



Bob Griggers
District Governor
2012-2013

March 2013

Rotary *District 6920*

March is Rotary Literacy Month

by District Governor Bob Griggers

On the most basic level, literacy could be defined as the ability for a person to read and write. The ability for that person to use printed and written information permits them to function in our normal day society. They will be able to achieve goals and to develop their knowledge and potential. To be able to develop this ability they must not only be able to recognize letters and words, but to also make inferences, draw conclusions and to develop higher level skills. It is not just the ability to read and write, but to be able to understand, make use of what they read, and to be able to effectively communicate by writing.

Recent statistics reveal that there is a very distinct correlation between illiteracy and crime. The same can be said for poverty and mortality. The bottom line; is literacy is important not only to be successful but for survival as well. It is necessary to help ensure our children will succeed in today's society.

Illiteracy is not just a problem for those who are illiterate ... it affects us all! Literacy is essential if we are to eradicate poverty, reduce child mortality, control population growth, achieve gender equality, encourage sustainable development, world peace and so much more.

Many of our clubs participate in dictionary distribution. Others read to students or mentor to them to increase their reading skills. There are many opportunities to help others better themselves. Bottom line: literate societies will be the salvation in our ever-changing world.

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Capps to be Keynote Speaker

by District Governor Bob Griggers

We are certainly honored and pleased to announce that John T. Capps will be the Keynote Speaker at our District Conference in Augusta May 3-5. If you have never heard him, you will be in for a treat. If you have, you know what we mean. How many bald-headed men have you seen running around with the Rotary wheel tattooed on their head? That is commitment!

John T. is a past president of the Rotary Club of Morehead City-Noon. He is one of the founders of Carolinas Multi-District PETS and currently a 2012-13 Rotary International Sergeant-at-Arms Committee Member. He has been a keynote speaker in Asia, Europe and the United States for Multi-District PETS, vocational and district assemblies, Foundation galas, club anniversaries, Interact, RYLA and area club meetings.



A third generation Rotarian, John T. has attended 35 international conventions and served as a Polio National Immunization Day Volunteer for 11 years in India. He was highlighted on the cover and featured in the May 2011 Issue of

“The Rotarian,” recognizing his enthusiasm and examples of service to mankind.

He is the recipient of the Foundation’s Meritorious Service Award, Distinguished Service Award, International Service Award for a Polio-Free World and Rotary International’s Service Above Self Award.

Jane and John T. are major donors and benefactors of The Rotary Foundation. They have six sons and live on the lower outer banks in Morehead City, N.C.

Register Now for District Conference

WOW! Our District Conference is nearly here ... May 3-5

Most all of the planning has been done for our Annual District Conference which will be held at the downtown Marriott Riverfront Hotel in Augusta. We have negotiated a good room rate and have made every effort to keep conference costs to a minimum.

We will have Rotarians share with members of our District how they have conducted unique and profitable fundraisers. We also will have



Rotarians share unique and successful service projects. Our goal is for you to be able to return home with many new ideas to implement into your club’s program of work.

In addition to good speakers and educational and motivational programs, we are once again planning on having fun! There will be plenty of fun

and good times for all. In addition to the traditional golf competition, we have scheduled a pub crawl down Broad Street for the most adventurous

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District Conference Silent Auction

by Ted Thompson, Silent Auction Chair/DGN

I am honored to Chair the District Conference Silent Auction to be held at the Augusta Marriott Hotel & Suites May 3-5. I look forward to working with all of you to make this a successful and prosperous fundraiser. The proceeds of the Silent Auction will go to support Polio Plus.

The District Conference is only two months away and I ask each of you to begin thinking of items your clubs might donate. We are asking for large items from each club to place in the Silent Auction. Smaller valued items will be used as door prizes for the Plenary Sessions. Our goal this year is for each club to donate an item or items totaling \$300.00 or more in value per club. Don’t let this figure deter you if you can do more. If your club is small and can’t reach the \$300.00 value please donate what you can. All donations are greatly appreciated no matter what!

I encourage all Rotary clubs in our district to participate this year instead of only the clubs that always donate every year. It’s much easier to have a prosperous Silent Auction with 65 clubs working rather than just 30. Let’s all pitch in and work together to make this year’s Silent Auction the best!

If I can answer any questions please email me @ tthom034@aol.com or call me @ 478-232-0969. We appreciate your participation and contributions to this worthy cause. I will be in touch.

