



DISTRICT 6920

Georgia, USA



Inside this month's newsletter:

<i>Best Practices for Rotary Clubs</i>	Page 2
<i>Sandersville Home of District's Only Middle School Interact Clubs</i>	Page 3
<i>District Governor Applications Due by Jan. 14, 2012</i>	Page 3
<i>Looking Ahead: January is Rotary Awareness Month</i>	Page 3
<i>Kings Bay Achieves 100% PHF Status, Receives Banner</i>	Page 4
<i>Foundation Board Member Anne Matthews</i>	Page 4
<i>Valdosta Club Welcomes New Members</i>	Page 5
<i>Zone Institute</i>	Page 5
<i>Perry Club Hosts District Governor</i>	Page 5
<i>Getting to Know ... Bruce Montgomery</i>	Page 6
<i>Centerville Rotarians Learn About Service to Service</i>	Page 7
<i>Exciting New Literacy Award Announced by RI</i>	Page 8
<i>RI President Makes Membership a Priority</i>	Page 8

Happy Holidays!

Greetings from Governor Gordon

As I have had the opportunity to visit so many of our clubs, I have been inspired by the excellence that I have discovered throughout District 6920. In the process I have learned about what makes for a successful Rotary club. I have discovered and collected the "Best Practices" from clubs doing great work in the key components of club operations - leadership, membership, foundation, service, fundraising, weekly meetings, grants, technology and international relations.

Each of these Best Practices are actually being utilized in one or more clubs in District 6920, but no club can reasonably expect to fully incorporate all of the Best Practices. Hopefully this list will help club leaders and their boards identify worthwhile opportunities to become more effective and successful.

As we near the mid-point of the Rotary year, this would be an excellent time for each club's board to review the 6920 Best Practices document (see district web site, **blue tab on the left called "Club Best Practices"**) and identify one specific area in which it would like to strengthen its practices during the balance of this Rotary year.

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Best Practices Being Utilized Throughout District

The best organizations and businesses search out the “best practices” to inspire their people and to improve their processes. For example, Southwest Airlines went to visit Indy 500 pit crews to get ideas about fast turnaround of equipment – and they applied those best practices to how they operate when a plane arrives at a terminal gate – so now Southwest turns an aircraft at a gate in half the time that it takes Delta to do the same thing; Southwest’s plane is earning money flying while Delta’s plane is sitting on the ground.

District 6920 now has a beginning framework for Club Best Practices that is available on the district web site at www.Rotary6920.org. DG Gordon has collected these best practices during his club visits since July 1 of this year. The practices are grouped into the following categories, which may sometimes match up with committees their chairperson:

Leadership: club leaders are identified well in advance of their term so that they can become well prepared to serve their club

Membership: members are asked for feedback, new members are integrated into the club and recruitment is planned in great detail

Club Meeting Value and Content: club meetings are fun and well run and speakers are carefully selected

Foundation: EREY is included in the bill, the club learns about Foundation funded programs and donors are recognized and celebrated

Service Project: a “signature” project continues from year to year and is well recognized as a Rotary Club project by the community

Social: clubs have several social gatherings each year to include both spouses/partners and children

District & Club Data Base: the DaCdb is complete and current for club officers and members and is used to produce the club directory twice a year

District Simplified Grants: DSG is used to support projects where Rotarians are actively involved and the final report is produced on schedule

International Matching Grants: grants are used where club members have some in-country knowledge and contacts

Building the Next Generation of Rotarians: clubs ask younger members “How can we help you?” and are receptive to new ideas and approaches

International Relationships: club members build relationships through contact with Group Study Exchange teams and with GRSP students

Fundraisers: fundraisers are refined annually and strengthen relationships among club members and generate recognition for Rotary and the club

Compliance: clubs produce, report and submit dues on schedule

These Best Practices are actually being utilized in one or more clubs in District 6920 but no club can reasonably expect to fully incorporate all of the Best Practices. Hopefully this list will help club leaders and their boards to identify worthwhile opportunities to become more effective and successful. This list will be especially helpful for the President-Elect to consider during his or her year as President-Elect to develop a focus and priorities for the coming Rotary year.

Sandersville Sponsors District's Only Middle School Interact Clubs

The Rotary Club of Sandersville is making headlines in District 6920 as the only club to have sponsored a middle school Interact Club. And, they've sponsored not one, but two middle school clubs.

"About six years ago I headed a Sandersville Rotary Club committee in sponsoring Interact clubs at the two high schools - Washington County and Brentwood," said Sandersville Rotary Club President Julian Diaz Jr. "We also sponsored an Rotaract Club at the Sandersville Technical College. A subsequent merger with a school in Dublin advanced the name change to the Oconee Fall Line Technical College."

Diaz says the Interact clubs were an immediate success and community service by each club was viewed as "Service Above Self."

"Last year when it was learned that the age had been lowered, I met with the principal of both of our middle schools," said Diaz. "They were excited. We had approximately 45 students registering at Elder Middle School and 35 at Brentwood Middle School. Elder has received its Certificate of Organization from Rotary International and we are expecting Brentwood's certificate very soon. The hope is to have a joint inaugural ceremony."

