



DISTRICT 6920

Georgia, USA



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District Seminar a Huge Success

An outstanding 75% of our Clubs in District 6920 participated in a very successful District Foundation and Membership in Dublin on August 13! Our new more convenient location and valuable presentations attracted 150 participants from throughout the District.

A first for our seminar was a live Skype call with a matching-grant partner in the Southern Hemisphere. During the morning, District Matching Grants Chair John Neely presented a live Skype conference with our grant recipient Stan Rosholt in Bolivia using the Internet. Participants could see Stan as he was speaking and could ask him questions. His presentation explained how our grant is keeping wells in working condition so that rural Bolivians avoid water-borne diseases.

Excellent break-outs were held on membership, public relations, data base and the web, and district simplified grants to help clubs with their plans for the this new Rotary year.

Oconee Fall Line Technical College in Dublin proved to be very convenient as it is located just off of I-16 and the facility is well designed for such events. The Dublin Rotary Club provided excellent support for the seminar and excelled at the many logistics of registration, refreshments and lunch.

The Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise received The Blankenship Cup with an outstanding three-year per capita contribution level to the Foundation of \$212. The Rotary Club of Skidaway Island was runner up at a strong \$181.

Robert Hall from Atlanta provided an update on the global progress of Polio Plus and had the winning ticket for the grand door price of two nights in Savannah, dinner and a certificate to a wine bar.

More details about seminar events can be found throughout this newsletter.

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Greetings from Governor Gordon

As I have visited with clubs throughout our district – about 20 so far - I have discovered an amazing diversity of ages among our membership!

In one club the youngest member is 25 and the most senior member is 95! One club has a president who is 25 and another club's president is 27. We also have a club president who is a very energetic 83.

The younger members that I meet are eager to help contribute to our Facebook page and the more senior members provide the perspective and wisdom for our clubs and inspire me with their vitality. In Macon, I was honored when our district's 97-year-old Past District Governor Albert Reichert Sr. attended his club when I spoke.

I applaud our clubs for being inclusive and respectful of both our youngest and most senior members!

District Seeks Breakthrough in Use of Technology

As a Rotary District we have every reason to make the most of web-based technology - we cover a large geographic area and our larger clubs are clustered around the edges of our district. We are beginning a journey to discover how we reach across our district with the Internet and digital media, rather than postage, printed material and long drive times in our car.

We have begun. Prior to July 1, we revised our name on the web to Rotary6920, updated our web site, and started a district Facebook page. We produced and distributed our first district directory using DaCdb at a cost savings of \$2,500. During my visits, I have been suggesting to each club that they devote one program to demonstrating our web site, Facebook page and DaCdb live using a Wi-Fi connection.

Since July 20, we have been collecting data on traffic to our website using Google Analytics and we thought you might be interested in the fact that our first month's data shows that we have had 493 unique visitors to our web site and a total of 1,006 visits, of which 924 came from Georgia and 62 came from Florida. One visit for 33 minutes came from Turkey and another one for 12 minutes came from India.

We assume that only young people use Facebook. Wrong. People over 55 make up 49% of our Facebook page's users followed by 18.4% who are 45-54, so two thirds of our activity comes from folks over the age of 45. The male/female mix report for us from Facebook is 57%/40%. (Don't ask who the other 3 percent are!)

On July 18, using the District and Club Database, I sent out about 2,400 emails to Rotarians in District 6920 with a link to our monthly newsletter. Now a month later, the page hit counter shows that we have had only 179 visits to the web page containing our newsletter, and several of those are mine to see how the count is coming along. Our newsletter is an important way to recognize the accomplishments of our clubs, but few seem to be reading what we produce.

On Saturday at our District Seminar, we had a live conversation with our matching grant partner in Bolivia! We saw him, we heard him and he listened to our questions and answered them. The tool we used is called Skype and this may be another way we reach across our own district.

There was a day when our monthly newsletter was our main communication channel within the district. Now we have to rethink all of that.

It is far too early to believe that we have had any breakthroughs but hopefully we, like the Lewis & Clark expedition, can be considered the Corps of Discovery as we experiment with ways to reach across our district to the leadership and membership in each of our clubs. I am interested in your thoughts and suggestions that may help us navigate this journey.

