

Subject: READ NOW: DISTRICT 6920 NEWSLETTER, January, 2023

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

Date: 1/9/2023, 10:21 AM

To: jim@oatland.org



DISTRICT 6920 NEWSLETTER January, 2023

Dear Georgia District 6920 Rotarian Jim,
This is: **Vocational Service** Month

JANUARY IS

VOCATIONAL SERVICE MONTH

"Vocational service gives Rotarians the opportunity to help others escape poverty and gain a measure of self-respect. As business and professional leaders, we have a duty to lead and encourage good ethics through vocation."

Carlos Frum, PDG D6440

Rotary  

www.rotary.org



January Message from Governor Heather;

Greetings, Jim, - and all D6920 Rotarians !!

Happy New Year! It's a tradition to create a resolution for the new year, a promise to do better. Go to the gym. Eat healthier. Drink less. Work less. Spend more time with family. Since many of us will only continue down that path for a few weeks, or perhaps a few months, I propose we make a new tradition. Let's look back at the year and congratulate ourselves on what we've accomplished. Celebrate!!

As a District we've accomplished A LOT...

District membership has increased by 42 members

Female membership has risen to 27.76%

Clubs have given \$175,266 to The Rotary Foundation

Clubs have given \$24,781 to PolioPlus

Clubs have increased the number of Interact and EarlyAct Clubs

Clubs have partnered with the Lions Club and other service organizations to do BIG things

Clubs have brought attention to Human Trafficking

Clubs have Empowered Girls

Clubs have Protected the Environment

Clubs donated food, money and gifts over the holidays, so families had something to celebrate

...AND WE'RE NOT DONE YET!!!

Do you remember your mom saying: "Keep your fork"? You most likely heard it numerous times over the holidays. It's a phrase often said after every holiday dinner or family get together. It means dessert is coming and it's going to be good. The phrase brings a sense of excitement because you know Grandma Sally brought her famous caramel cake and you better be ready if you're going to get a piece. We may not be serving caramel cake (although I do have a connection with an excellent baker) but the District does have some incredible

things in store and we are ensuring lots of fun to come. Make sure you all keep your fork!
The best part is yet to come.

I've learned a new word this year... "Ubuntu". It's a Zulu word that means humanity. It's the belief that we are not in competition with one another, but rather we rely on community and togetherness for our own progression. It's about strengthening relationships, making connections, responsibility, togetherness, and sharing acts of kindness. Ubuntu tells us we can create a more peaceful world by striving for goodness in every moment, for everyone, wherever we are.

To me this is the very definition of Rotary. The relationships we have with one another have the power to strengthen and build our communities. Imagine what we can do when we work together.

Looking forward to the second half of this Rotary year and excited to celebrate with all of you at Callaway Gardens in April. Wishing you all a very Happy New Year!!

TO EVERYONE - and EVERY CLUB - - HERE is your Focus for JANUARY:

- **New Year's resolution: to finish Rotary year strong.** Reassess club & district goals and start planning for the end of the Rotary year.
It's time to brag a little and celebrate your club's accomplishments.
[CLICK HERE](#) for information about club and member awards available for our 22-23 year.
- **Highlight the vocations of club Rotarians** on social media or recognize them during club meetings this month
- **Nominate a club member** for each of the two District vocational awards and recognize them at your club meeting
- **January 16th Martin Luther King Holiday:** Participate in a community event
- **January is US National Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month:** Participate at an event (*links & Info Below*) or hold your own.
 - January 21st Event in Atlanta with Georgia First Lady Marty Kemp <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spotlight-on-human-trafficking-tickets-467659912387?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>
 - <https://redsandproject.org/>

IMAGINE what we can do TOGETHER - THIS Month !!!

Yours in Rotary,



P.S. - -Be sure to Send our District Governor-Elect FELIX SMITH an email dgfelixsmith2023@gmail.com or text 478-919-8968 with your well wishes as he attends International Assembly in Orlando for training and fun January 9-13th.

P.P.S. -- ROTARY INTERNATIONAL MONTHLY FOCUS THEMES HAVE BEEN UPDATED: Update your Rotary Calendars: **April is now Environmental Month, in recognition of Rotary's newest area of focus, and **Maternal and Child Health Month has been moved to July****

VOCATIONAL SERVICE

by Mike Gray, District Vocational Service Chair

As we all know from our Rotary history, when Paul Harris and three business acquaintances met in his law office in Chicago on February 23, 1905, Paul's vision was not to form the world's largest service organization. Instead, that gathering was called so these four professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas and form friendships.

At the time of that meeting, the only common connection these men had was that they were all business and professional people. Thus, vocational service was a foundation for Rotary from its inception.

The Object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis for worthy enterprise and is the responsibility of all Rotarians. The concept of vocational service is rooted in the Second Object, which calls on Rotarians to encourage and foster;

- High ethical standards in business and professions**
- The recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations**
- The dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.**

Additionally, Rotary's Four-Way Test is an ethical guide for Rotarians to use in their personal and professional relationships and is tied directly to vocational service.

