DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR JULY, 2017

2017/2018 Theme — Rotary: Making A Difference

From The District Governor

Welcome To 2017/2018

July always brings a new Rotary year and a new Rotary leadership team from top to bottom. As your new District Governor I promise to do my best to help you make 2017/2018 as impactful (and painless!) a Rotary year as possible. I'm really looking forward to visiting each club, meeting more great Rotarians, and learning more about the many communities in our district. Read the full story for some of my thoughts on what we need to concentrate on in 2017/2018 ... and feel free to comment! [more]

District Newsletter 2017-18

Get Ready to Share Your Stories

The newsletter has a new look this year - we are integrating the stories into the district website blog and will be publishing a short summary of all the month's news that should make it easier to get a quick sense of what's going on around District 6900. And, if you want more information, you'll just need to click the [more] link to go to the full story. You will also notice a Manage Email Preferences / Unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email. If you would prefer not to get the district newsletter each month, you can use that link to opt out.
In addition to sharing District and Rotary International news, we want your stories - what your clubs and individual Rotarians are doing to make a difference in the world. Send your articles and pictures to District Newsletter Editor Jackie Cuthbert at cuthbert@mindspring.com by the 25th of each month for the next month's publication. [more]

Charlene Hall with Dunwoody President Tina Philpot, PDG Bill Mulkey, Past RI Director Robert Hall and PDG Raymond Ray

Congratulations Charlene Hall!

At the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody's** Awards and Installation Banquet, PDG Bill Mulkey and DG Raymond Ray were honored to present Charlene Hall with the Rotary International Rotarian Spouse Partner Service Award! Everyone who knows Charlene has experienced her graciousness and her commitment to Rotary and its causes. This includes her ... [more]

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Happy New Year from The Rotary Foundation!

The Rotary Foundation is 101 years old this year. This is the first year of a new century of Doing Good in the World. It is a great time to make Foundation giving and grants a vital part of your club! Meet your D6900 Foundation team and learn more about what we're working on as we start this Rotary year! [more]

Serbian class working with computers

Thomasville Project Gives Serbian Orphans Marketable Skills

Thanks to the **Thomasville Rotary Club,** teenage orphan and foster youth in Serbia are learning computer skills that will give them a better chance at self-supporting lives. The club donated $7,500 to the project, which was matched by a district grant of $7,500 and a Rotary Global Grant that brought the total to $30,000.
The ... [more]

East Cobb Recognizes Local Citizen for Courage and Perservance

In June, the **Rotary Club of East Cobb** presented Susan Jenkins with the David Butts Award. The David Butts' Award is named for East Cobb Rotarian, Dr. David Butts, and honors an individual in the community at large who has demonstrated courage and perseverance in the face of a personal challenge. Nominations are voted on by club membership and the award includes a $1,000 donation to the charity of the recipient's choice. [more]

2017 Alpharetta Mayor's Corporate Challenge 5K Run / Walk

2017 marks the 34th anniversary of the **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** and the 21st annual Mayor's Corporate Challenge. "Alpharetta Rotarians are excited to be a part of another great year with the Mayor's Corporate Challenge. "We appreciate the sponsors that have stepped up to support this race and it is because of them that we can continue to do good works in the community throughout the year," said Scott Doll. [more]

GRSP Alumnni gathered at the Fox Theater's Egyptian Ballroom as part of the first all-class reunion for this 71-year old Georgia program.

GRSP Alumni Gathered in Atlanta and Helped to Welcome the World ... and Now We Prepare to Welcome the Class of 2017-18

In June, more than 100 GRSP alumni - from as far back as the 1960s, gathered in Atlanta during RI Convention week for the first ever GRSP all class reunion. They enjoyed fellowship at two special reunion events and helped to bring in the flags at the Opening Ceremonies of the RI Convention. Now, we are getting ready to welcome the next class of students. See more about the reunion and a checklist to help you prepare for welcoming your 2017-18 student. [more]

After nearly one full year of preparation, Georgia's very first class of Future Outbound Candidates graduated today to receive the official, prestigious, title of Rotary Youth Exchange Students. These 10 amazing Georgia high school students will represent Georgia's Rotary District 6900 for one academic year in another country. Pictured here are Granger-France, Kate-Mexico, Ellie-Sweden, Henry-Thailand, Olivia-Finland, Kennedy-Brazil, Yasmeen-Taiwan, Alex-Japan, and Nikki-Bosnia. Not pictured, Pessi-Thailand.

