Rotary
District 6900

December 5, 2024

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR DECEMBER, 2024

The Okra Brothers

Right Back Where We Started

By Gordon Owens

During my official visits to the Columbus area, I was impressed by how the local clubs are working together to serve those in need. Food insecurity, proper medical care and working to reduce violence are just a few challenges Rotarians are tackling in their neighborhood. AG Cedric Hill and I were nicknamed the *Okra Brothers* because we saved a couple cases of okra from the compost pile at the Merci Med garden, but that's only half the story. While it may have been a bit past its prime size to sell, we were convinced it could be put to good use. Cedric made a call to a friend at another non-profit at a local school that teaches students how to grow their own food and how to build a business selling that produce. The director of that program said, "I was just asked if I had okra to use to teach families how to prepare fresh, seasonal produce." After dropping the okra off on the other side of town, it turns out, it will be used for a cooking demonstration in a neighborhood just a couple blocks from where it was harvested. As simple as a couple case of okra may seem to us, by these clubs working together to leverage every available resource, those in need in Columbus are experiencing the *Magic of Rotary*.

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District Governor Nominee Designate

Congratulations to Buck Buchanan

By Gordon Owens

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January 6-11, 2025

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By Chris Brand

Teams of volunteers from all three Rotary Districts in Georgia will be headed to the Augusta area or up to Western North Carolina to assist with disaster recovery the week of January 6 through January 11. We will clearing debris from yards or removing storm damaged contents from houses. There is plenty of work for all skill levels. Feel free to come for a day or stay for the whole week. **Fill out this quick form** to let us know when and where you can help. We will be in touch with more details about accommodations and travel to each area as we fill out the teams. Thank you for volunteering to help!

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Monday, December 9 @ 5:30PM

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By Dave Schwickerath

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- Issues Challenging Small Clubs
- Creating Membership Types
- Continuity In Club Leadership
- Energizing Existing Members
- Membership This & That

Join this webinar for great ideas to grow Rotary in the new year. [more]

Rotavette.com

A Fun Way To Support Our Foundation

By Will Daniel

The **Rotavette Raffle** is a great opportunity to help us raise money for the Rotary Annual Fund from outside of our membership. Everyone has a friend, neighbor or family member who is a car guy, that would love a 1 in 3000 chance to win a Corvette C8. Asking "that guy" to **buy a $100 raffle ticket** is a much easier ask, than saying, "will you give $100 to our Rotary Foundation." The money we raise this year, will come back to us in 3 years in the form District Designated Funds to support community grant, competitive grant and global grant projects. The more we raise, the more impact we will have in the future. Thanks for helping us share this fun opportunity to support the Annual Fund.

[more]

Disaster Relief Trailer

$20,000 Disaster Grant From Zones 33/34

By Chris Brand

Our combined Rotary Zones 33 & 34 have raised over $1,000,000 to support Rotarian led relief efforts from the recent storms. Our Zone Director Patrick Eakes encouraged all the District Governors to apply for grants to help use this funding to assist areas in need of recovery in our zone. While our district was not hard hit this time around, several of our neighboring districts will need help for months or years to come. We applied for and were awarded a $20,000 grant from Zones 33/34 to purchase and equip a ***Disaster Relief Trailer*** that can be quickly mobilized to help those in need. The trailer will be ready in December and our first trip is planned for the **Rotary Week of Service in January**.

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Our Rotary Foundation

Consider the Rotary Foundation in Your Year-End Giving

By Bob Hagan

The quote you see to the left from founder Arch C Klumph is circa 1916. It is every bit as true today as it was when he first uttered it. It is also no more profound than it is at the end of the year. How we close out a year sets the stage for what we wish to accomplish in the ensuing year. December is the time of year when we consider what other tax benefits we hope to employ. Our first thought is always going to be about what positive impact we can have with our gifts this year on the world of today. However, we are also aware of the charitable tax deduction available to us for our outright gifts. There are a number of ways we can do so. Are you aware you can gift using your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)? [more]

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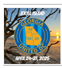

April 24-27, 2024 | Jekyll Island, GA

Register For District Conference

By Ryan Swertfager

We hope you've booked your hotel room for our first-ever joint district conference by now as there are only a few rooms left in our block. **Now it's time to get registered**. Registration will include meals from lunch on Friday to breakfast on Sunday, our beach tailgate party on Friday afternoon, live entertainment on Saturday night and a few adult beverages along the way. We are using DACdb for registration and most of you don't have a login, so click on the "Guest Registration" tab at the top of the registration form to get started. Visit **GeorgiaUnitedDC.com** for more information.

[more]

Tuesday, December 17 @ 6PM

Public Image Ask Me Anything

By Mandy Timmons

Need help with all things public image? This webinar is for you. The zone's public image and communications team will be on hand to answer all of your questions. From getting the most engagement from social media or how to use canva to make your message pop, come prepare to ask them anything to help your club promote all the great work your club is doing to impact your community. Visit **ElevateRotary.org** to register.

[more]

Planning Your Year End Giving

Gifting Securities May Have Added Tax Benefits

By Lee Hollingsworth

As you plan your year-end giving, consider a gift of appreciated securities to The Rotary Foundation. This is an effective way to fulfill your giving goals and help maximize your tax savings. You may be able to: Deduct the fair market value of your gift; Avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated stock. You can donate appreciated securities through your broker or by mail. You can use our **stock transfer form** to make a gift today. To learn more, see our **Securities page**. If you are 70½ years or older, you may get extra tax benefits by giving through an **IRA charitable rollover gift**. Contact **Lee Hollingsworth** with any questions. Let's continue Doing Good in the World together. Your actions today will shape our Foundation's future.

[more]

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[more]

Thank You For Supporting Laws of Life

We exceeded our Meet Our Match campaign goal!

