

**Subject:** READ NOW: DISTRICT 6920 NEWSLETTER, MAY, 2022

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

**Date:** 5/20/2022, 4:20 PM

**To:** jim@oatland.org



**SERVE TO  
CHANGE LIVES**

## **DISTRICT 6920 NEWSLETTER - CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS EDITION**

**MAY, 2022**

**This is: YOUTH SERVICES Month**

**Dear Changemaker Jim,**

**Here is your May District 6920 Newsletter.**

**This month we especially highlight our first IN PERSON ALL CLUBS CONFERENCE  
in THREE Years!**

**Thanks in no small part to a major 're-vamp' coordinated by DG ED, Conference  
Chair Kelly Knitter & her committee -**

**Attendees enjoyed a GREAT weekend - -**

**We know what you are thinking (*they say this every year*)- -**

**But seriously - *EVERYONE* headed home absolutely amazed and excited by  
what they'd enjoyed and experienced.**

**BRAVO to ED, KELLY - and ALL who helped create a PERFECT weekend!**

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

---



## **Message from Governor Ed;**

**Greetings, Changemaker Jim, - and all My Fellow Rotarian Changemakers !!**

**I realize that we are deep into May and this is my next to last message.**

**I have thoroughly enjoyed every step of the way as your District Governor and, as they say, "the proof of the pudding is in the eating!"**

**Next month we will recap our journey, but for now, I want us to celebrate together the success of the District Conference celebration.**

**The District Conference in Augusta was more than just another Rotary gathering...it was a splendid agenda that touched every area of our Rotary areas of focus.**

**The ongoing compliments and praises are overwhelming.**

**I must thank Kelly Knitter for her amazing commitment to our conference as we showcased Augusta's hospitality throughout the weekend.**

**Many, many Rotarians gave us enthusiastic assistance in our efforts to restore live conference protocol to District 6920!**

**Amazingly, RI Director Peter Kyle and his lovely wife Margaret spent the entire weekend with us and indulged the agenda to its maximum extent.**

**As our keynote presenter on Saturday night, we were treated to a classic insight into the world of Rotary International.**

**His words were very inspiring and we were extremely fortunate that he would take the time to be in Augusta.**

**All of our speakers were likewise incredible. Within this newsletter are many pictures and impressions that were experienced over this amazing weekend.**

**A lot of very sincere recognition was provided to our clubs and I will acknowledge in complete humility our gratitude for your club accomplishments.**

**Please take the time to enjoy, reflect, and be amazed at the quality of the conference.**

**There is no doubt in my mind that as Rotarians, we celebrated this Rotary year in fine**

**fashion and managed to have FUN!!!**

**I FEEL GOOD!!!!**

**[CLICK HERE](#) to dance along & see JUST HOW GOOD I FEEL about this great year !!!!**

Have a TERRIFIC day as you read this newsletter.....

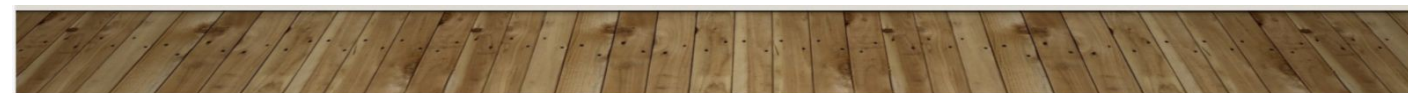
Ed

Yours in Rotary,



**PS We announced Saturday night at Conference that District 6920 successfully accomplished this year's Rotary Theme (challenge) of "Serve to Change Lives". In fact - thanks to all the tracking and reporting from our great Clubs - we know we have an aggregate TOTAL of - (wait for it) 23 MILLION LIVES touched by our efforts. ....23 MILLION....**

**A comprehensive summary of our success in this endeavor will be featured in the June Newsletter - -**



## **PHOTOS and HIGHLIGHTS from the 2022 AUGUSTA ALL CLUBS CONFERENCE**

**Want to take a peak to see what the 2022 Conference 'Looked like' ? WELL, HERE YOU GO.....**

**Let's Begin with this - - -**

**Being Held in the HOME TOWN of Georgia's own JAMES BROWN - Governor Ed decided to honor him by 'inviting him' to attend District Conference...**

