



DISTRICT 6920

Georgia, USA



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Online District Conference Registration Now Open

The weekend of May 18-20 will offer music, fun, history and celebration of Rotary as District 6920 Rotarians converge on the city of Savannah for the annual conference.

We have booked the entire Savannah Theater - www.savannahtheatre.com/video.php - for Saturday night where we will enjoy one of their great music performances. During free time on Friday afternoon and Saturday afternoon, you will have an outstanding list of choices to experience. Among them are the Mighty 8th Air Force Museum, the Tybee Lighthouse, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, Oatland Island Education Center or enjoy the squares and shops convenient to the hotel. You will also have the opportunity to see our own surplus medical equipment collection and sorting facility (METS) with an orientation by Director Linda Herdina.

Savannah attracts 5 million visitors a year and May will be a busy time in Savannah. You are encouraged to book your reservations soon, as this will be a great weekend in the historic city of Savannah with your fellow Rotarians. We are sure you won't want to miss it!

More detailed information is available on the district website at www.Rotary6920.org. Online registration is now open.

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Sandersville's Ted Thompson Chosen DGND



PDG Bill Kemp congratulates Floyd "Ted" Thompson of Sandersville on being chosen as the district's District Governor Nominee Designate or DGND. Ted will serve as District 6920's DG for the 2014-15 term.

Past District Governors Meet to Select DGND



District 6920's Past District Governors met last weekend to select the district's nominee for District Governor. Those attending the meeting were (front row, from left) Preston Johnson, Bruce Montgomery, Jeanette Canega, Albert Reichert, DGE Bob Griggers, (back row, from left) DG Gordon Matthews, Leon Benefield, DGN Gary Smith, DGND Ted Thompson, Pat Donahoo, Dallas Simon, Bill Kemp, Lloyd Horadan and Kenan Kern.

Nashville-Berrien Rotary Club Builds Playhouse

Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of the Alapaha Judicial Circuit raised money to recruit and train more volunteers by raffling off a playhouse built and donated by the Nashville-Berrien Rotary Club. \



Evelyn Fox, Elaine Grice, Jesse McDaniel (Nashville-Berrien Rotary Club secretary and a foster parent in Berrien County) and Carelee (Elaine's daughter).

There are more than 100 children in foster care in Berrien, Cook, Lanier and Atkinson counties and CASA is advocating for 44 of those children. The CASA advocates work with DFCS and the courts to advocate for children in abuse or neglect cases.

"Each child deserves to have a voice in the juvenile system," said Elaine Grice, CASA director.

"It can be used as a child's playhouse or it could even be used as a pool house to store pool accessories or things of that nature," said John Folkerts, president of the Nashville-Berrien Rotary Club.

Raffle tickets were \$5 each, with the raffle taking place during the Nashville, Ga., Christmas parade.

Luncheon Highlight of Year for Hazelhurst Rotarians



Each year at Christmas, the Hazelhurst Rotary Club helps purchase gifts for a special group of children in our community and the Rotarians also help serve lunch and help the kids open their gifts at the luncheon held at Towns Bluff Heritage Center building.

"This is truly the highlight of our Rotary year" said Club President Dwayne Creamer. "Every Rotarian looks forward to the annual Christmas Luncheon and watching the excitement on each child's face as Santa calls them one by one to come up and get their present."

Rotary Goes Full Circle for One Family

Four generations of one family will have served as president of the Rotary Club of Hawkinsville with the induction of Harley Fleetwood Lawson in 2014. The club's 75th anniversary will see the fourth member of the Lawson family at the helm's of the international service organization, which was begun by Harley's great grandfather, and his namesake, in 1939.

According to information handed down from Rena McCune, aunt of Harley Lawson, and Hugh Lawson, Harley's father, the following account is presented of the Lawson family's involvement in Rotary.

Harley Fleetwood Lawson was born in Pulaski County, Ga., on Dec. 4, 1879 and died on June 14, 1944. He attended the Hawkinsville public schools, graduated from Mercer University, and studied law under W.J. Hammond. He taught school in different parts of the state until 1904, when he began the practice of law in Hawkinsville.

During his life in Hawkinsville, Harley served two terms as a member of the House of Representatives and one term in the State Senate. He was a member of the American Bar Association and the Georgia Bar Association, of which he served as secretary and president. Harley founded the Hawkinsville chapter of the Rotary Club in 1939 and served as its first president.

Roger Hugh Lawson was born on November 12, 1913, and died on June 17, 1982. He attended the Hawkinsville public schools, the Citadel, the University of Georgia, and graduated from the University of Georgia Law School. He, too, was a member of the American Bar Association and the Georgia Bar Association.

During World War II, he was a member of the FBI. He practiced law in Hawkinsville with his father and served as Chairman of the Board of Education in Hawkinsville for many years. He was also Chairman of the State Highway Department.