By Carol Gray Walker

We are delighted to announce that the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest has exceeded its Meet Our Match campaign goal, raising an incredible $80,911—far surpassing our $60,000 target! This success is a testament to the generosity and dedication of our donors, Rotary Club sponsors, and corporate partners who believe in the power of strong character values.

As Helen Keller wisely said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." Your support inspires students to embrace character values that lead to lifelong success. Together, we are making a difference—one essay, one student, and one life lesson at a time.

[more]

Friday, December 6 @ 2PM

North Cobb Peace Summit Series

By Ada Wikina

North Cobb Rotary peace builder Club invites you to the second 'Rotarians promoting Peace Summit. This will take place on the 6th of December 2024 via zoom. Use Meeting ID **810 9789 3217** and passcode **PEACE** to join the summit.

Our conversation is with the Rotary Club of Umuahia, district 9142 in Nigeria ably represented by PDG Grace Okaro who is also an IEP peace ambassador and PAG Jude Ohanele, also an IEP ambassador. Details are in the flyer below. We hope you can join the conversation. [more]

Support Thomasville Rotary

1st Annual Big Impact Auction

By Mary Beth Donalson

Rotarians, friends, and business associates donated a wonderfully eclectic mix of high-end items for our first annual BIG IMPACT AUCTION. We're asking friends and neighbors near and far–to place your bids. **Everyone is invited to participate!**

Rotary Club of Thomasville does good work in the community and around the world. Auction proceeds will help fund those good works. Club projects range from monthly fresh produce market for those in need to honoring first responder heroes to celebrating those who serve in the National Guard and other branches of service to supporting senior adults. Youth projects, scholarships, and recognition programs also are a priority. Our aim is to make a big impact in as we work to make our community a better place for all. [more]

GRSP Update

Oslo Summer 2025 GRSP Scholarship Opens for Georgia College Students

By Katheryne Fields

Norwegian Rotarians will partner with Georgia Rotary Student Program to sponsor two college students from Georgia to attend Oslo International Summer School. Dates will be June 28-July 15, 2025. Application is now open and closes Jan. 15, 2025. Applicants must have completed their first year of college by Spring 2025 and have the recommendation of Georgia Rotarian.

For questions regarding requirements or obtaining the Rotarian endorsement, please email **grsp@grsp.org** for assistance. Please reference the **attached Oslo flyer** for more information, dates for the summer session and the January 15, 2025 application deadline. Visit GRSP website: **www.grsp.org** to apply. [more]

Club News

Carrolton Dawnbreakers Honors Local Veterans

By Sarah Powell

To honor local veterans this Veteran's Day, the Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club recently collected clothing and hygiene items and delivered them to the Trinka Davis Veterans Village. The village offers primary care and specialty health services, including dentistry, treatment for long disease, and more to US veterans. One of the most heartwarming aspects of the event was the involvement of Rotary members' children, who played an active role in sorting and organizing supplies for the Veterans Village. By engaging the next generation in hands-on service projects, the Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club is fostering a sense of responsibility, compassion, and leadership in young people. [more]

Club News

Clubs Collaborate to Promote Peace

By Mandy Timmons

The Rotary Clubs of Peachtree City, Senoia, Tyrone, and Fayetteville joined forces to celebrate a significant milestone at the Healing Bridge Clinic in Peachtree City. Together, we proudly dedicated *The Rotary Room*, a project made possible through grants and the collective service of our clubs. The day's highlight was the unveiling of a Peace Pole, symbolizing Rotary's unwavering commitment to global peace and understanding. Built and coordinated by DG Gordon Owens, the Peace Pole serves as a poignant reminder of our mission to foster peace locally and globally. DG Gordon shared his heartfelt thoughts, saying, "As Rotarians, we are out in our communities creating peace.... Think about the people that are coming here for healing."

[more]

Club News

Roswell Puts DG Gordon to Work!

By Kathryn Igou

As the Roswell Rotary Club prepared for our own DG Gordon Owens visit in November, we knew that we couldn't just have lunch and a program. Gordon is a Rotarian of ACTION and nothing is better to honor him than a solid service project. So we took our club meeting "on the road" and met at the Chattahoochee Nature Center, bringing along our traditional fried chicken lunch. While there, we built ADA accessible picnic tables and installed a peace pole. [more]

Club News

Dan Amos of Aflac Inspires at Rotary Club of Columbus Meeting

By LeighAnn Dicesaris

The Rotary Club of Columbus had the honor of hosting Dan Amos, CEO of Aflac, at their weekly meeting. Attendees were captivated by Mr. Amos's presentation, which detailed Aflac's incredible journey from its humble beginnings to becoming a globally recognized brand with a remarkable 90% name recognition rate.

Mr. Amos highlighted Aflac's roots in Columbus, Georgia, where the company was founded in 1955 by three visionary brothers—John, Paul, and Bill Amos. What started as a small insurance business grew into a powerhouse in the industry, transforming lives with its innovative supplemental insurance policies. Despite its global success, Aflac has remained deeply connected to its hometown, continually investing in the community and exemplifying the spirit of giving back. [more]

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Roswell Grant Helps Keep Children Warm

By Kathryn Igou

Grants from the Rotary Foundation have enabled **Roswell Rotary Club** to take on significant projects this year, including providing warm winter gear for children in Star House. This month we have continued to highlight the incredible impact of the Rotary International Foundation and how, with generous contributions from Rotarians, we can fund meaningful service projects in our community and beyond. Thanks to grant support, Roswell Rotary received the maximum grants this year: a $2,000 community grant and a $5,000 competitive grant. [more]

Join Us for Rotary Means Business in January

By Carter Stout

Rotary Means Business will not meet in December, but watch for more about when and where we are meeting in January 2025. It's a great opportunity to network! In the meantime, enjoy your holidays!

