



DISTRICT 6920

Georgia, USA



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Rotary District 6920 Announces Group Study Exchange Trip to Turkey

This year our Group Study Exchange is with the incredibly historic area in Turkey included in District 2440 in western Turkey along the Aegean Sea, which includes Ephesus. In addition, the team will conclude their trip with several days in Istanbul, the city identified as the world's most livable city by the readers of the Financial Times of London. Applications are now being accepted and should be completed and delivered to our GSE Chair by **November 15, 2011**.

The team is tentatively scheduled to depart for Turkey on **May 2, 2012 and return on June 1st**. The Rotary Foundation provides each team member with a round-trip air ticket, and local Rotarians in Turkey provide meals, lodging and travel within their district so the cost of the trip for team members is minimal. Patrick Roche, member of the Rotary Club of Macon will lead prepare and lead our team of four non-Rotarians under the age of 40. Patrick is an MD on the faculty of Mercer Medical School.

TURKEY

Turkey is the land bridge connecting Europe and Asia. As such, it has an historic past. This is where Achilles battled the Trojans in Homer's Iliad. It is where tradition says that Alexander the Great cut the Gordian knot. It is the site of Ephesus, capital of

Contacts

District Governor

Gordon Matthews
gordon.matthews@earthlink.net

Chief of Staff

Paula Goodnow
paulagoodnow@hotmail.com

Foundation Chair

Jeanette Caneega
j.caneega1541@gmail.com

Atlanta 2017 HOC

Lloyd Horadan
lhoradan@oftc.edu

DSG Chair

Les Arent
javelin73@cox.net

International Grant Chair

John Neely
john.neely@colliers.com

GSE Chair

Justin Godchaux
justingodchaux@aol.com

RLI Chair

Ted Thomson
tthom034@aol.com

METS Director

Linda Herdina
lherdina@bellsouth.net

District Treasurer

Bruce Montgomery
hbmontgomery@bellsouth.net

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District Website

www.Rotary6920.org

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Group Study Exchange Trip to Turkey Slated for 2012

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the Roman province of Asia and the site of early Christian churches visited by the Apostle Paul. It is the former Ottoman Empire.

Turkey is also of strategic importance today. It is a country where 98% of the people are Muslim. Yet it is also seeks to be a secular state. It is a member of NATO and is a candidate for admission to the European Union.

Rotary District 2440, which will host our team, lies along the Aegean Sea. It includes some of Turkey's most historic sites. In addition, our team will conclude their trip with several days in Istanbul, in District 2420.



GSE TEAM LEADER PATRICK ROCHE

Patrick Roche, member of the Rotary Club of Macon, will prepare and lead our team. Patrick is a medical doctor, who teaches and practices at the Mercer University School of Medicine. He is a founding physician of the Macon Volunteer Clinic and volunteers his time at the Clinic.

He chose to spend 6 months of his sabbatical time off from Mercer living and working at the Hospital Albert Schweitzer in Deschapelles, Haiti. During that time he identified and helped the Macon Rotary Club complete an international project at an orphans' home there.

Patrick is married to Kathy and they have three children, who are young adults.

Patrick has led young men and women on medical missions, and he is excited to lead our GSE team. He believes that meeting people face-to-face and getting to know them and appreciate their culture, history, and religion helps bring us closer to world peace and understanding.

TEAM MEMBER APPLICATIONS

Participants from 6920 in prior exchanges have included a veterinarian, a nonprofit director, a VP at United Way, college and middle school teachers, a media expert, an attorney, a hospital government affairs person, a judge, a librarian, a minister, a city/county government manager, a public radio reporter, an IT specialist, a hospital government affairs expert, an artist, and many others.

Those who have had the exceptional opportunity to be a GSE team member tell us that the opportunity to live in another culture as the guest of Rotarians is gift of insight and perspective of life-long benefit.

The **deadline for GSE Team Member Applications is November 15, 2011. Interviews will be conducted in early December.** Application forms are simple and can be found online at www.rotary.org/RIdocuments/en_pdf/161en.pdf and include a brief statement of interest by the applicant. GSE Chair for 6920 is Justin Godchaux and he can be reached at 912-234-3680 or JustinGodchaux@aol.com. Completed applications should be sent to 116 W. Bolton Street, Savannah, Ga. 31401 or by email to his address above.

