



April 2015

**Ted Thompson, District Governor**

**ROTARY DISTRICT  
6920**

## *District Conference*

### *Draws Near*

The time is nearly here for a District Conference jam-packed with fun and entertainment. We've had a record year together, and I want to spend this weekend with you remembering all of your accomplishments and giving you honor and praise for a job well done. Don't miss a minute!



I'm so pleased with all of our speakers and entertainers; I can't wait for you to see firsthand the wonderful job that everyone has done to make this conference a great success. Conference Chair Kathy Tuckey and her committee have worked tirelessly to make this weekend into something that everyone will enjoy.

Please don't delay another minute to register because I know that you won't want to miss any of YOUR District Conference. I'll be looking for your name on registration.

## **At A Glance:**

### **Upcoming Events**

#### ***Rotary Foundation Seminar & Grants Training***

Saturday, April 11, 2015

Oconee Fall Line Technical College  
Dublin

#### ***District Conference***

Friday, May 1-Sunday, May 3, 2015

Marriott Riverfront Hotel  
Augusta

## **Time with Ted**

*A monthly feature focusing on timely information from DG Ted Thompson*



In March I was honored to attend the regular meeting of the Dublin Rotary Club to present the charter to the new Rotaract Club at OFTC-South, Dublin Campus. Also, during this time I was able to collect on the bid I won at Sandersville Rotary Club's silent auction. I, along with fellow Rotarian Marlon Lastinger, his wife Ann, and Charolette, spent an enjoyable evening eating an oyster feast followed by BBQ and all the fixins', all prepared by Rotarian Charles Jordan and his wife Cheryl and served at their home ... a little down time, you might say.

I trust that you have accumulated all of the necessary points on your award sheets to bring your club up to the level that you were trying to achieve. The thrill of being recognized for a year full of accomplishments can't be compared with any other award. I know that most of you have worked hard and are ready to reap those rewards. I am looking forward to being able to personally recognize all of you. Many of you have truly excelled in your role as club president and I thank you.

## **District Raffle**

### **Underway**

Tickets ONLY \$5.00 each!

1st Place: \$1,000,

2nd Place: \$500,

3rd Place: \$300,

4th Place \$200

Drawing will take place at District Conference. You do not have to be present to win, but you must purchase ticket in advance!

Clubs should send in ticket stubs and monies collected by the deadline (Friday, April 24, 2015) to Ron May, 4062 Hwy 68 North, Sandersville, GA 31082.

See your club president for more information!

## LIGHT UP ROTARY

Celebrate, Collaborate and Connect at **YOUR**  
District Conference!  
Marriott Augusta - May 1-3, 2015

Have a roaring good time as you step back into the 1920's on Saturday night!!

### Important Dates to Remember

**April 9th** - Marriott Hotel conference room block is held until April 9th – after that rooms will be based on availability and the Marriott's going rate

**April 16th** – Registration and meal fees increase

### Top 5 Reasons to Register if You Haven't Already

1. All of your Rotary friends will be there! What's a conference without friends? We're pulling out all the stops to make this year's conference the best ever. Come join us!
2. Recognition for all your Rotary achievements! District Conference is that one time of the year when Rotarians get to "brag" about what we do. You are a really big deal!
3. We are all working together in a local service project at conference. We'll leave Augusta better than when we found it!
4. What happens in Augusta.... (well you know the rest!)
5. There is so much to do. Great food, great programs, great speakers, great fun!

Mark your calendar and most importantly, register! Visit the district conference page on the district website. You don't want to miss this "sockdollager" (might be one of the passwords into the speakeasy!) Have fun! Check out the Friday and Saturday activities – details on the district conference webpage in the agenda tab. The optional activities do have minimums and maximums, so sign up early.

Visit [www.rotarydistrict6920.net](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net) to register!!!

See you at Conference,  
Kathy Tuckey  
2015 District Conference Chair  
ktuckey@comcast.net  
cell: 706-627-1026

## Magazine Month

Knowing that April is Magazine Month makes me want to impress on every member the importance of reading your Rotarian magazine. I read mine cover to cover and find that there's a wealth of knowledge held within those pages.

