





DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR MAY, 2020



**Let's Start By Celebrating Youth Service Month!**  
 By Steve Long  
 This May, we Rotary celebrates Youth Service Month. District 6900 proudly shows a lot of the students, young professionals, and emerging leaders who have an energy about things. Rotary from across and beyond to support them in their service projects. We have a lot of young people who are setting goals – we are working in the future of our communities and our world. From the District Conference, where many of us have an opportunity to meet on Saturday morning. And learn more about what – and why – we are doing.



**Thanks for a Great District Conference!**  
 By Steve Long  
 District Conference 2020 was an inspiring and fun event that celebrated the Rotary work of all our clubs. Each club was given a chance to share their district conference – it was a celebration of positive, creative, and powerful projects. From the exciting Service Hour Project, to the inspiring stories the attendees shared. From the District Conference, where many of us have an opportunity to meet on Saturday morning. And learn more about what – and why – we are doing.



**Congratulations Sheffield Award Winners and All-Around Best Clubs!**  
 By Steve Long  
 We are proud to honor the individuals and clubs that achieved an All-Around Best Club award. These clubs are the best of the best in our district. They are the clubs that are making a difference in our communities. They are the clubs that are setting the example for all of us. They are the clubs that are making a difference in our communities. They are the clubs that are setting the example for all of us. They are the clubs that are making a difference in our communities. They are the clubs that are setting the example for all of us.



**Nick Ramey Named Rotarian of the Year; Public Image Award Winners Honored**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to honor Nick Ramey as the Rotarian of the Year. Nick is a member of the North Cobb Rotary Club. He has been a member of the club for many years and has been very active in the community. He has been a member of the club for many years and has been very active in the community. He has been a member of the club for many years and has been very active in the community. He has been a member of the club for many years and has been very active in the community.



**Mike Mudd, Citation for Meritorious Service**  
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**Any Beaton Receives Follow Me Award**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to honor Any Beaton with the Follow Me Award. Any is a member of the North Cobb Rotary Club. He has been a member of the club for many years and has been very active in the community. He has been a member of the club for many years and has been very active in the community. He has been a member of the club for many years and has been very active in the community. He has been a member of the club for many years and has been very active in the community.



**Sometimes It's Just Extra Special!**  
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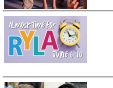
**Thanks to Our Top Foundation Supporters**  
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**Joe Jones and D6900 Highest GRSP Per-Capita Giving Clubs Honored**  
 By Steve Long  
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**Almost Time for RYLA!**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to announce that it is almost time for RYLA. RYLA is the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program. It is a program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a program that provides leadership training and development for young people.



**Recognizing Our Membership Growth Stars**  
 By Steve Long  
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**Learn from Laws of Life Essay Winners**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to announce that it is time to learn from the Laws of Life. The Laws of Life are a series of essays that provide wisdom and guidance for living a good life. They are a series of essays that provide wisdom and guidance for living a good life. They are a series of essays that provide wisdom and guidance for living a good life. They are a series of essays that provide wisdom and guidance for living a good life. They are a series of essays that provide wisdom and guidance for living a good life. They are a series of essays that provide wisdom and guidance for living a good life. They are a series of essays that provide wisdom and guidance for living a good life.



**Two Service Hero MVPs**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to honor two service heroes. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities.



**Recognizing Our Rising Stars and Our Above and Beyond Award Winners**  
 By Steve Long  
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**Celebrating Our Service Project Winners!**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to celebrate our service project winners. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities.



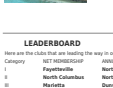
**How Your Rotary Foundation Contributions Unleash the World**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to announce that it is time to unleash the world. Your Rotary Foundation contributions are the key to making a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities.



**Roswell Celebrates Students and Teachers of the Year**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to celebrate the students and teachers of the year. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities.



**What's New at North Cobb Rotary?**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to announce that there is something new at North Cobb Rotary. It is a new program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a new program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a new program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a new program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a new program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a new program that provides leadership training and development for young people. It is a new program that provides leadership training and development for young people.



**Roswell Continues Long-Standing (or Not Standing!) Tradition**  
 By Steve Long  
 District 6900 is proud to announce that Roswell continues its long-standing tradition. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities. They are the members who have made a difference in our communities.



**LEADERBOARD**  
 Check out the full district leaderboard  
 Here are the clubs that are leading the way in our district for community service and public good.  
 Category: ROTARY CLUBS  
 1. North Atlanta  
 2. North Columbus  
 3. Marietta  
 4. Roswell

Upcoming Key Dates  
 [Dates]



## Let's Start By Celebrating Youth Service Month!



GRSP carries on tradition of presenting their flags

This May, as Rotary celebrates **Youth Service Month**, District 6900 proudly shines a light on the students, young professionals, and emerging leaders whose lives are being shaped through Rotary. From Interact and Rotaract to GRSP, RYLA, Laws of Life, scholarships, and mentoring, we are not just serving youth — we are investing in the future of our communities and our world. The photos are from District Conference, where many of you saw an amazing show on Saturday morning showcasing our GRSP, RYE, Laws of Life, RYLA programs. GRSP students acted as golf cart drivers and many great interactions occurred. Remember that RYLA starts June 6 so please sign up your students - there's an article later in this newsletter about this.

