Rotary District 6900 | ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR AUGUST, 2017

From The District Governor

End Polio Now.

By Alec Smythe

Last week I made a personal gift of $5,000 to Polio Plus so I can tell my children and grandchildren that I helped eradicate polio. I encourage each club to give at least 5% of all the money they raise to Polio Plus this year ... and every year until the job is done. [more]

Alpharetta Rotarian Kirk Driskell (left) as the club makes a 2016 donation to CAAG

Rotary People in Action

Alpharetta's Kirk Driskell Strives to Make a Difference in the Lives of Recovering Addicts

By Jackie Cuthbert

This month, District 6900 salutes **Alpharetta Rotarian Kirk Driskell** as a Person of Action. Today, we want to share the story of his personal commitment to making a difference in the fight against addiction and overdose in the community surrounding Alpharetta. [more]

Membership

August is Membership Month - Bring a Friend

By Charlie Morris

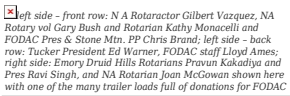
Membership is the lifeblood of Rotary and August is Membership Month. For District 6900, let's make it **Bring a Friend Month**. Our neighboring districts have had a lot of success with this program and we have some **money in the District budget** this year to help get these events organized. [more]

RYLA

RYLA Camp Helps Young Leaders Grow

By Jaclyn Donovan

If it's summertime in District 6900, that means it's time for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards! RYLA is designed for young adults with proven leadership ability and a commitment to community service. Hosted by the **Rotary Club of Americus,** District 6900 RYLA camp was held in late June and boasted record attendance of 132 students sponsored by 50 different clubs. More than 70 Rotarians volunteered in support of RYLA. [more]



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In The Clubs

DeKalb Rotary Council Clubs Support FODAC

By Barbara Bush

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By Lynne Lindsay

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By Rusty Warner

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By Sally Wyeth Mclaughlin

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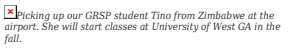
Rotary Foundation

Giving or Getting?

By Margie Kersey

Many of you have heard me say that there are only two parts to The Rotary Foundation – Giving and Getting. Ideally, your club should be participating in both! See this month's update on both. [more]



Picking up our GRSP student Tino from Zimbabwe at the airport. She will start classes at University of West GA in the fall.

GRSP

Welcoming a New Year of GRSP Experiences

By Lynn Clarke

Our district will be hosting 20 students through the Georgia Rotary Student Program this year - supported by 37 clubs in the district. We look forward to the opportunity to get to know our students and the rest of the GRSP class - in total 45 students, with 31 females and 14 males - from Australia, Brazil, Columbia, Denmark, El Salvador, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Scotland, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Wales and Zimbabwe. [more]

GRSP

Our Goal Is World Peace

By Alec Smythe

GRSP is a peace program, not an academic scholarship. The goal of the GRSP program is to identify talented, ambitious kids from all over the world, bring them to Georgia for a transformative year at a critical time in their lives, where they learn about other cultures and establish life long friendships with other talented and ambitious young people. Our hope is that when these young people return to their home countries they will grow to become leaders in their professions and never forget the lessons learned on Georgia's campuses and Rotary clubs. GRSP is a bet on the leadership of the world. [more]

2018 District Conference

Celebrating the Year's Successes - 2018 District Conference Update

By Ryan Clements

One of Rotary's most enjoyable traditions is celebrating each Rotary year's successes and achievements at district conference. Often this is the one time of the year when many Rotarians get to share a weekend of fellowship with their own club members as well as friends from other clubs around the district. On April 26-29, 2018, we will return to Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort! [more]

Innovation

Rotary International Shares Stone Mountain's Story of Becoming a Hybrid Club

By Margie Kersey

In January, **Stone Mountain Rotarians** voted to approve a new vision of what a Rotary club could be. The club became a Hybrid – it meets weekly in person during lunch and the meeting is live streamed every week. giving members the option of attending in person or online, whatever is most convenient for them that week. [more]

The Council on Legislation

You Can Make A Difference

By Margie Kersey

Every three years, Rotary International convenes a Council on Legislation (COL). The next Council will meet in Chicago in April 2019. During this meeting the representatives will review, debate and vote on proposed changes (Proposals) to the legislation that governs Rotary – the Rotary Constitution, Rotary Bylaws, and the recommended Club Constitution ... [more]