Each Club in District 6920 is encouraged to make vocational service a focus this month. Rotary International has a wealth of excellent resources relating to vocational services available on its website. A good start is "Vocational Service in Action", which is recommended to all Rotarians. <https://my-cms.rotary.org/en/document/introduction->

[vocational-service](#)

Some suggestions for promoting vocational service in Clubs are as follows:

- Have one or more members provide a program on their vocation or profession – sometimes called a “classification talk”.
- Invite prominent local business or professional people in your community to provide a program on their business and the values that have led to their success.
- Have a representative from your local vocational and technical college provide a program on how they are working to train the next generation for a successful career that does not necessarily require a four-year college degree.

District Governor Heather has announced two (2) prestigious awards this year that are intended to give Rotarians an opportunity to recognize outstanding vocational leaders in our District. Click here: <https://rotarydistrict6920.org/vocational-service/>

The Horatio “Cabby” Cabasares Vocational Excellence Award

The Lynford “Lynn” Hadwin Guardian of Ethics Award

Take this opportunity to highlight the important Rotary values embodied in our vocational service Avenue of Service in January!

Peach State PETS
Rotary
6900, 6910, 6920



Attention ALL (2023-24) PRESIDENTS ELECT!!!

Don't forget - - in order to serve as your Club President next year - **You MUST attend PETS**

The President-Elect Training Seminar is held jointly with ALL Presidents-elect from all three Georgia Districts - In ATLANTA - March 3-5, 2023

PLEASE REGISTER NOW at this LINK:

President-Elect Training: Atlanta, GA March 3-5th, 2023 <https://peachstatepets.org/>

Heads up: *The wise move is to register and book your hotel room NOW.*

The Hotel does fill up (remember, several hundred PEs are coming from all three Georgia Districts).

As the main hotel fills - registrants are booked into an off-sight hotel. Its best to book NOW...

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CELEBRATES AWARD WINING ROSE PARADE FLOAT

Rotary International Celebrated another New Year as participants of the 2023 Rose Parade by winning the Princess Trophy, given to the best float under 35 feet. If you look closely, you can see District Governor, Heather walking alongside the float (green dress).



Section A. TOP PRIORITIES, District News, and Events

District Governor January Movie Picks:

ARE YOU UP FOR A CHALLENGE?

The end of the year is an exciting time for the movie industry as awards are given to those movies that have made an impact over the year.

Almost as exciting as the end of year football games.

A fun challenge is to guess which movies will win the "Best Movie" Oscar. Nominations for the Oscars are announced January 24th.

Contact DG Heather if you're up for the challenge - to choose the most winners from

among those nominated.

HEADS UP: [There may be a prize if you can best the Governor.](#)

Important Rotary Events:

Assistant Governor Training: Perry, GA February 4th, 2023

President-Elect Training: Atlanta, GA March 3-5th, 2023 <https://peachstatepets.org/>

District Conference: Callaway Gardens April 27-30th, 2023

<https://rotarydistrict6920.org/district-conference-2/>

DISTRICT 6920 ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH

District Governor Heather is happy to announce the **District Rotarian of the Month is Shrad Amrit of the Perry Rotary Club.**

District End Polio Now Chair, Shrad, was presented the Sledgehammer “Eradicator” award for his efforts to encourage District giving towards Polio eradication through participation in the PolioPlus Society.

To date the District has raised over \$17,000 for Polio and 133 District Rotarians have become PolioPlus Society members.

Clubs leading those donations are Perry (31 members), Brunswick (28 members) and Waycross (28 members).

Who will be the first PolioPlus Society Club in the District?



Preston Johnson High School Speech Competition dates/times

Attention All Club Speech Contest Chairs: Club competitions should be held no later than March 1st so participants can prepare for the the Zone contest. Club winners will participate at a Zone competition held in the Northern, Western, and Eastern parts of the District.

Each Zone winner will receive a \$1000 scholarship after their speech presentation at District Conference.

They must be able to present to receive the scholarship. Any high school students may compete, freshman through senior.

For more information contact District Governor, Heather Kellen or the Zone coordinator in your area.

Northern Zone Jay Wucher jay.wucher@baldwin.k12.ga.us 404-388-2994

Western Zone Zachary Allen zallen@cwpowellins.com 229-292-2799

Eastern Zone Jim Kielt jim.kielt@yahoo.com 860-712-7747

For more details and info - [CLICK HERE](#)

Rotary INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION



The banner features a dark background with colorful gear-like patterns. At the top, three boxes indicate past and future convention dates: '27-31 May 2023 MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA' (dark blue), '4-8 June 2022 HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA' (light blue), and 'PAST & FUTURE' (grey). The main text 'IMAGINE WHAT'S NEXT' is in large white letters. A yellow 'REGISTER' button is on the left. A video player in the center shows a building with a dome. At the bottom, the Rotary logo and 'MELBOURNE 2023' logo are visible.

YOU can give *yourself* (and your spouse or a friend) a trip full of memories and experiences!

Plan a trip to Melbourne Australia - - as part of a Rotary International Convention Experience!!!

Don't miss out!

Explore what Melbourne has to offer at the Rotary International Convention in May of 2023.

Learn the details and experiences you can choose from - -click on the photo above - or [CLICK HERE](#)

Hello all - -

As your District Convention Chair - - I want to take a moment to tell you about MY first RI Convention Experience....

I was the incoming President of the Anderson Indiana Rotary Club.

