



December 2014

Ted Thompson, District Governor

**ROTARY DISTRICT
6920**

Committee Accepting Nominations for District Governor

The District 6920 Nominating Committee is now accepting completed application forms for Governor of District 6920 for Rotary Year 2017-2018. Application deadline is January 16, 2015. All nominations must be submitted on the District Governor-Nominee Application Form which can be downloaded from the District website. Fully completed application forms accompanied by a recent photograph should be directed to:

IPDG Gary Smith

Chair, District 6920 Nominating Committee
412 West Central Avenue
Fitzgerald, GA 31750-2442

Questions may be directed to gsmith1@mchsi.com or 229-425-2285. Nominees may also attach resumes or other information thought to be pertinent. Information below is provided for reference. More detailed information may be found online in the Rotary International Manual of Procedure (2013) and the Rotary International bylaws.

Qualifications

At the time of selection, the nominee will be called governor-nominee-designate and will assume the title of governor-nominee on 1 July two years before serving as governor. The governor-nominee-designate must:

- 1) Be a member in good standing of a functioning club in the district (RIB 15.070.1.)
- 2) Have full qualifications for membership in the strict application of the club membership provisions, and have a classification whose integrity is without question (RIB 15.070.2.)
- 3) Must have served as president of a club for a full term or be a charter president of a club having served the full term from the date of the charter to 30 June, provided that this period is for at least six months (RIB 15.070.3.)
- 4) Demonstrate willingness, commitment, and ability, physically and otherwise, to fulfill the duties and responsibilities of the office of governor as provided in RI Bylaws section 15.090. (RIB 15.070.4.)
- 5) Demonstrate knowledge of the qualifications, duties and responsibilities of governor as prescribed in the RI Bylaws, and submit to RI a signed statement acknowledging a clear understanding of them. This statement shall also confirm that the Rotarian is qualified for the office of governor and willing and able to assume the duties and responsibilities of the office and to perform them faithfully (RIB 15.070.5.)

In addition to the qualifications of governor nominee, a governor, at the time of taking office, must have completed seven years of membership in one or more clubs and have attended the governors elect training seminar and International Assembly. (RIB 15.080.)

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 December: Metro Savannah, Claxton, Effingham County and Nashville-Berrien.

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

New Club Invoice

Beginning in January 2015

As you may have heard, clubs will receive a new, simple invoice from Rotary this January. The new invoice eliminates the need for your club to fill out worksheets, recalculate dues owed, and write in new members. Instead, your club receives a one page form that clearly states the amount it owes.

Club Secretaries are the officers primarily affected by this change. They are responsible for updating membership information - that is, adding new members and removing terminated members, within 30 days. They also must report incoming club officers by 1 February each year.

Clubs will be invoiced based on the membership information reported by January 1 and July 1 each year by the club secretaries. No adjustments will be made after these dates so please make sure your reported membership information is accurate and up-to-date.

Starting with the July 2015 invoice, a member list will no longer be sent. As a club officer, you can find your club's official membership list on www.rotary.org:: navigate to Manage>Club Administration>Semiannual dues invoice>SAR membership list.

Invoices will be sent to clubs by the end of January and July. Clubs are required to pay all outstanding dues upon receipt of the invoice. Beginning in January 2015, clubs will be subject to termination for nonpayment of dues 120 days after the club invoice was issued.

You can send general questions to clubinvoice@rotary.org and you will be contacted by a staff member. Specific questions should be directed to Marni Nixon, Club & District Coordinator, marni.nixon@rotary.org or telephone: 847-866-3188.

Valdosta North Inducts

New Members

Valdosta North Rotary Club is proud to announce and welcome our new members Denton Hill, Keith Reeves and Mark Northcutt



Gilbert R. Tharp

Global Grant Scholarship

The late Rotarian Gilbert R. Tharp, a former member of the Rotary Club of St. Simons, established an endowment with the Rotary Foundation. The earnings from the endowment will enable a student from Rotary District 6920 to study abroad. To be eligible the student must have a Bachelor's Degree.