Not only does this make you feel as if you're an important part of the whole of what Rotary does, it allows you to know what is happening in the Rotary world. You will be surprised how informed you will be if you read "your" magazine each month, and you will see that there are items of interest outside your local club. Open up your Rotary world a little further ... read the Rotarian.

## Macon Clubs Participate in Cherry Blossom Parade

Rain didn't "dampen" the fun and spirit on Sunday, March 22, as the three Bibb County Rotary clubs - Macon North, Downtown Macon and Macon - joined together for a Rotary float in Macon's 33rd annual Cherry Blossom Parade.

Students and chaperones from Burdell-Hunt and St. Peter Claver elementary schools participated along with Lia Fike, our Rotary speech contest winner.

This might be considered the second "Light Up Rotary" and "Rotary Day" event of the year.

Many folks along the way were made more aware of Rotary and our "Service Above Self" theme!



Ed Davis, PN of Downtown Macon Rotary Club; Susan Milam, Macon North member/administrator, and George Lee, president of the Macon Rotary Club, participated in the parade. Float committee members were Kimberly McGinnis of the Macon North Rotary Club and Bob Fountain of the Macon Rotary Club.

## Eastman Rotarians Participate in Ministry



The Rotary Club of Eastman, participated in a ministry for youth at the McCranie Quail Plantation. The name of the organization is 30-30 Ministries. It is a non-profit organization and has several types of camps such as turkey, bear and fishing. Taking youth hunting and fishing along with one of their parents is an excellent outreach to introduce them to the outdoors. Staff, children and parents enjoyed a meal prepared by Rotarians.



# Augusta South Adds Recycling Event to Annual Yard Sale

The Augusta South Rotary Club held their annual yard sale on Saturday, March 7. This year they decided to do something different. They added a recycling event on the same day. Teaming up with Friends of Disabled Adults and Children from Atlanta, the club collected both electronics and gently used home medical equipment for the recycling event. These items will benefit FODAC. Overall, miscellaneous electronics, durable medical equipment and more than 30 wheelchairs were collected. The items were valued at more than \$100,000.

The yard sale was a lot of fun and members collected just under \$1,000 to benefit Augusta South Rotary club programs which include Dolly Parton "Imagination Library" literacy program.

Pictured are some of the Rotarians who participated.



# The Four-Way Test is a Teaching Tool

by Jack Steed

Do you believe Rotary's 4-Way Test is an excellent teaching tool? Charlotte Penny, a Houston County substitute teacher thinks so. Charlotte is a retired teacher who is still teaching in the Houston County School system and in some Peach County schools in the area of Family and Consumer Science education. She teaches in many of the schools in these counties on a rotating basis. During the last five minutes of each class, she uses the Rotary 4-Way Test to instill truthfulness and honesty in her students.

How did Charlotte become interested in the 4-Way test? Her husband, Ret. Col. Dan Penny, was a speaker at the Rotary Club of Centerville. At the conclusion of his presentation, he was presented the Rotary coin, as are all speakers, which contains the 4-Way Test inscribed on one side. Charlotte saw the coin and the inscription. It appealed to her that the 4-Way Test would be an excellent teaching tool – and she has been using it ever since. How does she know that it has an

Charlotte Penny, a Houston County substitute teacher, is shown with Rotary's 4-Way Test banner.

impact? The students always thank her for her character guidance period which encompasses the 4-Way Test.

Does Rotary have an impact on our youth? Charlotte Penny believes that it definitely does!



## Waycross Inducts Four New Members

Governor Ted traveled to Waycross last week to help President Billy Gillis and club members celebrate a real milestone for the Waycross Rotary Club - the induction of four new members.

AG Margaret Jacobs, President Gillis and Governor Ted welcomed the new members, which included one who was inducted electronically due to his work calling him away.

Congratulations Waycross, keep up the great work!





## Savannah East Rotary Club Members Read to Students

The Rotary Club of Savannah East participated in “Read Across America Week,” the first week of March 2015, as one of the club’s many service projects.

Beginning on March 2, the 18th annual “Read Across America Day” and the 111th birthday of Dr. Seuss, club members read to kindergarten, pre-K, first and second grade classes at Thunderbolt Elementary, Spencer Elementary, Windsor Forest Elementary and Haven Elementary. Using grant money, the club bought books to read and leave with the students.