April was a pretty exciting month and started with some fun on April Fool's Day. Then, we got ready for several district wide events this month, including our **Club Leadership Learning Seminar** (formerly District Learning Assembly) in Columbus. About 170 club and district leaders joined together there to get ready for their upcoming roles in the next Rotary year. It was a very well received event with great presenters and overall programming to ensure networking, learning and readiness for leaders. DG Steve Ivory presented the state of the district, a vote was taken to approve RY24-25's financials and DGE Cynthia Edwards presented her vision for 26-27.

**Special Events:** Anna and I had the distinct honor of attending two special events in April. One was the **Rotary Club of Buckhead's Foundation Fundraiser** in which the club raised over \$200K for their future community projects. We also joined DGE Cynthia Edwards, DGN Buck Buchanan and future AG Jared Evans for the special 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration of the **Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club (MARC)**, where the city presented a proclamation in the club's honor. The governor line participated in a service project with MARC and DG Steve presented several awards the club won at District Conference [MARC 70th](#)

## Anniversary.

**Foundation Giving:** Extremely proud of our district! We lead Zone 34 in Polio Plus giving and are in second place among the Zone's 14 districts in Annual Fund giving - only about \$11,000 behind the leader. Please consider giving so we can show the zone our generosity and support of our Rotary Foundation. Total giving this year is an incredible \$1,053,991 with \$539,533 to our Annual Fund and \$258,377 to Polio Plus!"

**Service Project Later This Week:** Service opportunity coming up May 6-9 at Camp Tanglewood in Augusta - focus on repairs and improvements at the camp, and volunteers are encouraged to participate in what promises to be a meaningful and rewarding experience.

**Membership:** Our district is working on forming several new clubs including the recently chartered **Southern Crescent Rotaract Club**, the **Rotary Club of North Atlanta Professional Alliance**, which started with 16 and has 15 new members in the process of joining. There's also a new club forming that will likely meet in Buckhead at a restaurant owned by a former Rotaractor/Interactor. This emerging club has 25-30 prospective members, thanks to the outstanding efforts of Audley Knight and the District Membership Committee. And, there is a prospective companion club, another Rotaract club and potentially another new club all in the formation process. Unfortunately, we have a club that will be turning in its charter in an area of major business decline. We are working to transfer individual memberships to other clubs. Our district membership is currently 3812 and we started 2025 with 3765.

**Thank You for Your Service:** You'll see many stories in this newsletter about awards presented to individuals and clubs at District Conference last month. I wanted to shout out to two individuals - my wife Anna and Carol Abreu from Roswell for their support throughout my year as District Governor. And to everyone in the district, know that we're proud of all of you for the work you do to make a difference in your communities and the world, and the support you provide for Rotary.

## PHOTOS:



DG Steve and this year's Rotary Youth Exchange students



DG Steve provided special recognition to his wife Anna and to "unofficial photographer" Carol Abreu from Roswell for their support throughout the year.



Buckhead's Annual Fundraiser



Midtown Atlanta RC celebrates 70 years of service



DG line participates in special Midtown Atlanta service project

Posted by Steve Ivory  
April 29, 2026

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**Thanks for a Great District Conference!**



District Conference 2026 was an inspiring and fun event that celebrated the hard work of all of our clubs. Lake Lanier wasn't just a location for our district conference—it was a celebration of purpose, people, and powerful impact.

From the moving Service Hero Parade ... to featuring voices like astronaut Captain Suni Williams, Dr. Mary C Kelly, and national leaders in public service, Derek Maltz, former DEA administrator, police, firefighters, nurses, mental health providers ... to hands-on service projects and dynamic breakout sessions - every moment reminded us why Rotary matters.

We celebrated excellence at the Presidents Dinner, danced under the stars with the Mostly 80's Band, and connected in unforgettable ways—from hospitality suites to collaboration stations, boating with the Rotary Navy, hiking, pickleball at Margaritaville and more.

Our youth programs took center stage, highlighting the next generation of leaders, while Kibeam reader, addiction prevention and other initiatives showed how innovation and service go hand in hand.

And the speakers—Kat Graham, Ramesh Ferris, Jacquelynn Harmon, and more—challenged us to think bigger, lead stronger, and serve deeper.

Thanks to District Conference Chair Lisa Carlisle and her team for all their hard work to make this possible. That team includes Joy Manbeck, Mary Lewis, Jim Coyle, Mary Beth Donaldson, Nancy Alterman, Shawn Bendig, Judy Chen and Chris Archer. And we can't forget Ryan Clements for providing his audiovisual magic!

**PHOTOS:**







Posted by Steve Ivory  
April 29, 2026

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**Congratulations Sheffield Award Winners and All-Around Best Clubs!**



Sheffield Winners (from top left in a circle): Cliff Kelker, Marietta; Catherine Bernard, North Atlanta; Trummie Patrick, Roswell; and Lynn Lanier, Marietta Metro

At our District Conference, we were proud to honor these individuals and clubs for their outstanding service this Rotary year.

