

February 2015

Ted Thompson, District Governor

**ROTARY DISTRICT
6920**

Join the Celebration and Light Up Rotary!

by Kathy Tuckey, District Conference Chair

Augusta will be the host city for Rotary District 6920's biggest celebration of the year!

District Governor Ted Thompson and his wife Charolette will be hosting what will be a culmination of a memorable Rotary year at District Conference 2015, May 1st through 3rd. The Conference Committee is working diligently to make it a full weekend of Rotary fellowship, sharing, learning and FUN!

Here is a peek at what you will find when you enter the halls of the Marriott Augusta! Step back into the Roaring 20's – a time when Rotary was in its early years - but what a time! You may feel the beat of the Charleston or hear the sound of popular songs like Blue Skies or Ain't Misbehavin. You may need to know the password of the day to enter the speakeasy. Get ready for dress in that decade's fashion.

Friday's lunch program will include renowned keynote Dr. Anne Matthews, Past Vice President of Rotary International. Dr. Matthews is an inspiring Rotarian. What a great speaker to help kick off the weekend! This will also be your first opportunity of the weekend to meet Rotary International President Gary Huang's Representative. After lunch; learn and share in the first plenary session and cheer as clubs receive awards. There will be an optional Friday afternoon Spouse only Trolley Tour of Augusta with a stop at Meadow Gardens.

Saturday's schedule will include a morning of fascinating Rotary sharing and learning with speakers so powerful it will be called "The Power Hour" and a continuation of awards. An afternoon of free time is planned with great optional activities. Everyone needs to be back for a Saturday night reception and a great dinner with entertainment by Glen Ward.

Sunday's schedule will begin with a fellowship service followed by a breakfast meeting where you will meet the 2015-16 leadership team and of course the conclusion of awards.

DGN Pam Lightsey is chairing a very special element of District Conference; Our "Service above Self" conference activity. Bring new packages of socks and underwear



At A Glance: Upcoming Events

District Leadership Training
Fri., Feb. 6-Sat., Feb. 7, 2015
Savannah

President Elect Training - PETS
Sat., Feb. 28-Sun., Mar. 1, 2015
Atlanta Airport Renaissance Concourse
Hotel

Rotary Leadership Institute
Saturday, March 14, 2015
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Dublin

District Training Assembly
Saturday, April 11, 2015
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Dublin

District Conference
Friday, May 1-Sunday, May 3, 2015
Marriott Riverfront Hotel
Augusta

District Conference Promises Fun for All

-Continued from Front Page

for toddlers, children and young adults to go to the Clothing Closet. The Clothing Closet is kept at area hospitals and when a child has been abused their clothing and undergarments are kept for evidence. The Clothing Closet allows those at the hospital to give them a clean pair to wear. Watch for more details in the newsletter.

We are also pleased to offer you the opportunity to market your business, services and products to conference attendees by placing an advertisement in the conference program. Contact Kathy Tuckey at ktuckey@comcast.net for more information.

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!) Bring the whole family for a mini vacation in Augusta! We have a block of rooms reserved at the Marriott until April 9th. Optional Saturday activities do have maximums so sign up early!

See you at Conference!

Time with Ted

A monthly feature focusing on timely information from DG Ted Thompson



I received the Membership Report for the first six months of the 2014-2015 Rotary Year and wanted to share these numbers with you for our district through December 31, 2014. I have not received the report for January 2015. That will be different as clubs tend to purge their membership roles then. However, I want to thank our District Membership Chair Alfie Cofield, Assistant Governors, Club Presidents, Club Membership Chairs and anyone else that has played a role in our membership increase this year.

In Rotary Zones 33 & 34, our district was number two out of 29 districts with 65 new members. The number one district had a gain of 69 new members. My hat's off to you for your hard work and efforts to bring in more members.

Our district has been in a downward spiral in the years I have been in Rotary and it's time to at least stop that trend and pull back on the yoke to get us back up to altitude by way of numbers.

I don't know what is causing the increase, but please don't stop doing what you are doing. Great job everyone! Thanks again to Alfie, Assistant Governors, Club Presidents and Club Membership Chairs! Keep up the good work.

St. Simon's Hamsa Thota Selected as DGND



On January 31, 2015, the College of Governors of District 6920 selected Hamsa Thota to lead the district as District Governor in 2017-2018. Hamsa, a Past President of St. Simon Rotary Club, has received numerous Rotary awards including the RI District 6920 Governor's New Club Builders Award for starting the Rotary Clubs of Jekyll Island and Camden County in 1985. He served as the Coastal Georgia Area Coordinator for the first Polio Plus Campaign during 1986-1988 and as Governor's Group Representative for five District Governors during 1984-1989, led the Group Study Exchange Team to India in 2010, has been involved in various roles in the Georgia Rotary Student Program for more than 20 years, and has been a major player in many International Matching Grants and Global Grants with India. Presently he is serving as Chair of the Gilbert R. Tharp Global Grant Scholarship Committee.

