



From Our District Governor

## Let's Grow Our Membership!



WE CONNECT PEOPLE!  
WE TRANSFORM COMMUNITIES!  
WE FUND SUSTAINABLE PROJECTS!



Join Rotary!

## AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP & NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT

August is Rotary International's Membership and New Club Development Month - what better time for each of us to imagine how we can make our clubs stronger, tell our stories better, and introduce new people to our world of fellowship and community service.

One of RI President Jennifer Jones requests is for districts to grow membership by increasing the number of club members and by creating two new club models - like the satellite clubs we have in place in Stone Mountain and Roswell, for example. She also would like to see women represent 30% of our total membership by Rotary year end; here in District 6900 we are already at 29.1%!

There are several avenues for assistance on finding new members. Rotary sends leads to the district that come in through RI's website, and the district passes them along to the clubs. The Rotary Learning Center which has courses and suggestions to improve your club membership, including:

- A questionnaire to help your club develop strategies to increase membership participation as well as membership.
- An Online Membership Leads course that shows how a prospect experiences the membership leads process, and how club and district leaders can create a consistent, positive experience for prospective members.
- A Club Health Check to identify a club's problem areas and make changes to stay relevant for the membership and the community.
- Many other courses which can assist in increasing membership.

The Zone 33-34 website ([rizones33-34.org](http://rizones33-34.org)) offers another avenue for getting information on membership. This year, RI Director Jeremy Hurst is working with the Regional Coordinators to present MAP - Membership Action Plan. [\*\*Visit the Zone website page on membership\*\*](#) and watch the MAP introductory video, then sign up to attend sessions September 12 at 5:00 pm - "Connect with Prospects" and October 10 at 6:00 pm - "Meaningful Onboarding."

The third way is to work with District Membership Chair David Schwickerath. His team created the Facebook ad that's shown here - from a photo taken at RI Convention in Houston. David is planning a Membership Summit on August 20 at the Atlanta Motor Speedway, Hampton. The summit will begin at 10:00 am. He will talk about the latest ideas and resources to help you with your membership plans. David is also available to assist you throughout the year as you look for new ways to increase membership.

Posted by George Granade  
August 5, 2022

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## **D6900 Finish Line Celebration Coming Soon!**



If you've registered, we look forward to seeing you at our Finish Line celebration lunch at Atlanta Motor Speedway on August 20. We will be recognizing clubs for their achievements during the 2021-2022 Rotary year and provide an annual report for the district. Registration is open and thrill seekers can sign up for a hot lap around the AMS track in a pace car! In addition, incoming District Membership Chair Dave Schwickerath is offering a membership summit on the same day which is a perfect time to hear the latest in ideas and resources to help you with your membership plans.

Posted by Mandy Timmons  
August 5, 2022

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Our Rotary Foundation

## **District 6900 "Doing Good at Home and around the World"**

by Anne Glenn, District Rotary Foundation Chair, 2022-25



Thank you to every Rotarian who made last year so special for our Rotary Foundation. Your generous donations and passionate concern for people you know in your community as well as people you will never meet, or see, continues to display decency and "good" in a world growing poor and needy.

As your newest District Rotary Foundation Director, I remain humbled by your commitment to Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. I look forward to helping you achieve your goals. And as a starter - **NEWSFLASH - all District Grant and Special District Grant checks are in the mail to all of you!**

A special thanks is sent to immediate past DRFC Cheryl Greenway and the entire District Foundation team for your advice, support and wisdom as we serve others. You've set a high bar for 2022-2023.

To begin a new Rotary year together, think about this quote from Warren Buffett. *"The incredible thing about love is you can't get rid of it...people who push it out get it back tenfold."*

Moving forward together, join us to become an investor in people through The Rotary Foundation. Believe in them...fund them with your time, money and love. Keep making the world a better place.