Club News

RCC Supports our Furry Friends for Christmas; Donates to the Rotary Foundation

By Mandy Timmons

The Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps, made up of enthusiastic and caring young adults with special needs, just completed a heartwarming service project! They packed stockings full of treats and toys for dogs and cats in local shelters, bringing joy to our furry friends this holiday season. On top of that, they made a generous donation to our Rotary Foundation, with fellow Rotarians matching their gift to bring the total to $1,000! We're so proud of this group and their dedication to service. Thank you to these amazing young adults for their kindness, spirit, and community support!

[more]

Club News

Dunwoody Supports Family Food Needs for Thanksgiving

By Jackie Cuthbert

The Rotary Club of Dunwoody continued its holiday tradition of helping fill food baskets for local Kingsley Elementary families in need. Led by Honorary Member Anita Augello and her daughter Claudia, our efforts included the purchase of 89 turkeys (in a Publix visit we've come to know as the Turkey Trot), pick up of a massive quantity of food at Costco, assistance with packing the boxes AND with loading very heavy boxes into recipients' carts. The baskets contain a full Thanksgiving dinner and more. Rotary is one of the community groups who come together to deliver these baskets.

All Kingsley students will also receive a brand new book this holiday season - as part of another Dunwoody tradition that's been around for nearly 30 years. [more]

Club News

Marietta Serves Record 153 Meals at MUST Ministries

By Jacob Southerland

Professional Chefs Emma and Ean McShane were welcomed again by MUST Ministries - volunteering for the monthly lunch service provided by the Rotary Club of Marietta at MUST and whipping up a fiv-star lunch for 153+ residents and the homeless. They organized and trained willing-but-not-highly-skilled Rotarian cooks (with the exception of father, Harold). Have you witnessed ten pounds of potatoes peeled in less than ten minutes and on the stove cooking? Working together, [Rotarians take note, this teamwork stuff really works]; Chefs Emma and Ean utilized only the freshest ingredients - no canned soup, canned vegetables, canned meat, or fruit cocktail for these two. [more]

Club News

Douglas County Hears from RYLA Students

By Nell Boggs

Members of the Rotary Club of Douglas County enjoyed hearing from the two students the club sponsored for RYLA! Aaliyah Mason and Amiah Jackson are both members of the Interact Club at New Manchester High School. The girls enjoyed forming friendships and participating in team-building and leadership activities with students from around the state. The program took place June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The Rotary Club of Douglas County paid all expenses for the two students to attend the camp, including bus transportation from Atlanta to Americus.

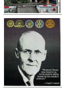
Pictured along with Aaliyah and Amiah are Rotary Club President John Baker and New Manchester High School Counselor Pamela Cummings. [more]

Club News

Wreaths Spread Cheer and Support Good Works

By Debby Daniel-Bryant

The Rotary Club of Griffin Daybreak is spreading Christmas cheer and raising money for all it does in the community with its annual wreath sale. Debby Daniels-Bryant and Jackie Wilson helped get the truck loaded at Georgia Farmers Market with wreaths to deliver. [more]



End Polio Now

Give the Gift of Polio Eradication

By Bob Hagan

The Paul Harris quote to the left is certainly well known as it leads us into our Rotary International History page. It hits the reader squarely between the eyes with the fact that no matter what we might think about the things we do, the world will judge us by what they see us do and how it affects the world. Truly a huge responsibility does each of us have as Rotarians. It is up to us to live up to the words of Paul Harris and the ever-critical eyes who keep watch over us.

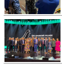
It has been a tougher year in many ways in that area of the world we are most concentrated on as we fight to end Polio on a worldwide basis. Civil unrest compounded by cultural mores make our task ever the harder climb to success, but success is what we still achieved this year, even in the war-torn areas of our very personal fight against the spread of Polio. [more]

Club News

Peachtree City RCC and DG Gordon Visit Fire Station

By Mandy Timmons

The Rotary Community Corps of Peachtree City had an incredible experience at Fire Station 81! They learned about the intense 16-week training required to become a firefighter and got up close with some of the essential tools used on the job. One of the firemen even suited up in under one minute, demonstrating just how quickly they need to respond to emergencies! [more]



Peachtree City Rotarians Honored

By Mandy Timmons

Two Sparrows Village, Inc. (located at Christian City) is a dedicated organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing safe, inclusive housing and supportive services to help residents lead independent, fulfilling lives. At the 2024 Bird Bash, two Peachtree City Rotarians received top honors for their dedication to this impactful mission: Steven Newton earned the Wayne Damron Community Champion Award for his community involvement, and George Martin received the Terry Chapman Humanitarian Award for his compassionate commitment to service. [more]

Club News

Roswell Hosts Multi-Generational Fishing Derby

By Kathryn Igou

In October, Roswell Recreation & Parks collaborated with Roswell Rotary to host a Multigenerational Fishing Derby. Bamboo fishing rods being made to the left while catch/release fishing was going on to the right. This first-year event encouraged teams comprised of a youth, a parent-aged person and a grandparent-aged person to work together to build a bamboo fishing rod and then use in the pond at the back of the Roswell Area Park on Woodstock Road. It was a beautiful morning for about 100 folks from all over Roswell to come together to learn how to tie knots, hold a fishing pole and laugh. [more]

LEADERBOARD Check out the full district scoreboard

Here are the clubs that are leading the way in our district for membership, annual fund and polio plus.

