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# Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

GARY SMITH, DISTRICT GOVERNOR

## GRSP Trustee Training Held in Cordele

Rotarians from around the state gathered July 19-20, at The Lake Blackshear Resort, Cordele, Georgia, for the Summer meeting of the Georgia Rotary Student Program.

Both days were filled with Trustee training sessions and committee meetings but also included time for fellowship for the more than seventy attendees.

The event marked the end of Savannah South Rotarian Jim Drake's tenure as GRSP Chair, a position he had held since 2008. GRSP By-Laws limit officers to a maximum of five one year terms.

Jim's successor is Terry Gordon of the Gwinnett Rotary Club (D6910). Terry previously served as Program Vice-Chair and prior to that, as Treasurer.

Chosen to serve as GRSP Vice-Chair is Bert Guy, a member of the Camden



Gary Smith, DG 6920; Bert Guy, GRSP Vice Chair; Terry Gordon, GRSP Chair; Jim Drake, GRSP Chair Emeritus

County Rotary Club. Bert

also serves as Chair of the Committee in charge of the upcoming Conclave to be held August 23-25, at the newly opened Jekyll Island Convention Center.

Johnny Dukes of the Valdosta Rotary Club

was elected to serve a third term as GRSP Treasurer.  
District 6920 has a long and distinguished history of support for GRSP and its mission, "To promote peace through understanding," and is proud of the many D6920 Rotarians who have made significant contributions to its continued success.

August 2013

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**Meet Your 2013 - 2014  
District Leadership Team**

Go to: [http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District\\_Team.php](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District_Team.php)

**Meet Your 2013 - 2014  
District Committee Chairs**

Go to: <http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District%20Chairs.php>

# GRSP Trustee Training



District 6920 was well represented at the GRSP Trustee Training at Lake Blackshear July 19-20. Pictured above are front (l-r) Pam Lightsey - GRSP Director (RC Augusta South), Carolyn Neely - spouse of DGN John Neely, Charolette Thompson - spouse of DGE Ted Thompson, Sue Smith - spouse of DG Gary Smith, Susan Kleine - GRSP Trustee (RC Skidaway Island); back (l-r) Milton Heard - GRSP Trustee (RC Macon), Ted Thompson - DGE (RC Sandersville), John Neely - DGN (RC Savannah East), Gary Smith - DG (RC Fitzgerald), Jim Drake - Chair Emeritus (RC Savannah South), Bert Guy - GRSP Vice Chair (RC Camden County).

## Kings Bay Rotarians Fill Bags



The Rotary Club of Kings Bay had Mike and Kathy Rickenberg from Isaiah 6:8 Missions as their speakers and were happy to present to them items to help fill their blessing bags and school supplies for the Philippines, making it their first International project of the year.

# Membership Month

by RI President Ron D. Burton

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

Our goal in 2013-14 is to Engage Rotary, Change Lives. All of us know that Rotary has incredible potential to do good work. It's time to recognize how much more we could be doing and start working on new ways to turn that potential into reality. We're going to do this by engaging Rotarians – by getting them involved, by getting them inspired, and by making sure that all Rotarians know just what a gift they have in Rotary.

We're going to make sure that the work we do in Rotary is solid, effective, and sustainable. And we're going to make sure that Rotary itself will last – by committing to our goal of 1.3 million Rotarians in our clubs by the year 2015.

That goal is a little different from membership goals we've had in the past. The goal isn't just bringing in new members. The goal is growing Rotary. The goal is making Rotary bigger, not just with more members, but with more involved, engaged, motivated members who will be the ones to lead us into our future.

Each of us has our own reason for joining Rotary – but I believe we all want to make a difference. We all want to be doing something meaningful. That is absolutely essential for us to remember when we talk about membership.

We're not asking just anyone to join Rotary. We're looking to attract busy, successful, motivated people who care. We're asking them to take their valuable time and give it to Rotary. So if they say yes, and they come and join our club, then we'd better be showing them that their time in Rotary is well spent.

