



Bob Griggers
District Governor
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Rotary *District 6920*

Happy New Year to All!

by District Governor Bob Griggers

“Where has the time gone?” The question has been asked many times. One thing is certain, when you are busy, it seems to go by a lot faster!

Brenda and I have certainly enjoyed the first six months that I have been honored to serve as your District Governor. During the past month, we were invited to participate with many of you as you celebrated the holidays. It was indeed our pleasure to visit with you. Our hearts were warmed to see so many doing many good things for those that they love and those who are less fortunate. Wouldn't it be wonderful if this spirit prevailed throughout the year?

Brenda and I look forward to seeing many of you again real soon. Until then, please accept our most sincere wishes to each of you for a Happy, Prosperous and Healthy 2013!



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January is Rotary Awareness Month

by District Governor Bob Griggers

This is a time for us to expand knowledge of Rotary and its activities among our membership and throughout our communities.

I think there are a lot more people who recognize the Rotary Wheel, than there are people who understand what Rotarians really do. It is our responsibility to share Rotary with our neighbors, friends, business people, civic leaders and professional people with whom we come into contact.

We should always wear our Rotary Pin and have a good basic knowledge of Rotary, its history and goals. We should be genuinely interested in seeing Rotary grow! Be prepared to answer questions and invite prospective members to visit our clubs. Let them see what Rotary means to you.

One of the best ways to find out more about Rotary and be on the road to becoming a "Rotarian" rather than just a club member is through the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI). This program will provide you with both information and motivation.

It is not bad to let others hear and see what Rotary is doing. Rotary is the oldest and one of the largest Service Organizations in the World. We are over 100 years old and have over 1.2 million members in nearly every country of the World. We are a driving force in the effort to eradicate Polio. Many Rotarians are involved in providing clean water and sanitation to those without. We have members who are working in areas of literacy, to help educate and train men and women to be able to provide for themselves. Rotarians are at work every day, to help elevate poverty, hunger, pain, sickness and suffering. We are working to make our world a truly better place to live.

Equally as important as all the above, we have the opportunity as Rotarians to unite with our Brothers and Sisters from throughout the World in trying to bring Peace through Service. We as Rotarians can do what our Governments will not do! Let's all work for Peace and share our goals with others.

Savannah Rotary Leadership Institute

Saturday, Feb. 23 marks the next Rotary Leadership Institute Session for District 6920. If you are new to Rotary or have been a member for a number of years and want to increase your knowledge and sharpen your skills about Rotary, this is for you. By attending a RLI session you will join other Rotarians who will share their ideas and experiences about their clubs. There are six exciting classes throughout the day starting with Part I: The Rotarian. Part 2 consists of discussions about "The Rotary Club" and Part 3 includes "The Rotary Journey." We will be talking about the Rotary Foundation "Future Vision," the changes that are taking place right now in our district and clubs, and preparing for next Rotary year beginning July 1.

Each of these Parts (1, 2 and 3) will take a Saturday to complete. The cost for attending is \$95 per session. Some Rotary clubs will reimburse this expense to their members. You will make a big impact and have a positive effect on others in your club by sharing these new idea and experiences.

Also, you can gain points for your club to use for the Gold, Silver or Bronze Club Awards Program. If you attend a RLI session as a club president nominee, you can gain points for your club. If your club sponsors members to attend a RLI session, they can gain points or if you attend and pay your own way, you can gain points for your club. Please note that the Savannah RLI will be the last session for our district before the cutoff date of April 1 for the Awards Program. The next session is in Macon on June 1.

The Feb. 23 RLI will be held in Savannah, with sign in starting at 7:15 a.m. A continental breakfast will be served. The first class will begin at 8:20 a.m. This RLI session will end around 3:30 p.m. The Savannah RLI will be held at Savannah Technical College, Crossroads Campus, at 190 Crossroads Parkway, Savannah.

To register, go to www.rlitraining.org and click on registration. You can find other information, such as additional training dates, locations and directions, on this site.