District Newsletter

September Issue Deadline Is August 25

By Jackie Cuthbert

Please send your articles and pictures to **Jackie Cuthbert, District Newsletter Editor, at cuthbert@mindspring.com**. We want to hear about your clubs and Rotarians making a difference in their communities, your fundraising and membership ideas. Share your photos of arriving GRSP students. You can send your stories as a Word document ... [more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, August 8th, 2017	**Polk County Governor Visit**
Wednesday, August 9th, 2017	**Team Meeting**
Thursday, August 10th, 2017	**Camilla Governor Visit**
Friday, August 11th, 2017	**Rotary Youth Exchange Inbound Orientation**
Saturday, August 12th, 2017	**Vinings 5k Run**
Monday, August 14th, 2017	**Dougherty social: Manor House**
Tuesday, August 15th, 2017	**Dougherty County (Albany) Governor Visit**
Wednesday, August 16th, 2017	**Dawson Governor Visit**
Thursday, August 17th, 2017	**Blakely Governor Visit**
Friday, August 18th, 2017	**GRSP Conclave**
Friday, August 18th, 2017	**GRSP Conclave — Bainbridge**
Tuesday, August 22nd, 2017	**Americus Governor Visit**
Wednesday, August 23rd, 2017	**Cordele Governor Visit**
Thursday, August 24th, 2017	**Albany Governor Visit**
Friday, August 25th, 2017	**Laws of Life luncheon**
Friday, September 1st, 2017	**GRSP Initial Presentation**

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From The District Governor

End Polio Now.

We have made enormous progress in our drive to eradicate polio, but we must continue to vaccinate the world's children to keep them safe until polio is completely eradicated. This is expensive. World governments, health organizations, the Gates Foundation and Rotary have pledged about $1.5 billion over the next three years to eradicate polio. Rotary is responsible for funding just 10% of this, so every dollar we contribute has the power of $10.

Last week I made a personal gift of $5,000 to Polio Plus. I encourage each club to **give at least 5% of all the money they raise to Polio Plus** this year ... and every year until the job is done. We owe it to our collective children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren to finish the job that was begun by our predecessors 30 years ago. We honor their philanthropy and dedication through our own contributions to bring their vision of a polio-free world to completion.

Our own Past District Governor **Bob Hagan** was recently named the End Polio Now Coordinator for our

entire Zone. When Bob was District Governor he personally contributed $250,000 to Polio Plus. I certainly couldn't match Bob's generosity and you may not be able to match mine, but I urge your club and you personally to support Rotary's most important priority. If you contribute, you too will be able to tell your children and grandchildren proudly that you helped rid the world of polio.

Posted by Alec Smythe
August 5, 2017

Rotary People in Action

Alpharetta's Kirk Driskell Strives to Make a Difference in the Lives of Recovering Addicts

Alpharetta Rotarian Kirk Driskell (left) as the club makes a 2016 donation to CAAG

This year, Rotary's new public image campaign focuses on bringing the stories of Rotarians and the way they are making in their communities to the public – to help the public understand Rotary and what Rotary does. We encourage you to share your stories with your local communities – and with D6900 Rotarians through the district and the district newsletter. Each month, we plan to feature a D6900 Rotarian as a Person in Action – to inspire us all to do more to make a difference.

This month, District 6900 salutes **Alpharetta Rotarian Kirk Driskell** as a Person of Action for his personal commitment to making a difference in the fight against addiction and overdose in the community surrounding Alpharetta.

When Kirk was President of the Alpharetta club in 2015-16, the club committed $10,000 to launch a non-profit group called Communities Against Addiction Group (CAAG) to educate the public on the Georgia 911 Medical Amnesty Law "Good Samaritan Law" and Narcan, Kirk said, "I am passionate about this service to the community. I want everyone to know about Narcan and how it can help people who have overdosed to stay alive. I urge you to call 911 if you find yourself in a situation where you or someone you know has overdosed and needs help."

Kirk has taken that commitment and passion for the issue much farther. Three years ago, he and his wife Deena started Vision Warriors in Alpharetta to support men who were ready to fight their drug and alcohol addictions and commit themselves to core principles that would add value to their lives and their families. Today, the program serves about 30 men who have made that commitment, providing a place to live and connecting them with jobs – many at Kirk's Alpharetta Service Center & Auto (strong emphasis on customer service, honesty and "making you feel like family" based on Facebook reviews). Everyone in the program has a job, pays rent, has chores, and supports one another in their journey.

"The program is not just about stopping addiction," Kirk said. "Even when you have dealt with those issues, life can be messy. Our program provides a place to work through those issues, talk openly about concerns and feelings, and take steps toward a better life. Our program is built on three principles – community, transparency, and accountability – to each other and to keeping our priorities straight."

How can we help? Kirk suggests Rotary Clubs and cities can help to create education and awareness about the addiction/overdose problem, and to identify resources within our local city limits that can help individuals address addiction and overdose, and make a good life for themselves.