Category	NET MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
I	**Atlanta Metro**	**North Atlanta**	**Henry County**
II	**Johns Creek North Fulton**	**Johns Creek North Fulton**	**Vinings Cumberland**
III	**Midtown Atlanta**	**Dunwoody**	**Decatur**
IV	**North Cobb**	**Peachtree City**	**Columbus**

Upcoming Key Dates

Thursday, December 5th, 2024	**Calling All Presidents-Elect - Zoom -Rotary on the Web**
Monday, December 9th, 2024	**Official Visit - Henry County**
Tuesday, December 10th, 2024	**Official Visit - Jackson Butts County**
Wednesday, December 11th, 2024	**Official Visit - Griffin Daybreak**
Thursday, December 12th, 2024	**Official Visit - Griffin**
Tuesday, December 17th, 2024	**Official Visit - Atlanta Southern Crescent**
Wednesday, December 18th, 2024	**Official Visit - Emory Druid Hills**
Tuesday, December 24th, 2024	**Rotary Means Business**
Thursday, January 2nd, 2025	**Calling All Presidents-Elect - Zoom - Hot Topics**

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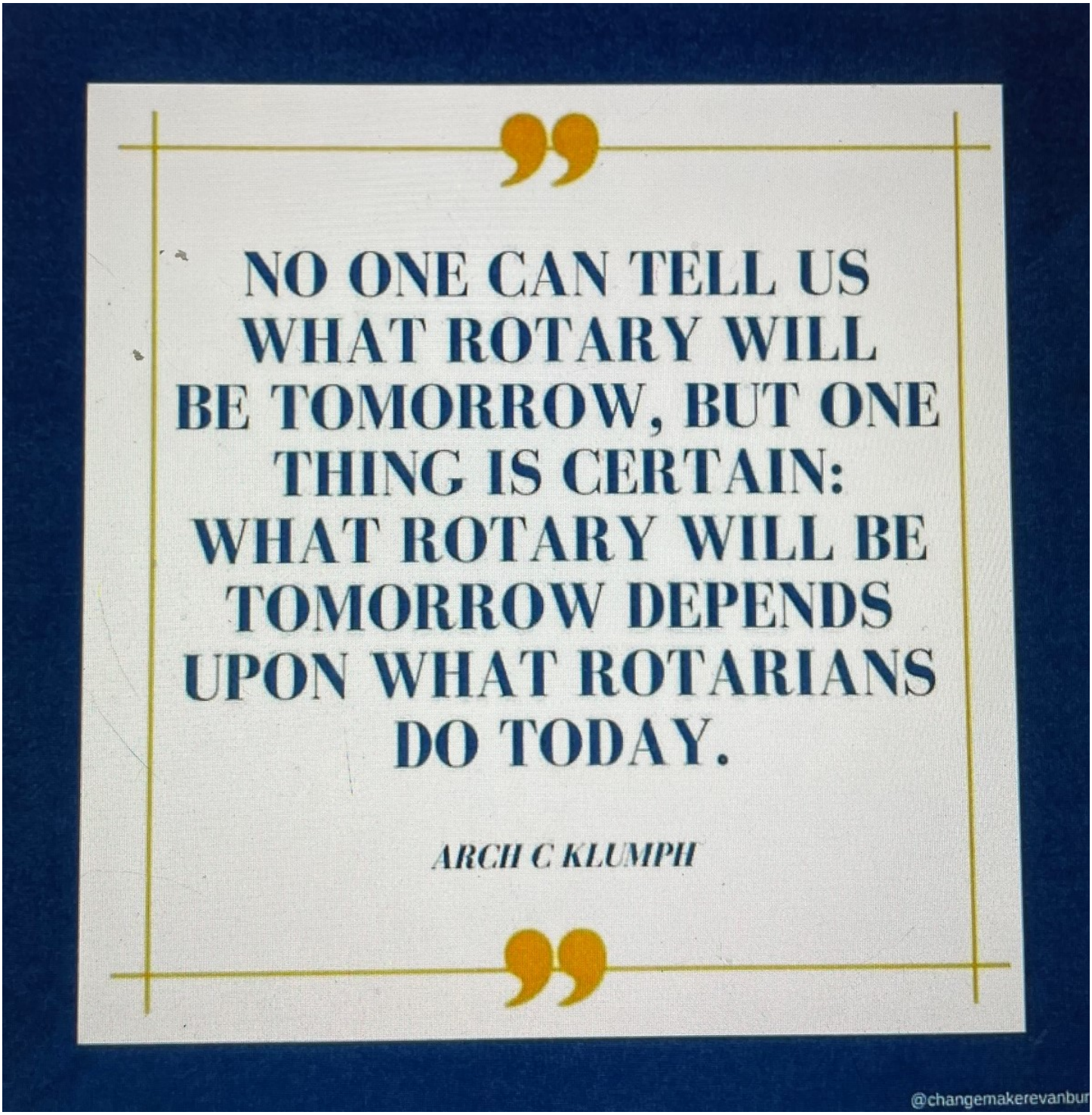

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Rotarians 70 ½ years of age and older can gift directly from their IRA to the Rotary Foundation. A

Qualified Charitable Distribution allows for transfers of up to $105,000 annually from an IRA without treating the distribution as taxable income.

Another way is via the Charitable Gift Annuities where Rotarians can make a one-time election of up to $53,000 from their IRA to fund a Charitable Gift Annuity. This can provide a fixed income for the rest of their lifetime.

The IRA Beneficiary, regardless of the Rotarian's age, is yet another way to give. The Rotary Foundation can be named as a charitable beneficiary of the IRA. This approach reduces the tax burden on loved ones after the Rotarian's lifetime.

There are so many ways to give in very meaningful ways to Rotary and certainly this is the best time of year to do so. Do consider one of the above ways to give and make that lasting difference into tomorrow by doing some good today!!

