

Bob Griggers
District Governor
2012-2013

April 2013

Rotary *District 6920*

District Conference Slated for May 3-5 at the Marriott Hotel in Augusta

by District Governor Bob Griggers

Plans have been made to ensure all attendees have a great time at this year’s District Conference in Augusta. We have great speakers scheduled to be with us. We also have plans to have fun, and lots of it! We hope you are planning on being present, and if you are, you will be taking advantage of the early registration rates that will increase after April 15th. You can go online at www.rotary6920.org to register for the conference. Make your hotel reservations directly by calling (706) 722-8900. Be sure to request the special Rotary District Conference rate of \$122 plus tax.

If you have never attended a District Conference, please let this be your first. And if you have not attended in a while, come and see what you have been missing. The conference begins Friday at lunch with Bruce Goddard. Bruce is a humorist, motivational speaker and author who also happens to be an undertaker! He was raised in Reynolds, Ga., in the 1960s. His stories might make you laugh; they may make you cry, but be assured, they will make you think! John T. Capps will be our keynote speaker. If you have never heard John, you are in for a real treat! John probably has more energy than any speaker I have ever heard. He is a Rotarian from the Rotary tattoo on his shaved head to the soles of his shoes: a Rotarian through and through! He will have you on the edge of your seats and you will leave fired up about Rotary.

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District Conference Promises a Good Time for All

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PDG Claudia Mertl will also be a presenter during our District Conference. Claudia is a real winner, a lady who gets things done. She is very structured, focused, knows her subjects and will make every effort to ensure that you do as well. Claudia has been very active in her district, zone, Peach State PETS and other areas. We are very pleased to have our friend from our sister district of 6900 as a part of our conference.

While at the conference, you can visit with old Rotary friends and make new ones in the House of Friendship. You will have the opportunity to view club displays, videos and scrapbooks to see what others have done this year. You can place your bids on the many items that will be up for sale during the silent auction. Remember, all proceeds will be going to PolioPlus.

Take Saturday afternoon off and play a round of golf with fellow Rotarians. If you don't play golf, then enjoy lunch on a leisurely Savannah River cruise. If you like, you can take a historical tour of the city on your own or visit the many antique shops in the area. For the really adventurous, local Rotarians will lead a "Pub Crawl down Broad Street."

Back at the hotel, we will be getting ready to celebrate the "Kentucky Derby." Plans are for you to feel like you were back home in Louisville. We will have a little wagering, mint juleps, and oh yeah... ladies, wear your fancy Derby hat, because we will be having a "Best Hat Contest." You also might recognize our PDGs racing on stick horses!

We will have an exciting banquet Saturday night with good entertainment. Sunday morning we will have a brief devotional and memorial service to honor those Rotarians who have passed away during the past year.

We plan to have a live Skype with Rotarians in India to view for ourselves the matching grants that we have been involved with throughout the past year. Last but not least, we will hear from a panel of District Rotarians who will share with us unique and successful fundraisers and service projects that they have been involved with.

Please, come and be a part of a great conference!

District Simplified Grant Deadlines Must Be Met

by Les Arent, DSG Chair

District Grants are a great thing ... when all is going well. If things are not going well, they just stop until they do!

You might ask what do you mean? I mean that we have to dot all of the I's and cross each T or we don't get the grant. Another thing we have to do is to file progress reports and meet deadlines, and we usually have three.

If you received a DSG this year, you are supposed to have made your first progress report by February 25th. The second progress report will be due on April 4th. Your final report will be due on May 3rd. Remember, the grant number for all DSG final reports will be the same. That number is 78267.

Next year, some requirements will be different, but **no club** will be able to receive their local district grant money until **every club's final reports** are in for this year. Please help me ensure DG Smith and our clubs will get off to a good start. Send me your reports on time so that I can forward them to Rotary International for their final approval.

Please remember to save all of your receipts, photos etc. for each District Simplified Grant for at least 5 years. If you have any questions please contact me at javelin73@cox.net or at (478) 935-5847. Thanks!

**Register now for the
District Conference
by visiting the
District website at
www.rotarydistrict6920.net**

Peach State PETS a Huge Success

by District Governor Bob Griggers

I can imagine that District Governor Elect Gary Smith is feeling relieved and pretty good with much of his training behind him. It has been a busy three months for the DGEs. They had International Assembly in January, Assistant Governor training in February and President Elect Training sessions in March.

For a District Trainer, he picked a real winner when he asked PDG Lloyd Horadan to serve. Lloyd not only served as the trainer for District 6920, but also as chairman for this year's PETS. Talk about double duty!

I heard many nice things about this year's event. It was good to have not only RI President Elect Ron Burton, but RI past President Bill Boyd as well. Brad Howard from California and Jennifer Jones from Windsor Ontario, Canada, were also featured speakers. A special thank you to everyone who participated and made this PETS special!