Diaz explains that the expansion of the Interact clubs to the middle schools means that approximately 80 children and their immediate families are aware of the existence of Rotary in the Sandersville community.

"I always believed that increasing Rotary's membership and maintaining a good retention record was in our backyard - through the schools," said Diaz. "I guess this is because when I was a teenager and in high school, I was named a Junior Rotarian, attended Rotary meetings and met with our community leaders. It was a great experience. Today, we do not have Junior Rotarians, to my knowledge, but I have never forgotten Rotary. With this in mind, the earlier and the sooner Rotary is familiar to a family, the sooner and greater that family will become a member of the Rotary family."

District Governor Applications Due by January 14, 2012

The District Governor application period is now open for Rotarians in 6920 who meet the requirements and who would like to be considered for selection as 6920's District Governor for the Rotary year beginning July 1, 2014 should complete the RI application for District Governor, available on the district web site www.Rotary6920.org, have their club add its endorsement and then deliver the completed form to PDG Bill Kemp, 731 Summerfield Abbey Ct., Martinez, GA 30907-9048 prior to January 14, 2012.

Interviews will be conducted on January 28, 2012, with the selection decision being made by the Past District Governors present at that meeting. PDG Bill Kemp is available at 706-860-9251 or bill_kemp@comcast.net to answer questions.

Looking Ahead

January is Rotary Awareness Month, a time to promote the importance of Rotary information to club members and the awareness of Rotary in the community. January 27, the date on which Rotary founder Paul P. Harris died in 1947, is used by some Rotary clubs as an occasion to memorialize their own deceased members.

Rotary Club of Kings Bay Receives 100% PHF Banner



PDG Lloyd Horadan presented to the Rotary Club of Kings Bay, their 100% Paul Harris Fellow Banner at their club meeting on Nov. 1, 2011. This was achieved in June 2011. Pictured with PDG Lloyd is club president Paul Hutzler, District Director Bert Guy and District Chief of Staff Paula Goodnow.

TRF Board Member Speaks In Augusta



Rotary Foundation Board member Anne Matthews spoke at the Rotary Club of Augusta recently. Pictured are Past District Governor Kenan Kern and his wife Beth, Past District Governor Jim Puryear and his wife Joan, President Kevin Wade, Anne Matthews, Assistant Governor Pam Lightsey, District Governor Gordon Matthews and Past District Governor Bill Kemp. On July 1 Anne will become the first female member of the Board of Rotary International.

Valdosta Rotary Club Welcomes New Members



Meet the Rotary Club of Valdosta's newest Rotarian, J. Kevin McCraney. Kevin was inducted at the club's last meeting and was sponsored by Terri Lupo. He was formerly a member of the Rotary Club of Dawson County and was recently named the South Region External Affairs Manager for Georgia Power in Valdosta. The Rotary Club of Valdosta also recently inducted new members Drew DeMott and J.T. Brown.



Zone Institute

PDG Kenan Kern was pictured with Celine Cousteau, granddaughter of Jacques Cousteau, at the Zone Institute in Reston, Va. Also attending the Zone Institute from District 6920 were Beth Kern, PDG Jim Puryear and his wife Joan and DGE Bob Griggers and his wife Brenda. Bob put in the winning bid for the Bill Gates signed "End Polio Now" tie.

Perry Rotary Club Hosts District Governor



The Perry Rotary Club had the pleasure of having District Governor Gordon Matthews join them for their meeting earlier this month. Governor Matthews shared some of his stories and experiences from his Group Study Exchange to Bolivia in 1999. He also shared several stories about his experiences while in India last year.

In honor of his visit, the Perry Rotary Club planted a new tree in Rotary Centennial Park in downtown Perry. The park is a signature project for the Perry Rotary Club.

Getting to Know

Bruce Montgomery



Q: Why are you a Rotarian?

A: I enjoy the fellowship at the weekly club meeting and at the various district meeting during the year. Being able to help with the great humanitarian work that the Rotary Foundation does around the world gives me a great deal of satisfaction.. During my year as District Governor, the district started Medical Equipment Transport Service (METS). Since it's inception, METS has shipped 35 forty foot long containers valued at more than \$15 million to third world countries around the world.

Q: How long have you been a Rotarian?

A: I first joined the Brookwood Rotary Club (now called Midtown) in Atlanta in the early 1970's. After several years in that club, I had to resign because of a job change. Frost and I moved to Savannah in 1985 and I was asked to join the Rotary Club of Savannah East. Except for a few months in the Skidaway Rotary club, I have been there since.

Q: What skills/experience do you bring to District 6920?

A: My background is accounting and construction. In 1976 I started a furniture manufacturing company in Atlanta and ran it for about 3 years before turning it over to my wife and later selling it to my partner. I was asked to come to work for a small vertically integrated real estate developer in Atlanta in 1979. We moved the company to Savannah and built it into an architecturally/developer/construction/property management company. In the mid eighties we were building and managing approximately \$30 million a year in apartments and condominiums in Georgia, Florida and South Carolina. I rose to Senior Vice President before buying several of the apartment properties with a partner. So I think the answer is that I have organizational, accounting and problem solving skills that became very helpful to me in Rotary, especially as Club President in 1993-4, as District Rotary Foundation Chair in 1999/00 and 2000/01 and as District Governor in the 2003/04 rotary year.