Posted by Anne Glenn  
August 5, 2022

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Our Rotary Foundation at Work

# Where Did the Money Go in 2021-22?



We encourage you to keep donating to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) - and we share information along the way about some of our projects - but we wanted to give you access to reports show [what TRF allowed us to do in 2021-22 in our communities](#) - and what we did and continue to do on the [five Global Grant projects approved in 2021-22](#). Click either of the links above to get some specifics

On the Global Grant side, last Rotary year, District 6900 invested \$292,545 DDF of your generous Rotarian foundation donations to support international projects selected by individual District 6900 Clubs, and groups of clubs, to build better futures for us all. Our global grant activities were supported by more than 35 D6900 clubs. The five grants reflected Clean Water & Sanitation, Literacy, Disease Prevention and Economic Development areas of focus. District 6900 GG DDF Funds also funded 2 Global Grant Scholarships for postgraduate studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution and Disease Prevention. Additionally D6900 hosted a student from Japan who is in the US studying Public Health.

"Doing Good Globally" allowed D6900 Rotarians to touch and change the lives of 28,583 people around the world. and support projects valued at more than \$750,469.00. Thanks to everyone involved, over 28,000 lives were changed last year at an average cost of \$10.23 per person. Thanks to all of you, Doing Good in the World continues to inspire us all. Some simple facts about how we got the money for 2021-22:

1. All money was given to TRF by generous Rotarians in District 6900 during Rotary Year 2018-2019.
2. TRF invested the donations for two to three years, using the earnings plus 5% for foundation operation.
3. After three years, TRF returns the remaining donated funds to District 6900 in two ways: A) 50% of the funds are sent to the District as District Designated Funds (DDF) and used to fund District and Global Grants, and B) 50% goes to the TRF World Fund to be used to match District 6900 DDF \$1 for \$1 inside Global Grants.

District 6900 is allowed to set aside 3% of their annual DDF funds for administrative expenses and up to 20% of the funds for "Contingency Expenses (for things requiring funding that were unanticipated at the time the grant application was submitted). We do this each year and, at Rotary year end, donate all funds remaining unspent to Polio eradication.

Posted by Anne Glenn  
August 5, 2022

# Welcome 2022-23 Leaders and Students



**J. MICHAEL SWEIGART, CHAIR**

*Rotary Club of Duluth*



**GRSP OFFICERS 2022-2023**



**IAN BOND, VICE CHAIR**

*Rotary Club of Columbus*



**LORRI CHRISTOPHER, SECRETARY**

*Rotary Club of Dunwoody*



**JACKIE CUTHBERT, ASST. SEC.**

*Rotary Club of Dunwoody*



**STEVE HARROLD, ASST. TREASURER**

*Rotary Club of Athens*

We are pleased to announce the Georgia Rotary Student Program's new slate of officers for 2022-23 - elected at GRSP's Summer Trustee Meeting earlier this month. J. Michael (Mike) Sweigart of the **Rotary Club of Duluth (D6910)** moves up to serve as Chair and Ian Bond of the **Rotary Club of Columbus** has been elected to serve as Vice Chair. Both Mike and Ian have served as host families and trustees. Mike most recently served as Treasurer then Vice Chair while Ian served the last several years as District 6900 Chair.

Secretary Lorri Christopher and Assistant Secretary Jackie Cuthbert, both from the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody**, and Assistant Treasurer Steve Harrold of the **Rotary Club of Athens (D6910)** were also thanked for their contributions to the program and re-elected for another year.

Sweigart presented a gavel to Bert Guy, a member of the **Rotary Club of Camden County (D6920)**, in honor of serving as GRSP Chair from 2018 to 2022. Mike thanked Guy for his leadership and said Guy will continue to serve as a resource for the program. Guy has been active in GRSP for the past 13 years.

GRSP will welcome more than 40 international students with the opening ceremonies for the Class of 2022-23 at Conclave, which is scheduled for August 19-21 at Lake Lanier Islands. All Rotarians, host families, GRSP Leadership, Trustees, Foundation Board, Staff, Emeritus members, former Trustees, friends of GRSP plus alumni are invited to attend and reservations are required.

GRSP is celebrating 76 years of bringing nations together with one-year college scholarships for international students sponsored by Rotarians from all three Rotary Districts. The generosity of our clubs and individual Rotarians in the form of time, talent, homes and funds make the program possible - thank you!