Georgia's Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship Recipients Are Ready To Go!

District 6900's first class of Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship students have spent the last eight months preparing for the experience of a lifetime. In the next few weeks, these extraordinary high school students from the greater Atlanta area will depart for an academic year abroad, living with local families selected by Rotary, and attending local high schools, while becoming fluent in a new language, and living Rotary values every day. [more]

Local Rotarians Welcome the World at Home Hospitality Events

On Monday night at the Rotary International Convention, Rotarians from around the world had the opportunity to enjoy one of many Home Hospitality events - hosted by local Rotarians from around metro Atlanta. [more]

Check Out the Global Grant Scholarship Opportunities - Applications Due October 16

District 6900 is offering two competitive $30,000 scholarships for graduate study starting the fall of 2018. Applications are due Monday, October 16 at 12:00 noon. [more]

Give Yourself the Gift of RLI

Congratulations to all the clubs who have new Rotarians in leadership positions! It is an exciting time as well as a bit overwhelming. Rotary Leadership Institute can help you plan for your year as well as educate new members into the world of Rotary.
At RLI, we teach LEADERS about ROTARY. As Rotarians, you are all leaders, some in your ... [more]

Children benefiting from Alpharetta's summer lunch program

More News from the Clubs

Find out about ... **RC Alpharetta's** summer lunch program, RC **North Altanta's** support for IOH, Fourth of July celebrations in **LeGrange** and **Dunwoody**, and how snakes took over a recent **RC Griffin** meeting. [more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, July 11th, 2017	**Bainbridge Governor Visit**
Wednesday, July 12th, 2017	**Cairo Governor Visit**
Thursday, July 13th, 2017	**Thomasville Governor Visit**
Saturday, July 15th, 2017	**District Block Grant Approved By RI (tentative).**
Saturday, July 15th, 2017	**Champions of Peace Recommendations Due to Raymond/Alec**
Saturday, July 15th, 2017	**North Atlanta Recognition & Installation Dinner**
Wednesday, July 19th, 2017	**South DeKalb Governor Visit**
Friday, July 21st, 2017	**Atlanta West End Governor Visit**
Friday, July 21st, 2017	**GRSP Trustees**
Saturday, July 22nd, 2017	**GRSP Summer Meeting**
Saturday, July 22nd, 2017	**FODAC Community-wide Collection event**
Tuesday, July 25th, 2017	**Moultrie Governor Visit**
Thursday, July 27th, 2017	**Quitman Governor Visit**
Friday, July 28th, 2017	**Pelham Governor Visit**
Saturday, July 29th, 2017	**Zone Training Seminar**
Saturday, July 29th, 2017	**Dog Days 5K Road Race**
Monday, July 31st, 2017	**1st Half District Dues Invoices Must Be Paid**
Tuesday, August 1st, 2017	**Polk County Governor Visit**

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From The District Governor

Welcome To 2017/2018

2017/2018 Theme — Rotary: Making A Difference

July always brings a new Rotary year and a new Rotary leadership team from top to bottom. As your new District Governor I promise to do my best to help you make 2017/2018 as impactful (and painless!) a Rotary year as possible. I'm looking forward to visiting each club, meeting more great Rotarians, and learning more about the many communities in our district.

Polio. We are so very close in our 30-plus year effort to eradicate polio. We owe it to the children of the future—and those Rotarians who have been carrying this load for the past 32 years—to finish the job, and that takes money. I've asked each club to consider **donating 5%** of the money they raise towards Polio Plus and the final eradication of this disease. Five percent is not much of a burden on any club, but multiply that amount times 35,000 clubs and we can change the world forever—finally.

