



# ROTARY DISTRICT 6920

Clyde Taylor, District Governor, 2009-2010

May 2010

## Governor's Comments

The 2009-10 Rotary year is fast coming to a close. I encourage each club to induct that last new member and put the finishing touches on that important community service project.

We need more clubs to request matching funds from the trip raffle proceeds. A final accounting of gross proceeds shows ticket sales of \$92,995. This is a tremendous response from District Rotarians and represents probably the highest-gross proceeds ever for a District fund raiser.

Net proceeds available for matching distribution to clubs will be approximately \$70,000. Thus far, we have received requests for only some \$30,000 in matching funds from the raffle. Don't fail to take advantage of this opportunity to make a significant year-end contribution to the Annual Programs Fund, Polio or GRSP Endowment. If you haven't sent me your request, please do so immediately.

The Blankenship Cup, named in honor of the late District Governor Bill Blankenship, will be awarded to the club with the highest average per capita giving to the Annual Fund over the past three years. Obviously, we cannot determine the winner until the year closes and all contributions are recorded. If you want to compete for the Cup, then this is your opportunity to use matching funds from the raffle. Centerville Rotary Club was last year's winner and is going all out to retain the cup for another year.

The DVD of the recent District Conference is available for purchase for only \$10. All of the major speeches were taped and are on the disc. In addition, the DVD contains an extensive montage of still photos taken during the conference. In all, there are approximately four hours of highlights. This would be a wonderful tool for a club to use to promote and encourage attendance at future conferences. I urge each club to purchase one. The PDG Chorus Line alone is worth the money! Send your orders together with payment to:

Marie Dodd  
109 Longpoint Drive  
St. Simons Island, GA 31522

My wife, Sue, accompanied me on all but a very few of the 65 official club visits made this year. We thought it would be interesting to share with you her comments on "Life As The Wife of District Governor 6920," which can be found elsewhere in this newsletter.



# “Life As The Wife of District Governor 6920”

by Sue Taylor

Clyde and I are nearing the end of our District Governor term. There have been many questions posted to us concerning our year: Did you enjoy it? Did you get tired? What was it like to visit 65 clubs?

Yes, we did enjoy it, and yes, we did get tired on occasion. Let me tell you what it was like. It definitely ranks as one of our most enjoyable, rewarding and enriching experiences ever! It never became boring because there is no sameness; each club is unique. They vary in size and personality, their goals are different and their projects are varied.

Imagine visiting 65 places in Georgia. We have a beautiful state and we should be proud. We saw lush farmland and watched cotton grow until picking time.

Although Clyde and I are both Georgia natives, we saw places we had never seen before.

We were welcomed royally every place we went. We always commented on how club members treated us as if we were important dignitaries. We never got used to that, but we did enjoy it.

Suddenly, it was District Conference time and we believe we showed our district a grand time. The year winds down, and we thank each of you for making it a most memorable one. You have all worked hard supporting us in every way. We can say, as can you, we are proud to be Rotarians! It has been our privilege to serve District 6920 for 2009-10.



## Augusta South Rotary Club

*More than 500 students at Barton Chapel Elementary School in Augusta received dictionaries and Rotary coloring books last month.*







## *District Rotarians Attend Meeting; Painting Unveiled*

*Area Rotarians Bill Pitts, DGE Lloyd Horadan, Gary Smith, DGN Bob Griggers, Alfie Cofield, Ron May, Pam Lightsey, PDG Dick Hyer and PDG Jeanette Caneege were among a select group invited to attend a meeting with the Rotary International President and the Site Committee from Chicago to bring the Rotary Convention to Atlanta. During the meeting, a photo of Paul Harris, done by an Atlanta artist, was unveiled.*

## *Wells Finally Come to Fruition for Nigerian Village*

*The following is a report from PDG Jim Puryear regarding a project that was begun several years ago*

For about two years I have been working with a number of people to bring about a water well project in Nigeria. It has finally come to fruition. This was for two bore wells and water tanks with necessary piping to serve an orphanage and the people in the village. It was a \$39,000 project, funded from our District Designated Foundation money and matching money from Rotary International. The Augusta Club was the sponsoring club, although the district was the primary sponsor. The Rotary Club of New Haven in Nigeria was the sponsoring club on site. The village served was Amoli Village, Enugu (province) in Nigeria. Dr. Daniel Ajawara was the local coordinator there.

