Subject: READ NOW: DISTRICT 6920 NEWSLETTER, April, 2022

From: Rotary District 6920 <mailservice@DACdb.net>

**Date:** 3/31/2022, 8:25 PM **To:** jim@oatland.org



### DISTRICT 6920 NEWSLETTER APRIL, 2022

This is: Maternal & Child Health Month

Here it is: your April District 6920 Newslettter.

Read on to Learn about Clubs, Projects & Rotarians across Central and Coastal Georgia!

**Club Presidents: Please promote the Newsletter in your clubs.** 

**Together: WE ARE: ROTARY DISTRICT 6920** 



#### Message from Governor Ed;

Greetings, Changemaker Jim, - and all My Fellow District 6920 Changemakers !!

I can't believe this Rotary year has gone so fast....as a matter of fact, in less than a month,

the District Conference will be happening in Augusta!!! I FEEL GOOD!!!!!

Since the last newsletter, I have continued to enjoy visiting clubs and meeting so many wonderful Rotarians around the District. We have a fantastic group of clubs in our district and all of you have enthusiastically responded to President Shekar Metha's theme "Serve To Change Lives"..... I am so excited about announcing the aggregation of lives actually changed by our clubs at the Conference.

Many things are on my mind as we approach the District Conference in Augusta (if you haven't registered, please do....there's a place for everyone). In addition to what we are doing in each of our communities, the situation in Ukraine weighs heavy on my heart. Earlier this week, The Rotarian magazine arrived and I strongly encourage you to read about the challenges the Ukrainians are facing, yet know there are Rotary clubs still meeting and serving in Ukraine.

The conference is going to be phenomenal. Again, I hope you will join us in Augusta as we celebrate our year together in this marvelous Rotary journey!

See you real soon!!!

Yours in Rotary,



#### In Other News:

Here's a GREAT Photo of our DGE Heather Kellen - -with Jennifer Jones - - the **Rotary International President Elect!** 

RI's FIRST EVER WOMAN President!

Everyone - keep in mind, Rotary International represents clubs, and cultures across the Globe.

Many Clubs - in Many Countries - only recently admitted Women to Membership (there may still be some that do not)...

SO Jennifer's Achievement - is an Achievement for Women everywhere - and for ALL ROTARIANS to Celebrate - and a very special thrill for our Heather.



District Governor Elect Heather Kellen with Rotary International President Elect Jennifer Jones.



#### SEC. A. TOP PRIORITIES: DISTRICT NEWS & EVENTS



#### **DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2022**

is JUST a few weeks away !!!

TO REGISTER NOW: CLICK HERE

**REMEMBER:** There is <u>no registration fee</u>, you only pay for your meals and your hotel if needed.

Here's a look at why a Weekend adventure to Augusta will be a highlight of your year:

Check out the Visitor's Center website with a SPECIAL PAGE JUST FOR US!: Augusta Awaits

"Whoaa! I Feel GOOOOD!!"



#### WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR???

The DATES are: April 29th-May 1st, 2022

Join us at the Augusta Marriott Convention Center where Rotary FUN, FELLOWSHIP and FOCUS AREA LEARNING will ALL be on the agenda. REGISTER NOW!!!! Using the Link above - - this will be a PERFECT weekend getaway - - Don't miss it!

Cheers,
Kelly Knitter
2022 District Conference Chair
Kelly.Knitter@gmail.com / (808-499-8025)
Augusta West Rotary Club

SEC. B. DISTRICT PROJECTS: INITIATIVES & PLANS

#### **MEMBERSHIP:**

# EACH ONE BRING ONE CHALLENGE

Congratulations District 6920 Presidents and Clubs!

We are GROWING again!

I have been blessed to have witnessed <u>in person</u> 2 different clubs induct 7 or 8 members each in one meeting! I have heard reports and seen RI data proving we are moving in the right direction. Gov Ed's visits are a big hit and he's pushing membership and we are following the leader! EACH ONE BRING ONE is catching on, and the momentum is flowing. So proud of each of you who have sponsored a new member and ask you to keep on helping them become better Rotarians and keep sponsoring!

