



Rotary District 6920 Newsletter

GARY SMITH, DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Rotary Year Coming to a Close

Ok, so it is the first week in June and you have three weeks left in this Rotary year. Now, is that good news or bad news? IDK (who says I don't know social media?!)

If you are fixing to begin a four week project that needs to end this year – Bad News.

If you are completing your reports and finalizing your efforts – Good News.

If you are fixing to start a membership drive to increase your club's membership for this year – Bad News.

If you have been meeting with your president elect and your president elect is ready to go – Good News.

If you are fixing to start a fundraising campaign for the Foundation or for Polio for this year – Bad News.

If you are finally going to write that article for the newsletter for this year – Really Bad News!

Whatever your news, I hope that you have had as much fun as Sue and I have had this year. Oh the new friends that we have made and the things we have learned – REALLY GOOD NEWS!

An Important Note from the District Governor

I asked COS Paula Goodnow to send an email regarding the availability of three scholarships from the Gilbert R. Tharp Endowment, which she did on May 27.

I thought there was some flexibility in the administration of this grant but have learned that there is not. Funds from this endowment MUST be used in addition to DDF to cause this scholarship to be valued at \$30,000.00 and will be available to a single recipient for graduate studies. This is a Global Grant Scholarship and must be international (recipient from U.S. studying abroad, or someone from outside the U.S. studying in the States). Please do not receive any applications at this time.

My apologies for my misunderstanding and inconvenience.

The availability of this scholarship will be announced at a later time.

- Gary Smith, District Governor

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District Leadership Team

Go to: http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District_Team.php

Meet Your 2013 - 2014

District Committee Chairs

Go to: <http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/Organization/2013-14%20District%20Chairs.php>

Local Grants Closeout for 2014

The Final Reports for Local Grants were due May 4th! There are still too many that have not been submitted to Les Arent. Please get these in immediately. The District cannot receive the 2014-2015 allocation of DDF until ALL of the 2013-2014 grants have been closed. Do not be responsible for delaying the district and our clubs from receiving their monies for projects.

Once Les Arent, Local Grants Chair, receives and signs off on all of the Final Reports an Independent Financial Review must be completed. The club grants and the final review must pass the test of the Independent Financial Review. The Clubs should provide supporting documentation for 100% of the expenditures of Grant Funds, along with the properly completed Final Report forms including photos of Rotarians in action. A review will be performed on a sample of the grant projects and will consist of:

- 1) Did the project meet the eligibility criteria for Local Grant funds.
- 2) Did the Club do what their application said they were going to do.
- 3) Is expense documentation present for all grant funds expended (copies of receipts).
- 4) Is there documentation of Rotarian involvement.
- 5) Were funds received by the District and disbursed to Clubs consistent with the grants spending plan.
- 6) Is the Final Report complete.

Questions? Contact Les Arent at javelin73@cox.net or via phone at 478-953-5847.

Get Your Monies in to the Foundation

All funds to the Rotary Foundation must be received by Rotary International by June 30, 2014 in order to be considered for this Rotary year. With that in mind it is suggested that any such contributions be mailed by June 24 to allow for adequate delivery time and processing.

CDC and Rotary Polio Partnership Video & Speech Contest Presentation at District Conference Now on YouTube

CDC and Rotary Polio Eradication Partnership video presented at District Conference now on YouTube – A Must See.

Go to District website www.rotarydistrict6920.net for an easy link to the video. A CDC Rotary Partnership YouTube video, as well as the Speech Contest YouTube, is available by clicking on the links on the homepage.

RYLA

The Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly will be held June 19-22 at South Georgia State College. The official deadline to register has passed, but you may still register for the weekend of activities by going to <http://www.rotarydistrict6920.net/RYLA/RLYA.php>.

President Elect Training Seminar

What?! This is June! Why in the world are we talking about PETS in June?

Well, because FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1, 2015 will be here before you know it. AND 38 clubs do not know who their President will be for the 2015-2016 year (but that is ok for right now).

Clubs do need to put this date on their calendar and be prepared to send their 2015-2016 President to PETS. DGN John Neely will be communicating with his 2015-2016 Presidents in the next few months and assignments for PETS preparation will be forthcoming. The PETS planning committee has already had two meetings preparing for PETS 2015.

Some of you have a defined plan for presidential succession; some of you don't. All of you should have your President for 2015-2016 selected by around November 1. The earlier, the better for the club and much better for the to-be-named president. (Note: the 2015-2016 President should actually be the club's 2014-2015 Award's Chair).

Foundation Seminar & Grants Training Change of Date, Venue

Due to unforeseen circumstances, the Rotary Foundation Seminar & Grants Training Seminar previously scheduled for August 9, 2014, OFTC Dublin Campus has been changed to Saturday, August 2, 2014, OFTC Sandersville Campus. Please note also, the Friday afternoon Leadership Training, August 8 has been cancelled with no replacement planned.

