



Bob Griggers
District Governor
2012-2013

October 2012

Rotary *District 6920*

District Clubs a Credit to Rotary

With over 8,000 miles of mostly two-lane roads behind us, Brenda and I have really developed an appreciation for our District and its members. We have visited over 50 Rotary clubs at least one time and some clubs more than once. We both want to express our appreciation again for your wonderful hospitality and making us feel as if we were at home. You have shared with us items of interest about your areas, clubs and projects. We have been invited to return for presentations, work days and special occasions. You have welcomed us with electronic billboards and met us at our hotel to transport us or walk with us to and from restaurants for dinner. You are responsible for me having to buy new trousers and a jacket (but I have enjoyed it!)



District Governor

We have visited clubs with just a little over a dozen members to a club with over 225 members. We have met with clubs with presidents not long out of college and with one where there were grandmother and granddaughter taking active parts in their club's leadership. We have seen many different ways of reaching the same goal.

We have met where clubs sing, and some sing well! A lot of our clubs have unique ways of bringing smiles to the members' faces while raising a few dollars for various causes. Most clubs have a tradition of reciting the Four Way Test. We do a good job in making our guests feel welcome. All of our clubs begin with prayer and a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of our country. This is Rotary in Central, South and Coastal Georgia, and I am proud to be a part of it! We are finding our members looking for ways to bring "Peace through Service" to those all around us. I am thankful for your efforts. As a District, you are a credit to Rotary. Thanks!!

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October is Vocational Service Month

Rotary Membership is by invitation. It's membership is based on a variety of vocations. This gives us the opportunity to invite a cross section of the business, professional and community leaders from our area. It also offers us the opportunity for continued growth.

Most of us repeat the Four Way Test each week at our regular club meeting. But we are reminded of another way of promoting high ethical standards in all of our business transactions. We should make ourselves aware of, adhere to, and to promote The Declaration of Rotarians in Business and Professions. This action was adopted by the Council on Legislation in 1989.

As a Rotarian in a business or profession, I am expected to:

1. Consider my vocation to be another opportunity to serve;
2. Be faithful to the letter and to the spirit of the ethical codes of my vocation, to the laws of my country, and to the moral standards of my community;
3. Do all in my power to dignify my vocation and to promote the highest ethical standards in my chosen vocation;
4. Be fair to my employer, employees, associates, competitors, customers, the public, and all those with whom I have a business or professional relationship;
5. Recognize the honor and respect due to all occupations which are useful to society;
6. Offer my vocation talents to provide opportunities for young people, to work for relief of the special needs of others, and to improve the quality of life in my community;
7. Adhere to honesty in my advertising and in all representations to the public concerning my business or profession;
8. Neither seeks from nor grants to a fellow Rotarian a privilege or advantage not normally accorded others in a business or professional relationship.

During Vocational Service Month, let's focus on those activities that will help our youth develop the high ethical standards that Rotary promotes. Invite students to your business or place of work. Sponsor a career day at your local schools. Volunteer to be a mentor to the young people in your area. Share with them your business or professional skills. Display the Four Way Test at your business and have handout fliers or refrigerator magnets, etc., to distribute to those you come in contact with. But most of all, let them see you practice your business or professional life by that same test!

District Governor Applications Due by January 12, 2013

The District Governor application period is now open for Rotarians in District 6920 who meet the requirements and would like to be considered for selection as District Governor for the Rotary year beginning July 1, 2015. Applicants need to complete the Rotary International application for District Governor available on our District web site www.Rotary6920.org, have their club add its endorsement and mail the completed form to PDG Gordon Matthews, P.O. Box 187, Tybee Island, GA 31328 prior to January 12, 2013 to be considered.

Interviews will be conducted on January 26, 2013, with the selection decision being made by the Past District Governors present at that meeting. PDG Gordon Matthews is available at 912-604-1200 or gordon.matthews@earthlink.net to answer questions

Medical Equipment Transport Service (METS)

Every Rotarian in District 6920 participates in an International Service Project when he or she pays their District dues which includes \$15.00 per year for METS.

METS began nearly a decade ago as an idea of Bob Ashley. It began as an International Service project of the Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise. It was adopted as a District project and has been incorporated as a 501(c)(3) corporation and is qualified to accept tax deductible contributions in the United States. METS is under the direction of a Board of Directors consisting of district leaders. Currently, PDG Dick Hyer serves as president and Linda Herdina as executive director.