Membership. Yes, retention is important and if your club is getting clobbered with high attrition rates, than your club needs to take a hard look at the experience you are providing your Rotarians. But the reality is that **only by attracting new members can Rotary grow**. That doesn't mean signing up anyone who has a pulse. But there are ten million people in Georgia and only about 10,000 Rotarians. Even if we assume that only 1% of our ten million citizens would be good Rotarians, that's 100,000 Rotarians, ten times our current size. Every club has a massive opportunity to grow.

Innovation. There is a natural tendency to repeat success. But somewhere along the way a great project or tradition becomes stale and loses vitality. A mentor of mine taught me that the **essence of strategy is**

denial. It is deciding what to stop doing, because when you stop doing something that frees up resources to do something new. I strongly encourage every club to drop something they have been doing in favor of something new. As PRID Robert Hall points out, to take no risks is to guarantee failure.

Posted by Alec Smythe
July 5, 2017

District Newsletter 2017-18

Get Ready to Share Your Stories

I am excited to be serving again this year as your District Newsletter Editor. The newsletter has a new look this year - we are integrating the stories into the district website blog and will be publishing a short summary of all the month's news that should make it easier to get a quick sense of what's going on around District 6900. And, if you want more information, you'll just need to click the [more] link to go to the full story. You will also notice a Manage Email Preferences / Unsubscribe link at the bottom of this email. If you would prefer not to get the district newsletter each month, you can use that link to opt out.

We plan to share information from our District team about:

- The Rotary Foundation (including project grant and scholarship opportunities and a progress report on our fundraising and polio eradication initiatives)
- Our youth initiatives, including GRSP, Rotaract and Interact, RYLA, and our district's first year as part of Rotary Youth Exchange
- Building our pubic image
- Membership

We also want to share your stories - what your clubs and individual Rotarians are doing to make a difference in the world. Send your articles (a few paragraphs) and a picture or two to me at **cuthbert@mindspring.com**. No formatting required - you can send me a Word document or type your story straight into your email. No PDFs please! Photos should be jpeg images.

Our schedule is straightforward - **articles are due by the 25th of each month** and we will publish the newsletter as close to the 5th of the month as possible - so articles are due July 25 for the August newsletter. Two exceptions: Our December deadline will be Tuesday, November 28 (after Thanksgiving) and our January deadline will be Friday, December 29.

Thanks in advance for your support!

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 5, 2017

Congratulations Charlene Hall!

Charlene Hall with Dunwoody President Tina Philpot, PDG Bill Mulkey, Past RI Director Robert Hall and PDG Raymond Ray

At the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody's** Awards and Installation Banquet, PDG Bill Mulkey and DG Raymond Ray were honored to present Charlene Hall with the Rotary International Rotarian Spouse Partner Service Award! Everyone who knows Charlene has experienced her graciousness and her commitment to Rotary and its causes. This includes her participation in a National Immunization Day in India several years ago … to serving with Robert Hall in his terms as Governor, President's Representative, Zone Polio Coordinator, RI Director and most recently, Host Operating Committee Co-chair for the 2017 RI Convention,

This is the first time this award has been presented in D6900 and only the second time within the three Districts of Georgia. Only 50 spouses or partners can be honored with this award in any one Rotary year. So extend congratulations and a big thank you to Charlene!!

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
June 1, 2017

Happy New Year from The Rotary Foundation!

On the Friday before RI Convention, the three Georgia Rotary Districts (6900, 6910 and 6920) hosted a Million Dollar Dinner for The Rotary Foundation and presented RI President John Germ with a check for more than $3,000,000 from Georgia Rotarians

Happy Rotary

New Year! Everything starts new on July 1 in the Rotary world – new Governor,

new Club Presidents and new projects. Well, not everything is new…the

Foundation team members have multi-year assignments and are still hard at work.

