



# DISTRICT 6920

## Georgia, USA



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## District Governor Gordon Offers Perspective on Year

As I look back over the last 12 months I know that our district has been blessed with outstanding Rotarians who have stepped up to volunteer their time, talent and energy in our clubs, in our communities and in District level responsibilities. I am grateful for the opportunity that this district has provided me over the years, beginning with our exchange with Bolivia in 1999, to grow and to know how Rotary is such a truly global organization.

The fact that Rotary's format of weekly meetings and annual rotation of officers at all levels has endured for over 100 years speaks to basic human needs – regardless of religion, nationality, race, politics or whether we are male or female - to connect socially, to feel that we belong, and to serve a cause larger than ourselves. I am especially proud of 6920 in that we have more Rotarians in proportion to our population than do the other two districts in Georgia – 6900 and 6910.

I am delighted that Bob Griggers, Gary Smith and Ted Thompson will in turn be our District Governor and I look forward to their leadership for our district! They are very capable, enthusiastic, and dedicated Rotarians.

My years as a DG-in-training and a year as DG have given me the time and opportunity to contemplate what Rotary really is, what it provides, where it stands and where it can go. I have learned from each of our 66 Rotary Clubs and I have had the opportunity at various DG training events and at our International Conventions in

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Connect with us on Facebook  
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# District Governor Looks at Year in Review

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Montreal and New Orleans to hear from those who have generously served Rotary at higher levels. I have tried to apply what I have had the opportunity to learn.

I believe that we have had a successful year for the programs of our Foundation – matching grants, district simplified grants, Group Study Exchange, Polio Plus and scholarships – that remind us all of why we contribute. And we have explored ways to innovate with our training and district conference, use of the web and digital media.

Highlights for our District 6920 this year from where I stood:

- our first live Skype conversation at our Foundation Seminar in Dublin with our international grant recipient in Bolivia so that all of us there then knew that the global projects that we fund are well done and serve important needs
- the presentation of a real iron lung by a group of polio survivors at our District Conference to remind our souls of the purpose of our Polio Plus campaign to achieve a very audacious goal
- the exploration of a group of young leaders who decided to form the new Rotary Club of Metropolitan Savannah with a format that meets their needs and to explore outside of our traditions and hopefully pilot some durable innovations
- the celebration of the deep service of four Rotarians in our own district as Heroes Among Us – to inspire us, to challenge us, and to remind us that the Rotarian whom we sit next to at any of our weekly meetings is likely serving our community in ways we rarely recognize
- the good moves and fun spirit of Ron May in hippie garb on the stage of the Savannah Theater to remind us that there may be a hidden talent in our fellow Rotarians that we bring out through Rotary
- the startup of an active district Facebook page where we can all get the latest news and photos from around the district posted daily by Rotarians without any editing or requirements – so much better than a monthly DG newsletter that hardly anyone reads
- the official approval of an updated Manual of Procedure and District Leadership Plan for our district, the first update in over 10 years, that hopefully will strengthen our district organization
- our Group Study Exchange with District 2440 in Turkey – a wonderful opportunity for us to get to know the five excellent members of the team from Turkey and for our team to experience the culture and history of our most strategic ally in the Middle East



- the depth of the community service that I saw being provided by our clubs throughout the district and if I were to begin to name them I would not know where to end because of the great work being done in towns all over our District 6920 every week
- the creation of a speaker data base (a web site and a smartphone app) that can help clubs identify worthwhile speakers who can add value to weekly club meetings

## LOOKING FORWARD

Any assessment should include a discussion of what we might have done better. I believe that our job on the district level is to support our clubs and their leadership; our geography makes this challenging and requires that we make use of technology that is now readily available. As I reflect on this, I wonder how we can reach deeper into our clubs with our communications, since only 3.5% of our members – less than 200 of our 3,500 Rotarians - read our monthly newsletter.

Our Facebook page offers more timely information without being delayed by the district and our web site has more content which was visited 800 times this year. For most Rotarians in 6920, exposure to Rotary beyond their club is limited to the annual

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# Looking Ahead: The Future of District 6920

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visit of the DG and there is so much more to share. Our geography is a challenge as travel time of three or more hours each way inhibits many from participating in our educational opportunities. While we experimented with several webinars this year, we just barely got started with the potential this offers for providing 30 minutes of live dialogue with no travel time.

District 6920 should have more women as District Governor and Assistant Governor because we need them and they bring talent, energy and good ideas to our district. Half of the AGs are women in District 7770, our neighbor across the Savannah River in South Carolina, and their DG is female. There is no reason the leadership of 6920 should not look the same.