Kirk says that his commitment to making a difference on this issue is not just about helping others, but the value it brings to his life too. This past April, he posted on the Vision Warriors website - www.stopoverdosesnow.org - "Today I celebrate 22 years, 8,030 days of living life 'One Day At A Time' completely drug and alcohol free."

And we Rotarians of District 6900 celebrate Kirk's commitment to the local community.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 5, 2017

Membership

August is Membership Month - Bring a Friend

As your District Membership Chair, I'm never ashamed to borrow someone else's work if it gets our point across. Art MacQueen (our Zone 34 RC) borrowed an idea from 2015 ARC George Robertson-Burnett concerning recruiting new members. This has worked in other clubs within our Zone so let's make it work here!!

August is Membership Month within Rotary. However for District 6900 let's make it **"Bring a Friend Month."**

All Clubs within District 6900 are encouraged to organize a **special meeting** or **social event** with appropriate activities to inspire and introduce the friends to your Club's fellowship. Let's show our friends what your club does and what your club stands for. To make "Bring a Friend Month" a success, RC Art offers the following suggestions:

- Publicize the event(s) widely and distinguish them from a standard club meeting or social
- Encourage participation by making it a multi-club event or allowing it to be a make-up meeting if occurring outside of the standard meeting time
- Plan an engaging program for the guests; emphasize fellowship opportunities and educate on the club's projects and community involvement
- Follow up! Have membership applications available and keep a list of attendees with phone numbers and email address so you can keep prospective members engaged

For really exciting ideas and events, the District may be able to help with financial support!!!

Is your club celebrating Membership Month by engaging prospective members in innovative ways? Send your success story to cmmorrislaw@gmail.com! We'll share that success with the rest of the Rotary District 6900 and the World of Rotary!

Posted by Charlie Morris
August 5, 2017

RYLA

RYLA Camp Helps Young Leaders Grow

If it's summertime in District 6900, that means it's time for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards! RYLA is designed for young adults with proven leadership ability and a commitment to community service. Hosted by the **Rotary Club of Americus,** District 6900 RYLA camp was held in late June on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University.

After several years of receiving a record number of reservation requests, the RYLA staff – led by directors Russ Childers and Susan Ruckman, both of Americus – added one more day to the camp schedule and 30 additional camper slots.This allowed RYLA attendance for 2017 to reach a record number of 132 students sponsored by 50 different clubs.

Through RYLA, 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. New to the schedule this year was the addition of a service project which allowed the students to experience the Rotary motto of "Service Above Self" firsthand – over 500 paracord bracelets were hand-made by the students and will be donated to Operation Gratitude for care packages being sent out to members of our armed forces.

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 always include the board break, allowing students to break through fears to reach goals, and the Trust Fall from a 5-foot platform into the waiting arms of teammates. And just as in recent years, most of the students who were very hesitant to spend the weekend with 130 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. Over 70 Rotarians assisted with RYLA in some capacity, with most contributing on the club level with the nomination and selection of student participants, some providing transportation to and from RYLA, and the brave few who agreed to serve as chaperones in the dorms. Special guests this year were DG Raymond Ray, DGE Alec Smythe, DGN Court Dowis, and DGND Jim Squire who joined us for several days volunteering both as chaperones and judges for the annual RYLA Talent Show.

RYLA aims to help students discover their potential and develop the skills needed to be leaders in their communities, careers, and everyday lives. They achieve these goals while having fun, building friendships, and creating memories that will last a lifetime. We're already looking forward to 2018 and we hope to see you there. Save the dates – June 2-6, 2018 – and until then you can check us out on Facebook and Instagram!

PHOTOS:

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Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
August 5, 2017

In The Clubs

DeKalb Rotary Council Clubs Support FODAC

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North Atlanta Rotary

coordinated a community-wide collection day in July - with support from all of the clubs in the DeKalb Rotary Council and the North Atlanta Rotaract Club. The event benefitted FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children) and it was a

smashing success! The value of all items collected is estimated at over $250,000, plus a generous $200 donation for repairs. Our North Atlanta Event Coordinator, Past President Ralph Sims, is to be congratulated for pulling together all the moving parts creating this opportunity for such a wonderful and successful community service.

This success would not have been accomplished without the help and support of Rotarians from seven additional Rotary Clubs - **Dunwoody, Brookhaven, Emory Druid Hills, Tucker, Decatur, Stone Mountain and South DeKalb** - and the **North Atlanta Rotaract Club**. Many thanks to the 46 Rotary and Rotaract volunteers for persevering through the heat and humidity of the day to be a part of the biggest one-day collection for FODAC. Thanks to our team members we had the right equipment - a mix of SUVs, Trucks, Trailers and even a Box Truck! Thanks also to two very hard working **FODAC staff** members who supported us during the day.