One hundred percent of the proceeds raised through this year’s Silent Auction will be donated to Polio Plus! Please help us by soliciting or providing some really nice items that will bring some big bucks for this project. Some suggestions are golf outings, race tickets, tickets to college or professional games, condo accommodations, store gift cards, hunting and fishing experiences, paintings, antiques, unique crafts, furniture, even a Paul Harris recognition. Please use your imagination, think big, and let’s have a great auction! ~ Bob Griggers

District Conference to Feature Kentucky Derby Party

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of our group. We will offer an enjoyable river cruise for those who would rather relax and enjoy the scenery at a slower pace.

Saturday afternoon and evening you are encouraged to come prepared to participate in and enjoy our own "Kentucky Derby Party." Gentlemen are encouraged to wear your Derby finery. Ladies, come prepared to join "First Lady" Brenda Griggers' Derby Day Hat Contest. Prizes will be given for win, place and show. You can watch the Kentucky Derby live on big screen TV, go to the betting window and place your wagers on your favorite horse for chances to win, place or show. There will also be a time to have your picture taken beside colorful jockey silks and enjoy mint juleps.

To register for the conference, go to www.rotary6920.org. If the site is not up yet, please continue to check back often.



Rotary Leadership Institute

by Ted Thompson, RLI Chair 6920/DGN

A great chance for making new friendships with Rotarians not only from your club or district, but from other clubs and districts as well; even a few from outside the state of Georgia. A venue for discussing the facets of Rotary that most interest you listening to new ideas and learning from others in your group.

Saturday, February 23, 2013, found a total of 50 Rotarians and 10 discussion leaders coming together for one common purpose: to learn more about Rotary and how they can be better informed themselves. One participant asked the question, "Exactly what can I expect today? Will there be someone who lectures all day?" The answer I gave him was a definitive, "No!" The discussion leader is only there to guide the discussion; the participants have the answers and will be in discussion all day about the material contained in their notebooks. Needless to say, he was very happy about my answer and remained happy about his experience all day. At the end, I asked him if he'd come back to take Part 2 and Part 3, and he answered with a definite, "Yes!"



Please

join us for the next RLI session to be held in Macon on June 1, 2013. To register go to www.rlittraining.org and follow the instructions. If you have trouble registering or need other information, please email me at tthom034@aol.com or call 478-232-0969. I look forward to seeing you in Macon.

Centerville Rotarians Deliver Food and Hope

A recent cold morning did not deter members of the Rotary Club of Centerville as they helped nearly 100 families and individuals in the Warner Robins area receive an assortment of fresh and frozen food. Members of the club sorted, bagged and delivered the food boxes to needy families selected by the Trinity UMC Food Pantry. President-elect Kenny Kitchens thanked members of the club for their generous donation of funds (more than \$1,600) for the food baskets and applauded Rotarians for participating in a major project of the club for the past eight years.

“It’s an opportunity to help people, to give encouragement and extend a little grace,” said club member and Assistant District Governor Joy Hurst. She added. “It’s a good opportunity for our Rotarians to have hands-on interactions with members of our community who are in need. The families are so grateful to receive the food baskets. This is a year-round need, but this is what we can do now and we hope our actions will inspire others to participate.”

Rotarians are improving the lives in communities around the world every day through thousands of service projects. The Rotary Club of Centerville is also active in promoting literacy through a weekly book donation program, providing GED scholarships and an annual appreciation program for Adult Literacy Volunteers.



Council on Legislation

by James B. (Jim) Puryear, PDG (2001-02)

Rotary International maintains and develops the rules and regulations of the organization through The Council of Legislation which meets one time every three years. The next meeting is on April 21-26 of this year – 2013. One representative from each of the 532 districts in Rotary International make up the Council which will meet in Chicago, Illinois.

The Council may make Resolutions for the RI Board to consider or it may pass Enactments which are more binding pieces of legislation for the RI Board to process. More than 300 proposals from 214 districts have been made for this year’s Council. Many proposals overlap so there may be combining of resolutions to make the process more efficient.

The proposed enactment legislation might be grouped into the following categories: Club Administration, Attendance, Club Meetings, Membership, Districts, Object of Rotary, The Rotary Foundation, Officers and Elections, Rotary International, RI Finances and Dues, RI Meetings and Legislative Procedures.