New Members are so important, but what about <u>new clubs</u>? I hear rumors of Satellite Clubs being discussed in nearby towns.

We had one established last year in Baxley sponsored by the Hazlehurst Club.

ALL CLUBS can start a Satellite Club with as few as 8 members & those members <u>can be part of your club</u> but they meet at a different time, and/or day – more convenient to those folks.

They can even be a theme-based club: How about a Veterans' Club in a military town? How about a literacy-based club centered around the schools in your town?

Educators usually can't meet with us at lunch, but they may want to meet twice a month late one afternoon.....

Be Creative, toss ideas around, then find a way to grow the Rotary family!

If you need help, email me and let's get together and talk about the possibilities. (alfiecofield@gmail.com)

So happy to be part of Rotary with you!

Alfie

Alfie Cofield, Dist Membership Chair

alfiecofield@gmail.com

#### **FOUNDATION NEWS:**



#### Rotary International

2d . 3

Save the date for World Immunization Week 2022!

Our fight to #EndPolio is proof that vaccines work. Join us in promoting the power of vaccines to protect children and save lives.

Learn about the fight to end polio: <a href="https://on.rotary.org/3tLbiNG">https://on.rotary.org/3tLbiNG</a>



MAP International receives donation from Past District Gov @ Hamsa Thota to support The shipment of the Disaster Relief kits to

Ukraine.



#### **SAVING LIVES WITH MEDICINE (in Georgia)**

Would you like to learn more about SAVING LIVES WITH MEDICINE?

Our wonderful District Partnership with MAP Intl?

Here's a GREAT opportunity - - it would also be a TERRIFIC Club Program - any time!

**CLICK HERE to watch** 

**GLENNVILLE CLUB HITS MAJOR MILESTONE!** 

The Glennville Club has achieved 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club for the second time in our history. This is a milestone for the Glennville Club. The Club first achieved this status in 2012-2013. In less than 10 years, having added a lot of new members over that time, all current members are now/will be Paul Harris Fellows once the funds are posted.

Here is the breakdown of how many members achieved PHF status for the first time and those achieving next level PHF status.

New PHF Members: 22
PHF+1 Members: 3
PHF+2 Members: 2
PHF+3 Members: 2
PHF+4 Members: 3
Major Donors: 2

**Plus 1 New PHF Community Partner** 

The total of these contributions including our \$1500 contribution to Polio Plus currently stands at a little over \$24,000. As much as our Club celebrates reaching this milestone, we celebrate all the good it does in our communities and throughout the world. As our Vision statement says, it also changes each member just knowing that they are contributing to the good that Rotary is doing throughout the world.

That makes 35 new or next level PHF recognitions for the 2021/2022 Rotary Year. We will recognize and award these members at our Annual Awards and Installation Ceremony. This should take place on one of the last two Wednesday's in June (22 or 29).

Respectfully,
Donald Fountain
Club Foundation Chair

Donald Fountain | Chief Operations Officer | MAIN: 912-654-3433 | EXT: 7329 |

FAX: 912-654-3945



INTERNATIONAL NEWS FROM UKRAINE..



#### **Rotary responds to Ukraine**

At Rotary, we're using our deep networks and decades of experience to take swift action to provide humanitarian relief for those affected by the war in Ukraine. Learn how we are taking action including how to donate to the Disaster Response Fund, contribute District Designated Funds, apply for a disaster response grant, and find contact information for club and district-led efforts. Read the latest roundup of activities.

#### **Rotary magazine in Ukraine editor thanks Rotarians**

In a Q&A last week, Mykola Stebljanko, editor of the Rotary magazine in Ukraine, talks about his present situation in Odesa, Ukraine, and thanks Rotary members for their help. Stebljanko breaks down the relief projects under way by the 62 Rotary clubs in Ukraine and shares how they continue to meet and discuss issues facing them. Read more on Rotary Voices



#### FYI - here is the interview described above:

(Stebljanko, The Rotar) writes Rotary News in Ukraine)

: What is happening with Rotary clubs in Ukraine?