**At the beginning of the Conference - - Guests saw this fantastic Clip:**

**[CLICK HERE](#)**

**and then - - "THE MAN HIMSELF" (with 'help' from DG ed) arrived in the Room to kick-off the Festivities.**



## **LET'S START - with FANTASTIC NEWS!**

**76% of the Clubs in our District Reported their Citation Efforts and Successes!**

**THESE CLUBS are our HERO CLUBS!**

**They are the LEADERS in OUR DISTRICT!**

**THANK YOU to each Club for your dedication to ROTARY and to serving your Communities (and beyond) through Rotary**

**Currently- we have 61 Clubs in our District. Of those:**

**25 of our Clubs earned a GOLD Citation this Year !!!**

**14 Clubs Earned a SILVER Citation, and 8 Clubs Earned a BRONZE Citation!**

**CONGRATULATIONS to EACH of these LEADERSHIP Clubs!**



Saturday, April 30 2022



## Club Citation Awards

**CLUB SUMMARY: Gold (25), Silver (14), Bronze (8)** **76% Clubs Reported**

### BRONZE

McRae
Metter
Statesboro
Tennille
Cochran
Effingham Sunrise
Jones County
Richmond Hill

### SILVER

Downtown Statesboro	Jekyll Island
Claxton	Macon North
Eastman	Savannah East
Waycross	Savannah Sunrise
Ocilla	Skidaway Island
Hazlehurst	Warner Robins
Jefferson County	Savannah West



Saturday, April 30 2022



## Club Citation Awards

**CLUB SUMMARY: Gold (25), Silver (14), Bronze (8)** **76% Clubs Reported**

### GOLD

Glennville	Brunswick	Centerville
Millen	Golden Isles	Metropolitan Savannah
Hinesville	Nashville-Berrien	Augusta-West
Augusta	Perry	Camden County
St. Simons Island	Savannah	Downtown Macon
Valdosta	Effingham County	Dublin
Macon	Fitzgerald	Kings Bay
Vidalia	Jesup	Valdosta-North
	Waynesboro	

**NOW.....**

**[CLICK HERE](#) to scroll through MANY MORE of the highlights - and you'll most likely spot friends from your club & across the District (and BTW - you should be able to save this PDF to your computer - in case you want to share with your club)**









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

**New Global Grant project# 2234563 with Serbia approved:**

The second "Mbot robots for 100 schools" in Serbia Global Grant project has been approved.

The [Rotary Club of St. Simons](#) is the primary international sponsor club for the second-year project.

This Second Phase has a total budget of \$77,400.

District Foundation chair and PDG Hamsa Thota of St. Simons Rotary club is leading a team of four Savannah Rotarians to Serbia to participate in the distribution of Mbot robots to schools.

During their stay in Serbia, the visiting Rotarians will be hosted by Serbian Rotarians in their homes to further build friendships & promote understanding.

Zorica Jestrović  
Governor 2021/22  
District 2483



**HEARST OF EUROPE GLOBAL GRANT  
"ROTARY DISTRICT 2483 FOR 100 SCHOOLS "-GG2234563**

**Continuation of the mBot robot project**  
**Areal of focus:** Basic education and literacy  
**Host Club:** RC Beograd Čukarica  
**International Sponsor Club:** RC St. Simons Island D6920  
**Type of donation:** 500 mBot robots for 100 elementary schools  
**Beneficiary:** 100 elementary schools in Serbia  
**Value of project:** \$77,400  
**Delivery of donation planned for:** Sept/Oct.2022  
**Person in charge:** PDG Vladimir Matić  
**Project coordinators:** Srđan Pavličić, RC Beograd Čukarica



**SAVANNAH & ST SIMONS ROTARIANS TRAVEL TO SERBIA TO DEPLOY MBOTS Project**



**USAID**  
OD AMERIČKOG NARODA

**Rotary** 

## **American and Serbian Rotarians present mbots to Elementary schools in Belgrade, Serbia**

Five American Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Savannah and Rotary Club of St. Simons joined Rotarians from Serbia to present mbots/robots in "October 20th" Elementary School in Belgrade, Serbia. It was a donation provided through a [Global Grant](#) under the program [Hearts of Europe](#). With the support of the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology Development and partners from Georgia (USA), eighteen Rotary clubs raised funds which, after being matched by the Rotary Foundation and the USAID, amounted to 77,000 US dollars.

