



June 2015

Ted Thompson, District Governor

**ROTARY DISTRICT
6920**

Looking Back

It has truly been an honor to serve District 6920 as District Governor for the Rotary year 2014-2015. Thanks to all of you for allowing me to serve and represent you these past 12 months. It seems like yesterday I was gearing up to begin traveling throughout the district making club visits and meeting with your Club President and Board of Directors. Time flies when you are having a great time!

Charolette and I enjoyed making many new friends this year, as well as renewing old friendships. I enjoyed learning of your fundraisers, service projects, special areas of interest, new ideas, dreams and goals for your clubs, and what you are really passionate about in Rotary. Thank you for your effort in increasing club membership, increased contribution to the CART Fund, increased contribution to Polio Plus, increase in number of new PHF, Benefactors, Bequest Society, Major Donors, 100% PHF Clubs, EREY Clubs, District Fund Raising and contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Now that our membership numbers are on the rise, it is not the time to relax and let things go back to where they were. Keep plugging ahead to stay on track with what we have started and will continue to do in the near future.

I want to thank the Assistant Governors, District Committee Chairs, Club Presidents and Leadership for supporting me and working hard to complete the goals I set forth at the beginning of the year. I want to thank my wife Charolette for her untiring help, support and understanding.

I was cognizant of the financial state of the district before I took office as governor and hope that on June 30, 2015, I have left it in as good a condition financially, if not better, than when I began.

Thank you for allowing me to serve and to teach you “the Happy Clap”! “Light Up Rotary”!

Sincerely,
Ted
District Governor

At A Glance:

Upcoming Events

Rotary International Convention
Saturday, June 6-Tuesday, June 9
Sao Paulo, Brazil

Georgia Mission of Mercy
Thursday, June 18-Saturday, June 20
Georgia National Fairgrounds &
Agricenter, Perry

Rotary Zone 34 Training Seminar
Saturday, June 27-Sunday, June 28
Jacksonville, Fla.

Happy Rotary New Year!
Tuesday, July 7
Skidaway Island State Park

Time with Ted

A monthly feature focusing on timely information from DG Ted Thompson



Thanks to the following Rotary clubs that contributed funds to ShelterBox USA to provide aid to people of Nepal whose homes were damaged or destroyed by a 7.8 magnitude earthquake late in April. Shelter Boxes, individual tents and tent repair kits were deployed to the disaster areas.

In addition \$10,000 was contributed to ShelterBox USA from the District Grant Contingency Fund. The Rotary Clubs of Richmond Hill, Sandersville, Downtown Statesboro, Milledgeville, Valdosta, Statesboro, Savannah Sunrise, Skidaway Island and Tifton made donations. Approximately \$23,000 has been contributed to date. If your club made a donation, but is not listed, I thank you too. Accomplishments such as these make me proud to be a Rotarian.

Swainsboro Rotary



Mike Lisenby, a retired lawyer and fervent historian, provided a historical perspective on the Declaration of Independence and the United States Constitution during a recent meeting of the Swainsboro Rotary Club. Pictured with Mr. Lisenby is Swainsboro Rotary Club President Stephanie Fagler.

Richmond Hill Team Wins Golf Tournament, Makes Presentation

Family Promise of Bryan County's first annual golf tournament at Black Creek Golf Course on May 15, raised nearly \$5,000 to help bring Family Promise's mission to permanently

rehome homeless families one step closer to becoming a reality.

The winning team was a talented foursome from the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill. Jason Anderson, Gene Durante, Brad Brookshire and Tom Sawyer (pictured left to right) volunteered to play in



the tournament and The Rotary Club of Richmond Hill awarded a check for \$500 from the club's charitable fund to enter the tournament. In addition, individual Rotarians and businesses from our community including Boost By Design, First Bank of Coastal Georgia, Lesley Francis PR, The Tourism Leadership Council and Cedar Animal Hospital sponsored holes at the Golf Tournament bringing in \$1,000 for Family Promise.

Lesley Francis, President of the Rotary Club of Richmond Hill said, "Our club's objective this year is to Light Up Rotary and to support future generations in particular. It is distressing to think that there are 66 homeless kids attending Bryan County Schools in the north and south of our county and we admire the board of Family Promise who are determined to begin their program in our community as soon as possible. Nationwide Family Promise has an excellent track record of protecting, feeding and housing families and in Bryan County 13 churches are committed to providing temporary shelter to families who enter the program.



Accepting the check at a recent Rotary Club meeting, Candice Stewart-Fife, chairwoman of fund development and public relations for Family Promise of Bryan County said, "Ultimately, we empower families to regain stability and independence, and to break the cycle of dependence on social programs and government assistance."

