).
- METS has delivered over 9 Million dollars worth of equipment.



**WAY TO GO 6920!**



# EVENING SESSION



National Anthem led by 7<sup>th</sup> Grader Richard Washington.

The night began with a friendly game of **Are You Smarter than a 5<sup>th</sup> Grader** with contestants PDG Dick Hyer, DGE Clyde Taylor, & upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> grader Hayden Haynes. Jeff Barker (RC of Camden County) served as the host.



Inspiring speech by Polio Survivor Mary Evelyn Warren



Message from RI President D.K. Lee's Representative PDG Kamal Sanghvi, D-3250



**Rotary Foundation District Service Award** Recipients (from left): Alan NeSmith (Camden County), Bob Lemon (Augusta West), Alfie Cofield (Claxton), Jeff Kublin (Effingham County), Ron May (Sandersville), and Carolyn Trosdal (Savannah). Others awarded but not in attendance included: Trent Mercer (Augusta South), Phil Thacker (Dublin), Phil Turek (Skidaway Island), and Edwin Thompson (Tennille).



**RF Citation for Meritorious Service**  
Recipient Gordon Matthews



Recognition of **Bequest Society Members Level One** from left: Sue & DGE Clyde Taylor, and DD Ron May.



Recognition of **Major Donors** from left: Clay Doherty & Pam Brandt, PDG Lynn Hadwin, and Bob & Margaret Lemon. Not pictured: Cyndey Busbee who accepted for deceased Rotarian Jan Carlton.