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# Newsletter

GARY SMITH, DISTRICT GOVERNOR

## *District Assembly Slated for Nov. 16*

The annual District Assembly will be held Saturday in Dublin.

Registration for the meeting must be made by Thursday at 5 p.m. in order to provide a headcount to the caterer. The \$25 registration fee includes coffee, juice, sodas and pastries for breakfast and a great lunch!

Rotarians interested in arriving the night before can make reservations at the LaQuinta Inn at 101 Travel Center Boulevard. To get the Rotary rate of \$86 (plus tax), call 478-272-3110,

The meeting will be held at Oconee Fall Line Technical College. Doors open at 9 a.m. The meeting will adjourn at 3:30 p.m.

The agenda for the meeting is as follows:

9:00 Doors Open

9:30 Registration and Refreshments

10:00 Welcome and Introductions - District Trainer PDG Lloyd Horadan

10:05 Key Objectives for today - District Trainer PDG Lloyd Horadan

- Status of District – Gary Smith
  - o Speech Contest – Jan Horadan
  - o Meningitis Awareness – Gary Smith
  - o District Conference – Wally Forsyth
  - o Public Image Grant – Pam Lightsey
  - o Paul Harris Recognition Points Challenge – Gary Smith
  - o District Fundraiser – Helen Harper
- Session for PEs only – hosted by DGE Ted Thompson and 2014-2015 Team

(Repeated 4 times)

10:30 – 12:20 Breakout sessions for the day

- o Local Grants – 11:25 – 12:20 ONLY – Gary Smith, Frank Seaton
- o Membership – Bill Booth (Repeated 4 times)
- o Awards – Ben Harvill (Repeated 4 times)
- o Global Grant Opportunities – John Neely, Elizabeth Harden
- o The Web – Hannah Harris, Paula Goodnow
  - Facebook, Rotary.org, etc (10:30 and 11:30 ONLY - Hannah)
  - DaCdb (1:00 and 2:00 ONLY – Paula)
- o Sharing Literacy – Jeanette Caneega (Repeated 4 times)
- o Polio Update – Gordon Matthews (Repeated 4 times)
- o Foundation Opportunities – Ron May, Bert Guy, Bob Griggers

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### *Meet Your 2013 - 2014 District Leadership Team*

Go to: [http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District\\_Team.php](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District_Team.php)

### *Meet Your 2013 - 2014 District Committee Chairs*

Go to: <http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District%20Chairs.php>

# ANNOUNCEMENT

Rotary International has approved District 6920's  
Local Grant Expenditures for 2013-2014.

What does this mean?

Details will be discussed at  
District Assembly in Dublin on November 16.

## Rotary IRS Filing Due by November 15

Dear 2013-14 club officer:

Greetings from Rotary. Your Club and District Support (CDS) team is contacting you today to remind you of the IRS annual filing requirement for all Rotary clubs in the U.S. and U.S. territories.

The IRS has declared that Rotary International (RI) and its clubs and districts are entitled to exemption from federal income tax under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code. While entitled to this exemption under RI's group exemption ruling, the law does require that all Rotary clubs in the U.S. and its territories file an annual information return by 15 November. The form a club must file is dependent upon its gross receipts for the year. For more information, please see Form 990 Series – Which Forms do Exempt Organizations File? at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov).

It is important that your club comply with IRS requirements. Please note that Section 6033(j) of the Internal Revenue Code automatically revokes the exemption of any organization that fails to satisfy its filing requirement for three consecutive years.

Please direct any questions regarding your club's tax-exempt status or reporting requirements to local counsel, your tax adviser or the IRS at [www.irs.gov](http://www.irs.gov) or 877-829-5500.

For general information about Rotary clubs and the IRS, please see our Frequently Asked Questions. If you have questions about these resources, please contact your CDS rep.

Thank you for your attention to this reminder.

Sincerely,

Your CDS Team

Alicia Pijal-Avila, Sr. Coordinator  
[alicia.pijal-avila@rotary.org](mailto:alicia.pijal-avila@rotary.org)

Marni Nixon, Coordinator  
[marni.nixon@rotary.org](mailto:marni.nixon@rotary.org)

# *Semiannual Report, Membership Information Due*

Dear Rotary Club Officers:

Greetings from Rotary International. We will soon be producing the January Semiannual Reports (SARs). The membership information on your club's report will be based on the information that is in our records on 2 December. To ensure that your report accurately reflects your current membership, please complete all membership updates no later than 1 December.

Having current information on your January SAR facilitates the SAR payment and reconciliation process, ensures an accurate membership count in Rotary's records, and enables timely delivery of The Rotarian magazine to clubs and Rotarians who subscribe to it.