PHOTOS:

FODAC President and Stone Mountain Rotary PP Chris Brand, Dunwoody Rotarians Jennie Stipick, PE Rick Wood and Tracey Carothers, and North Atlanta Rotary PP Ralph Sims

Brookhaven Rotarians Tony Schafer, Pres Tom Prior, PP Karen Kropp, Mister Schafer, and Patrick Lewis

Volunteers enjoyed a pre-event breakfast hosted by North Atlanta Rotary

Posted by Barbara Bush
August 5, 2017

In The Clubs

20th Anniversary of Roswell Memorial Day Celebration

Roswell Remembers, hosted by **Roswell Rotary**, the City of Roswell, and Roswell Recreation, Parks,

Historic and Cultural Affairs marked 2017 as its 20th year. Started in 1997 by 12 patriotic individuals, this has become the largest Memorial Day Ceremony in Georgia. It is a non-political, non-commercial ceremony honoring veterans and the sacrifices they made in protecting our freedom. That first ceremony attracted approximately 1,800 individuals. From that humble beginning, came the Roswell Memorial Day Ceremony, an event which attracts approximately 6,000-7,000 people from throughout Georgia and the southeast.

“Roswell Rotary is honored to be a sponsor of this tribute to the men and women who so proudly served our country”, said President Lisa Carlisle.

On this Memorial Day, Roswell residents gathered at city hall for the tribute ceremony dressed in red, white and blue. Retired United States Army Sergeant and World War II Veteran Henry E. Freedman was the keynote speaker of the event. He spoke of his experiences as a prisoner of war, captured and held captive by German soldiers. Freedman received the honor of having his name inscribed on one of the bricks that collectively makes the path leading to the Faces of War memorial.

In Ronald Regan’s 1981 Inaugural Address, he addressed the nation saying, “Those who say that we’re in a time when there are not heroes, they just don’t know where to look.” Roswell Rotary Memorial Day Ceremony Committee Chair Dave Young knows for **Roswell Rotary** that is not the case.“Never let it be said that the City of Roswell and this club have trouble finding heroes.We embrace them and surround ourselves with them every chance we get.”

PHOTOS:

Posted by Lynne Lindsay

August 5, 2017

In The Clubs

Tucker Supports Crutches for Africa

The **Rotary Club of Tucker** has entered its third year of working with Crutches 4 Africa, founded by David and Candice Talbot of Denver Colorado. C4A arranges for crutches, walker, canes and other medical items to be shipped to FODAC in Stone Mountain where the Tucker Club assists in sorting and boxing the items. Tucker Rotarian Bill Dowden then supplies his box truck to deliver six pallets to a warehouse on the west side of Atlanta where a shipping container is prepared for the journey to Africa.

The 2017/2018 Rotary year started with a shipment of 12 pallets to the warehouse and additional loads being prepared that will include pediatric wheelchairs and gel mattresses. In the last Rotary year, the club shipped 30 pallets and a load of 36 pediatric wheelchairs and 2 dozen gel mattresses.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Rusty Warner, Jr.
August 5, 2017

In The Clubs

Sandy Springs Awards Scholarships

The **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** recently honored the 2017 Recipients of its Dan Keels Scholarship Awards. Each of the four 2017 winners will receive $2,000 tuition scholarship. Those winners include:

- Rebecca Nicole Langfelder, Riverwood International Charter School, Class of 2017, entering the University of Georgia;
- Arion J. Perkins, North Springs Charter High School, Class of 2017, entering Kennesaw State University
- Gianna Isabella Scerbo, North Springs Charter High School, Class of 2017, entering University of Georgia
- Kaylyn Hanna Winters, Mt. Vernon Presbyterian School, Class of 2017, entering Savannah College of Art and Design

The scholarships are awarded each year in honor of the late Dan Keels who, as a member of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs and Chaplain of Northside Hospital, gave extensively to his community throughout his lifetime and inspired people through his lifetime of community service.

Posted by Sally McLaughlin
August 5, 2017

Rotary Foundation

Giving or Getting?

Many of you have heard me say that there are only two parts to The Rotary Foundation – Giving and Getting. Ideally, your club should be participating in both! Here is this month's update on both:

Giving

We kicked off July with a bang – clubs donated over $39,000 to the Annual Fund in one month. Congratulations!! That is a great way to start the year. We do have one challenge – only 25% of clubs have entered their Annual giving goal in Rotary Club Central. Please take a moment to update your club.

