



Bob Griggers  
District Governor  
2012-2013

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# Rotary *District 6920*

## Don't Delay Any Longer ... Our District Conference is Nearly Here Augusta, GA May 3-5, 2013

*by District Governor Bob Griggers*

If you have not made the commitment to attend our District Conference, we certainly hope you will decide to do so and soon. Plans have been made for an exceptional Conference. We have strived to keep our costs down and to offer meetings that will be most beneficial to our membership. But not all is work! We have scheduled plenty of events and time for fun.



We have a tremendous slate of speakers who will speak on subjects that most clubs have expressed a need for. We hope you will be entertained, motivated and will leave with a better understanding of Rotary and what you can do to make positive changes in your club. Rotarians will share with you stories of how they have held successful fundraisers and service projects. You will leave with excellent ideas that you can make use of in your clubs.

District Conferences are an excellent opportunity to visit with old friends and to meet and make new ones. There will be plenty of time to spend in the House of Friendship. You can enjoy refreshments as you view the club exhibits and see what other clubs are doing. This is a time for sharing. Unless you are present, you

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# District Conference Just Days Away

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will miss out on great opportunities.

Ladies can enjoy tea and scones Friday afternoon as floral designers from the Garden Club of Georgia share various techniques of floral design.

Participate in some of the fun events such as the golf tournament. Enjoy Saturday lunch on a Savannah River Boat Cruise. Enjoy the antique shops or take a historical tour of the downtown area. Or, if you are so inclined, there will be a pub crawl down Broad Street.

Saturday afternoon we will also be celebrating the Kentucky Derby. You will be able to place your wagers on the horse of your choice while enjoying a mint julep. Other planned activities will feature a "best hat" contest with prizes to the winners.

You will have an opportunity to purchase many unusual and valuable gifts at the silent auction. Take advantage of this project to add a new painting to your home or purchase a weekend getaway to one of your favorite areas. Perhaps you will be able to purchase a gift certificate to one of your favorite restaurants or purchase tickets to a ball game, etc. But remember, all the proceeds will go toward raising money to help in the final push to eradicate Polio from the world.

Come and take a part in this exciting event. You will make the difference!

## Rotary Club of Perry Hosts Charity Bass Tournament and Raffle

*by District Governor Bob Griggers*

The members of the Rotary Club of Perry have found a niche in a "fun" fundraiser. This was my first time in observing this event, and I was impressed. We all look for ways to make easy money for our special projects and cooking isn't always the easiest!

This project involves male and female, younger and older participants. A part of the proceeds are presented to the Georgia Dept. of Natural Resources and their "Go Fish" program. It is a win-win project. DNR gets needed help and Perry Rotary gets some great publicity for Rotary and their projects.

They paid out \$1,000 for the grand prize and paid the top 10 prize earners. Prizes were given for the largest fish as well as the heaviest combination of up to three fish.



Perry Rotarians will be making a presentation about this successful fundraiser at District Conference. Come and hear the details!

# *Rotary Club of Tennille Recognized as 100% Paul Harris Club*

*by District Governor Bob Griggers*

The Rotary Club of Tennille recently joined District 6920's growing number of 100% Paul Harris Clubs. Club President Jeff Cook was quoted as saying, "This was a tremendous achievement for our club."

I could not agree with him more! They meet in the Tennille Women's Club, a log building where Rotary founder Paul Harris himself once visited... if those thick walls could talk! They also recently celebrated their 75th anniversary. Keep up the good work Tennille Rotarians!



## **District 6920 100% Paul Harris Clubs Recognized**

*by District Governor Bob Griggers*

District 6920's 100% Paul Harris Clubs, in order of achievement, are: Vidalia, Savannah South, Centerville, Camden County, Valdosta, Augusta West, Sandersville, Dublin, Augusta South, West Chatham/Pooler, Kings Bay, Blackshear, Augusta, Wrightsville, Tennille and Glennville. Glennville has qualified but is waiting certification.

As you can see, there is no pattern here reflecting any particular size club, age, area etc. with the exception of the Augusta area being 100% ... CONGRATULATIONS! We have large clubs and small clubs, old clubs and newer clubs, urban clubs and metro clubs. All have the same thing in common: they are generous and healthy clubs.

Your club is probably closer to being recognized than you think. If you would like to learn more about how you can become a member of this group, please contact DG Bob Griggers, DGE Gary Smith, DGN Ted Thompson, DGND John Neeley, District Foundation Chair Ron May or PDG Kenan Kern Regional Rotary Foundation Chair (RRFC).