So let me catch you up on who is doing what this year for The Rotary Foundation

in our district:

District Rotary Foundation Chair (DRFC)	PDG Margie Kersey, Stone Mountain
D6900 Grants Chair	Anne Glenn, Dunwoody

Global Grants Chair	Anne Glenn again!
District Grants Chair	Mary Ligon, Dougherty County
Global Scholars Chair	Kathy Brandt, Dunwoody
Peace Fellows Chair	Laura Kann, Dunwoody
Fundraising Chair	DGN Jim Squire, Sandy Springs
Stewardship Chair	PDG Fran Milberg, Thomasvile
Foundation Treasurer	Will MacArthur, Sandy Springs
100% Paul Harris Club Chair	Gerry Bilbro, Griffin Daybreak

Of course, all of these folks have teams working with them as well – don't be shy about calling for a speaker, a question or just plain help.

The District Grants have been completed and submitted to The Rotary Foundation. As of July 3, we are still awaiting approval. As soon as that happens, Treasurer Will (who has your grant check already completed) will drop your money in the mail. When that happens, you can begin your project. Remember, this year, your receipts must be scanned into the D6900 website to document how your grant money was spent! Questions? Contact Mary Ligon.

We have another big change this year that I hope you will like – online Global Grant Qualification. Every year, any club that wants to do a Global Grant must get qualified. That means you participate in grant training and we report it to The Rotary Foundation. Instead of holding a Foundation Seminar in August, the training is online at rotary6900.orgSimply click the Resource tab, scroll down and click Global Grants. There is a lot of information there, and the qualification information is in a box on the right hand side. The process is simple, watch all 4 videos, read the documentation resources and take the quiz. You can only take the quiz once every 24 hours, so read carefully. Once you pass the quiz, you are qualified to serve on your club's global grant committee! Big thanks to Governor Alec for the computer support to make this possible. Questions? Give Margie Kersey or Anne Glenn a call.

We won't be holding a Million Dollar Dinner this year (whew!), but we will be holding two Foundation events – one in October for Polio and one in February for Major Donors. Keep an eye out for more information.

We are still trying to become a 100% Paul Harris Fellow club district and we are very close. As of July 1 there are only TEN clubs that have not achieved this once in a lifetime goal (remember – you can only earn this banner once). If you would like some advice or help in reaching this recognition, please contact Gerry Bilbro. He has some great ideas for helping you go the distance.

Now is the time to ask for Foundation speakers – especially if you want someone to speak in November. If you want a speaker, please contact Margie Kersey and let her know who you would like to visit your club. We have a lot of great folks and they would be delighted to share the good works of the Foundation with your club.

The Foundation is 101 years old this year. This is the first year of a new century of Doing Good in the World. It is a great time to make Foundation giving and grants a vital part of your club!

Posted by Margie Kersey
July 5, 2017

Thomasville Project Gives Serbian Orphans Marketable Skills

Serbian class working with computers

Thanks to the **Thomasville Rotary Club,** teenage orphan and foster youth in Serbia are learning computer skills that will give them a better chance at self-supporting lives. The club donated $7,500 to the project, which was matched by a district grant of $7,500 and a Rotary Global Grant that brought the total to $30,000.

The project organized by local Rotarian Walter Gilbert purchased 30 computers for an orphanage in Belgrade and two centers for foster children elsewhere in the country. Gilbert became aware of the need through his work as CEO of An Open Door Adoption Agency Inc. He coordinated on the project with Nenad Sakovik, the president of a Belgrade Rotary Club.

“We wanted them to have marketable skills so they could become self-supporting,” Gilbert said. About 70% of the orphan children become involved in drugs, crime or prostitution, he said, and 10% commit suicide within five years of leaving the orphanage. “Only 20% find meaningful lives.”

Sakovik said more than 200 individuals have been trained using the computers. “I’m happy that the project has fulfilled its goal,” he wrote to Gilbert. “I thank you for all your efforts on this.”

PHOTOS:

Thomasville Rotarian Walter Gilbert

Posted by Mark Anderson
July 1, 2017

East Cobb Recognizes Local Citizen for Courage and Perservance

In June, the **Rotary Club of East Cobb** presented Susan Jenkins with the David Butts Award. The David Butts' Award is named for East Cobb Rotarian, Dr. David Butts, and honors an individual in the community at large who has demonstrated courage and perseverance in the face of a personal challenge. Nominations are voted on by club membership and the award includes a $1,000 donation to the charity of the recipient's choice.

