

August 2014

Ted Thompson, District Governor

**ROTARY DISTRICT
6920**

Rotary Day

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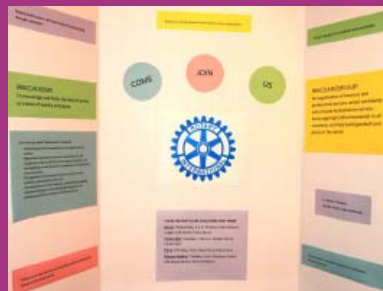
This year, RI President Gary Huang is urging all Rotarians to Light Up Rotary by participating in a Rotary Day. The Rotary Day concept is a simple one: hold a fun, informal event in your community for the non-Rotary public and use it as an opportunity to introduce them to Rotary. There are many possibilities: hold an outdoor picnic or barbecue, host a sporting event or concert, organize a family fun run, align the event with a public parade or festival, a catered event, and invite inspirational speakers to attend. Showcase the positive impact of Rotarians working to improve our communities such as having a display of newspaper articles and pictures of your club members working on a project or fundraiser for the community.

Avoid using Rotary jargon or referring to internal traditions; present Rotary as an enticing opportunity for prospective members to make new friends, exchange ideas, and take action to improve their local community and the world. Consider including a hands-on service project as part of the event to give visitors the chance to see firsthand how Rotary benefits the community.

I have designated Saturday, August 16, 2014 as our "official" Rotary Day throughout the district; however, choose any day that your club wants to participate in a Rotary Day; but, I encourage you to have a Rotary Day as soon as you can. Seek coverage for the event in local news media. Please send an article with pictures for the District Newsletter to Deborah Steele at dsteale76@comcast.net.

Warner Robins Club Hosts Rotary Day Event

The Warner Robins Rotary Club took the opportunity to showcase Rotary to the local community through the roasting of one of the communities more famous residents. Fellow Rotarian, Gary Lee, the Executive Director of the Warner Robins Redevelopment Agency, graciously volunteered to be roasted for this fundraiser designed to support 10 on-going service projects. Gary was an outstanding athlete and is most noted as a football standout at Georgia Tech where he returned a 95 yard kick off against Georgia in 1985. He went on to play for the Detroit Lions. A total of \$4,000 was raised and 175 folks from the local community were exposed to Rotary and the great projects sponsored by the Warner Robins Club. The event was held just like a regular rotary meeting to include reciting of the four-way test. A tri-fold board was exhibited highlighting Rotary.



At A Glance:

Upcoming Events

District Governor Club Visits

DG Thompson will be making his official club visits to the following clubs during the month of August: Savannah South, Skidaway Island, Savannah West, Downtown Macon, Macon North, Dublin, Statesboro, Hinesville, West Chatham, McRae, Hazlehurst, Douglas and Eastman.

GRSP Conclave

Fri., Aug. 22-Sun., Aug. 24, 2014
Columbus, GA

Rotary Zones 33-34 Institute 2014

Tues., Nov. 18-Sun., Nov. 23, 2014
Ashville, NC

Rotary International Assembly

Sun., Jan. 18-Sat., 24, 2015
San Diego

College of Governor's Meeting

Saturday, Jan. 31, 2015
L'il Ocmulgee State Park

District Leadership Training

Fri., Feb. 6-Sat., Feb. 7, 2015
Location: To Be Announced

President Elect Training - PETS

Sat., Feb. 28-Sun., Mar. 1, 2015
Atlanta Airport Renaissance Concourse
Hotel

RLI in 2015

I wanted everyone in District 6920 to know the dates for the 2014-2015 Rotary Leadership (Learning) Institute (RLI) sessions.

Sessions are scheduled for:

Saturday, January 17, 2015 at Savannah Technical College, Crossroads Campus in Pooler and

Saturday, March 14, 2015 at Oconee Fall Line Technical College, DuBose Porter Building, Dublin Campus

For those not familiar with RLI let me give you some information. RLI is a grass-roots multi-regional leadership program. Rotarians gather to learn more about Rotary but more importantly they gather to gain best practices from other Rotarians. RLI is for those individuals on the leadership tract and those who just want to know more about Rotary.

RLI consists of three Parts, each emphasizing a segment of Rotary-why we became a Rotarian, how our clubs relate to the whole, and Rotary internationally. Sessions are lively and informative. The food is always great. Everyone comes away learning something new and useful and meeting fellow Rotarians from around the state and especially District 6920. Ask a fellow club member who has attended RLI-we hope they had a good experience.