The individual must meet all of the eligibility requirements related to the new Global Grants for scholarships, including pursuing a career in one or more of the Areas of Focus and graduate level studies or research lasting one to four years. Please review the Global Grant Scholarships supplement to The Rotary Foundation's Grants Management Manual located on the district website at www.district6920.net.

Global grant scholars plan to pursue a career in an area of focus, and their graduate level educational goals should support this career interest. Pursuing a career in an area of focus means the scholar has a long-term commitment to measurable, sustainable change. Be sure that a candidate's previous work or volunteer experience, academic program, and career plans are strongly aligned with one of the six areas of focus.

If you know someone who is interested in being a candidate for this scholarship, please have them contact the Global Grant Scholarship Chair Nancy Shumaker at nwshumaker@yahoo.com.

Time with Ted

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



In our travels visiting clubs as District Governor I have often talked about having a "Rotary Moment." Most of us have had a Rotary Moment at some time or other during our time in Rotary. This was something special that touched our hearts in a way that we would want to share with other Rotarians or maybe someone we were just having a conversation with. In so doing maybe they will begin to know and understand why we chose to be Rotarians. It may have been something small or insignificant at the time but played an active part in our service to others.

In sharing our moment with someone it may give them an incentive to want to be part of this great and wonderful organization that truly does so much good, not only in our communities and schools, but all over the world.

So the next time you are thinking of your Rotary Moment take a minute and share your story with someone. You may be surprised of the results!

December is Family Month

Thanksgiving and the Christmas Holiday Season has always been exciting and special to me ever since I was a child. I remember we used to get out of school for two weeks, a week before Christmas and one week after. It was a time to share with my family and friends.

When I joined Sandersville Rotary Club and the holiday season was approaching, I began to learn about the service projects we were involved in that took place during this time of the year. We provided and delivered Thanksgiving meals to those who were in need, coats and clothes for individual children from a list of names provided by DFACS, a deer drive in which we had a local deer processor dress and package up to 30 deer for the Christian Life Center for distribution to those families who needed it, contributions to "Toys for Tots", a Family of Rotary Christmas Dinner with the children and grandchildren of members of our club including a visit by Santa and his elf helper with stockings of candy and assorted goodies, a Christmas gift exchange with members of the club, and a special "Thank You" and a monetary contribution to those folks in the food service that provided the meals for our weekly meetings.

It's a happy time of the year to spend with our families and friends, Rotary families, and those families that need a little helping hand now and then. And most of all, I'm thankful for all the good things we, as Rotarians, are able to accomplish by working together to make even a small positive change in other family's lives during this Christmas Holiday Season of giving and sharing.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and your families!

~Ted & Charolette Thompson

Student Learns to 'Be Southern'

By Desiree Carver, *The Valdosta Daily Times*

VALDOSTA – Trading in "you guys" for "y'all," Randi Eyde traveled from Denmark to learn about being a Southerner.

Eyde traveled here via the Georgia Rotary Student Program. It allows a student age 18 to 25 to travel to a new area.

The Rotary scholarship covers one scholastic year including tuition, book allowance, meals and dorm room for undergraduate studies in colleges in Georgia.

Arriving in August, Eyde spent her first couple of weeks in Georgia with a Rotary-provided host family, then moved into the dorms at Valdosta State University. Her host family serves as her surrogate family until her return to Denmark in May.

Eyde already has her degree from a university in Denmark, but is taking 12 hours of classes at Valdosta State. She is enrolled in French, marketing, management, theatre and perspective.

Although these classes won't matter to a degree, she felt that "a big part of understanding culture is knowing how the school system works."

A noticeable difference is the grading system.

Valdosta State University utilizes a more forgiving grading system and counts absences against grades.

In Denmark, classes lead to the only exam given, which involves an open-ended essay to show that the student acquired all the necessary knowledge. Testing at VSU has been a new experience as Eyde has been able to memorize information.