In addition, District 6920 must make it easier for our younger Assistant Governors, who are raising a family and working hard in their profession, to see how they can take on the responsibilities of being District Governor; we need their perspective and new ideas to build our next generation of Rotarians. The position of DG can look very daunting unless there is a strong district organization in place ready to support the potential DG.

In conclusion, I would like to thank every Rotarian in 6920 for your hospitality, support, encouragement and enthusiasm this year. It has been an honor for me to have this opportunity to serve you, our District, our clubs and Rotary International.

Sincerely,  
Gordon



## Facebook Page Drawing Lots of Users

The Rotary District Facebook Page was started on May 1, 2011. By mid-June 2011, the site had the required 25 Likes to get a unique Facebook url – [www.facebook.com/rotary6920](http://www.facebook.com/rotary6920). Since then, it has accumulated 222 likes. Likes represent an entity (group or person) that has clicked “Like” on Facebook. Those who “like” a page are get updates from District 6920 on their Facebook page.

By comparison, District 6910 started a Facebook page in July 2011, and to date they have 142 likes. In addition, District 6900 started a Facebook page in April 2010 and to date they have 296 visitors.

Likes, though, are only one metric. Another is the reach of a page – the number of people whether they have liked you or not that have seen any content related with a page. During the District Conference, District 6920’s page had a reach of 678 people. Of these 678 unique “visits”, the page had a viral count of 549 unique visitors. Viral visits represent the number of people who saw a story about this page published by a friend. There were 377 views of the page itself.

Between May 16 and June 22, the majority (132) of the Likes for this page is from the United States, but the page also has “Likes” from Turkey, United Kingdom, Uganda, Australia and Nepal, too. Thirty-five percent of the “Likes” are women aged 35 to 64. Of the 35 percent, the largest group is women aged 55 to 64 (12.8 %). Likewise, the largest percentage of male users is aged 55 to 64 (14.8 %). Between, the two genders there are more men (51.7%) than women who have Liked the page (47.7 %). Less than 10 percent of men or women under the age of 35, have Liked the page.

Fifty-two Rotarians have been authorized to post content on the site. Each club in District 6920 can appoint up to two representatives to post to the Rotary District 6920 “wall”. A wall is where one finds news about “himself or herself”. On the District 6920 “home” page, aka “News Feed” page, there are posts from clubs around the United States and around the world. So far, the Rotary District page has liked “16” other pages, but there is more work to be done on this front. Every time the District page likes other pages the news from those pages is posted on the District’s “home” Facebook page.

The District 6920 is off to a good start. How robust it becomes and how much it flourishes depends largely on posts, generating new likes and increasing content on its “home” page. It has the potential to be a great connector among clubs, to increase dollars raised by clubs, and to increase awareness of Rotary.

# Hazlehurst Club Awards Scholarship



*Hazlehurst Rotary Club President Dwayne Creamer awarded Jeff Davis High School graduating senior Trent Cook the 2012 Hazlehurst Rotary Club Scholarship to help with college expenses. Trent plans to attend South Georgia College in Douglas as he begins his journey towards a pharmacy degree. Rotary wishes Trent much success in all his future endeavors.*

## Visiting Rotarian



*Chuck Ennis of the Valdosta Rotary Club recently visited the Rotary Club of Linclon, UK. In this picture, President Elect Alfred presents Rotarian Chuck Ennis with a Lincoln Rotary Club banner.*

# Savannah West Celebrates National Maritime Day

The Savannah West Rotary Club celebrated National Maritime Day by honoring those who got to sea and remember those lost at seas.

Andy Krey, Executive Director and Chaplain of the Maritime Bethel of Savannah spoke and reminded Rotarians tahtships carry more than cargo.

“Our mission is to the human beings on ships who sacrifice so much of the normal life being away for 11 months at a stretch being away from loved ones,” said Krey, who also is pastor of Bible Lutheran Church in Richon. Lutherans have had a maritime ministry role in Savannah since 1986 with the founding of the Lutheran Association for Maritime Ministry. Chaplain Krey has developed the Maritime Bethel at Savannah, Inc. as an ecumenical mission

Captain Nickolas Farley, Master Mariner, formerly serving in the British India Steam Navigation Company based out of London, Bombay, and Calcutta, also delivered a presentation detailing the sailing of Savannah’s first Liberty Ship of 88 launched from Savannah - the SS James Oglethorpe which launched on Nov. 20, 1942, and was sunken by U-boat action on March 17, 1943. Now retired, Mr. Farley is working to commission a scale model of the Oglethorpe to be exhibited on board the Royal Navy Sloop HMS wellington in London. The exhibit will commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Battle of the Atlantic, the longest continuous military campaign of World War II.

