



THE FUTURE OF ROTARY
IS IN YOUR HANDS

ROTARY DISTRICT 6920

Clyde Taylor, District Governor, 2009-2010

September 2009

Rome Hosts GRSP Conclave

Students from around the world come together last month for the annual Georgia Rotary Student Program Conclave, an annual kickoff event for GRSP. Students met and learned about one another as they prepared for their exciting year together. This year, there are roughly 66 students from 28 countries participating in the Georgia Rotary Student Program.

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



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Highlights from the GRSP Conclave



Above, DG Clyde and Sue Taylor are pictured with District 6910 Governor Shane Burr and his wife Donna.



Above, Augusta West Rotarian and District GRSP Chair Ron Lewis, GRSP Student Laslo Barto of Serbia, GRSP Student David Thorsson of Sweden, GRSP Administrative Assistant Barbara Lariscy, DG Clyde Taylor and GRSP Student Ott Jogi of Estonia at the GRSP Conclave.



Above, GRSP students Jamie, Lauren and Findlay are pictured with Bill Strickland and Assistant Governor and GRSP Trustee Pam Lightsey.



At left, DG Clyde Taylor with DGE Lloyd Horadan and his wife Jan..

Vets to Washington Project



The Vets to Washington Project mission is to ensure that every World War II veteran that is capable of making the trip is afforded the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C., and tour the WWII Memorial, built in honor of their service and sacrifice. It is funded through the generosity of small business owners, civic organizations and individuals who wish to honor veterans and their service to our country.

Assistant Governor Pam Lightsey has just returned from her fifth trip with the Vets to Washington Project, funded in part by District 6920 Rotary clubs and involving GRSP students. To date, more than 345 people have traveled with area Rotary clubs to the nation's capitol. Men and women of every branch of the military and the Merchant Marines have participated in past trips.

Funding for the veterans includes transportation and hotel accommodations for the veterans and a spouse or traveling companion. Lightsey says it's a three-day trip filled with lots of signing, information and food.

"After taking my first trip, I thought it would be important to have a GRSP student on the trip if room was available," she said. The first GRSP student to participate was Andres Madrid Malo of Columbia in September 2008. Since that time, four other GRSP students have participated.

There are currently two Rotary clubs that help sponsor a veteran and spouse/companion team for trips. Augusta South Rotary Club sponsors a couple for each trip, usually two per year. Martinez-Evans sponsors one couple per year.

"Augusta South paid for Andres' expenses when he attended," said Lightsey. "It has been a great experience for our students who attend. They see and hear history that can't be taught in any textbook. Several students want to come back and take another trip. Each time they hear about another trip being planned, they express how the trip impacted them. I remember Andres' getting up in front of the bus and telling the veterans 'thank you for fighting not only for Americans,' but for his country, too."



GRSP Student Ott Jogi talks with a veteran as he pushes his wheelchair during this month's Vets to Washington



Former GRSP Student Mara Kozulina of Latvia talks with a veteran during a trip in September

GRSP Student Expresses Gratitude After Vets to Washington Trip

In April of this year, then-GRSP Student Agnes Boll was able to participate in a Vets to Washington Project trip. Upon her return, Agnes wrote a letter that speaks volumes of why such trips are important and significant for today's young people.

"Every year on the 4th of May all of Denmark will illuminate their windows with live candles after night has fallen. We do this in celebration of the message we received from BBC over the radio 64 years ago. The Germans departed their occupation and after five years of darkness, Denmark was a free country again.

"Maybe 8-10 years ago, when I was getting older, I wanted to know more and asked questions. My grandma started telling me how clearly she remembers the roaring sound of the German airplanes that day in April when they flew in across our country.

"She told me of the Danish Freedom Fighters, who fought for Denmark's freedom by illegally sabotaging railroads and transport ways the Germans used to transport goods to Norway. And finally she told of the day the message came that Denmark was free and the Allied Forces was winning the war.

"She told me of how the Danes tore down their darkening curtains and started bonfires in the streets and she told me of how she especially remembers the soldiers driving and marching in, handing out gum

and candy to the children, telling them the times of war were over.

"And now, I am here, a girl from Denmark, in the company of soldiers who fought not only for themselves, their families and their country, but for the countries of the world, for my family and for me.