ROTARIANS' ROLE OF IDENTIFYING APPLICANTS

Rotarians are encouraged to identify worthy candidates in their community and to assist them in applying as a GSE Team Member. Given that taking about a month off from work can be a challenge for most candidates, Rotarians can sometimes help by contacting candidate's employers to explain the benefits to the candidate and to the employer in having a more well-rounded, mature employee.

Rotarians should be aware that the cultural exchange involving sending our team and hosting the visiting team will continue next year but will be replaced with an entirely different format under Future Vision in 2013-14. So this year and next are the **last opportunities to provide this experience for younger professionals** who would represent 6920 well in to the host district.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Additional information is available at www.Rotary6920.org under "Our Foundation" and then "Group Study Exchange". A Rotary Club in Istanbul has prepared a video on Turkey that is available on the web by entering "halic rotary turkey" in Google's search.



Greetings from Governor Gordon

As your District Governor I now have had the honor of being hosted by 36 clubs in our district and have met with six more clubs using Skype – on the way to visiting all 65 of our clubs in person. As I learn from my DG contemporaries in other districts that they are almost done with their visits I am reminded how distances within 6920 influence our ability to meet face to face.

In between trips I have been a participant in two different webinars, one conducted by RI and another conducted by our Zone 34 and then I get a new perspective of distances – that they don't really matter so much when we get the benefit of hearing from experts who may be thousands of miles away or even around the world somewhere.

On one webinar on E-clubs, I listened to a Rotarian member of an E-club formed by Rotarians who constantly travel and from another Rotarian who participates in an E-club that covers geography divided into islands and places difficult to reach. On my first webinar I listened to our new RI General Secretary John Heuko share his background and priorities and answer questions from participants. Many more RI webinars are being offered on social media and new generation clubs, for example.

On October 6th, 6920 took its first webinar step with a gathering of Assistant Governors over the Internet. While we have a few wrinkles to work out, we can easily see the potential benefit to club presidents or committee chairs when they can interact with their peers and with subject-matter experts while in front of their computer at home or at their office.

We will, of course, continue to hold our annual face-to-face training sessions for Presidents Elect and for club officers and leaders to talk about membership and our foundation, but hopefully you will join with others as we experiment this

year to explore how webinars can be utilized to connect Tifton to Augusta and from Macon to St. Mary's as we reach deeper into our clubs with information with no travel time involved, except for the movement of a few pulses over some fiber optic lines.

Stay tuned...

-DG Gordon

“After experiencing Club Board Meetings between Gov. Gordon and three different clubs via Skype, I am convinced that this method of communication, somewhat “eyeball to eyeball”, will at minimum greatly enhance any Governor’s ability to express his passion early in the year to a group of club leaders. It was also evident during the conversations that these groups were able to get better acquainted and more comfortable with a Governor, as questions and ideas were easily bounced off both ends of the screens. The “practice” webinar also shows we have teaching capabilities, idea sharing, and follow-up procedures without having to incur travel expenses and time limitations.

The future is here!”

- Alfie Cofield, Assistant Governor

“The three Valdosta clubs were the first three clubs to participate in a Skype visit from the District Governor. Bob Harrison and myself were a little nervous about the whole idea. But with the help of Amos Terrell at Wiregrass Technical College it happened. Bob and I think this was a great new tool for all clubs. We were able to have all three presidents to tell the District Governor the plans for their clubs and for Gordon to tell each president the things he would like the clubs to do for the district.

I think future DG’s could have each assistant governor have all of their presidents meet at one location and use Skype like we did to meet with the DG. All of these meetings could be done in the month of July. This would help the DG know what each club is doing early on. It also lets each club know what the DG’s plans are for the district. These meetings will help the DG to have a more flexible visit schedule.

I’m not saying that we need to use all of the technology that’s available, but I think the webinars and Skype are very good tools that we can use now. It can get all of our clubs up to speed at the beginning of their year.”

- Bill Booth, District Director

Getting to Know

Linda Herdina



Q: Why are you a Rotarian?

A: *I am a Rotarian because I really believe that my membership is a way that I can change the world for the better. Through programs like Polio Plus, METS, GRSP and GSE, Rotarians in other countries become our neighbors, we can address their needs through our great abundance and convey to them the compassion and friendship of Americans.*

Q: How long have you been a Rotarian?

A: *I have been a member of the Rotary Club of Savannah East since March 14, 2003.*

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

A: *I think that my primary skill is my ability to get things done. I am not reluctant to take on a non-traditional role or a dirty job in order to accomplish my goals.*

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

A: *I am currently Director for Medical Equipment Transport Service (since August of 2009).*

Q: Where does your passion from Rotary come from?