One of the most frequently discussed proposals over the years has been a proposal to relax the attendance rules of Rotary. Another frequent proposal has been to modify the requirements for the classification of members. One proposal this year calls for clubs to be able to have flexibility in setting the number of meetings per month which they will hold.

I look forward to serving as the representative of District 6920 and reporting back to the District. As I understand, it is an intense week of work, but also it is very rewarding.

ASU Rotaract Club Holds Drive



The Augusta State University Rotaract Club held a underwear and sock drive January 3-11, for all faculty, staff and students to contribute to the Clothing Closet. More than 680 pairs of underwear and socks were collected to benefit the Clothing Closet for Child Enrichment. Pictured are Kari Viola, Therapist and Forensic Interviewer; Ginette Williams, Child Advocacy Center Director; Dan Hillman, Director of Child Enrichment; Pam Lightsey, Augusta State University Rotaract Advisor; Israel Lisi, Rotaract member; John Paul Valenzuela, Child Enrichment Board Member, and Rotaract Member Tan Tran, front.

Hazlehurst Rotarians Learn About 'Pennies for Posho'



Hazlehurst Rotary Club and Rotarian Ronald Cobb welcomed Brad Park, right, to the club's January 23rd meeting. Brad presented a very good program on his recent mission trip to Uganda with the "PENNIES FOR POSHO-helping feed the children of Africa" campaign. They buy and deliver food along with other supplies to these needy children.

The mission trip also included visiting all orphanages, witnessing, lead pastor's conferences, serving posho to the children, reading Bible stories, playing games and loving on the children and making home visits to the poorest families to deliver a bag of posho and sugar. For more info, visit www.penniesforposho.org.

St. Simons Rotarians Raise Money for Children's Charities

The Rotary Club of St. Simons Island raised \$21,500 for children's charities from its "Meet the Pros" event during the McGladrey Classic, as well as its second annual "Swing for Kids" golf scramble at the King and Prince Golf Course.

The club partnered with the Davis Love Foundation by funneling all money through the sponsor of the McGladrey Classic PGA golf tournament.



At a recent Rotary meeting, John McKenzie, from left, and Scott Reid of the Foundation, presented a check to Rotarian Wally Forsythe.

Rotary Club of Golden Isles-Glynn County Hosts Annual Chili Cook Off Fundraiser

The Marshes of Glynn and the Glynn County Rotary clubs have recently merged and now meet as the Rotary Club of Golden Isles. One of their largest fundraisers is their annual chili cook off.

This year, they could not have picked a better day; it was indeed a "chilly" day! The brisk weather was conducive to sampling hot chili.

The well-attended event featured a live band and not only local cooking teams. One team, "The Big Shots," came from Macon. Members of the Rotary Club sold t-shirts, hotdogs and cold beverages. The cook off was a fun event that raised a lot of money that will be spent supporting many local groups.

Membership Retention Not Complicated

by Jack Steed,
District Membership Chair

One of the most critical reasons we do not retain some members is the fact that the quality of our club meetings, service activities and social events are just not worth the time of some busy people. Club meetings must be interesting, enjoyable, fun, worthwhile and even educational if we expect to retain the interests of busy members. A club that settles for dull, uninteresting and poorly organized meetings will be a club with real retention problems. Rotarians should look forward to attending an interesting weekly meeting, or they may soon find themselves passing up their Rotary meeting to accept other endeavors or pursue other interests.

A significant retention step is to assist a member to join another Rotary Club even if he or she is leaving your club due to changing businesses or moving to another location. When a good Rotarian moves away, we have a responsibility to advise the club in the other community that a Rotarian has moved to their locale. We may lose a member in our club, but we can retain him or her in Rotary by suggesting their name to another club.

Finally, we must be alert to symptoms, which lead to resignation. Frequently, missed attendance, failure to participate in social events, lack of interest in service projects, or club fund raisers, apparent family or business problems; these may all be signals that a member may soon resign. Here is where club leaders can have a kind personal discussion and may save the prospective dropout. Just a telephone call or even a note to say, "We miss you," may be one step in retaining a member whose interest level is teetering. Occasionally, a thoughtful conversation may provide an answer to a potential retention problem. That is the real spirit of the Rotary Family.

