



Bob Griggers
District Governor
2012-2013

February 2013

Rotary *District 6920*

February is World Understanding Month

by District Governor Bob Griggers

A lot of us can be members of our clubs for many years, even with perfect attendance, but never become Rotarians.

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I want you to think about that a second. Some clubs do a lot of good deeds but they never get the true feeling of Rotary International, because they only think “local”. It has been said “the greatest thing we can do, is to do something for someone who will never be able to repay us!” I personally thought I became a Rotarian when I attended my first Rotary International Con-



“For me, Rotary is one great gateway that leads to many doors – the chance to meet great people you would otherwise never meet, to learn about cultures you never knew existed, to break bread with otherwise total strangers and so break down the barriers of ignorance and intolerance, and participate in a crusade for building world understanding and peace.”

– RIPP Jonathan B. Majiyagbe

vention 11 years ago in San Antonio, TX. I was exposed to people from nearly every country of the world. They represented nearly every (worthy) occupation or profession imaginable. I heard about the many projects they were involved

in and I was impressed. Rotary exposure seemed to make our world a lot smaller. In 2006, Brenda and I traveled to India to participate in a National Immunization Day. We had read about Polio, but when we arrived and saw the crippled survivors, it was even worse than we had imagined. When I dropped the two life changing drops of vaccine onto that child’s tongue, I got goose bumps and knew I had discovered what being a Rotarian was really like!

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Savannah Rotary Leadership Institute

by RLI Chair/DGN Ted Thompson

As you attend your weekly Rotary club meeting have you ever wondered, "In the future is this what I have to look forward to each week? Are you happy with what is happening with your experiences in your club? I am always excited about fellowship with my friends and finding out what has happened in their lives since the last meeting. But the same old thing each week with the usual meal and program? If this sounds like you, I want to introduce you to a program in Rotary that will allow you to experience a whole new side of Rotary you never knew existed. I didn't either until I tried it. RLI or Rotary Leadership Institute. What am I talking about? RLI teaches us how to become better leaders and gives us Rotary knowledge starting with, when and how Rotary began to the present. I don't know about your club, but we don't have many programs about Rotary. Therefore, we have members who are, I don't know how else to say this, but absolutely clueless about Rotary outside of the club. For example, Ron May, District Foundation Chair, asked several members to take a 10 question test about basic Rotary knowledge. One Rotarian scored 20%, two scored 40%, one scored 70%, and the winner scored 80%. Folks, this is embarrassing! This is exactly why we have RLI sessions. Those of us who want to know more attend, but those of us who don't attend say they don't have the time to spare. How do we communicate to a prospective member what Rotary is if we don't know ourselves?

Join us in Savannah, Saturday, February 23 for RLI. See and hear what's happening outside your club and meet other Rotarians who want to share their experiences and understanding of Rotary. Just go to rlitraining.org to register. Pay online by credit card and the cost is \$95.00 per participant. Please register today as the registration deadline is Tuesday midnight, February 12.

If you have trouble registering or need other information, please email me @ tthom034@aol.com or call 478-232-0969. I look forward to seeing you in Savannah.



Attendees and graduates of the joint 6920/6910 Augusta RLI session in October 2012

Think About Service Beyond Own Club

-Continued from Page 1

I am not suggesting that we have to travel halfway around the world to become a Rotarian. But I am suggesting we need to think more about service beyond our club or area.

We must concentrate on building peace, good will and better friendships between the peoples of this world. We need to learn to have open minds and be tolerant of others. "The Rotary way works!" As Rotarians we are doing things that governments can't do. We can work together to accomplish many great things.

RIP Wilfrid Wilkerson said. "As Rotarians, we don't just sit back and talk about loving other human beings. As Rotarians, we demonstrate that love and we share that love, through helping each other."

Rotarians - "bringing peace and understanding to the world through service." - RHG

"Many a man's outlook is different after he becomes a Rotarian. He learns to see opportunities for service at home and abroad."

- Paul Harris, 1930

Neely Selected by College of Governors as DGND

by District Governor Bob Griggers

The College of Governors (COG) has met and selected John Neely of the Savannah East Rotary Club as the nominee for District Governor 2015-2016. John and his wife Carolyn have two children and two grandchildren. (His daughter Jordan is president of the Metro Savannah Rotary Club.)



