



May 2015

**Ted Thompson, District Governor**

**ROTARY DISTRICT  
6920**

## *A Fantastic District Conference!*

If you haven't heard by now, the District Conference was a complete success! Our meals and plenary sessions started and ended on time or ahead of schedule, allowing everyone plenty of time to relax a little and regroup for the next event.

After the U.S. Army Fort Gordon Color Guard presented the colors and everyone sang the National Anthem, the District Conference opened with The Honorable Hardie Davis, Mayor Augusta-Richmond County, who read a proclamation from the city to Rotary and welcomed all guests. Other special guests were introduced by Conference Chair Kathy Tuckey to include: RI President's representative PDG Duane Benton and his spouse Sandra from Kansas City, Mo., and RI Director Robert Hall and his spouse Charlene. It was then my pleasure to introduce our keynote speaker, PRI Vice President Anne L. Matthews.

Anne spoke on her travels to many third world countries where there is no clean drinking water; consequently, citizens of those countries bathe, wash their clothes, drink and cook in the same water. She emphasized the need for all people to conserve because, as she pointed out, this resource is not endless. One of these days we will have a dwindling supply, so she asked all of us to begin to conserve now ... turn off your tap as you brush your teeth, don't continue to let it run. She received our gratitude for a beautiful job as everyone stood for an ovation. The afternoon

continued with two very interesting plenary sessions: membership with speaker Alfie Cofield, CART with speaker Kathy Tuckey, RLI with speaker Reneé Fontenot and GRSP with speakers Gerald Smith (Dist. Chair), GRSP host family Susan Brandon, and GRSP student Thomas Mogelberg of Denmark. The spouses not attending the plenary session boarded the Augusta trolley for a city tour and a tour of Meadow Garden, home of one of the signers of the Declaration of Independence, George Walton.

We enjoyed a fine reception for DGE John Neely and Carolyn with entertainment provided by Fred Williams who played beautiful selections on his saxophone and sang "Wonderful World" to conclude. It was on to the Fellowship Banquet where everyone enjoyed a fabulous meal and were privileged to hear from RI President Gary Huang's Representative, PDG Duane Benton. Bronze awards were given at this meal. Then, we danced the night away to music provided by Wallace White, DJ extraordinaire from the Rotary Club of Augusta South.

After breakfast on Saturday morning, we were all blessed to be able to attend the "Foundation Power Hour" which certainly lived up to its name. DRFC Ron May started the hour with his powerful story, followed by Brad Oliver, Milledgeville R.C., equally as powerful, then polio survivor and well-known folk art artist Valton Murray. Needless to say, everyone was moved!

## **At A Glance:**

### **Upcoming Events**

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



*-Please see "Conference" on Page 2*

# Conference Fun for All

*-Continued from Front Page*

Valton donated one of his original (framed) pieces for live auction which was purchased by DGND Hamsa Thota raising \$1,000.00 for Polio Plus. We were rewarded by being able to hear the winners of the District Speech Contest as a proud District Speech Chair Jan Horadan, Rotary Club of Sandersville, presented each recipient and then gave them their \$1,000 scholarship. After lunch on our own, some of us headed for the Savannah River Cruise, to play golf or to Charolette's paint party. About 20 "artists" attended, painted the picture provided and put the paintings in the silent auction to be ransomed by their other half to benefit CART ... we raised \$95.00 from this fun afternoon. The "artists" took home their art.

We got dressed up in our 1920's attire, learned to do the Charleston by the instructors from Ballroom in Motion. We did pretty good too! There were two winners for the best '20's outfit, Tom Woodbery, RC of Downtown Macon and Mercedes Saenz, RC of Reidsville, authentic and so cute! We kept the '20's going as we all wore our outfits into the banquet where we gave accolades to three new 100% Paul Harris clubs: RC of Effingham Sunrise, President Royce Norton; RC of Perry, President Heather Kellen, and RC of Warner Robins, President Pete O'Neill. We enjoyed watching the clubs receive their Silver Club awards, and laughed at our funny, inspirational speaker, Glen Ward from the Rotary Club of Columbia, S.C. Several recognition awards were given to include: Distinguished Service Award, PDG Jim Puryear; Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service Award, DRFC Ron May; Star Achiever Award, President Heather Kellen, Perry RC; and Outstanding Achievement Award, District Membership Chair Alfie Cofield.