The Anderson Rotary Club ALWAYS included an item in their budget to send the incoming President to the International Convention. It was a gift of experience and inspiration to every incoming President. My 'year' the Convention was held in Glasgow Scotland. I convinced a friend in my club to travel along - and we were joined by Past International Director, Robert Shoemaker. My friend and I first spent 3 days traveling around Scotland. It was a great time - and everywhere we went on our sojourn - Pubs, Hotels, etc - - people would inquire - we'd say "we're here for the Rotary Convention" and we'd be treated so kindly! ALL of Scotland was well aware of the thousands of Rotarians coming from around the globe to attend the International Convention. We saw an incredible amount of Scotland in those 3 days.

We made it back to Glasgow with only minutes to spare before the opening session of the Convention - held in a Football (Soccer) stadium - with proceedings to rival the Olympic opening events. The Convention then continued in the Convention Center - - -General Sessions were fascinating and brought an amazing group of internationally renowned people.

My favorite spot was the House Of Friendship - - basically a large room where great food could be found - tables could be shared - and (authentic) quality souvenirs from Scotland could be purchased. You would shop til you dropped - - choose your lunch - - then pick a random table and sit down to meet new friends from ANYWHERE. And all the while - there was entertainment going on - - children dancing traditional Scottish dances, Scottish Bagpipes and other traditional instruments - - all of it.

Then there were the extra experiences - - - One afternoon it was a full-blown Highland Games. Log throwing, archery - - the whole thing.

One evening, it was a small group dinner in the home of a Rotarian from Glasgow; a long-standing opportunity to visit a home in the host country.

One night - all attendees were divided into groups of about 200 - and bussed out of the city to a nearby town where we "enjoyed" a traditional Haggis Dinner. I'll spare some of the details of that cuisine - except to say - it helped that it was drenched in great Scotch Whiskey - which in turn guaranteed a great night of music, dancing, and fun. Finally - the Convention came to a spectacular end (with the Glasgow Symphony, amazing Vocalists and Celtic dancers).

My friends and I decided to take another 4 days to fly over to Ireland. We took on Ireland! Dinner in a Castle, the Donegal Pennesula, a night in a fabulous fishing village on the coast - and a visit to the Waterford

factory; and everywhere we went - we kept running into Rotarians (wearing pins and logos on jackets etc) - having the same fun.

Finally arriving back in Dublin - - our adventure came to an end. But that became the first of several Conventions for me - and there WILL be more to come!

I Invite every Rotarian in our District - - to make your OWN RI Convention Adventure - this year in Melbourne, Australia !

and I promise - - just like with me - - it will become your FAVORITE way to experience the world!

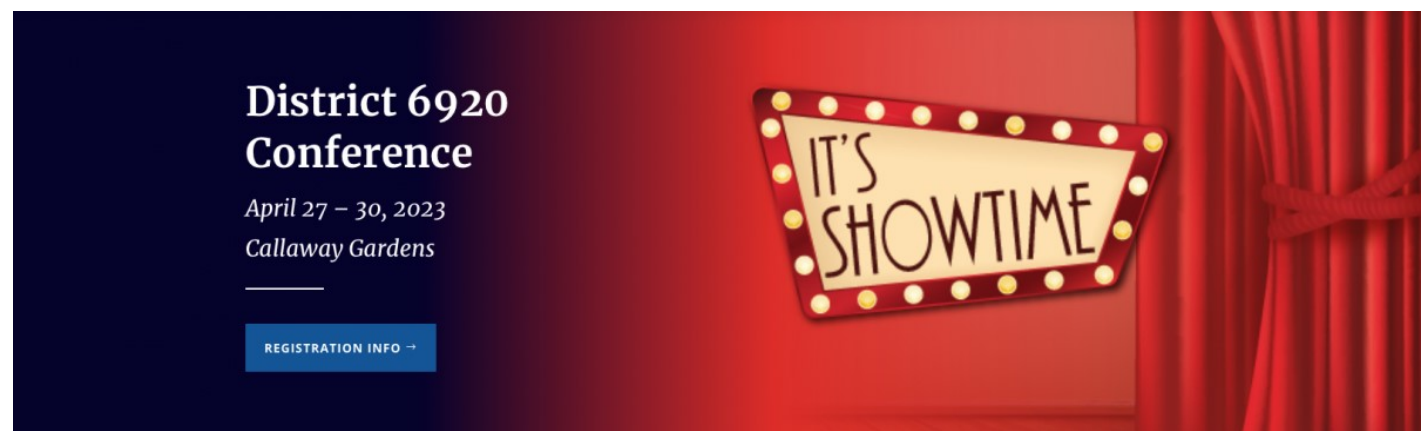
Melbourne AWAITS!!!

Leslie Mattingly - - District RI Convention Chair

Section B. District-Wide Projects: Initiatives & Plans

District Conference will be here before you know it!

Click Below for more info

A promotional banner for the District 6920 Conference. The background is a gradient from dark blue on the left to red on the right, with a red curtain on the far right. On the left, the text reads "District 6920 Conference" in white, followed by "April 27 - 30, 2023" and "Callaway Gardens" in a smaller font. Below this is a blue button with the text "REGISTRATION INFO →". On the right, a yellow sign with a red border and white lights around it says "IT'S SHOWTIME" in black, hand-drawn letters.