Have you included **Polio Plus** in your club giving for this year? Please think about it. For every dollar we

give, the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation will give two – you can't get a better deal for your money! And we are so close to ending polio in the world. In 2016 we had only 37 cases of wild polio in the world. So far this year we have only 8. Victory is in sight.

Our Zone has a new End Polio Now Coordinator, our very own PDG Bob Hagan! Be sure to tell him congratulations on this appointment!

Congratulations to the clubs who have already booked Foundation speakers this year! If you want a speaker at your club, let me know what you would like them to talk about and when you want them there. We have a big team and a lot of Foundation information that we would all love to share!

Getting

All of the **District Grant** money has been distributed to the clubs and many of the projects are under way! If you have not received your grant check, please contact Will MacArthur of the Sandy Springs club so he can track your check. If you do have your check, it's time to get busy. Be sure to scan your receipts and post them on the district website for accounting. You don't have to wait until the end of the year, you can scan as you go. Questions? Contact District Grant chair, Mary Ligon of the Dougherty County club.

Global Grants started with a bang this month as well – congratulations to all of the clubs who submitted and have been approved! Wow! If your club is thinking about starting a Global Grant project, I encourage you to contact the Global Grants Chair, Anne Glenn at Dunwoody as soon as possible. The money is going quick and Global Grants are always easier when you can get a match from the District. To be eligible for a Global Grant, your club has to qualify and this year it is easier than ever! Go to the District website and click Global Grants under Resources. In the top right of the screen is the qualification box. Watch the 4 videos, review the materials and take the quiz to get qualified. Wonder if your club is already qualified? We have made that easy to check as well. Go to the District website, click Club Finder and choose Qualified Clubs. You can see who in your club has passed the test.

This year Jason Binder of the Alpharetta club will be serving as a liaison for Global Grants and the District website. If you are working on a Global Grant and want other clubs in our district to join you, let Jason know and he can get your information posted! It is a great way to get involved with other clubs, share your passion and Do Good in the World.

Update from Our Peace Fellow

We got a wonderful email update from our district's Peace Fellow Kate Keator:

I apologize for my lack of updates! Beirut has kept me surprisingly busy but I have met lots of Rotarians/Rotaractors here as well.

Concerning Peace Fellowship plans, I am all set to fly to the UK on September 12! I have my visa and I may have found an apartment that I will share with two other women from the fellowship who also have a focus on the Middle East. I will be staying with my host family for a week or so first before moving into the flat. The current peace fellows have been very helpful and accommodating including helping to provide housing supplies, kitchen utensils, etc.

I have been in Beirut studying Arabic for the last five weeks and have been connected with the Rotaract Club of Kesserwein and the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan. Both of the clubs and their members have

been so welcoming and I have met a ton of interesting people through them. Thanks to the Rotary Club of Beirut Cosmopolitan, I was also introduced to a Peace Fellow from Uppsala University currently doing her AFE (applied field experience) at War Child Holland. She has been great to get to know and has become a friend here. Lastly, I am currently attending a workshop hosted by my former employer, The Carter Center, on constitutional considerations in regard to Syria. It has been wonderful to reconnect with my former colleagues and to sit in on some very insightful discussions.

Hope you're doing well,

Kate

Be sure to keep your eyes open for a Peace Fellow scholar to sponsor. There is no cost to your club and the student could be from any where in the world! Want to learn more? Go to Rotary.org and search Peace Fellows or contact Laura Kann of the Dunwoody Club for more information.

Have you got some Foundation news that you would like to share with the District? Let us know! Send your information, or questions, to Margie Kersey at Margie@callkbs.comI look forward to hearing from you!

Posted by Margie Kersey
August 5, 2017

GRSP

Welcoming a New Year of GRSP Experiences

Picking up our GRSP student Tino from Zimbabwe at the airport. She will start classes at University of West GA in the fall.

Meet the Class of 2017-2018

Our district will be hosting 20 students this year - supported by 37 clubs in the district. We look forward to the opportunity to get to know our students and the rest of the GRSP class - in total 45 students, with 31 females and 14 males - from Australia, Brazil, Columbia, Denmark, El Salvador, England, France, Germany, Hungary, Scotland, Sri Lanka, Sweden, Wales and Zimbabwe. While the group represents a lot of countries, we are hopeful that the interest generated by our booth at the International Convention and having GRSP alumni bringing in the flags of the nations will generate interest from more countries next year - maybe even countries we have never hosted before.