Forty-eight thousand students in 100 schools will benefit from this donation. The schools were selected by the Ministry of Education and Rotary District 2483 Serbia and Montenegro. IT teachers from these schools will be obliged to attend teacher training in order to be able to apply the donated equipment in the teaching process and to train their colleagues in the future.

Mbot robots will help students learn program languages Scratch and Python and coding, as part of IT curriculum in grade 5 and 6, recently introduced by the Ministry of Education. It is expected that 40 percent of all new jobs will be with robots in the near future.

The American team stayed with Rotarians from various clubs in Belgrade.



**Making the trip from The Rotary Club of Savannah were (L-R) Frank Moore, President Marjorie Young, Peter Hoffman, and Bill Durrence. Past District Governor Hamsa Thota was the team leader. He is from the St Simons club and was also on this trip.**



Left to right Past District Governor of D2483 Vladimir Matic, Past President of RC Pancevo(SP) Natasa Lozovic, President of the Rotary Club of Savannah Marjorie Young, Past District Governor of D6920 Hamsa Thota, and Savannah Rotary members Frank Moore, Peter Hoffman and Bill Durrence distribute mbots to teachers from various schools.





## SEC. B. DISTRICT PROJECTS: INITIATIVES & PLANS

### MEMBERSHIP:

**THE YEAR ISN'T OVER YET!!!!**

**Let's keep that NEW BLOOD Coming to our Fellowship and our Efforts locally and across the District!**

**EACH ONE BRING ONE  
CHALLENGE**

**Alfie Cofield, Dist Membership Chair**

[alfiecofield@gmail.com](mailto:alfiecofield@gmail.com)

### MORE FOUNDATION NEWS:

**Gil Tharp Global Grant Scholarship awarded to Caleb Gordon**



**Cadet John "Caleb" Gordon from Augusta, Georgia, and a graduate of West Point Military Academy, has been awarded a Gil Thorp Scholarship - to pursue a Master's Degree in Spirituality & Religion at the University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands. (This involved a special arrangement with the U.S. Army to allow for this experience BEFORE Caleb begins his active military service to our Nation).**

**The Application, submitted by the Rotary Club of Amsterdam-International and District 6920, has been approved by The Rotary Foundation.**

**The award is in the amount of US\$ 30,000.00. The generous gift of the Gilbert R. Tharp Endowed Scholarship is providing \$30,000 for this global grant.**

**The Gil Tharp Scholarship was created by the **ST SIMONS ISLAND Rotary Club** and has benefited countless students since its inception.**

**Please Join us in congratulating Caleb on this amazing accomplishment and exciting opportunity.**

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

**CLUB NEWS:**

**FROM GLENNVILLE CLUB - - Don Fountain Makes NEWS!!!**

**Don reads to local elementary students as part of a team of Glennville Rotarians volunteering to read to a class in either pre-K or Kindergarten.**

**The team members read every other Friday for 30 minutes.**

# SCHOOL NEWS



Donald Fountain with the GES students. Front row (l to r): Peter Salvatore, Claire Pirie, Kinsley Mobley, Ashton Beeks, Isalah Lewis, Ariana Maldonado, Aubrey Jarriel, and Alan Jimenez. Back row: Bryer Durrence, KinsLee Frasier, Leonardo Fajardo, Jamal Anderson, Donald Fountain, Keitsha Louis, Alden Parker, Eva Smith, Naiema Anderson-Davis, and Mack Sanders.

## Glennville Rotarian Donald Fountain reads to GES students

BY PAM WATERS  
The Journal Sentinel

Glennville Rotarian Donald Fountain read to the kindergarten students in Brandy Donnan's class at Glennville Elementary School (GES) on Friday, April 8, 2022.

The students were eager listeners to the book he chose to read, *Pete the Cat and His Four Groovy Buttons*.

"It was such a joy to have a person from the community to read to my students. One of my students said, 'He was such a great reader,' so they notice when someone enjoys reading to them.

We all appreciated him giving of his time to read to us," Donnan said.

"It was a great experience and I look forward to returning again to read to another class. They were all very good listeners and had some impressive comments on Pete. My two children always enjoyed having stories read to them, and they are both readers still today," Fountain said.