**Sheffield Awards (presented by RC Americus to Club Presidents)**

- Category 1- Catherine Bernard, North Atlanta
- Category 2- Lynn Lanier, Marietta-Metro
- Category 3- Cliff Kelker, Marietta
- Category 4- Trummie Patrick, Roswell

**Clubs of the Year (and Runner-Ups)**

- Category 1 - Meriwether County (winner), Tyrone (runner-up)
- Category 2 - North Fulton (winner), Vinings Cumberland (runner-up)
- Category 3 - Dunwoody (winner), Newnan (runner-up)
- Category 4 - Roswell (winner), Alpharetta and Peachtree City (runners-up)

Posted by Nancy Prochaska  
May 2, 2026

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District Conference 2026

**Nick Ramey Named Rotarian of the Year; Public Image Award  
Winners Honored**



DG Steve Ivory honored **Nick Ramey** from the **Rotary Club of Newnan** as the District's 2025-26 Rotarian of the Year. A passionate storyteller and community advocate, Nick brings his creative expertise to Rotary as the Public Image Chair for both the Rotary Club of Newnan and District 6900, helping clubs across Georgia share their impact through modern, strategic communication - and creating ways for them to make that process easier. Nick is CEO of Gig Bag Media, a full-service marketing and video production agency.

Thanks Nick for all your work helping District 6900 and our Rotary Clubs to be in the news! Speaking of which ...

Sharing Rotary's impact on our communities and the world is important - and our District 6900 clubs have

been hard at work to share our story through social media and other channels. It was extremely tough to pick the "best" public image engagement, but we did.

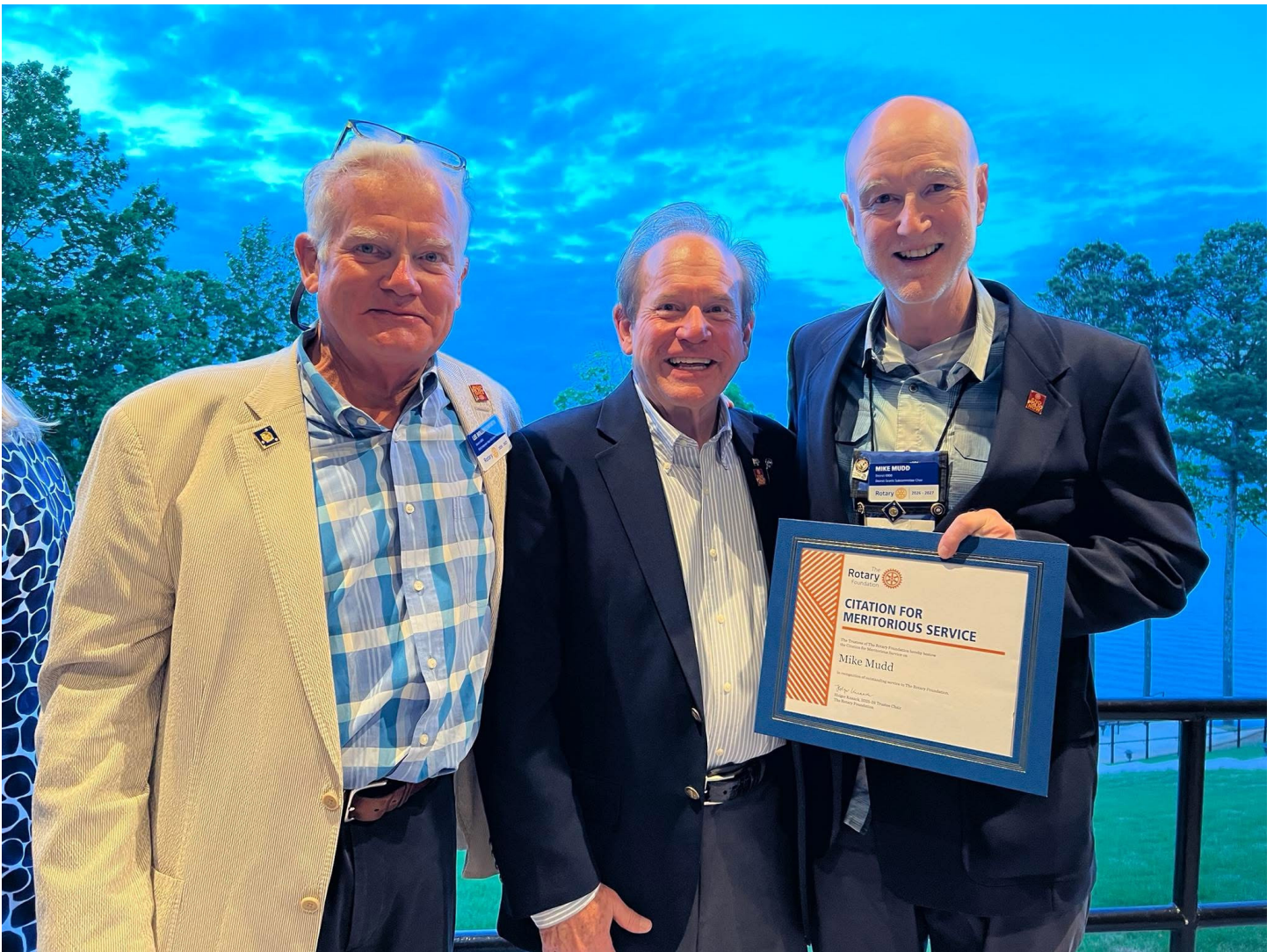
- **Smyrna, Bremen and South DeKalb** (Cat 1)
- **North Columbus** (Cat 2)
- **Carrollton Dawnbreakers, Decatur and Dunwoody** (Cat 3)
- **Buckhead and Roswell** (Cat 4)