For more information, visit [www.grsp.org](http://www.grsp.org)

**PHOTOS:**



*Milton Heard*

Posted by Katheryne Fields  
July 26, 2022

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Rotary Leadership Institute

## Top 10 Reasons to Consider Attending RLI



1. You want ROI (Return On Investment) for your Rotary membership.
2. You want to learn how to apply your business leadership skills to volunteer/non-employee leadership.
3. You enjoy learning through discussion...NO LECTURES!
4. You want to learn BASICS of the Rotary Foundation.
5. You want to learn how to execute EFFECTIVE service projects.
6. You want to learn how to retain and engage members for the long run.
7. You want to learn how to use the power of 35,000 clubs to solve local and global challenges.
8. You want to learn how an “ordinary” person can make an extraordinary impact.

9. You want to do all of this while: meeting/networking with like-minded, interesting Rotarians...and
10. You want to learn how to create the opportunity for life changing “Rotary Moments.”

The Mission of the RLI Sunshine Division is to provide a current, practical, and user-friendly educational opportunity in convenient locations for Rotarians identified as potential leaders. Courses are intended to foster leadership skills and Rotary knowledge with the intent to motivate the participants to be enthusiastic, creative, and resolute.

Having leadership skills does not alone assure good Rotary leadership. An effective Rotary leader must ALSO have Rotary knowledge, perspective about where Rotary has been, where it is now going, and a vision of what Rotary can be.

To learn more, and to register for live online sessions and in-person events, visit [rlitraining.org](http://rlitraining.org). In-person events are currently scheduled for AUGUST 13, 2022 in Columbus, NOVEMBER 19, 2022 in Kennesaw, and JANUARY 14, 2023 in Thomasville.

**PHOTOS:**





Posted by Stephanie Windham

August 3, 2022

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RYLA Update

## 2022 RYLA Was a Blast!



Summertime in District 6900 mean it's time for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, better known as RYLA!! RYLA is designed for young adults with proven leadership ability and a commitment to community service. The District 6900 RYLA camp was hosted by the **Rotary Club of Americus** and held June 18-22 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University and included 82 students sponsored by over 30 clubs. This year was also the first RYLA gathering since 2019, so the RYLA Family of counselors had a great reunion!

Through RYLA, these young people from different backgrounds - home, educational, religious, and lifestyle - are brought together to work, learn, and discuss the issues that exist within their generation. They have the chance to learn and challenge themselves through team activities, large group activities, and candid, round-table discussions. RYLA programming includes individual personality profiles, conflict resolution styles, and ropes course activities designed to encourage teamwork, communication, and trust. Included once again was the opportunity to participate in a service project which allowed the students to experience the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" firsthand - the group painted inspirational "RYLA Rocks" to be placed around the campus.

One of the recurring themes of RYLA is the student who accomplishes a feat he/she would have never dared to imagine before coming to camp. The most memorable of these culminating events are always the board break, which allows students to break through their fears to reach their goals, and the Trust Fall from a 5-foot platform into the waiting arms of teammates. And just as always, most of the students who were very hesitant to spend the weekend with 100 strangers became the friends who did not want to part

ways at the end. This speaks volumes to the benefit of RYLA and the positive changes it can create in young lives.

Even more telling of the long-lasting influence of RYLA is the fact that 90% of the counselors were once RYLA participants themselves – they believe in it enough to commit the time and energy to make RYLA the best experience possible. Approximately 67 Rotarians assisted with RYLA in some capacity, with most contributing on the club level with the nomination and selection of student participants while others provided transportation to and from RYLA, and the brave few who agreed to serve as chaperones in the dorms. Special guests this year were DG George Granade and DGE Andre Marria who joined us for several days volunteering as Chaperones and spending time with the student teams.