We have to make sure that every Rotarian, in every club, has a meaningful job – one that makes a real difference to the club and the community. Because when you're doing something meaningful in Rotary, Rotary is meaningful to you.

In Rotary, we all have something to give. At every stage of our lives and our careers, Rotary has something for all of us – a way to let us do more, be more, and give more. Rotary gives our lives more meaning, more purpose, and greater satisfaction. And the more we give through Rotary, the more Rotary gives back to us in return.



# Benefits of the Georgia Rotary Student Program

by PDG (2001-02) Jim Puryear

For over 35 years I have been associated with the Georgia Rotary Student Program. Frequently, we refer to GRSP as a program to promote goodwill between the United States and other countries. This is the basis on which the program was created. However, GRSP does more than promote goodwill between the United States and other countries. It, in fact, serves Rotary International on a worldwide basis.



One such case of GRSP's worldwide service came to my attention recently. A former Augusta Rotarian, Bob McElroy (now a Rotarian in Chattanooga) was a GRSP host for three years while in Augusta. He maintains contact with his former students and one student in particular has communicated with him recently. This former student is Martin Larsson, now 38 years old, from Sweden and was a GRSP student in 1996.

Martin returned home after his GRSP year, graduated from the University of Lunn, and subsequently received a law degree in 2000 from that institution. He indicates that his experience of studying in the USA was very helpful in his becoming a senior manager with Ernst and Young in Sweden. He has a staff of 45 employees, most of whom are auditors and accountants.

However, it is exciting to note that Martin is an active Rotarian, having served in leadership to host a GSE visitation group and is now slated to be president of his Rotary Club in 2015. GRSP's service to Rotary International is clearly demonstrated in the service that participant Martin Larsson is providing.

## RI's "Paul Harris Society"

by PDG Bob Griggers  
District Paul Harris Society Chairman

You might question the heading and say "what's up with the title? We already have a Paul Harris Society." This is true. Until recently each District administered its own program. In the Rotary Year of 2004-2005 Past District Governor Bill Blankenship organized a PHS in District 6920. PDG John Parkins was the first charter member. The Society grew to over two dozen members but has not yet grown like it should. PDG Kenan Kern has monitored the program since Governor Blankenship passed away. We fast forward to 2013-2014. Rotary International has decided that all Paul Harris Society chapters should come under their umbrella .... So here is where we will start.

Some may ask "what is the Paul Harris Society?" Any Rotarian that contributes \$1000 or more per year, or has that amount contributed in their name, can be recognized as Paul Harris Fellow. Each new Paul Harris Fellow will receive a commemorative certificate and pin. To become a member of the Paul Harris Society, you commit to contributing \$1000 each year. The easiest way is making a donation with your club dues in the amount of \$83.35 per month or \$250 per quarter.

When you become a Paul Harris Fellow, you will receive "recognition points", which can be used to recognize someone else as a Paul Harris Fellow or you can transfer the points. The different levels of contributions are identified by different stones or amount of stones (sapphires and rubies). You have nine levels before you are recognized as a Major Donor.

Please consider supporting our Rotary Foundation today by committing to the Paul Harris Society. A lot of you are already qualified, but have not committed. If you have any questions, please contact Bob Griggers at bobgrig@aol.com.

## Centerville Club Installs New Officers

Kathleen Hart, immediate past president, Rotary Club of Centerville, passed the president's gavel to Kenny Kitchens during a recent installation ceremony. Assistant District Governor Joy Hurst conducted the installation of Bubba Edwards, President-elect, Lenn Hall, Treasurer, Melissa Phagan and Ken Asbury, Sergeant-at-Arms.