A native of Atlanta, John received a B.A. from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1970. He served in the Peace Corps as a volunteer to Brazil from 1970-73. He received an M.P.A. from the University of Georgia in 1975. John is a partner in Colliers International – Savannah, LLC - which specializes in commercial and industrial real estate. John has traveled to 14 countries and completed real estate transactions in nearly half of them.

John has been a very active Rotarian, having served as President of the Rotary Club of Savannah East from 1998-1999. He has led two GSE teams to Brazil and been host to nearly a dozen Rotary Exchange groups. He has been the host family for a GRSP student, Tamara Tavares of Brazil. John has been a great asset to our District as a member and past Chairman of the GSE Committee. He also has served with distinction as the District Grants Subcommittee Chair, obtaining approval of 12 international matching grants. In 2010, John traveled to Calcutta, India, to participate in a National Immunization Day.

Twenty Five Years Perfect Attendance Recognized *No big deal? Read on!*

On May 4, 1987, the United States Supreme Court ruled that Rotary Clubs could not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. Women immediately began to become members. On June 23, 1987, Sylvia Whitlock was the first women to be installed as a President of a Rotary Club. That was the Rotary Club of Duarte in California.

With no disrespect, I make the remark, “No big deal.” There are a lot of Rotarians in our District who have more than 25 years of perfect attendance. But how many women do you know that can lay claim to that achievement? It gets better.

On January 18, 1988, the Rotary Razz, club bulletin of the Rotary Club of Oak Park, Illinois, reported Sharon Bolin was inducted into Rotary with two other ladies. Sharon was also a charter member of the former Marshes of Glynn Rotary Club and served as long time secretary. This Rotarian has not only maintained perfect attendance for a quarter of a century, she has documented each meeting that she made up. She’s kept track of the dates, meeting times (breakfast, lunch or dinner), and one more thing she has kept up with the costs of each meeting! Sharon said she has done 233 make ups in 85 different clubs in 19 states; 11 make-ups were made in 8 different clubs in 6 foreign countries.

Sharon has been recognized as an honorary member of the newly merged Golden Isles-Glynn County Rotary Club.



DG Griggers recognizes Sharon Bolin for 25 years of perfect attendance.

District 6920 Recognized at Zone Institute



District 6920 was recognized at this year's Zone Institute. A certificate was presented to DG Griggers acknowledging the district's per capita contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Out of all the Districts in Zone 34, we were third in our contributions. DGN Ted Thompson and PDG Bruce Montgomery look on as Governor Griggers presents the certificate to IPDG Gordon Matthews.

Marshes of Glynn Recognized as "Polio Hero"



Governor Griggers recognized the Marshes of Glynn Rotary Club and presented Past President Reid with a certificate for special recognition as a "Polio Hero" for their participation in the Polio Plus program. The award also consisted of One Thousand Rotary Foundation Recognition Points toward Paul Harris recognition.

The new club will meet Wednesdays at 7:30 am at the SE GA Regional Hospital.

Jesup Rotarians Participate in Workday

by District Governor Bob Griggers

Tom Brubaker is the Chief Operating Officer for the Boys and Girls Clubs of the Althamaha Area. As District Governor, he was one of the first new Rotarians that I sent a welcome letter to. When I visited the Jesup Club in early August, I remembered him commenting about a club workday that would be held on Martin Luther King Day. He reminded me of it when I saw him at their club Christmas party in December. He also sent me an email three days before the event! I had already planned to be present to help, but his enthusiasm intrigued me; I wanted to see what he was so proud of!

I arrived bright and early to find him running in several directions, trying to get the most out of the many volunteers that were there. People were there to do painting, building repairs, cleaning, landscaping, and reorganizing the library. I was given my choice of details after a quick tour of the facility. One of the ladies in the library asked if someone could carry what was being thrown away to the dumpster ... they looked at me and I was "volunteered!"



Margaret Jacobs serves as President of the Jesup Rotary Club. She also is chairman of our District Literacy Committee. It was good to work with her, Hannah Harris and several other members of the Jesup Club on a very worthwhile project. Oh, did I mention that Rotarian Tom Brubaker was also chosen to serve as the Grand Marshall in their parade? Yep ... the parade organizers recognized "his dedication and diligent work with the Wayne County Club" also!

