



ROTARY DISTRICT 6920

Clyde Taylor, District Governor, 2009-2010

June 2010

Governor's Comments

It is hard to believe the 2009-10 Rotary year has come to a close. I would like to thank everyone for your telephone calls, cards and prayers during my wife Sue's recent surgery at Emory. The surgery was successful and no further treatment may be necessary. We will be meeting with the Emory folks on July 12 and will make a decision at that time. Unfortunately, this illness kept us from attending the Rotary International Convention in Montreal. By all accounts it was a great experience.

In case you haven't heard, Atlanta was chosen as the site for the 2017 convention. The formation of The Rotary Foundation was announced at the 1917 convention in Atlanta. Rotary is returning to Atlanta for the 100th anniversary of The Foundation. The three Georgia Rotary Districts will be asked to support the Host Organizing Committee with manpower and financial assistance. You will hear more about this as convention planning proceeds.

All raffle funds have been distributed. The available proceeds after expenses were \$66,654.93. We ended up with more requests from clubs than we had funds available. The Foundation is still closing their year and we do not yet have final numbers for 6920. As soon as they are available, we will advise.



Thanks to all Rotarians who participated in the purchase of raffle tickets and to those who contributed matching funds to The Foundation and GRSP. This was one of the District's most successful fund raisers and greatly raised our contribution level in a difficult economic environment.

It has been a real honor to have served as your District Governor in 2009-10. The District made strides in many areas and we closed the year with record attendance at the Jekyll conference. I ask that you give Governor Lloyd and his team the same support you gave me as we move from "The Future of Rotary Is In Your Hands" to "Building Communities - Bridging Continents."

Year In Review

DG Clyde and his wife Sue have traveled the district from one end to the other during the 2009-10 Rotary year. Below are just a few photo highlights of their year.



GRSP Has Presence At Annual RI Convention

The following is a report from GRSP Chair Jim Drake

What a great time we had in Montreal! The GRSP booth provided excellent exposure for our program. Dozens of Rotarians from around the world stopped by to inquire about GRSP and were amazed to learn what Georgia Rotarians have been doing since 1947 to promote peace. The most common response was, "Wow!," followed by, "But how are you able to do that?"

We spoke with a number of RYLA students as well as Interact students. I fully expect to receive applications from many of them, perhaps as soon as this year. We also spoke with many DG's, PE's, International Service Chairs and just plain Rotarians.

As late as 2 p.m. on Wednesday, as the work crew was taking up the carpet from in front of our booth, people continued to come by and ask questions. We had alumni from as far back as 1973-74 stop by to say hello. We also had several relatives, including parents of former students, stop by just to say thank you. It was proof positive that GRSP really is for a lifetime, not just one year.

We had candid talks with many Africans about the difficulties experienced the past several years in getting qualified students from African nations. Hopefully the information shared will make it possible for us to once again have students from Africa participate in GRSP in significant numbers.

I had the pleasure of speaking briefly with outgoing RI Vice President Eric Adamson, a WWF, who asked me to thank everyone involved in GRSP for making this program possible and encouraged us to continue our efforts to increase its scope throughout the world. Pretty cool!

More will be said about our Montreal experience at the upcoming summer meetings. Thanks to all who helped staff the booth. Their names are listed below. Thanks especially to PDG Kenan Kern and his wife Beth for setting up the booth on Saturday and helping with the take down on Wednesday.

See you all at Lake Blackshear!

Georgia Rotarians who staffed the booth:

PDG Kenan Kern and Beth

DG Shane Burr and Donna

District 6900 Chair Bill Smith and Susan

PDG Steve Stanfield

DGND Bob Griggers and Brenda

DGN Gordon Matthews

GRSP Chair Jim Drake



Rotary Partners With Amazon

Rotary has partnered with Amazon Services to launch the new shop.rotary.org which features Rotary publications, videos and other resources aimed at helping Rotarians spread the word about Rotary.

Online shoppers on the new site will receive 15 percent off their first purchase during the month of July. In addition, all items listed as US\$0.01 will automatically become free at checkout for all Rotarians.

Rotarians with questions about using the new shop site should contact RI's Publications Order Services at (847) 866-4600 or via email at shop.rotary@rotary.org

Rotarians Celebrate Convention In Style

More than 18,000 Rotarians from 154 countries and geographical areas left the 2010 RI Convention in Montreal, Quebec, Canada, on June 23 after being challenged to finish the job of eradicating polio and reminded that their efforts are making a difference, even when the results aren't immediately apparent.

“Rotary International has shown for the past 100 years that the most powerful agent of change is people, united. In this next century, may we find a way through coalitions of peace and justice to convince the world to join Rotary’s chorus of hope.”

-Queen Noor of Jordan

daring acrobatics of the Cirque du Soleil; and the soaring vocals of tenor Russell Watson.

Parton entered the stage singing her hit song “9 to 5” and thanked Rotary for partnering with her foundation’s Imagination Library to promote children’s literacy.

Mortenson encouraged Rotarians to keep working to make the world a better place and thanked Rotary for its efforts to eradicate polio in Afghanistan and Pakistan. He stressed the similarities between how his organization works and how Rotarians operate - the importance of building relationships and involving local leaders.

“All of us here, as Rotarians or honorary Rotarians, we are compelled to help people,” he said. “The real key, and Rotarians do this, is that it’s not about helping, but it’s about empowering people. And when you empower people, then you can make a change in the world.”

“Your commitment to Rotary service projects is critical, but you may seldom have the opportunity to hear the details of the impact,” said Jo Luck, president of Heifer International and a member of the Rotary Club of Little Rock, Arkansas. “But always know you have made a difference.”

During four packed days of plenary and breakout sessions, Rotarians attending the convention were privy to an impressive lineup of speakers, including Luck; bestselling author Greg Mortenson, cofounder of the Central Asia Institute, which builds schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan; Bob Mazzuca, chief scout executive of the Boy Scouts of America; and country music singer and philanthropist Dolly Parton.

Attendees were also dazzled by a variety of entertainment acts, including the Irish singing group Celtic Thunder, known for its combination of soloists and ensembles; the



Jo Luck, president of Heifer International, speaks to attendees during a plenary session.



RI President John Kenny and his wife June embrace after the final plenary session of the convention.



Queen Noor of Jordan is thanked by RI President John Kenny during the third plenary session on June 22 at the 2010 RI Convention in Montreal.



Bob Mazzuca, Boy Scouts of America chief scout executive, addresses the crowd at the fourth plenary session.



Bestselling author Greg Mortenson



Dolly Parton entertains attendees during the fourth plenary session on June 23.