To review your club's information, go to [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) and sign in to My Rotary. You need to be a registered user to be able to use this site.

All options relevant to the SAR process are located under Manage>Club & District Administration>Club Administration. All available options display the information that is currently in Rotary's records and allow you to update it.

Who can update records and how:

\*Club presidents, secretaries, treasurers, membership and foundation chairs, and executive secretaries or directors can update Rotary's records through My Rotary.

\*Clubs that are participating in the OneRotary Hub data integration initiative should make updates using their local databases. Please pay attention to the integration options each OneRotary Hub participant is providing. Club participation can be verified in My Rotary, under Club Administration>Add or remove vendor partner organization.

\*You may also choose manual data entry. If you do, send updated information to [data@rotary.org](mailto:data@rotary.org) no later than 24 November.

Make sure to complete each of these steps:

\*Update your roster. Designate any members who have left the club as terminated, and add any new members who are not yet on the list.

\*Check contact details. Make sure to provide an email and mailing address for each current member.

\*Designate current and future club officers. Verify or report all club officers, including president, secretary, treasurer, executive secretary or director, membership chair, and foundation chair. Make sure to provide or update email and mailing addresses for both, current and future, officers.

\*Confirm club contact information. Update or provide a permanent club mailing address and a permanent club email address.

\*Indicate a SAR preference under Manage>Club Administration>Edit SAR preferences. If your club prefers to receive only the electronic version of the report (the E-SAR), check the box.

All clubs that have provided club officers' email addresses will receive the E-SAR. It will be delivered to the permanent club email address as well as to all club officers.

Paper copies of the SAR will be mailed by the end of December. One copy will be sent to each club that has not opted out of the paper SAR or has not reported club officers' email addresses. It will be addressed to the current club officer in the following order:

1. Executive club secretary/director
2. Club secretary
3. Club president
4. If none of the above, then past club officers in the same order
5. If no officers' information, then current district governor

Do you need assistance with online reporting? Sign-in at <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/club-and-district-administration-faq>

Do you need more information on paying your SAR? Go to <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/membership-dues>

Thank you very much for your continued service to Rotary.

Sincerely,

Data Services, Rotary International

# Polio Eradication from the View of an Economic Forecaster

*The article below was shared with me by Jerry Thomas of the Savannah South Rotary Club. -Gary Smith*

Good News: We Are THIS Close

In honor of World Polio Day, Oct. 24, 2013, I thought I would take a detour away from my normal markets-oriented charts and share some really good news that may have escaped your attention. The news is that through the work and support of millions of people around the world, we as a planet have almost defeated the disease known as polio. And the story of how this all came about is a good one.

I have been a member of my local Rotary Club since 2007, and that is how I have become aware of this great story. Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world. There are 1.2 million Rotarians in more than 34,000 clubs in 170 countries around the world.

Back in the 1970s, a single Rotarian in the Philippines approached his club, pointing out that a lot of children in their community were getting sick from polio, and that there was a vaccine available. He convinced his club to raise money to help procure vaccinations for the area children, having a big positive effect in that small area. By 1979, Rotary Clubs all around the Phillipines were combining together to help deliver vaccines to more than six million children.

The success of this program caught the attention of Rotary International, which in 1985 launched PolioPlus, the first and largest internationally coordinated private-sector support of a public health initiative. RI made an initial pledge of US\$120 million.

By 1988, Rotarians around the world had collectively raised \$247 million, more than double the fundraising target. The World Health Organization came on board, passing a resolution to eradicate polio, and setting up the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. At that time, 125 countries were "polio endemic".

Poliomyelitis is a viral infection of the central nervous system. It attacks the myelin, a protective sheath around nerves and the spinal cord. It leads to partial or full paralysis, killing some victims and crippling the rest. It is passed from person to person, usually through exposure to untreated water, and thus it is a pathogen ideally suited to the poor sanitation conditions of poorer countries.

Vaccines developed through the work of Hilary Koproski, Jonas Salk, and Albert Sabin in the 1950s helped to end a polio epidemic in developed countries, but the virus remained "in the wild" in countries where the vaccine could not be disseminated. The science of beating polio had already been worked out, and what was needed was a push of money and manpower to get the rest of the world vaccinated. That's where Rotary's efforts came in.

It was not an easy task. You can just imagine how it went when medical workers and volunteers came to some remote villages in Africa and Asia, and informed the village chieftain that some white people would like to put drops into the mouths of the village children. Rumors spread around some countries in Africa that this was all an effort by their opponents in various civil wars to sterilize children. So it took a big education campaign to win over people in remote areas and get the vaccines disseminated. Even today, Al-Shabab militants in Somalia are spreading these rumors, trying to thwart vaccination efforts.