**Stebljanko**: There are 62 Rotary clubs in Ukraine. At the moment, only the Rotary Club of Kherson has temporarily suspended meetings because the city is now under the control of the Russian military. I recently spoke with a Rotarian there. None of them are able to escape and are trapped inside the city. They no longer meet or do any projects for fear of personal safety. Our district governor sent a letter of support to all the Rotarians in Kherson.

Other Rotary clubs continue to operate and are trying their best to conduct Rotary services. We have created a special committee to coordinate help. Each club has a representative on the committee and we meet online twice a day to discuss issues that are facing our clubs.

#### Q: What kind of relief projects are Ukraine clubs doing?

**Stebljanko**: Our Rotary services fall into the following three areas:

- To provide help to our hospitals, where a large number of wounded civilians are being treated. They are in dire need of medical supplies. We have set up a special account and have received about US\$100,000 from Rotary clubs and districts from around the world. We have already purchased and distributed medicine and equipment. We also have been approved for two disaster response grant.
- To coordinate humanitarian aid. Rotary clubs and districts are sending humanitarian aid via trucks, ships, and air carriers. We are rebuilding Rotary's humanitarian hubs along the Ukraine borders with Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, and Romania. They have received all of the supply items and sent them across the border to our cities. Then, we have different hubs inside Ukraine near the border regions where Rotarians distribute this humanitarian help to the cities that are in dire need of help. Most of the items are clothes, food, and medicine.
- To help families of Rotarians who want to leave the country. We have received

many requests from Rotarians in Europe and America, who would like to host our family members and relatives.

#### Q: Why don't you leave Ukraine?

**Stebljanko**: I'm already a refugee. I lived in Simferopol, the capital of Crimea for 40 years. But in 2015, I had to leave my native city because of the Russian annexation of Crimea. So, my wife, Olga and I moved to Odesa. We felt our move to Ukraine would keep us safe. When people asked us why we do not want to leave Odesa and go outside Ukraine, I always answer: we were forced to leave our motherland once in 2015. We don't want to leave our country again. We are Ukrainians and we would like to stay in Ukraine.

#### Q: What's your message to the Rotary clubs around the world?

**Stebljanko**: On behalf of Rotarians in Ukraine, I would like to say a big thank you to all our Rotary fellows who have helped us in Ukraine. It means a lot to us during this difficult time in our country's history. At the same time, I would like to appeal to Rotary people to lobby their governments and push for peace. We are grateful for our friends around the world who are helping us.

SEC. C. CLUBS & MEMBERS: CLUB NEWS & EVENTS

#### **CLUB NEWS:**



The National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force in Pooler will host its second annual Flags for the Fallen program to commemorate the over 26,000 airmen of the US Army's Eighth Air Force who were killed during World War II. The event will take place from Thursday, May 26 through Monday, May 30 Memorial Day in the Memorial Garden of the museum. The Rotary Club of West Chatham is helping to sponsor this event for the second year. Flags for the Fallen is also made possible by hundreds of volunteers throughout the low country who dedicate their time to placing the 26,000 flags throughout the museum grounds.

Last year's inaugural 2021 Flags for the Fallen program attended by thousands of visitors and local media involved a public display of 26,000 48-star flags amid several existing monuments to Eighth Air Force airmen in the museum's Memorial Garden and an opening ceremony and military aircraft flyover during which four World War II Eighth Air Force veterans placed the final four flags.

Enhancements to the 2022 program include a team of Eighth Air Force reenactors who will perform living history impressions on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday. There will also be the addition of a sound system in the Memorial Garden that will broadcast the name by bomb or fighter group, and date of death of each of the 26,000 fallen World War II airmen. Other events will include the Commemorative Air Force which will be selling warbird rides at the Savannah/Hilton Head Island International Airport's Sheltair Aviation during all five days of Flags for the Fallen.

The Flags for the Fallen event will be open to the public and included in museum admission. If you have any questions or need further information, please contact <a href="mailto:flags@mightyeighth.org">flags@mightyeighth.org</a>. Opportunities to volunteer and/or sponsor this event are available

at mightyeighth.org/flagsforthefallen.



