



Bob Griggers  
District Governor  
2012-2013

July 2012

# Rotary *District 6920*

## Griggers Takes Helm as Governor

Born in Macon, Bob entered the Marine Corps immediately after high school in 1965. After four years of service and a tour of duty in Vietnam, he was discharged as sergeant and returned to Macon.

He and Brenda, his high school sweetheart, were married in 1968. Two years later, Bob started Bob's Auto Salvage, Inc. in Byron and ran the business for more than 40 years. During that time he served as president of both his industry's state and international trade associations. He was appointed by former Governor Joe Frank Harris to the State of Georgia Used Parts Licensing Board and continues to serve in that role. Today, he is semi-retired and enjoys doing community service work.



DG Bob Griggers and his wife Brenda pose for a photo with RI President Sakuji Tanaka and his wife Kyoko during the International Assembly in January.

has served as President of Make a Wish of Central and South Georgia, the Georgia Peach Festival and the Byron Lions Club. He served as President of the Peach County Chamber of Commerce and as Vice Chairman of the Peach County Clean Community Commission. He is a Past Master of Tyrian

Lodge #111 in Warner Robins and currently he chairs the Peach County Planning and Zoning Board and serves on the Industrial Authority Board for the city of Byron. He was Charter Secretary for the Boy's and Girl's Club in Byron. Giving back to the community has been a way of life for Bob.

In 1996, Bob was invited to join the Greater Byron Rotary Club and was an active member there until he left to help charter a new club. He was honored to have the opportunity to lead Centerville Rotary in being

Bob has been active with a number of organizations. He

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# Griggers Set to Lead District in 2012-13

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recognized as one of the most active clubs in our District. Since becoming a Rotarian, Bob has proudly maintained a perfect attendance record. His club has honored him as Rotarian of the Year and recipient of the President's Award. Bob was one of District 6920's first graduates of the Rotary Leadership Institute and serves as a facilitator.

Ten years after joining Rotary, Bob and Brenda traveled to India with other Rotarians to participate in a National Immunization Day helping to free that

country of Polio. They have attended seven Rotary International Conventions and both have been recognized as Major Donors to the Rotary Foundation and are members of the Bequest Society. Bob is a GRSP Will Watt and Hugh Thomas Fellow, as well as an active member of the Paul Harris Society.

When he isn't doing community service work, Bob enjoys riding motorcycles. He started riding motorcycles late in life and tried to make up for it by riding across the country alone three

times! Racing and cars have been a part of Bob's life for many years and he owns a vintage Oval Track Race Car, several muscle cars and motorcycles. A favorite of his collection is a baby blue 1959 Coupe de Ville Cadillac.

Both Bob and Brenda enjoy traveling and collecting antiques. They are active members of the Hartley Bridge Road Church of Christ and have two sons and two grandsons. They credit Rotary with the many friends they have made over the years.



*District Governor Griggers*

## Governor Outlines Challenges

Brenda and I hope all of you enjoyed a safe and happy 4th of July. This is an American holiday where families and friends can relax and be thankful for this unique country in which we live.

July also brings the beginning of another

Rotary Year and I can only begin to tell you how much I appreciate the opportunity to serve you as District Governor. Brenda and I both look forward to each and every visit to all 66 clubs. I think we will find as many differences as similarities, but all will be working towards common goals. This will be exciting and we look forward to meeting each one of you personally.

We still have many challenges before us. We need to address membership issues. We need to concentrate on retaining members as well as attracting younger members. Literacy is a real problem. We need to encourage and help members of our communities to become better educated and obtain lasting employment.

Times are hard for many, if not most of us. But historically we find good people still contribute to help alleviate suffering of those around them and throughout the world. Let us as Rotarians remember the good works that are done through our Rotary Foundation. One of our goals this year is to be recognized as a

100% Every Rotarian Every Year District. If each one of you contribute only \$10 per month, we will exceed the worldwide EREY goal of \$100 per member.

Polio. We have not won the war until every battle has been conquered. We have three countries left until our mission has been accomplished. We met the Gates Foundation Grant challenge and did so early. But if we do not finish the job, most of the millions of dollars spent will have been wasted. This is our legacy, we can't stop yet .... we must END POLIO NOW!

Our International President has chosen a great theme - "Peace through Service." There is no single definition for peace. It could mean so many things. Peace starts at home. Let us all work together, starting in our own hearts, homes, clubs and communities. When we have peace, we will be able to share it with others. Think how you can implement our theme "Peace through Service" into your daily life and let me know when I come to visit your club. I'm going to ask!!

Finally, I want each of us to enjoy Rotary. Really get to know members in your club. Network, do business with each other and be comfortable to recommend a club member to a friend. And don't forget to recommend a friend to Rotary!

Thanks for everything you do for Rotary and may we all share "Peace through Service."

