

Bob Griggers
District Governor
2012-2013

December 2012

Rotary *District 6920*

What Is It Like to Serve as District Governor?

This is a question that I have been asked frequently. Although it does not have a simple answer, I can give a quick one: WONDERFUL! Seriously, it has to be one of the highlights of my 65 years.

Quite often we think of it as a job and it really isn't; it's an opportunity that only 534 Rotarians throughout the world get to experience each year. Some have commented about how much time the club visits would take. Understand, you are able to plan the visits around your schedule, allowing you to still be able to take part in activities that you need to at home. Some think of the club visits as demanding of your time, but it's quite the opposite! It has been the most rewarding portion of my duties so far. In fact, I have heard some say "If I could not do the club visits, I wouldn't serve as Governor!"



District 6920's Governors include (front row, from left) Preston Johnson, Bruce Montgomery, Jeanette Caneega, Albert Reichert, DG Bob Griggers, (back row, from left) Gordon Matthews, Leon Benefield, DGE Gary Smith, DGN Ted Thompson, Pat Donahoo, Dallas Simon, Bill Kemp, Lloyd Horadan and Kenan Kern.

I can remember asking previous Governors about their experiences and I am experiencing what they described. As
- See "District Governor" on Page 4

Inside This Month's Newsletter

Governor Griggers Concludes Visits	Page 2
GSE Team Member Deadline Extended	Page 2
Rotary History and Anniversaries	Page 3
Tennille Rotary Club Celebrates 75 Years	Page 3
Milledgeville Rotary Club Hosts 75th Anniversary Celebration	Page 3
Distribution of 500 Tricycles	Page 4
The Importance of Rotary Membership and Retention	Page 5
Tennille Club Honors "Rotarian of the Year"	Page 5
Warner Robins Honors Longtime Community Servant	Page 6
Life Without Hope is a Life Without Meaning	Page 6
GRSP Student Makes Joint Club Presentation	Page 7
Uptown Macon Event Scares Up Funds for CART	Page 7
Valdosta North Club Donates Teddy Bears	Page 7
Rotarians Build Ecologically Friendly Garden at Elementary School	Page 8
Important Dates: Mark Your Calendar	Page 8



Wishing You and Your Family a
Merry Christmas



Governor Griggers Concludes “Official” Club Visits With Presentation at Home Club – Centerville

by DG Bob Griggers

With mixed emotions, we completed our Official Visits on November 13th with the Rotary Club of Centerville. It was a good feeling knowing that we had shared President Tanaka’s message and theme. We have tried to share information about our District. It was a feeling of accomplishment that we had been able to finish the visits in a reasonable time. It was most encouraging to see what so many are doing to make this World a better place to live. But it was also sad to realize, that such an important and rewarding part of a year as District Governor, was behind us.

In last month’s edition of our District Newsletter, I mentioned Rotary Fellowships. This is an opportunity for many Rotarians to make new friends and share in things that they have in common. You may recall the article on the Recreational Vehicle Fellowship meeting in Savannah. I personally am a member of it as well as several others.

Centerville Rotary President, Kathy Hart, is a very active Rotarian. She also has many other interests, one of which is riding her Harley Davidson motorcycle. It was my pleasure to present her with membership in her first Rotary Fellowship, “The International Fellowship of Motorcycling Rotarians.”

Remember, there are opportunities to learn, share, serve and even profit through Rotary Fellowships. I encourage you to get involved and get more out of Rotary!



DG Bob presents Centerville Rotary Club President Kathy Hart with her IFMR membership patch, pin and certificate during his last official club visit.

GSE Team Application Deadline Extended

Dr. Roberto Barja of Sandersville has been selected to lead the GSE Team to Bolivia. Team applications are still be accepted. Once again, GSE applicants need to be young professionals and residents of D-6920 between the ages of 25-40, and not directly related to a current Rotarian. For this program the ideal candidate would be at least somewhat familiar with Spanish, and involved in or familiar with basic water, sanitation and/or health related issues, but we will consider any good candidates.

We have extended the deadline for applications to December 10, so please make some calls and spread the word NOW. Team member applications can be found at: <http://www.rotary.org/en/serviceandfellowship/makeconnections/groupstudyexchange/pages/ridefault.aspx>

Submit applications to GSE Chair Justin Godchaux at justingodchaux@gmail.com or you or your potential candidates may contact Justin or John Neely with questions. John can be reached via email at john.neely@colliers.com.