An Outstanding New Member

by District Membership Chair Jack Steed

Last month, we mentioned that this month's article would continue with member retention. But it will have to wait until next month because this article is about a new member. Now is the time to make sure this new Rotarian is retained. This article is about Kevin Morabi, an active duty soldier, who recently became a member of the Rotary Club of Hinesville. This is what



Kevin Morabi with his sponsor, Brigitte Cabeza-Shanken

he said to the District Governor: "Thank you, Sir, for accepting my application. I am the active duty soldier whom Mrs. Brigitte Shanken advocated for joining Rotary. Joining Rotary is something I have always wanted to do but was unable to do so due to deployments and TDYs. Finally, I was able to make it and I'm proud to be a Rotarian and I am looking forward to serving the community and making a difference . . ."

Now let's hear what Brigitte says about Kevin: "Staff Sergeant Kevin Morabi has been serving in the U.S. Army Reserves (Active Component) for the past 6 years. His specialties are in Military Intelligence, Linguist, Cultural Advisor and Language Instructor. Kevin speaks Arabic, Afghani, French and Spanish. He is a fluent multi-language speaker with more than 15 years of experience in the field. I am honored to share that Kevin Morabi created and updated the Arabic, Afghani, French language and cultural awareness classes in support of overseas operations. He was selected by name to be the linguist and cultural advisor

for various missions overseas. And, he has taught language and cultural awareness classes to more than 28,000 deploying Army, Navy and Air Force service men and women. In addition, he is a dedicated volunteer with homeless programs, nursing homes, soup kitchens, clean-up drives and local school programs."

Kevin also wrote to his sponsor: "I'm so grateful to you, to Mrs. Shanken, and to all Hinesville Rotary Club members."

We are sure Kevin will be welcomed by his fellow Rotarians, given meaningful Rotary duties and that he will be well on the way to being a member who will serve Rotary well and that he will be retained for many years

Kevin, we congratulate you on becoming a Rotarian. Thank you for your dedicated service to our great country. We are proud of you and your outstanding service and hope that you will find being a Rotarian a most satisfying and rewarding experience.

Eastman Turns 75



Governor Griggers presented the Rotary Club of Eastman with a certificate from Rotary International recognizing their 75 years of service as a Rotary Club. The Rotary Club of Eastman was chartered on January 3, 1938. President Dennis Giddens said they have decided to celebrate their anniversary on April 25th since their anniversary was so close to the Christmas and New Year holidays. They are planning for a huge celebration, so plan to come and party with them!

Has My Rotary Club “Qualified” for Future Vision Grants?

by Ron May, District Rotary Foundation Chairman

Some clubs have questioned if they have “qualified” for Future Vision which begins on July 1st. The answer is no, they haven’t, nor has any other club in our District qualified yet. The Assistant Governors and Directors will receive more information at their training sessions on Jekyll Island next month. They will be the ones responsible for ensuring that the clubs get proper training.

The incoming Club Presidents will receive training at PETS the weekend of March 15-17. The trainers (AGs and Directors) will be training the clubs during the month of April. At that time, the clubs will be given a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to be signed by the club officers. When completed and correctly signed, the clubs will then be qualified. This qualification process is very important. It makes sure that the clubs are completely aware of the grant process: tracking the money, having people on the ground in the host countries for global grants and the sustainability of the projects are key components of the process going forward.

If a club is not interested in Global Grants, they still must be qualified for the District Grants and this training is held simultaneous with the Global Grant training. There will be a lot more money for District Grants (the old DSG) going forward, but to participate, the club must be qualified. Your AG will contact you to schedule training.

District’s Top Contributors 2011-2012



Above, Sandersville Immediate Past President Julian Diaz accepts the No. 1 Club in the District banner, for per capita Annual Fund giving to the Rotary Foundation from DG Bob Griggers as AG Ted Thompson looks on.



The Rotary Club of Eastman

Governor Griggers recently presented banners to the three clubs in our District who achieved the highest in per capita giving to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund. Each club was one of only 1,550 clubs in the world to receive this recognition for Rotary year 2011-2012.