## Augusta West Makes Donation to Local School

Augusta West Rotary Club President Aubrey Highsmith and Grants Chair Brent Bull recently presented a check for \$955.68 to Elizabeth Schad, the principal of A. Brian Merry Elementary School. The club used a district grant and a “Super Bowl” contest fundraiser to support its commitment to basic education and literacy for all children.

The funds were used by Ms. Schad to purchase a Cricut Explore and an Apple TV. The Cricut Explore will allow teachers to create learning materials for their classrooms and will allow students to produce creative projects and presentations. The Apple TV will allow the school to more effectively use its TV in the lobby for presentations, announcements and to recognize student achievements.

The club has participated in a weekly mentoring program at the school for several years and has a close bond with many of the teachers and students.

Ms. Schad commented that her “fellow principals in the school district are jealous of the special relationship” her school has with Augusta West Rotary Club.



## PHF +3 Recognition



Paula Goodnow, President of the Rotary Club of Kings Bay, received her Paul Harris Fellow +3 pin on March 17, 2015.

## Hinesville FPCA Interact Club Inducts New Members During Special Ceremony

The Rotary Club of Hinesville, First Presbyterian Christian Academy (FPCA) Interact Club recently conducted a formal induction ceremony. Advisor and Interact



Liaison Rotarian Shannon Hickey and Interact President Michelle E. Roberts, serving from 2012-2015, inducted interactors during a special ceremony held at La Quinta Inn and Suites in Hinesville.

This year, FPCA Interact Club has added a new group, Middle School Interactors, to their club.



## Effingham Clubs Host Joint High School Speech Contest



On March 3, the Rotary Club of Effingham Sunrise and the Effingham Rotary Club held a combined meeting for their annual High School Speech Contest.

Both Effingham and South Effingham High School were represented. In attendance were the principals of both high schools, the CEO of the Effingham Career Academy and the superintendent of schools. Judges were divided evenly between both Rotary clubs.

Winners were: 1st Place - Rebecca Kight - 11th Grade- SEHS - 200; 2nd Place - Darius Scott - 9th Grade - SEHS - \$150; 3rd Place - Nathan Crager -10th Grade -ECHS - \$100 and 4th Place - Brian Nicolaus - 12th Grade - ECHS - \$50.

## Milledgeville Club Hosts Speech Contest

Milledgeville Rotary Club held their annual speech contest recently. Participants were Analese Bridges, representing Georgia Military College; Chrissy Skinner, representing Baldwin High School and Paige Meighan, representing John Milledge Academy.

When the votes were tallied, Analese Bridges came out on top and is the 2015 Milledgeville Rotary Club Speech Champion!



## Jesup Club Hosts BBQ Cookoff

Last fall, the Rotary Club of Jesup hosted the 10th annual Georgia/Florida Tailgate BBQ Cookoff in beautiful downtown Jesup. Held in conjunction with Jesup Archfest and sanctioned by

the Florida BBQ Association, professional cooking teams from all over the Southeast competed for over \$10,000 dollars cash.

This event, which was featured as the Community Showcase in the



Wayne County Magazine, is one of many that local Rotarians participate in to ensure that their community remains vibrant and family friendly. Members wore bright yellow polo shirts featuring the Rotary logo to enhance the community's awareness of Rotary.

## Waycross Club Proudly Presents Three More PHFs



The Rotary Club of Waycross proudly presented three more Paul Harris Fellows with their pins and certificates last month. Dr. John Lefand made the presentations to Club President Billy Gillis, Russell Bates and Al Joiner. Congratulations!

## Camden County Club Participates in Car Show for Rotary Day Activity



The Rotary Club of Camden County participated in the Runabout in the Royal District car show in Kingsland as its Rotary Day activity. Members shared information about Rotary and sold tickets to the annual Duck Race that benefits local non-profits and the Rotary Club of Camden County Foundation.

The Camden County club is celebrating the 30th anniversary of its charter this year.

## Festival Plans Presented to Swainsboro Rotarians

During the March 23 meeting of the Swainsboro Rotary Club, President Stephanie Fagler encouraged everyone to spread the news about the Pine Tree Festival pageants. This year's pageant winners will be recorded in the festival history book as the 70th anniversary queens and princesses.