I look forward to having overflowing sessions this year! RLI is a great opportunity! Please go to www.rlitraining.org to check out the schedule and to register.

Yours in Rotary,

Blair Train, RLI District 6920 Chair

Time with Ted

A monthly feature focusing on timely information from District Governor Ted Thompson.



One of the things I have enjoyed most as a Rotarian and District Governor is meeting new Rotarians, making new friends, and visiting new clubs, not only in our district, but other districts as well. Charolette and I visited 14 clubs in July, and I am pleased with the positive attitude and commitment of the Club Presidents, their Board of Directors and Officers in planning their year. It always amazes me that clubs often have the same goals, but no two use the same approach. Thank you to the clubs that have given to Literacy and contributions to Polio Plus rather than personal gifts to me.

Also, a special Thank you to the clubs that held an event in our honor. It meant a lot to us. Rotary is truly awesome and so are each of you. We look forward to the upcoming club visits in August.

Richmond Hill Rotarians Assist with Park Project

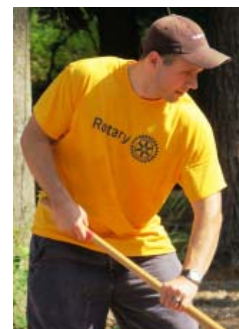
On July 3, a group of Rotarians and their families worked hard in the summer heat to celebrate the ground breaking of the new ADA compliant (handicapped accessible) 600' path at De Vault Henderson Park and to help clear land for the construction of the Bryan County Bark Park.



The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill was able to secure a

district grant of \$2,500 to help build this path in conjunction with the Bryan County Bark Park which will provide much needed handicap and stroller access to the soft ball fields, urban trail system and the upcoming dog park. This important addition is a requirement by Bryan County and has added \$20,000 to the fundraising targets of the Bryan County Bark Park. The Rotary grant was used to fund drainage and land preparation for a universally accessible path.

Richmond Hill Rotarians assisted with the building of handicap accessible path at the De Vault Henderson Park last month.



Above, Rotarian Byron Atkinson hard at work.

Byron Atkinson, Rotary Club Director and Chair of District Grants said "Rotary is all about serving our community – our club has worked hard to qualify for this District Grant and it was great to see so many Rotarians and their families give their time on a Saturday morning to physically work at the park."

Wendy Bolton, President of the Bryan County Bark Park commented that, "Every day we are asked when the Bark Park will open. We are working very hard to make our vision of a wonderful facility for everybody in our community to become a reality sooner rather than later. We are very grateful to the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill with their assistance with the ADA compliant path as the land allocated by the county for the Bark Park has already required a significant investment of time and resources to clear and prepare."



Rookie of the Year

President Anne had the great pleasure of presenting to Kathleen Ordway a Rookie of the Year Award at the Gavel to Gavel held on June 24.



Milledgeville Rotarians Named Paul Harris Fellows

Several Milledgeville Rotarians received a surprise last month when DG Ted and some special guests made Paul Harris presentations. Above, Kevin Barlow is presented a Paul Harris Fellow by his father Keith Barlow. At right,

Andy Cartee, third from right, is presented his Paul Harris Fellow from his father-in-law, Brad Oliver. Also on hand for Cartee's presentation was his mother-in-law Gail Oliver. Pictured with the new Paul Harris Fellows are DG Ted and Milledgeville Club President Bobby Murphy.



Hinesville Club Inducts New President, Board Members

It was an honor to install the new President of Hinesville Rotary Club, Brigitte Shanken and her Board on July 1, 2014. What a pleasant way to begin this year as District Governor!

Below, Jimmy Shanken and his wife, Hinesville Rotary Club President Brigitte, District Rotary Foundation Chair Ron May, Charolette Thompson, District Governor Ted Thompson, Melissa Roberts, Jimmy and Brigitte's daughter and PDG Bob Griggers pose for a photo after the induction.



GRSP Conclave Brings Students, Rotarians Together for Weekend of Fun, Information

Where can you meet 52 International Students, walk down the Hall of Valor at the National Infantry Museum, listen to a brass quintet, enjoy a Cabaret show, and go down the world's longest urban whitewater course? The Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) Conclave Weekend in Columbus, Georgia! The 2014 GRSP Conclave will be held August 22-24, in Columbus, Georgia. What is the GRSP Conclave? The conclave is a weekend of international students and Rotarians/host families coming together for the opportunity to meet and learn about each other! You don't want to miss it!! It is the first time all our recipients of the scholarship get together! They learn great tips/facts that will help them adjust to their time in Georgia.