RYLA aims to help students discover their potential and develop the skills needed to be leaders in their communities, careers, and everyday lives. And they achieve these goals while having fun, building friendships, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. We're already looking forward to 2023 and we hope to see you and your students there!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
August 3, 2022

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## **RYLA Picture Story**



**PHOTOS:**

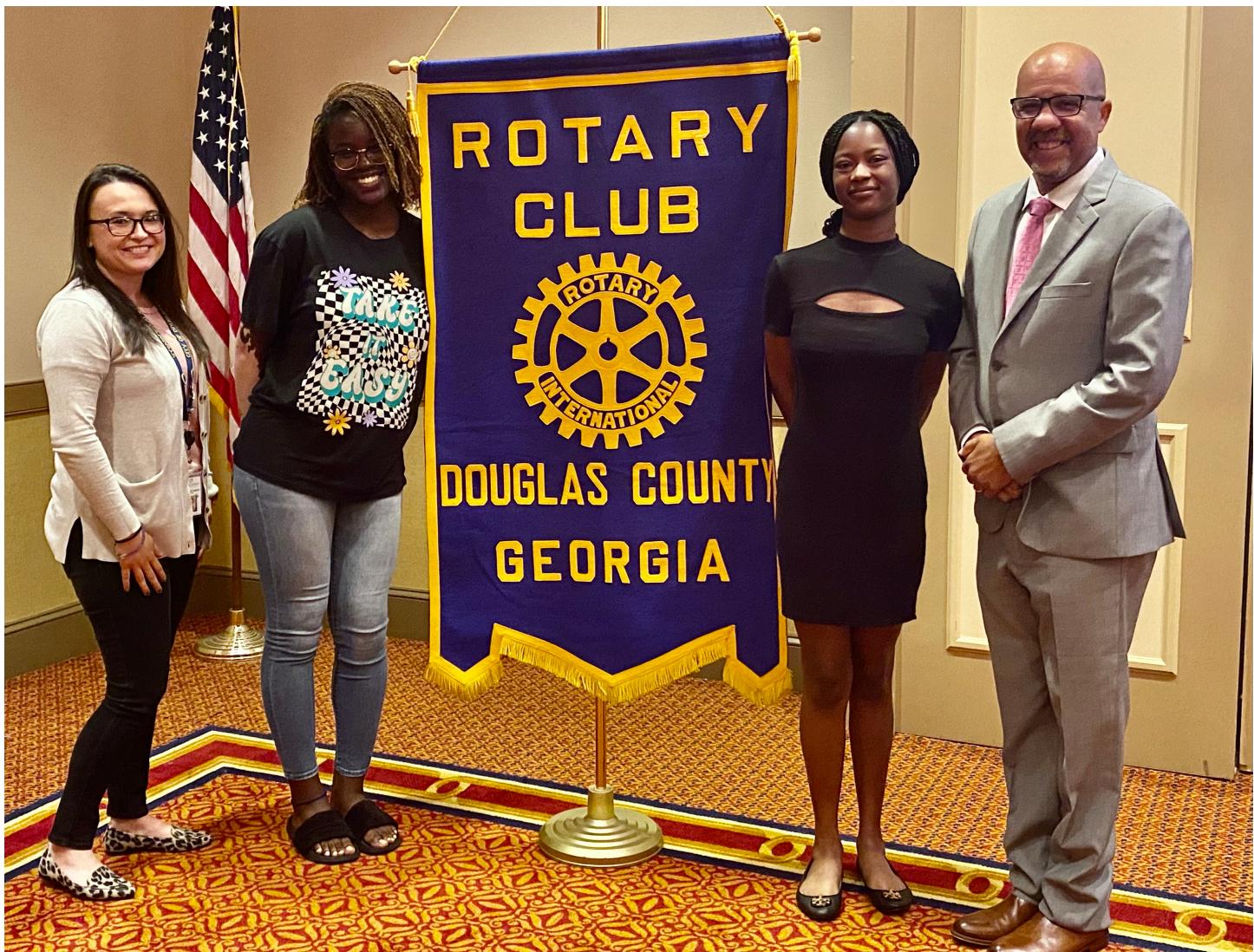


Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
August 3, 2022

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Club News

## RYLA Students Speak at Douglas County



Rotary President Samantha Rosado, Hannah Byssainthe, Tiffany Grier, and Rotary Member and Douglas County School Superintendent Trent North.

The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** recently enjoyed hearing from students who attended RYLA - an intensive leadership experience organized by Rotary where young people can develop leadership skills while having fun and making connections. This year, the club sponsored four students to attend RYLA in June on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus. Three of the students attend Douglas County High School: Hannah Byssainthe, Amelia Hasan, and Ronzell Mullen. Tiffany Grier attends Lithia Springs High School. Hannah and Tiffany attended the meeting and answered questions about their experience. Hannah enjoyed it so much she plans to volunteer as a counselor at RYLA in the future!