District Governor Experience Described as ‘Wonderful’

- Continued from Page 1

District Governor, you are treated royally everywhere you go. Our members “Roll out the Red Carpet.” You meet so many dedicated Rotarians who are anxious to share with you what their clubs are involved in. You are able to see many projects that they have been involved in and share in their accomplishments and pride. You make many new friends who will become like your personal family. It is truly an honor and a once in a lifetime experience!

Past District Governor Lloyd Horadan is an excellent example. He was not only fully employed during his year as Governor; he was participating in the merger of two schools! Please call him or any of our PDGs and talk with them about their experiences. I did, and I am glad I did!

I have heard that some of our members would like to serve but have reservations. Every Governor has their own personal style and schedules. For more information, contact PDG Bill Kemp at bill_kemp@comcast.net or 706-860-9251. Please consider having your club nominate you to serve our District as Governor in the Rotary Year of 2015-2016.

Rotary History and Anniversaries

Did you ever wonder which club is the oldest Rotary Club in District 6920? The club's charter number, charter year or sponsor? How about the youngest club in the District?

The first Rotary Club in Georgia was chartered on August 1, 1913 as the Rotary club of Atlanta (Club #79). In January 1914, an organizational meeting was conducted by members of the Atlanta and Birmingham, Alabama, Rotary clubs. The result was the February 1, 1914 chartering of the Rotary Club of Savannah (Club #95). The Rotary Club of Savannah is the oldest club in District 6920.

Our second oldest club, The Rotary Club of Macon (Club #104) was chartered on March 1, 1914. The Rotary Club of Augusta (Club #138) was chartered as the third club of our District on February 1, 1915.

The youngest club in District 6920 is the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Savannah which was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Savannah East and chartered on April 17, 2012.

We are looking forward to celebrating with the Rotary clubs of Savannah and Macon as they celebrate their clubs' centennial next year. But we do not have to wait until next year to celebrate important birthdays! We have several to celebrate this Rotary Year.

Celebrating 75 Years

Tennille, 11 October, 2012
Milledgeville, 8 October, 2012
Eastman, 3 January, 2013
Millen, 4 March, 2013

Celebrating 50 Years

Hazlehurst, 3 December, 2012
Wrightsville, 21 March, 2013
Ocilla, 18 May, 2013
Augusta-West, 23 May, 2013

The Rotary Club of Tennille Celebrates 75 Years (1937-2012)

by DG Bob Griggers

Brenda and I were honored to participate in Tennille's recent Seventy Fifth anniversary celebration. For those who have never visited Tennille, they meet at the Tennille Women's Club. This is a unique log building in the middle of town. Their club can do at least one thing most other clubs in our District cannot do, they can brag that Paul Harris has been a visitor at their meeting facility! It was good to hear of things their club has accomplished through the years, as well as the current projects they are involved in. President Jeff Cook is doing a great job leading an energized club. I saw a lot of enthusiasm and member support.



Tennille Mayor Johnny Wilbanks presents a proclamation to Tennille Rotary Club President Jeff Cook as DG Bob looks on.

Milledgeville Celebrates 75th Anniversary

by DG Bob Griggers

The members of the Rotary Club of Milledgeville recently celebrated their club's three-quarters-of-a-century of service in style. President Jeff Gray and President-Elect Laura Thompson presided over the well-prepared and executed event, which was enjoyed by many.

Brenda and I were joined by Assistant Governor Ted and Charolette Thompson for the evening's celebration. We had recently visited the Milledgeville Club and learned about what they were currently doing and what their plans are for the future. That night, we heard about what they had accomplished through the years. It was most interesting to hear about their club's history and their many accomplishments.

- See "Milledgeville" on Page 4

Milledgeville Celebrates 75th Anniversary

- Continued from Page 3

An interesting note: the Rotary Club of Milledgeville was chartered on October 8, 1937. Three days later, the Rotary Club of Tennille was chartered and both clubs were sponsored by the Rotary Club of Waynesboro. The Milledgeville Rotary Club was chartered under the leadership of PDG Porter Carswell. Governor Carswell was a personal friend of Rotary Founder Paul Harris and is credited with organizing over a dozen Rotary clubs in Georgia. Charter night ceremonies included over two hundred guests including DG T.T. Molner and PDG Joel Chandler Harris Jr., J. Cleve Cooper, Clerk of Baldwin Superior Court, was installed as the charter president.

The Rotary Club of Milledgeville began as an active club. In the summer of 1938, they hosted the district conference which at that time encompassed the entire state. The club has been home club to two district governors and several members have served as assistants under different structures.