Among the award recipients were Rick Franklin, Service Above Self Award, Melissa Phagan, President's Award and Jack Steed, Rotarian of the Year. Those with the highest number of perfect attendance years were Bob Griggers, District Governor 2012-2013; Billy Tucker, and Ken Asbury. The club distinguished itself this past year with a number of service projects accomplished within the community and abroad. Projects focused on literacy, clean water, eradication of polio, fighting hunger, donation of medical supplies/equipment to developing countries, support of Crimestoppers and helping humanity to live more peacefully through conflict resolution.

## Kern Appointed Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator

PDG Kenan J. Kern has been appointed as the 2013-2016 Zone 34 Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator.

In his new appointment as RRF for Zone 34, Kern will be responsible for leading The Rotary Foundation's humanitarian programs and contribution service to over 895 Rotary clubs serving over 37,000 Rotarians throughout Georgia, Florida, and the countries of the Caribbean Islands and nearby South America.

Kern is a member of the Rotary Club of Savannah South and has been a member of RI for more than 25 years.

# Council Delegates Strengthen Districts

**Changes were effective July 1, 2013**

by Marni Nixon, Rotary International Club & District Support

You have many new opportunities created by 2013 Council on Legislation delegates to help strengthen and support your Rotary clubs. Below are some of the key changes relevant to district governors. Have any questions? Contact us: [www.rotary.org/cds](http://www.rotary.org/cds)



Marni Nixon

## **Ways Districts Can Now Strengthen Clubs**

1. Decide when a Rotarian who has been in a club for less than a full year would make a great club president and can bypass that requirement.

2. Review your clubs' constitutions and bylaws to help them comply with Rotary's revised constitutional documents from the 2013 Council

## **Honor the Family of Rotary Leaders**

3. As a current RI officer, you and your Rotarian partner are *exempt from atten-*

*dance requirements to honor your dedication to Rotary.*

## **Create a New Kind of Club**

4. Satellite clubs are potential clubs whose members are also members of the sponsor club. For the full details on how and why to start a satellite club, visit [www.Rotary.org](http://www.Rotary.org).

## **Increase Membership**

5. Your clubs can now invite individuals who have interrupted their employment or never worked in order to care for children or assist their spouse in their work to be members of your club.

6. An unlimited number of E-clubs are now allowed in each district.

## **Increase Rotary Visibility**

7. Honorary Members can wear the emblem, badge, or other insignia of RI.

## **Easier Voting**

8. In a ballot-by-mail, provide your clubs one ballot for all of their votes.

9. Clubs select one person to cast all of their votes at your conference.

10. Club may only concur with one challenging candidate.

## **Ensure Clear District Succession Planning**

11. Elect one past governor as a vice-governor to replace the governor in case of temporary or permanent inability to serve as governor.

# Rotary Clubs and the IRS

Did you know, Rotary International has a 501(c)(4) group exemption, as a social welfare organization, which entitles all U.S. Rotary clubs to this tax-exempt status when they charter? However, inclusion in the group does not exempt clubs from the annual filing requirement as stipulated by the IRS Please see attached link Rotary Clubs and the IRS: Frequently Asked Questions) [http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en\\_pdf/rotary\\_clubs\\_irs\\_faqs](http://www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/rotary_clubs_irs_faqs) Each club has its own EIN (employer identification number) and must file with this number.

Please note-Rotary Clubs are not 501(c)(3) charitable organizations, thus donations to Clubs are not deductible as charitable contributions.

Section 6033(j) of the Internal Revenue Code "automatically revokes the exemption of any organization that fails to satisfy its filing requirement for three consecutive years" (<http://www.irs.gov/Charities-&-Non-Profits/Automatic-Revocation-of-Exemption>). According to IRS records, District 6920 has some clubs that have had their tax-exempt status automatically revoked for this reason. The clubs that were identified in the June notification will be individually notified but all Clubs need to review and be familiar these requirements.

