



July 2014

Ted Thompson, District Governor

**ROTARY DISTRICT
6920**

“Light Up Rotary”

On behalf of District 6920 I want to thank PDG Gary Smith and his wife, Sue, the 2013-2014 Leadership Team, and Club Presidents for their hard work this past year. We congratulate them for a job well done.

I am honored to serve as District Governor for 2014-2015. I have visited about 30 clubs unofficially in the past two years and know many of you by name if not by sight. I have been fortunate to meet and get to know many of you through the Rotary Leadership Institute sessions we have had and also through the District Speech Contests. Charolette and I look forward to visiting your club in the very near future and learning how Rotary has influenced your life, renewing old friendships, and making many new ones. I look forward to serving you with this dream team of Assistant Governors, Committee Chairs, and Club Presidents.

I also want to thank the Past District Governors for their encouragement and advice.

Thanks to each Rotarian in District 6920 for your tireless effort and hard work in supporting our local schools and communities with service projects, and also continuing in the pursuit of goodwill, peace, and international understanding throughout the world.

The 2014-2015 theme is “Light Up Rotary.” RI President Gary Huang, a member of the Rotary Club of Taipei in Taiwan, said this year’s theme is from the Chinese Philosopher Confucius who said, “It is better to light a single candle than to sit and curse the darkness.”

“There are so many problems in the world, so many people who need help. Many people say, “There’s nothing I can do.” So they sit there doing nothing. Meanwhile everything stays dark.”

“The Rotary way is the Confucius way. The Rotary way is to light a candle. I light one, you light one, 1.2 million Rotarians light one. Together, we light up the world.”

“Light Up Rotary” is our theme, but it is more than our theme. It is how we live in Rotary, how we think in Rotary, how we feel, how we work.” “It is how we make a difference – every day, in every club, every district, and every country where we serve.”

My purpose as Governor is to SERVE YOU, and help you accomplish your Rotary objectives. Please email or call with any comments or concerns you may have. Charolette, I and our entire district team look forward to working productively with you to accomplish the objectives established for our District. And don’t forget, let’s have fun this year!

*Ted Thompson
District Governor*

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 July: Tennille, Wrightsville, Milledgeville, Waynesboro, Jefferson County, Augusta West, McIntosh County, Jekyll Island, Brunswick, Camden County, Ocilla, Fitzgerald, Tifton and Ashburn.

District Foundation Training Seminar

Sat, August 2, 2014
Oconee Fall Line Technical College
Sandersville, GA

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

Huang to Serve as RI President

Gary C.K. Huang is an adviser for Wah Lee Industrial Corp. and Bank of Panhsin, and is director of Federal Corporation and Sunty Development Co. Ltd.

A Rotarian since 1976, Huang has served RI as vice-president, director, Foundation trustee, International Assembly group discussion leader, regional session leader, task force member and coordinator, committee member and chair, and district governor.



Gary Huang

He has been instrumental in membership development throughout Asia and is recipient of the Civic Service Award of the Federation of Non-Profit Associations and the Outstanding Community Service Award from Taiwan's Ministry of the Interior.

Huang is also recipient of the Rotary International Service Above Self Award and Presidential Citation and The Rotary Foundation's Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award.

DG Club Banner Gets Passed from Smith to Thompson

On Thursday, June 26, the Sandersville Rotary Club was proud to welcome outgoing District Governor Gary Smith, Fitzgerald Rotary Club, who presented the "Home Club of the District Governor" banner to District Governor Ted Thompson. Ted officially took over the position on July 1, 2014 and will serve in this capacity through June 30, 2015.



This is the second time that Sandersville Rotary Club has been honored to have one of their own hold this title.

Ted Thompson Takes Helm

Ted was born and raised in Central Florida. Following high school graduation, he attended and graduated from Lees-McRae College. He then attended the University of Florida.

In 1967, Ted married his high school sweetheart Charolette. Later that year, he joined the U.S. Army and served for three years. While stationed in Germany, Ted and Charolette had a daughter, Wendy, who was born in Nuremberg.

In 1970, Ted and Charolette started a wholesale flowering plant nursery in Apopka, Fla. The grew several varieties of indoor foliage plants and specialized in container grown Gardenias. The business shipped plants throughout the U.S. and Canada for 35 years.



Ted and Charolette

In 2005, Ted and Charolette retired and moved to Sandersville, Ga. Ted's father's family had moved from Washington County in the late 1920's.

Ted joined Sandersville Rotary Club in 2007. He received Rotarian of the Year in 2008 and the Governor's Citation in 2009. While serving as Club President in 2010-2011, his club received the Gold Club Award, 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club Award, Club Presidential Citation and Best Club Scrapbook Award.

Ted has also served as Assistant Governor for two years, District Silent Auction Chair for five years, Northern Zone Speech Coordinator for three years and District Speech Contest Chair for two years. He is a graduate of Rotary Leadership Institute and served as District RLI Chair, on the RLI Board of Directors - Sunshine Division, as a PETS Discussion Leader for two years and on the PETS Committee.