OFTC Sandersville will open for registration at 9:00 am – 10:00 am. with light refreshments available. Call to Order will be at 10:00 am and training will continue throughout the day. We will adjourn at 4:00 pm. Registration and agenda coming soon to District Website.

Governor's Citation Special Award for 2013 – 2014

There are several of you that potentially qualify for the Governor's Citation this year. We did not attempt to award these at District Conference to give club Presidents a little more time to get their information in. The items that were due by March 31, I have extended to June 15. We will try to present these awards at the Foundation Seminar.

◆ By March 17, 2013 PETS

- Membership Chair appointed by 2013 P.E.T.S.
- Foundation Chair appointed by 2013 P.E.T.S.
- Grants Chair appointed by 2013 P.E.T.S.

◆ By June 15, 2014

- President sponsor new member
- President achieve EREY at minimum of \$100 for the year
- President achieve either Benefactor or Bequest Society
- Club contribute to PolioPlus
- Club sponsor a RYLA candidate

◆ By December 1, 2013

- Club has President-Elect



Recognition Points

Recognition points for new contributions to Polio Plus up to \$500 continues.

You have until June 15 to make contributions to Polio Eradication effort. Contact Paula Goodnow.

Club Treasurers

Rotary International and District Dues Invoices will be coming to you. Please be diligent in getting these paid in a timely manner.

Metropolitan Savannah Rotary Club Donates to Community Garden Project

Members of the Metropolitan Savannah Rotary Club presented the Greenbriar Children's Center with a check for \$9,261.77 on Saturday, then helped students harvest the latest crop from the community garden Rotary built for Greenbriar on its westside campus.

The Metropolitan Savannah Rotary Club chose Greenbriar as its 2013-14 annual service partner. In doing so, Club members



held two major fund-raisers for Greenbriar, built 20 irrigated raised beds on the Center's Hoskins Street property, and taught Greenbriar students the ins and outs of gardening. Money donated Saturday will be used to help keep the garden up.

"This was a great partnership, and as you can see a great outcome," said Metropolitan Savannah Rotary Service Chairwoman Jessica Pedigo. "Service and sustainability are at the core of this Club's mission. These funds will ensure that the garden will keep producing for the children of Greenbriar well into the future."

Produce harvested at the garden are being used in Greenbriar meals, and purchased by Savannah restaurant Green Truck Pub for use in its food. On Saturday, more than a dozen children helped harvest bags of lettuce and carrots,

mulched several live oaks planted on the property, then cleared and planted the beds.

"Rotary's slogan is service above self, and this is proof they take that seriously," said Greenbriar Executive Director Gena Taylor. "We can actually see the progress made here; we can eat it. The kids have been inspired by this garden, and are learning so much from this partnership. It's exciting to see how excited they have gotten by it."

Rotary Clubs Provide “Gift of Sight”

The Warner Robins-Shanghai Connection

Written by Dave Razo

The Warner Robins Rotary Club partnering with Shanghai Rotary, with support from the Rotary District 6920 in Georgia and the International Rotary Foundation, is providing a “Gift of Sight” grant for \$46,000. The project is designed to restore sight to underserved people in rural China--which has an estimated 6 million people who are cataract blind. This program provides cataract surgery to 400 people and continues the work of Dr. Bill and Peggy Conrad.



Bill and Peggy Conrad founded GANSU Inc. with the intent of providing sight restoration to individuals in the western regions of China.

Bill and Peggy Conrad founded GANSU INC in August of 1990 and for 22 years served in rural China. GANSU INC, a Christian based non-profit organization, focused their “sight-restoring” efforts in the western region of China—the Gansu, Xinjiang and Qinghai Provinces. Their mission performed 6,614 cataract surgeries during summer operations out of pop-up tent trailers. The Warner Robins Rotary had become linked with GANSU INC and Dr. Conrad, an honorary Rotarian, in 2008, as it sponsored an initial grant at that time. This most recent grant was developed as the Conrad’s and the GANSU INC Board of Directors had decided to discontinue their operations.

That’s when the Warner Robins Rotary teamed with Shanghai Rotary to support the \$46,000 “Gift of Sight” grant in honor of the Conrads. The current grant supports surgeries performed by host country doctors in their own hospitals. Funding for this program provides “sight restoring” surgery at a cost of only \$115 per person. This “Gift of Sight” enables the people in these remote areas to gain restored sight and become more capable members of their family and their community.



A woman in Shanghai expresses delight after sight restoration surgery.

It’s a First!

Skidaway Island Rotary Club is happy to announce that we have welcomed the first newborn into our family of Rotarians since the club was founded. Please say hello to Ms. Branan Parsons, born to member Allison Parsons in April.



McIntosh Club Receives Award

Congratulations to McIntosh County Rotary



President, Nanci Smith and her Club Members for achieving the Silver Award for their year long success of "giving services" to their community and abroad. Nanci received the award

during the Rotary District Conference.