Dr. Butts joined the Rotary Club of East Cobb in its first year, and has since been a dedicated, passionate and enthusiastic Rotarian - has mentoring, encouraging, and inspiring generations of East Cobb citizens, through his work with Rotary, and as an educator, father, husband, friend, citizen, and servant to all who have had the pleasure to know him. Recently, David has faced a daunting personal challenge in the form of an aggressive cancer. True to his nature, David not only met the challenge with tenacity, but did so

without losing his buoyant, faith-driven optimism. David's journey has been physically, mentally, and emotionally grueling. There have been setbacks to match many of the steps forward. More than once, the news was very bleak. However, David never seemed to waiver from his love of life and the joy he found in being around his friends and family in Rotary.The fact that David maintained perfect Rotary attendance (sometimes even doing make-up meetings at M.D. Anderson Hospital in Houston) is just one example of his undaunted spirit.

Much like David, Susan has dedicated her life to educating children. In the midst of raising her own young son and daughter, Susan was diagnosed with cancer following and given only a 25% chance of survival. However, Susan is a fighter. During long, grueling periods of chemo and radiation therapy, she maintained a positive attitude and was often fond of saying,"I'm not going to die, God isn't done with me yet!" With tenancy, courage, perseverance, and strong faith, Susan beat cancer. Unfortunately, this was just the beginning of Susan's battle, as she dealt with other health issues that resulted from her cancer treatment. That said, Susan has overcome those obstacles and returned to full time teaching. She strives to create a fun, challenging and encouraging environment for her students, and enjoys working with special needs students and leading the drama club. Susan continues to tutor and mentor former students, regularly travels on domestic and international mission trips with her church, and shares with everyone she encounters her faith, her never-give up attitude, and her uplifting spirit.

For these reasons, and so many more, the Rotary Club of East Cobb was honored to present Susan Jenkins with this years David Butt's Award.

Posted by Blake Joiner
July 5, 2017

2017 Alpharetta Mayor’s Corporate Challenge 5K Run / Walk

Join in on August 24, 2017

2017 marks the 34th anniversary of the **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** and the 21st annual Mayor's Corporate Challenge. "Alpharetta Rotarians are excited to be a part of another great year with the Mayor's Corporate Challenge. "We appreciate the sponsors that have stepped up to support this race and it is because of them that we can continue to do good works in the community throughout the year," said Scott Doll.

Lace up your shoes or come out to cheer in beautiful downtown Alpharetta on August 24th and enjoy a night of running, walking, food, music and fun. This event is a cooperative effort by the City of Alpharetta, The Rotary Club of Alpharetta and LexisNexis Risk Solutions.

Last year's event raised over $150,000 - used to support non-profit organizations that make a difference in the lives of homeless children, mothers and families by providing transition housing, life skills training, budgeting and vocational training. Local charities that benefited directly included North Fulton Community Charities, Drake House, StandUp for Kids, Homestretch, Foster Care of Georgia, Lionheart School, YMCA, Boy Scouts of America, City of Refuge and many others. The funds also had a global impact on Polio Eradication, Literacy, Clean Water Projects and Humanitarian and Medical Aid.

Posted by Janet Rodgers
July 5, 2017

GRSP Alumni Gathered in Atlanta and Helped to Welcome the World … and Now We Prepare to Welcome the Class of 2017-18

GRSP Alumnni gathered at the Fox Theater's Egyptian Ballroom as part of the first all-class reunion for this 71-year old Georgia program.

When Rotarians gathered in Atlanta last month for the Rotary International Convention, more than 100 GRSP alumni gathered too - along with GRSP directors, trustees and host families, for the **first ever all-class GRSP reunion**. The reunion offered great opportunities to showcase the 71-year old program, with alumni from as far back as the 1960s.