First place at \$232.80 per member – The Rotary Club of Sandersville

Second place at \$213.81 per member – The Rotary Club of Eastman

Third place at \$196.55 per member – The Rotary Club of Glennville



The Rotary Club of Glennville

Golden Isles -Glynn County Rotary Club



History was made this month in Brunswick, GA. The Marshes of Glynn Rotary Club and the Rotary Club of Glynn County voted to merge after much planning and deliberation. Nick Chilton, the President of the former Glynn County club will serve as the new club President. The President Elect will be Tyler Tracey. Everyone seemed happy with their new arrangement, especially former Marshes of Glynn President Lorene Reid who was in her second year as president.

Mixon Recognized as Paul Harris Fellow



PDG Jeanette Caneega, of the Wrightsville Rotary Club, visited the Ocilla Rotary Club on Monday, January 7th to bestow the honor of Paul Harris Fellow on Mr. Harry Mixon. Mr. Mixon is a founding member of the Ocilla Rotary Club and the first member to be recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow. Due to illness, Mr. Mixon was unable to attend and the award was accepted by Tyler Harper, President of the Ocilla Club, and AG Horace Hudgins. Pictured are DGE Gary Smith, President Tyler Harper, PDG Jeanette Caneega and AG Horace Hudgins.

Rotary Club of Savannah Collects Books



Rotary Club of Savannah Past President Sam McCachern and Book Drive Chair Christian Kruse pose with some of the books members collected last month.



**Happy
Birthday
Rotary!
208 Years Old
on February 23rd!**

New Generations

Interact? Rotaract? What are they? ... and how are they different?

by District Governor Bob Griggers

I realize January was Rotary Awareness month, but I do not believe everyone knows all they need to know about our New Generation service. If they did, we would have more clubs in our District!

The Interact clubs are organized to provide an opportunity for young people to work together in a world fellowship dedicated to service and international understanding. Young people ages 12-18 are eligible for Interact club membership.

Some of the goals of Interact Clubs are:

- To recognize and develop constructive leadership and personal integrity
- To encourage and practice thoughtfulness of and helpfulness to others
- To create an awareness of the importance of home and family
- To build respect for the rights of others, based on recognition of the worth of each individual
- To emphasize acceptance of individual responsibility as the basis of personal success, community improvement and group achievement.
- To develop life skills, including self-development, time management and personal finances
- To recognize the dignity and value of all useful occupations as opportunities to serve society
- To provide opportunities for gaining increased knowledge and understanding of community, national, and world affairs
- To open avenues of personal and group action leading to the advancement of international understanding and goodwill toward all peoples



An Interact club is organized, sponsored and supervised by a Rotary club or clubs and is established following the endorsement of the governor upon certification and recognition by RI. Each Interact club must be sponsored by a Rotary club whose locality embraces the area where the Interact members live or the school(s) they attend.

The Rotaract program provides young adults an opportunity to enhance the knowledge and skills that will assist them in personal development, address physical and social needs of their communities, and promote better relations between all people worldwide through a framework of friendship and service. Rotaract clubs are composed of young adults ages 18-30 who live, work or study, within the vicinity of the sponsoring Rotary club.

Some of the goals of Rotaract Clubs are:

- To develop professional and leadership skills
- To emphasize respect for the rights of others based on recognition of the worth of each individual, and to promote ethical standards and the dignity of all useful occupations.
 - To provide opportunities for young people to address the needs and concerns of the community and world.
 - To provide opportunities for working in cooperation with sponsoring Rotary clubs,
 - To motivate young people for eventual membership in Rotary

If your club is not sponsoring an Interact or Rotaract club, it is not too late to consider doing so. As you have read, this is a real opportunity to help make a difference in the lives of young people, help make the community and world a better place to live and to train what could be future Rotarians.

District 6920 currently has 65 Rotary clubs, 27 Interact clubs and 7 Rotaract clubs. The majority of our clubs are not participating. Some clubs sponsor multiple Interact clubs. Seven clubs sponsor both Interact and Rotaract clubs. They are Augusta West, Sandersville, Valdosta, St. Simons, Dublin and Augusta.

Our District's New Generation Chairman Julian Diaz is not only willing to come and speak to your club, he is anxious! He will provide you with the needed assistance to get you started and provide assistance as needed to ensure your success. Julian is the Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Sandersville and was recognized as a "Club of the Year" President that year. Contact him at julian@jdzjriargroup.net or 478-552-3002.