Blankenship Cup Awarded to Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise

The Blankenship Cup, established in memory of the late Past District Governor Bill Blankenship, is awarded annually to the Rotary club in the district with the highest three-year per capita average of Annual Programs Fund contributions to The Rotary Foundation.



Bill Blankenship

This year, nearly \$35 separated the top club from the runner up, with just over \$80 separating the top 10 clubs. The Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise is recipient of this year's Blankenship Cup with \$212.66 per capita APF average. The remaining top 10 clubs are: second - Rotary Club of Skidaway Island, \$181.07; third - Rotary Club of Savannah South - \$176; fourth - Rotary Club of Sandersville - \$154.44; fifth - Rotary Club of Savannah - \$148.82; sixth - Rotary Club of Savannah East - \$148.12; seventh - Rotary Club of Savannah West - \$146.61; eighth - Rotary Club of Macon - \$144.18; ninth - Rotary Club of Dublin - \$136.57 and tenth - Rotary Club of Augusta South - \$130.83.



Bill, who served as District Governor from 2006-07, provided countless years of support and dedication to Rotary. The Blankenship Cup was first awarded in 2009 and the Rotary Club of Centerville was awarded the cup for the first two years.

Rotary Club of Savannah South Awards \$23,400 to Local Organizations

Children who need help to be better prepared for school and patients who cannot afford to see specialists are among those who will benefit from grants recently awarded by the Savannah South Rotary Club.

Grants totaling \$23,400 were awarded to the Savannah Early Childhood Foundation, Hospice Savannah, the Coastal Children's Advocacy, the St. Mary's Community Center, The Good Samaritan Clinic, Park Place Outreach, the Royce Learning Center and the Chatham-Savannah Citizens Advocacy.

The Savannah Early Childhood Foundation will use its grant for resources to help children aged infant to 5-years-old who live in areas of high poverty to be better prepared when they began school. Hospice Savannah will use the funds to continue its hospice and palliative care services, and The Good Samaritan Clinic will fund patients seeing specialists. The Chatham-Savannah Citizens Advocacy will use the funds to continue its work to advocate on behalf of people with disabilities. The Boy Scouts will pay the expenses for Scouts, who can not afford it, to attend Camp Woodruff. The Coastal Children's Advocacy will continue its work of helping sexually-abused children. St. Mary's Community Center will offer field trips year round for its preschool children. Park Place will provide a safe haven for children who are not living at home. The Royce Learning Center will award scholarships for students in grades 1 through 5 to attend a summer program to catch up on academic skills and for older children to attend summer enrichment and study skills programs.



Rotary Club of Savannah South President Mat Turner, left, presents a check to Paul Fisher, right, President of the Savannah Early Childhood Foundation.

New Matching Grant in Bolivia to Repair Corroding Water Pump Rods

It is very common to see a villager like the one at the right drinking water from a reservoir without realizing that the water is contaminated even though the cows on the other side are pooping in the water! Either this villager is blinded by his ignorance or his thirst forces him to drink the contaminated water that may not affect him severely or he just doesn't care or the water well is too far away or the hand pump is broken so he has no other choice to drink what's available or his village has no water well.

Hygiene and sanitation education is the best tool to prevent disease caused from drinking contaminated water once villagers understand why contaminated water can create severe illnesses for him and his family. Bolivia is considered a

poor country with the lowest GDP per capita among Latin countries in South America. With an estimated population of 10,118,683, the per capita income is just over \$1,000 and just over 30% live on less than \$2 per day.

The Chiquitano Safe Water Program was initiated in 2002 with funding from the Foundation for the Conservation of the Chiquitano Forest (FCBC), Rotary, and other donors for implementing short term donation projects that build



upon resources from the Regional Governments from eastern Bolivia. Since 2002 the program benefited 110 villages with the donation of water wells and India Mark 2 (IM2) hand pumps, with an estimated investment of \$1.2 million dollars between all collaborating organizations.

In 2009, the Rotary MG 09-67877 grant was awarded to the Chiquitano Safe Water Program for \$107,000 to initiate the Preventive Pump Maintenance Project with oversight from the Rotary Club Santa Cruz de la Sierra and Rotary Club Amboró for the Chiquitano North Sector, having serviced 68 village pumps as of April 2011. The program is ongoing and has reached a total of 99 village pumps serviced.