Who will be coming this year? You can visit the photo gallery under the "Meet Our Students" at http://www.rotary6920.org/GRSP/Conclave%202014/conclave_main.php The registration information, schedule of events, photo gallery, and more information can also be found at the GRSP home page (www.grsp.org) or the link above.

You don't want to miss this opportunity to meet these wonderful young men and women from around the world! I promise you will leave the weekend, especially the Saturday night Cabaret event, feeling very proud of what Rotarians in Georgia are doing to help bring Peace to parts of the world. GRSP allows students to come together on neutral ground and find out they have more in common. GRSP allows lifelong friendships to be made between students and Rotarians. GRSP promotes the ideals



GRSP students ham it up with PDG Gary Smith at last year's conclave.

of Rotary. GRSP allows all that are involved to envision a world where peace is a reality. So, make your reservation at the Columbus Marriott and register to attend the Conclave today!!

So What Do Immediate Past District Governors Do?!

They get together and eat, of course!!

On the way to catch a plane to Evanston for the Multi-District PETS Alliance meeting, IPDG Gary and Sue arranged dinner with classmates and their wives and RI Director and his wife.

Pictured left to right are Immediate Past District Governor of 6910 Anton Zellman, RI Director Robert Hall, Debi McBurney, Sue Smith, Laurel Gamage, Lois Zellman, Charlene Hall, Immediate Past District Governor of 6900 Blake McBurney and District 6920's very own Immediate Past District Governor Gary Smith.

Years may come and go, but friendships can last forever!



Multi-State Pets Alliance Meets at RI Headquarters

The Multi-District Pets (MDP) Alliance is a membership consortium of the leadership of the multi-district presidents-elect training seminars. The primary objective of the Alliance is sharing of information on successful event planning and implementation. Through the sharing of successes and failures, each Multi-District PETS event has the opportunity to improve the quality of training for Presidents-elect — Rotary's future leaders.

The 28 MDP members of the Alliance met in Evanston July 18-19 at the annual meeting of the consortium.

Pictured, below, at RI World headquarters representing Peach State PETS are PDG Rich Panyik from D6910, Past Alliance Chair.; PDG Gary Smith, D6920 PETS representative; PDG Cheryl Greenway, D6900 PETS representative and PETS Materials Chair; and PDG Lloyd Horadan, D6920, PETS Curriculum Chair.

For more information on Multi-District PETS and the Alliance, go to www.petsalliance.org/



Macon North Inducts Rowland as President

The Macon North Rotary Club welcomes incoming President Mark Rowland, who was recently initiated by Assistant Governor Amy Maley, and Past Assistant Governor Elizabeth Hardin. Members also express their thanks to Past President Max Wood for all of his contributions to the club in the 2013-2014 year.



District 6920 RYLA Student of the Year

Josh Buchanan, a Rotary District 6920 2014 Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) student sponsored by the Rotary Club of Centerville, was selected by his South Georgia State College instructors as the RYLA student of the year. Josh is a senior at Veterans High School, Houston County where he is an AFROTC cadet and a member of the school's Beta Club. He will be awarded the BSA Eagle Scout rank this month and is a community service volunteer for several community organizations including his church. After high school, he is considering attending either Auburn Univ. or Georgia Tech to study engineering, possibly in aircraft design or architecture. He is the son of Dave and Rhodora Buchanan of Bonaire, GA. Dave is a member of the Rotary Club of Centerville.



Wrightsville Rotarians Recognized

Wrightsville Rotarians celebrated the recognition of several members last month. Among those recognized were Brenda Keen and PDG Jeanette Caneega, who were presented Paul Harris Fellows. PDG Caneega is a +8 PHF.

Also presented was a posthumous award to Shay Moorman as Citizen of the Year. Shay was tragically killed in an accident in February. His parents were on hand to receive the award on his behalf.



PDG Caneega presents Brenda Keen her PHF. The PHF was a gift from Keen's husband.



Veal and Elaine Moorman accept the Citizen of the Year award from PDG Caneega. Their son, Shay, was killed in a tragic accident in February.



PDG Caneega receives a PHF.