A: *My passion for Rotary comes from realizing the needs in the world that Rotary can address.*

Q: What is your most vivid Rotary experience?

A: *My most vivid Rotary experiences have come from GRSP and GSE. I have had the pleasure of having people around my table from all over the world. Through these experiences, I have realized that we are all more alike than we are different.*

Q: What is your greatest wish for Rotary?

A: *My greatest wish for Rotary is that through Rotarians all over the world, we can move our planet closer to peace.*

Posted on

facebook

Rotary District 6920's Facebook page is attracting a lot of attention from clubs. Among a recent posting is this picture by the Jekyll Island Rotary Club announcing the results of their recent coat drive. The annual event is held for the local elementary school. This year's collection included 20 new coats and numerous gently used coats. Pictured are Club President Jerry Ezzell, Past President Bill Felker, Burroughs-Molettee Elementary School Principal Joseph Lanham and Assistant Governor Zack Taylor.



Rotary Club of Kings Bay Assists in METS Sort Day



The Rotary Club of Kings Bay had a sort day at METS on October 8th, with the help of Paul Rosen, Karin Cassard, Bill Foster, Ginger Duncan, Al Wieners, Ray Parker, Mary Kustermann, Paul Hutzler, Edward Clary, Paula Goodnow and John and Linda Herdina.



It's a Flash Mob Lunch

What happens when Rotarians suddenly assemble? They have a flash mob. During a recent holiday week, the Rotary Club of Downtown Macon didn't meet but encouraged its members to "Take a Rotarian to Lunch" on the day they would normally get together. They were also told watch the club's Facebook page and club email for something unique that day and that they might want to keep noon open on their schedules.

An hour or so before noon, on the day they would normally meet, a notice went out to the club that a flash mob lunch would happen at a newly opened Mexican Restaurant and any one interested could join the group. Given just an hour's notice, several of the club members met for food, fun and fellowship.

A Unique Paul Harris Fellow

In the Rotary Club of Downtown Macon there is a person who attends every meeting, greets Rotarians and guests as they enter and helps with the Cart Fund. That doesn't sound much different than many other Rotarians except this individual just recently turned 12 years old. More importantly, he's a Paul Harris Fellow.

For the last year, Harrison Bell has been attending Rotary meetings with his dad, Steve Bell. Harrison attends middle school in the largest public school in Georgia, the Georgia Cyber Academy. Since his subjects are in virtual classrooms, he has the freedom to visit his dad's Rotary club weekly.

Elizabeth Hardin, a fellow Rotarian of his father, was impressed to see Harrison attending and engaging in the club.

"I grew up with Rotary, with my dad sharing a good Rotary program at the dinner table, and here is Harrison actually at every meeting and I thought that was pretty cool," said Hardin.

Hardin a member of the Paul Harris Society since 2003, used her recognition points to make Harrison a Paul Harris Fellow. Harrison and his father were both surprised at one meeting when the announcement of the newest Paul Harris Fellow was Harrison, now the youngest Paul Harris Fellow in the club.

"That has to be the most important thing that's ever happened to me," said Harrison. "I made my dad drive me all over town to show people. The one thing I know about Rotary is that it's not about lunches but about what Rotary does in our community."



Elizabeth Hardin, Harrison Bell and Downtown Macon Rotary Club Past President Rick Maier

Valdosta Club Accepts Check for Ferst Foundation



Past President Dr. Dennis Marks, Sonya Aldridge, Manager of Marketing and Member Services, and Dixie Lightfoot, Valdosta District Manager

Rotary Club of Valdosta Past President Dr. Dennis Marks, also the club's literacy chair, recently accepted a \$1,000 donation to the program from Colquitt EMC.

The Valdosta area Rotary Clubs are working with the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy to provide Dolly Parton's Imagination Library books each month to children under the age of 5 in Lowndes County. The clubs believe early reading is important to all parts of the community because it leads to a lifetime of opportunity. Children who learn to read early in life become avid learners in school, skillful workers on the job and informed citizens in the community. With Colquitt EMC's support, they are one step closer to every child in Lowndes County entering school prepared to learn. The contribution will provide an Imagination Library book each month for a year for 28 children under the age of 5.