During the meeting, a wreath was cast into the sea in memory of those lost at sea within the last 12 months. Aboard the Patrol boat were Officer Randall Reynolds of the Chatham County Marine Patrol and DeWayne Ladner, owner of DeWitt Insurance and President of the Board of Directors of the Maritime Bethel at Savannah.



# Centerville Club Presents \$25,000 Check to CrimeStoppers at Annual Luncheon

The Rotary Club of Centerville conducted its annual David Pierce Memorial CrimeStopper Awards Luncheon, named for the late David Pierce, a former judge and former Assistant District Governor, on June 6. The Honorable Larry Walker, former Majority Leader, state House of Representatives, was the featured speaker. Officers from a number of regional law enforcement agencies and elected officials attended the luncheon.

During the program, the luncheon celebrated the success of the program and recognized the groups that have contributed to that success. Members of the Rotary Club of Centerville presented CrimeStoppers a check for \$25,000. Since the inception of the CrimeStopper program in Middle Georgia, Warren Shelby, Program Director, said that 2,000 tips have led to the arrest 3,500 people, 6,340 warrants, 5,141 cleared cases, over \$500,000 worth of property recovered and over \$160T worth of drugs confiscated. Shelby said that the Rotary Club of Centerville's donation will be used to pay future tipsters.

"That's the lifeline of our program, paying our tipsters," said Shelby.

Capt. Alan Everidge, Houston County Sheriff's Office said, "It (CrimeStoppers) puts 400,000 people in the midstate looking for people that we need to get off the streets. We cannot be everywhere, and CrimeStoppers helps us to have additional eyes out there."

Larry Walker spoke about the way society has changed over the past 50 years, ranging from the Occupy Wall Street movement to class disruptions in schools to the general attitude change of Americans.



*Members of the Rotary Club of Centerville are shown presenting a \$25,000 check to the CrimeStopper Program Director, Shelby Warren, fifth from the right.*



## *Augusta South Rotarians Make Donation to Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation*

*Augusta South Rotary Club presented a check recently to the Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation for Camp Oo-U-La! Pictured are Lori Mabry, Georgia Firefighters Burn Foundation; David Bullard, Martinez-Columbia Fire Rescue, and Pam Lightsey, Assistant Governor and Past President of Augusta South Rotary.*

## **Hazelhurst Club Raffling Off I-Pad 3**

Hazelhurst Rotary Club is raffling a new I-Pad 3. Tickets are \$3 each or two tickets for \$5.

Proceeds will benefit local Rotary Club causes including the annual Rotary scholarship to a Jeff Davis High senior, Jeff Davis County Special Olympic Games in May and Christmas Luncheon in December, C.A.R.T. and many more programs.

For tickets, contact Dwayne Creamer at [dcreamer@altamahabank.com](mailto:dcreamer@altamahabank.com).

The winning ticket will be drawn at noon on July 18th.

*Visit our website at  
[www.Rotary6920.org](http://www.Rotary6920.org)  
or find us on  
Facebook at  
[www.facebook.com/  
Rotary6920](http://www.facebook.com/Rotary6920)  
for the latest news and  
information*

## *Augusta South Rotary Club Makes Donation to Golden Harvest*



*The Augusta South Rotary Club recently presented a check to Golden Harvest Food Bank for \$2000 to help with the backpack program at Glenn Hills Elementary. Pictured are Tanika Mason, Golden Harvest Food Bank; Pam Lightsey, Rotary District 6920 Assistant Governor; Shannon Jones, Golden Harvest Food Bank; Pam Ward, Glenn Hills Elementary Principal, and Wallace White, Augusta South Rotary Club president.*

# Skidaway Island Club Distributes \$12,500 in Local Grants to Area Programs

Susan Kleine, Past President of Skidaway Island Rotary Club and Allocations Committee Chair, presented to members the distribution of monies to charities for this year. This year, the Skidaway Rotary Club is proud to announce the distribution of \$12,500 in local grants to support programs focused on literacy, leadership and health. Representatives from each of the six charities joined the club's Rotarians for a breakfast meeting earlier this month. Among the charities supported are:

**Safe Shelter (Ms. Cheryl Branch)** This is Savannah's only shelter for women and their children who are the victims of domestic violence. During the 90 day period that the women and their kids stay at the shelter, the staff does what it can to help them look to the future. Many of the women who come to the shelter are illiterate, so the effort is made to set them working towards a GED and improve computer skills, vital pre-requisites to being able to function in the job market and to support their children in the outside world. The grant from Rotary will be used for GED related expenses and typing software.