DGE Gary Smith introducing Jennifer Jones



Rotary International President Elect Ron Burton, getting advice from Past RI President Bill Boyd



Door cover welcomes all to District 6920's hospitality suite



At left, Director Bill Booth, Chief of Staff Paula Goodnow, AG Ben Harvil and DGND John Neely

District 6920 is First Class

by District Governor Elect Gary Smith

I have had the opportunity to tell some of you about an awesome experience: my International Assembly in San Diego in January. A fascinating time of hard work and long hours sharing Rotary with my other 537 District Governor Elect classmates from all over the world.

My class was challenged by Rotary International President Elect (R.I.P.E.) Ron Burton to become the first class ever to be 100% in making a contribution to the Rotary Foundation prior to International Assembly and we accepted that challenge. Our contributions exceeded more than \$1.3 million. One hundred percent of us met that goal.

My two DGE friends from 6900 and 6910 thought that we should make that same challenge to all of our club President Elects, the class of 2013-2014, to make a contribution prior to their arrival at PETS in March. Knowing that RIPE Ron Burton would be joining us for dinner on Saturday night, we wanted to surprise him by presenting him

with the **FIRST CLASS** of President Elects who were 100% in making a Foundation contribution before PETS and **we did!** Additionally, the leadership of 6920 accepted the challenge made to them at Leadership Training in February and contributed to the Foundation prior to PETS. What a sight for all to rise Saturday night and proudly display the Blue Georgia **FIRST CLASS** buttons.

I thank each of you for your dedication and commitment. On Sunday night, I received an email from RIPE Ron that said:

“Dear Blake, Gary, and Anton,

Just a short note to thank each one of you for doing such a great job with the "First Class." You certainly made my day. I'm so proud of you and of our Georgia President-Elects. You are the first state to be 100%. Georgia is number one!

I really enjoyed being with you this past weekend and wish you continued success. Let me know if I can help in any way. I'm here for you.

Be safe and have fun.

Ron”

Where can we take this? Can we have for the first time in history our District become 100% Sustaining Members? Can each and everyone give at least \$100 to the Foundation? I think so. Some will certainly do as they have been accustomed and give much more to support our projects and “Doing Good in the World.” Accept the challenge and let us truly be the **FIRST CLASS** districtwide 100%.

The effort is easy. Either give through your club or go online through the Rotary International website Member Access (www.rotary.org) and manage your own giving. Remember, if you are the **FIRST CLASS**, then no one else will ever be.

Engage Rotary by giving. Your gift will change lives.



DGE Gary Smith is pictured with RIPE Ron Burton, Blake McBurney (6900) and Anton Zellman (6910).

Does Your Club Have a Membership Plan?

by Jack Steed, District Membership Chair

There are three distinct ways for Rotary membership to grow: (1) You can seek new members for your club. (2) You can retain your current members in your club. (3) You can sponsor a new club in your community. So what can we do to make each of these three actions happen?

Rotary grows when you seek qualified new members. A club must have a specific plan. The plan can take various forms. But, the plan or the goal must be measurable. Just to say, "Our club needs more members" is not a goal at all. It must be specific. If you say, "We will recruit one new member each month," that is a real goal. It's measurable and accountable. So how will you find that new member?

Your specific plan could be based on a 'team approach' with several members on each team. The team will meet and discuss qualified business, professional and community volunteer leaders who should be Rotarians. The team members will contact these individuals and invite them to a club meeting to learn more about Rotary.

Another plan could be to establish one club meeting per month to be a 'visitor day' to which all club members would invite a friend or prospect to enjoy the program and learn about the good work of Rotary in their community.

A plan could be designed around Rotary Foundation alumni by seeking out those who may have been an ambassadorial scholar, a member of a Group Study Exchange team or a former member of Rotaract or even former RYLA students who have reached maturity. These are natural prospects. So many report that no Rotarian has ever invited them to a Rotary meeting.

An effective plan is when every club member prepares a list of their personal contacts – name their attorney, dentist, physician, business dealers, or suppliers they use. From these lists, the membership team may create many prospects to be guests of the club, and frequently membership prospects develop.

A promising plan is to extend a welcome invitation to women in business and professional executives and eligible spouses of Rotarians who fulfill the requirements of membership. If your club still believes men are the only business and professional managers, then you may also have an informational task to perform. Much of the business of the world is being conducted by outstanding women and they deserve to be in Rotary.

There may be other effective plans that have been used by your club. We would like to know about them so that we can share them with all clubs. Remember, the survival of Rotary depends upon the recruitment of new members and the retention of established members.

For more information, contact Jack Steed at (478) 397-8595 or jsteednicholscauley.com.