The Georgia Rotary Student Program has been a big part of the Milledgeville Club's history. More GRSP Conclaves have been hosted there than any other city. Many club members have served as trustees. The club has sponsored or co-sponsored over 50 students in the history of this program.

In 1987, Milledgeville Rotary, under the leadership of President Brad Oliver, celebrated its 50th Anniversary with Rotary International President Charles Keller as the featured speaker. The clubs' sole surviving charter member, Tom Hall Smith, was present. Also in attendance were DG Mansfield Jennings, seven PDGs and many representatives from other Georgia Rotary clubs.

The first Rotary Peace Monument in the United States was erected in Milledgeville, and dedicated on July 18, 1996 at the new Baldwin County Courthouse. Brad Oliver served as the project chairman.

The Rotary Club of Milledgeville has accomplished many worthy projects. They have been supportive of numerous causes both within their area, as well as other parts of the world. They have sponsored three Rotary Ambassadorial Scholars and have also sponsored a Rotary Group Study Exchange team leader to Australia.

To find out more about the history of the Rotary Club of Milledgeville, please visit them on line.

(Note- Milledgeville Rotary charter date differs from RI. The RI date has been used in this article.)



AG Ted Thompson, Milledgeville Rotary Club President Jeff Gray and DG Bob Griggers

Distribution of 500 Tricycles



Due to a Matching Grant between the Rotary Club of Ameerpet Hyderabad (District 3150) and The Rotary Club of St. Simons Island (District 6920), 500 bicycles were distributed in Hyderabad, India on Nov. 23, 2012. Chief Rotarian guests at the presentation were RI President Sakuji Tanaka and RI Past Presidents Rajendra K. Saboo and Kalyan Banerjee. A special thank you to St. Simons Island Rotary Club President John Matthews, Grant Chairman Hamsa Thota, St. Simons Rotary Club Secretary Roy Turner and DMGC John Neely.

The Importance of Rotary Membership and Retention

by District Membership Chair Jack Stead

“...Members are the basic building blocks and base of our clubs. Without a sustaining and continuing membership base, clubs would only be a group of people meeting on a periodic basis, rather than a group of people supporting a specific mission with a long-term perspective and purpose. A sustaining and continuing membership base allows clubs to develop long-term action-oriented projects, to become vibrant and active organizations initiating change within a community. A sustaining and continuing membership base allows strong friendships and fellowships to develop within a club. With a strong base, the Rotary clubs throughout the world can successfully accomplish the numerous community and international projects and activities they undertake, thus contributing even more to world peace and understanding....”

-Glenn E. Estess, Sr., President, Rotary International, 2004-2005

Merry Christmas to all Rotarians and their families!

Tennille Rotary Club Recognizes Brazzell as Rotarian of the Year

There's a difference between joining Rotary and becoming a Rotarian according to Capers Brazzell, recipient of this year's Tennille Rotary Club's "Rotarian of the Year" award. "Cowboy Capers," as he is known on his radio station WACO 100FM, explained that he originally was a member of the Rotary Club of Sandersville, but with a conflicting work schedule, he moved his membership to Tennille.

"Cowboy" was impressed with PDG Kenan Kern's comments at his District Conference about Rotary's involvement in eradicating polio and saving millions of lives. He remembered how rampant polio was in the U.S. when he was a teenager. Carolyn, Brazzell's friend and first love, contracted Polio as a teenager.

"In five or six weeks, she passed away," he said.

Governor Kenan's speech brought a new and lasting meaning to Brazzell as a Rotarian.

Capers lost his mother to Alzheimers Disease. You can understand why he is such a big supporter of the Coins for Alzheimer Research Trust (CART) program. He quite often matches what is donated to the "Blue Buckets."

He was quite honored to be recognized by his peers during the recent Tennille Downtown Development Authority's Sixth Annual Tennille BBQ Blast.

"Rotary means a whole lot to me," said Brazzell.

And you can be assured, Capers "Cowboy" Brazzell means a whole lot to the Rotary Club of Tennille! Congratulations!



Curry Nicolini, Croix Nicolini, Rocky Brazzell and Capers McRae Nicollini with the Rotarian of the Year.