- Groups gathered for special GRSP events at the Atlanta Botanical Gardens on Saturday evening … and again at the Fox Theater's Egyptian Ballroom on Tuesday of convention week for fun, fellowship and testimonials from past students about the difference GRSP made in their lives. We heard from a couple who met during their GRSP year and were celebrating their 25th wedding anniversary - as well as the fact that their son was a 2016-17 GRSP student. Another student shared that the love of rowing she developed while attending school in Georgia led to her joining her country's national rowing team and competing in the Olympics. And many shared that GRSP had changed their perspectives on the world - and that they felt the program was more important now than ever as an

agent of promoting peace and understanding among the people of the world.
- On Sunday, 40 GRSP alumni joined forces with students from Rotary Youth Exchange to bring in the flags of the world at the Opening Ceremonies of the RI Convention. The flag ceremony has always been a special part of RI Conventions - and it was even more special to have students participating from our most recent class of 2016-17 all the way back to the class of 1995-96. GRSP alumni were privileged to carry in the Rotary flag at both opening sessions.

And now we are getting ready to welcome the class of 2017-18! Students will begin arriving in August. As clubs and host families prepare for students to arrive:

- **Take a look at your student's "suitcase" to be sure that they have the things that they need to make their stay in a dorm a pleasant one.** It is very easy to just recycle everything that your student from last year had, but it is a gift to your new student to take a look at what you have and throw out a few things that may have become worn out over the years. Some students take excellent care of the items in their suitcase, but others.....well..... not so much.
- **Make sure you are ready to greet your students at the airport** - communicate with your student now if you haven't already so you know exactly when they are arriving. Try to get a group to be there and think about making signs to add to the welcome.
- **Be sure your student knows when your club meets** - encourage them to attend meetings and invite them to participate in your social activities and service projects. Students should be speaking at your clubs early in the Rotary year - to tell you more about themselves and their countries.
- **Encourage club members to invite your student to their homes or special activities throughout the year** - your student, your members and your families will benefit from getting to know each other. And start to think about plans for the holidays - how can you best share those special times with your GRSP student.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Lynn Clarke
July 5, 2017

Georgia’s Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship Recipients Are Ready To Go!

After nearly one full year of preparation, Georgia's very first class of Future Outbound Candidates graduated today to receive the official, prestigious, title of Rotary Youth Exchange Students. These 10 amazing Georgia high school students will represent Georgia's Rotary District 6900 for one academic year in another country. Pictured here are Granger-France, Kate-Mexico, Ellie-Sweden, Henry-Thailand, Olivia-Finland, Kennedy-Brazil, Yasmeen-Taiwan, Alex-Japan, and Nikki-Bosnia. Not pictured, Pessi-Thailand.

District 6900's first class of Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship students have spent the last eight months preparing for the experience of a lifetime. In the next few weeks, these extraordinary high school students from the greater Atlanta area will depart for an academic year abroad, living with local families selected by Rotary, and attending local high schools, while becoming fluent in a new language, and living Rotary values every day.

To prepare for their year abroad, Georgia's Rotary Youth Exchange students have spent the last eight months studying all things Rotary, the language and culture of their assigned country, as well as presentation, cultural and resiliency skills. Our students took part in two formal training sessions in Lake Yale, Florida, together with nearly 100 other Rotary Youth Exchange students from Florida. They have visited many Rotary meetings and participated actively in the Rotary International Convention in Atlanta. Each student prepared a detailed research paper on their assigned country, and Rotary's role in that country, and have achieved at least a conversational level of fluency in their target language. After completing their final assignments and successfully completing workshops on culture and learning to adapt to other cultures, our students became qualified to graduate, and they earned the right to wear the prestigious Rotary blue blazer that identifies Rotary Youth Exchange students around the world.

The Rotary Youth Exchange program is one of the world's largest and most prestigious high school exchange programs. Each year, nearly 9000 high school students qualify and participate in the program.Rotary clubs in District 6900 may award the Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship, valued at over $24,000 to talented, qualified high school students in their community, at no cost to the local Rotary club.

Children and grandchildren of Rotarians may apply to participate in the program as well. For more information, please visit our District 6900 Rotary Youth Exchange website at Rotary6900.org/RYE .

PHOTOS:

Granger West, of Walton High School, Outbound to France, sponsored by the Rotary Club of East Cobb, explains to the group what he has learned about ethnocentrism and ethno-relativism.

Alex Flanagan, of Riverwood International Charter School, Outbound to Japan, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs, practices newly learned cultural adaptation skills.