Local Rotarians assemble disaster kits for Ukraine



Here is a Link to a video of HIGHLIGHTS of this very special Outreach to Ukraine from Rotarians in District 6920

**Click HERE** 

Here's a note from Rotarian Rafe Semmes:

Just a short note to pass along an article in The Brusnswick News - covering the Rotary Day at MAP which included members of many district clubs including the **Savannah South Rotary Club**, on last Saturday's packing project at **MAP Int'l in Brunswick**. She and I drove down with our club's GRSP student, Britannia Samuels, and Lynn Gensamer, President of the Skidaway Island Rotary Club, who picked Britannia up at Armstrong and brought her to our house for the ride down.

The team I was part of (see bottom pix) repackaged something like 5-6 pallets of individual (small) first aid kits. Each pallet had 48 cases of them, with four dozen kits in each case. So that was something like 14,000 first aid kits we removed and re-boxed. (It could have been more, I lost count after the first three pallets.)

It was a fun 3 hours, and Chick-Fil-A was kind enough to provide box lunches for us afterwards. After Lynn and Anne headed home, I took the rest of the afternoon showing Britannia some places of interest in nearby historic Darien, and then we stopped by the "Smallest Church in America" near Townsend, on the way back. She enjoyed this unusual day.

I thought you all might be interested to see this article, and to know that Rotarians from Savannah and Glynn County (and even one who came all the way from Perry, GA!) participated in this project. Anne is also working to schedule a similar packing project in Savannah later next month, so that more folks from Savannah can participate in this worthwhile endeavour.

- ? By TAYLOR COOPER tcooper@thebrunswicknews.com
- ? The Brunswick News
- ? March 21, 2022

Members of all four local Rotary Clubs and several from other towns in Southeast Georgia assembled at MAP International's headquarters in Brunswick to assemble disaster kits for Ukraine last week.

Joe Leek, president of the St. Simons Island Rotary Club, said members of the St. Simons, Brunswick, Golden Isles, Jekyll Island, Camden, Kings Bay, Savannah, Skidaway and Perry clubs put together over 2,000 kits in a few hours, all of which will be shipped to Ukraine and refugee camps in Poland.

Before they even began assembling the kits on Thursday, Leek said MAP had "skids and skids of things heading to Poland or Moldova," both of which border Ukraine.

On Feb. 24, Russian President Vladimir Putin ordered a full-scale invasion of the country, displacing millions and causing just under 3.3 million people to flee the country entirely as of Friday, according to the United Nations Human Rights Council.

Typically MAP makes disaster kits for areas stricken by natural disasters, especially hurricanes, said Leek, but much of those already prepared have been diverted to aid victims of the invasion of Ukraine.

"They're for people who are evacuating to like a school or a stadium and had to leave everything behind," Leek said, and include basic hygiene products.

"For a while we've been churning out these disaster packs, getting ready for hurricane season here. Then the Ukraine thing happened, and there's been a tremendous request."

The organization is aiming to create another 40,000 kits. For more information on volunteering, visit map.org/volunteer-with-us.

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Cooperation such as this between MAP and Rotary clubs is not new. One of the programs Beverly Trainor, outgoing governor of the Rotary's Southeast Georgia region and another member of the St. Simons Island Rotary, helped establish was Saving Lives with Medicine.

Through the program, Leek said the Rotary finances donations of medicine to free clinics in Southeast Georgia via MAP International.

"They get medicines donated that have about a year left that the pharmacies won't take," Leek said. "They've gone to major manufacturers and asked for these medicines and then sending them to Christian missionaries who are doing medical mission work in impoverished areas."

It was around four to five years ago that MAP started assembling disaster kits, said Leek, who has long volunteered with the Brunswick-based nonprofit.

Taylor Cooper



**Brunswick Rotary Club Food Collection for Sparrow's Nest Food Pantry** 





<u>The Rotary Clubs of Camden County and Kings Bay</u> started our local literacy project many years ago calling it Wee Read.

We now have over 350 children on our list that are receiving one book a month until the age of 5. President Paula from

the Kings Bay club attended a recent meeting of the Camden County club meeting and presented to President Elect Heath a check for \$1,500.00.

**BRAVO to ALL !!!!** 





The Brunswick Rotary Club inducted 7 - - (yes SEVEN) new members in March! WOW!