Ted is a Will Watt Fellow, a Multi Paul Harris Fellow, a Benefactor and a Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member. Charolette is a Paul Harris Fellow and both are Major Donors and Members of the Bequest Society.

Ted has been active in his church and served as treasurer for four years. In the community, Ted is an active volunteer and has served on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors for three years.

Ted and Charolette's daughter Wendy is married to Ralph Acosta and they also live in Sandersville. They have one child, a son, Logan. In his spare time, Ted enjoys woodworking.

Time with Ted

This monthly feature will focus on timely information from District Governor Ted Thompson.



District Initiatives 2014-2015

*"Best Class" Challenge:

All District Governor Elects contributed \$100.00 to TRF at the International Assembly in San Diego, CA, January, 2014. In turn, District 6920 Assistant Governors and Presidents Elect were asked to make a \$100.00 contribution to TRF in 2014. For 2014-2015, I challenge all club members to contribute \$100.00 to TRF.

*Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP):

All clubs are encouraged to continue to support GRSP by providing funds to support the educational interests of International students and outside sponsored activities throughout the year by the GRSP Trustees and staff.

*CART:

At every club meeting members are encouraged to give coins or folding money to the blue CART buckets on tables to support the research grants needed for the cure of Alzheimer's disease.

*Every Rotary club contributes \$100.00 per capita to The Rotary Foundation.

*Every Rotary club contributes \$1,500.00 to Polio Plus. Two/one match by Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. \$1,500. x 3= \$4,500.

*Every Rotary club has a membership increase of net plus one between April 1, 2014 and March 31, 2015.

Fitzgerald Installs New Officers, Recognizes PHFs

On May 27, 2014 Fitzgerald Rotary Club entertained a large group of Rotarians and guests at Turkey Creek Estates. The occasion was the annual installation of club officers. Before the gavel was passed by President Mike Ruffin to incoming President Steven Pair, guests were entertained by the “Not Quite Right Reverends.”



Pictured left to right are Immediate Past District Governor Gary Smith, DGN Pam Lightsey, Fitzgerald Rotary Club Past President Mike Ruffin, Fitzgerald Rotary Club President Steven Pair, Club President Elect Warren Manley and DG Ted Thompson.



The “Not Quite Reverends” performed at the installation ceremony.



Amy Taylor is recognized as a new PHF.

Awards were given to include Paul Harris recognition to District Governor Gary Smith +6, 7, & 8, and Amy Taylor who received her first Paul Harris. DGE Ted Thompson delivered the “keynote” address and promised to “be there” for all the clubs throughout the coming year.

Claxton Welcomes DG with Laughs, Fruitcake

On May 28, 2014 we traveled to Claxton Rotary Club to speak and laugh! Alfie Cofield, District Membership Chair, was prepared with a hilarious video depicting all the training that Ted had to undergo in order to become District Governor; not true of course, but totally funny.

A reward for attending the meeting as their speaker: the “famous” Claxton fruitcake yum!



Alfie Cofield, at podium, presents a video in honor of DG Ted Thompson’s training.



DG Ted Thompson; Membership Chair Alfie Cofield, President Paul Eason and Assistant Governor Talmadge Yarbrough.

Clubs Receive RI Membership Awards; Public Image Citations

Congratulations to the Rotary Club of Valdosta North and the Rotary Club of Dublin. Each earned Public Image Citations for 2013 – 2014.

This just in ... nine clubs have received Membership Awards from Rotary International for the 2013-14 year. Congratulations to:

- West Chatham – Pooler for contributions made in membership development by achieving the highest growth rate in District 6920.
- Savannah for contributions made in membership development by bringing in the most new members in District 6920.
- Ashburn, Eastman, Savannah West and Wrightsville for contributions made in membership development by achieving the highest retention rate in District 6920.
- West Chatham - Pooler for contributions made to Rotary membership growth by increasing club membership to 15 or greater.
- Tennille and Byron for contributions made to Rotary membership growth by increasing club membership to 20 or greater.

Certificates will be awarded at the Foundation Seminar and Grants Training on August 2.

Rotary Foundation Seminar & Grants Training Slated

The Rotary Foundation Seminar & Grants Training is Saturday, August 2, 2014, at the Oconee Fall Line Technical College, Sandersville, GA.

Registration opens at 9:00 a.m. The cost is \$25.00 and includes coffee and donuts, a hot lunch, and printed material. To register go to www.rotarydistrict6920.net.

Only clubs qualified by The Rotary Foundation are eligible to participate in a District Grant or Global Grant. The first step for a club to be qualified, Required by TRF, is for two members (The first should be the Club President, Club President Elect, or Grants Chair and the second, any active club member) to attend. All club members are encouraged and invited to attend the training.