Warner Robins Honors Longtime Community Servant

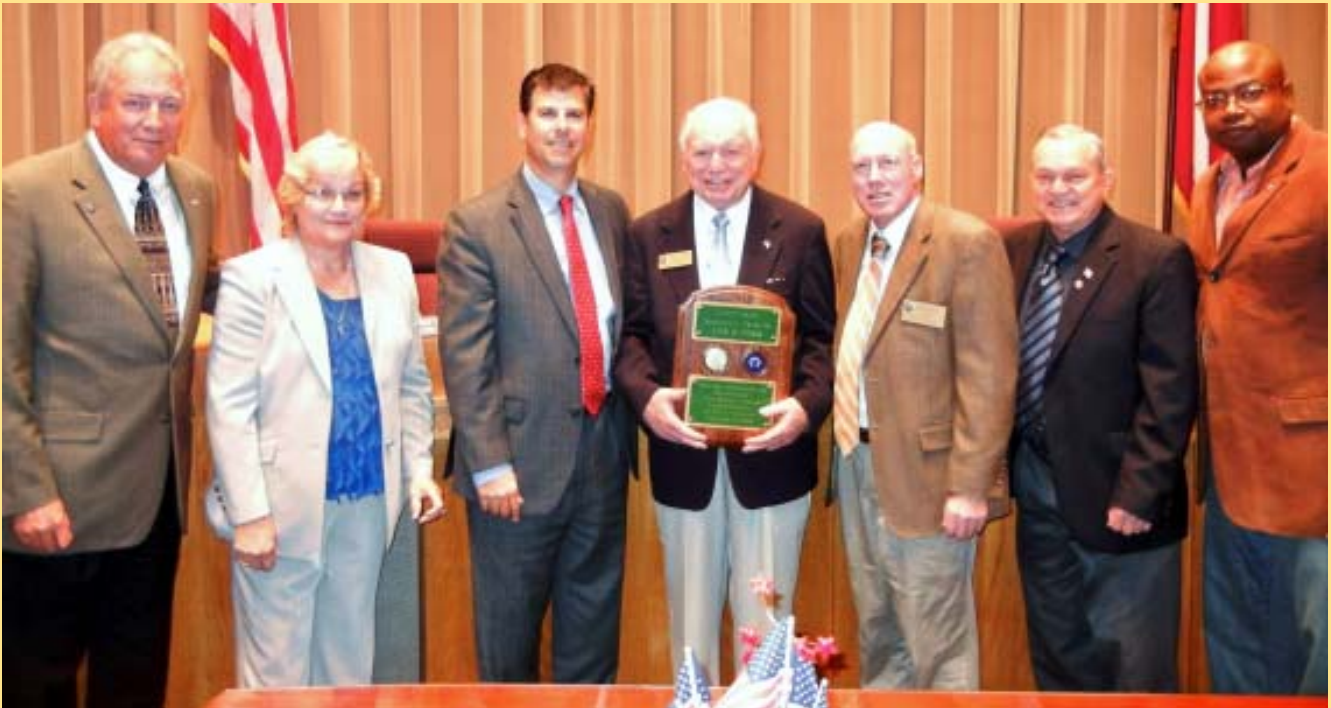
The Warner Robins Regional Chamber of Commerce recently hosted a ribbon cutting/dedication ceremony for Keep Warner Robins Beautiful's newest project, the Jack H. Steed Unity Park. The project represents a collaborative effort of Keep Warner Robins Beautiful, the City of Warner Robins and the Houston County Board of Commissioners.

Chuck Shaheen, Mayor of Warner Robins and Tommy Stalnaker, Chairman of the Houston County Board of Commissioners, complimented Jack Steed for his many years of community service.

"Because of his tireless commitment to the beautification of the community we are proud to dedicate this park in honor of Jack H. Steed," said Chairman Stalnaker. "No one deserves it more than him."

Jack Steed is one of the most active community servants in the Middle Georgia area. He was recognized at last year's District Conference as a Rotary "Hidden Hero." He is a Past President of the Rotary Club of Centerville and currently is serving as District 6920 Membership Chairman.

The Jack H. Steed Unity Park serves as a symbol of appreciation to our men and women of the Armed Forces. Jack Steed retired highly decorated from the Air Force after 33 years of service.



Jack Steed is recognized by the City of Warner Robins, Keep Warner Robins Beautiful and the Houston County Board of Commissioners for his many years of community service.

Life Without Hope is Life Without Meaning

More than 150 million people with physical disabilities need wheelchairs/tricycles, though less than 1 percent own or have access to one. The number of physically disabled is likely underestimated due to the difficulty in accounting for forgotten citizens who spend their lives hidden from sight. It is estimated that the number of people who need wheelchairs/tricycles will increase by 22% over the next 10 years, with the greatest need existing in developing countries. People require the use of a wheelchair for many reasons: accidents, birth defects, war injuries, POLIO and advanced age.