Metro Savannah Rotarians Recognized as Paul Harris Fellows



Metropolitan Savannah Rotarians Jeff Brady, William McIntosh and Suzanne Kirk receive their Paul Harris Fellow certificates at a recent club meeting. They are joined by Metro Foundation Chair Jordan Chase and President Robert McCorkle.

Metropolitan Savannah Rotary President Robert McCorkle has used a unique incentive to help four Rotarians become Paul Harris Fellows this year.

Earlier this year, as the club was in the midst of a campaign to get 100 percent of members to contribute to the Rotary Foundation, President McCorkle offered to donate his extra Paul Harris points to incentivize larger giving. If any member agreed to contribute at least \$250, he offered to match their total with his excess points.

In all, four Metro Savannah Rotarians this year became Paul Harris Fellows, a recognition of Rotarians who have made contributions, or have contributions made in their name, of at least \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Three of those four became Fellows through McCorkle's incentive. In all, Metro Rotary has seven Paul Harris Fellows.

"I believe strongly in giving to the Rotary Foundation, which supports so many important humanitarian projects across the globe," McCorkle said. "Among my proudest accomplishments the past year has been achieving 100 percent campaign participation and naming four Paul Harris Fellows."

At its May 5 meeting, McCorkle presented Rotarians Suzanne Kirk, William McIntosh, Jeff Brady and Darron Alvord with their Paul Harris Fellow certificates.

Rotary Club of St. Simons Island Awards Annual Scholarships

The Rotary Club of St. Simons Island presented annual scholarships during a recent meeting. With introductions by Scholarship Committee Chairs Mike Mudowney and Mary Beth Wester, six deserving high school seniors from area schools were awarded scholarships to colleges and universities of their choice. The St. Simons Island Rotary Scholarship Foundation was founded in 1991.

This year, 38 applicants applied for scholarships resulting in six high school seniors becoming recipients of a four-year scholarship. This year's St. Simons Island Rotary scholarship recipients are:

Eliza Harrell – Brunswick High, will attend College of Coastal Georgia majoring in Biology

Mary Ann Nichols – Glynn Academy, will attend UGA majoring in Finance

Stephanie Baione – Frederica Academy Valedictorian, will attend Georgia Tech majoring in Computation Media

Anna Clark – Glynn Academy, will attend Belmont University majoring in Music & Business

Shayne Fallon – Glynn Academy, will attend Georgia Tech majoring in Business & Finance

Maggie Tyre – Glynn Academy, will attend UGA majoring in Veterinary Science



Pictured above are Mary Beth Wester, scholarship presenter; Shayne Fallon, Maggie Tyre, Eliza Harrell, Mary Ann Nichols, Stephanie Baione, Anna Clark and Mike Muldowney, scholarship committee chair.

Gift Presented to Jim Bruce with Appreciation, Thanks



Ron May, left, presented a gift to District Webmaster Jim Bruce on his recent Foundation presentation trip to the St. Simons Rotary Club.

The gift was presented on behalf of Kathy Tuckey, district conference chair, to Bruce for his support to the 2015 District Conference.

Three Generations of Paul Harris Fellows

Past District Governor Bob Griggers recently presented Paul Harris (Rotary Founder) Fellowships to grandfather/father Julian Franklin, a member of the Rotary Club of Highlands, NC, son Rick Franklin of Kathleen, GA, member, Rotary Club of Centerville and son/grandson Max Franklin, a student at Bonaire Middle School. Rick is a past president of the Rotary Club of Centerville.

The distinctive Paul Harris Fellow Medallions, lapel pins and certificates presented to the Franklins are highly respected symbols of a substantial financial commitment to The Rotary Foundation by Rotarians and friends around the world.

Paul Harris recognition provides a very important incentive for the continuing support needed to underwrite the many programs, mostly charitable, of the Rotary Foundation which provides goodwill and understanding throughout the world.



Bubba Edwards, President, Rotary Club of Centerville, Rick Franklin, son Max Franklin, father/grandfather Julian Franklin, and Past District Governor Bob Griggers.

McIntosh Rotarians Hear History of Darien

McIntosh Rotarians were taken back in time through the history of Darien when Historian Dr. Michael V. Woodward presented a recent program to the club.

Dr. Woodward challenged the Rotarians to take a tour of the Trailhead Center Museum to discover the Southern colonies during the time period of 1730 when Darien was established by the Scottish.



Waycross Rotarians Learn About New Weight Loss Option



President Billy Gillis and Waycross Rotary wish to thank Dr. Michelle DiBiase of Slim Body LLC for her presentation on the laser-like lipo system. This is a nonsurgical, pain free way to melt inches of fat from where you want it off the most. Three sessions a week for three weeks at 40 minutes a session is all it takes for an average 3.5" to 7" lost.