**District 6920
Conference**
April 27 - 30, 2023
Callaway Gardens

[REGISTRATION INFO →](#)

IT'S SHOWTIME

Join these DISTRICT STARS as we
 Celebrate a Year of DREAMING BIG & SERVING BIG!



Brenda M. Cressey
 Rotary Foundation Trustee

[More about Brenda](#)



Sylvia Whitlock
 1st Female Club President

[More about Sylvia](#)



Tiffany Ervan
 Executive Director Cart Fund

[More about Tiffany](#)



Anne L. Matthews
 Past District Governor
 Past RI Vice President

[More about Anne](#)



Phil Bonelli
 Senior Vice President of Middle
 Market Banking at Regions Bank

[More about Phil](#)



To Be Announced
 Coming Soon

[More Details](#)

This year - our District Conference is taking place at one of the most extraordinary and historic places in our State!! WHAT an opportunity to visit Callaway Gardens and have a great time with old and new friends!

REGISTRATION FOR 2023 DISTRICT CONFERENCE IS NOW OPEN

Visit www.DreamBigServeBig.org to learn more & register for the district conference NEXT - reserve your stay at Callaway Gardens.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration is a 2-step process.

First register to attend the conference (using the link above)

THEN - make your room arrangements:

Contact CALLAWAY RESERVATIONS:

Utilize one of these options to book reservations via the Call Center or Online.

Toll Free 1-800# 877-585-4217

Group Reservations Link: [Rotary International - 6920](#)

Remember, the discounted rate can be used for 3 days prior to the conference or 3 days after the conference.

So bring your family to enjoy all that Callaway Gardens and Pine Mountain have to offer.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to reach out to Erin Andrews, 2023 District Conference Chair for more information.

Erin Andrews

2023 District Conference Chair

478-363-3372

Erin@marketinggeorgia.com

Rotary and Lions Club: working TOGETHER to serve communities in Georgia



DISTRICT 6920 CANNED FOOD DRIVE

Don't FORGET:

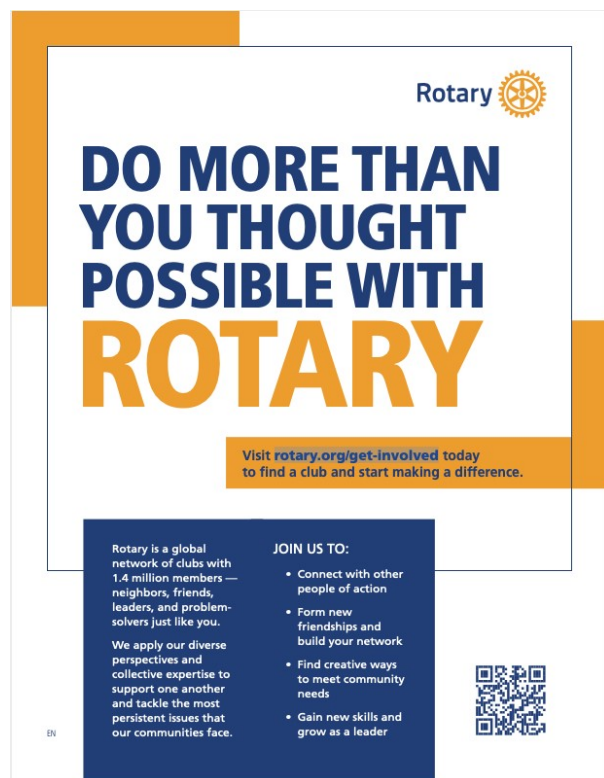
Keep track of ALL food donated by your club throughout the year. District Lion's Governor, Shellie Smith and Governor, Heather are having a friendly competition to see which service organization can collect the most food. The "losing" governor will be getting a pie to the face at District Conference. Your Club's Total cans donated need to be reported to District Service Chair, Terry Adkins, by the last week of April. Terryadkins.rotary@gmail.com


Calculate food in "CANS" (\$1 spent = 1 can of food). Estimate served food to veterans or community, boxed holiday food, money towards food, donated Girl Scout Cookies, food packing, or any other food items donated.

- please call or email Terry Adkins with any questions, any time:

[912-258-3900](tel:912-258-3900) terryadkins.rotary@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP:



Rotary 


DO MORE THAN YOU THOUGHT POSSIBLE WITH ROTARY

Visit rotary.org/get-involved today to find a club and start making a difference.

Rotary is a global network of clubs with 1.4 million members — neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers just like you. We apply our diverse perspectives and collective expertise to support one another and tackle the most persistent issues that our communities face.

JOIN US TO:

- Connect with other people of action
- Form new friendships and build your network
- Find creative ways to meet community needs
- Gain new skills and grow as a leader



A Message From District Membership Chair: Steve Williams:

As we take time to reflect on the holiday season, let us be ever mindful of our commitments and be grateful for the opportunity to serve.

It is hard to believe that six months have passed so quickly. Our District Leadership Team led by the incredible DG Heather Kellen has laid a solid foundation for us to build upon in 2023 and beyond. The essence of true leadership is based on how well we handle life and its many challenges. Let us embrace the following three important steps in learning to live a life of significance. "Learning to say something positive to everybody. Learning to see something positive in everything that happens. Learning to see it big and keep it simple".