Augusta West Makes GED Scholarship Presentation in Honor of DG Ted

The Augusta West Rotary Club enjoyed their visit with DG Ted last month. During DG Ted's visit, the club presented him with a check for two GED scholarships in his honor. The scholarships will assist local students in furthering their education.

Making the presentation to DG Ted and his wife Charollette are Aubrey Highsmith, club president, and Kathy Tuckey, Assistant Governor.

Augusta West Rotary Club Expects Record Year for Mentoring

Ted Short, Augusta West Mentors Chair

In the Fall of 2008, a dedicated band of Rotarians, led by their President Bob Lemon, and Chairman David Bullington began a Mentoring project that has had a meaningful impact on the youth of A. Bryan Merry Elementary School on Boy Scout Road.

The men and women of the Rotary Club of Augusta West, provided more than 310 hours in the classrooms at the school during the 2013-2014 school year. Surpassing those numbers will be the goal when classes resume in August.

Rotarians will again meet and greet teachers and staff, led by

Principal Elizabeth Schad, at a "Welcome Back!" breakfast in the cafeteria in August. Soon after, club members meet their new students, providing help as agreed with the teacher. Services vary from working with selected students, participating in classroom action, special readings, discussions, whatever is aimed at building self confidence and increasing skills.

Some Mentor/Rotarians are "veterans"; others are tenderfeet, following ideas from teachers as to how to proceed each school year. Mentors undergo a Background Check by the County Board of Education every two years. A Mentor, working with the teacher, sets his/her own day and hours. Retired, non-working Mentors enjoy more free time to visit the classroom; sometimes, those who work will miss a session but try to make it up wherever possible.

Up to 16 Mentor Rotarians serve weekly, in the classroom or with select students. Additionally small groups of students may attend Rotary lunch meetings. Mentors may also serve at action packed Field Day, fun for all, and the AB Merry choral group usually performs at Rotary before Christmas break Awards Days are special too. One recent year Rotarians pitched in to provide Christmas for two Merry students' homeless families. A very special bond often develops between the class and the Mentor.

Every year brings something new and always rewarding to each adult, and 2014-15 will be no different. Warm hallway greetings to Mentors ring out from last years students, rich payment of "love and hugs" from kids knowing that they're special.



Augusta West Rotarians participated in A Bryan Merry Elementary School's 2013 Welcome Back breakfast.

Jefferson County Rotary Club Inducts Four New Members



DG Ted had the honor of inducting four new members during his visit with the Jefferson County Rotary Club on July 16. New inductees are Nancy McGraw, Bill Cain, Larry Morgan and Rickey Sapp. Club President Lil Easterlin presented the new members with their pins.



DG Visits with McIntosh Rotarians

DG Ted and his wife Charollette made their official club visit to the McIntosh County last month. Pictured are Assistant Governor Glenda Kessler, McIntosh Rotary Club President Bill Watson, Charollette Thompson and DG Ted.

What is the Paul Harris Society?

Named after Rotary's founder, the Paul Harris Society recognizes those who annually contribute \$1,000 or more to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Rotary Foundation grant. By joining the Paul Harris Society, you are making a lasting difference in communities around the world.

Rotary Direct, Rotary's recurring giving program, makes it easy to join the Paul Harris Society. Consider making a gift of \$85 a month or \$250 a quarter by visiting www.rotary.org/contribute.

Making A Difference...

For a little more than many spend on coffee each day, you could become a member of the Paul Harris Society and help change the world. Your support of The Rotary Foundation's Annual Fund--SHARE, by your pledge and gift of \$1,000 each year, will help to fund our Service Above Self initiatives, and benefit our District by adding to the funds available for District Grants.

Your gifts help provide mobile health clinics in Brazil; desks, water filters, and hygiene training in community schools in India; a mobile cataract surgery center in China; water treatment system in St. Lucia; new water wells in Bolivia and repair of existing wells; adult tricycles for handicapped and Polio stricken people in India and so much more.

Projects like these rely on the ongoing gifts from compassionate individuals like you. Thank you for trusting Rotary with your continued support.

To download a copy of the Paul Harris Society Membership Form, visit <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/document/512>

If you have any questions, please contact District PHS Chair Gary Smith.

2014-2015 Committee Chairs

Annual Giving - John L. Neely
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Awards - Renee Fontenot
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Bequest Society - Pam Lightsey
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CART - Kathy Tuckey
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RYLA - Charles Johnson
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Silent Auction - Laura Thompson
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