

From Our District Governor

Celebrating the Family of Rotary ... More Important Than We Can Imagine



DG George at Johns Creek North Fulton Rotary last week

We have all heard about the family of Rotary. I want you to know that our District is truly a family of Rotary. Recently, as you are aware, my older sister passed unexpectedly. You may not know how much it has helped and meant receiving sympathy cards, emails, texts and words of encouragement from fellow Rotarians all across the District. My family and I thank you for your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

Congratulations to DGE André Marria for being selected as one of six People of Action: Champion of Inclusion. She was selected by a committee from about 100 nominees all around Rotary International for her work in DEI both in Rotary as well as in her community. She will be travelling to South Africa in early April to receive the award from RI President Jennifer Jones. Be sure to read her bio in this newsletter.

District Conference will be at Sandestin Beach and Golf Resort and registration is open at the District

website. **Be sure you register this month, as District Conference registration will increase to \$285 on March 1, 2023.** Conference co-chairs Cheryl Greenway and Kelly Hughes have planned some fun events. For instance, on Thursday night there will be a pig roast with cornhole and tug-a-war contests. Keep in mind the theme for the conference is Green Acres, so watch those reruns of the TV show "Green Acres" and plan on having your club dress as characters from the show. We will judge which club does the best job as dressing as those characters when you walk into Friday night's plenary session. So be sure to register and mark your calendars for April 27 to April 30 to attend.

Remember to increase your chances of winning the print "Imagine One's Dream" from the painting by Darren Jones, brother of RI President Jennifer Jones, you will need to donate a \$100 to Polio Plus. The drawing will be held at District Conference.

Be sure you are updating all your accomplishments in Rotary Club Central as well as on the District website. We are getting closer to the deadline for the awards that your club may win. Awards chair Stephanie Windham has worked hard to keep the record keeping as simple as possible. The deadline for to have all your awards in is March 15. Criteria for the Governor citation and the form to apply for it is on the District website.

Posted by George Granade
February 6, 2023

DGE André Marria Honored as a Rotary Person of Action: Champion of Inclusion



Our District Governor Elect, André Marria of Thomasville, is one of six Rotary members from around the world to be honored as a Rotary People of Action: Champion of Inclusion for her work to build a culture of inclusion as an advocate and mentor for women and people of color in southern Georgia, U.S.

Rotary members throughout the world are taking action to strengthen and empower historically marginalized and underrepresented communities by improving access to health services, education, economic opportunities, and civic participation.

Since 2005, Marria has worked to bridge cultural divides in her community by bringing those from different backgrounds together to learn about and work together as well as to improve the lives of those in need, including by supporting aspiring entrepreneurs from underserved communities. Through Marria's

leadership, the Rotary Club of Thomasville has worked with a local business incubator to equip these entrepreneurs—particularly women and minorities—with the educational materials, mentors and expertise they need to succeed.

- Teaching visually impaired and homeless children from refugee settlements to express themselves through music in Turkey
- Educating and nurturing children with intellectual disabilities in Uganda
- Empowering transgender communities in India through providing access to healthcare, employment, and advocacy
- Facilitating open discussions on the social barriers people can face in the LGBTQ, disabled and other underrepresented communities in Brazil
- Supporting and cultivating relationships with Indigenous communities in Canada

“The actions taken by these Rotary members exemplify our approach to bringing people together to cultivate a more just, open and inclusive world,” said Rotary International President Jennifer Jones. “We are an organization that finds common ground in our humanity and in our desire to create lasting change in our communities, the world and in ourselves. Every day, we leverage our members’ diverse perspectives to fight inequalities, foster peace, and address humanitarian challenges across the globe.”

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
December 5, 2022

Our Rotary Foundation

Upcoming Deadline for Closeout of 2022-2023 District (Community) Grants

If you haven't completed your District (Community) Grant-funded service project, now is the time to gather and upload your spending documentation for review. **Per District 6900 guidelines, spending documentation must be uploaded to rotary6900.org within 30 days of spending all funds or by March 31, 2023, whichever is earlier.**

If you have a grant that is currently in overdue status, documentation is to be uploaded immediately and submitted for review. Thank you to those clubs that have already uploaded their spending documentation.

Once again, this has been a very interesting year to say the least. Covid-19 has continued to impact our work as Rotarians. Yet we continue to forge ahead and work diligently with our partnering organizations to complete the spending of all grant funds. Well done! Should your club have any issues with completing the spending of your grant funds, please contact me immediately to discuss options.

I have adjusted the schedule slightly from what was published at the beginning of the year. The revised schedule:

- For project end dates of February 28 to March 31, all receipts etc. submitted via website by March 31st for review.

- All grants (regardless of project end date) must be closed by April 7.

Not adhering to the schedule listed above could affect your club's eligibility to apply for a grant for 2023-2024.

Please do not hesitate to contact me via the comments section on your club's grant page should you have any questions or comments. The grants team is here to help.