What All Rotarians Should Know and Believe about Membership

Nothing Else Matters -- Rotary is a Membership Organization And Our Product is Service; If you get Membership right, pretty much everything else takes care of itself. If you don't get membership right, everything else is a struggle for the whole year. Work on membership first, get your membership committee up and running first, and then attend to other priorities. Make sure your membership chair is 100% committed to membership growth, and to getting started in April or May (the April or May before the next Rotary year). And that the Membership Chair has a committee. NOTE: A committee cannot be one member!

Attrition is Real -- Membership organizations lose members, most at alarming rates. I know, you're thinking "Nobody would quit our great club". Wrong. The 5-year average annual termination rate for Zone 33 clubs is fourteen percent (14%) annually. Half of those leave for reasons you can't control. A handful of clubs have long-term termination rates below 10%. Build your membership plan around the assumption that 15% of your members will leave during this next Rotary year, and have a plan to replace them. Count your blessings (and your membership gain) if that doesn't happen.

Retention is Important for the LONG Term -- Retention rates can be changed over time, not quickly, and you can't retain your way from 20 to 30 members. Work on retention strategies, but don't count on moving the needle quickly. Find out why people leave through exit surveys, and fix those problems. | Hint: Most attrition casualties have been members less than 1, 2 or 3 years (<1 year = highest attrition). Focus your retention strategies on those members.

Clubs need membership growth every year -- It doesn't have to be dramatic. 4% annual membership growth will double the size of your club in 18 years. What you want to develop is a membership growth culture -- the fundamental belief that the club grows a little every year and avoids huge declines along the way. It's not a series of "membership drives", but a consistent, sustained effort. We have examples of clubs doing just this, year after year. Set your goal at 10% net membership growth (plus an estimate of 15% attrition). The club President and Membership Chair should personally ask each member to bring a new member into the club -- an eyeball-to-eyeball conversation over breakfast, lunch, coffee, adult beverage or 2-way telephone conversation. Takes the anonymity out of the ask. "Can I count on you doing this not only for the club but also for me?"

Although we must be serious about our responsibilities, it is not always healthy to take ourselves too seriously. "Blessed are those who can laugh at themselves. They shall never cease to be entertained."

In 2023, We are focused on making a significant difference in the communities in which we serve in District 6920.

Happy New Year! Happy New You!

Steve Williams

WR Rotary & DMC #6920

"Share The Rotary Story with a Friend or Colleague"

FOUNDATION NEWS:

Here is a list of current Rotary Global grant opportunities in D6920.

Both: Clubs, and Individual Rotarians, can help with these projects.

Do YOU want to make a difference?

Pick a project to support through your RIF Donations.

Rotary

Global Grants



D6920 GG project opportunities in Serbia, Bulgaria and Azerbaijan:

Serbia:

1. GG2343270 500 mbot robots from 100 primary schools: Teach children digital skills-Assemble, play, Code and create.
2. GG2343865 Empowering Women Entrepreneurs-Equipment and training to improve women owned small businesses.
3. GG2343274 Years of Ascent-Kindergarten furniture and computer equipment to stimulate creativity and scientific exploration.

Bulgaria

4. GG2238121 Equip a "sensor room" for disabled children in Samakov, Bulgaria. "The sensory room helps children with disabilities perceive the environment and learning material more easily and accessible. It will be very useful and of exceptional help to children to develop, through games, entertainment, developing their imagination as well."

Azerbaijan

5. Set up a computer laboratory room in Borsunlu secondary school in Azerbaijan.

Clubs/districts interested in supporting one or more of above projects with cash and DDF can contact **DG Hamsa Thota** - dghamsa@gmail.com



DID YOU KNOW?

Rotary Districts across Georgia are partnering with Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia this year -

It's a Special Project focused on Empowering Girls - - especially right here in our communities in Georgia. To Learn more - - point your phone (or tablet) camera at the QR Code in the lower right corner below. Then just follow the link!



Life isn't always easy but dealing with tricky emotions doesn't have to be so hard. Try activities from the Girl Scouts: Resilient. Ready. Strong. program to strengthen your girls' mental wellness by developing skills to help them manage stress, anxiety, and depression.

Girl Scouts of Historic Georgia has created a Patch in a Bag kit for the Resilient, Ready, Strong patch. It includes steps for girls at all grade levels K-12 as well as all of the necessary supplies and of course the patch!

The cost per bag is \$10.



Order your bag online at <http://bit.ly/3UQ0vg5>

Please contact Christina Smith with questions at csmith@gshg.org or contact GSHG Customer Care at 1-888-689-1912



Attention all! CART has Unveiled their BRAND NEW LOGO! Watch for this on all our Social Media and Advertising - - Note to all Clubs: Please save this NEW logo photo and use from here on!

PS - - - CART needs to replace all the Blue Buckets - and they are looking for a sponsor/underwriter (or two) for that task.

If YOU or your company can help - - Please contact Glenda Kessler: gkessler@tds.net



Section C. Clubs & Members:

News from across the District

Rotary Club of Hawkinsville

Recently the Rotary Club of Hawkinsville honored member Sam A. Way with the Member Longevity Award for his 70+ years in Rotary.