One of the emphases of the Glennville Rotary Club and Rotary International is basic education and literacy. Reading to GES students on every other Friday morning for 30 minutes has been a project of the Glennville Rotary Club for several

years. In addition to Donald Fountain, Glennville Rotarians who have read to GES students this 2021-2022 school year include Tim Cooper, Joe Sikes, Dylan Mulligan, Shellie Smith, Lynda Goodell, Donna Tootle, Dennis Strickland, Bernie Weaver, Logan McCullough, and Pam Waters.

"We are grateful for the Glennville Rotary Club and their dedication to local literacy and other school projects and events. They are indeed a partner with the Tattnall County Board of Education, and we appreciate their support and commitment to our children," GES Principal Kristi Kaiser

said.

"Reading is part of our everyday occurrence at GES, and our ultimate goal is for our students to develop a love for reading. As teachers, our passion centers around learning. When community members come into our school to read to our students, they are showing their support for our children and helping them understand the importance of reading outside of the school setting. We cannot thank the Glennville Rotary Club enough for their partnership and support they have shown us over the years, she added.

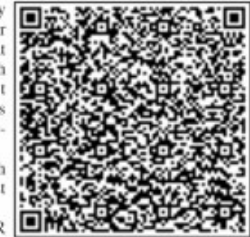
## The Warrior Way Basketball Camp is May 21 through June 2

The 2022 Warrior Way Basketball Camp is set for May 31 through June 2 at Tattnall County High School for rising first through eighth graders from Tattnall and surrounding counties.

The cost is \$40, which includes a t-shirt. The last day to register is May 6.

To register, scan the QR code on the flyers on your mobile phone. These QR codes will be posted to the TCHS men's basketball Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter accounts. Flyers will also be posted at Tattnall County Schools.

Each day, drop off and



Scan to register online.

registration will be held from 8:30 to 9 a.m. and pick-up will be from 12 to 12:30 p.m.

No High school students will be allowed to participate or help.

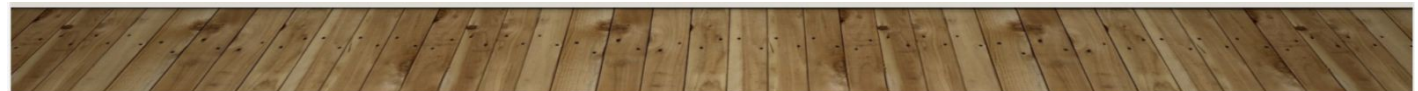
**SHOP LOCAL**

Bring more local shoppers to your door with locally focused advertising from the experts.

Call us today!  
The Journal Sentinel  
912.654.2515 or  
912.557.6761



**YOUR AD HERE!**



**Glennville Rotary Project Blossom Boutique - ALSO makes the news - - and what a GREAT local Initiative! Read and be Inspired!!**



## Linda Durrence shares her journey in founding Blossom Boutique

BY PAM WATERS  
The Journal Sentinel

Linda Durrence, who founded Blossom Boutique, which serves any fostered, adopted, and less fortunate children, shared her journey into the ministry of service to Glennville Rotarians on Wednesday, April 6, 2022.

She was introduced by Glennville Rotarian Chariton Rogers, who described Linda as a woman with a huge servant heart.

Blossom Boutique provides free clothing and hygiene items to these children ages infant to high school who are in need.

Durrence commented that her heart for children had always been a part of her makeup, but when she and her husband lost their 27-year-old daughter, Kristin, in 2016, they were in a deep state of grief. The couple were living in Brunswick at the time, but moved back to Glennville the next year. After buying and living in the home of the late Jeff Armstrong, Mark's cousin, they decided that country living was more preferable. They eventually bought the rural wooded property of Charles and Sondra Winge off Baxter-Durrence Road.

"We first met Juanita, Chelsea, and Princessa

through our church of Connection Point in Reidsville, and at the time they were in foster care, having been removed from the care of their biological father. The girls soon came to live with us, with plans for Juanita and Princessa to go live with their grandmother. Chelsea began living with her boyfriend Slater's parents, and Chelsea and Slater will be getting married later this year," Durrence said.

"These girls literally came to us with a black trash bag half filled with tattered clothing, a couple of pairs of worn shoes, a toothbrush, and a hairbrush. These girls' mother had been killed in 2015, and they have seen so much brokenness in their lives.