Posted by Nancy Prochaska  
May 2, 2026

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Our Rotary Foundation

## Mike Mudd, Citation for Meritorious Service



Each year a Rotary district may nominate one person to receive the Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. This year, District 6900 nominated **Mike Mudd from the Rotary Club of North Fulton** for this award - recognizing his long-term work on international service projects, on promoting individual giving to the Foundation, and his current service on the District's Foundation Committee.

The award recognizes one person for their active service to the Rotary Foundation. It does not recognize giving, but actual, personal service to the Foundation for a long period of time. It is the second highest award you may receive from The Rotary Foundation. And to be eligible to receive the highest Foundation honor, you must have received the Citation for Meritorious Service.

Congratulations and thanks to Mike Mudd!

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert

May 2, 2026

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District Conference 2026

## Amy Benton Receives Follow Me Award



**Area Governor Amy Benton from the Rotary Club of Peachtree City** received the "Follow Me" award at this year's district conference. Created by the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain to honor PDG Al Lipphardt, the Follow Me Award recognizes an outstanding Assistant Governor for the year. Congratulations to Amy, who is currently our District Governor Nominee Designate, slated to be our District Governor in 2028-29.

DG Steve also thanked Area Governors who are completing their terms this year: Cynthia Edwards (Stone Mountain), Ardy Bastien (Dunwoody), Buck Buchanan (Marrietta Metro), Jaclyn Donovan (Moultrie), Scott Rick (Thomasville), and Joy Manbeck (North Fulton).

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert  
May 3, 2026

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Our Rotary Foundation

## **Sometimes It's Just Extra Special!**

by Bob Hagan, District Foundation Chair



Every year at this time, Rotarians of District 6900 gather to examine and celebrate another year at what we call the District Conference. It is always a time of good fun, excitement and anticipation of which individuals and what clubs will lead the district in all the different categories of achievement. It truly is a special time of celebration and good-natured kidding among clubs about who will outdo whom.

This year's conference was no different, but it was extra special. For all who were able to attend, we were treated to some extraordinary speakers, but there was one speaker in particular that I really wasn't expecting. His topic certainly is one I personally focus on more than most and that is Polio. The presenter was Ramesh Ferris, a Polio survivor and a Past District Governor out of Canada, who treated us to a

personal inside look into Polio. He began his speech by literally crawling through the crowd to the podium and then proceeded to put on his leg braces as he spoke to the collected convention. It was truly a dramatic entrance as he drove home the point of the devastating effects of Polio on the personal life of those who contract this devastating disease. He carried us through his personal story of contracting Polio at a very young age and took us through his journey of adoption into a family far from his native home of India. His story is nothing short of remarkable and his personal crusade is far more than simply inspiring.

After hearing such a story so graphically shared by Ramesh it was extremely gratifying to review the latest numbers for Zone 34 to see where our own District 6900 fared when compared to the rest of Zone 34. We led the Zone in some very important categories such as number one in the Polio Total of Cash plus DDF at \$310,949, eclipsing the second-place district by \$65,401!! We were also number one in the Polio Per Club Average of \$3,757, just \$31 ahead of the runner up district. Our district was also number one in total giving of AF+Polio+Endowment+Other giving with a total of \$1,017,462. We took first place by just shy of \$83,000. Several other categories we came close to the top. finishing second or third in AF % Donor Participation, Total number of Paul Harris Society Members (a category we should make more of) and Polio Per Capita (Cash Only). We were edged out by District 6970, a Florida District, from finishing first in AF Total by just \$471, with totals of \$516,776 to \$516,306. All in all, District 6900 has much to be proud of and all of you played a big role in achieving our success.

Keeping with the Polio theme of dollars raised, our Zone 34 has much to be proud of as well. The Zone raised \$5,842,286 in "Total \$ Impact to Fight Polio." This number is reached by adding Cash+DDF+All Matches. Our partnership with the Gates Foundation to eradicate Polio worldwide continues to be a blessed marriage and moving forward to the realization of the fight!

In conclusion for this month's article, let me just say, if you missed this year's District 6900 Conference, you truly missed a special event of learning and comradery and if you have never attended a district conference, I can't encourage you enough to come join your fellow 6900 Rotarians next April in Asheville, NC. I guarantee it's time well spent!

If I can personally assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via cell or email. I'm here to help and together we will Unite for Good!