Posted by Gillian Leggett
February 5, 2023

RYLA Update

Time to Enroll for 2023 RYLA



REMINDERS

* Club Commitment Forms Due Now *

Email to susanruckman@att.net

Fax to 229-924-7617

* Student Registration Payments Due March 3rd *

Mail to: Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

c/o Susan Ruckman

P.O. Box 1547

Americus, GA 31709

* Club Officers & RYLA Chairs should have all Info & Forms in their

Email Inboxes dated January 10th...

But please contact Jaclyn Donovan

jaclyn.k.donovan@gmail.com if you have questions or need info

sent to a different club member. *

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
February 6, 2023

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

TRF Establishes Two Temporary Relief Funds for Pakistan and Ukraine

from Anne Glenn, District Chair, The Rotary Foundation



As a global humanitarian organization, Rotary continually takes action to help communities in need. In that spirit, The Rotary Foundation has established two temporary funds to support immediate relief efforts in Pakistan and Ukraine. In Pakistan, a severe monsoon season has caused devastating floods and affected millions of people. In Ukraine, the ongoing war has led to a continued humanitarian crisis.

The Pakistan Flood Response Fund will help communities recover from the disaster that displaced people and destroyed crops. It will accept contributions, including District Designated Funds, until 31 December 2023 and distribute grants until 30 June 2024 or until the funds are spent. Any unused money will be transferred to the general Disaster Response Fund.

The Ukraine Response Fund will also accept contributions, including District Designated Funds, to support grants for districts affected by the war. It will operate on the same schedule as the Pakistan fund, accepting donations until 31 December 2023 and awarding grants until 30 June 2024 or until the money is spent. Any unused funds will also be transferred to the Disaster Response Fund.

Interested in helping Districts affected by the flooding in Pakistan or the war in Ukraine? You can:

1. [**Donate**](#) to the Pakistan Flood Response Fund or the Ukraine Response Fund
2. [**Learn more**](#) about both funds and how to apply for disaster response grants
3. [**Fundraise**](#) among your colleagues, friends, and family using Raise for Rotary

Posted by Anne Glenn
February 5, 2023

GRSP and Rotary Working Together

GRSP Fosters Peace through International Scholars



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PEACE, OH WHAT A GLORIOUS TIME.
WHEN MAN ON EARTH IN PERFECT RHYME
WILL CO-EXIST IN HARMONY.
PEACE, OH WHAT A GLORIOUS TIME!

Georgia Rotary Student Program commemorates the Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution Month through education and public awareness as our one-of-a-kind program has been bringing nations together since 1946. GRSP's purpose for the last 77 years has been to develop potential global leaders who promote understanding and peace around the world.

We believe that peace is possible as we extend one-year ambassadorial scholarships to international college students who spend one year in Georgia colleges and universities learning about the American way of life, receive mentorship from sponsoring Rotary Clubs and build lasting relationships with Rotarians as well as classmates from various countries.

Just ask one of our 3,731 alumni from more than 109 countries around the world. That's exactly what our one-of-a-kind Rotary program has done. And by the way, did you know that one of our alumni is now a GRSP Trustee in District 6910, and one of last year's alumni, Wade Gunning, has just become a Rotarian in the **Atlanta Metro Rotary Club**?

Emilio Ochoa Botero of Colombia, an engineering student, will finish his major when he returns to Colombia this summer. He decided to take classes he would have never have had the chance to take at his home university. "As an engineering student, I've taken Italian and Cultural Anthropology, and now taking Korean, Japanese, English Composition and Understanding Peace and Conflict," Botero said.

GRSP has provided the opportunity for Botero to interact with people from different countries such as the United States, Korea, Germany, UK, Argentina, Pakistan, Spain, countries from Scandinavia and Africa. The experience has allowed him to learn about know new cultures and ways of life.

The singing of the Peace Song at our annual Conclave is an honored GRSP tradition. Alumni from all over the world have learned the words - and Rotarians too - and stand together in peace and harmony thanks to this special song. The beautiful lyrics were written by our Administrator Emeritus Janis Comer and the music was written by Bernard Wong, GRSP Class of 1994-95. The second verse of the song includes the lyrics, "Peace, oh what a perfect way in which to live our lives each day, in thought and deed, in work and play. Peace, oh what a perfect way!"

The Rotary Club of Dunwoody will host **the GRSP Leadership Conference February 10 to 12 in partnership** with Rotarians from Buckhead, Brookhaven, North Atlanta and Gainesville. Weekend events will allow GRSP scholars to explore ways to make a difference in the world, build communication skills, complete a community service project plus spend time with other GRSP classmates and host Rotarians.

PHOTOS:



DGND Steve Ivory inducts GRSP Alumni Wade Gunning into the Metro Atlanta Rotary Club

Posted by Katheryne Fields
February 5, 2023

Our Rotary Foundation

Could You Be An Area Community Grant Chair?

Do you believe strongly in The Rotary Foundation? Do you have experience working with the District/Community Grants section of the District Website? Are you interested in helping clubs if they have questions about The Rotary Foundation and the District/Community Grants process? If so, GIVE ME A CALL!