David Steele was the local Rotarian who led us to this project. He was helpful in contacts and follow-through.

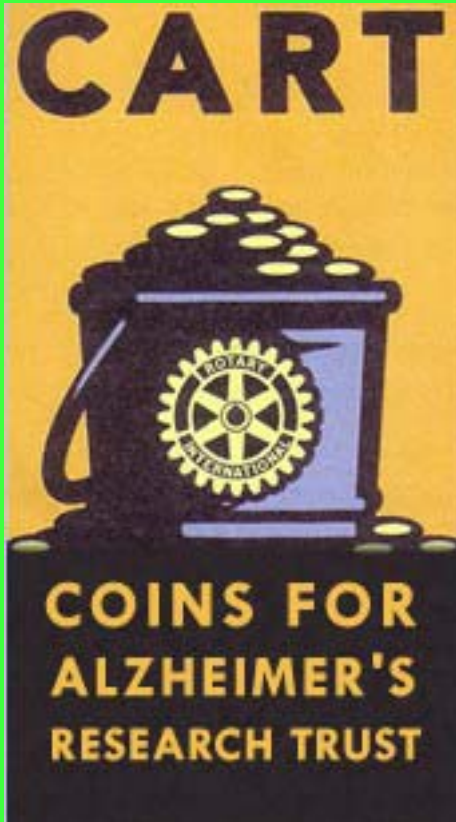
This was an exciting project, but was long and it required much patience to get all of the necessary things together. It surely, however, should make a world of difference to the people there. The girls in the orphanage were having to haul all of their water quite some distance.



*Drilling the second bore hole (left) and finally, water (above).*

# C.A.R.T. Update

*Below is a letter from Coins for Alzheimers Research Trust (C.A.R.T.) Treasurer Roger Ackerman*



The CART Board of Directors have announced the winners of the CART grants for 2010. Dr. Paul Murphy of the Sanders-Brown Center on Aging at the University of Kentucky received our top grant. This is the first time ever that the same research center has received the top grant, back to back. In 2009, Dr. Harry LeVine of Kentucky received the top grant. Their research is totally unconnected. (Apparently they do something else at UK other than playing basketball!)

Dr. Luigi Puglieli of the University of Wisconsin-Madison, a top medical research center, won the second grant and a special grant was made to Dr. Kurt Brunden of the University of Penn School of Medicine.

All three scientists addressed the CART Board at their annual meeting in Columbia on May 5.

CART has now made 14 grants totaling in excess of \$3,000,000.

Our Board made a decision last spring that we needed a part-time executive director. After considering 16 outstanding applicants, PDG Bill Shillito of Hickory, N.C., was selected. Bill is doing a fine job as he initially tries to "shore up our base" and then hopefully we will be getting Rotarians in other states such as Florida and Virginia supporting CART. Those of you who have worked in developing a grass roots project understand how difficult this is. In Rotary, it is especially challenging as every year we change District officers and club presidents, so maintaining continuity is a problem. Bill, by the way, is paid from our interest income, so we are able to comply with all by-laws that require that 100% of all contributions go to AD research.

We have been checking on the progress of our past grantees and can report positive developments in their research. We are told by our scientists friends that there are approximately 146 drugs in the "pipeline." If only three percent of these prove effective, we could have the prevention/cure for AD for which all have great hopes.

We have been so fortunate to be guided in our decisions by world renowned Alzheimers scientists. These are the most dedicated individuals I have ever had the privilege of meeting.

Thanks again for all your support and encouragement. Best regards.