In Pakistan, certain Taliban leaders issued a fatwa banning polio vaccinations until the United States ceases drone strikes in the area. But this opposition is not a uniformly held opinion. Taliban leader Sami ul-Haq, known as the father of the Taliban, launched his own immunization drive near Peshawr, Pakistan in 2012, publicly giving the drops to his own grandson.

And even when volunteers and health workers are able to get vaccines distributed, that does not end the effort, because new children are being born every day, each and every one of them requiring their own vaccinations.

Despite all of these difficulties, the number of countries where polio is endemic has continued to drop. By 2011, it was down to just 4 countries, and in February 2012, India was certified to be polio-free. It is now endemic in just 3 countries: Pakistan, Afghanistan, and Nigeria. In 2012, there were fewer than 250 reported cases worldwide, compared to 350,000 cases in 1985 when Rotary began its worldwide push.

A big help in this push has been the recognition by Bill and Melinda Gates and their foundation that this is a worthwhile effort. They have come on board as major donors, matching Rotary's fundraising efforts with a 2 for 1 match.

The push now is to finish eradicating polio worldwide, to wipe it out completely so that it does not flare up again and infect new generations. Finishing the fight will not be easy or cheap, but it will be cheaper than having to refight it if polio flares up again, and cripples more people. It only costs 60 cents to provide the vaccine to one child, which is a small amount compared to that child's loss of lifetime productivity if he becomes crippled by this disease. And a child who does not get infected will also be a child who does not infect others.

And this is where you can help. Read more about the push at <http://www.endpolio.org/>. Tell your friends about this. You can even forward this email to them to help spread the word. If this effort is something that you would like become a part of, you follow the link to donate.

# *Rotary Deserves Credit for Efforts to End Polio*

By Alline Kent - *Sun News* (Macon, Ga.) correspondent

Published: October 23, 2013

A few weeks ago, I received one of the greatest honors or awards in my life, when the Rotary Club of Centerville made me an honorary member.

From the first time I was invited to a meeting to help promote Rotary, I felt a kinship with the organization because of its commitment to wipe polio off the face of the earth.

As the child of parents who grew up in the days when polio was common, I had heard plenty of stories from my parents about swimming pools being closed or friends stricken with the disease. But it was the stories my mother told about the woman whose name I carry that made an impact on me from the time I was a small child.

Alline Cleveland Jones, my mother's grandmother, was stricken with polio at the age of 1, in 1886. Although she survived the disease, she was crippled, a condition that worsened over the course of her life. Bravely, she carried on with her life, marrying and raising eight children.

Polio has all but disappeared in the United States. According to the CDC, the last cases of naturally occurring paralytic polio in the United States were in 1979.

But polio is still a problem worldwide, according to the World Health Organization. There are countries in the world where polio is still transmitted. Because polio is highly contagious, a single case could spread through unimmunized populations. There is no cure for polio; it can only be prevented through vaccinations.

Because it is a problem in other countries -- that makes it a problem for the United States as well. At least eight cases have been reported in the United States since 1979 of "imported polio" -- meaning the person contacted the disease in another country and returned to the United States.

Rotary has been a partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative since 1988, along with WHO, UNICEF and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. While Rotary has many charitable activities, the group's top philanthropic priority is to eradicate polio worldwide.

Since its initiative to end polio worldwide started, Rotary has contributed \$1 billion to the effort.

World Polio Day was established by Rotary International and is held on Oct. 24 in celebration of the birth of Dr. Jonas Salk, the man who led the effort to develop a polio vaccine.

Bob Griggers, immediate past District Governor for District 6920 South and Coastal Georgia, said that the day is about awareness that polio is still out there.

"We think of polio as a thing of the past. You show a child a picture of an iron lung and they can't tell you what it is, didn't know it existed. But it is not something we can take for granted," Griggers said.

Next time you see a Rotarian -- shake their hand and thank them for their dedication to wiping polio off the face of the earth.

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**November is Rotary Foundation Month**  
This is a time to highlight Rotary's commitment to the important work accomplished by The Rotary Foundation.

The Rotary Foundation sponsors a broad range of educational and humanitarian programs that save and change lives here and abroad. Among them are Group Study Exchange, Ambassadorial Scholars, Polio Eradication, District Matching Grants and Health/Hunger & Humanity (3H) Grants. These programs are the lifeblood of Rotary, creating world peace and understanding through the lives touched by the programs.