Classes are limited to 20 participants, so register now before it's too late. The last day to register is Feb. 12.

For more information, contact RLI Chair/DGN Ted Thompson at (478) 232-0969.

Zone 34 India National Immunization Day

by District Governor Bob Griggers

Time is short, but you can still participate in a National Immunization Day this year. The group will be traveling together to India leaving February 20th and returning March 2nd.

The approximate cost of the trip per person, double occupancy is \$2,100. This covers all costs while in India, with the exception of a couple of dinners and personal spending money. Participants are responsible for their own airfare. Pre- or post-trip arrangements can be made.

You will need a current passport, India Visa and some vaccines.

PDG Jim Puryear, Brenda and I went in 2006. Danny Bullington of Macon, PDG Gordon Matthews and John Neely of Savannah have attended since then. Please feel free to contact them for comments on their experiences.

John Neely said, "For me, the experience of actually being in India, and seeing Rotary's efforts to fight polio first hand, was life changing. We saw many victims of polio, but we also held babies in our arms, dropping the vaccine in their mouths, knowing that we were probably altering that child's future. This really brought home the true meaning of Rotary."

If you have any questions, contact me at bobgrig@aol.com. But please hurry. Don't miss YOUR chance to truly make a difference, firsthand, in the lives of children around the world!

Tift County Hosts Breakfast with Santa

by District Governor Bob Griggers

When I visited with the Rotary Club of Tift County earlier this year, I was intrigued with how such a small Rotary Club could sponsor what sounded like such a successful event in their annual Breakfast with Santa program. I mentioned that I would like to participate this year and was pleasantly surprised when President Morris Tankersley reminded me of my request. I quickly accepted the invitation and had a great time as they shared with me their secrets for success.



They met on the first Saturday of December and there seemed to be several events going on in the area that same day. Their breakfast was well advertised and very hearty. It consisted of pancakes, eggs, grits and bacon and there was a patient line waiting to be served.

In addition to breakfast, the event also offered a visit not only with Santa (PDG Leon Benefield) but Mrs. Claus as well. The children were able to have their picture taken with Santa where they were printed and presented to them before leaving that morning

The local Red Hat Ladies also set up tables that offered items such as Christmas ornaments and costume jewelry for sale. For a dollar, the youngsters were able to select and purchase an item for their Mom, Dad or special person for Christmas and have it wrapped for free!

I had my photo taken with Santa, but before I could answer his question about being good, he reminded me of the Four Way Test! I thought about yanking his beard and reminding him about "building good will and better friendships!"

I served with their GRSP student and other club members on the serving line and got to greet most everyone coming in. I really enjoyed and appreciated

the Red Hat Ladies. I saw more Christmas Spirit in that room with them and the children than I have in a long time! Thanks to the members of the Rotary Club of Tift County for an excellent service. You were supported by many volunteers with their time and donations and this says volumes about your club. Congratulations to all who participated on a job very well done!



Interact Celebrates First 50 Years

During the 2012-13 Rotary Year, Rotary International will celebrate the 50th anniversary of the first chartered Interact club. Interact is RI's service club for young people ages 12 to 18. Interact clubs are sponsored by individual Rotary clubs, which provide support and guidance, but they are self-governing and self-supporting.

Club membership varies greatly. Clubs can be single or mixed gender, large or small. Members can be from one school or from two or more schools in the same community.

Each year, Interact clubs complete at least two community service projects, one of which furthers International understanding and goodwill. Through these efforts, Interactors develop a network of friendships with local and overseas clubs and learn the importance of:

- Developing leadership skills and personal integrity
- Demonstrating helpfulness and respect for others
- Understanding the value of individual responsibility and hard work
- Advancing international understanding and goodwill

Interact is one of the most significant and fastest growing programs of Rotary. There are more than 10,700 clubs in 109 countries. Almost 200,000 young people are involved in Interact.