The idea of METS is to collect surplus medical equipment or supplies and bring them to Savannah where they are sorted by volunteers. These items are then inventoried and stored for shipment in 40 foot containers to needy citizens of several Third World countries. Containers have been shipped to Guatemala, Chile, Dominican Republic, Philippines, Nigeria, Ghana, Uganda, Peru, Sierra Leone, Ukraine, Mexico, Mongolia and other countries.

You are encouraged to contact Linda at LHerdina@RotaryMets.org to schedule a sort day for members of your club. METS, as mentioned earlier, is a District 6920 project and is an excellent opportunity to do good for many people in several areas of the world. Linda will also be happy to come to your club to give a PowerPoint presentation on our METS project.

METS is in the business of service. We do not charge for our product and our income is limited by the number of members supporting us from within the District. Our costs are kept to a minimum but overhead continues to rise.

As a Rotary club, consider this worthwhile project with a special monetary donation. Please consider recognizing a deserving member of your club with a donation of \$500 and having him or her recognized as a METS Ambassador. We will be happy to have a METS representative come to your club and make the presentation. In the past, we have had some very generous individuals and clubs offer to give a little extra financial help. We could use it again. Please consider this request when making your plans for International Service.



The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill makes a special donation to METS.

Dublin Rotarians Take on Cemetery Project

Dublin Rotarians have taken on the restoration/beautification of Northview Cemetery as a club project. There are over 50 Dublin Rotarians buried there and many more will follow. Northview is a century old city-owned cemetery that needed some sprucing up. The Rotary Club of Dublin raised in excess of \$60,000 for this project. The club recently held their weekly program at the cemetery, serving a good meal in a beautiful park-like setting with

District Governor Bob Griggers in attendance. Local historian Scott Thompson gave a speech and conducted a walking tour.



Membership ... What am "I" Doing About It?

by District Governor Bob Griggers

My fellow Rotarians, let's talk about something extremely important! When we speak about membership we often wait for someone else to make something happen. But remember, "MEMBERSHIP" begins with ME!

We need to constantly work on membership. We need to think about retention because we all have heard that it is easier to keep a "customer" than to attract a new one. We need to make sure our club projects and programs are of interest to our members. We need to keep them active in areas that they enjoy.

It is important to attract new members to replace those who move or leave the club for other reasons. The more members we have, the more income and manpower we have to accomplish the many worthy projects our clubs are involved in.

We quite often agree that we need additional members, but we, ourselves, will wait on someone else to invite a prospective member. I am going to ask you ... How many prospective Rotarians have YOU invited into Rotary? What if no one had invited you? Look what you would have missed!

Jack Steed, our District Membership Chairman, is working very hard to help District 6920 grow. We have a very easy goal of maintaining our current membership level and increasing it by 3%. We are going to need everyone's help. Think about those business or professional people that you interact with and invite them to a club meeting. We are not going to get all of them, but we won't get any unless we ask!

Some clubs are doing exceptionally well. Others are doing good and some have not gotten much done ... YET. Please make a comprehensive effort to help us accomplish our goal this year.

Over 31 clubs have inducted at least one new member this year. Augusta, Byron, Dublin, Sylvania, Jefferson County and Valdosta have each inducted two new members. Milledgeville has added three new members. Augusta West, Savannah and Tennille have added four new members. Jesup has inducted seven and the club with our largest increase is Metro Savannah with 12 new members!

A special THANK YOU to all who are working to make a difference. Let's share Rotary!

Byron Rotary Club Serves as Host for Adult Education Open House

Last month, the National Coalition for Literacy shined the spotlight on literacy throughout the nation and the



world. The purpose of Adult Education and Family Literacy Awareness is to encourage every state, territory, and district to work side-by-side to heighten public awareness, strengthen alliances, and increase the number of people who understand the vital role adult education and family literacy plays in our nation's well-being.

The Adult Education Center in Byron held an Open House on last month that was sponsored and hosted by Rotary. Members provided refreshments and were available to speak to students and visitors about the importance of literacy and earning their GED. Rotary

President Martin Moseley said that, "Literacy is a priority for Rotary and we were glad to participate in this event."

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

Efforts Being Made in Literacy

Thank you to the many Rotary Clubs in District 6920 that have accepted the challenge to help fight illiteracy in our communities. I have been impressed with the many projects that our Rotarians have initiated or are contributing to. There have been numerous ways that our members have approached this challenge, and they all are working. We realize the importance of supplying books to our children beginning in the very early years of their lives. We need to encourage them and continue to impress upon them the necessity of learning to read and benefits of enjoying it. Many club members read to young students on a regular schedule and they speak of the enjoyment it brings them personally. We have many who contribute in a variety of ways to make books or other reading materials available to those without.