We are very fortunate to have a strong Foundation that does so much good in our World. Whether you give to polio, disaster relief or the annual fund, your contributions do make a difference. I encourage you to join me in supporting our Rotary Foundation

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December 3, 2024

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November 4, 2024

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Rotarians truly embodied “Service Above Self" by stepping up to support the campaign. We celebrated the success and more at the Georgia Laws of Life Founders Celebration in November. The evening honored the extraordinary students, teachers, and supporters who bring our mission to life. It was an inspiring evening filled with powerful stories. Colin Hacker, our 23-24 State Second Runner-Up, captivated the audience with his personal story of perseverance, illustrating his law, “A bend in the road is not the end of the road…unless you fail to make the turn.” Equally memorable was Clori Rose-Geiger, a dedicated educator, who shared how the essay contest transforms her classroom year after year.

This year, students from 63 schools across the state will benefit from the transformational impact of the Contest. Rotarians from sponsoring clubs will have the opportunity to judge the essays and select winners in February—a meaningful way to engage with our mission.

As Helen Keller wisely said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Your support inspires students to embrace character values that lead to lifelong success. Together, we are making a difference—one essay, one student, and one life lesson at a time.

Posted by Carol Gray Walker
December 1, 2024

Friday, December 6 @ 2PM

North Cobb Peace Summit Series

North Cobb Rotary peace builder Club invites you to the second 'Rotarians promoting Peace Summit. This will take place on the 6th of December 2024 via zoom. Use Meeting ID **810 9789 3217** and passcode **PEACE** to join the summit.

Our conversation is with the Rotary Club of Umuahia, district 9142 in Nigeria ably represented by PDG Grace Okaro who is also an IEP peace ambassador and PAG Jude Ohanele, also an IEP ambassador. Details are in the flyer below. We hope you can join the conversation.

Posted by Ada Wikina
December 1, 2024

Support Thomasville Rotary

1st Annual Big Impact Auction

Rotarians, friends, and business associates donated a wonderfully eclectic mix of high-end items for our first annual BIG IMPACT AUCTION. We're asking friends and neighbors near and far--to place your bids. **Everyone is invited to participate!**

Rotary Club of Thomasville does good work in the community and around the world. Auction proceeds will help fund those good works. Club projects range from monthly fresh produce market for those in need to honoring first responder heroes to celebrating those who serve in the National Guard and other branches of service to supporting senior adults. Youth projects, scholarships, and recognition programs also are a priority. Our aim is to make a big impact in as we work to make our community a better place for all.

Posted by Mary Beth Donalson
December 1, 2024

GRSP Update

Oslo Summer 2025 GRSP Scholarship Opens for Georgia College Students

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director

Norwegian Rotarians will partner with Georgia Rotary Student Program to sponsor two college students from Georgia to attend Oslo International Summer School. Dates will be June 28-July 15, 2025. Application is now open and closes Jan. 15, 2025. Applicants must have completed their first year of college by Spring 2025 and have the recommendation of Georgia Rotarian.

For questions regarding requirements or obtaining the Rotarian endorsement, please email **grsp@grsp.org** for assistance.

Please reference the **attached Oslo flyer** for more information, dates for the summer session and the January 15, 2025 application deadline. Visit GRSP website: **www.grsp.org** to apply.

While GRSP spends the year hosting international college students, we are thankful for this opportunity allows college students from Georgia to spend the summer attending school and exchanging cultural customs in Norway. Oslo International Summer School includes students from all over the world in a diverse cultural program in the beautiful city of Oslo, Norway with four weeks of academic achievement and international goodwill. Students must have a valid passport. Applications will be reviewed and all applicants will be notified by the end of January 2025.

The opportunity is open to undergraduate college students, who are Georgia residents, who have completed their first year of college by the end of Spring Semester 2025. 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 undergraduate coursework, 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 and to-and-from the Oslo airport, plus provide their own personal spending money. English is the language of instruction. The 78-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.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
December 3, 2024

Club News

Carrolton Dawnbreakers Honors Local Veterans

To honor local veterans this Veteran's Day, the **Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club** recently collected clothing and hygiene items and delivered them to the Trinka Davis Veterans Village. The village offers primary care and specialty health services, including dentistry, treatment for lung disease, and more to US veterans.

"This project felt like the perfect way to give back to those who've given so much for us. It was amazing to see our club come together to support our local veterans, and it was a great reminder of how important it is to honor their service year-round," said President Allyson Bretch.

One of the most heartwarming aspects of the event was the involvement of Rotary members' children, who played an active role in sorting and organizing supplies for the Veterans Village. By engaging the next generation in hands-on service projects, the Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club is fostering a sense of responsibility, compassion, and leadership in young people.

The Veterans Village was grateful to receive the donations and support. The Dawnbreakers look forward to continue supporting veterans in their community.

PHOTOS:

RYAN
SAMMON
COMMUNITY
RELATIONS
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Extra Body
SHAMPOO

Posted by Sarah Powell
December 3, 2024

Club News

Clubs Collaborate to Promote Peace

The **Rotary Clubs of Peachtree City, Senoia, Tyrone, and Fayetteville** joined forces to celebrate a significant milestone at the Healing Bridge Clinic in Peachtree City. Together, we proudly dedicated *The Rotary Room*, a project made possible through grants and the collective service of our clubs.

The day's highlight was the unveiling of a Peace Pole, symbolizing Rotary's unwavering commitment to global peace and understanding. Built and coordinated by District Governor Gordon Owens, the Peace Pole serves as a poignant reminder of our mission to foster peace locally and globally. DG Gordon shared his heartfelt thoughts, saying, "As Rotarians, we are out in our communities creating peace…. Think about the people that are coming here for healing."

Adding to the sense of unity and healing, AG/PP Amy and her husband Jeff generously donated outdoor patio furniture, creating a serene outdoor space for patients and visitors to enjoy.