#### **New Members pinned on March 10**

By Mathew D. Hill on Wednesday, March 16, 2022



New Rotarians inducted Duane Harris led the induction ceremony for seven new members at the March 10 meeting. The new members pictured are: Chelsey McNicoll; Price Rogers; Jay Jaynes; Charles Woodroof; Michael Scherneck; Ralph Staffins and Alicia Haynie.

## St Simons Island Rotary - Reading Rockets seeks volunteers for Zoom pilot

• By LAUREN MCDONALD lmcdonald@thebrunswicknews.com





Nancy Matthews didn't need to be in the room on Thursday to provide the class of prekindergarten students at FACES with a captivating reading experience. Even from her home on St. Simons, the longtime Reading Rockets volunteer was able to connect with the students over Zoom and offer a high-energy reading of "Pete the Cat," a book clearly beloved by the class.

Matthews and other reading volunteers are in their second week of a new pilot version of the Reading Rockets program that launched this month and will run through the end of April. More volunteers are needed to read to the students during the next six weeks.

Reading Rockets, a program sponsored by the Rotary Club of St. Simons and offered through a partnership with Marshes of Glynn Libraries, has in past years brought readers into pre-K and kindergarten classes once a week in an effort to promote literacy for the community's youth.

The COVID-19 pandemic has prevented readers from going into classrooms. This new Zoom pilot, in which the readers are called "Zoomers," aims to be a creative solution to the pandemic's challenges. "We were hoping, of course, all along to be able to have our volunteers just go back in the classroom as usual and read to the children," said Linda Muir, co-chair of the St, Simons Island Rotary's literacy committee. "The program's been around for 12 years come summer, and we've always just gone through a process where people volunteer, get trained and then they get assigned to a certain class."

At the start of this year, the idea formed to offer weekly readings via Zoom, during which a volunteer reader shares a story from their home with one or two classes of students. "This is kind of like the flip side of the distance learning, when the teachers read to the kids when the kids were at home on the computer," Muir said. "Now the readers are at home on the computer reading into the classrooms, and they see the reader and the book on the big screen that's been mounted in their classroom." Muir is one of around a dozen volunteer readers, and she's been able to read from her home in Atlanta. "Instead of seeing one person, I'm seeing the whole classroom and the children sitting in their little squares on the carpet," she said.

Leslie Mattingly, a member of the Rotary Club of St. Simons who got the whole club onto Zoom soon after the onset of the pandemic, has been instrumental in creating the new Zoom version of Reading Rockets, Muir said. And Glynn County Schools staff members played a key role in supporting the rollout into classrooms. Assistant superintendent Tere Miller and her assistant Sheila Farmer made contact with the teachers and helped coordinate the weekly readings. The Reading Rockets coordinators also worked with local teachers to make sure the new program would work in their classrooms.

"It's a bit of a pilot to see if this can work and how the readers like it, how the kids like it and the teachers," Muir said. "Even going forward — and we're going to be back in the classrooms we hope — we would still have this Zooming alternative for maybe teachers who prefer it or readers who prefer it." About 11 volunteer spots are open now for a variety of time slots at different schools.

Volunteers are asked to have at least a basic familiarity with Zoom and PowerPoint, as both programs are used during the weekly readings. Training will be provided for all volunteers, during which they will get to do a test run with one of the Reading Rockets coordinators. "Even though you're reading to a classroom full of kids and there's a teacher there who has to go through a little bit different process, it's not any different from talking to anybody else on Zoom," Muir said.

Books are selected for the volunteers each week and sent in PowerPoint form at the start of the week. At the time of the reading, volunteers send a Zoom invitation to the teacher, who will be expecting their message. "We get it all coordinated with the teacher," Muir said. "The teacher knows to expect an invitation, so you just send an invitation to a Zoom meeting just like you do anybody." The teacher will get the students settled in front of the big screen, and the reader will have the chance to share that week's story.

Those interested in volunteering can email Muir at <a href="mailto:ltmuirssi@gmail.com">ltmuirssi@gmail.com</a>.