Rotarians in District 3150 and 6920 have combined efforts and launched a crusade to provide tricycles to the needy disabled of the world. Their efforts will help to provide mobility, freedom and hope to those unfortunate people without limbs. A mobile child will be able to attend school. A mobile adult will be able to get a job and provide for his/her family. An elderly person with mobility will be able to rejoin society or family activities after years of staying in bed.

The joy that a simple mobility device can deliver is what gives people a new outlook on life with dignity and hope for the future. With just \$110, Rotarians can provide mobility, hope and freedom to disabled individuals throughout the world.



GRSP Student Makes Joint Club Presentation



GRSP student Maria Lucia Trabanino, pictured with Kings Bay Rotary Club President Anne Orr, was presented her honorary name badge and honorary Rotary pin on November 13. Maria was a speaker at the joint meeting of the Kings Bay and Camden County Rotary clubs. Maria is from San Salvador, El Salvador, and is attending the College of Coastal Georgia in Brunswick. She is sponsored by the St. Simons, Brunswick, Camden County and Kings Bay Rotary clubs.

Uptown Macon Rotary Event Scores Up Funds for CART

The Uptown Macon Rotary Club celebrated Halloween with trick-or-treat pumpkins on the table for everyone. All pumpkins had candy and some had slips of paper with anywhere from .50 to \$5 for Rotarians to donate to the CART Fund. Three lucky Rotarians had certificates for dinner to a local restaurant. The club's Halloween trick-or-treat event added \$56.75 to the CART Fund!.



Valdosta North Club Donates Teddy Bears



Members of the Valdosta North Rotary Club recently donated teddy bears to the Childrens Advocacy Center. The Children's Advocacy Center of Lowndes County, Inc. (CAC) is a community resource center created to minimize the trauma of child victims of abuse by responding to their immediate and long-term needs in a child-friendly, safe environment. All children who enter the center receive a teddy bear to help console them. Learn more about the CAC at www.caclowndes.org.

Rotarians Build Ecologically Friendly Garden at Elementary School

Students at St. Simons Elementary School are getting a hands-on education in ecologically responsible gardening, thanks to the Rotary Club of St. Simons Island.



Using a District Simplified Grant, plus money raised during annual fundraisers, the club built an organic garden for the school at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year. Students at the school were already active participants in ongoing scientific investigations of coastal habitats as part of their science curriculum, and the Rotary Club over the years has used Simplified Grants to add equipment to the science lab.

The organic garden consists of six 4X4 foot raised beds framed with untreated wood. The students grow plants from seed and maintain them during the school year. A composting, worm bin, and rain collecting area was installed next to the garden to teach sustainable gardening practices and soil biology. Nearby, the club installed a specially designed flower bed to attract hummingbirds, butterflies, and bees, along with a caterpillar garden planted with host plants for native butterfly larva to feed.

The garden is helping students investigate soil-dwelling macro- and micro-organisms, decomposition, plant life cycles, pollination, and soil structure. The hope is that the students, half of whom are economically disadvantaged, will learn about the benefits of healthy organic food and sustainable garden practices.

Important Dates: Mark Your Calendars

GSE Team Member Deadline Extended December 10, 2012

The application deadline for Group Study Exchange team members has been extended to Monday, Dec. 10, 2012. Applications should reach GSE Chair Justin Godchaux no later than this date.

Team members typically stay in Rotarians' homes, and most expenses, including travel, are paid by Rotary International. GSE candidate team members living within D6920 are usually identified and recruited by Rotarians. D6920 Rotarians are asked to recruit young professionals between 25 and 40 to serve on the GSE team. These four team members cannot be Rotarians or related to Rotarians.

For more information about GSE, visit the District website at www.rotary6920.org. or contact Godchaux via email at justingodchaux@aol.com or at 912-234-3680.

District Governor Applications Due January 12, 2013

The District Governor application period is now open for Rotarians in District 6920 who meet the requirements and would like to be considered for selection as District Governor for the Rotary year beginning July 1, 2015. Applicants need to complete the RI application for DG available on our District web site www.Rotary6920.org, have their club add its endorsement and mail the completed form to PDG Bill Kemp, 731 Summerfield Abbey Court, Augusta, GA 30907, prior to January 12, 2013 to be considered.

Interviews will be conducted on January 26, 2013. PDG Kemp is available at 706-860-9251 or bill_kemp@comcast.net to answer questions.

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