Mild steel corrodes, see picture at left, with the pH of the water and the weight of the rods (20 to 40 meters in total length), plus the weight of the cylinder will break corroded rods and disable the well for months and sometimes years. The mild steel rods are initially cheaper but corrode quickly and do not last long. It becomes much a more expensive proposition in labor and traveling costs to the villages to replace corroded parts and broken pumps than investing in a more expensive stainless steel rod and riser pipe that will last for

years with no corrosion.

Repairing broken hand pumps and keeping hand pumps functional through regular preventive maintenance that eliminating corrosion issues helps provide a reliable source of safe water for thousands of Chiquitano villagers. District 6920 is asking for your support of this maintenance project, MG 11-75475.



Looking Ahead: September is New Generations Month, a time to highlight Rotary's commitment to youth

Group Study Exchange 2012 to Turkey

This year's Group Study Exchange is with Rotary District 2440 in Turkey, one of the most historically rich areas that a team could possibly visit. The traditional Group Study Exchange that we are familiar with may be changed significantly after 2013, so Rotary D6920 is soliciting Group Study Exchange (GSE) team leader applicants to lead our GSE Team to Turkey in April-May 2012. Tentatively, our team will be leaving Savannah on May 2, 2012 and arriving in Ismir, Turkey on May 4. The team will return home approximately June 1 from Istanbul.

The GSE team leader will fully participate in the recruitment and selection of our GSE team members in November and December and then lead the training of the team between late January and April 2012. This will consist of five or six meetings, usually on a Saturday. The deadline for submission of team leader applications to GSE Chair Justin Godchaux is September 15, 2011.

Group Study Exchange is a rare opportunity to be hosted by Rotarians and emersed in another culture. Worthy GSE Team members living with District 6920 are usually identified and recruited by Rotarians. D6920 Rotarians are asked to recruit young professionals between the ages of 25 and 40 to serve on the GSE team. These individuals cannot be Rotarians or related to a Rotarian. The deadline for GSE team member applications is Nov. 1, 2011.

The team from Turkey will be arrive in our district mid-April, 2012 and will attend our District Conference in Savannah May 18-20. Contact GSE Chair to arrange for the team to visit your area. Additional information is available on our district web site www.Rotary6920.org in the Foundation section for GSE.

Rotary Leadership Institute Informative, Fun

by Ted Thompson, District RLI Chair

If you are like me, the first time I heard the phrase "Rotary Leadership Institute," I immediately thought of an institution like the U.S. Military Academy "West Point." If I choose to attend I wonder if we will be allowed to come home for Thanksgiving or Christmas? Will we have to wear uniforms? After I found out what it really was, I was relieved! No, it's not like West Point and there are no uniforms. It's a casual three-part series of classes - not lectured classes, but discussion classes - each lasting one day on a Saturday, where Rotarians discuss Rotary basics. Huh? Let me rephrase. In other words, it's a group of Rotarians from your club and other Rotary clubs sitting in a room discussing different topics about Rotary. Each class is made up of 15-20 people, just like you and me; some have only been members for a couple of weeks or months, others have been in Rotary for years. I had a class with a gentleman who had been a Rotarian for about 45 years. He knew a lot about Rotary! We learned a lot from him.

Some of the topics discussed are service projects, fundraisers, proper introduction of a guest speaker or a visiting District Governor, membership recruitment and retention, weak and strong areas of your club and how to build from them, preparation for becoming a committee chair or club president, several ways to become a Paul Harris Fellow, what happens to your money when it goes to the Rotary Foundation, how to start an Interact or Rotaract Club in your area and many other great areas of discussion.

Want to brag or strut a little about what your club does? Then come to the new RLI session on Saturday, Sept. 24 at Augusta State University in Augusta. Cost per person is \$95. We furnish you with a notebook and class material, breakfast, mid-morning snack, lunch, a graduation certificate and group picture at the end of the day. The classes are led by discussion leaders. We ask the questions and you have the answers. This is only available to a limited number of participants, so register online now at rlitraining.org.

Valdosta Rotarian Recognized



Rotarian Ed Crane, center, received his award as the Alapaha Boy Scout Council's representative to the National 100th Birthday Celebration's Hall of Fame from Matt Hart, the council's executive director, on July 20 at the Rotary Club of Valdosta's weekly meeting. Crane has been a Rotarian for 60 years, most of them at the Valdosta club. Pictured (from L to R) are: John Meeks from the BSA National Council, Rotarian and former Boy Scout Ed Crane, and Hart, Scout Executive and Chief Executive Officer for the Alapaha Area Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Getting to Know

Jeanette Caneega



Q: Why are you a Rotarian?