"This is pretty much a pilot to prove that this technology can be used as a tool for Reading Rockets, and we're hopeful that next year the classrooms will be open to visitors and the volunteers will feel comfortable to go into them," Muir said. "And we would hope that people would want to continue to be Reading Rocket volunteers next year."

PS - - With ZOOM - - the St Simons Club can invite Rotarians beyond our Club to join us. If you are interested, Contact Linda!



Published by Paula Goodnow ② · March 7 at 8:22 AM · ❸

The Julian Smith Casino at Lake Olmstead Park has never looked better! Today, Augusta West fulfilled their District Grant project by partnering with the Richmond County Parks & Recreation team to plant over 80 bushes to make our park look fantastic. Many thx to Aubrey, Julie, Mike B, Rich, Welton, Kevin, Kelly, Rett, & lil Everett for helping out!

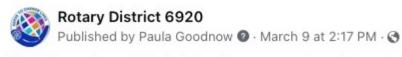




WTOC.COM

#### 2 local groups collecting donations for Ukraine

The Rotary Club of Savannah announced how you can help Ukrai...



The Waynesboro club inducted 3 new members today. Greg Coursey, Lacey Zorn and Jeff Richardson.





#### SEC. D.YOUTH: GRSP, RYLA, ROTARACT, INTERACT











**Georgia Rotary Student Program scholarship recipients** were able to gather safely with 35 out of 41 students in late February for the GRSP Leadership Weekend in Dunwoody. Starting the weekend with an emphasis on service, students packed 10K meals for Rise for Hunger.

They also enjoyed a slate of speakers discussing civil rights and sharing their own inspirational student stories. The weekend wrapped up with the Shark Tank Sunday featuring \$1K grant from the Rotary Club of Dunwoody with the winning group placing an emphasis on disease prevention in children. Each group's presentation featured inspiring ideas and great energy. It is hard to believe this was only their second formal time together. Special thanks to weekend chairs Ron and Louise Barden as well as the Rotary Clubs of Dunwoody, Atlanta Metro, Buckhead, Gainesville, North Atlanta and the Atlanta Rotaract Club.

Thirty-six students from GRSP were able to make the trip to South Georgia for the Larry Frosteg Pelham International Student Weekend in late March. The 56<sup>th</sup> annual weekend was hosted by Pelham along with Camilla, Thomasville and Bainbridge Rotary Clubs with James Eubanks serving as Chair with the backup of GRSP Trustee Larry Frosteg. Will Watt III, grandson of GRSP Founder Will Watt, spoke to the students as they toured the GRSP Peace Plaza and Memorial Fountain in nearby Thomasville. Students also enjoyed a tour of Pebble Hill Plantation, Pelham High School, an alligator farm in Camilla, a chance to swing a golf club or putt at Pinecrest Country Club along with a banquet and free time swimming or sitting poolside.

The final GRSP Student Weekend is scheduled for April 7-10 in Camden County and students will attend their respective District Conferences before their scholarship year ends.

SEC. E. TOOLS: CITATIONS, RESOURCES, FACEBOOK, RI NEWS, CONTACT US, & LINKS

#### **IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO AND LINKS:**

Contact DG Ed: (706) 373-0007? Email: edpresnell@gmail.com

Your Club & District on-line Database DACdb: http://www.dacdb.com or CLICK HERE

Our District Website: http://www.rotarydistrict6920.org/ or CLICK HERE

Our District Facebook Page: https://www.facebook.com/Rotary6920 or CLICK HERE

Our District Twitter Account: https://twitter.com/RotaryDist6920 or CLICK HERE

Rotary International Website: https://www.rotary.org/en Or CLICK HERE

**Rotary International Foundation:** https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-

foundation Or CLICK HERE

My Rotary: https://my.rotary.org/en/ or CLICK HERE

(My Rotary is a place FULL of tools for Rotarians and Clubs - you'll need to register seperately for an 'account' - - but OH what a Treasure trove of info, videos, PR materials - awaits!)

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District Chief of Staff: Paula Goodnow: paulagoodnow@hotmail.com (if there is

something you can't figure out ....Paula will know....)

Newsletter Editor: Leslie Mattingly 912-222-5430 Leslie DMattingly 27@gmail.com

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