Rotarian Milton Gray shared the important roles that Swainsboro Rotarians have played in the history of the Pine Tree Festival through service on the Pine Tree Festival Foundation Committee. Rotarians Athen Walden, Wade Johnson, Al Lawson Jr., Charles Schwabe and Milton Gray, just to name a few, have all served faithfully for several years.



Swainsboro Rotary Club President Stephanie Fagler and Rotarians Wade Johnson and Milton Gray

Milton Gray introduced the Pine Tree Festival Chairman, Rotarian Wade Johnson. Wade outlined the various activities planned for this momentous 70th event which is known as the "Longest Continuous Running Festival in Georgia."

# Augusta West Rotary Club's Wild Game Dinner Raises Over \$14,000

The 14th Annual "A Taste of Something Wild", a Family of Rotary and Rotary Day activity, was held on March 9. Over 200 Rotary and community members and their families enjoyed this wild game dinner with a menu including venison, wild pig, dove, quail, pheasant, fish and kangaroo, all donated and deliciously prepared by club members, spouses and friends.

The event also featured live and silent auctions and music by Eryn Eubanks and the Family Fold.

Proceeds from this event benefit Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust and Fisher House of the Veterans Administration Hospital in Augusta.



Augusta West Past President and master wild game chef Bill Phillips carves venison and wild pig.



Tina and Jack Weinstein and Eleanor and Frank Barbee go through the serving line.



## Richmond Hill Rotary Club Adds Another Member

Beth Nelson, HR Manager at Caesarstone Technologies USA Inc., was recently inducted into the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill. She was sponsored by Rotarian Lynne Bayens.

The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill has enjoyed a growth of 14% since the beginning of the Rotary year.

“Many people do not realize that we are 1.2 million neighbors, friends and community leaders who come together to create positive, lasting change in our communities and around the world,” said Club President Leslie Francis. “The Richmond Hill Rotary Club is vibrant, knows how to have fun and is dedicated to the Rotary principle of Service Above Self. We are part of the global organization of business and professional leaders committed to making a difference.”



*Baynes, Nelson and Francis*

## McIntosh Recognizes STARS

McIntosh County Rotary Club annually recognizes the STAR Student and STAR Teacher of McIntosh County Academy. This recognition is also a sponsorship of PAGE and Georgia Chamber of Commerce. The STAR Student is one that

has scored the highest in the school on the SAT as well as ranking in the top ten percent of their graduating class.



*Rotary President-Bill Watson, MCA Counselor Sherrie Collins, STAR Teacher Jonathan Thurston, STAR Student Michaela Peeler, MCA Interim Principal Dr. Scott Barrow and Past Rotary Asst. Governor Dr. Diane J Richardson*

This year's STAR student is Michaela Peeler, who selected Jonathan Thurston as her star teacher. The two were recognized at a region luncheon in Waycross on March 25.

## Waynesboro Club Inducts New Members



The Waynesboro Rotary Club is excited to announce the induction of three new members. New members inducted are The Reverend Craig Hutto, The Reverend Jim Shumard and Dr. Mignon (Mimi) Sweat. Rotarians Roy Chalker, Clifford Lewis, and Valerie Crawford are sponsors of the new members.

The club also inducted two new members - Matthew Franklin and Demetrius Hartley - in the fall and are close to a 20% growth for the year.

## Statesboro Rotarians Assist with Scout Project

Members of the Rotary Club of Statesboro recently spent a day working to enhance the Shooting Sports Complex at the Black Creek Scout Reservation in Sylvania. The members helped construct the low house and high house for new skeet throwers. Through the combined efforts of contributions from Rotary Club of Statesboro members and a Rotary District 6920 grant, the club will be providing two new skeet throwers for the Boy Scouts of America to utilize at the Black Creek Scout Reservation.

“This generous donation will add another great experience for our kids who visit Black Creek. We appreciate the Rotary Club of Statesboro for providing volunteers and providing the skeet throwers for the camp,” said Tom Cardiff, Scout Executive for the Coastal Georgia Council.



# Retention of Rotary Members

by Jack Steed

We can expand Rotary membership by retaining the members we already have. Every business knows that it is far easier to retain a new customer than it is to find a new one. We know that about 15% of all Rotarians leave Rotary each year. Obviously, we are unable to change the fact that each year some Rotarians will pass away. So what suggestions are we going to give our clubs for retaining their current members who drop out of Rotary? And, many Rotarians leave within the first year or two after joining.