Posted by Nell Boggs  
August 5, 2022

# Year-end Brazil Trip Planned to Visit Global Grant Project Funded by D6900 Clubs



***Bom Dia!***

Six clubs are supporting a project that is doing amazing good the world! The **Rotary Clubs of Stone Mountain, Dunwoody, Peachtree City, Atlanta Brazil, Roswell and Alpharetta** have successfully funded Down Syndrome Education Global Grant 2231616—and a year-end trip is planned to visit this impressive project.

***This is your invitation to travel with Rotarians to southern Brazil*** - a truly beautiful place in the world. You'll enjoy an efficient trip, participate in programs and activities with APADPEL--the Association for Parents of Down Syndrome Pelotas, experience first-rate Rotary fellowship, enjoy local hospitality AND contribute personally to a project that Rotary has brought to life. November-December is Springtime in Pelotas!

Four days and nights will enable us to meet APADPEL and do some service work together, fellowship with Rotarians, do some touring of beautiful Casino beach and enjoy fantastic Brazilian barbecue!!!

We are optimistic that by early December, phase 1 of the APADPEL training center will be substantially complete, and that students for the first training sessions will have been selected. We look forward to meeting and talking with those selected for training and hear of their plans and goals. Join us! For more information, contact Bob Koncerak: RDAHKoncerak@yahoo.com.

## **PHOTOS:**



Posted by Bob Koncerak  
August 5, 2022

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#### Club News

## Dunwoody Fundraising Efforts Net Almost \$40,000 for Our Charitable Endeavors



The **Rotary Club of Dunwoody** had a great year in service projects with two new fund-raising efforts. The club held its first Whiskey & Cigar Raffle in October, November and December of last year and raised more than \$6,500 for our Dunwoody Rotary Charitable Fund to support causes such as USO, the Dresden

Book Drive, the Community Assistance Center (CAC), the Kingsley Elementary Thanksgiving Food Boxes and other community service projects. All three drawings were held at Porter Brew & Que with great membership and community participation.

Additionally, the club held its inaugural charity golf tournament called FORE! the Memories at St. Marlo Country Club on May 16, 2022 with support of more than 35 sponsors at various levels. We had great participation of our membership and friends of Rotary with 104 golfers. The event raised \$20,000 which was presented to Alzheimer's of Georgia -The Longest Day Program at our annual year-end and also contributed \$13,000 for our Dunwoody Rotary Charitable Fund to help continue our support of community projects this upcoming year.