Your District Foundation Committee is hoping to create "Area Community Grant Chairs" by geographic location. Each Area Chair will serve as the liaison between the clubs and the D6900 Community Grants Chair. This will be an opportunity to work with the committee at the District level and to increase ones knowledge and passion for The Rotary Foundation.

We are still in the early stages of planning so Area Chairs can participate in finalizing their job description and determining what area they would serve. If interested, please contact me as soon as possible. I can be reached at gkleggett@att.net or via text to 404.202.2409. (Text is easier and then we can set up a time to talk.)

Characteristics/responsibilities of an Area Community Grants Chair (including, but not limited to....)

- Has basic knowledge of The Rotary Foundation (will train to increase knowledge)
- Has working knowledge and experience with the current D6900 Grant process
- Financially supports The Rotary Foundation through regular giving Ability to speak to clubs about the basics of The Foundation and Community Grants
- Ability to serve as the main contact for clubs in a specific area pertaining to Community Grants
- Ability to review grant applications (once trained), and work with the D6900 Community Grants Chair to oversee project funding approval and implementation
- Possesses strong leadership and organizational skills
- Brings energy, new ideas, and committed to using grants for the benefit of the clubs and The Rotary Foundation
- Able to avoid any actual or perceived conflict of interest with a beneficiary organization

Posted by Gillian Leggett
February 5, 2023

Club News

East Cobb Honored for Supporting Wheeler High's AVID Program



The **East Cobb Rotary Club** was honored to be awarded the Community Leader MLK Humanitarian Award by Wheeler High School on January 13. The club was one of four recipients of this year's award and very excited to be recognized for its involvement for the past seven years in Wheeler High School's AVID program. AVID (short for Advancement Via Individual Achievement) is a special program designed to increase the number of students who enroll and succeed in higher education and beyond. Through this partnership, hundreds of students have been taught life and study skills that have paved the way for college and life success.

Posted by Aaron Strimban
February 1, 2023

Rotary Youth Exchange

Congratulations Next Class of Rotary Youth Exchange!



Congrats to our new outbound candidates for Rotary Youth Exchange. They are headed to Thailand, Sweden and Denmark next school year. Good luck learning the language!

Posted by Mike Parks
February 6, 2023

Club and GRSP News

Working Together to Change the World



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. once said "Not everybody can be famous but everyone can be great because greatness is determined by service; you only need a heart full of grace and a soul generated by love." Two Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars spent a week in January serving others in Guatemala.

Laury Petit and Camilla Dokkedahl, who attend Columbus State University, joined CSU students along with the **Rotary Club of Columbus** to teach art and English at the Foncoli school as well as help build smokeless stoves in the area. Columbus Rotarians have been working with the Rotary Club of Antigua as well as other Rotary and NGO partners since 2019 on several projects including Global Grants to bring long term sustainable improvements to a rural community.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert

February 5, 2023

Club News

North Atlanta Goes Global



Some 300,000 children / year worldwide die or are maimed because of a lack of a simple and cheap

vitamin (vitamin B9 or folic acid) in their mothers' diets, which can cause fatal or devastating birth defects such as spina bifida. An estimated 75% of these tragedies could be prevented simply by ensuring that women of childbearing age get the vitamin through food fortification or supplements. Thus, approx. 225,000 babies can be saved each year if this initiative is fully adopted.

The **Rotary Club of North Atlanta** is working to make a difference, on both the club and International levels. On the club level, the club is partnering with a club in Addis Ababa through a five-year global grant project to provide folic acid to women at high risk. Rotary clubs from other districts are participating partners.

On the international level, the club is a signatory of a letter and resolution to the World Health Assembly (the governing body of W.H.O.) to recommend that countries adopt policies for mandatory fortification of food with folic acid and other essential micronutrients. Joining the club are more than thirty other organizations including UNICEF, the March of Dimes, and the International Rescue Committee. Our unique club logo is included in the letter.

This easily scalable project will save lives, prevent suffering, and promote awareness of this inexpensive opportunity to make a significant impact on child morbidity and mortality around the world. District 6900 clubs interested in participating in the global grant, or anyone seeking additional information is welcome to contact Ralph Peeler, MD at rdpiiim@comcast.net or Jon Yaeger at jonyaegerrotary@gmail.com.

Posted by Jon Yaeger
February 6, 2023

Club News

Dunwoody and Alzheimer's Partner for Golf Tournament



On May 15, 2023, golfers will tee off at St. Marlo Country Club in the second annual FORE the Memories golf tournament - benefiting the Alzheimer's Association and the Rotary Club of Dunwoody Charitable Fund. The club is busy working on sponsors for the event. If you are interested in joining us on May 15 - or in sponsorship opportunities, please visit the club's **FORE the Memories website** or contact Bob O'Brien,

fundraising chair, or any Dunwoody Rotarian.

Posted by Bob O'Brien
February 5, 2023