Posted by Bob Hagan  
April 30, 2026

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Our Rotary Foundation

**Thanks to Our Top Foundation Supporters**



At District Conference, we honored individuals and clubs providing high levels of support for our Rotary Foundation and Rotary's fight to End Polio Now. Thanks to all of you for your support, but particularly to:

### **Top Per Capita Giving - The Rotary Foundation**

The **Albert and Esther Thomson Award** recognizes overall per capita giving to The Rotary Foundation. This year's winner was **North Atlanta** (pictured here); runner-up was **Smyrna** - both with more than \$1,000 in per capita giving. The top clubs in each size category were:

- **North Atlanta** (Cat 1): \$1,216
- **North Fulton** (Cat 2): \$473
- **Dunwoody** (Cat 3): \$330
- **Peachtree City** (Cat 4): \$408

### **End Polio Now Support**

These clubs were recognized for their Top Per Capita Giving for Polio:

- **Tyrone** (Cat 1): \$150
- **Vinings Cumberland** (Cat 2): \$947
- **Carrollton Dawnbreakers** (Cat 3): \$323

- **Peachtree City** (Cat 4): \$257

**Lee Hollingsworth (Roswell)** and **Brad Groff (East Cobb)** each received Polio Champions Awards for their personal fund-raising efforts to End Polio Now.

In addition, these clubs were recognized for their special Polio events:

- **Atlanta Metro** (Cat 1)
- **East Cobb** (Cat 2)
- **Alpharetta** (Cat 3)
- **Roswell** (Cat 4)

Posted by Bob Hagan  
May 2, 2026

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GRSP Update

## **Joe Jones and D6900 Highest GRSP Per-Capita Giving Clubs Honored**



The Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) recognized leadership and generosity to the program during the District 6900 Conference at Lake Lanier during the Youth Services portion of the conference April 18.

The **District 6900 Jake Cheatham Memorial Awards** honor past GRSP Secretary and Treasurer, Jake Cheatham, a member of the Rotary Club of Griffin who faithfully guided GRSP through 30 years of growth. Sponsored and presented by the **Rotary Club of Griffin**, the awards recognize a club in each category for the highest per-capita giving to the GRSP Foundation through March 31, 2026. The Griffin Rotary Club President Natalie Marshall recognized the following clubs with the Jake Cheatham Memorial Award for the highest per-capita-giving in each category:

1. **Sandy Springs**
2. **North Columbus**
3. **Dunwoody**
4. **Thomasville**

**Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** President Megan Harris presented the **Frank E. Bentley GRSP Leadership Award** in honor of Frank E. Bentley, Sr. to **Joe Jones from the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs**. They are pictured here with GRSP Chair Ian Bond. Joe was named a GRSP Endowment Trustee in 1991 and served as the Endowment Chair from 2001 to 2021. Joe was the first president of the GRSP Foundation Inc., from 2021 to 2023 and was named Trustee Emeritus at the 2023 GRSP Summer Trustee Business Meeting. In his 32 years serving GRSP, he contributed to the success of countless international college students by promoting positive relationships among students, host families, sponsoring clubs and the program. He and his wife Ellen have served as a host family to several students.

The Frank E. Bentley GRSP Leadership Award is presented to a District 6900 Rotarian who has displayed outstanding Leadership in the promotion of the Georgia Rotary Student Program. Frank E. Bentley, Sr. passed away in December 2000 after a year-long battle with Leukemia. Frank selflessly served Rotary in many capacities including President of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs, District Governor of District 6900 (1983-1984), and Georgia State Endowment Chairman for the Georgia Rotary Student Program. Sandy Springs contends many Rotarians have contributed to the tremendous success of GRSP, but few have shown more love and concern for the GRSP than Frank E. Bentley, Sr.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Katheryne Fields  
April 29, 2026

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RYLA

**Almost Time for RYLA!**



Only ONE Month until RYLA!! We are so excited that our favorite time of year is rolling back around again. If your club is sponsoring a student (or multiple students) to attend RYLA 2026, here are a few final reminders for you to check off:

1. Make sure you have paid the fees for each student you are sponsoring: \$500 each plus \$50 for each student riding the charter bus from Atlanta
2. Confirm all student names and contact information have been submitted to Susan Ruckman using the Registration Brochure
3. Contact your students and remind them to complete the entire student application packet (sent to them by Susan from the RYLA Gmail account) and return it ASAP if they have not already done so.
4. Coordinate with students, parents, and club members to make sure the students arrive at RYLA on time Saturday, June 6 and have a ride home on Wednesday, June 10.
5. Volunteer as a Chaperone by giving us #OneDayforRYLA - Experience the magic of RYLA for yourself!