District's Second Matching Grant Gets Approval

A report from District Matching Grants Chair John Neely

We just received from RI official notice of approval of our District's 2nd Matching Grant---\$44,444 for the purchase of cataract and general eye surgery equipment for a charity health clinic in rural India, near Calcutta. Funding includes \$18,472 in D6920 DDF, \$20,972 in Foundation matching grants, and the balance provided by the RC of Dakshin Barasat, which will oversee the project. Our first project was for water well parts and maintenance in the Chiquitano region of eastern Bolivia.

The Rotary Foundation matches DDF funds on a dollar-for-dollar basis, and cash provided by host or international club Rotarians fifty cents on the dollar. DDF funds are returned to each Rotary District from TRF based on past District Foundation giving. Funds are held by RI for three years, then are returned to the District, to be used for international humanitarian grant projects, District Simplified Grants (DSG), Ambassadorial Scholarships and Polio Plus. After our first two matching grant DDF allocations, and funding our Ambassadorial Scholar and monies set aside for DSGs, D6920 still has approximately \$151,355 for potential humanitarian projects around the world. DDF funds, which when matched by TRF, could become over \$300,000--that can do a lot of good in the world!. So we are still actively soliciting projects sponsored by District Clubs.

We do have several projects in the works, in various stages of readiness for submission to RI:

Haiti - Skidaway Club; native language training materials for schools in Matenwa, Haiti, building on past successful MGs

Haiti - Richmond Hill Club; supply clean water filtration systems for special needs orphanage and elder care facility in Bonneau, Haiti

Brazil - Rotary East Club; equipment and teaching materials to rural school in Ilheus; one other being considered

India-Marshes of Glenn (?) RC, St. Simons; supply equipment and teaching materials for women's health clinic in Mysore, southern India

Sri Lanka - Dublin club (?); materials for special needs school

Bolivia - Rotary East Club; 2nd grant to expand water well project; other projects being formulated.

Anyone else have leads on possible matching grant projects? If you don't quite know where to start, you might check out www.matchinggrants.org, which has a long list of projects around the world, looking for international partners. Or contact District Matching Grants Chair John Neely at john.neely@colliers.com or 912-233-7111, extension 103.

Contribute to World Polio Day, Receive Double Recognition

Observe World Polio Day on Oct. 24 by making a contribution to help End Polio Now. During the week of October 24-28, Rotarians will receive 2-for-1 recognition for every contribution of \$100 or more made to PolioPlus at www.rotary.org/contribute.

The promotion will begin at 06:00 CT on Monday, Oct. 24, and end at noon CT on Friday, October 28.

Online contributions cannot be made on behalf of another individual, club, or district. Double recognition cannot be used to designate others as Paul Harris Fellows.

Because a high volume of online traffic is anticipated with this promotion, please allow four to six weeks for the promotional recognition to appear in your account, and before requesting recognition materials.



Wrightsville Rotary Club Participates In, Assists With 9-11 Memorial Service



The Rotary Club of Wrightsville assisted with the Ninth Annual Memorial Service honoring and remembering those who died in the 9/11 attack. President Becky Browning led the club in saying "thank you" to local volunteer fire fighters, first responders, law enforcement and EMS personnel by treating them to breakfast. A large group from Wrightsville and Johnson County gathered at the Wrightsville Fire Department to enjoy the food and fellowship. Rotary members, their spouses and children were on hand to greet and feed those special people in the community who daily demonstrate Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." A special treat was Rotarian Donnie Sweat's daughter Caroline singing The National Anthem.

**Visit our website at
www.Rotary6920.org or find us on
Facebook at Rotary6920
for the latest news and information**

Byron Rotary Club Presents Dictionaries



Byron Rotary Club presented a dictionary to each fifth grader at Byron Elementary and Kay Road Elementary schools as part of their literacy program.

District Governor Applications Due by January 14, 2012

The District Governor application period is now open and those Rotarians in 6920 who meet the following 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.

Requirements:

1. Is a member in good standing of a Rotary Club in District 6920
2. Has been a Rotarian for seven years.
3. Has completed a full term as President of a Rotary Club

Interviews will be conducted on January 28, 2012 at Little Ocmulgee State Park; the selection decision is made by the Past District Governors present at that meeting. Campaigning for the position is considered to be inappropriate; PDG Bill Kemp is available at 706-860-9251 or bill_kemp@comcast.net to answer questions.

Looking Ahead

November is Foundation Month, a time to highlight our commitment to the important work accomplished by the Rotary Foundation.