"One of the biggest cultural differences is how it's so difficult to get around without a car," said Eyde. "Everything is so far away."

Coming from a place where cars and gasoline cost three times as much, it isn't practical to have a car. Denmark uses carpooling services, allowing interested parties to pay someone for gas and then receiving a ride. People also allow their cars to be rented when not in use.

Contrary to the American system, driver's licenses cost far more and involve more than just a couple of tests. The age of driving in Denmark is 18.

Holidays are another thing that differ from culture to culture. While Denmark and America share Christmas as their largest holiday, things like Halloween and Thanksgiving are not celebrated in Denmark.

Eyde said since there are commercials, some have picked up the idea of Halloween; turkey is sold around the time of Thanksgiving.

Denmark participates in its costumed holiday in February in honor of a fast, although the costuming is mainly geared toward children.

While Eyde has been sharing parts of Denmark with those around her, she's been getting a taste of good old Southern living. She was greeted with 100 degree heat upon her arrival and has shot her first shotgun, which was "a bit more extreme" than she expected.

She's been able to see that cowboy boots are a fashion statement, guns are everywhere and that "y'all" is a useful term.

The Rotary Club also takes Eyde on trips most weekends so she can experience the entire state of Georgia. So far she's been to Columbus, Athens, Bainbridge, Thomasville and Savannah.

Throughout her next few months in America, she expects to learn more about Georgia living and what it means to be a Southerner.



Rotary Leadership Institute

Don't forget to register for the upcoming RLI session being held in Savannah at the Crossroads Campus of Savannah Technical College on Saturday, January 17, 2015.

RLI is one day filled with sessions that reflect why you became a Rotarian and what you bring to the organization, what your club brings to Rotary International, and what Rotary International brings to the world.

There are 3 parts with 6 classes each, and each part addresses those building blocks. Whether you have been a Rotarian for 30 years or 3 weeks, all of you will take something new away and give something new to fellow Rotarians.

If you can't make the January session, we will have another RLI session on Saturday, March 14th at Oconee Falls Technical College in Dublin.

If you want to know more about RLI, seek out a member who has attended or contact me at midgettrain@gmail.com. We will be more than happy to relay our experiences. It is a great day of discussion, laughter, and food.

You can register at www.rltraining.org. Check with your club's leadership team to see if your registration fee can be refunded. Clubs want to invest in their own members becoming greater Rotarians!

Look forward to being with many of you in January.

Yours in Rotary,

Blair Train, District 6920 RLI Chair

Richmond Hill Presents Grant to Local Group

At the Nov. 12 meeting of the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill, President Lesley Francis presented Vice President of Horsin' Around, Jill Stanberry, with a \$1,200 check.

Horsin' Around applied for this Rotary community grant and was awarded the check from funds raised by the Richmond Hill Rotary Club throughout the year which are then donated to selected community projects and charities.

"We are very grateful to Rotary as this much needed money will support two young children with special needs from Richmond Hill who benefit from the therapeutic riding experiences we are able to offer," said Stanberry. "The mission of our nonprofit organization is to enhance the development of special needs individuals utilizing the unique assets provided by horseback riding and human interaction".

Lesley Francis, President of the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill noted that the "club's objective this year is to Light Up Rotary and to support future generations in particular. We have a clear procedure for selecting which organizations meet the Rotary criteria for donations and when we reviewed the Horsin' Around application it became clear that we should help these local children and support Jill and the other hard working and dedicated volunteers at Horsin' Around."



Richmond Hill President Lesley Francis presents a \$1,200 check to Jill Stanberry, vice president of Horsin' Around.

Painting with a Purpose



On Friday, Nov. 21, about 35 spouses from Zone 33 & 34 went to Mission Children's Hospital in Asheville, N.C., to paint 18"x24" canvases to become part of a huge mural and ultimately free wall art for the hospital. Spouses from District 6920 participating were Jan Horadan, (PDG Lloyd); Sue Smith, (PDG Gary); Carolyn Neely, (DGE John); Charolette Thompson, (DG Ted).