*Bob Griggers, DG*

# Goals for District 6920 2012-2013

1. **Membership** - We will endeavor to strengthen our existing clubs, explore the need for new clubs and make changes to current ones as needed for them to be of better service. Our goal is to increase District membership by a minimum of 3%. To accomplish this, each club we will need to concentrate on retention as well as New Generations.

2. **"Peace through Service"** - President Tanaka's Presidential Theme offers so many avenues of opportunity. We will strive to help bring peace to many, not only locally, but throughout the world through service projects such as literacy, water, health, hunger, housing, counseling etc.

3. **Education** - Our efforts will not only be directed in the area of helping young people. We will also concentrate on helping adults to take the General Educational Development tests.

4. **Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)** - This is an educational opportunity that allows Rotary Club members to learn about Rotary. We are encouraging every member to take advantage of this program. RLI is a program that helps transform Rotary Club members into Rotarians!

5. **District Web Site** - We hope you notice changes in our District Web Site during the year. We will be trying to make changes that will better serve you by offering the information you need. We will also be adding additional links to areas of need and interest.

6. **District Facebook Page** - You are encouraged to make use of our District Facebook site. This is an excellent avenue to share with others what your club is doing, Group Study Exchange visits, etc. or just to share pictures of your recent events.

7. **Rotary Foundation** - Contributions to the Rotary Foundation is what enables us to "do good" throughout the world. Clubs are strongly encouraged to consider unique and fun fundraisers to support our Foundation. Our goal will be to become a 100% Every Rotarian Every Year (EREY) District, to increase our Paul Harris Society membership and add 5 new 100% Paul Harris Clubs. We also hope to increase our Major

Donor membership by 10%, Benefactors by 20% and Bequest Society membership by 15%. "District 6920 ....where giving is a way of life!"

8. **Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART)** - Please include the "Blue Buckets" in your weekly club meetings and help fund the research for a cure to this dreadful disease.

9. **Grants** - We will Continue to apply for and distribute grants from Rotary International to fund worthy projects while we prepare for Future Vision beginning July 1, 2013.

10. **Polio** - The war is not over until every battle is won. We still have Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan to conquer. Although we have met the challenge of the Gates Foundation, our work is still not completed. Please continue to support this vital effort until Polio is eradicated.

11. **District Webinars** - Continue to encourage the use of this and other technology to create more efficient methods of communication throughout the District.

12. **District Conference** - All are encouraged to make plans to celebrate a great year in Rotary May 2nd-5th in Augusta, Ga. Come and renew old friendships and make new ones!

## *Kings Bay Rookie of the Year*



*Dr. Cailen Wells was presented the Rookie of the Year Award by District Director Bert Guy at the Gavel to Gavel of the Rotary Club of Kings Bay.*



# Are You a Rotary Membership Booster?

Centerville Rotary Past President and recent "Hero Among Us" recipient Jack Steed has agreed to serve as this year's District Membership Chair. Membership is not a new subject for Jack. He retired from the US Air Force with 33 years of service. After retirement, he served for four terms as the chairman of the Air Force Association's National Membership Committee. Jack understands we cannot continue to do as we have and expect different results. Jack will be submitting articles each month for our District Newsletter. If you have any suggestions, comments or would be interested in serving on the Membership Committee, please contact Jack at [jsted@nicholscauley.com](mailto:jsted@nicholscauley.com).

Let's be straightforward about Rotary Membership. Ask yourself, "Do I believe that new members and the retention of established members is crucial to the survival of Rotary?" "Have I made gaining new members one of my goals?" "Do I take advantage of opportunities to invite prospective new members to a club meeting?" If you can't give a positive answer to those questions, then consider you to be a Rotary Membership Booster.

For the most part, new members don't just happen. If you don't have a good Public Relations program, if people don't know about your club, if people don't know about your club's accomplishments, if you don't "toot your club's horn", if you don't realize that membership is the responsibility of all club members and not just the Membership Committee and talk about growing your club's membership is no more than just talk, and it is most likely that your membership accessions are stagnant.

In order for Rotary to survive, it must acquire as many new members as possible and especially those in the 25 to 35 year old range. If you are asking yourself, "How can I become a Rotary Membership Booster?" Here are a few suggestions as to how you can do so: (1) Obtain a membership list from your chamber of commerce or other community active organiza-

tions. (2) Carefully review the lists and identify those whom you believe would be good Rotarians and invite them to a club meeting. (3) Be sure you tell them what Rotary is about and give them the small folding card captioned: What is Rotary?

Rotary is the most international of all service organizations and it is not the Rotary you may remember during your youth. The format of most clubs ensures "good energy" and most are amenable to innovative approaches. The current generation of prospective Rotarians

is not interested in "old boy" clubs where the membership usually consists of a mindset that does not entertain new initiatives. Rotarians should build for their clubs a feeling of oneness, of dependence upon one another and of strength to be derived by unity. This must exist if your club is to have or achieve a robust new membership program and it must exist if your club expects to retain established members.

Are you a Rotary Membership Booster? We hope your answer is a resounding "Yes".