Sam is a fourth generation native of Hawkinsville. He spent 30 years in the automotive business alongside his father Sam A. Way, Sr. and his brother, Ramsey T. (Bub) Way. Sam was elected to the Board of Planters Bank of Hawkinsville in 1961 and in 1982 was elected President of Planters Bank and he served in that capacity for many years as well as serving as the Chairman of the Board of Midstate Banks, Inc.

Sam has been a Rotary member for 70 years and he is a Paul Harris Fellow. His history of service to his community and to his state is astounding. Sam affirms that the greatest blessing of his life has been his family. He was married to Dorothy Cook Way for over 60 years and from that union they raised 4 children and were blessed with 7 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren.

Glennville Rotary Club gives final report on online auction, raffles

by Pam Waters

Part 1: The Glennville Rotary Club extends its deep gratitude to Tattnall County and beyond for the support given to education of our local students. The annual fundraiser for education for the club has three components: an on-line auction, a "Last Man Standing" raffle with three prizes, and a "Gift Card" raffle with six prizes. Overall, these three related events raised \$53,160 for education from October 5 to December 14, 2022. The auction raised \$44,450, The Last Man Standing Raffle brought in \$6310, and

the Gift Card Raffle brought in \$2400.

The Glennville Rotary Club is indeed grateful for the generosity of this community for education-related projects for our local students.

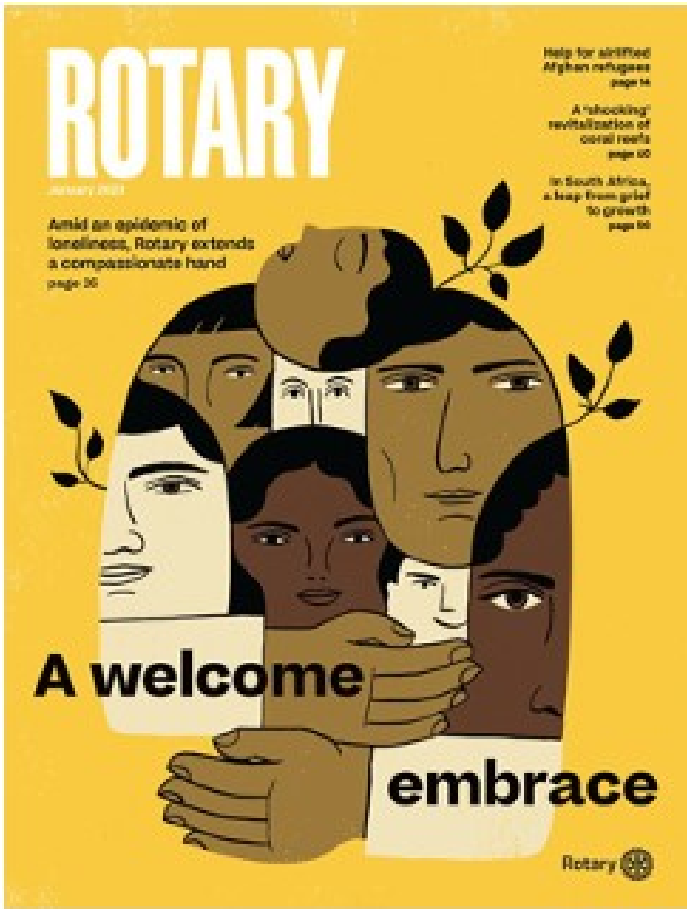
Part 2: The Glennville Rotary Club sponsored a Female Self Defense course, free of charge for participants. Eleven women learned the basics of self-defense in a two-hour class. The first half of the class, led by Brazilian Jiu Jitsu trainer Renee Dixon and her assistant, Belen Oliver, was an introduction to the basics of self-defense, and the second half of the class was focused on escaping violent attacks. Dixon taught the women, all ages, eight different ways to escape different attack positions during the course.

Part 3: The Glennville Rotary Club recently Donated \$5000 to the First Readers of Tattnall County, continuing their annual major support of this program serving Children and Families in their community.



IN YOUR JANUARY "ROTARY" MAGAZINE

CONGRATULATIONS to Miriam Rittmeyer, Skidaway Island Rotarian.



PROFILE
Lady Leonardo
A Rotarian's woman aggression novel returns to her native land

With her extensive history of community health, leadership, and service, she is a true inspiration.

In 2016, after she ended her nine-year tenure as executive director of a community health clinic in Barro Colorado, Costa Rica, Miriam Rittmeyer decided to come home to embrace her heritage. She returned her colorful oil paintings inspired by her native Guatemala, studied poetry and science, and also found her quality of life changed, a feeling she describes as "emancipation."

After a nine-year hiatus, she re-emerged. Rittmeyer is now — who holds an MD, a master's degree in public health, and a doctorate in education and epidemiology — launched a new venture, the no-boundaries Challenge, a nonprofit that designs, manages, and evaluates health care and community development programs, including maternal and child health care for indigenous populations in Central America.

Rittmeyer described Challenge's Mission: "We focus on health, leadership, and research programs at World Pulse, First Step, and National Accredited Program for Mothers and Children," an initiative supported by Rotary International and the World Health Organization in Costa Rica. The goal is to reach remote, underserved areas, aimed at reducing maternal mortality, to adapt to local culture and language for indigenous peoples.