Best of Class



A little fun mixed with all the meetings and learning, the "Best Class" of Governors 2014-15, Zones 33 & 34.

Effingham Sunrise Inducts New Members



The Rotary Club of Effingham Sunrise recently inducted three new members. Pictured, left to right, are Jay Taylor, Erin Rahn Phillips, Rev. Daryl Brown, and President Royce Norton.

Waycross Rotarians Induct New Member, Hear Presentation from Superintendent of Schools

At the Nov. 4 meeting of the Waycross Rotary Club, members were happy to open the meeting with the induction of a new member, Mr. Chip Beal. Mr. Beal is a CPA with BYRT Financial Advisors out of Waycross. He and his firm have served Waycross and the surrounding areas for years. We are fortunate to add another leading professional to our ranks as a Waycross Rotarian. Congratulations to you Chip.

The club's weekly program today was led by another fellow Rotarian and Superintendent of Ware County Schools, Mr. Jim LeBrun. Mr. LeBrun and his wife Cheryl have 6 children ranging in ages from 30 to 15. His hobbies include horses, dogs, hunting, fishing, golf and he is a private pilot. Of course he had more time for these before 6 children. Raised as an Air Force brat, Jim was born in Florida and moved to Tennessee, New Hampshire, and North Carolina before moving back to Georgia in 1980 to attend Mercer University. After serving in the Navy, Jim landed a job in Sparta as a coach of about all the sports teams as well as a



Waycross Rotary Club President Billy Gillis and Ware County Superintendent of Schools Jim LeBrun.



New member Chip Beal with Waycross Rotary Club President Billy Gillis.

teacher. Two job changes later, Mr. LeBrun found himself moving away from teaching and coaching and into administration in Milledgeville at Baldwin High School. Ten years and multiple posts later, Jim moved to Waycross to be the Ware County School Superintendent. He was proud to announce that the High School graduation rate has risen and is now estimated above 85% and on the rise. Some of this success is due to technology and other grants, teachers who give the students their all as well as curriculum choices that the students find relevant. Rotary and Waycross alike wish to thank Mr. LeBrun for his hard work and wish great success to he and his schools.

Hawkinsville Hosts Family of Rotary Event



In conjunction with the Hawkinsville Harvest Fest & Pigs and Produce Barbeque Championship, the Hawkinsville Rotary Club held their first Rotary Family day. The Hawkinsville Rotary rented a giant slide and bounce house for local children to enjoy. Hawkinsville Rotarians answered questions about Rotary International and what Rotary does for its community.

St. Simons Island Club Using Connections to Raise Funds for Children's Charities

Columnist and Golf Industry Veteran Matt Adams Participated

The Rotary Club of St. Simons Island, in partnership with Nalley Auto and the Davis Love Foundation, hosted the 4th annual Meet the McGladrey Pros at The King and Prince Beach Resort, St. Simons Island, GA. The festivities began with cocktails and heavy hors d'oeuvres where guests had the opportunity to mix and mingle with PGA tour professionals, Jonathan Byrd, Cory Winsett and Johnson Wagner. Silent Auction bids were items valued from \$50 to Priceless including artwork, gifts, autographed items, lodging certificates as well as dining experiences, golf-related items and personal services, donated by local businesses and individuals. According to Rotarian Marie Dodd, the silent auction alone brought in more than \$11,000 toward our overall fundraising goal for this year of \$28,000. Ticket sales and sponsorships are still being tallied.

St. Simons Island Rotary's golf-themed fundraising campaign will conclude on Friday, November 21, with the 4th annual Swing for Kids golf tournament, a Charity Scramble, held at the King and Prince Golf Course. Each 4-person team includes a child from the Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Georgia.

Proceeds from the golf fundraising events go to support children's charities and youth education in our local community. Last year funds were distributed to more than 14 recipients including the Boys & Girls Club of Southeast Georgia.