"Walking around the memorials, especially the WWII, I realized that for a long time I've only known half of the story - my grandma's.

"Now, I feel like I know so much more - still not close to everything, but I've got a better understanding of the history of that time.

"I feel blessed to have been able to go on this trip, to get to talk with so many different, wonderful people, the Veterans.



Assistant Governor and GRSP Trustee Pam Lightsey and Former GRSP Student Agnes Boll at the WWII Memorial during a visit earlier this year

"I can only say that I am honored to stand in front of the men and women who risked their lives for the world, for me, and say Thank You!

"Thank you for what you did for me, my country, for all of us and thank you for what you've taught me in the too-short period of time I've got to spend with you.

"You are truly the greatest generation!"

District 6920 CART Committee Needs Members

A District CART Committee is being organized. Rotarians from around the district are invited to participate. Currently, Rotarian Julian Diaz (Sandersville) and Rotarian Sandra Kate Hendrix (Vidalia) have agreed to serve on the committee. The committee will have its first meet in Augusta on Friday, Nov. 13.

The primary mission of the committee will be to encourage increased CART participation throughout the District. It is anticipated that the committee will meet in person once a year and quarterly meetings will be conducted via conference call.

If you are interested in serving on this committee or would like to recommend an individual to serve on the committee, please email CART Chair Kathy Tucket at ttuckey9@comcast.net.

Club Visit Photos



Sandersville Rotary Club President Frank Young presents a \$2,000 check to DG Clyde for PolioPlus.



DG Clyde presented Paul Harris Fellow recognitions to three more recipients during his official visit with The Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise. Pictured are Club President Jeff Halliburton and new Paul Harris Fellows Rafe Semmes, Karen Martin and Greg Sapp.



Ruth Murphy, a 2007-08 GRSP student sponsored by the Rotary Club of Portobello, Scotland, was honored as a new Paul Harris Fellow by her host family, PDG Kenan and Beth Kern earlier this month during DG Clyde's official visit to the Rotary Club of Savannah South.



DG Clyde presented Paul Harris Fellow recognitions to several Rotarians during his official visit with The Rotary Club of Pooler. Receiving recognitions were Col. Todd Freeseemann (multiple), David Skadeland (multiple), Debra Kujawa and Eric Fogum (not pictured). Club President Eric Fogum is also pictured.



DG Clyde inducts Walter Strong (center) as a new member of The Rotary Club of Savannah West as proposer Sonny Hambrick looks on.

Clubs Reporting Raffle Ticket Sales Success

District 6920 clubs are reporting fairly good success with sales of the raffle tickets. We encourage everyone to continue to work diligently to sell the vacation raffle tickets. We will give away four exciting and interesting trips to our lucky winners at the district conference at Jekyll Island in April.

Tickets are \$25 each or five for \$100. The net proceeds of the sale of the raffle tickets will be donated to qualified Rotary charities to create Paul Harris Fellow and/or Will Watt Fellow Awards. Raffle proceeds will be available on a matching basis for Rotarians who want to make a contribution toward a Paul Harris Fellow or a Will Watt Fellow. For example, if a Rotarian has contributed \$500 toward a Paul Harris Fellow and will make an additional \$250 contribution, the district will match the contribution with \$250 from the raffle proceeds. The Rotarian becomes a Paul Harris Fellow and the club gets credit for the full \$500 contribution. The contribution can be directed toward the club's Every Rotarian Every Year or PolioPlus goal.

For additional information about the raffle, contact Marie Dodd at www.mariedodd@bellsouth.net.