After a fine Sunday morning service, our day continued with special awards, dynamic speeches, good food and fellowship. Recognition was given to the clubs who excelled to Gold Club and other special awards were given. After DGE John Neely received his DG pin, he introduced his leadership team and gave a description of what his year would be. Five Assistant Governors, who completed their third year as AG, were recognized for their service by Governor Ted and were gifted with a next level Paul Harris Fellow for their hard work and commitment to the clubs in their area of responsibility. The best clubs of the year were: Small - Macon North; Medium - Perry; Large - Sandersville; Extra Large - Dublin. Congratulations to all of you. AG Joy Hurst, RC of Centerville, received the District Rotarian of the Year, and Dr. Ed Donohue, RC of Savannah East received the District Rookie of the Year.

We've talked about all the fun we had, and we agree that it was the perfect winding down of a wonderful year. Our thanks go to all who were in attendance and all who worked tirelessly to make this conference a success. It was an honor having you join us for the 58th Annual District Conference for District 6920. A special thanks to Conference Chair Kathy Tuckey and her committee; Jan Horadan and her committee for florals and place cards; Maurene and Joe Horvath for keeping the House of Friendship; Silent Auction Chair Laura Thompson and her committee for the great job (nearly \$6,000 raised); Awards Chair Renee Fontenot for keeping all the records and for judging all the club displays and scrapbooks. Thanks to all the fine Augusta Area Rotary Clubs who handled registration; to Press Tech, Augusta for the printing; to Sergeant at Arms Co-Chairs Herschel Scott, RC of Sandersville and Juan Diaz, RC of Tennille, for their organization and assistance and to all others who played a part in making this a conference to remember.









## *Tee it Up For Charity with Sandersville Golf Classic*

The Sandersville Rotary Club will host their 16th annual Charity Golf Classic on Saturday, June 6. The event will honor the memory of Hugh M. Tarbutton, a Sandersville community leader. Proceeds will benefit the citizens of Washington County and Rotary sponsored charities.

Beginning with a shotgun start at 8:45 a.m., the tournament cost is \$280 per



team. This includes green fees, cart, breakfast and lunch. Registration will open at

7:30 a.m. The event is slated to end with an awards ceremony and results posting at 3 p.m.

For more information on this event, contact Jason Prince at 478-232-4132 or via email at [jprince@gdwbank.net](mailto:jprince@gdwbank.net). Deadline for registering is June 4.

## Time with Ted

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



Last weekend the 58th Annual District Conference opened in Augusta and everyone that attended celebrated the goals and accomplishments of Rotarians in D6920 for 2014-2015. If you missed it, you missed a great weekend and a fun time.

Now that our conference is finished we can focus our attention on year end matters. All District Grant projects should be complete now and Final Reports are due by Friday, May 15. Please complete these reports now so they are received by Grants Chair Les Arent on time. We don't want to fall behind on these reports again as we did last year. Delinquent reporting brings the whole grant process to a crawl and affects all clubs throughout the district. No new grants can be awarded to any club until all the final reports are completed and submitted.

Don't forget to register your student for RYLA. Deadline is June 5. Rising Juniors and Seniors are eligible. Venue is South Georgia State College in Douglas, June 18-21. Great weekend of exposure to leadership in their schools, communities, local government, and businesses, and also builds self confidence. For an online application go to the district website and click on District Activities.

## Skidaway Rotary Club Makes Donations

At the April 22 meeting of the Skidaway Rotary Club, members welcomed many guests and representatives of the two charities to

which the club made donations this year. Among their guests was Mike Zaller, owner and player with the Savannah Theater Group. The outstanding performance of this group, led by Mike, on two evenings at the Plantation Club to a sold out house, was the underpinning of the club's fund raising efforts for the year. The club's fund raising success was also supported by the Spring Fling and the Fall Festival last year. Mike was thanked by President Darrel Snuggerud, and an encore was promised for the fall of 2015.

Skidaway Rotary Club member Toni Marwitz presented a \$6,000 check to Cheryl Branch, Executive Director, and Lorraine Boyce, member of the board of the Safe Shelter of Savannah. Members were thanked for their support of Safe Shelter and for the many voluntary tasks they have performed there.

President Elect Tom Macek presented a \$6,000 check to Deborah Heddendorf, Community Outreach Director of the local Alzheimers Association. The Skidaway Rotary Club was thanked for its ongoing support of this charity; the club's weekly meeting offers a raffle which benefits this fund on a regular basis.



Skidaway Rotary Club President Darrel Snuggerud presents a plaque to Savannah Theater Group owner Mike Zaller.

At right, Skidaway Rotary Club Member Toni Marwitz presents a check for \$6,000 to Cheryl Branch and Lorraine Boyce, both with Safe Shelter of Savannah.



Tom Macek, President Elect of the Skidaway Rotary Club, presents a check for \$6,000 to Deborah Heddendorf, Community Outreach Director of the local Alzheimers Association.