District Governor Visits Swainsboro Rotarians



Swainsboro Rotary Club welcomed District Governor Ted Thompson at their Nov. 10 meeting. Swainsboro Rotary Club President Stephanie Fagler introduced DG Ted, highlighting many of his accomplishments as district governor. Pictured are Vernon Hardy, Zac Frye, DG Ted, Charolette Thompson, Helen Harper, Tobe Karrh and Swainsboro Rotary Club President Stephanie Fagler.

McIntosh Club Sets Up Booth at Fall Festival

McIntosh County Rotary Club set up a booth at the Annual Darien Fall Festival on Nov. 1. Those who stopped by the booth were able to learn everything they needed to know and more by viewing beautiful pictures and booklets about various activities that the Rotary members sponsor and participate with throughout the year! In addition, to seeing and reading all about Rotary, they were able to purchase a ticket at a chance to win an Apple I Pad, Cannon T3 Camera or a Dell Laptop. The drawing was held on November 25th and they don't have to be present to win. All of the proceeds will go towards the educational projects sponsored by McIntosh County Rotary Club! Club President Bill Watson was among those who helped distribute literature on Rotary.



Swainsboro Inducts New Members



Swainsboro Rotary Club inducted Dori Johnson and Wade Johnson as new members during a recent meeting of the club. Stephanie Fagler is president of the club.

DG Visits Hazlehurst



DG Ted and his wife Charolette, visited the Hazlehurst Rotary Club on November 5th. Pictured with DG Ted is AG Howard Abney on the left and Club President Dr. Rob Brown on the right.

DG Visits Home Club of Sandersville

District Governor Ted Thompson and his wife Charlotte got a chance to come home and visit the Sandersville Rotary Club during their weekly meeting on Thursday, Nov. 13th. Since he is a member of the club, it was great opportunity for the other members to get to see Ted and Charlotte after their many travels visiting the other clubs throughout the district in the last couple of months. Club President Jason Prince remarked that it is always a special time when the District Governor comes for his annual visit, but it is an especially proud and exciting time when that person is also a fellow member of your club.



Pictured with DG Ted, far right, are Sandersville Rotary Foundation Director Eddie Moyer, Rotarian and Immediate Past President Benjie Tarbutton, Rotarian and President Elect Herschel Scott and Rotarian C.V. Brookins.

DG Ted used his visit to meet with the board prior to the meeting go over their current projects and to also offer helpful insight and suggestions for the rest of their upcoming year. During the club meeting, he gave an informative program reinforcing the "Light Up Rotary" theme of RI President Gary Huang and updated the members of the current events going on throughout our own District 6920 and also Rotary International. The club was also proud to allow Ted the privilege of helping club Rotary Foundation Director Eddie Moyer in presenting three club members their Paul Harris Fellowship pins. Ted was able to present Rotarians Benjie Tarbutton (Paul Harris Fellow +1), C.V. Brookins (Paul Harris Fellow +2), and Hershel Scott (Paul Harris Fellow +3) with their respective pins. The club was also able to promote Rotarians Trey Sheppard and Cara Lewis from their red badges to their new blue badges.

After the presentations and his program, the club presented DG Ted with its \$1,500 Polio Plus contribution that it raised through fundraising efforts. Additionally, following a challenge by the club from member and District Foundation Chair Ron May, the club raised an additional \$1,060 from individual member contributions. This enabled the club to raise a total of \$2,560 to be donated to the District 6920 Polio Plus fund. We know that the Polio Plus fundraising is important to DG Ted and Charlotte and we were glad that his home club was able to present him with this donation.

It is always great and a point of pride to have a member of your club serve as District Governor, but it is also great to welcome that member home when he comes to visit. Good luck on your future visits Ted and we are proud of the work that you've done for this District and for Rotary International.

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
j.caneega1541@gmail.com

Membership - Alfie Cofield
alfiecofield@gmail.com

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

Lloyd Horadan
lhoradan@oftc.edu

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

Polio Plus - Bob Griggers
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Public Relations - Elizabeth Jordan
ecjordan19@gmail.com

**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