Posted by Mike Parks
July 5, 2017

Local Rotarians Welcome the World at Home Hospitality Events

On Monday night at the Rotary International Convention, Rotarians from around the world had the opportunity to enjoy one of many Home Hospitality events - hosted by local Rotarians from around metro Atlanta. Some of those local groups shared stories and pictures of their events and we are sharing some here.

Lake Spivey/Clayton County Reports In ...

Members of the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** welcomed Rotarians from around the world Monday evening to a hospitality event held in conjunction with the Rotary International Convention underway in Atlanta. Nearly 200 guests were treated to a little local culture, including a tour of the grounds of Stately Oaks and the Road to Tara Museum, along with dinner featuring Southern cuisine and entertainment by local performers in period costume.

Additional Rotary club volunteered to assist with the evening festivities to include **Henry County, Thomas-Upson County, Fayetteville, Muscogee-Columbus, Senoia, Griffin, Griffin Day Break, Peachtree City, Barnesville and Atlanta Airport**.

In Marietta ... The Cobb County Rotary Clubs joined forces to welcome our guests with great food and entertainment.

In Decatur ... The **DeKalb Rotary Council** welcomed visitors at the historic Decatur Courthouse, where they enjoyed mini-historical tours of the city and a Southern barbecue.

PHOTOS:

Three of our GRSPs were present—Kate Findlay, Katarina Sandberg And Jean-Pierre and Francine Bernard

Lake Spivey/Clayton County dancing

Welcome
to our
World
The Rotary Clubs of Cobb County, Georgia
welcome you
to the Marietta Square.
Enjoy our Southern Hospitality.
ATLANTA 2017
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
EXIT

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 5, 2017

Check Out the Global Grant Scholarship Opportunities - Applications Due October 16

Do you know a young person who is ready for graduate study and wants to study abroad? Do they have career goals which are consistent with Rotary Foundation Areas of Focus? Are they committed to service and interested in building a relationship with a Rotary Club in another country? Would $30,000 help them achieve their education goals? If the answer to these questions is yes, then let them know about the Global Grant Scholarship funded by The Rotary Foundation.

District 6900 is offering two competitive $30,000 scholarships for graduate study starting the fall of 2018. The student's career goals must align with at least one of the Rotary Foundation Areas of Focus: Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution, Disease Prevention and Treatment, Water and Sanitation. Maternal and Child Health, Basic Education and Literacy, and Economic and Community Development.

Scholars may NOT be a Rotarian; an employee of a club, district, or any other Rotary entity; or the spouse, a lineal descendant, or an ancestor of any person in the first two categories. Scholars MAY BE a member of a Rotaract Club. Scholars must have residence in District 6900 or must be employed full time in the District or be a fulltime student in a university in the District.

Applications are due Monday, October 16 at 12:00 noon. For more information and a copy of the application, check out the Rotary 6900 website https://rotary6900.org/scholars. To schedule a presentation at your club about the amazing benefits that clubs may enjoy through their participation and for help in identifying qualified candidates in your community, contact a member of the District 6900 Scholarship Committee: Stuart Gulley (**Atlanta**); Jack Hellriegel (**Buckhead**), Carl Prikle (**Sandy Springs**); Grady Enlow (**Thomasville**); Mark Keramidas (**Buckhead**); Eleni Bafas (**Dunwoody**); Mike Irvin (**Muscogee**); Robbie Green (**North Columbus**); Anne Glenn (**Dunwoody**), Kathy Brandt (**Dunwoody**). Scholarship inquiries may also be sent to Kathy Brandt, District Scholarship Chair at kgbrandt1@comcast.net.

Posted by Kathy Brandt
July 5, 2017

Give Yourself the Gift of RLI

Congratulations to all the clubs who have new Rotarians in leadership positions! It is an exciting time as well as a bit overwhelming. Rotary Leadership Institute can help you plan for your year as well as educate new members into the world of Rotary.