Rotary Clubs in District 6920 sponsor 27 Interact clubs. Several of them sponsor multiple clubs. Valdosta sponsors 4, Sandersville sponsors 3, Hinesville sponsors 3, Claxton and Waynesboro each sponsor 2. Augusta, Augusta West, Dublin, Eastman, Effingham County, Effingham Sunrise, Glennville, McIntosh County, Millen and Richmond Hill each sponsor a club, while Brunswick/St. Simons and Camden County/Kings Bay cosponsor clubs.

I recently got to see an Interact Club in action. I visited the Rotary Club of Dublin when they hosted the Interact Club from East Laurens High School for lunch. When I questioned PDG Preston Johnson about their projects, he

said, "Their humanitarian project was to help defray the costs associated with a 13-year-old student who has brain cancer." At that meeting they collected \$505. They collected an additional \$944 at East Laurens High, East Laurens Primary and



Southwest Laurens Elementary Schools, for a total of \$1,444!

If you are not currently sponsoring an Interact or Rotaract Club, please give it some thought. It is a great opportunity!

Retaining Rotary Members

by District Membership Chair Jack Steed

We can retain members we currently have. Every business knows that it is far easier to retain a good customer than it is to find a new one. We know that about 15% of all Rotarians leave Rotary each year. Obviously, we are unable to change the fact that each year some Rotarians will pass on.

The first step to retaining a member occurs the day a member joins the club, or maybe even before. A high quality orientation about Rotary is vital. Each new member deserves a dignified introduction to Rotary. New members must be given information about the interesting history, traditions and customs of Rotary. Sponsors or senior members can introduce new Rotary experiences to new members. All new Rotarians must be brought into the wide circle of friends we call the Rotary family.

The second important step is to immediately give each new member a worthwhile and meaningful task within the club. They must be involved in the social and service activities of the club from the very outset. Only when a new member begins to feel that he or she has a useful job will they feel that they are fully a part of the club, and that they have actually become a Rotarian..

A third suggestion for retaining members is to recognize the impact modern technology is having upon young business and professional people today. The demands on the 21st Century executive or manager are far different from 30 or 40 years ago. With i-Pods, lap tops, text messaging, I-phones and the ever increasing technical forms of communication, the current executive is expected to be making instant decisions, and be on call 24 hours a day, even when officials may be located on the other side of the world. Often they do not have the option to make a decision when they get back from a Rotary meeting. Too many Rotarians are being pushed out the door when a 100% attendance is the standard. We of the older generation must be willing to change some of our thinking and give a lot more consideration to the demands managers and executives face today.

Another serious retention factor is the degree to which new members are actually welcomed into the old established circles of the club. How many clubs have that wonderful group of long time Rotary friends who cling to each other and would never think to ask a new member or prospect to join their group? These wonderful friends would never think that they are actually depriving other members of their friendship and are not actually a part of the total fellowship of the club. Soon, new members and visiting guests realize that they have not become a part of those small circles of friends. And someone who intended to be a good Rotarian becomes a casualty to Rotary.

Next month: More on retention.

Contact: Jack Steed, 478 397-8595 or jsteed@nicholscauley.com.

Zone 34 Peace Symposium

Atlanta, February 23, 2013

Zone Director Anne Matthews has announced the first Peace Symposium in Atlanta in honor of Rotary International President Tanaka's theme, "Peace through Service." The symposium will be at the Renaissance Concourse Atlanta Airport Hotel, One Hartsfield Centre Parkway, Atlanta on Saturday, February 23 from 8 a.m. until 2:30 p.m. (This is the same hotel where Peach State PETS has been held in recent years.)

A preliminary program consists of talks by a Peace Fellow and other peace speakers, a "peace dance", Interact and Rotaract Clubs presenting their peace projects and a video displaying the peace projects of the clubs of Zone 34. We will be planting a peace pole, which will welcome the visitors to the 2017 Rotary International Convention in Atlanta to symbolize our present and future commitment to the peace initiative.