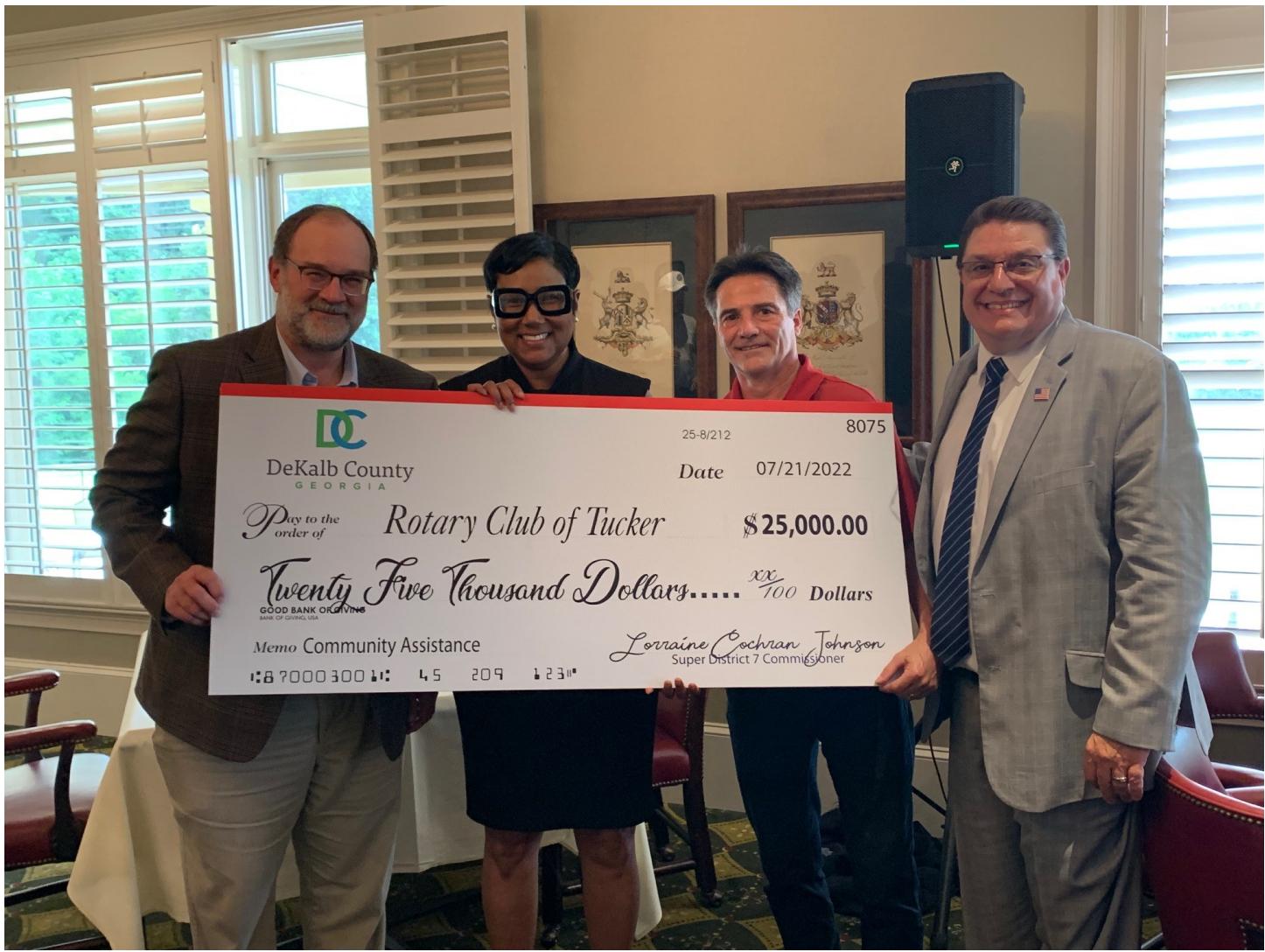
Plans are already underway for another Whiskey & Cigar Raffle and the second annual FORE! the Memories golf tournament.

Posted by Bob O'Brien  
August 5, 2022

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Club News

## **Tucker and DeKalb County Help Families Impacted by COVID**



(left to right) David Fisher, executive director of NETWorks; DeKalb County Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson; Jim Rodeghiero, special events coordinator, and Kirk Fordham, director of community services, Rotary Club of Tucker, accepting the check.

DeKalb County has approved in \$25,000 Super District 7 American Rescue Plan (ARP) funding appropriation from Commissioner Lorraine Cochran-Johnson for the **Rotary Club of Tucker** to support mortgage and rent assistance and purchase and distribute school supplies to eligible residents of the Tucker-Northlake-Embry Hills community still dealing with the financial impact from COVID.

The club will partner with NETWorks Cooperative Ministry to handle distribution of the funds and supplies. "I am extremely proud of the work the Rotary Club of Tucker does in the community," said Cochran-Johnson. "I count it a privilege to have the ability to help them further their mission of providing rental assistance, diminishing food insecurities and providing educational supplies to those who have a need."

Cochran-Johnson presented the check during the club's monthly #ThirdThursday social event at Smoke Rise Country Club in July. Kirk Fordham, Rotary Club of Tucker director of community services, expressed the club's gratitude to Cochran-Johnson for her continuing support of the club's commitment to its community. "As people of action, Rotary members want to find ways to respond to COVID-19, and to help people still being affected by it. We are grateful that the Commissioner listened to our needs and offered to help us make a transformative impact in our community."

Posted by Lizbeth Dison

August 5, 2022

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