The health benefit of a long lasting, safe program that reduces obesity is enormous. This program includes dietary consultations and an exercise program along with mental conditioning. Slim Body is a jump start to inches lost as well as to a healthier you.

Savannah South Gives to Summer Reading Program

The Rotary Club of Savannah South recently made a \$1,000 donation for the Live Oak Libraries Summer Reading Program, which will begin June 1.

The \$1,000 gift to the Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation, which funds the Summer Reading Program, is from the Rotary Club's annual golf tournament and charitable giving program. Along with the donation, club members are looking forward to volunteering for the Savannah Children's Book Festival this coming fall.

"Encouraging literacy is a top priority for our club," said Doyle Kelley, the club's president. "This project was brought to us by one of our members, George Hubbs, who is active with the Live Oak Public Libraries Foundation. We are more than happy to support it."

The Live Oak Public Libraries Summer Reading Program encourages children and teens up to 18 years of age to read during the summer. In return for their reading, along with the pleasures of reading, the children and teens can earn rewards and prizes. According to the Live Oak Public Libraries, last summer, nearly 5,000 area children registered for the library's Summer Reading Program. Of those who registered, 2,966 children read for 10 hours; 2,329 children read for 20 hours; 1,914 children read for 30 hours. Nearly 1,600 children read for 40 hours, achieving VIP Reader status. At this level, young readers receive a VIP Reader's backpack as well as a Golden Ticket which they present at the Savannah Children's Book Festival in November to receive a VIP Reader's badge. The names of all VIP Readers are published in the Savannah Morning News.



Savannah South Rotary Club President Doyle Kelley presents George Hubbs, a Rotarian and Past Board Member, VP, and President of the Live Oak Public Library Foundation a \$1,000 check to use for the Summer Reading Program.

Fitzgerald Rotary Club Awards Scholarships in Memory of Cory Hall

Since 1998, the Fitzgerald Rotary Club has awarded scholarships to Fitzgerald High School seniors. These scholarships were endowed by the club upon the passing of Cory Hall, son of Rotarian Tim and Pam Hall, who was a 16-year-old student at FHS. In January 1998, Cory became ill and was diagnosed with bacterial meningitis.

In addition to the annual awarding of the scholarships, the club began an immunization campaign for meningitis and the Rotary district adopted an awareness campaign for the disease in 2013-2014. The club continues to remind everyone to become immunized.

The 2015 recipients of the Cory Hall Scholarships are Jessica Stanfill, Jonathan Tomberlin and Andrew Goodlett. They were presented at FHS Honors night by Fitzgerald Rotarian and Past District Governor Gary Smith.



Valdosta North Receives Citation, Inducts New Member

DG Ted Thompson and his wife joined us the Valdosta North Rotary Club on May 12 and awarded them with a Public Citation Award for 2015. Rotarians also heard from Randi Eyde, their GRSP student, and inducted Vivian Cody as a new member.



Assistant District Governor Steve Barnes, DG Ted and Valdosta North President Audrey King are pictured with Vivian Cody, the club's newest Rotarian.

GRSP student Randi Eyde is pictured with Assistant Governor Steve Barnes, DG Ted and Valdosta North President Audrey King.



Fitzgerald Club Presents Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

One of the goals of Rotary is to help young people develop their leadership abilities and self-confidence to the fullest. To accomplish that goal, Rotary clubs prepare thousands of young leaders through Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) programs each year. RYLA events are organized by Rotarians who are business and professional achievers.

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is a program that originated with Rotary International and has subsequently been specifically designed by Rotary District 6920 for the students in our 64 club area. RYLA encourages servant leadership in youth by recognizing and rewarding deserving rising 11th grade students who are chosen to attend RYLA as an "award" for their past and present leadership and service activities.

These select young people attend an all-expenses-paid 4 day retreat where they are inspired by a diverse group of exceptional speakers, make lifelong friends through fellowship activities, and discuss the ethical and social issues of today. These activities are conducted in an atmosphere of trust and respect. The result is that these students return to their schools and communities motivated to take on additional leadership roles and to find additional ways to serve.

RYLA's intent is to encourage students to be more effective servant leaders by exposing them to the following topics in the course of RYLA activities and discussions:

- *Fundamentals of leadership
- *Ethics of positive leadership
- *Qualities of a "servant leader"
- *Importance of communication skills in effective leadership
- *Conflict management and problem solving
- *Building self-esteem and self confidence
- *Elements of community and global citizenship
- *Rotary's purpose of service to the community and world



The FHS recipients selected for the 2015 RYLA class are Walker Smith and Ben Braddy. They were presented their awards at FHS Honors night by Fitzgerald Rotarian and Past District Governor Gary Smith.

2014-2015 Committee Chairs

Annual Giving - John L. Neely
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Awards - Renee Fontenot
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