A: In the beginning, I became a Rotarian because Harold Rice and Ralph Jackson, both members of the Wrightsville club, encouraged me to become a member. I visited the club for about 6 weeks in order to see if there would be any problems with the club accepting me since few females were Rotarians at that time. I believe that I was readily accepted by every member. It took me about two years to realize what a fantastic organization Rotary is. I remain a Rotarian because I appreciate the positive impact Rotary has worldwide. I remain a Rotarian because Rotarians enrich my life and through Rotary, I am a part of something so worthwhile.

Q: How long have you been a Rotarian?

A: I became a Rotarian in 1988. So I have been a Rotarian for 23 years. Twenty-three fantastic years!

Q: What skills/experience do you bring to District 6920?

A: Certainly, being a Past District Governor has given me a wider view to what Rotary is all about and the training for becoming the DG provided me with many varied experiences for continued service within my own club, within District 6920 and with the other two districts in Georgia. Serving as Chair for Peach State PETS for two years also increased my knowledge and honed my leadership skills. Having a background in managing and planning instruction as a math teacher and supervising an elementary school gave me a strong leadership base. My profession required that I establish goals, develop plans for attaining such goals and being able to measure goals.

Q: What are you doing now for District 6920?

A: I am serving on the METS Board and serving as the Foundation Chair for my club. DG Gordon also asked me to serve as the District Foundation Chair. I have just returned home from presenting a program about the Foundation at the Centerville Club.

Q: Where does your passion come from?

A: Once you understand what Rotary is all about, it is easy to be passionate about Rotary. I believe that when you become a member of something, you should give of your time, energies and talents to support the mission of that organization. I strive to be that person.

Q: What is your most vivid Rotary experience?

A: That is a very difficult question because the last 23 years have exposed me to so many unique, loving experiences: my own little club asking me to serve as president,Preston Johnson encouraging me to consider being district governor ... my entire time as DG ... Bill Booth and his Valdosta crew taking me out for a meal on the first anniversary of my son Jeff's death ... PDGs Bill Kemp and Marion Franklin telling me to take being DG one day at a time and that they would step in if I became incapacitated by sorrow ... Albert and Bebe coming out in a huge rainstorm to bring my mom and myself a meal while son Brent was dealing with leukemia ... watching grandson Michael help the Perry club give out door prizes ... coming home today after spending a night in the home of Bob and Brenda Griggers ... and the list goes on and on! Being surrounded, supported and loved by fellow Rotarians has given me, and continues to provide, A+ experiences in my life. Of course, I value the polio vaccines we have provided, the wells we have dug, the many areas of improved literacy, the medical supplies provided and this list goes on and on. The most vivid aspect of Rotary is that through service to others, we, too, are served in so many ways.

Q: What is your greatest wish for Rotary?

A: In one of President Cliff Dochterman's talks, he asks "When did you become a Rotarian?" He is not asking which year we became Rotarians. He is asking when did our hearts transform us to act, to think and to live the "service above self" motto. My wish is for all Rotarians to truly encompass the ideals of Rotary and to live in such a way that our thoughts and actions demonstrate our love and concern for others. Cliff Dochterman would love living in such a world as this. We all would?

Clubs to Help Fund Speech Contest

With the economy in a slump, it not only affects individuals and families, but also Rotary clubs and districts. For the Rotary year 2011-2012, clubs have been informed there is less money available in the district budget for the Speech Contest as we have known it in the past. As you know, the three Zone Speech Contest finalists attend the District Conference, present their speech and receive a \$1,000 scholarship. To continue to carry this tradition forward, each sponsoring Rotary club will be responsible for \$100 for each of their students attending the Zone Contest, with a maximum of two students per club.

There is no change for the local speech contests, only the Zone competition. The check must be sent to the District Speech Chair, Ted Thompson, 7744 Linton Rd., Sandersville, GA 31082, in advance of the specified Saturday of the Zone Contest or accompany the student to the Zone Contest. Please make it payable to "Rotary District 6920."