As I said earlier, we need to encourage reading to our youngsters, but they are not the only ones! We have an obligation to help "Bring Peace Through Service" to those adults who have problems reading. Many of you have heard me speak of the importance of qualifying those who do not have credentials permitting them to participate in gainful employment. We need to assist them to get proper training. We need to offer opportunities for them to take GED tests without costs. Most want help, but they want the help to allow them to help themselves and their families.

Thank you to every Rotarian and Rotary Club that has been so generous in accepting this opportunity to be of service. I trust you will not only feel better because of it, but you will see many returns on your investment in the very near future.

-Bob Griggers



District Governor Bob Griggers reads to students in Claxton.

Hadwin Receives Citation for Service



The Citation for Meritorious Service recognizes individual Rotarians who have demonstrated outstanding service to The Rotary Foundation for more than one year. Each Rotary district may have only one recipient per year.

PDG Lynn Hadwin has a long history of service on Foundation committees at his club and district. He has served as district Foundation Grant Chair, supported Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotary Peace Fellows and Group Study Exchange teams.

PDG Hadwin was nominated during the 2011-2012 Rotary year and recognized during the Foundation Seminar recently held in Dublin. Congratulations go out to PDG Hadwin for this noteworthy award!

District 6920 Rotarians who have previously been awarded the Citation for Meritorious Service include Ken Stanton (Metter - 1979); Harold Smith (Warner Robins - 1993); Edward McDowell (Warner Robins - 1995); Pat Donahoo (St. Simons Island - 1997) and Gordon Matthews (Savannah East - 2009).

Sandersville Awarded Blankenship Cup

The Rotary Club of Sandersville became the fourth recipient of the Blankenship Cup. This noteworthy achievement is presented in memory of the late PDG Bill Blankenship who served as District Governor during the 2006-2007 Rotary year. The award is presented to the club which has the highest per capita giving over the previous three years to the Annual Programs Fund of The Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Club of Sandersville had a per capita member giving of \$196.00 over the past three years.



The top 10 clubs recognized with an average per capita giving over the past three years are:

(10.) Rotary Club of Centerville - \$126.00; (9.) Rotary Club of Glennville - \$134.00; (8.) Rotary Club of Savannah West - \$136.00; (7.) Rotary Club of Savannah East - \$137.00; (6.) Rotary Club of Jesup - \$145.00; (5.) Rotary Club of Macon - \$154.00; (4.) Rotary Club of Skidaway Island - \$157.00; (3.) Rotary Club of Savannah South - \$170.00 and (2.)

Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise - \$172.00.

The Rotary Club of Centerville received the Blankenship Cup the first year in 2009 and again in 2010. The Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise was recognized with the Blankenship Cup for the 2011 year of competition. Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Sandersville with their significant TRF contribution achievement for the 2012 year.

Assistance Program Leaves Lasting Impression

by District Governor Bob Griggers

For several years, Rotarians in the Valdosta area have been providing a service to those traveling through their area and find themselves needing assistance. You can imagine how you might feel if you or a family member had to stop for an emergency operation, or if you were involved in an accident and were taken to the hospital by ambulance. How would you get to your vehicle to retrieve personal items, etc.?

Recently when Brenda and I were in Savannah, I received a call from a fellow District Governor in Michigan. He informed me of a retired Rotarian minister who was traveling to Florida with his wife and had to stop for an emergency appendectomy. He asked if I could recommend some help. I explained to him that I personally was in Savannah at that time and would make contact with them. I was scheduled to visit with the Rotary Club of Savannah South that morning. When I told members there about the request, doors began to open everywhere! The word quickly spread among the hospital staff. I can't begin to tell you



how our fellow Rotarian and his wife felt about the immediate kindness and support that was extended to them. You can be assured that our new friends returned home feeling good about Rotary and Southern Hospitality!

I would like to suggest that you give consideration to this type of service in your area. You do not have to spend money; you just need to be there as a service. It does work!

Every Rotarian

(Adapted from "The Raven" by Edgar Allan Poe)

By Brian King

Director of Annual Giving at The Rotary Foundation

Once upon a Rotary year-y, while I pondered, growing a bit leery, Over whether every Rotarian, would give \$100 or more.

My mind raced, now more wary, suddenly what I saw was terribly scary. More so than ghosts or monsters or something rapping at my chamber door.

It was the image of a child, paralyzed, crawling on a dirt floor. Only this and nothing more.

Ah, but this child I did not know, as she pained and suffered so. Would not someone else see she was not left upon that dirty floor? Rapidly my fear turned to sorrow for this child may have no tomorrow. She was just another crawler, helpless and always to be poor.