After demonstrating its effectiveness in Costa Rica, Rittmeyer continues the program in Panama, with help from a \$10,000 Rotary Foundation global grant. "These indigenous communities must be included in the solution, and that direct involvement of local populations allows for a meaningful impact to assist in our public health efforts," Rittmeyer says. "Inclusivity and investment in communities are core principles of Rotary and Challenge. And with this model, we believe change is possible." — CHRISTINA ANDERSON

PHOTOGRAPH BY MONIKA LUTINSKI

Rotarian Miriam Urizar Rittmeyer, MD, PhD, MPH spoke at the World

This month marks the centennial of Rotary in the Netherlands. The Rotary Club of Amsterdam was chartered 29 January 1923.

Nominations for The Rotary Foundation Distinguished Service Award will be accepted in January and February. Learn more at rotary.org/awards.

Update your Rotary calendar: April is now Environmental Month, in recognition of Rotary's newest area of focus, and Mother and Child Health Month has been moved to July.

JANUARY 2023 DISTRICT 9620

Rotarian Miriam Urizar Rittmeyer, MD, PhD, MPH spoke at the World

Health Organization Headquarters about the Manchichi Traditional Midwife Health Monitoring Program

Dr. Miriam U. Rittmeyer, a Rotarian from the Skidaway Island Club in Savannah, GA, and CEO and co-founder of Phalarope, spoke at "World Polio Day 2022 and Beyond" at the World Health Organization (WHO) Headquarters in Geneva, Switzerland on October 21 and 22.

This event was a joint venture with Rotary International and WHO.

Dr. Rittmeyer spoke about the Manchichi program, a replication of a successful intervention developed by Phalarope in 20 communities of rural Guatemala. Both programs are funded by Rotary Foundation and Rotary Clubs in Georgia, Guatemala, and Panama. For more info visit: <https://rotarymch.ch>

Ixchel and Manchichi Midwife Monitoring Program in Guatemala and Panama



A woman's death during pregnancy or childbirth often means more than the loss of a life. It increases financial instability, school dropout, early marriage for girls, and mortality of surviving children. For women who survive pregnancy, a maternal morbidity event - any negative health outcome attributed to complications during pregnancy - can have devastating effects beyond the postpartum period. Due to the COVID pandemic, most Latin American countries have reduced reproductive, maternal, neonatal, and child health services, leading to increased maternal mortality.

The Ixchel and Manchichi program is intense 12-month training that empowers traditional midwives to be effective sources of healthcare in rural Guatemala and Panama. Traditional midwives are taught to identify risk factors and conditions around a woman's reproductive cycle, so certain conditions can be prevented or managed promptly during pregnancy, labor, delivery, and postpartum. They also learn how to use basic medical equipment and evaluate fetal growth. Concepts are reinforced every 15 days by the field staff, who accompany the traditional midwives on their visits to all their pregnant and post-partum patients. The program is currently in 20 rural communities of Guatemala and in 6 of Panama.

FOR INFO CONTACT MIRIAM RITTMAYER - mrittmeyer@phalarope.org Miriam's work is made possible with funding from the Rotary Foundation and partnering Rotary Clubs and districts in Zone 34 during 2018-2022.

Here are a few **MORE** Club Highlights from the past month.....

To enjoy more - - visit our [District 6920 Facebook page](#) - - and the DOZENS of Club Facebook pages!!!

(in the search bar - just type a town and 'rotary club' and see what comes up!)

The Rotary Club of Kings Bay and The Brunswick Lion's Club collected Lego kits for the Joshua's Block Party Project for Christmas. The Legos went to children in the hospital.






AUGUSTA

DUBLIN



 Rotary Club of Augusta, Georgia is with Bob Goodman Colony Bank NMLS# 2346972 and The Hale Foundation.

1d · 🌐

New Year. New Rotary Members. Welcome to Rotary Club of Augusta.



Rotary Club of Dublin, Georgia, USA is at **Dublin Country Club**.

December 16, 2022 at 3:30 PM · Dublin · 🌐

Dublin Rotary is proud to support OFTCs winners for the Georgia Occupational Award of Leadership (GOAL) and the Rick Perkins Award (RPA) with a \$500 donation. Today, the club heard speeches from and recognized Parker Fountain, GOAL winner, and Michael Faulknor, RPA winner. Special thanks to Kathryn Willcox for leading the project for our club and to Janet Smith and Erica Harden for leading these initiatives at OFTC.

[#peopleofaction](#) [#oftc](#) [#educationispower](#)

SAVANNAH EAST

VALDOSTA NORTH



Rotary Club of Savannah East

December 15, 2022 at 10:25 PM · 🌐

There's something a bit magical about this time of year, no matter if you celebrate Hanukkah, Christmas, or Kwanza, the end of the year holidays are a time for generosity, goodwill, and grateful reflection. It's a special time for family and friends to share and make memories, and it's a time to revel in traditions.

So, it's extra special that for our December service project RCSE members took time out of their busy holiday season to gather together and go to spread some holiday cheer to those who have served our country and now live in the Veterans Village at Dundee.

We sang (poorly, but with tremendous love) and gave the residents small gift bags of cookies & candies to celebrate the season, as we thanked them for their service to our country. We told them that we wanted them to know that we were thinking of them & that they are valuable members of our community.

After our caroling, we had a chance to shake hands, chat, and spend a few moments in fellowship — everything that Rotary is all about.... which is especially meaningful this time of year.