For District 6900, our 20 students translates to a net loss of one student from last year. In the 2015-2016 year, we had 44 clubs supporting a student. For 2016-2017, we had 43 clubs supporting students and this Rotary year, we will have 37 clubs supporting 20 students. Our district will host 16 females and 4 males. As we have mentioned previously, this may be an indicator of the trend we are seeing nationally of more women attending universities than men. District 6900 will have two students at Clayton State, two at

Columbus State, two at Georgia Southwestern, three at Georgia State,three at Kennesaw, three at Oglethorpe, one at UGA (but four total from the program), two at Valdosta and two at University of West Georgia.

Our Leaders Support This Program for Peace

At our summer trustee meeting this year, we were fortunate to have DG Alec Smythe, DGE Court Dowis and DGN Jim Squire attending (all at their own expense) - the first time in the history of GRSP that we had all three individuals in the DG line-up attending the summer meeting. Because of their participation, it is apparent that this program has the support of District 6900 for the next three years, which is very much appreciated.

The summer meeting is held to review the previous year and plan for the current year in the world of the Georgia Rotary Student Program. All three district governors played a major role in our meeting and had some interesting comments about the program. DG Alec Smythe is particularly interested in our strategic planning and praised the program for its investment for peace in the world. The main feedback we received from all three, however, was that it was a great program that was not understood by the majority of Rotarians in District 6900. It will be our goal this year to bring understanding to Rotarians in District 6900. In that vein it is our hope that Rotarians will review DG Alec's blog post about GRSP, and the fact that it is more of a program for peace than a scholarship. It is about as comprehensive a review of GRSP as we have ever seen.

Roll Out the Welcome Mat

By the time you read this newsletter, many of your students will have already arrived and some will even already be attending orientation for their universities. If you are still waiting for your student to arrive, this is a good time to take a look at your student's "suitcase" to be sure that they have the things that they need to make their stay in a dorm a pleasant one. It is very easy to just recycle everything from your student last year, but it is a gift to your new student to take a look at what you have and throw out a few things that may have become worn out over the years. Some students take excellent care of the items in their suitcase, but others may not.

Please be sure that you have as many Rotarians as possible at the airport to greet your student when they arrive. Nothing is more welcoming than signs and flags of their country, welcoming them when they first burst through the doors of the international terminal. For Rotarians who may have waited for a long time to greet their student, this is a most exciting time. If you are not a host family, but have interest in the student, offer to take the student out to dinner or to a movie or even a visit with your family for the day. Many times the student is very lonely that first month before they meet the rest of the GRSP students or other students from their country who may be attending their same university. We are also finding that American students may take a while to warm up to a student from another country. We find that many Americans are fearful of what they don't know and are afraid to appear silly or stupid by asking questions. This is the beauty of the program and its mission to create understanding between countries. For those of you with young children, invite your student to your home for a meal with your children or even out to dinner. The students enjoy this and your children will learn about the world through the eyes of young people living the dream of spending a year in Georgia, but with remembrances of home.

Rotary International Convention and Reunion … on a Personal Note

As Rotarians we understand about Service Above Self, which is one of the many reasons for this program. Will Watt had just come back from World War II with a vision that if we understood the Germans and the

Japanese that maybe we would not be in that war. This year we are hosting two German students – one at the University of West Georgia and one at Armstrong in Savannah. Our relations are good with Germany now, but it took the efforts of many visionaries to make this a reality. Germany is again a power, but recognizes that too much power corrupts. While attending the GRSP Reunion, I met a GRSP alumna who was working with a nonprofit on a better, more efficient way to generate clean water. Her journey began with Rotary and Rotarians encouraged this need to give back. She actually came from a country that is considered isolationist and is a socialist country, so they depend on their government to provide. When I speak with students from this country, they talk about how little their Rotary Clubs are doing and are amazed at what we do here in the US. I believe that this student would have probably gone into the financial sector, but has dedicated her life to finding a way to create fresh water. Wow!

GRSP Alumni Spotlight

Ik-Whan G. Kwon of South Korea, GRSP Class of 1963-65, graduated from UGA with a PhD in Economics and has spent his entire career devoted to educating, counseling and mentoring young people from almost every country in the world. Dr. Kwon is a lecturer, writer, researcher and counselor who is currently the Professor of Decision Sciences and MIS at St. Louis University. Among other prestigious accomplishments, he is a member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Business Innovation and Research. He received the National Science Foundation Fellow to Taiwan and Korea, Fulbright Senior Scholar to Korea, and has received the National Defense Transportation Association Distinguished Educator's award. He is confident that he has fulfilled the promises that he made upon graduation with the Georgia Rotary Student Program which was to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, good will and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education and the alleviation of poverty.

THANK YOU FOR MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN OUR WORLD BY SUPPORTING GRSP.