Our contributions to The Rotary Foundation fund these Rotary programs. While our Foundation is quite healthy (one of the largest foundations in the world), there is so much more we need to do. Your annual contribution and/or a contribution to the Foundation permanent fund (through a major gift or benefactor contribution) fuels our Rotary programs. A contribution to the Foundation is one of the best investments you can make with nearly 100% going to Rotary programs that save and change lives.

We encourage you to learn more about The Rotary Foundation and make a contribution to continue saving and changing lives. These programs work and are a great investment for a better and safer world.



# Savannah South Makes a Clean Sweep on Wassaw Island

Savannah South Rotary members recently cleaned a portion of Ossabaw Island Beach. Club members spent three hours collecting glass, plastic and even a tire during the annual "Gus DeBus Beach Sweep."

"This marks the 17th year our club has sponsored the beach sweep," said Andy Lohn, Rotary President. "This community project truly honors the "Service Above Self" motto of Rotary International."

Gustave DeBus, whom the event is named for, was a long time member of Savannah South Rotary and a highly respected attorney. He served as President of the Propeller Club, was a member of the Maritime Law Association and participated in the Southeastern Admiralty Law Institute. Mr. DeBus chaired the very first beach sweep service project.



## Richmond Hill Rotarians Walk to End Alzheimer's



The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill took part in the Walk to End Alzheimer's Disease - organized by Rich de Long of the Suites at Station Exchange who presented a check for \$1,000 at a recent Rotarians' social evening at FiaRua in Richmond Hill. Shown are, from left, Rotarians Dr. Christopher Lea, Rich de Long, Deborah Heddendorf, director of the local chapter of the Alzheimer's Association; Byron Atkinson and Gene Durante.

## Recognitions

District Governor Gary Smith is recognizing new (as of July 1, 2013) Paul Harris Fellows, Paul Harris Society, Benefactors, Bequest Society and Major Donors in each month's newsletter. Please email Paula Goodnow by the 23rd of each month with this information so it can be included in the following month's newsletter.

This month, we recognize the following:

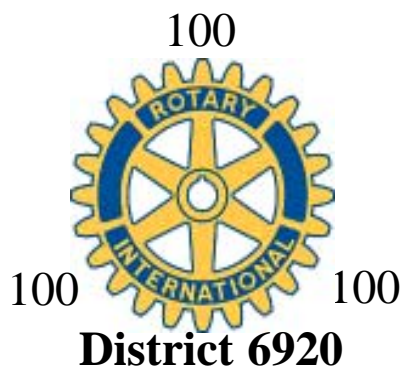
### The Rotary Club of St. Simons Island

Mary Beth Wester

Club Member

Meghan Lee Hurley

Non-Member, Daughter of President Elect Ben Lee



# Savannah South Rotary Club Gets in the Halloween

The Rotary Club of Savannah South (RCSS) recently held their annual fall, family cookout and pumpkin carving party. The event provides an opportunity for members, their children and grandchildren to gather for a casual outdoor event.

“We look forward to this event each year and especially appreciate the ease and enjoyment of hosting a cookout along the Savannah River,” said Andy Lohn, RCSS President. “The spirit of community is an important part of our club, and we value these opportunities to bring our families together in a casual setting.



## *Assistant Governor Colonel Todd Freesemann Retires*



Present were from left to right Rotary West Chatham Vice President Terry Carter, Assistant Governor Colonel Todd A. Freesemann, and West Chatham President Bill Wade.

*Colonel Todd A. Freesemann, Assistant Governor of District 6920 Retired on October 5, 2013 after 30 years of military service to our country. Col. Freesemann is commander of the Savannah Combat Readiness Training Center, Savannah-Hilton Head International Airport in Savannah. He is responsible for the full-time operation of the Training Center to include the Operations Group, Mission Support Group, Townsend Bombing Range and the ANG Cyber Training Center.*

*Col. Freesemann started his military career in 1983 at the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York. In 1987, he was commissioned as an Engineer Officer in the Regular Army. After serving more than nine years, he resigned his Regular Army commission and accepted an engineer's position in the 165th Civil Engineer Squadron, Georgia Air National Guard.*

*His professional military training includes US Army Airborne School, US Army Basic Engineer School, US Army Air Assault School, Nuclear, Biological and Chemical Officer Course, Unit Supply Officer Course, US Army Advanced Engineer School, US Army Ranger School, Reserve Forces Air Base Combat Engineering Course, Squadron Officer School, Correspondence, Air Command and Staff School, Seminar Air War College, Correspondence.*

*Col. Freesemann is married to Chatham County Superior Court Justice Penny Haas Freeseman. Their daughter, Katie, is a senior at Savannah Arts Academy.*