Clubs can find more information about the revocation of their tax-exempt status by using the IRS' Exempt Organizations Select Check tool: <http://apps.irs.gov/app/eos/>. Clubs whose tax-exempt status has been revoked must now file an application for tax exemption with the IRS to request tax-exempt status. After doing so, and upon receiving an exemption, the Club is tax exempt, but as of the date of the Clubs group exemption revocation, these clubs no longer fall under Rotary's group exemption (see FAQ). Neither RI or the District is able to resolve this matter on a club's behalf, but there are IRS resources that might be helpful for reinstating tax-exempt status (see last question of the FAQ).



## Rotary Citizenship and Leadership

The success of any Rotary Club depends upon the character of its members. Good Rotarians are those who know and live up to their duties by exercising virtues such as responsibility, loyalty, self-discipline, work and friendship. In many clubs, we find examples of individuals ready and willing to do their parts. They keep their promises and accept responsibility for their own mistakes. And, we find members who stand fast beside their fellow members – as well as some who do not... Probably best of all, we see those who are willing to sacrifice their own interests for the good of the rest.

During our Rotary membership, most of us are called upon to lead in some capacity: as club president or other officer positions, membership chair, Rotary Foundation chair, board of directors, special projects chair and the list goes on. There are virtues required to hold these positions such as compassion, courage, perseverance, wisdom and oftentimes faith... They lead not just by command but by the force of good character. And, we observe that before they lead, they have learned to be good followers – they know how to shoulder the load and share the problems.

Often overlooked is gratitude. If we are not grateful for our gifts and opportunities, we are not likely to value them, and if we do not value them, we are not likely to work hard to preserve and improve them. Gratitude is an important attribute of good citizenship, especially among a people blessed with an inheritance of political freedom and material wealth unmatched in the history of mankind. Good leadership requires a certain degree of cheerfulness. The chronic complainer, on the other hand, not only fails to contribute but he or she often threaten to doom the common effort.

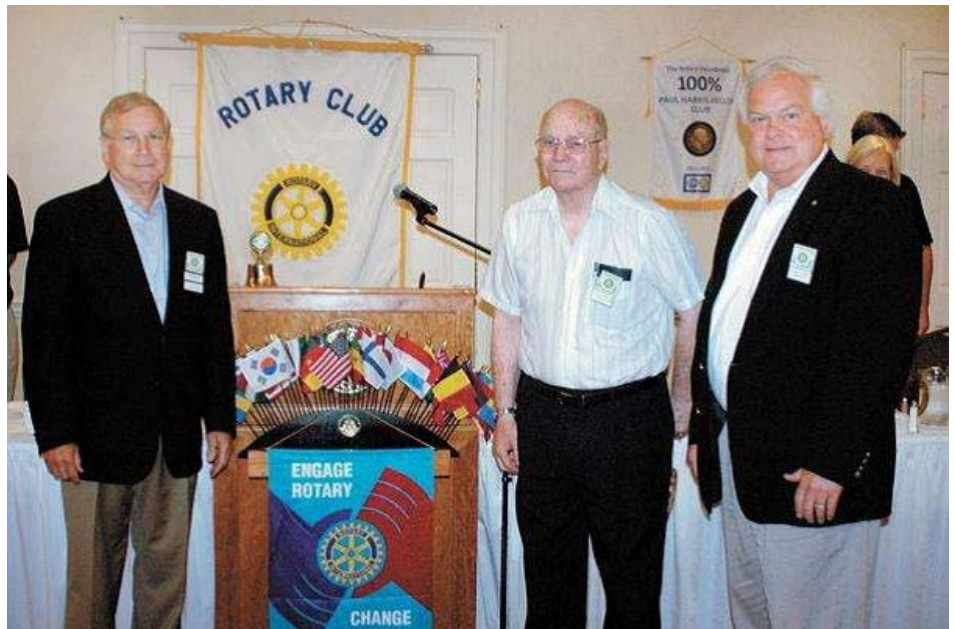
Whining, grumbling and complaining are not simply unattractive; they are the symptoms of selfishness. And an overriding concern with self is not the business of Rotary. Aristotle told us, “Among good citizens (he could have said Rotarians); the salvation of the community is the common business of them all.”