## Club Holds 100th Inauguration



Coming up on its 100th anniversary in 2014, Augusta Rotary Club has already begun celebrating milestones. On Monday, June 25, the club held its 100th presidential inauguration. Connie Melear, 38, is their youngest president ever and the only the third female to hold the position. She is shown here posing with the past presidents on Inauguration Day.

# Who Should Attend District Training Meetings? Why?

## Bob Griggers, DG

Some of our new Club Presidents and Committee chairs have asked the question, "Which seminars or district meetings should I attend?" The short and truthful answer is: all of them!

Now we realize there are circumstances that will prohibit some from being able to attend. But the training programs are required to provide leaders in your club with information to help ensure a successful Rotary year. If your president can't attend, please send other officers and committee chairs to represent your club.

Last month at the District Seminar, Sally Platt presented informa-

tion about Future Vision. This has been a pilot program that one-third of Rotary Districts have been operating under for the past year. As District Governor, it will be my responsibility to ensure you are trained to work with Foundation Grants as we have in the past for the rest of this calendar year and be ready to change over to Future Vision beginning July 1, 2013.

Information was presented by PDG Lloyd Horadan on the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI). Rotary, its history and future. The classes are conducted by discussion leaders with a limited number of participants and everyone is encouraged to participate.

It is amazing what you are able to learn from others within your district or beyond.

The newly revised Club Awards program was presented by AG Ben Harvill. Ben introduced the new Speakers Bureau service. This will be a convenient way to find a quality speaker for a club presentation. Ben also brought those present up to date on the latest about social networking.

District Director Bert Guy presented information for Rotary literacy programs that included information on the Dolly Parton's Imagination Library and The Ferst Foundation.

## Officers Represent D6920 in Evanston

District 6920 was well represented last month in Evanston, Illinois, for the Zone Foundation and Membership Seminars. PDG Kern was there as part of the program. DG Bob and Brenda had attended seminars there before, but this was the first time for the rest of the group. Not only was important information presented there, but it was an opportunity for them to meet with some of the RI staff in person and discuss issues they had.

A short time was squeezed in for all except Ron May, to make a quick visit to the Rotary International World Headquarters for lunch. Ron had a meeting scheduled and was not able to attend.

Everyone was excited and impressed with the meetings and staff.



*District Rotarians enjoying themselves at the Zone Foundation and Membership Seminars in Evanston were DGE Gary and Sue Smith, Matching Grant Chair John Neeley, DGN Ted and Charollette Thompson, DD Ron May, District Foundation Chair; District Simplified Grants Chair Les Arent, DG Bob and Brenda Griggers and Area Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator Kenan and Beth Kern.*

For more D6920 news, visit our website at [www.rotary6920.org](http://www.rotary6920.org) and check out our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/rotary6920](http://www.facebook.com/rotary6920)



## Perfect Attendance



*During Perry Rotary Club's annual banquet, Gary Bishop was recognized for 32 years of perfect attendance. What an accomplishment! Way to go Gary!*

## Valdosta Induction



*Assistant Governor Bob Harrison officially inducts Kerry Morris as President of the Rotary Club of Valdosta. Pictured are President Morris, AG Harrison and Past President Greg Reid.*

## Updated Photos



*If you don't want to look like this on the District website, get a current photo into your club president or email one to Paula Goodnow at [paulagoodnow@hotmail.com](mailto:paulagoodnow@hotmail.com)*

## Important Dates: Mark Your Calendars

***District Foundation Seminar  
Dublin, GA  
Saturday, August 18, 2012***

Contact Paula Goodnow to register for this seminar and get the latest information on Rotary topics such as "The Rotary Foundation: Where Does Your Money Go?," "Rotary Grants: The Easy Way to Apply," "Public Relations: Ideas for Making Use of the Media and Receiving Positive Publicity," "District Database: How to Make Life Easier and Better!" and "Membership: Tried and Proven Ideas to Maintain or Increase Your Club's Membership." Other topics include literacy programs and award criteria, among others. This seminar has been designed with your requests in mind ... please take advantage of it!

***GRSP Conclave  
Clayton, GA***

***Friday, August 24-Sunday, 26, 2012***

The 2012 Georgia Rotary Student Program Conclave will be held Aug. 24-26 in Clayton, Ga.

District 6910 and the Rotary Club of Clayton are excited to host the Conclave in beautiful historic Rabun County. August is peak time in the mountains, so make your hotel reservations now!

The Conclave affords students and Rotarians the opportunity to meet and learn about each other as the students begin their GRSP year.

The Class of 2012-2013 is comprised of students from countries around the world. During Conclave, students will receive information designed to help them adjust to life in the United States and to become part of their host families, clubs and schools.

Conclave is also a time for Trustees, new and experienced, to receive updated information and training. A program to orient Host Families is also scheduled.

During this time, you will meet, learn and share what it means to be a part of GRSP. Conclave is not just for students. It's something all Georgia Rotarians can take part in with pride.