The first step to retaining a member occurs the day a member joins or maybe even before. A high quality orientation about Rotary is absolutely vital. Each new member deserves a dignified introduction to Rotary. New members must be given information about the interesting history, traditions and customs of Rotary. Sponsors or senior members can introduce new Rotary experiences to new members. All new Rotarians must be brought into the wide circle of friends we call the Family of Rotary.

The second important step is immediately to give each new member a worthwhile and meaningful task within the club. The new members must be involved in the social and service activities of the club that they are fully a part of the club from the very beginning. Only when a new member begins to feel that he or she has a useful job will they feel that they are fully a part of the club, and that they have actually become a Rotarian.

A third suggestion for retaining members is to recognize the impact modern technology is having upon young business and professional people today. The demands of the 21st Century executive or manager are far different from those 30 or 40 years ago. With I-Pods, lap tops, text messaging, I-Phones and the ever increasing technical forms of communication, the current executive is expected to be making instant decisions, and be on call 24 hours a day, even when offices may be located on the other side of the world. Many managers and supervisors do not have the option to make a decision or respond "when I get back from my Rotary meeting". Too many young Rotarians are being pushed out the door when their clubs still insist that our standard is 100% attendance.

Another serious retention factor is the degree to which new members are actually welcomed into the "old established circles of the club". These wonderful groups of long time Rotary friends who always sit together every week and would never think of inviting a new member or prospect to join their group.

We must be alert to symptoms. Frequently, missed attendance, failure to participate in social events, lack of interest in service projects, club fund raisers, family or business problems; these may all be signals that a member may resign. This is where club leaders can have a compassionate personal discussion and may save the potential dropout. Occasionally, a thoughtful conversation may provide an answer to a potential retention problem. This is the real spirit of the Rotary Family.

## 2014-2015 Committee Chairs

**Annual Giving - John L. Neely**  
john.neely@colliers.com

**Awards - Renee Fontenot**  
reneefontenot@gcsu.edu

**Bequest Society - Pam Lightsey**  
plightsey@gru.edu

**CART - Kathy Tuckey**  
ktuckey@comcast.net

**Chief of Staff - Paula Goodnow**  
paula@rotary6920.org

**District Foundation/Fundraising - Ron May**  
ron.may1947@yahoo.com

**District Grants - Les Arent**  
javelin73@cox.net

**District Newsletter - Deborah Steele**  
dsteele76@comcast.net

**District Trainer - Frank Seaton**  
fseaton@tjscpa.com

**District Treasurer - Bruce Montgomery**  
hbmontgomery@bellsouth.net

**District Webmaster - Jim Bruce**  
jim@oatland.org

**Family of Rotary - Ron Maulden**  
rmaulden@thebrunswicknews.com

**GRSP - Gerald Smith**  
ggerald.smith@gmail.com

**Global Grants - Gordon Matthews**  
gordon.matthews@icloud.com

**GSE - Justin Godchaux**  
justingodchaux@gmail.com

**Interact/Rotaract - Julian Diaz Jr.**  
julian@jdiazjiriargroup.net

**Literacy - Jeanette Caneega**  
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**Membership - Alfie Cofield**  
alfiecofield@gmail.com

**PETS Curriculum Chair/Council on  
Legislation/RI 2017 Convention -**

**Lloyd Horadan**  
lhoradan@ofc.edu

**Paul Harris Society/PETS District Rep -  
Gary Smith**  
gdsmith1@mchsi.com

**Polio Plus - Bob Griggers**  
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**Public Relations - Elizabeth Jordan**  
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**Rotary Foundation Major Donor -  
Albert Reichert**  
apr@awrlaw.com

**Rotary Leadership Institute - Blair Train**  
btrain@gshg.org

**RYLA - Charles Johnson**  
charles.johnson@spsc.edu

**Scholarships - Nancy Shumaker**  
nwshumaker@yahoo.com

**Silent Auction - Laura Thompson**  
laurat@exchangebankshares.com

**Speech Contest - Jan Horadan**  
jhoradan@gmail.com