Reach out to Jaclyn Donovan or Susan Ruckman for more information. We've been working all year to make RYLA an amazing experience for every single student. If you have any questions or need more information, please reach out to Jaclyn or Susan at [RYLA6900@gmail.com](mailto:RYLA6900@gmail.com)

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
April 20, 2026

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District Conference 2026

# Recognizing Our Membership Growth Stars



Membership growth is a key focus of Rotary International and District 6900. At District Conference, we recognized individuals and clubs with significant impact on our goal for growth:

## Top New Member Sponsors

- **Johnathan Clark, Tucker** (Cat 1): 5
- **Rick Clark, North Fulton** (Cat 2): 19 in three years and Al Daniel Membership Impact Award Winner
- **Meredith Ragains, Atlanta Midtown** (Cat 3): 9 (21 in three years) and Al Daniel Membership Impact Award Winner
- **Trummie Patrick, Roswell** (Cat 4): 8 (9 in three years)

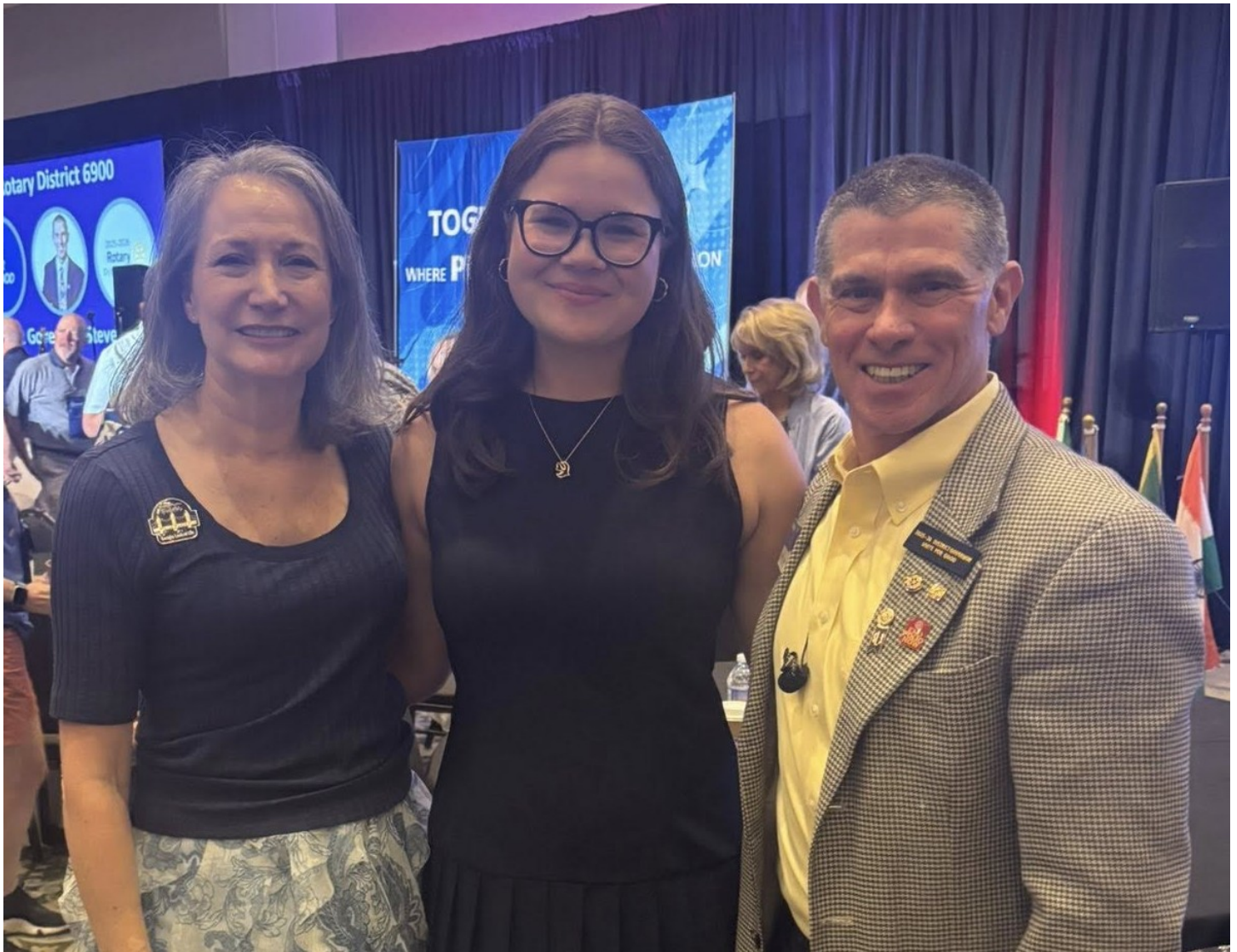
## Net Increase in Members

- **Fayetteville, South DeKalb, Atlanta West End** (Cat 1): +6 each
- **Johns Creek North Fulton** (Cat 2): +8
- **Marietta** (Cat 3): +9
- **Roswell** (Cat 4): +24

Posted by Nancy Prochaska  
May 2, 2026

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## Learn from Laws of Life Essay Winners



Carole Gray Walker, essay winner Susannah Tusher, and DG Steve at District Conference

The new **Georgia Laws of Life Essay Collection** is now available online. This year's booklet features the eight State Winning essays selected from more than 28,000 student submissions statewide.

These powerful essays reflect the values, challenges, and life lessons that shape today's students. Through honesty, courage, and thoughtful reflection, these young writers remind us why the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest continues to be such a transformative experience for students across our state.

We invite Rotarians to read and share the booklet as a powerful example of student voice, character development, and the lasting impact of your support.