Posted by Lynn Clarke
August 5, 2017

GRSP

Our Goal Is World Peace

No, it's not a scholarship program

Last weekend I attended the Georgia Rotary Student Program Summer Meeting. I was impressed by the dedication of so many Rotarian GRSP trustees, directors and of course our two staff members from the Savannah office. These people are the backbone of this unique program.

There is a perception in some clubs that GRSP is a scholarship program, meant to give a deserving student from a foreign land the opportunity to better themselves via a year of study in the United States. In fact this is not, and has never been, the goal of the program. **GRSP is a peace program**, a cultural scholarship. It is not a needs-based academic scholarship.

The goal of the GRSP program is to identify talented, ambitious kids from all over the world, bring them to Georgia for a transformative year at a critical time in their lives, where they learn about other cultures and establish life long friendships with other talented and ambitious young people. Our hope is that when

these young people return to their home countries they will grow to become leaders in their professions and never forget the lessons learned on Georgia's campuses and Rotary clubs. **GRSP is a bet on the leadership of the world.**

GRSP is unique to Georgia. The program was established after World War II by returning veterans who, seared by their experience in Europe, believed that if the people of the world knew each other better and made friends of each other they would not war among themselves. They believed that by bringing young people to America to learn more about America and to get to know not only Americans but other students from around the world, this would greatly promote peace and and prevent conflict. Promoting peace is one of Rotary's six areas of focus and it is said that Rotary's ultimate goal is world peace. I think most would agree in today's conflict-riven world, GRSP has never been more relevant.

We should not forget all the new Rotarians who have joined us in recent years. It is highly likely they have only the vaguest notion of the power and importance of the GRSP program and indeed there are many experienced Rotarians who may not clearly understand GRSP. I urge every club to make a practice of **holding at least one program a year dedicated to GRSP**. Make sure your members, especially your newer members, are up to speed on the program. I leave it to the clubs and their GRSP trustees as to what would work best for the club, but such a program might be held when the student arrived and might include an introduction of the student, a report on the club's GRSP foundation support, and recognition for those who are supporting the program both financially and otherwise. I would also encourage the club's GRSP trustee to describe how the program works and give some examples of how the program has transformed specific lives. If a club is not able at present to sponsor a student, I still urge the club to hold such a program and encourage the trustee for the club to bring along a student from another club so the club can see first-hand the caliber of the kids in the program, remembering that every Georgia Rotarian contributes to GRSP through their club district dues.

(If you do not know who your club's trustee is, never fear; that information is now posted on the District website under Club Finder > **GRSP Trustee Assignments**. The club GRSP trustee also should now show up in the various leadership pages on the site.)

Here are a few facts gleaned from this weekend's summer meeting:

Program Budget. GRSP spends about $1.2 million a year. About 85% of that money goes to support the students, with the remaining 15% devoted to operating expenses, principally the two GRSP employees and office in Savannah.

Program Endowment. Rotarians over the years have built the GRSP endowment to just under $14 million. Income on the endowment now accounts for about 35% of the cost of the program, providing a tuition subsidy of $5,250 for every student. Georgia colleges and universities give the GRSP program a significant tuition break, but it is no secret that over the past ten years, tuition and student fees have soared. As a result some clubs have been forced to drop out of the Georgia Rotary Student Program. It is because of the foresight of those who came before us to build the endowment that more clubs have not been forced to drop out.

District Dues Support. Every Rotarian supports GRSP to some degree through our District Dues, $7 per capita of which goes directly to the GRSP program.

Incentive Program. To encourage clubs to continue to contribute to the endowment, every club that contributes $50 per member to the endowment and sponsors or co-sponsors a student gets additional support from the endowment for the costs of sponsoring the student. The rules of the incentive are

complex and the amounts vary by year, but are usually significant.

Parental Support. While we provide a full scholarship to all GRSP students, we should not forget that each student's family must pay for airfare, make sure the student has adequate spending money and is insured during their stay in the United States. For many families, these costs can be significant.

GRSP Conclave. Our district is hosting this year's GRSP conclave, with the Bainbridge club taking the lead. Click here to reserve. It is an experience you will never regret.

Bottom Line. Think peace, not scholarship. Consider working with your GRSP trustee to hold a full program for your club on GRSP. And if $50 per capita is within reach, go for it and free up some money for more service elsewhere.

As always, feel free to comment and share your opinions.