District 6920 Rotary Clubs are being asked to submit digital photos of peace projects they have been working on this year. Also, District Rotaract Clubs are requested to submit a project to be judged during this event. For more information, please contact Julian Diaz at Julian@diazjriargroup.net.

You are also encouraged to support our District and Zone in this event. Please put this date on your calendar and plan to be present.

Hazlehurst Rotarians Celebrate 50th Anniversary



Hazlehurst Rotary Club recently celebrated the 50th Anniversary of the local civic service club. Local Rotarians, above, were joined by current District Governor Bob Griggers at a recent meeting. Club President Bo Reese stated that he is honored to be a part of such a service-oriented civic club that has helped the local community over the past 50 years in so many ways. From sponsoring local Special Olympics games and special-needs children's Christmas Luncheon gifts, helping buy smoke detectors for low-income and elderly homes, providing a Rotary Scholarship award to a local high school senior to providing teddy bears to children affected by domestic violence and collecting coins for the Alzheimer Research Trust. Hazlehurst Rotarians have been busy over the past 50 years living out the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self."

Downtown Macon Feeds Families

The Downtown Macon Rotary Club delivered boxes of Thanksgiving feasts to close to 100 families on November 17. Rotarians gathered early to deliver the boxes all over Macon. Boxes contained the makings for a Thanksgiving meal, complete with turkey and dessert. Some boxes were decorated and included family recipes and personal notes.

"We have so much to be thankful for and are thrilled to be able to spread the blessings across our community," said Club President Vicki Mills. "It is heartwarming to know that our membership consistently steps in to give to this worthwhile effort every year."



Braski Receives Honorary Rotary Membership

Pat Braski, Owner/Operator of Chick Fil-A in Warner Robins, was recently presented a Rotary Honorary Membership by the Rotary Club of Centerville.

Election to Honorary Membership is exclusively a distinction for meritorious service in the furtherance of Rotary ideals and for support of the Rotary's cause. Mr Braski has supported numerous charitable organizations and is thoroughly familiar with the 4-Way Test. His daughter, Margo, now a junior at the University of Georgia, won the speech contest several years ago with the 4-Way Test as the subject of her speech.

Thanks to the initial efforts of Braski, Warner Robins was only one of nine cities that agreed to pilot the first WinShape C3 endeavor four years ago. WinShape Camps 3C stands for "Camp Connecting Communities." The goal is not only to provide children with a great summer camp experience but also to give them the opportunity to form relationships with others in the community who have strong values. The camps are supported and maintained by a group of churches working together and attendance has risen each year since its inception.

Fridays at camp is always Chick Fil-A Family Fun Day. This past summer, Pat helped cook and serve about 850 sandwiches for the camp. He is constantly stopped by people in the community and thanked for his help in making the camp possible.



Pat Braski, second from the left, is congratulated on receiving Rotary's Honorary Membership by District Governor Bob Griggers while Club President Kathy Hart and District Membership Chair Jack Steed look on.

McIntosh Rotarians Spread Christmas Cheer



McIntosh County Rotary Club took their luncheon meeting on the road last month to do a "great deed." Club members lent their voices to spreading Christmas cheer to residents of the Darien Senior Citizen Center. Rotarians sang Christmas carols for and with the members. Rotarian Danny Grace was responsible for making arrangements for the outing.

Augusta West, ASU Rotaract Serve Homeless



Augusta West Rotary Club, Augusta State University Rotaract, spouses, children and friends volunteer one Saturday per quarter to serve the homeless in the Augusta area. Augusta West Rotary Club and Augusta State Rotaract Club members recently volunteered to prepare and serve meals at the Master's Table Soup Kitchen. They served more than 270 homeless men, women and children.



Looking Ahead

February is World Understanding month, a time to highlight Rotary's goal of world understanding and peace. Begin planning now to focus on this important aspect of Rotary in the coming month.

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