This dedication was more than just a celebration—it was a step forward in our shared mission to support healing, peace, and unity within our community and beyond.

Posted by Mandy Timmons
December 3, 2024

Club News

Roswell Puts DG Gordon to Work!

As the **Roswell Rotary Club** prepared for our own DG Gordon Owens visit in November, we knew that we couldn't just have lunch and a program. Gordon is a Rotarian of ACTION and nothing is better to honor him than a solid service project. So we took our club meeting "on the road" and met at the Chattahoochee Nature Center, bringing along our traditional fried chicken lunch.

Our first hands on project of the day was building ADA accessible picnic tables for the new Roswell Rotary Rest Stop. This is a special picnic area especially designed for wheel chairs. And the funding came from $5,000 competitive grant from the Rotary Foundation as well as a $5,000 sponsor donation from past president Jeff McCoy President of Technipower. This collaboration between community and grants is so powerful!

Our second project of the day was installing a Peace Pole. As Gordon said as he was working on the peace pole installation, "This is my thing. I love service projects and the actual hands-on work." And the Club loved the inspiration he brought to everyone that day as he challenged us to think big and think out of the box. There are no limits to the magic that Rotary can bring to the world.

Posted by Kathryn Igou
December 3, 2024

Club News

Dan Amos of Aflac Inspires at Rotary Club of Columbus Meeting

The **Rotary Club of Columbus** had the honor of hosting Dan Amos, CEO of Aflac, at their weekly meeting. Attendees were captivated by Mr. Amos's presentation, which detailed Aflac's incredible journey from its humble beginnings to becoming a globally recognized brand with a remarkable 90% name recognition rate.

Mr. Amos highlighted Aflac's roots in Columbus, Georgia, where the company was founded in 1955 by three visionary brothers—John, Paul, and Bill Amos. What started as a small insurance business grew into a powerhouse in the industry, transforming lives with its innovative supplemental insurance policies. Despite its global success, Aflac has remained deeply connected to its hometown, continually investing in the community and exemplifying the spirit of giving back.

He also shared insights into Aflac's profound impact, particularly in Japan, where the company has achieved significant success. Aflac's unwavering commitment to giving back—a mission that spans its operations in both the United States and Japan—was a key focus of the presentation.

A highlight of his speech was Aflac's dedication to supporting cancer research, with a special focus on childhood cancer. Through innovative initiatives, such as the sale of the beloved Aflac Duck, all profits are directed toward funding life-saving cancer research and treatment. This heartfelt commitment has made a lasting difference in the lives of countless families.

The meeting was a day to remember, filled with fellowship, inspiration, and the essence of what Rotary

stands for—making a difference in our communities and beyond.

Posted by LeighAnn DiCesaris
December 3, 2024

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Roswell Grant Helps Keep Children Warm

Grants from the Rotary Foundation have enabled **Roswell Rotary Club** to take on significant projects this year, including providing warm winter gear for children in Star House. This month we have continued to highlight the incredible impact of the Rotary International Foundation and how, with generous contributions from Rotarians, we can fund meaningful service projects in our community and beyond. Thanks to grant support, Roswell Rotary received the maximum grants this year: a $2,000 community grant and a $5,000 competitive grant.

A big thank you to all the Roswell Rotarians and volunteers who helped pack hats, gloves, socks, and scarves for the children of Star House! Through your hard work and dedication, we provided much-needed winter essentials for 109 boys and 109 girls in three Roswell-area elementary schools. This project was made possible by a generous $2,000 grant we received from the Rotary District's Community Grant Program. With your efforts, we're helping these children stay warm and cared for as they head into the colder months. Thank you again to everyone involved for making this project a success and for continuing to serve our community with kindness and compassion!

PHOTOS:

Posted by Kathryn Igou
December 3, 2024

Join Us for Rotary Means Business in January

Rotary Means Business will not meet in December, but watch for more about when and where we are meeting in January 2025. It's a great opportunity to network! In the meantime, enjoy your holidays!

Posted by Carter Stout
December 3, 2024

Club News

RCC Supports our Furry Friends for Christmas; Donates to the Rotary Foundation

The **Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps**, made up of enthusiastic and caring young adults with special needs, just completed a heartwarming service project! They packed stockings full of treats and toys for dogs and cats in local shelters, bringing joy to our furry friends this holiday season. On top of that, they made a generous donation to our Rotary Foundation, with fellow Rotarians matching their gift to bring the total to $1,000! We're so proud of this group and their dedication to service. Thank you to these amazing young adults for their kindness, spirit, and community support!

Posted by Mandy Timmons
December 3, 2024

Club News

Dunwoody Supports Family Food Needs for Thanksgiving

The **Rotary Club of Dunwoody** continued its holiday tradition of helping fill food baskets for local Kingsley Elementary families in need. Led by Honorary Member Anita Augello and her daughter Claudia, our efforts included the purchase of 89 turkeys (in a Publix visit we've come to know as the Turkey Trot), pick up of a massive quantity of food at Costco, assistance with packing the boxes AND with loading very heavy boxes into recipients' carts. The baskets contain a full Thanksgiving dinner and more. Rotary is one of the community groups who come together to deliver these baskets.

All Kingsley students will also receive a brand new book this holiday season - as part of another Dunwoody tradition that's been around for nearly 30 years.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
December 3, 2024

Club News

Marietta Serves Record 153 Meals at MUST Ministries

Professional Chefs Emma and Ean McShane were welcomed again by MUST Ministries - volunteering for the monthly lunch service provided by the **Rotary Club of Marietta** at MUST and whipping up a fiv-star lunch for 153+ residents and the homeless. They organized and trained willing-but-not-highly-skilled Rotarian cooks (with the exception of father, Harold). Have you witnessed ten pounds of potatoes peeled in less than ten minutes and on the stove cooking? Working together, [Rotarians take note, this teamwork stuff really works]; Chefs Emma and Ean utilized only the freshest ingredients - no canned soup, canned vegetables, canned meat, or fruit cocktail for these two.