I'm already looking forward to next year. 🌟

[#ServiceAboveSelf](#) [#RotaryClubofSavannahEast](#) [#TheFunClub](#) [#ThankYouVeterans](#)
[#RCSE](#)



Valdosta North Rotary Club
November 5, 2022 · 🌐

VNR Club members and Past Presidents Sheryl and Shirley providing service for our community by cleaning headstones of veterans at Sunset Hill Cemetery this morning. What a humbling experience! God bless these United States of America 🇺🇸

JONES COUNTY



Rotary Club of Jones County
December 15, 2022 at 9:16 PM · 🌐

The Rotary Club members enjoyed packing up gifts for "Toys for Tots". There will be a lot of happy children thanks to everyone's hard work!

VALDOSTA



Heather Kellen is with Danny R Broyles in Valdosta, Georgia.
December 14, 2022 at 3:50 PM · 🌐

I got to spend the last two days visiting the Valdosta and Valdosta North Rotary Clubs! Among many other projects, these two clubs have raised over \$356,000 to provide books to children in their community through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library. Great to see PDG Steve Barnes and AG Danny Broyles is always a hoot to travel with. Fun visits! ❤️
PolioPlus Society is catching on. We may have a District competition brewing.

BRUNSWICK

HAZLEHURST



The Rotary Club of Brunswick, Georgia
 December 7, 2022 at 3:18 PM · 🌐

Members of the Rotary Club of Brunswick recently donated fifty-four 10-year smoke alarms to the Brunswick Fire Department through 2022-23 local grant funding. Designed to last for ten years with no battery replacement, they will be installed by local firefighters into City of Brunswick homes. More info: Brunswick Fire Department Adm. Asst., Amy Aldridge, 912.267.5546 or drop by station on Gloucester Street in historic downtown Brunswick.



Jim Sewell ▸ Rotary District 6920 ALL CLUBS Group
 December 15, 2022 at 9:49 AM · 🌐

The Hazlehurst Rotary Club delivered 115 coats to Jeff Davis Co Schools for the 10th Annual Coats for Kids project. Each year, Rotarians work with the schools to identify children in need of a winter coat. The schools provide the names & sizes & the club purchases and delivers the coats to the each school before the Christmas break.

Section D. GRSP, RYLA, Rotaract, Interact & EarlyAct

Also Summer GRSP Scholarship

For Georgia College Students: Jan. 10 Deadline to Apply

While Georgia Rotary Student Program spends the year hosting international college students, we are thankful for the one opportunity that allows college students from Georgia to spend the summer attending school and exchanging cultural customs in Norway. The GRSP scholarship application for International Summer School at the University of Oslo for summer 2023 is open.

The Norwegian Rotary Advisory Board partners with GRSP each year to offer the scholarship. The scholarship dates are June 26 to August 4, 2023 and includes students from all over the world in a diverse cultural program in the beautiful city of Oslo, Norway with six weeks of academic achievement and international goodwill. Students must have recommendation of Georgia Rotarian. Application deadline is January 10, 2023 through GRSP website: www.grsp.org/oslo-application . Applications will be reviewed and all applicants will be notified by the end of January.

The opportunity is open to undergraduate and graduate college students who have completed their sophomore year by the end of Spring Semester 2023. Students must be between the ages of 20 to 24, single, in good health and academic standing plus willing to serve as an ambassador for Georgia Rotarians. Scholarship includes air fares from Atlanta to Oslo and return to Atlanta. Scholarship also includes 12-credit hours of undergraduate coursework or one graduate courts, one weekend-excursion, administered by the University of Oslo, room, board and administrative fees for the International Summer School at the University of Oslo. Scholarship recipients must pay their travel expense to and from Atlanta airport, plus provide their own personal spending money. English is the language of instruction. The 77-year program successfully allows students to engage with and learn from students from other countries, building cross-cultural understanding and confidence. Oslo, Norway is a small country in Northern Europe with beautiful and breathtaking scenery, a fascinating history and culture.



Oslo International Summer School Scholarship



June 26 – August 4, 2023 University of Oslo, Norway

SCHOLARSHIP INCLUDES

- Roundtrip Air Fares from Atlanta
- One weekend excursion administered by the University of Oslo
- Room, Board and Administrative Fees

REQUIREMENTS

**Completed Sophomore Year of College
Ages 20-24 and Single
Good Health + Academic Standing
Georgia Rotarian Endorsement**

English is the language of instruction. Six-week courses complete 12-credit hours of undergraduate coursework or one graduate course.

DEADLINE JANUARY 10, 2023

For more information or to apply, visit <https://grsp.org/other-opportunities>

Katheryne A. Fields
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404-405-6806 (Mobile)
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Georgia Rotary Student Program
P.O. Box 61327
Savannah, GA 31420
912-961-1331 (Office)

www.grsp.org

Section E. Resources, Social Media, Contacts & Useful Links

IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO AND LINKS:

Contact DG Heather: [\(478\) 244-1714](tel:4782441714) Email: hakellen@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!)

District Chief of Staff: Paula Goodnow: paulagoodnow@hotmail.com (if there is something you can't figure outPaula will know....)

Newsletter Editor: Leslie Mattingly [912-222-5430](tel:9122225430) LeslieDMattingly27@gmail.com

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