Dictionaries: A Popular Literacy Project

by District Governor Bob Griggers

A very popular and excellent literacy/service project is the distribution of dictionaries to elementary school students. These are purchased in bulk, quite often with the help of a District Simplified Grant. Rotarians meet at the schools and are usually introduced to the students by the school's principal. They have an opportunity to tell the students about Rotary and a few minutes to interact with them as they distribute the books.

If you have never participated in this project, you owe it to yourself to try it. With most school systems experiencing financial cutbacks, donating dictionaries is a help to them as well as exposure for our Rotary clubs. It is most rewarding to see the looks on the children's faces when they receive their very own dictionary!



Rotary Club of Milledgeville, right, presents dictionaries to Baldwin County third graders. Above, the Rotary Club of Warner Robins presents dictionaries to Houston County third graders.



Rotary Club of Millen Celebrates 75 Years



The Rotary Club of Millen turned 75 years old on March 4th. District Governor Bob Griggers and Assistant Governor Jim Davis visited with them to help kick off their celebrations and officially recognize their 75 years of service.

Governor Bob presented President Mandy Underwood with a certificate from Rotary International signed by RI President Sakuji Tanaka.

Congratulations to the members of Millen Rotary Club and Happy Birthday!

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

Rotary Clubs Busy with Speech Contests

by District Governor Bob Griggers

This year our Speech Contest contestants are making it extremely hard for our judges. In the past couple of weeks, I have had the pleasure of observing several clubs host their Speech Contests or hearing some of those that clubs have already chosen to represent them in the finals. Believe me, they are having a hard time because the contestants are so talented.

It has been great to hear the thoughts of our young people as they talk about peace and what it means to them; to hear of its importance and how they think it can be accomplished. I have enjoyed hearing their thoughts and comments about the Four Way Test and its importance. But the best has been hearing those that integrate both topics and comment on them together.

You may have noticed that at the beginning of this article I did not say “winners.” I intentionally did not use that term because I believe they are all winners and we too are winners by allowing them this opportunity to show us what we have to be proud of!



Waynesboro Rotary Club



Centerville Rotary Club



Effingham County and Effingham Sunrise Rotary Clubs



Claxton Rotary Club

An Evening with Grandparent Connection

by District Governor Bob Griggers

Friday night February 26th, the Rotary Club of Brunswick hosted a dinner for custodial and non-custodial families of their area who are raising grandchildren. It was a wonderful evening of family fun and family fellowship. The evening featured a delicious spaghetti dinner (using Mike Murphy’s famous recipe). There were support breakout sessions for the adults, fun time music and dance for the kids and teens, door prizes and parting gifts for all.



Valdosta Club Hosts Law Enforcement Dinner

The Rotary Club of Valdosta recently held their annual Law Enforcement Dinner. Georgia Attorney General Sam Olens was the keynote speaker and made an excellent presentation to a packed group. This event is a fundraiser that provides funds to help members of the Lowndes County Sheriff's Department and City Police department employees in times of personal need. "Officers of the Year" from both the Sheriff's Department and the Valdosta Police Department were recognized. Recipients were presented with a plaque and cash prize.



Zone 34 Rotarians Gather for Peace Symposium

by District Governor Bob Griggers

To celebrate Rotary International's 108th Birthday and to contemplate Peace, Zone Rotarians from as far away

as the Caribbean gathered in Atlanta on February 23rd for Zone 34's Peace Symposium. Director Anne Matthews encouraged those present to think about what peace meant to us. Other speakers challenged us to think about the world that we want to leave our grandchildren, and to instill the concepts of peace and understanding in our communities.

We all sang Happy Birthday to Rotary and closed by singing "Let There Be Peace on Earth," as we joined hands. The Peace Pole that was displayed during the meeting will be erected nearby on the Clayton State University campus. In addition to the Peace Pole, Flowering Cherry trees will be planted in honor of each speaker to remind us of our commitment to Peace.

The Georgia House of Representatives proclaimed February 23rd as "Rotary Day in

Georgia" to recognize Rotary's 108th Birthday and all of the efforts of Rotarians in Georgia to be of service and to bring Peace.

\$\$\$\$\$\$ One Thousand Dollar Challenge \$\$\$\$\$\$

Don't forget to enter the competition for the ONE THOUSAND dollar prize that will be presented to a Rotary Club in District 6920 for the best use in promoting President Tanaka's Theme "Peace Through Service."



PDG Albert and BeBe Reichert, Pam Lightsey and DG Bob Griggers were among the participants at the Peace Symposium.