District Membership Numbers Are In: Where Does Your Club Stand?

by District Governor Bob Griggers

District Membership Chair Jack Steed has done an exemplary job in keeping our minds focused on membership this year. He has written great articles each month and has been available to speak to our clubs. We have had many new members added to our roles, and as District Governor, it has been my pleasure to send a welcome letter to each and every one. However, I have not had any way to acknowledge those that we have had to drop for various reasons.

There is nothing we can do when a member moves, except try and find their replacement, and to forward a letter of recommendation to the area clubs he is relocating to. It is sad, but it is a fact that some of our members lose interest and some die. We have heard many times that we do not have a problem attracting members, but rather have a serious problem retaining them.

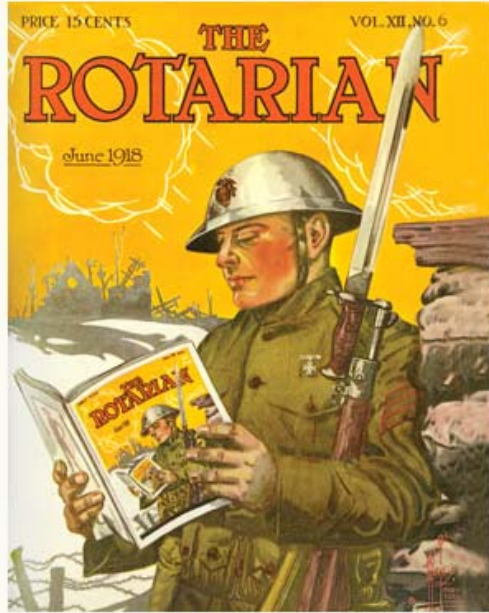
Some of our clubs have had members on their rolls that should not be there. I know it seems to be a tough stand to take, but I congratulate you on purging your membership lists of those members. We don't want just numbers; we want Rotarians and we want **active** Rotarians! I have been impressed as I have traveled throughout our District with the programs that are in place to ensure that a prospective member is informed before they are inducted.

I want to personally thank every Rotarian who has sponsored a new member this year. I also would like to encourage you now, more than ever, to ask a friend or business associate to share Rotary. We started our Rotary year with 3,335 members. At the end of November, we had increased our membership to 3,346. But, as of today, we have dropped to 3,343. I understand things are tough, but out of the 14 Districts in Zone 34, there are two districts that are showing a loss. Out of the remaining 12 Districts, we have the smallest number of new members at 8. Please make that final push and let's all see if we can make a strong showing by the end of our year. I would love to see a positive number of 65 members, or only one per club! Many thanks!

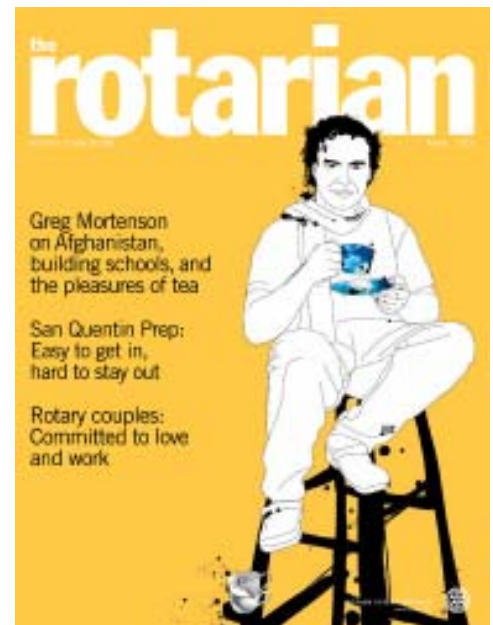
Rotary Theme for April - “Magazine Month”

by District Governor Bob Griggers

Rotary International has a different theme for each month. April is recognized as Magazine Month. We may question this when we compare magazine month to other monthly Rotary themes such as Literacy, Foundation, Membership, New Generations, World Understanding and others.



Rotary International leadership places a high value on the use and availability of magazines to spread the word about Rotary. The cost of a monthly issue is part of your dues to RI. In the United States, we think of “The Rotarian” which usually comes to us through the United States Postal Service in hard copy form. But this isn’t the only magazine published by Rotary World Magazine Press. Over half of the Rotarians in other parts of the world receive one of 30-plus



magazines produced independently and distributed to over 130 countries in two dozen languages.

At my first RI Convention, I was impressed to see (and brought home as souvenirs) copies of so many different versions of “The Rotarian.” Some of the other versions are “Rotary-No-Tomo” (Japan), “Le Rotarian” (France), “Rotary Dergisi” (Turkey), “Rotarismo en Mexico” (Mexico), “El Rotario Peruano” (Phillipines), “Revista Rotaria” (Venezuela), “Rotary News/Rotary Samachar” (India) and many more.

What is Your Club Contributing to the Silent Auction?