## Valdosta Rotarians Have ‘Big Shoes to Fill’



Above, the 2013-14 Valdosta Rotary Board of Directors gather for a group photo. The Valdosta Club extends their appreciation to Kerry Morris and the 2012-13 put into making their club the District 6920 “Large Club of the Year.” The new officers admit they have some big shoes to fill, but are up to the challenge to continue reaching their full club’s full potential!

## Dublin Rotary Club Dedicates New Podium



The Dublin Rotary Club has a new podium thanks to Past Presidents Jep Craig, left, and Louie Curry, right. These Past Presidents dedicated the podium to Josh Durden, center. Josh was also a Past President and long time Club Secretary, but most importantly Josh was both Jep and Louie’s shop teacher at Dublin High School. If you visit Dublin, please come see the excellent workmanship in this podium.



# Savannah South Makes Donation to Early Childhood Foundation

## Clubs Pay for Insurance

### What Does this Cover?

On the 1 July Semiannual Report (SAR), each U.S. Rotary Club in your District pays for two different types of liability insurance: 1) general liability and 2) directors' and officers' / employment practices liability. U.S. Rotarians are highly encouraged to visit the Insurance Information Portal (link/login below) to learn about their insurance coverage. This website has the certificate of insurance that U.S. clubs and districts can use as proof of insurance. Also, this site has useful information to help ensure safe and successful events and activities. Please note that insurance claims are paid by from your assessments collected from US Rotarians. No doubt, there is incentive to make risk management and safety a priority. Visit the Insurance Information Portal for more information: [www.locktonportal.com/sites/rotary/resources](http://www.locktonportal.com/sites/rotary/resources).

Username: Rotarian

Password: Resources#1

Note: Username and password are case-sensitive. This portal is for U.S. Rotary club/district use only.

If there are insurance questions, please feel free to contact the insurance broker (Lockton) at 1-800-921-3172 or [rotary@lockton.com](mailto:rotary@lockton.com) or Rotary's Risk Management at [insurance@rotary.org](mailto:insurance@rotary.org).

The annual insurance update will be sent to U.S. club and district officers this September.



The Rotary Club of Savannah South (RCSS) recently donated \$16,400 to the Savannah Early Childhood Foundation (SECF). The funds were raised in a variety of ways by club members. The goal of SECF is to assure that all children are ready for school. Since developmental environments for children (birth- 3 years old) are critical for school readiness and knowledge acquisition for life, SECF's focus is skill training for parents of these children. The Rotary Clubs of Savannah and Skidaway Kiwanis have been involved in the development of the early childhood endeavor that resulted in the formation of SECF in 2011. Pictured are Rebecca Page, Past President Rotary Club of Savannah South; Paul Fisher, President Savannah Early Childhood Foundation, member RCSS and Andy Lohn, President Rotary Club of Savannah South.

## Rotary Leadership Institute

by RLI District Director Blair Train

What is it and is it for ALL Rotarians. The answer is of course it is you silly rabbit. RLI is for those who want to know more about Rotary. It doesn't matter if you want to assume a leadership role or not. Every member will walk away learning something they did not know about Rotary. We take away best practices and learn that every club has its pitfalls. It doesn't matter if you've been a member for 25 years or 1 month.

RLI is also a great day to meet fellow Rotarians from all over Georgia, Florida, and even the Caribbean.

Registration and the 2013-2014 schedule of sessions can be found at the RLI Sunshine Division website at [www.rlitraining.org](http://www.rlitraining.org).

District 6920's next session is Saturday September 14, 2013 at Middle Georgia State College, Continuing Education Building, 100 College Station Road, Macon, GA 31206.

Accommodations can be made at Hampton Inn, 5010 Eisenhower Parkway, Macon, GA 31206 by calling (478) 757-9711.

We have links to Facebook and Twitter on the website and would love to have those Rotarians who have attended RLI sessions to relate their experiences.

We look forward to having overflowing sessions this upcoming year.