Leaving it to someone else, leaves her on that dirty floor. Nameless and alone for evermore.

More images now, my fear grew stronger; hesitating then no longer.

Poverty, illness, hunger and so many victims of conflict and war.

So many living a nightmare, with whom our good fortune we can share.

No water or food or one to care; no education, for millions no open door.

No opportunity; no bright future, neither nor Darkness there and nothing more.

Who will help those in need; this desperate call who will heed?

"Sir," said I, "or Madam, truly your support I implore; every Rotarian, everywhere, help end this chilling tale if you dare,

help those in great despair, in our backyard and on another shore

'O the ways you can help are so many, please do explore. And change the life of a child--forevermore!

And every Rotarian, with no hesitation, responded with great consternation, giving every year \$100 or even more. And the children's eyes have all the seeming filled of hope; and dreaming

Their smiles now beaming, as Rotarians' generosity there was an outpour And the lives of millions with so little to live for shall be lifted--forever and evermore!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!



RYLA

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a leadership program coordinated by Rotary Clubs across the globe. Young people (high school juniors



and seniors) are sponsored by Rotary Clubs of Rotary District 6920 to attend the event at South Georgia College in Douglas.

Participants are chosen for their

leadership potential. Rotary Clubs and the Rotary District cover all expenses for the participants. The format takes the form of a three-day seminar/workshop to discuss leadership skills and to learn those skills through practice. Students sponsored by the Rotary Club of Centerville, from left, were Jannay Garret, Alexander (Alex) Poth and Christie Poth, all students at Warner Robins High School.

Effingham County Club Recognizes Governor, Wife



Tom Matyjasik, President of the Rotary Club of Effingham County, presents District Governor Bob Griggers and his wife Brenda, with a certificate sponsoring two Effingham County students to take the five-part GED exam as Assistant Governor Todd Freesean looks on.

Correction

In last month's newsletter, GRSP student Benjamin Santos was listed as being sponsored by the Savannah Sunrise Club. Santos is actually sponsored by the Savannah South Rotary Club. We apologize for the error.

Kern to Serve as RRFC

ARRFC Kenan Kern has been appointed to serve as Zone 34 RRFC, beginning July 1, 2013. He will succeed Brent Williams, who is serving his third and final year as RRFC. The appointment was made by TRF Trustee Chair-elect D. K. Lee. RI Director Anne Matthews made the announcement of the appointment during the final day of the Rotary Institute last month in Hilton Head. Kenan's

first day as RRFC will coincide with the worldwide rollout of the new Future Vision Grant Model of TRF.

Kenan is in his third year as Zone 34 ARRFC, working with the three districts in Georgia. He served as Governor of District 6920 in 2008-2009.

Jesup Rotary Club

Each year, the Florida Barbecue Association (FBA) Board of Directors selects a contest in each of the states where they currently sanction events to be the FBA State Championship for that state. In order to be considered as an FBA State Championship, a contest must have been sanctioned for a minimum of three consecutive years, accommodate a minimum of 40 teams, and have a favorable rep review for each of those years. This year, the Georgia/Florida Tailgate Bar B Q Cookoff, which the Jesup Rotary Club is a part of, was named the 2013 FBA State Champion for Georgia.

Augusta West



Augusta West Rotary Club members and their families and friends recently attended an Augusta Green Jackets Baseball Game. The club reserved the pavilion area of the stadium and enjoyed an all-you-can-eat buffet, baseball, fellowship and fireworks.

McIntosh Purchases Refrigerator for Group



McIntosh County Rotary Club members found out about a need of our local 4-H County Extension Agency and agreed to help. Greg Hickey, County Extension Agent, provides classroom instruction to the students during the school day and after school hours. He wanted to be able to provide snacks for the children and needed a safe way to store the food items. One of the club's members found out about the need and asked his fellow members if they wanted to help. All members agreed to help and the club purchased a refrigerator for the classroom. Pictured are fourth grade students from Oak Grove Intermediate School with Hickey, 4-H Assistant Bunny Miller and Volunteer 4-H Graduate Stacy Miller.

Hazlehurst Club Hosts District Governor



DG Bob visits the Hazlehurst Rotary Club. Pictured are the 2012-2013 Officers and Committee Chairpersons along with the new District Governor, including (from left) Ronald Cobb, Buck Elder, Dwayne Creamer, Sharon Harper, Bo Reese, Assistant District Governor Ben Harvill, Sallie Ursrey, Ricky Ursrey, Sharon Brown and District Governor Bob Griggers.