RAFFLE TICKET SALES UPDATE

Reported Sales Reflect Numbers Submitted Through Sept. 15, 2009

<u>Club</u>	<u>Reported Sales</u>	<u>Club</u>	<u>Reported Sales</u>
Ashburn	0	Metter	0
Augusta	0	Milledgeville	0
Augusta South	50	Millen	5
Augusta West	0	Nashville/Berrien County	0
Blackshear	0	Ocilla	0
Brunswick	28	Perry	0
Byron	0	Pooler	0
Camden County	0	Reidsville	0
Centerville	0	Richmond Hill	0
Claxton	52	Sandersville	0
Cochran	0	Savannah	0
Douglas	0	Savannah East	0
Downtown Macon	0	Savannah South	20
Downtown Statesboro	0	Savannah Sunrise	0
Dublin	0	Savannah West	0
Eastman	0	Skidaway Island	0
Effingham County	0	St. Simons Island	21
Effingham Sunrise	21	Statesboro	0
Fitzgerald	0	Swainsboro	0
Glennville	0	Sylvania	8
Glynn County	0	Tennille	7
Hawkinsville	11	Tift County	0
Hazlehurst	0	Tifton	80
Hinesville	0	Uptown Macon	0
Jefferson County	0	Valdosta	0
Jekyll Island	5	Valdosta North	78
Jesup	0	Valdosta Sunrise	0
Jones County	16	Vidalia	43
Kings Bay	19	Warner Robins	0
Marshes of Glynn	0	Waycross	14
Macon	0	Waynesboro	0
McIntosh County	1	Wrightsville	48
McRae	0	TOTAL	220

METS Sorting Day



Members of The Rotary Club of Skidaway participated in a METS Sort Day at the end of August. Participating were Lorna Cross, Meredith Heaslip, Wells Hood, Wendell Kraus, Cliff Lindholm and his nephew Eric Lindholm, Toni Marwitz, Bernadette Nolan, Doug Powelson and Hank Croci. They, along with our new METS Director Linda Herdina and past director Patti Victor, organized over 250 boxes to fill seven palletes headed for Nigeria. Thanks to everyone who spent their Saturday morning in a rather hot environment. Your work is for a very worthwhile cause!

PAWS FOR READING

A Unique Literacy Program

This program adopted by The Rotary Club of Centerville connects children with reading difficulties with registered therapy dogs. The program in progress with Centerville Elementary, a Title I school, is an after-school activity and allows students to win the opportunity to read to a therapy dog by having perfect attendance the previous week. Paws For Reading lasts for six weeks and is the first of its kind in the Houston School System.

Students work one-on-one reading aloud to a therapy dog. The purpose is to develop the child's reading skills in a non-threatening environment. The dogs are non-judgemental and offer the student an incentive to participate.

Amy St. Clair, a member of The Rotary Club of Centerville, is also a member of Therapup. She organized the program by meeting with school officials and soliciting volunteer Therapup members to participate. Amy and her therapy dog, Nora, read with the students on a weekly basis. Other Rotarians have been involved with the school's Awards Day Program when Centerville has presented participating students with their own personal book "pawtographed" by a therapy dog. Recognition is key because some of these students may not have other recognizable academic achievements.

The program has helped improve the student's ability to read aloud. Being comfortable reading to the dogs builds the student's confidence in reading skills. The program has been so successful that after the first week, it was restructured to also include a morning session before school in order to reach more students. The number of trained therapy dogs is the principal factor limiting the size of the program.

Anyone interested in learning more about this fascinating literacy program can contact Centerville Rotarian Jack Steed at (478) 397-8595.



Looking Ahead

Monday, Sept. 28 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Swainsboro, noon

Tuesday, Sept. 29 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Tennille, 12:45 p.m.

Thursday, Oct. 1 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Milledgeville, noon

Monday, Oct. 5 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Perry, noon

Tuesday, Oct. 6 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Tift County, noon

Wednesday, Oct. 7 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Tifton, 12:15 p.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 13 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Nashville-Berrien, noon

Wednesday, Oct. 14 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Glynn County, 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 15 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Reidsville, noon

Tuesday, Oct. 20 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Effingham Sunrise, 7:30 a.m.

Wednesday, Oct. 21 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Skidaway, 7:30 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 22 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Effingham County, 12:30 p.m.

Monday, Oct. 26 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Ocilla, noon

Tuesday, Oct. 27 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Fitzgerald, noon

Wednesday, Oct. 28 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Byron, 8 a.m.

Thursday, Oct. 29 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Uptown Macon, noon

Monday, Nov. 2 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Statesboro, 1 p.m.

Tuesday, Nov. 3 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of McIntosh County, noon

Tuesday, Nov. 10 - DG Club Visit, Rotary Club of Blackshear, 1 p.m.

April 23-25, 2010 - District Conference, Jekyll Island, GA

March 13-14, 2010 - PeachState PETS, Atlanta

June 20-23, 2010 - Rotary International Convention, Montreal, Canada

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www.rotarydistrict6920.net