Hamsa is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow, Paul Harris Sustaining Member, Will Watt, and Hugh Thomas Fellow.

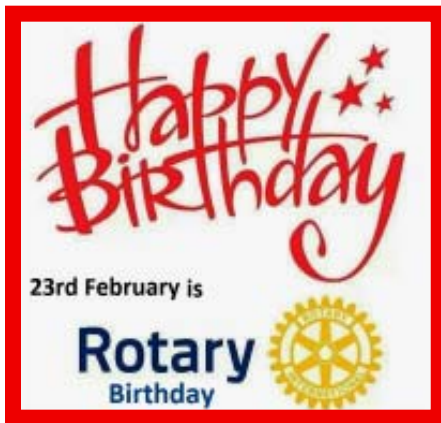
Hamsa and wife, Sindhu, have two grown children, daughter Devi, and son, Darshan.

Rotary's 110th Anniversary February 23, 2015

In Chicago on February 23, 1905, Paul Harris met with Gustavus Loehr, Hiram Shorey, and Silvester Schiele to discuss their personal experiences. Paul

Harris shared his idea of club meetings with these men. This was the beginning of the first Rotary club, the Rotary Club of Chicago. Paul Harris wanted to bring back the same friendly spirit he had experienced in the small town environment of his early years as a boy. The term Rotary, as we know it, came from these men rotating offices as their meeting places. When Chicago's Unity Building was to be demolished in 1989, the Paul Harris 711 Club dismantled the original office in Room 711. In 1993, the RI

Board of Directors set aside a permanent place for it at Rotary International World Headquarters in Evanston, Illinois, where Room 711 was restored to its original condition including doors and radiators. It is visited and enjoyed by many Rotarians each year and is considered a very important part of our Rotary History.



Macon North Rotarians Raise Funds

As 2014 drew to a close, the Macon North Rotary Club organized a fundraiser to raise funds for some of its 2015 projects. Each member was encouraged to sell at least

10 Boston butts at \$30 each to achieve the club's service commitments. The club was successful in selling over 250 tickets and raising more than \$4,000.

Rotary members, friends and family all contributed to the event which involved more than two days of around the clock grilling and ended with a celebration of its success with a tasting social before delivering the Boston butts the following day at Hephzibah Children's Home.



Recognizing Benefactors



Sandersville Rotary Club along with DG Ted and Foundation Chair Eddie Moye recognized three of their members as Benefactors at the January 8th meeting. Thank you for this contribution to the Rotary Foundation. Pictured are DG Ted, Charles Jordan, PDG Lloyd Horadan, District Speech Chair Jan Horadan and Foundation Chair Eddie Moye.

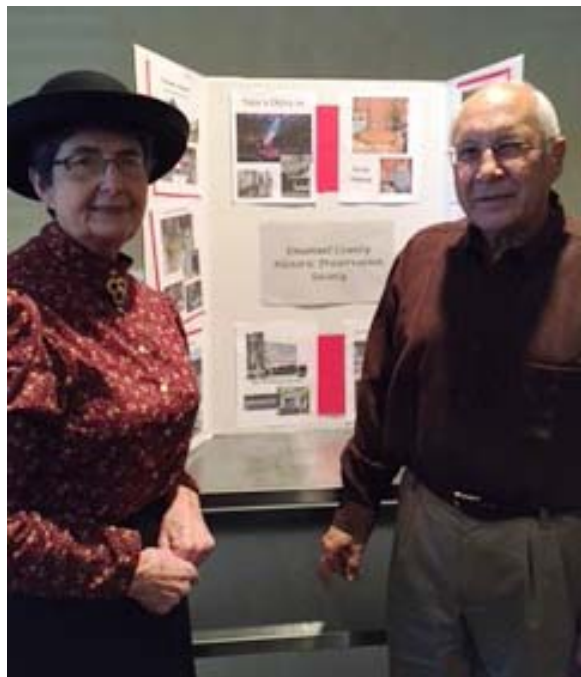
Perry Club Supports Scouts

The Perry Rotary Club made a donation of \$500 to Troop 96 of the local Boy Scouts. Troup 96 has been in existence for 75 years and has produced approximately 100 Eagle Scouts. They are very active in our community and this donation will help support many of the community service projects that are currently in progress within our community.



Swainsboro Rotarians Learn About Local History

MaryAnn Smith, a representative with Emanuel County Historic Preservation Society, provided an overview of the county at the first meeting of the year for the Swainsboro Rotary Club. Smith highlighted the numerous milestones in



Smith and Swainsboro Rotarian Chuck Wofford

the county's 203-year history.

Smith also provided a display depicting numerous relics from the Emanuel County Farm and Home Museum. The museum contains material, tools and equipment dating from the time the county was first settled. It includes the History Center which contains a collection of old buildings that have been relocated from their original sites within the county. The structures are consolidated in a museum format to demonstrate various segments of early life and local history.