**St. Mary's Community Center (Ms. Shenita Ferguson, Sister Pat Baber)** The mission of the center, an outreach of St Joseph's Candler Health System, is to assist low income people in three major areas: basic needs, education and health services. The project funded by the Rotary grant is for their GED/Adult Literacy program.

**Bethesda Academy and Horizons Savannah (Andrea Dove and Keith Kilgore from Bethesda, Tom Oxnard, Rotary member and Director, Horizons Savannah)** Horizons provides summer enrichment programs for at-risk children at the Savannah Country Day School. This summer, the 6th-9th grade program will be moved to the Bethesda campus. The program include academics and outdoor activities: athletics and work on the campus itself. The Rotary grant is targeted to assist in the Horizons/Bethesda partnership.

**Boys & Girls Club of the Coastal Empire (Mr. Vincent J. Del Monte)** This is a club whose history goes back to the 19th century and was started to help boys in trouble on the streets. It is now a world wide endeavor. Locally, the club helps 80 children every day. The emphasis is on learning to use the computer. Our grant will be used to purchase computers and software for the local club.

**Mediation Center (Jeremy Akin)** The work of this organization is done in the Savannah Public School System. It trains students to mediate disputes, arguments, disagreements among students, with no adults present. Many students live their lives in perpetual conflict, and they come to believe that life is this way. Mediation panels comprised of students are effective in changing this attitude, as well as resolving actual conflicts. The grant will be used for the Peer Mediation Program.

**America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia (Ms. Mary Jane Crouch)** This organization serves hot, nourishing meals to children every day. Many children do not get adequately fed because nobody is home to feed them, and teachers know



Recipients of local grants are Keith Kilgore, Tom Oxnard, Susan Kleine, Andrea Dove, Jeremy Akin, Shenita Ferguson, Cheryl Branch, Doug Powelson, Sister Pat Baber, Mary Jane Crouch and Vincent Del Monte.

that a hungry child cannot concentrate. Over 100,000 individuals benefit each year, including 56,000 children. The Rotary grant will support the Kids Café program which provides afternoon/evening meals for children after school.

# *RI President Banarjee Reflects on Year*

*The following is RI President Kalyan Banerjee's monthly message to Rotarians around the globe and was posted on Rotary International's website ... [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)*

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

June is a time to reflect on the Rotary year that has nearly passed, and to look forward to the one that is soon to begin. We look back at what we have accomplished and measure our progress toward the goals we have set for ourselves. In Rotary, we may pause to reflect, but never to rest on our laurels – for as much as we have achieved, we are always aware of how much there is still to do.

The 2011-12 year has been a time of significant progress. Binota and I have been fortunate to have visited different parts of the Rotary world and seen the many ways that Rotarians everywhere Reach Within to Embrace Humanity. In South Sudan, we met with Rotarians who are determined to make a difference despite tremendous challenges. The humanitarian problems in that nation are enormous, and begin with the most basic: At the moment, South Sudan lacks a single functional hospital. I am confident that in the coming year, Rotarians around the world will reach out to our newest Rotary country with the support and help it will need.

In Uganda, I was delighted and heartened to discover how many government ministers and officials are Rotarians, and to see them bringing the ideals of Rotary to life in their service. In Kathmandu, I was overwhelmed as countries of South Asia – Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka – came together to vow to make the region 100 percent literate by 2017.

In Fiji and Vanuatu in the South Pacific, I was moved by Rotarians who are helping to lower child mortality and provide safe housing. In Abu Dhabi,

United Arab Emirates, I was delighted by the statement of Sheikh Nahayan Mubarak Al-Nahayan, minister of higher education and scientific research: “We are looking forward eagerly to Rotary starting its first club here.” And in Valdivia, Chile, as close to the South Pole as Binota and I have been, we were moved by Rotarians’ work with children who have mental disabilities.

But most of all, we found our hearts warmed by the welcome we received all over the world – and by the sight of so many Rotarians living the Rotary ideal, and choosing to Reach Within to Embrace Humanity. I thank you for the opportunity to serve as your president, and look forward to working together to build Peace Through Service.