Henceforward, the bar has been so impossibly raised, it may be a challenge to meet residents' future expectations. Rotarian volunteers assisting with cooking, serving, and sous chefing were Adam Hobbs, and Marlys Williams. Chef Harold Hobbs supervised the entire process. Servers were Holly Walquist and Alan Gibby with all cooks remaining to serve the throng of 153 diners not including seconds or thirds. Even though two extra pans of entrées were prepared, all food was utterly depleted, an occurrence which has not transpired in years. Each and every one of 192 hot rolls were devoured. Shepherd's Pie with Mashed Potato and Cheese Topping flew out of the pans. Mixed Berry Spoon Cake Cobbler magically disappeared. There were second and third requests for that particular delectable delight prepared by Emma. It will be very hard for this crowd to go back to cookies from Sam's Club.

Posted by Jacob Southerland
December 4, 2024

Club News

Douglas County Hears from RYLA Students

Members of the **Rotary Club of Douglas County** enjoyed hearing from the two students the club sponsored for RYLA! Aaliyah Mason and Amiah Jackson are both members of the Interact Club at New Manchester High School. The girls enjoyed forming friendships and participating in team-building and leadership activities with students from around the state. The program took place June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The Rotary Club of Douglas County paid all expenses for the two students to attend the camp, including bus transportation from Atlanta to Americus.

Pictured along with Aaliyah and Amiah are Rotary Club President John Baker and New Manchester High School Counselor Pamela Cummings.

Posted by Nell Boggs
December 4, 2024

Club News

Wreaths Spread Cheer and Support Good Works

The **Rotary Club of Griffin Daybreak** is spreading Christmas cheer and raising money for all it does in the community with its annual wreath sale. Debby Daniels-Bryant and Jackie Wilson helped get the truck loaded at Georgia Farmers Market with wreaths to deliver.

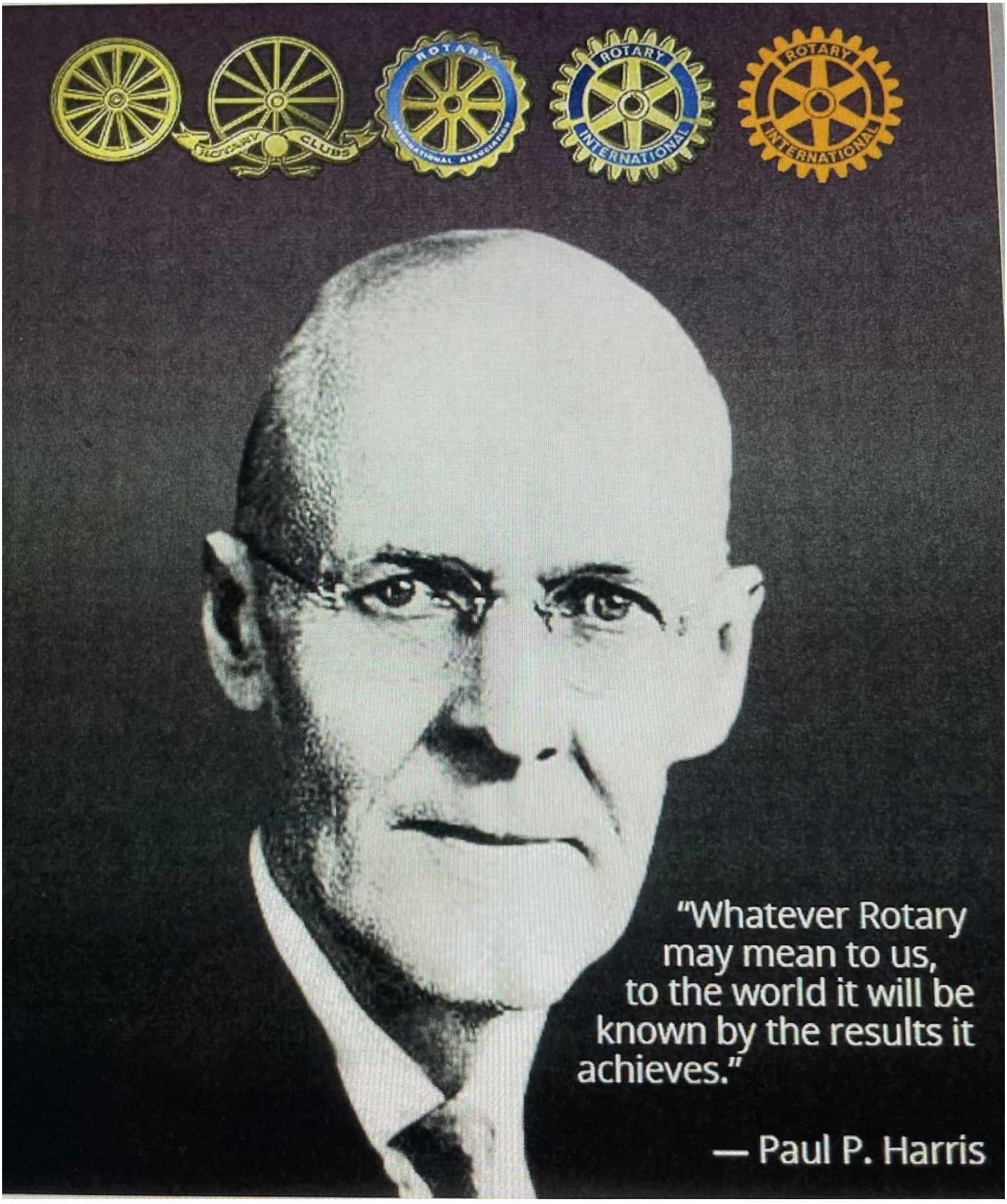
The Club has also enjoyed several great speakers in recent weeks -Griffin-Spalding County Schools Superintendent Dr. Keith Simmons, and Communications Director Adam Pugh speaking about development plans for the school system, and former Potentate and current Yaarab Temple Shriner Tom Holt speak to the club about the important work the Shriners do around the world to help burned and disabled children.