Explore the [2025-2026 Essay Booklet](#), available now to view or download!

### **Inspiring Moments at the District 6900 Conference**

We were honored to participate in last month's Rotary District 6900 Conference, where Georgia Laws of

Life alum Jackie Harmon delivered a moving presentation on her journey from student essay writer to professional success.

Jackie's story is a powerful reminder that the impact of the contest extends far beyond the classroom. Her heartfelt message highlighted how being encouraged to reflect, write, and share her story helped shape her confidence, direction, and future opportunities. Her presentation deeply resonated with attendees and demonstrated the long-term value of investing in students through the Georgia Laws of Life program.

We were also proud to have current **State Winner and 2nd Runner-Up Susannah Tusher** share her voice and experience at the conference, offering attendees a powerful example of the talent, insight, and leadership being developed through this year's contest.

If you missed these inspiring presentations, or would like to experience them again, the videos of Jackie and Susannah's speeches are now available on our [YouTube channel](#).

We are deeply grateful to the Rotary Clubs and Districts across Georgia whose leadership and support continue to make these student success stories possible.

Posted by Carol Gray Walker

April 29, 2026

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## Two Service Hero MVPs



DG Steve recognized two "Service Hero MVPs" this year: **Dave McCleary (Roswell Rotary Club)** for all his work to end human trafficking, and **Mandy Timmons (Rotary Club of Peachtree City)** for her work as our District Secretary and beyond. Thanks to Dave and Mandy for all they do to make a difference in the world!

**PHOTOS:**



DISTRICT 6900

**SERVICE HERO  
MVP**

*Mandy Timmons*  
Rotary Club of Peachtree City

*In recognition of your  
Above and Beyond Passion and  
Dedicated Service Above Self*

*Steve Ivory, Governor  
2025 - 2026*

District Conference 2026

## Recognizing Our Rising Stars and Our Above and Beyond Award Winners



DG Steve recognized several rising stars in the D6900 Rotary world:

- Paul Slavik, Alpharetta
- Kay Aguirre, Atlanta Metro/Rotaract Rep
- Juanita Sheppard, Atlanta Midtown
- Shelley Hammell, Buckhead
- Melissa Trujillo, Meriwether County
- Lisa Gelber, North Fulton
- Marlene Randall, Stone Mountain
- Shawn Bendig, Vinings Cumberland

Some of our Rising Stars are pictured here with Awards Chair Nancy Prochaska (left) and DG Steve (right)

DG Steve also honored several individuals with Above and Beyond Awards for their work for the District:

- Stephanie Windham, Griffin
- Alec Smythe, Buckhead
- Audley Knight, North Cobb
- Jose Gonzalez, North Cobb
- Bob Hagan, Roswell
- Tracy Van Norman, North Columbus

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert

May 3, 2026

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District Conference 2026

## Celebrating Our Service Project Winners!



Rotarians pride themselves on being People of Action - and we are all winners for the work we do to make a difference. That said, we congratulate these clubs for their outstanding service projects this Rotary year:

**Best Service Hero Project:** DG Steve Ivory asked all of us to make a special effort to honor our service heroes this Rotary year - from military to police, fire and EMTs, to teachers and health care professionals who serve our community. Clubs in each category were recognized for their Service Hero projects:

- **Meriwether County** (Cat 1)
- **North Fulton** (Cat 2)
- **Dunwoody** (Cat 3)
- **Alpharetta** (Cat 4)

### Best Community Service

- **Griffin Daybreak** (Cat 1): children and veteran programs
- **Stone Mountain** (Cat 2): FODAC golf tournament/equipment collection
- **Lake Spivey** (Cat 2): Haunted drug awareness/personal safety
- **Marietta** (Cat 3): National Guard support
- **Thomasville** (Cat 4): First responder cookouts/senior luau

### Best Vocational Service

- **Americus** (Cat 2): support of education
- **Thomasville** (Cat 4): "Be the Voice" at Thomasville HS
- **Alpharetta** (Cat 4): Brewable Cafe, a special needs adult work program

### Best International Service

- **Griffin Daybreak** (Cat 1): hippo rollers to move water, Africa
- **Vinings Cumberland** (Cat 2): cleft palate program
- **Marietta** (Cat 3): Crutches for Africa
- **Alpharetta** (Cat 4): Honduras outreach

### Best Senior Service

- **Meriwether County** (Cat 1): Santa for Seniors
- **Lake Spivey** (Cat 2): Senior food delivery through Hearts to Nourish Hope
- **North Cobb** (Cat 3): Many senior lunches and bingo
- **Thomasville** (Cat 4): Valentine's Day

Posted by Nancy Prochaska  
May 2, 2026

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Our Foundation at Work

## How Your Rotary Foundation Contributions Unite the World



Exchanging banners: PDG Bob Hagan, Serbian DGN Vlad Laloservic, PDG Vlad Matic, DMGO and International Service Director Lee Hollingsworth, and Roswell President Trummie Patrick.

District 6900 welcomes and celebrates Serbian District 2483's delegation, Vladimir Matic and Vladimir Laloservic. The ongoing partnership has fostered multiple Global Grants that organize elementary, middle, and high school student competitions in Robotics and AI — cutting-edge knowledge and engaging educational processes that can be shared across school systems globally.