I have polled more than 25 clubs and have received an overwhelmingly positive response with the clubs agreeing to cover this additional cost. Thanks for your understanding. Because of your enthusiasm and continued support we can have another great year of speech presentations by students from our local high schools. If you attended the District Conference in Augusta in May, you saw the fine speech presentations by the three finalists and know what we have to look forward to in 2012.

If you have any questions, please call Ted at (478) 232-0969 or email him at TThom034@aol.com

Kings Bay Open House



The Rotary Club of Kings Bay held its Open House on July 26 to celebrate being the first night time club in our district. Approximately 27 people attended the event and several walked away with new member packets. The club hopes to induct at least three new members who attended the Open House.

Effingham Sunrise Rotarian Recognized



Floyd Smith was recognized for 40 years of perfect meeting attendance as a Rotarian, currently as a member of the Rotary Club of Effingham Sunrise. Floyd (right) received the congratulations of the club and a "40" tab for his membership pin from outgoing president Jamie Kreyenbuhl at the club's end-of-the-year party in July.

Wrightsville Honors Citizen of the Year

DG Gordon Matthews and AG Frank Seaton were guests at a reception and Wrightsville Rotary Club Family of Rotary event at the home of Rotarian Guy Singletary and his wife Jodi. Highlighting the evening was the recognition of Carolyn Brantley as Rotary Citizen of the Year by PDG Jeanette Caneega. Brantley is a past president of the club who has made a positive impact throughout the community with the talents and energies she has given to the local Rotary club.

Certificates of perfect attendance were presented to over 50% of the club members. DG Matthews recognized Jeanette Caneega with a certificate and pin as a METS Ambassador. President Becky Browning presented Past President Mary Jo Buxton with a beautiful Rotary plaque for the leadership she provided to the club.



Carolyn Brantley is honored as the Wrightsville Rotary Club's Citizen of the Year. Congratulating her are AG Frank Seaton, PDG Jeanette Caneega and DG Gordon Matthews.

Clubs Encouraged to Follow Process for Automatic DaCdb Updates

DaCdb now has the ability to automatically update club member changes in the RI database ... this is called RI "direct connect." Currently, only changes to existing records are being updated directly in the RI database. The update occurs in the RI database within a few minutes of the user "clicking" the UPDATE button in the DaCdb record being updated.

There is a two-step process to incorporate the RI direct connect interface option for your club. First, you must log into the RI Member Access Portal (MAP) and edit your club data to select DaCdb as your interface partner. Then, after you have completed the first step in MAP, just log onto DaCdb, and edit your club data to select "RI Direct Connect" as the interface option for your club. Both of these steps must be completed in the correct sequence to be activated.

Only the club president, secretary or executive secretary can make these interface option selections in the RI database. So, each CLUB must log into RI using the MAP process and make the selection of DaCdb as their interface partner. The DCO in the district cannot make these changes for the clubs in the RI database.

Each club in District 6920 is strongly encouraged to turn this on so that changes are automatic.

Macon Awarded Positive Peace Award

Did you know that the United Nations has begun awarding Positive Peace Awards for communities, businesses, schools and entertainment organizations that exemplify and demonstrate positive values and results? And did you know that Rotary International is a key player in the selection process?

Macon, Georgia, was selected among small cities around the world to win the 2010 Positive Peace Award based on criteria that included celebratory events, positive businesses, outstanding service clubs and non-profits, and concern for citizens.



"I was very surprised when Macon was chosen by the United Nations. But when I learned that RI helped select the winners, and a local Rotarian submitted the nomination, the choice became a lot more meaningful," said Rick Maier, past-president of the Rotary Club of Downtown Macon.

Macon received notice of winning the award in January, but delayed the official celebration until the 29th annual Cherry Blossom Festival, where local Rotary leaders presented the award to Mayor Robert Reichert and Bibb County Commission Chairman Sam Hart.

"Since the Macon Rotary was founded in 1914," said past Club president Chip Koplin, "our members have been influential leaders in industry and government. We helped

start the Downtown and Uptown clubs, and together, Rotarians have been a major force for good in our community."

The Celebrate Positive organization administers the award programs on behalf of the UN. When they first announced that Macon had won, the typical reaction of local citizens was disbelief.

"We had virtually the same "Us?" reaction every time we informed a community that they had been nominated for a positivity award," said Scott Pederson, President/CEO of Celebrate Positive. "I think it shows that people have lost sight of the incredibly positive things happening right under their noses in their own community. We hope these awards will turn that perspective around."