"We fell in love with the girls, but the plans were to have them to go live with their grandmother. However, Juanita and Princessa let us know that they had finally found peace and were tired of moving. These girls, before coming to us, had been beaten, starved, and abused by their biological father and had lived in two foster homes. I come from a family of nurturing mothers, and when Princessa told me one morning as I dropped her off to school of their wanting to stay with us, I felt God telling me what I needed to do. However, I told

Him that He had 15 minutes to convince my husband. Yet, when I walked back into our home that morning, Mark knew from the tears on my face that these girls were staying. He has been wonderful with all these females in one household," Durrence said.

Durrence has two other daughters (biological), Sara Durrence Santana and Madison Durrence. The grandmother of the girls agreed to their remaining with the Durrence family.

"From our own grieving over the loss of Kristin and the experiences of mothering Juanita, Chelsea, and Princessa, as well as Sara and Madison, Blossom was born. Mark and I love unconditionally, just like God loves us. We have watched these girls blossom with the love we feel for them and sharing the Word of God, too, into their lives. They have moved past the brokenness, and our tragedies have brought healing to all of us," Durrence said.

"Within our Blossom Boutique, children are eligible for seven full sets of clothing every quarter and personal and hygiene items. These items are free of charge," Durrence said.

The hours of operation are from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. by appointment only. To make a free shopping appointment



L to r: Linda Durrence, Glennville Rotarian Chariton Rogers, Juanita, and Mattie.

for a foster, adopted, or less fortunate child, call (912) 654-3318.

"Blossom Thrift Store is adjacent to Blossom Boutique, and it is open to the public. It has extremely low prices, with many items just \$1, such as a pair of jeans. These low prices are serving the community well by clothing full families at a very low cost. All proceeds to our mission of Blossom Boutique go to provide for less fortunate children and youths," Durrence said.

Hours of operation are Tuesday-Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Oftentimes, outside yard sales will be held in front of their building at

902 N. Veterans Blvd., Glennville, the former Jennifer's School of Dance facility.

Both Blossom Boutique and Blossom Thrift Store are managed by Leslie Walker, Linda's sister, who was formerly employed by the Department of Family and Children Services. She knows firsthand about the dire situations of so many foster children.

"This is just the beginning. Blossom is expanding in the near future. We are opening a store called Blossom Originals in the former space occupied by Free to Roam Boutique. Blossom Originals will include throw pillows,

recovered furniture, candles, jellies, jams, baby clothes, t-shirts, decor, etc., all created by Blossom's Team and Community. Blossom Originals' proceeds will go to funding the Blossom Boutique and a future Education Center," Durrence said.

The website for Blossom is [blossomseast.com](http://blossomseast.com).



## From the McRae Rotary Club

The McRae Club held a special program in memory of two very special long-time members, whom they bid farewell in 2020:

**Rotarian Lamar Cooper and Rotarian Herman Moore.**

**The Club presented memorial vases to their spouses, Vivian Cooper and Diane Moore.**

**Lamar Cooper joined McRae Rotary Club on November 1, 1974 and was a member for 46 years.**

**Herman Moore joined McRae Rotary Club on March 1, 1987 and was a member for 33 years.**

**Club members shared many fond memories of both Mr. Cooper and Mr. Moore.**



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

**To Catch a GLIMPS of our amazing young people involved in Rotary, again, we invite you to check out the Conference Highlights.**

[CLICK HERE](#) to see some of the most amazing, talented, intelligent and motivated young adults ANYWHERE!

**Hint 1:** a Rotaract Club in our District was recognized above all other Rotaract Clubs in ZONE 34 - - that means ALL Districts up and down the east Coast and part of the Carribean - over 30 in all!!!

**Hint 2:** Our GSP Students 'ROCKED' District Conference - - Take a look at this phenomenal Group!

**Hint 3:** Our District Speech Contest Finalists ..... WOW!

**SEC. E. TOOLS: CITATIONS, RESOURCES, FACEBOOK, RI NEWS, CONTACT US, & LINKS****IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO AND LINKS:**

**Contact DG Ed:** Cell: [\(706\) 373-0007](tel:7063730007) 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 separately for an 'account' - - but OH what a Treasure trove of info, videos, PR materials - awaits!)

**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](tel:9122225430) LeslieDMattingly27@gmail.com

---

To unsubscribe from future emails, please click on this link: [Unsubscribe](#)