



# DISTRICT 6920

## Georgia, USA



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## Conference Promises Fun for All; Hotel Rooms Guaranteed at Group Rate through April 20th

The annual District 6920 Conference is just around the corner and organizers say this year's event will be a fun-filled weekend for the entire family.

A treasured part of each Rotary year, the District Conference is an opportunity for Rotarians from throughout the district to come together for fellowship while acknowledging the accomplishments of the organization over the previous year.

As DG Matthews bids a final farewell to Rotarians at the conference, DGE Bob Griggers will be introduced before attendees in preparation for his year as governor.

Time-honored events like the introduction of the Georgia Rotary Student Program students, Group Study Exchange team and High School Speech contestants are just another way to culminate the Rotary year. And, who can forget the ever entertaining Club Award presentations?

If you haven't already made plans to attend this year's District Conference in Savannah the weekend of May 18-20, don't delay. Registration is just \$35 per Rotarian and \$15 for spouse/partner. Meal packages are available online, as is a link for making hotel reservations.

**The deadline for making room reservations at the group rate is April 20.** Visit [www.rotary6920.org](http://www.rotary6920.org) for all that you need to know about this year's District Conference.

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**District Website**  
[www.Rotary6920.org](http://www.Rotary6920.org)



## The Savannah Theatre

During Saturday evening's festivities, a two-hour event at the Savannah Theatre will take guests down memory lane. In "The Beat Goes On," a non-stop party of everyone's favorite hit songs from three decades of music, will have you swaying to the beat.

The musical production includes portions of over 60 songs from artists as diverse as the Beach Boys, Beatles, Petula Clark, Sonny and Cher, Aretha Franklin, James Brown, Michael Jackson, Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons, the Bee Gees, Karen Carpenter, Tina Turner, Queen, the Village People, Elvis, Cyndi Lauper, Wham, Lynrd

Skynrd, Kenny Loggins, James Taylor, Billy Joel and Elton John.

The audience will be singing along with the award-winning cast and live band, laughing at the outrageous comedy and participating in numbers like "YMCA," "Aquarius," and "Let's Get Physical."

## James Aydelotte, RI President's Representative



Born in New Orleans, James grew up in Memphis, Tenn., and Chincoteague Island, Va. After earning several degrees, including a Ph.D. while studying one year in Germany as a Rotary Scholar, he taught European history at the college level where he also served as an Academic Dean. In 1980 he joined the staff at the Rotary International Secretariat in Evanston. As a senior manager, he served first as manager of The Rotary Foundation, then secretary of the international Board of Directors of RI, next executive assistant to the General Secretary, and later to the President of RI.

## Charity Sporting Clay Shoot Set for Friday

"Aiming for the Future, Shooting for a Cause" is the theme of a charity sporting clay shoot by the Rotary

Club of Effingham Sunrise. Proceeds of the event benefit Effingham County scholarships and worldwide polio

eradication. Registration opens at 11:45 a.m. and the course opens at 1 p.m. Lunch will be provided at noon and awards and a raffle drawing will be held at 4 p.m. Cost is \$200 for a two-man team or \$100 per person.

The shoot will be held at the Forest City Gun Club. Participants are required to bring their own gun, shells, ear plugs and safety glasses.

All shooters will be entered into a drawing for a shotgun. The winner will be subject to a background check.

For information or to pre-register, call Bill Strickland at (912) 856-6380 or via email at [bstrickland@allgoodpests.com](mailto:bstrickland@allgoodpests.com).

## Saturday Afternoon Activities

Saturday afternoon's conference activities promise to offer something that will suit everyone in the family. Reservations can be made for any of the offered programs by calling the numbers listed below.

*Cathedral of St John the Baptist Tour: Peter Paolucci, [petepalu@aol.com](mailto:petepalu@aol.com), 912-231-1868*

*Mighty Eighth Tour: Henry Skipper, [www.mightyeighth.org](http://www.mightyeighth.org), 912-748-8888*

*Tybee Light House Tour: Cullen Chambers, [www.tybeelighthouse.org](http://www.tybeelighthouse.org), 912-786-5801*

*Historic Walking Tour: Ardis Wood, Victorian Lady Tours and Talks, 912-232-7708*

*METS: Tour 2p.m., Linda Herdina, 912-856-0548, [www.rotarymets.org](http://www.rotarymets.org)*

*Oatland Island Wildlife Center: [www.oatlandisland.org](http://www.oatlandisland.org), 912-395-1212*

*Fort Pulaski National Monument: [www.nps.gov/fopu](http://www.nps.gov/fopu), 912-786-5787*

*Telfair Museum: [www.Telfair.org](http://www.Telfair.org), 912-790-8800*

*Davenport House Museum: [www.DavenportHouseMuseum.org](http://www.DavenportHouseMuseum.org), 912-236-8097*

*Historic Savannah Carriage Tours: [www.savannahcarriage.com](http://www.savannahcarriage.com), 912-443-9333*