Roger served as president of the Hawkinsville Rotary Club in 1948 and was a charter member.

Roger Hugh Lawson, Jr. was born on September 23, 1941. He attended the Hawkinsville public schools, Emory University, and graduated from the Emory University Law School in 1965, when he began practicing law with his father in Hawkinsville.

Hugh was a superior court judge from 1979 to 1995, when he became a federal district judge. Hugh became a senior judge on Jan. 1, 2009. His present title is Senior Judge of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Georgia.

Since becoming a United States District Judge, he has served as Chief Judge of the Middle District of Georgia, member of the Eleventh Circuit Judicial Council and President of the Eleventh Circuit District Judges' Association. He has also sat by designation on the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals of the United States.

Hugh was President of the Hawkinsville Rotary Club in 1974.

Harley Fleetwood Lawson was born on Oct. 25, 1967. He attended the Hawkinsville public schools, Georgia College, and Mercer University. He is a medical salesman in the field of Pathology. Harley is a member of Pulaski Tomorrow, Ocmulgee Order, HURA (Hawkinsville Urban Redevelopment Authority) and the Hawkinsville Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Harley has been a member of the Hawkinsville Rotary Club since August 2009 and has been nominated to serve as Club President beginning 2014.



Harley Fleetwood Lawson will serve as president of the Rotary Club of Hawkinsville in 2014. He will be a fourth generation president.

Giving to Foundation an Honor, Opportunity

The following has been provided by Milledgeville Rotary Club Public Relations Chair Deborah Marsh

The Milledgeville Rotary Club was visited by District Foundation Chairman Jeanette Caneega at the January 19th meeting. Mrs. Caneega is held in high regard for her many accomplishments through Rotary, especially for being the first woman District Governor of District 6920 from 1999 -2000; her son fondly called her "The Gov." She continues to live out "Service Before Self" as a proud member of the Wrightsville Rotary Club.

Mrs. Caneega brought new meaning to giving to the Rotary Foundation as she spoke with authority about the good works accomplished through the Foundation that she loves so dearly. She immediately shared from personal experience that, "You never miss the money you give for other people." Club members were all ears.



District Foundation Chair Jeannette Caneega says, "Giving to the Foundation is an honor and an opportunity, not an obligation."

Before members can truly get on board about giving to the Foundation, they must first understand it. Mrs. Caneega explained the three facets of the Foundation: the Annual Fund, the Permanent Fund, and Polio Plus. All three serve very specific purposes.

The Annual Fund meets Rotary's immediate needs. Only interest earned on donations to the Annual Fund are used for projects both locally and internationally. One hundred percent of the funds given are used for their specified purpose; no administrative costs are subtracted from the donations. Becoming a Paul Harris Fellow, one way to donate to the Annual Fund, says, "I believe in what I'm a part of," Mrs. Caneega explained. The Permanent Fund only uses interest from donations for projects around the world. Polio Plus seeks to eradicate polio from the face of the earth; India is now Polio free.

Mrs. Caneega shared that Bill Gates believes in the Rotary Foundation so strongly that he offered a donation of \$355 million, if Rotary could match \$200 million. With six more months left before the match deadline, Rotary has

already raised \$202.6 million; mission accomplished. Polio eradication is within reach.

EREY, Every Rotarian Every Year, provides an opportunity for each of us to participate in the work of the Rotary Foundation; the average for Club members should be \$100 per year. All donations through the years are counted toward the Paul Harris Fellow goal of \$1,000; many Rotarians have accomplished earning multiple Paul Harris Fellow awards. Earning ten Paul Harris Fellows reaches the hallmark of Major Donor. If Bill Gates believes so strongly in giving to Rotary, can't each Rotarian do his/her part?

Mrs. Caneega said it best: "Giving to the Foundation is an honor and an opportunity, not an obligation."



Rotary Leadership Institute

Make plans now to attend the Rotary Leadership Institute in Savannah on March 3.

Another RLI session is slated for June 9 in Macon.

More information about the Rotary Leadership Institute can be found online at www.rotary6920.org/Training/rli.php.

RLI District Chair Ted Thompson can be reached via email at tthom034@aol.com or by calling 478-232-0969.

Valdosta North Donates to Imagination Library



Through a partnership with Clarence Spires with Remax and its members, the Valdosta North Rotary Club was able to give \$400 to the Imagination Library last week.

'Peace Through Service' Mantra for 2012-13

RI President-elect Sakuji Tanaka will ask Rotarians to build "Peace Through Service" in 2012-13.

Tanaka unveiled the RI theme during the opening plenary session of the 2012 International Assembly.