# *Rotary Club of Milledgeville Honors 65-Year Rotarian*

*by District Governor Bob Griggers*

I am a firm believer in telling our friends that we love them while we are still able. Apparently members of the Rotary Club of Milledgeville feel the same way. It was my pleasure to participate in the dedication of a bench at the Mary Vinson Memorial Library in honor of their longest-serving Rotarian.

George W. Clark is nearly 95 years old. He has been a member of the Rotary clubs of Cochran, Eastman and Milledgeville. He has served as club president and, in addition to being a Paul Harris Fellow, is also a Will Watt Fellow and proudly wears his pin! When I asked about his years of service, he said Rotary International does not have a record of his year with the Cochran club, so he has to settle for 65 years instead of the 66 he has served.

I met George and his wife Ms. Lacy at a recent meeting of the Milledgeville Rotary Club.. She is a real sport and they make a loving couple. Ms. Lacy is confined to a wheelchair and is sight impaired. I have been told that George is a busy man. He cooks, cleans house and cares for Ms. Lacy. He teaches Sunday school too, but he always finds time to attend regular Rotary Club meetings.

The Rotary Club of Milledgeville has previously honored Past District Governor Linton Cox, who served as Governor in 1985-86, with a bench.



# Rotary Opportunities

*by Jack Steed, District Membership Chair*

This is for all Rotarians and especially for those who are teetering on leaving Rotary and those who have not gained the full benefits of Rotary.

If you want to put real happiness in your life, look for opportunities of Rotary service. Rotary is the mechanism to become a more vital, interested, active person. In Rotary, we learn to accept strangers as new friends. In Rotary, we learn to listen patiently to another person's point of view or hear about subjects that we never thought would interest us. In Rotary, we learn to be compassionate to and considerate of the needs of our community or in some poverty stricken part of the world. In Rotary, we find the lasting satisfaction of serving others without the slightest expectation of personal return.

These are some of the great privileges of Rotary. And they are opportunities because you are a Rotarian. How many people join Rotary just to be a member of a Rotary club? And how many join to take advantage of the wonderful opportunities to become a Rotarian? Have you discovered the opportunities? Opportunities for lifelong friendships? Opportunities for life changing service to others? Opportunities to get involved? Opportunities to enrich our very existence? Opportunities to find a kind of happiness we have never known? These are the opportunities we can find in Rotary – and they are ours, just for the taking.

Rotary is the most international organization of men and women who share a belief in good fellowship and service. This fact adds a certain dignity and prestige to Rotary which other similar organizations can never attain. So Rotary means something big in the world. To be a member of Rotary should mean something big in the life of each individual who has the privilege of being a Rotarian. Have you ever stopped to consider what an honor it is to belong to such a distinguished and prestigious international organization? If it means something big to you – why not share it with a worthy friend who may wish to enjoy the happiness you have acquired in Rotary?

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## *Old Friends United Through Rotary*

*by District Governor Bob Griggers*

Recently, I attended a meeting with the Rotary Club of Milledgeville and mentioned the importance of bringing new members into our clubs. While there, I discovered that an old high school friend was in attendance. This past week, I had the pleasure of returning to their club and inducting Melvin Ussery.

Melvin had previously been a member of Rotary in Florida, but has since retired and moved to the Milledgeville area. The exciting thing was that I had not seen him since 1965, and how special for me to be able to induct him, while serving as District Governor. It was also special that Melvin was able to have his dad present for this event. Not many 65 year old guys are fortunate to still do that.

(Earlier this year I met another high school classmate, Larry Evans, while he was on Jekyll Island visiting family. He is currently serving as a Rotary AG in Arizona.)



## Jesup Rotarians Log an Average of 500+ Monthly Volunteer Hours

With busy lives, it can be hard to find time to volunteer. However, hands-on service is the perfect way to demonstrate Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self. The Jesup Rotary Club is proud to announce that 40 Members logged a total of 528.5 monthly volunteer hours for the year 2012!

Jesup Rotarians used their expression of compassion, selflessness, and community leadership by donating their time and volunteering on a wide range of service projects. These projects included, but were not limited to tutoring and mentoring children, helping the homeless, assisting elderly, and fundraising.

Honorary Rotarian, Sir Winston Churchill, once said "We make a living by what we do, but we make a life by what we give." Volunteering is fun, it's about giving back, and doing something in your community that really matters. Now it is your turn – How will you use your time and talent to find the most rewarding volunteering experience for the year 2013?

## Millen Rotarians Raise Money for Polio Eradication

The Rotary Club of Millen assisted the Jenkins County High School Interact Club in an Eagle Rock Café fundraiser for Polio.

Students and teachers provided the entertainment and Rotarians provided chicken plates which the Interact members served. A total of 140 tickets were sold. The event raised \$650 for Polio eradication.