# McIntosh Rotarians Plant Tree in Memory of Deceased Member



*McIntosh County Rotary Club President Latrelle Peterson wanted to complete her tenure as president by fulfilling one more goal of our District Governor Gordon Matthews by remembering fellow members. The club recently planted a beautiful Dogwood tree in Columbus Square, as a living memorial in honor of member Cheryl Smith who died from cancer. Latrelle shared that "Cheryl's enthusiasm was contagious and she was an unselfish person who lived the Rotary Motto, 'Service Above Self!'"*

*Taking part in the planting and dedication were Diane Martin, president elect; Latrelle Martin, president; Danny Grace, member; Lloyd Flanders, member; Mayor Hugh "Bubba" Hodge, Norma Jean Gardner, City of Darien Assistant Supervisor; Mark McClellan, Georgia Forestry Commission; Irene Bates, club secretary; Bill Watson, member; George Eshliman, member; Jason Coley, member and Marian Owens, treasurer.*

*Danny Grace led prayer during the dedication.*

***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***

# Hawkinsville Awarded Grant to Provide Fitness Equipment to Pre-K Students

The Hawkinsville Rotary Club has been awarded a District Grant to provide pre-kindergarten students with fitness equipment to keep them physically active. The monies from this grant and from additional donations provided by the local Rotary Club will be used to purchase indoor and outdoor fitness equipment.

Students and adults who are physically inactive have a tendency to be overweight. This can lead to other chronic diseases such as diabetes and cardiovascular conditions. The focus of this grant is to provide opportunities for our youngest students, the 4- and 5-year-olds, to be physically active and to enjoy doing so.

A main predictor of a preschooler being overweight is the obesity of the family. Therefore, this grant will provide activities that involve the parents. Each child will be given the equipment for a family game that he/she will be able to use at home.

It is also very important that families understand the importance of healthy eating. The Pulaski County 4-H Extension Agents have led monthly classroom sessions with the Pre-K classes this year to teach them about the new Healthy Plate guidelines. The agents have also educated the parents on this topic

and taught them how to make healthy snacks. Other family events, such as a Father Basketball Game, are also planned.

The Rotary Club will also partner with the Hawkinsville/Pulaski County Recreation Department with this grant. Money will be provided to the recreation department for scholarships for families in need to help pay



*Makayla Brown, Rotary Pre-K Student of the Month, and Ms. Staci Vickers, Director of The Hawkinsville/Pulaski Pre K Program, are surrounded by Hawkinsville Rotarians during their grant announcement. Below, Hawkinsville Rotary Club President Charles Patton presents a check to Kenny White, director of the Hawkinsville/Pulaski Recreation Department. With the help of local school officials, the Hawkinsville Rotary*

*Club awards a Student of The Month Certificate to students from pre-K, elementary school, middle school and high school each month of the school year.*



registration fees so the children can participate in the various sports programs that are offered.

# Skidaway Rotarians Host Annual Fundraiser

The Skidaway Island Rotary Club held its 9th annual major fundraiser on February 29.

With a theme of "The Wild, Wild West!," the gala event was attended by over 220 people, including active duty military guests from Fort Stewart.

The evening started with the arrival of Wells Fargo's stagecoach positioned at the entrance to the "Skidaway Saloon." Most attendees came in costume, contending for the coveted best-dressed award. Activities included casino type gaming, live music, the "Mother Lode" of silent auction items, and a terrific buffet!

Over the past years, Skidaway Island Rotary Club has raised over \$230 million for local charities and local and international service projects.



## *Rotarian, Family Participates Stop Hunger Now Event*

Blackshear Rotary Club President Brent Waters and his children, below, recently participated in a Stop Hunger Now packaging event in Blackshear. More than 71,000 bags of dried food, which provide six meals each, were packaged and sent to starving children around the world.



# Savannah South, Pilot Club Team Up to Promote Literacy and Brain Safety

Third-graders at all of Chatham County's elementary schools have received a new dictionary thanks to the efforts of members of the Savannah South Rotary Club and Pilot Club of Chatham County.

The \$4,000 project was funded in part with a District Simplified Grant from Rotary. In January, the two clubs had a labeling party for the new books. The labels with the logos of the two clubs had a place for students to put their names in the new books.

During February and March, volunteers from the two clubs visited the 25 schools throughout the county to pass out the new books. They also shared with students the fun and importance of learning new words, and the importance of wearing helmets to protect their brains when riding bikes, skates and skateboards. Members of the Pilot Club, a service organization focused on serving people and family members with brain-related conditions, prepared fun worksheets with word scrambles and super challenges to use the new dictionaries to find the meanings of the unscrambled words.

Savannah South received special recognition from Rotary International for its community service project, in

partnership with the Pilot Club, to distribute dictionaries to third grade students in Chatham County. In a letter to the club, Carlos Giraldo, PDG, and Rotary Public Image Coordinator for Zone 34, commended Savannah South for the project as one that promoted Rotary's image to the community.