By Ted Thompson, Silent Auction Chair

As Chair for the Silent Auction, I would like to remind you of my earlier requests for auction items. The district conference is just a month away and we still need to hear from most of you. I am starting the inventory list and have been contacted by several clubs concerning some nice items. However, we need every club to participate to make this Polio Plus fundraiser a success!

Items suggested have been: tools, electronic items, golf clubs or other sports equipment, tickets to events, luggage, works of art, antiques, condo or hotel packages, furniture, area gift baskets, crystal, china, small appliances, jewelry, vintage wine or other spirits. Something we can always use is gift cards from major box stores or department stores. Gift cards for restaurants such as Red Lobster, Olive Garden, Bonefish Grill, Outback Steakhouse, Ruby Tuesday’s, Cracker Barrel, etc. are always favorites. The opportunities are unlimited; just use your imagination.

Let’s go for it and go big “Raising money to end Polio!”

If you are not reading your “Rotarian,” I urge you to do so. It is a good source of information about what other Rotarians are doing in the U.S. and abroad. Our International President has an article in each issue. A monthly calendar is included to keep you abreast of important events and current and historical dates. Various contributors have interesting articles on a variety of subjects. But don’t forget, it is your magazine so submit an article about your club for a future issue. I look forward to reading it!

Hazlehurst Club Hosts Tennis Tournament



The Hazlehurst Rotary Club held a very successful fundraiser doubles tennis tournament on March 16 with proceeds to be used to help Rotarians with several community service projects and help the club make a donation to the Jeff Davis Yellow Jacket Tennis program.

There were 14 men's teams, four ladies teams and eight mixed doubles teams with a total of 38 players from Hazlehurst, Alma, Baxley, Nashville (GA), Tifton, Valdosta, Jesup, Blackshear and Savannah.

At left, Bailey Rucker and Ashley Everett of Jeff Davis County who were runners-up in the Ladies Doubles Championship

Savannah West Makes Donation on Behalf of Student

The Rotary Club of Savannah West recently donated \$500 to the Boys and Girls Club of Coastal Georgia on behalf of Sabria Jones.

She is the young lady who impressed club members with her moving story and thousands of hours of volunteer work to other young people in Savannah through the Boys and Girls Club of Coastal Georgia.

After a conversation with Vince DeMonte, executive director of the Boys and Girls Club, the Rotarians decided to use the gift to purchase a computer for the youngsters. Sabria is a student at St. Vincent's Academy, just around the corner from the Boys and Girls Club, so the presentation was held there. The school's principal helped plan the surprise presentation during Sabria's lunch.

Sabria broke out in tears and her fellow classmates surrounded her with applause.



McIntosh Club Uses DSG Monies to Purchase AED

McIntosh County Rotary Club's Community Project this year was developed as a result of the District Governor's challenge for the clubs to tell what the 2012-2013 theme - "Peace through Service" - meant to them.

As a result, the members felt a need to help provide a "PEACE of MIND" to their school system by writing and submitting a District Simplified Grant to purchase an additional AED, Automated External Defibrillators, for the McIntosh County Schools. The club was fortunate to receive the grant funding and were able to purchase one for this year. They hope to re-apply for funding next year until they are able to supply the remaining two schools with one as well.

According to the McIntosh County Athletic Trainer, Lewis McCarty, "Early defibrillation is a critical link in American Heart Association's, CPR "Chain of Survival".

The coaches at the high school received training during the summer. Mr. McCarty will continue to provide the AED/CPR training in an effort to get all school personnel trained.



McIntosh County Rotary Club President Diane Martin, McIntosh County School's Athletic Trainer Lewis McCarty and MCA Principal Terrance Haywood

Skidaway Island Rotary Club Assists in Construction of Shower for Polio Survivor

The Rotary Club of Skidaway Island, working in conjunction with CEPASA (Coastal Empire Polio Survivors Association) and Belfor Property Restoration, have upgraded the bathtub and shower facilities for a Savannah area polio survivor.

Polio as a disease has been virtually eliminated from the world by the efforts of many organizations including Rotary International. However, Post Polio Syndrome affects thousands of polio survivors in the United States, who often suffer disabilities that last for the rest of their lives.

For 15 years CEPASA has been a resource for people in coastal Georgia and South Carolina experiencing Post Polio Syndrome. CEPASA's efforts are particularly focused on survivors' mobility, access, and enhanced livability.

The recipient of the new facilities greatly appreciates the efforts of the Skidaway Rotary Club, CEPASA and Belfor Inc. for their generosity, courtesy and attention to detail in this complex project.



A Call to End Polio



Rotarians joined Bill Gates, co-chair of the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, and other supporters of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative on the steps of the U.S. Capitol on March 14 to encourage continued support for the campaign to end polio.

For more D6920 news, visit our website at www.rotary6920.org and check out our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/rotary6920