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant

December 3, 2024

End Polio Now

Give the Gift of Polio Eradication



The Paul Harris quote to the left is certainly well known as it leads us into our Rotary International History page. It hits the reader squarely between the eyes with the fact that no matter what we might think about the things we do, the world will judge us by what they see us do and how it affects the world. Truly a huge responsibility does each of us have as Rotarians. It is up to us to live up to the words of Paul Harris and

the ever-critical eyes who keep watch over us.

It has been a tougher year in many ways in that area of the world we are most concentrated on as we fight to end Polio on a worldwide basis. Civil unrest compounded by cultural mores make our task ever the harder climb to success, but success is what we still achieved this year, even in the war-torn areas of our very personal fight against the spread of Polio.

Many of you reading this short year end write up know how I tend to carry a personal banner around promoting Polio eradication. It is a very personal battle I carry in my heart that I wage.

I chose a Paul Harris quote because this time of year is a good time to see if your club might be offering a match donation from the club to get you to the next level as a Paul Harris Fellow. My club is doing just that, and it has already been very successful. Perhaps some of your members are close to reaching the first level, perhaps others are close to reaching the Major Donor level. I've seen both in my club. What I have asked them to do is what I'm going to ask you to do as well. Please designate some of those dollars toward Polio Plus. It will do wonders for our crusade against Polio, and I will personally be very grateful as will those who benefit from your generosity.

Blessings to you all, from your District Foundation Chair….

Posted by Bob Hagan
December 3, 2024

Club News

Peachtree City RCC and DG Gordon Visit Fire Station

The **Rotary Community Corps of Peachtree City** had an incredible experience at Fire Station 81! They learned about the intense 16-week training required to become a firefighter and got up close with some of the essential tools used on the job. One of the firemen even suited up in under one minute, demonstrating just how quickly they need to respond to emergencies!

The group explored the fire trucks and an ambulance, discovering the 60 lbs of gear that firefighters wear, and heard the unique sound of an oxygen tank, mimicking how a firefighter would sound during a rescue. A truly special moment came when one of our members, who is blind, was able to touch and feel the gear—an unforgettable experience!

We were honored to have District Governor Gordon Owens and his wife Ashley join us, along with several Peachtree City Rotarians, making the evening even more memorable. Thank you to our brave firefighters for showing us what it takes to keep our community safe!

Posted by Mandy Timmons
December 3, 2024

Peachtree City Rotarians Honored

Two Sparrows Village, Inc. (located at Christian City) is a dedicated organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing safe, inclusive housing and supportive services to help residents lead independent, fulfilling lives. At the 2024 Bird Bash, two Peachtree City Rotarians received top honors for their dedication to this impactful mission: Steven Newton earned the Wayne Damron Community Champion Award for his community involvement, and George Martin received the Terry Chapman Humanitarian Award for his compassionate commitment to service.

Both of these Rotarians are also very active in our Rotary mission as Major Donors to our Rotary Foundation and continuing to serve on many fundraising and service committees for our local club. We're beyond proud of these exemplary leaders and we're so blessed to have so many members in attendance to help recognize them and raise money for this fantastic organization!

Posted by Mandy Timmons
December 3, 2024

Club News

Roswell Hosts Multi-Generational Fishing Derby

In October, Roswell Recreation & Parks collaborated with **Roswell Rotary** to host a Multigenerational Fishing Derby. Bamboo fishing rods being made to the left while catch/release fishing was going on to the right. This first-year event encouraged teams comprised of a youth, a parent-aged person and a grandparent-aged person to work together to build a bamboo fishing rod and then use in the pond at the back of the Roswell Area Park on Woodstock Road. It was a beautiful morning for about 100 folks from all over Roswell to come together to learn how to tie knots, hold a fishing pole and laugh.

While they were fishing, the youth would receive tickets for certain activities like putting the worm on the hook, taking the fish/turtle off the hook, releasing the fish/turtle off the hook, etc. Ideally, they would earn 8-10 tickets. So, when the team was done fishing, they went to the Tackle Shop where the youth shopped to fill their new Tacklebox by trading in the tickets. The Tackle Shop, staffed by members of the Roswell High School Interact Club, had fishing line, bobbers, weights, hooks, a flashlight, tweezers and an activity area for the youth to personalize their box with stickers and markers.

The bamboo used was harvested by thinning out the bamboo garden at historic Mimosa Hall. Win Win! Craig Fuller, a Park Supervisor with Roswell Recreation & Parks, approached Roswell Rotary hoping to create some collaborative family events by using some under-utilized City of Roswell assets like the lake at Roswell Area Park. “The Fishing Derby really served as a ‘proof of concept’. We needed to make sure that our community would sign-up and show up. Proudly they did!” Roswell Rotary member, Becky Nelson, really pulled the committee and mission together. “Our number one question of the day was ‘When is the

next one?’ We had intact families fishing together and we had strangers unite to make a team. It was truly collaborative. I’d like to think that this is the first of many highlighting underused Roswell area like the urban woods, the disk golf course, etc.”

PHOTOS:

Posted by Kathryn Igou
December 3, 2024