## A GRSP Thank You

*The following appeared in the June 1 on-line bulletin of The Rotary Club of Skidaway Island. It is written by Tony Pugh, father of 2009-10 GRSP students Sarah and Katie Pugh of Wales.*

We can't even begin to thank you for what you have done to make their time in Georgia so very special, and I don't think we ever will be able to. In all honesty we could not have done more if we had been there ourselves. You did the best job as host parents we could have for, thank you. They really have enjoyed every second and made the very most of all the opportunities they have had. We are extremely proud too of the way they have conducted themselves. They were only eighteen after all, and a very long way from home, and have matured so much thanks to you and the Rotary clubs who have made all this possible. Can you pass on our sincere thanks to the clubs who have supported them, it has truly been a life changing opportunity which would not have been possible without the support of GRSP. I will sign off now, thank you again so very much for all your kindness and generosity. ~Tony and Gaynor Pugh

**GEORGIA ROTARY  
STUDENT PROGRAM**  
Districts 6900, 6910 & 6920 Rotary International  
*Bringing Nations Together Since 1946*





# Rotary International News

## *Polio Challenge Reaches \$127M*

As of 25 May, Rotarians have raised about \$127.4 million for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. These contributions will help Rotary raise \$200 million to match \$355 million in challenge grants received from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. The resulting \$555 million will directly support immunization campaigns in developing countries, where polio continues to infect and paralyze children, robbing them of their futures and compounding the hardships faced by their families.

As long as polio threatens even one child anywhere in the world, children everywhere remain at risk. The stakes are that high.

### *Polio on the decline in Nigeria, India*

*\*As of 20 April, Nigeria has reported two cases of polio in 2010, compared to 193 cases for the same period in 2009.*

*\*India has reported 19 polio cases compared to 32 cases - and none in the past five weeks.*

## **A Message from the President**

My fellow Rotarians,

In February, I attended the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Rotary Club of St. Paul, Minn., USA. After dinner that evening, a young lady came up to me and asked, "Of everything you have seen this year in Rotary, what has touched your heart the most?"

For such a simple question, it was nearly impossible to answer - only because I have seen so much that has touched my heart and made me so proud to be a Rotarian. These past 12 months have given me the opportunity and the privilege of observing firsthand how our service touches the lives of others, and how great are the needs we address.

It is one thing to see photographs of the devastation in Haiti caused by January's earthquake. It was another thing entirely for me to walk among the rubble, to see the collapsed buildings, to understand that the true scope of the tragedy will never be known.

In Banda Aceh, Indonesia, where Rotary has done so much to rebuild the city shattered by the 2004 tsunami, I thought I understood the scale of the disaster before my visit. But I was not prepared for the sight of a large freighter in a field 2 miles inland, swept there by the tsunami.

In China, at a Rotary-supported orphanage, I held a two-month-old girl who had been abandoned on a train. With that baby in my arms, I realized that what Rotary provided to the orphanage - food, warm clothing, a clean and safe home - was only one part of what was needed. What that child wanted most of all, in that moment, was simply to be held and to feel loved, and that touched me very much.

There is so much we can do as Rotarians that will mean so much to others. And as important as it is to give material assistance - to help in the areas of water, health and hunger, and literacy - it is equally vital that we give that help freely, with true caring for others. Because often, simply caring is what helps others most of all.

As this Rotary year and my term as RI president draw to a close, I thank you all for your service to Rotary and your support. I have been honored to serve as your president, and remind you that *The Future of Rotary Is In Your Hands*.

John Kenny  
President, Rotary International

## ***Gates Encourages Rotarians to Keep Up Fight Against Polio***

In a video message to Rotarians, Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, thanked Rotarians for their hard work in the effort to eradicate polio and congratulated Rotary for surpassing the halfway point in meeting Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