Students at Godley Station Elementary School take a minute to look through their new dictionaries from the Rotary Club of Savannah South and the Pilot Club of Chatham County. At right, Savannah South Rotarian Bob Irvine worked with members of the Rotary Club of Savannah South, family members of the Rotarians, and the Pilot Club of Chatham County in January at a labeling party. The groups prepared 3,000 dictionaries for distribution to third-graders in Chatham County.



## Get Free Rotary Videos on iTunes

How many times has a colleague, friend, or new contact asked you what Rotary is? If you have an iPhone or iPad, you can now respond by showing a one-minute video that explains Rotary in the words of everyday Rotarians.

Rotary Minute is a series of videos featuring Rotary club members from around the world discussing a variety of topics, such as "How have you benefited from being a Rotarian?" In addition to being available on video, Rotary Minute is now offered through a free podcast subscription on iTunes.

View the podcasts on the Apple iPhone or iPad, or on a PC or Mac that has iTunes installed. Just visit the iTunes store and search for "Rotary Minute" to find and download episodes.

Also share the videos with your fellow Rotarians by using them in presentations during club or district meetings.

# Wrightsville Hosts Self Defense Class



Wrightsville Rotary Club recently sponsored a free Ladies Self Defense class for the community. Above, PDG Jeannette Caneega shows off her moves.

# Uptown Macon Rotarians Read



Members of the Uptown Macon Rotary Club read to children at St. Peter Claver in lieu of a recent club meeting.

# Valdosta Rotarians Answer Call in 'Service Above Self'



Members of the Valdosta North Rotary Club stepped up to assist victims of the tornadoes in Lowndes and Berrien counties earlier this month.

# Nashville-Berrien Rotarian Recognized as Paul Harris Fellow



Gregg A. Ray, left, has been recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow by Nashville-Berrien Rotary Club President General John Folkerts, right, during the club's Feb. 20 meeting.

# *Rotarians Should Understand Community Needs in Effort to Offer Sustainable Solutions*

*A message from RI President Kalyan Banerjee*

My dear brothers and sisters in Rotary,

In the first message I wrote for this magazine, last July, I quoted Mohandas K. Gandhi, who said, “You must be the change you wish to see in the world.” And in the months since, I have had incredible opportunities to travel the Rotary world and see how Rotarians everywhere are bringing those words to life.

Creating positive change means, at its simplest, using our knowledge and resources to solve a problem. But when we are talking about solving humanitarian problems in a real and lasting way, knowledge and ideas and resources are not enough to ensure results. We have to remember something else that is no less important: sustainability.

A sustainable solution is one that will continue to work even after the Rotarians who proposed and facilitated it are gone. This means that even though the project might have come from Rotary originally, the community will take ownership of it. That, of course, means that when a part breaks on a water pump, there will be a process in place to repair it and to keep that pump functional – carried out by the community, and without further recourse to Rotary.

The first step toward sustainability is understanding the need – for example, the cooking fuel problem common in much of the developing world. In many regions, solar ovens are a wonderful solution: They are inexpensive; they rely on a source of energy that is free, nonpolluting, and inexhaustible; and they are simple to use and maintain.

But before we step into a community and attempt to solve its fuel problem with solar ovens, we have to fully understand its situation – and look beyond the problem we see. Perhaps the local foods need to be cooked at a temperature higher than the solar oven can provide. Perhaps the area is windy, and the solar ovens would blow away. Perhaps it’s traditional in that area to begin cooking before dawn, which, of course, you cannot do with a solar oven. These are issues you simply might not have thought of, but that could soon lead to the solar ovens being used to patch roofs or keep animal feed dry instead of for cooking.

If we are trying to bring about change, it’s not enough to say, “My way is the better way.” We have to be listening and watching, not just talking. We can only help others if we reach out with an open mind – and with the knowledge, the commitment, and the perseverance to deliver on what we promise.

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## **A Simpler, More Powerful Foundation**

*A message from Foundation Trustee Chair Bill Boyd*

I am still occasionally asked why we decided to develop our Future Vision Plan. The question is, if the Foundation wasn’t broken, why fix it? The truth is that our Foundation, which has served Rotary and the world so well for over 90 years, was becoming dated. We were reacting to a changing world by adding yet another program or altering our rules, which made the Foundation increasingly complicated and expensive to administer. It was time to face the reality that we must change or see our impact on the world diminish.

We asked over 10,000 Rotarians what changes we should make and then began to work on a Foundation that is simpler and easier to understand, that involves clubs and districts more in spending and stewardship, and that builds more sustainability into our activities.

Just as polio eradication has defined Rotary to the international community in recent years, in the future, our six areas of focus will define us. We will have lifted ourselves above the multitude of little projects that felt good but addressed symptoms, not causes, and too often had a short-term impact. We have demonstrated through our polio efforts what we could do, and we will show the world that there are answers to other major issues, and that Rotary is prepared to lead the way. We can’t do it on our own, but we can and will make a difference.

The pilot districts are saying that Future Vision is exciting, leads to greater engagement and enthusiasm, is more efficient, is creating more interaction between clubs, is making Rotarians more aware of opportunities, has scaled up the size of projects, and is leading to greater giving to the Foundation. As chair of our Foundation, I can only agree!