## Skidaway Rotarians Pack Boxes at America's Second Harvest

A team of 15 Rotarians and four spouses arrived at the America's Second Harvest of Coastal Georgia facilities in Savannah one recent Saturday morning ready to work.

Once organized, the team set about to create a new record for packing food for the people at risk of



hunger in 21 counties surrounding Savannah. What started out to be a chilly warehouse soon became an efficient production assembly line. When break periods were announced, it was hard to stop the momentum. Before the clock struck noon, the group's work was done! The volunteers rejoiced knowing that hundreds of people would benefit from their efforts.

Dianne Franz, Special Events Coordinator for

ASH, was an unexpected guest at the club meeting following the boxing marathon. She presented the club with an appreciation certificate for packing 670 boxes of food in three hours, making them the current "Heavy Weight Boxing Champions".

## Augusta Rotary Club Makes Donation to Greater Augusta Partnership for Literacy



The Augusta Rotary Club made a donation to the Greater Augusta Partnership for Literacy with funds from a District Simplified Grant. The GAPL works through the Imagination Library to help put a new book in the hands of pre-school children every month until they enter kindergarten. Pictured are Augusta Club President Connie Melear presenting a check to GAPL Chairman, and Rotary Club of Augusta West Past President, Ricardo Bravo.

## Rotary Club of Tifton Celebrates 75 Years

On April 10, 2013, members of the Rotary Club of Tifton celebrated their first 75 years of Rotary Service. They were chartered on April 9, 1937, but missed their anniversary date last year.

President Frank Sayles and other members of the club agreed that it was "never too late to celebrate!" They had several items of historical memorabilia on display. Several members spoke on what had occurred during the club's 76 years of service. The highlight was hearing Gerald Herring, a 91-year-old member of the club talk about his experiences in Rotary for the last 63 years. He joined Rotary in July of 1950.



## *Rotary Club of Richmond Hill Completes Provision of Clean Water System to Haiti School*

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill announced the completion of an 18 month long matching grant international relief program to provide clean and safe water to the George Washington School in Chalet, Port-de-Paix, Haiti.

The Sunspring water filtration system is now providing up to 5,000 gallons of clean water per day to 630 schoolchildren from ages 3-18, as well as staff. The George Washington School was built by the Northwest Haiti Christian Mission ("NWHCM"); a U.S.-based NGO operating in Northwest Haiti for over 30 years. The \$23,140 project was completed with funds from the Richmond Hill and Port-de-Paix Rotary Clubs, as well as matching funds from Rotary District 6920 and the Rotary Foundation in Evanston, Illinois.



This type of water filtration system was selected because it is entirely solar-powered and requires little maintenance. The completion of this project in spite of communication and bureaucratic challenges in Haiti demonstrates the commitment of Rotary to meet the life changing needs of people in undeveloped countries. As clean water is not reliably available throughout Haiti, a problem made worse by the 2010 earthquake, the Sunspring system is critical to the safety and health of those attending and working at the school.

The 10 million people of Haiti are among the poorest in the western hemisphere. Only 58% of the population currently has access to clean water. Waterborne diseases, including cholera, Hepatitis A and E, typhoid and bacterial or viral diarrhea, are a leading cause of infant mortality and illness in this country. Haiti currently has the highest infant mortality rate in the Western Hemisphere and The United Nations Special Envoy reported that 16% of child-under-five deaths in Haiti were directly related to waterborne diseases, before the 2010 earthquake. This number is now higher as a result of the earthquake and subsequent cholera outbreak.

Brice Ladson, President of the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill, said: "A member of our club, Dr. Amy Pearson, inspired this important project through her multiple charitable trips to Northwest Haiti for life saving surgical work. I would also like to thank other Rotarians who served as members of the International Service Committee, including Tina Scott, Byron Atkinson and Vance Askew, for their help and support. Our determination to complete the project paid off even though the Sunspring system was stuck in customs for many months and we were forced to switch locations for the installation from a NWHCM orphanage to a school."

## *McIntosh Participates in Pinwheels for Prevention*

McIntosh County Rotary Club is fortunate to have such a talented and creative member such as Jackie Mull who volunteers monthly to decorate the nurse's bulletin board at Todd-Grant Elementary School.

This month, Jackie also placed pinwheels in one of the gardens at the school to bring awareness to the problem of child abuse. The brightly colored pinwheels are meant to represent the bright and happy future every child is capable of having. Each classroom planted a pinwheel in the garden show their support

Pinwheels for Prevention is a nationwide public awareness campaign. The campaign is built around the symbol of the pinwheel. Pinwheels are a happy and uplifting token of childhood.