Dublin Residents Can Enjoy Cool Drink of Water at Rotary Wheel Plaza

On Friday, June 13, 2014 it was a pleasure and an honor to attend the dedication of Rotary Wheel Plaza at the Farmer's Market, Dublin, Ga., sponsored by the Dublin Rotary Club. Many city, county and Rotary dignitaries were on hand as Dublin Rotary Club President Jay Studstill chaired the celebration.

The object of this project is to educate the citizens of the community on the need for clean drinking water around the world. The new addition to the park is beautiful and worth a trip to Dublin to admire the finished product and have a cool drink of pure water.



Dublin Rotarians were on hand for the ribbon cutting and dedication of the Rotary Wheel Plaza at the Farmer's Market in Dublin. Rotarians witnessed the water wheel in action, bottom left. Club President Jay Studstill, bottom right, chaired the celebration. Pictured with him is District Trainer Frank Seaton.



Valdosta North Hosts Wine Tasting, Raises Funds for Various Charities

Valdosta North Rotary Club hosted the first Blind Wine Tasting event to raise proceeds benefiting several local charities in Valdosta. The Blind Wine Tasting was a great first time success thanks to the support of our fellow Rotarians and supportive community. The Blind Wine Tasting raised more than \$8,000 that were provided to the following charities: Annette Howell Turner Center for the Arts, Boy Scouts of America, Cystic Fibrosis Foundation, United Hospice Foundation and the Children's Advocacy Center.



Meet Newsletter Editor Deborah Steele

For those of you who have never had the pleasure of meeting and working with Deborah Steele, District Newsletter Editor for District 6920, I'd like to take a minute to introduce her and tell you that she is very skilled at her job and is always there to receive your articles and photos. Her passion for her job is evident when you talk with her, her talent is obvious when you read the Newsletter, and she is eager to hear from you.



Keep those articles coming in to Deborah, she receives each one with a huge smile.

Sandersville Club Recognizes PHFs



On Thursday, June 12, 2014 Sandersville Club Foundation Director, Eddie Moyer and Club President, Benjie Tarbutton were delighted to pin five Paul Harris recipients.

Pictured, left to right, are Eddie Moyer, Foundation Director, DG Ted Thompson +8; Tommy Walker +2; District Foundation Chair Ron May +7; Michael Atkinson +1; President Benjie Tarbutton and Herschel Scott +2. Congratulations!

McIntosh Rotary Club Installs New President

McIntosh Rotary Club President Nanci Smith gave her thanks and appreciation to all of the club members on a joyous year of giving service unto others and how pleased she was to turn the reigns over to the new President Bill Watson during the club's recent installation ceremony.



Smith, Watson

Valdosta North Hosts Pig Out

Valdosta North Rotary Club celebrated the 40th Anniversary at the annual Seafood Pig Out. Rotarians had an evening of fellowship and President Travis Pate recognized the first charter members established in 1974.



Thank you to former President Travis Pate for your leadership and guidance for Valdosta North Rotary. Valdosta North Rotary was presented the Gold Club Award and Public Relations Citation at the District Conference.

Valdosta North Rotary welcomes our new President Audrey King and the elected Board of Directors for the 2014-2015 term.

Centerville Inducts New Member

Kenny Kitchens, immediate past president of the Rotary Club of Centerville, had the privilege of inducting his wife, Erin, as the club's newest member during a recent meeting.



Erin, a member of the Warner Robins community for the past 35 years, worked as one of the first interpreters in the Bibb County School System. She served as a Member at Large for the Georgia Interpreters for the Deaf and was a member of the Georgia Professional Standards Commission's Task Force which recently formulated the new Educational Interpreter Licensure. Erin is currently interpreting at the Central Georgia Technical College.

District Rotarians Attend Regional Zone Seminar in Jacksonville, Fla.

On June 21, 2014 eight Rotarians from District 6920 were in Jacksonville, Fla., to attend Zone 34 Rotary Regional Seminar at the Hyatt Regency Jacksonville Riverfront. It was a weekend packed full of sharing ideas, both new and old, seeing old friends and making new ones, and getting to enjoy Rotary.

Pictured are Charolette Thompson, DG Ted Thompson, Deborah Lowe, Major Gifts and Endowment; Pam Lightsey, DGN; Maureen Horvath; Ron May, District Rotary Foundation Chair.; Brenda Griggers; Bob Griggers, PDG; Beth Kern; Kenan Kern, PDG and Regional Rotary Foundation Chair. Not pictured but in attendance were Elizabeth Jordan, AG and District Public Relations Chair and Alfie Colfield, District Membership Chair.



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
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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
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Interact/Rotaract - Julian Diaz Jr.
julian@jdiazjriargroup.net

Literacy - Jeanette Caneega
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Membership - Alfie Cofield
alfiecolfield@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
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Silent Auction - Laura Thompson
laurat@exchangebankshares.com

Speech Contest - Jan Horadan
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