Posted by Alec Smythe
July 22, 2017

2018 District Conference

Celebrating the Year's Successes - 2018 District Conference Update

One of Rotary's most enjoyable traditions is celebrating each Rotary year's successes and achievements at district conference. Often this is the one time of the year when many Rotarians get to share a weekend of fellowship with their own club members as well as friends from other clubs around the district. On April 26-29, 2018, we will return to Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort, a popular district conference destination that allows our entire group to stay in one general location next to Sandestin's Baytown Wharf, an awesome assortment of restaurants, night clubs, shops, and activities all within a short walk from the housing and conference center area. Most folks find that they can park their vehicles when they arrive on Thursday or Friday and don't have to drive again until they leave sometime the following Sunday. To learn more about Sandestin and Baytown Wharf, visit http://www.sandestin.com/.

DG Alec's mission for this year's conference is to educate, entertain, and inspire conference attendees. General sessions will be kept to about 90 minutes each and breakout sessions will be fun, interactive, and full of engaging content. And a major update is that most of our district awards for club achievements will

actually take place at a separate celebration later in the Rotary year which allows us to develop district conference programming focused on everyday interests.

Recently a district-wide survey was published asking for preferences and remarks on how best to structure our conference. If you'd like to join the process and have a say in how things are done, visit our survey link (https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/discon2018) and help us make our 2018 district conference the best ever.

And to provide a showcase of our district's achievements for the 2017-18 year, all clubs and Rotarians should use the social media hashtag *#18Rotary6900* when posting on any social media platform about their club's projects or activities. This simple step will let us to develop a collection of stories and pictures that tell an amazing story of service, leadership, and friendship for the 2017-18 Rotary year.

Stay tuned – conference and lodging registration information will be published in the next newsletter!

Posted by Ryan Clements
August 5, 2017

Innovation

Rotary International Shares Stone Mountain's Story of Becoming a Hybrid Club

In January, **Stone Mountain Rotarians** voted to approve a new vision of what a Rotary club could be. The club became a Hybrid – it meets weekly in person during lunch and the meeting is live streamed every week. giving members the option of attending in person or online, whatever is most convenient for them that week. In our May 2017 newsletter (page 9), we reported some of the mechanics of adopting this approach.

Today, Rotary International features a blog talking about **why** Stone Mountain made this change - and how it fits with other changes the club made to build its membership! Read the blog and get ideas at https://blog.rotary.org/2017/08/01/why-we-changed-...

Posted by Margie Kersey
August 5, 2017

The Council on Legislation

You Can Make A Difference

Every three years, Rotary International convenes a Council on Legislation (COL). The next Council will meet in Chicago in April 2019. During this meeting the representatives will review, debate and vote on proposed changes (Proposals) to the legislation that governs Rotary – the Rotary Constitution, Rotary Bylaws, and the recommended Club Constitution. This is how the "Rotary Rules" for the world are changed and updated. The approved changes are published in the Manual of Procedures.

The last COL meeting was held in April 2016. Our representative for that session was PDG Tom Kent of RC

Brookhaven. It was a very powerful Council and they made some amazing changes to how Rotary works. They reviewed and voted on 181 pieces of legislation. One of the enactments that was approved by the COL was the creation of the Council on Resolutions (COR). The COR will meet every year online during the month of November to review and vote on proposed Resolutions. Resolutions are recommendations to the RI Board of Directors, but do not change any governing documents.

The Council consists of one representative from every District in the world – all 534 of them. The elected representative for our 2016-2019 is PDG Margie Kersey of the RC of Stone Mountain. Her job is to ensure the Rotarians of District 6900 have a voice in the proceedings.

Proposals and Resolutions come from Rotary Clubs around the world. Rotary Clubs like yours. The COL and the COR are your opportunity to build a better Rotary! Rotary clubs like yours submitted proposals to the 2016 COL to remove the distinction between traditional Rotary Clubs and E Clubs. Their proposals opened the way for clubs to decide how often they would meeting and what those meetings would look like.

Consider inviting PDG Tom Kent to speak at your club about the 2016 Council on Legislation. Or if you have questions about how you and your club can submit a proposal or resolution, contact PDG Margie Kersey.

Submitting a Proposal or Resolution isn't difficult. The forms can be found on the Rotary.org website (link below), but there are deadlines:

Annual Deadline for Resolutions: June 30

Deadline for Proposals to 2019 COL: December 31, 2017

Link for info & forms:https://my.rotary.org/en/learning-reference/polici...

Posted by Margie Kersey
August 5, 2017

District Newsletter

September Issue Deadline Is August 25

Please send your articles and pictures to **Jackie Cuthbert, District Newsletter Editor, at cuthbert@mindspring.com**. We want to hear about your clubs and Rotarians making a difference in their communities, your fundraising and membership ideas. Share your photos of arriving GRSP students. You can send your stories as a Word document or in the body of your email; photos should be submitted as jpeg files. No formatting required; please avoid PDFs when you can.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
August 5, 2017