## *Eastman Recognizes Farmer of the Year*

Eastman Rotary Club held its annual Dodge County Farmer of the Year Award dinner recently. A farmer is honored each year with recognition for outstanding farm operation. Tom Cranford of Cranford Farm, was the 2015 winner.

Cranford said, "I would like to thank the Rotary Club, especially the Farmer of the Year Committee. As the Ag Teacher at Dodge County High School, I try to promote agriculture on a daily basis. So, I really appreciate Rotary's support of agriculture and the family way of life."

Gary Black, Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, was the guest speaker for the dinner.



*Pictured (l-r) are Wade Hall, Tom Cranford, Gary Black, J.T. Woodard and Scooter Harrington*

## Wrightsville Inducts New Members

The Wrightsville Rotary Club inducted three new members Wednesday April 8. This is the first time in a couple of years there have been three new members on one time.

Mrs. Jeanette Caneega sponsored Skyler Reynolds, a retired educator. Mrs. Becky Browning sponsored Amber Cody, a marketing specialist in Hospice Advantage and she is also a nurse. Mr. Donnie Sweat sponsored Sondra Fortner, the Johnson County Extension Agent and 4-H Advisor.

The Wrightsville Rotary Club is so excited to welcome these three new members into the club. It is going to be a great year!



## Reviving the Art of the "White Cooper"

The Fitzgerald Friendship Bucket is a hand crafted work utilizing the tools and craftsmanship of an art which is becoming forgotten. White Coopering was trade which made buckets for wet and dry goods. It is being revived here to create a collector's item along with helping to fund the Fitzgerald Rotary Club's efforts to vaccinate against Meningitis. For each bucket sold either fifty or one hundred-fifty dollars, depending upon which type of bucket, will be donated to this worthy cause. There are two types of bucket. The \$100 bucket is made of Cypress. The \$200 bucket is made from rescued Old Growth Heartwood Pine. These trees were many hundreds of years old when cut just at or more than one-hundred years ago. They were growing when Jamestown, Va., was settled.

By commissioning a bucket to be crafted, an individual will receive a bucket previously commissioned by an earlier supporter of this cause. Along with the bucket will come an information card to allow for an introduction and for a thank you card to be sent. This highlights half of the Friendship aspect, as the individual commissioning a bucket will also provide their contact information to accompany the next bucket crafted. It is encouraged that through these contacts, built on the mutual actions of complete strangers coming together to combat Meningitis, that lasting Friendships can be established.

So, for each Fitzgerald Friendship Bucket commissioned, an individual will be making a financial contribution, making two new friends, and become an owner of a piece of historical art all the while keeping a working knowledge of White Coopering alive.

A life may even be saved.

So far to date, \$1500 has been raised for this cause. Each year the local Health Dept. has just at fifty children whose parents are not able of pay the \$15 for the inoculation. This equates to \$750 a year. With the funds raised, Fitzgerald's Rotary Club has two years of vaccinations covered.

We wish to thank all Rotarians who have purchased buckets.



## Waycross Rotarians Hear Presentation from DOT Representatives



Jill Nagle with District 5 Georgia Dept. of Transportation brought GDOT Program Manager Matt Bennett and Waycross Area Engineer Bryan Czech to a recent Waycross Rotary Club meeting to present the latest information on the widening of GA Hwy 84.

## GRSP Students Attend Savannah Event



Georgia Rotary Student Program Students for the 2014 – 2015 Academic Year, at Armstrong State University in Savannah, photographed at a Savannah area Rotary clubs event are Randi Wittingsrud of Norway, sponsored by the Downtown Savannah Rotary Club; Ozge Kantas of Turkey, sponsored by the Savannah Sunrise, Richmond Hill, Hinesville and Skidaway Island Rotary clubs, and Alina Mateke of Zambia, sponsored by the Savannah South and Savannah West Rotary clubs. Photo courtesy of Doug Foran, Savannah Sunrise Rotary Club, Assistant Governor and Past President of Savannah Sunrise Rotary Club. The students were photographed at the Savannah area Rotary Clubs' "Play It Forward" musical event held on April 19 at the Ships of the Sea Museum in downtown Savannah.

## Augusta West Club Holds Annual Media Day Event

On April 23, The Augusta West Rotary Club held it's 37th annual Media Day. We presented The Louis Harris Award to a journalist in the Augusta area who exemplifies local journalism at its best.

This year's winner was Rick McKee, editorial cartoonist at The Augusta Chronicle. Rick's work has been published in over 850 newspapers around the world, including USA Today, New York Times, and the Washington Post. He has also been featured on Fox News, CNN and many national networks.

It was a great day for the Augusta West Rotary Club!



McKee is pictured with some of the past recipients of the Louis Harris Award, as well as William Morris, chairman of Morris Communications, owner of the Augusta Chronicle, Savannah News, and other newspapers.