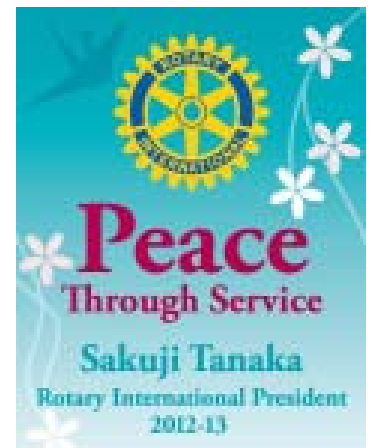
"Peace, in all of the ways that we can understand it, is a real goal and a realistic goal for Rotary," he said. "Peace is not something that can only be achieved through agreements, by governments, or through heroic struggles. It is something that we can find and that we can achieve, every day and in many simple ways."

Tanaka shared how becoming a Rotarian broadened his understanding of the world. After joining the Rotary Club of Yashio, in 1975, he said, he began to realize that his life's purpose was not to make more money, but to be useful to other people.

"I realized that by helping others, even in the simplest of ways, I could help to build peace," Tanaka said.

He noted that the Japanese tradition of putting the needs of society above the needs of the individual helped his country rebuild after the tsunami and earthquake in March.

"This is a lesson that I think the whole world can learn from, in a positive way. When we see the needs of others as more important than our own needs -- when we focus our energies on a shared goal that is for the good of all -- this changes everything," he said. "It changes our priorities in a completely fundamental way. And it changes how we understand the idea of peace."



Meet Lou Eyerly:

Eight-Time Paul Harris Fellow



District Governor Gordon Matthews made his official visit to the Rotary Club of Kings Bay last month and presented member Lou Eyerly with his eighth Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Rotary Clubs Worldwide Meet Fundraising Challenge

Rotary International has succeeded in meeting the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation's US\$200 million match in funding for polio eradication, raising more than \$202.6 million as of January 17.

"We'll celebrate this milestone, but it doesn't mean that we'll stop raising money or spreading the word about polio eradication," Rotary Foundation Trustee John F. Germ told Rotary leaders at the International Assembly in San Diego, California, USA. "We can't stop until our entire world is certified as polio-free."

The fundraising milestone was reached in response to \$355 million in challenge grants awarded to The Rotary Foundation by the Gates Foundation. All funds have been earmarked to support polio immunization activities in affected countries where the vaccine-preventable disease continues to paralyze children.

"In recognition of Rotary's great work, and to inspire Rotarians in the future, the [Gates] foundation is committing an additional \$50 million to extend our partnership," said Jeff Raikes, chief executive officer of the Gates Foundation. "Rotary started the global fight against polio, and continues to set the tone for private fundraising, grassroots engagement, and maintaining polio at the top of the agenda with key policymakers." Raikes also addressed Rotary leaders at the International Assembly.

The new \$50 million grant from the Gates Foundation is not a challenge grant.

Since 1988, the incidence of polio has plummeted by more than 99 percent, from about 350,000 cases annually to fewer than 650 cases reported so far for 2011. The wild poliovirus is now endemic in only four countries: Afghanistan, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan. However, India on 13 January marked a full calendar year without a case, paving the way for its removal from the endemic list.

But other countries also remain at risk for polio cases imported from the endemic countries. In Africa in 2011, Chad and the Democratic Republic of the Congo had significant outbreaks. Also in 2011, a small cluster of polio cases in China, which had been polio-free for a decade, was traced to Pakistan.

Rotary club members not only reached into their own pockets to support the Gates challenge, but also engaged their communities in a variety of creative fundraising projects, such as a fashion show in California that raised \$52,000, benefit film screenings in New Zealand and Australia that netted \$54,000, and a pledge-supported hike through Kilimanjaro, Tanzania, that brought in \$38,000. Many events were planned around 24 October, widely observed as World Polio Day.

To date, Rotarians worldwide have contributed more than \$1 billion toward the eradication of polio, a cause Rotary took on in 1985. In 1988, the World Health Organization, UNICEF, and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention joined Rotary as spearheading partners of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. More recently, the Gates Foundation has become a major supporter. In 2007, the Gates Foundation gave Rotary a \$100 million challenge grant for polio eradication, increasing it to \$355 million in 2009. Rotary agreed to raise \$200 million in matching funds by June 30, 2012.

Reaching children with the oral polio vaccine in the disease's remaining strongholds is labor- and resource-intensive due to a host of challenges, including poor infrastructure, geographical isolation, armed conflict, and cultural misunderstanding about the eradication campaign.

On the subject of polio eradication, the new issue of "The Economist" discussed the important role that Rotary International has played in the effort to eradicate polio. Check the article out online at <http://www.economist.com/node/21543126>.

February is World Understanding Month. This is a time to highlight Rotary's goal of world understanding and peace.