At RLI, we teach LEADERS about ROTARY. As Rotarians, you are all leaders, some in your community, some in your profession, and some in life in general…

At RLI, our purpose is to give you the necessary tools and skills to be better Rotarians. As in every endeavor, the more you know about anything, the more interesting it becomes. Rotary is most assuredly one of those areas that the more you put into it, the more you get out of it. RLI can make that possible for you. **Graduates of RLI are more likely to remain in, and be a bigger part of Rotary, than any other demographic.**

Plans are being made now for future RLI sessions. We are working to have a Fall 2017 session in the

Sandy Springs area and a Winter 2018 session in the Thomasville area on January 20, 2018. Please keep checking the district website and the RLI website at www.rlitraining.org for the latest RLI sessions in District 6900, 6910 and 6920.

Posted by Elwyn Gaissert, II
July 5, 2017

More News from the Clubs

Children benefiting from Alpharetta's summer lunch program

Alpharetta Provides Summer Lunches

Volunteers from the **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** partnered with Coordinators from the Ed Isakson/Alpharetta Family YMCA to distribute lunches and engage with children from the Aspen Pointe Apartment complex. The summer lunch program is committed to feeding children who fall into the category of “food insecure,” and normally receive a free or reduced lunch during the school year. Rotarians will continue to volunteer every Wednesday at 11:45am until children return to school in August.

The program is wonderfully simple, and yet enormously impactful. According to No Kid Hungry campaign, “Food insecurity—the limited or uncertain availability of nutritionally adequate and safe food— exists in 17.2 million households in America, 3.9 million of them with children.” The Summer Lunch Program will strive to provide children in need in the Alpharetta community with guaranteed lunch five days a week.

Each weekday, the meals are prepared by MUST Ministries at Roswell United Methodist Church. The YMCA Summer Feeding Program Coordinator then transports the 80 to 120 meals to the Aspen Pointe apartment complex. Here, two to six volunteers distribute lunches to the children. This is also a time for volunteers from the Rotary Club of Alpharetta to interact with students in planned activities and games on the outside basketball court.

North Atlanta Partners with Interfaith Outreach Home

North Atlanta Rotarians reached out to the Interfaith Outreach Home (IOH) in the Chamblee/Doraville area, to find out how we could help and support them. Interfaith Outreach Home serves up to ten families at a time for up to two years each.IOH is an in-depth program providing safe and secure housing, many supportive resources, and time to transition (up to 2-years), while it requires mandatory saving and accountability from participants. The program provides guidance, multi-faceted life-skills trainings and mentors to formerly homeless families willing to participate in this very stringent program capable of breaking the cycle of homelessness and poverty. Graduate families of this program transition into stable lives, often including home ownership made possible by the mandatory savings component of the program.

So far, the club's support has included stepped in to provide the evening meal for the Life Skills Class participants and their families and "channeling" their Tom Sawyer and Huck Finn personalities to spruce up the yard and paint the picket fence and shed. The club's connections with IOH go back to the beginning of the home with builder Don Millen, a long time North Atlanta Rotary Club member and Past President, as well as with several other club members who have initiated club service projects over the years.

Happy New Year on the Fourth of July

Each year, the **Rotary Club of LaGrange** provides marshals on the 4th of July for our Sweet Land of Liberty children’s parade. And, **Dunwoody** Rotarians sell hot dogs and share the Independence Day Celebrations at the City of Dunwoody's annual parade.

Snakes at a Rotary Meeting?

The **Rotary Club of Griffin** had a great program in June featuring Jason Clark from Southeastern Reptile Rescue. Jason and his family had their own series on Animal Planet, and Jason rescues snakes and alligators all over Georgia and the Southeast.Griffin Rotarian John Quinn was hoping that WellStar Spalding Regional Hospital had plenty of anti-venom on hand as he was an unwilling participant in the program!

PHOTOS:

North Atlanta Rotarians Joan McGowan, Nathan Aberson, Kathy Monacelli, Pat Thomas, Kent Gipson and Fred Monancelli work hard to complete their IOH project before dark!

LaGrange Rotarians

Dunwoody Rotarians Tina Philpot, Louise Barden and George Stewart selling hot dogs

Griffin Rotarian John Quinn is hoping there's plenty of anti-venom on hand!

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
July 1, 2017