The Foundation provides only the seed funding. From there, every Global Grant:

- Requires all parties to contribute their own funds and volunteer time
- Requires a realistic, self-sustaining process that delivers continued and increasing benefits
- Lets donors see exactly where their dollars are being used
- Invites Rotarians to participate directly as volunteers are needed
- Allows us to identify needs ourselves and build our own projects

The Foundation changes the attitude of “that’s a shame” into “we can fix that.”

*It changes our role in the world.*

For those of us fortunate enough to be blessed: find a project, build one, or help others live lives of productive purpose. Become a Major Donor or Arch Klumph Society member with current gifts, and remember the Foundation in your estate through the Bequest Society.

To learn more, email Lee at [lee@leehollingsworth.com](mailto:lee@leehollingsworth.com) or Bob at [bhagan@sterling-health.com](mailto:bhagan@sterling-health.com).

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth  
April 29, 2026

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Club News

## Roswell Celebrates Students and Teachers of the Year



Holding programs and events to promote ‘Service Above Self’ in our Youth Services is an important part of

the **Rotary Club of Roswell**'s identity and is the Club takes seriously. In addition to those Rotary-centric/specific things (Interact, Leadership 20/20, Roswell Youth Council, Scholarships, etc.), our club also branches outside of the "Rotary walls" to recognize the Student and Teacher of the Year from those schools.

We have 15 schools (Elementary, Middle and High Schools both private and public) in our service area who we offer to recognize their outstanding teacher and student for the school year. We invite them (and their loved ones) to a weekly lunch where time is set aside during the program to honor them. It is always a treat to learn more about both the teachers and the students; to hear about their accolades and accomplishments and, in some cases, their personal struggles that shaped who they are today. The picture-taking moment is when RRC President Trummie Lee Patrick III presents them with their personalized certificate, an Amazon Gift card and a folder filled with notes of congratulations from Roswell Rotary members. A great way to celebrate our Hometown Hero Teachers and the students who live a Service Above Self life.

Also noteworthy is the feedback we get from the schools because it is always positive. While they get to recognize their honorees within their school family, sometimes that news remains within the school family and is not distributed to the larger public. Our program helps to broaden that recognition of the deserving teachers and students to places they otherwise would not reach.

Not only is this a Service Above Self activity but it also provides a way to engage non-Rotary members for marketing and awareness of the club. This program is a simple way to demonstrate a club's recognition of those teachers and students in their area's schools who clearly deserve that recognition. "This program just helps increase the volume of that praise they so justly deserve," James Stone, Committee Chair.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Becky Nelson  
April 29, 2026

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Club News

## What's New at North Cobb Rotary?



In addition to its regular work to stock the Kennesaw State food pantry, serve dinner to the women participating in The Extension's 12-step recovery program, and gathering for a social that featured Czechoslovakians cuisine, **North Cobb Rotary's** presence has been felt in several other ways:

- The club welcomed the Serbian Rotary delegation to a morning meeting - Vladimir Matic, past DG of 2843 and Vladimir Lalosevic, DGE of 2843 shared the power of Inter Country Committees in Rotary for the application of Grant funds. This collaboration has provided over \$776k to support students in Serbia. The power of Rotary at work. And, the Vlads brought gifts!
- Rotarians supported Woodstock, GA's Forever Fed food pantry by collecting and distributing food to the community at the local Desktop Coffee Community Space.
- The club partnered with youth at Deveraux, Kennesaw to commission a peace pole at Smith Gilber Gardens, continuing to spread peace and share the opportunity for conflict to come to an end through peace.

And of course, they came out in force for District 6900 Conference at Lake Lanier!

**PHOTOS:**



**Rotary**

**Inter-Club Committee**  
Georgia and Montenegro

SCAN TO SEE

Chartered

Knyll Island - Georgia/USA

To promote and international understanding  
with awareness, engaging diversity  
in communities

**JOIN US**

Georgia Section Chair  
PDG Hamsa Thota  
email: dghamsa@gmail.com

Georgia and Montenegro Section Chair  
PDG Vladimir Matic  
email: rodlaing@hotmail.com



Posted by Jose Gonzalez  
April 29, 2026

## Roswell Continues Long-Standing (or Not Standing) Tradition



The District 6900 Conference is always a highlight for the **Roswell Rotary Club**. RRC is known for a legendary Hospitality Suite as well as a few other stand-out traditions. With that said, current RRC President Trummie Lee Patrick III not only was proud to bring home the Sheffield and Rotary Club of the Year for Category IV awards but he also got to make sure that upcoming RRC President Leslie Bassett was thrown into the pool ... carrying out a 20-year tradition!

This tradition started in May 2006 when Ron Redner was thrown into the pool as he was stepping into the Presidency following Cheryl Greenway while attending the District Conference at the King & Prince Hotel on St Simons Island. Apparently, it was so much fun, Ron made sure that his successor, Gene Beckham, incoming President for 2007-08, was thrown in the pool. The tradition was born and continues to this day.

Posted by Becky Nelson

April 29, 2026

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