## McIntosh Rotarians Hear Presentation on Adult Education Program



McIntosh County Rotary Club learns about new opportunities through the Adult Education Program from Megan Jacobs, Lead Adult Education Instructor. Megan said the program through Coastal Pines Technical College now has a morning and evening classes. Not only do they offer academic enrichment opportunities, they are also incorporating community-based work readiness skills. Megan shared her excitement about a community development "Lunch and Learn" opportunity on May 6th at the McIntosh YMCA. Many of the Rotary members remembered Megan as a recipient of many Rotary leadership scholarship opportunities when she was a student at McIntosh County Academy.

*Pictured at left are Bill Watson, Rotary President; Megan Jacobs, Lead Adult Education Instructor, and Jackie Mull, Rotarian.*

## Swainsboro Rotarians Learn About Lifesaver Tracking System

Rotarian Dori Johnson introduced Reserve Deputy Bill Carmichael from the Emanuel Sheriff's Department as the guest speaker at the April 27 meeting of the Swainsboro Rotary Club.



*Swainsboro Rotary Club President Stephanie Fagler, Reserve Deputy Bill Carmichael and Swainsboro Rotarian Dori Johnson*

Reserve Deputy Carmichael coordinates Project Lifesaver Emanuel. Lifesaver is a tracking system to help quickly locate wandering persons (or those with a tendency to wander), especially those with Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and special needs children with Autism and Down Syndrome. Bill is not only a certified searcher for the program, but a certified trainer whose goal is to ensure that every investigator for Emanuel County is a certified searcher as well.

Having been a caregiver who experienced first hand the realities of Alzheimer's disease in his mother and both in-laws, Bill Carmichael is passionate in his efforts to provide this tracking service for those residents in Emanuel County.

Carmichael provided an overview and demonstration of the equipment utilized in the tracking process. The system can locate a person up to a mile away, day or night, inside or out. It provides rapid response efforts

to save lives and reduce the risks of serious injury.



# 4-Way Test

## or Rotary's Code of Ethics

*By Jack Steed*

The 4-Way Test contains only 33 words but these words are far reaching. They cover almost the entire gamut of interpersonal relationships.

1. ***Is it the Truth?*** Little white lies, bending the truth is so easy. It is one thing to lie about one's golf game or the number and sizes of fish caught. It is totally different to bend the truth in our profession. Important to remember that truth is truth. Truth is so important to our way of life, to our economy and our well-being that laws have been enacted, for example, requiring the truth in lending and advertising. Each witness in court is required to take an oath to tell the truth.

2. ***Is it Fair to all Concerned?*** It's been said, "Expecting the world to treat you fairly because you are a good person is like expecting the bull not to charge you because you are a vegetarian." Sometimes we want our way; we feel a need to come out on top. Egos can get into the way. Our place in this community, and as part of this club, does not represent privilege, but rather responsibility. Wherever we go, we represent something significant – the value and ideals of this club and this community, and we should always be prepared to make the very best impression, regardless of the circumstances, so that everything will be fair to all concerned.

3. ***Will it Build Goodwill and Better Relationships?*** What we do, how we act, has a ripple effect. Our reputations, good or bad, travel around the community. So the standard of goodwill must be for everyone, rich or poor, young or old, long-time resident or newcomer and for new members as well as veteran members.

4. ***Will it be Beneficial to All Concerned?*** Who will benefit? How will it affect those not directly involved? How do we weigh the evidence in order to spread the benefits? Some decisions made concerning short-term needs may be inappropriate for long-term needs. Shortsightedness can damage long-term relationships. So it is important to weigh all the evidence in making sound, long-term decisions. And, knowing when to yield to others is important. Knowing when to change course can mean all the difference in the world.

### 2014-2015 Committee Chairs

**Annual Giving - John L. Neely**  
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**Awards - Renee Fontenot**  
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**Bequest Society - Pam Lightsey**  
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**CART - Kathy Tuckey**  
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**Chief of Staff - Paula Goodnow**  
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**District Foundation/Fundraising - Ron May**  
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**Family of Rotary - Ron Maulden**  
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**GRSP - Gerald Smith**  
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**Interact/Rotaract - Julian Diaz Jr.**  
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**PETS Curriculum Chair/Council on  
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**Polio Plus - Bob Griggers**  
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**Public Relations - Elizabeth Jordan**  
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**Rotary Foundation Major Donor -  
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**Rotary Leadership Institute - Blair Train**  
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**RYLA - Charles Johnson**  
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**Scholarships - Nancy Shumaker**  
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**Silent Auction - Laura Thompson**  
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**Speech Contest - Jan Horadan**  
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