Q: What is your current role in/for District 6920?

A: I have served as District Treasurer and METS Treasurer since 2003 and am a member of the College of Governors.

Q: Where does your passion from Rotary come from?

A: Almost every person joins a Rotary club as a "member of a Rotary club"; you know, meet and eat folks. At some point a few become "Rotarians". "Rotarians" are the members that roll up their sleeves and get the work of Rotary and the Foundation done. I do not know what triggers that transition from "Rotary club member" to "Rotarian", but I hope that I have made the switch. To see the results of some of the Rotary Foundation grant projects providing such simple things, at least to us, as clean water and the faces of those people in countries that receive a METS container that can literally change the lives of so many people, brings a passion to be able to do more to end suffering in the world.

Q: What is your most vivid Rotary experience?

A: That's a tough question because there have been so many. My first Rotary International convention in Buenos Aires, the 100th anniversary convention in Chicago, the day the College of Governors selected me to be the 2002-03 District Governor, the Rotary Club of Savannah East's selection of me as the Rotarian of the Year in Savannah, Savannah East's selection of me to be their 10th anniversary Club President, the inception of METS, the Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain, the satisfaction of doubling the District's Rotary Foundation contributions in the 2 years I was Foundation Chair, the Official Visits to the district clubs during my year as DG, being the host family for a GRSP student and too many more to mention here.

Q: What is your greatest wish for Rotary?

A: To have more members become "Rotarians" and feel the passion that can come with making a difference.

Centerville Rotarians Learn More About Service to Service

Kathryn Carver, Director, CEO and Founder, Service for Service, Inc., recently presented a program concerning this new organization to the Rotary Club of Centerville.

Service for Service was established to serve the needs of those who have served our country as members of the U.S. Armed Services. The organization is currently in its foundation stage but its vision is to build a state of the art hospital and its goal is to provide medical, dental and psychiatric options to military veterans, who have exhausted these services from other agencies. Those with Service for Service believe that veterans, men and women, should not have to go without services due to cost. Service for Service will model its hospital after the St. Jude's Hospital except that it will provide service to military veterans only.

Shortly after a luncheon last year in honor of WWII Veterans, Service for Service was conceived. Since its inception on Oct. 22, 2010, Service for Service, Inc. has experienced significant growth and statewide recognition. During this time, it has succeeded in planning, organizing and hosting multiple events. These include bringing "The Moving Wall" to Middle Georgia, hosting a 5K Run for wounded and disabled veterans, hosting the "Wounded Warrior Deer and Duck Hunt, and others.

Going forward, Service for Service will be possible only through generous support of dedicated sponsors and volunteers.



Kathryn Carver, CEO and Founder of Service for Service, Inc., is pictured with Rotary Club of Centerville veterans Billy Tucker, Bob Griggers, Ken Asbury, Jack Steed and Rick Franklin.

News from Rotary International

Exciting New Literacy Award Announced

Rotary International and the International Reading Association have collaborated on an exciting new award that will give two deserving projects monetary gifts of \$2,500 on behalf of the Pearson Foundation. New literacy service projects jointly undertaken by Rotary clubs and IRA reading councils in 2011-12 may be considered for these two awards.

Application criteria:

* Rotarian applicants must be Rotary club members in good standing.

* IRA members and Rotarians must be working together to improve literacy through a project created to meet the needs of the local community or the literacy needs anywhere else in the world. Any project launched July 1, 2011 or later is eligible.

* Applications must be submitted by June 15, 2012.

For more information on this Pearson Foundation recognition contact programs@rotary.org. To find IRA members, click on councils and affiliates on the IRA website.

RI President Makes Membership a Priority

It's every Rotarian's responsibility to boost club membership and ensure the future of Rotary. No member takes this duty more seriously than RI President Kalyan Banerjee.

"The more members we have, the more Rotary can do," Banerjee says. "Rotarians must refer new members. Our current annual growth is 5 percent, but if every two years each Rotarian brought in a new member, our membership would grow by 50 percent."

Despite a busy schedule, Banerjee continues to find potential members during his travels as RI president.

"Today you can recruit anybody, anywhere," he says. "I might meet someone on a flight to Los Angeles or Bangkok who would make a good member, and if I do, I refer that person."

Follow Banerjee's example today by referring a family member, friend, or business associate.

The online form has been updated, so it's even easier now to refer a member. Once you've answered a few questions, RI headquarters will forward the potential member's information to the appropriate district leader, who will share it with area clubs. If a club deems the candidate a good fit, it will contact the potential member and invite him or her to learn more.

Candidates can also complete the form to express their interest in joining a Rotary club. Rotarians who are relocating or returning to Rotary after an absence may use the form to find a new club.

If you want to recommend someone for membership in your Rotary club, contact your club secretary or complete the form in "How to Propose a New Member" on the RI website.

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