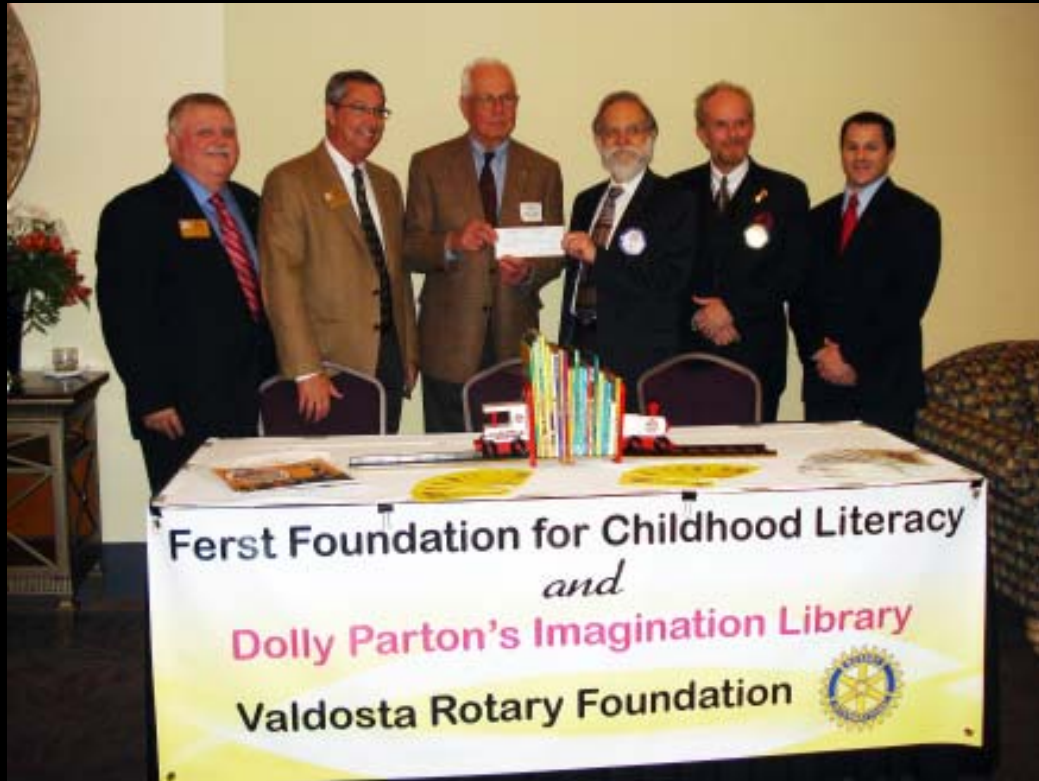
"The work you're doing to raise funds for the program is critical, especially given the tight government budgets and increasing costs for a very aggressive polio program," Gates said. "Your work as advocated is also very important. We need to keep this fight high on the world's list of priorities."

Rotary has been a leader in the fight against polio since the launch of the PolioPlus program in 1985. Recently, the Gates Foundation awarded two grants totaling \$355 million to Rotary in support of its work in eradicating the disease. In response, Rotary pledged to raise \$200 million. To date, Rotary has raised \$127.4 million.

# Valdosta Clubs Receive Grant

The Valdosta Rotary clubs - Valdosta, Valdosta North and Valdosta Sunrise - have been awarded a District Simplified Grant that will enable them to provide an age-appropriate book each month to 75 preschool children throughout Valdosta and Lowndes County.

The clubs were awarded \$2,700 in District Simplified Grant funds from the district and another \$8,548 through contributions. The clubs united with the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy and the Dolly Parton Imagination Library to provide the books.



*District Director Bill Booth, Assistant Governor Bob Harrison and District Governor Clyde Taylor present a District Simplified Grant check for \$2,700 for the Imagination Library Project to Dennis Marks, president of The Valdosta Rotary Club; Steve Barnes, president of The Valdosta Sunrise Rotary Club, and Marty Rodgers, president-elect of The Valdosta North Rotary Club. DD Booth is a member of The Valdosta Rotary Club and AG Harrison is a member of The Valdosta North Rotary Club.*

## *Looking Ahead*

June 11-14, 2010 - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Conference,, Douglas, GA  
June 20-23, 2010 - Rotary International Convention, Montreal, Canada

**Visit us on-line at  
[www.rotarydistrict6920.net](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net)**