District Fundraiser to Get Underway

*by Ron May
District Fundraising Chair*

In the past our District had a rainy day fund to fall back on when expenses exceeded revenues. This happened just about every year. Alas, that fund has been depleted. It is gone!

A District Governor can plan a break-even conference based on anticipated numbers attending. When those numbers aren't reached, then there is a problem. PETS has become a huge dollar expense for the District. There are many other expenses throughout the year that must be met. This year's budget is close to being completely balanced. However, if the anticipated numbers don't come to the conference we need to be prepared. We need to build a small rainy day fund should things not work out as planned.

In a few short weeks, your Assistant Governors will be contacting your clubs about a District fund raiser to help meet any short falls. We hope that all Rotarians will participate. Tickets are only \$5.00. Cash prize winners will be drawn at the Conference in Augusta in May. You do not have to be present to win. It is simple and it is cheap. Your AGs will provide all the details. No one likes to have a fund raiser, but it is a necessity. Please join us in keeping our District financially sound.

McIntosh Rotarians Hold Dictionary Book Signing

McIntosh Rotarian Danny Grace heard about an idea of providing dictionaries to students. Club members selected third grade students to be the recipients. Principal Cassandra Noble helped to guide the students as they arrived with their teachers to the cafeteria to receive their personalized and autographed dictionaries. Rotary members who were available to participate with the book signing were Rotarians Danny Grace, Jason Coley, Michael Heiser, Zerik Samples, Dr. Diane Richardson, Lloyd Flanders and Club President Bill Watson.



Rotary Club of Savannah Holds Dedication, Ribbon Cutting for Centennial Playground

The Rotary Club of Savannah held the dedication and ribbon cutting ceremony for the all accessible playground in Forsyth Park on Monday, December 8 at 12:40 p.m.



The \$342,000 park was funded by the club through internal sponsorship, a grant from the Alan S. Gaynor Fund and AMBUCS, the Herb Traub Fund and support from the City of Savannah and Chatham County. It is accessible to all children, including those who have wheelchair limitations and other specialized conditions. The design includes nine slides, 16 climbers, and eight swings. The equipment can support a capacity up to 300 children. The ground is covered with rubber matting and mulch.

“The Rotary Club of Savannah is excited to be able to provide this one-of-a-kind playground to our region,” said club President Holden Hayes. “This donation supports the Rotary Club’s motto – service above self, and is one of the almost countless ways this club and Rotary clubs worldwide, support our communities.”

Macon Club Uses District Grant to Sponsor Morning of Learning at Aviation Museum



With the help of a District Grant, the Macon Rotary Club recently co-sponsored 87 Burdell-Hunt 5th graders for a morning of learning at the Museum of Aviation in Warner Robins. Enthusiastic students, standing under the nose of a SR-71, launched their rockets to determine the angle of launch which will provide the best range. This was followed by NuWay hot dogs and hamburgers and the presentation of individualized book bags containing school supplies, games and other gifts. Each student introduced themselves and shared what they wanted to be when they grow up.

Socks, Underwear Being Collected for Child Enrichment

Rotary District 6920 is collecting new packages of underwear and socks for Child Enrichment. Child Enrichment has a “Clothing Closet” for child abuse victims and severely neglected children. These children often have only the clothing they were wearing when removed because of abuse.

Bring your new packages of underwear and socks for all ages (1-18 years of age) to District Conference in Augusta, May 1-3, 2015! For more information please contact District Governor Nominee Pam Lightsey, 706-840-2087 or plightsey@gru.edu.

Check out the You Tube on Child Enrichment at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JirdStDdwSg&x-yt->



CHILD ENRICHMENT INC.
Child Advocacy Center (CAC)
Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

Rotary Leadership Institute in Savannah

by *Blair Train*
District 6920 RLI Chair

District 6920 hosted a very successful RLI session on Saturday, January 17th. Participants attended from as far away as Milledgeville and Perry and down south from Camden County. We had healthy representation from the Savannah and Hilton Head Rotaries.



Part 1 Graduates

The day was filled with lively discussions facilitated by energetic Discussion Leaders. Networking took place during the breaks and at lunch. New Rotarian friendships were made and best practices shared.

There were proud graduates from Part I, Part II, and Part III.

Congratulations to all of the participants for either beginning their RLI journey or completing it. Let your fellow club members know how rewarding your RLI experience was and encourage them to register.

We look forward to having another great session on Saturday, March 14th in Dublin at Oconee Fall Line Technical College.

Please go to www.rlitraining.org to register.



Part 2 Graduates



Part 3 Graduates

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@jdiazjriargroup.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*
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*Paul Harris Society/PETS District Rep -
 Gary Smith*
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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
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RYLA - Charles Johnson
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Scholarships - Nancy Shumaker
 nwshumaker@yahoo.com

Silent Auction - Laura Thompson
 laurat@exchangebankshares.com

Speech Contest - Jan Horadan
 jhoradan@gmail.com