



DG George with Thomasville Rotarians receiving the governor's award coin Danny Braddy, Fran Milberg Mary Beth Donaldson, DGE Andre Marria, and Teri Hurst White

From Our District Governor

**Take Time During the Holidays to Imagine and Celebrate All We Can Do**

By George Granade

I hope you all enjoyed the Thanksgiving holiday with family and friends and are looking forward to more celebrations as we move through the rest of the holiday season. There are two celebrations coming in 2023 that I'd like to remind you about:

- **District Conference will take place April 27-30 at the SanDestin Beach and Golf Resort.** We are going to have fun with the "Green Acres" theme. Be sure to look at some reruns of the TV show so you will know who the characters are. There just might be a contest to see who will be best dress as one of the characters from the show. You'll be able to register for conference and make hotel reservations through the District Website starting December 15.

- **The world of Rotary will celebrate in Melbourne, Australia this year at RI Convention - May 27-31.** You can register for convention now, and I also encourage you to take a look at the Australia and New Zealand trips put together by our District 6900 Australia team (John Neill, Cheryl Greenway and Lorri Christopher) and featured here in the newsletter. I'd love to have you join us.

As we near the end of the calendar year, we are halfway through the Rotary year. It's a good time for club leaders to be sure you are updating your membership, service project and other Rotary items, so you know - and we know as a District - how we are doing in these areas. [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	<b>North Atlanta Professional Alliance</b>	<b>North Atlanta</b>	<b>Brookhaven</b>
II	<b>North Columbus</b>	<b>North Fulton</b>	<b>Vinings Cumberland</b>
III	<b>Marietta</b>	<b>Dunwoody</b>	<b>Carrollton-Dawn Breakers</b>
IV	<b>Peachtree City</b>	<b>Roswell</b>	<b>Peachtree City</b>

**Key Dates**

Monday, June 22nd, 2026	<b>RI President Francesco Arezzo Visits D6900!</b>
Thursday, July 9th, 2026	<b>North Atlanta Professional Alliance Governor Visit</b>



## **RFHA Receives Funding Support to Boost Polio Eradication Efforts**

By Marion Bunch  
The Rotary  
Action Group for  
Family Health  
and AIDS  
Prevention  
(RFHA) is  
honored to  
announce the  
award from the  
Bill & Melinda  
Gates  
Foundation for a  
two-year pilot  
program in the  
amount of \$3  
million. This will  
support the roll  
out of the  
Rotary Family  
Health Day  
Program in a  
number of  
countries and  
will include  
messaging,  
advocacy,  
education and  
surveillance on  
Polio as part of  
our integrated  
Disease  
Prevention  
program at  
Community  
level. The focus  
will be to  
integrate Polio  
specific  
activities and  
vaccination into  
the Rotary  
Family Health  
Days, and to  
support  
expanding the  
programs into  
countries where  
these have not  
been held  
previously.  
[more]



District Conference Update

## **Save the Date for 2023 District Conference**

By Cheryl Greenway  
We hope you are planning to join DG George and Jill Granade for a Green Acres extravaganza in beautiful SanDestin, Florida! Mark your calendars now to attend District Conference April 28-30, and get ready to register and make your hotel reservations starting December 15 on the District Website.



# ROTARY DOWN UNDER



## Rotary Convention **Add Australia and/or New Zealand to Your 2023 Rotary Convention Experience**

By John Neill  
Are you considering attending the Rotary International Convention in Melbourne, Australia next May 27-31? If you are, we have an opportunity for you to not only attend the convention but also see the major sights in Australia and New Zealand with a group of fellow District 6900

Rotarians. You can avoid all the hassle making all your own air, hotel, tour reservations etc. and reap the benefits of group discounts.

We are working with Indus Travels, a well-known and respected international tour provider to offer two all-inclusive\* trips from Atlanta. If you are interested in booking a trip we must hear from you by December 22. [more]



District Leadership  
**Nominating  
Committee  
Selects  
Steve Ivory  
as District  
Governor  
Nominee  
Designate  
(DG for  
2025-26)**

By George Granade  
The District  
Nominating  
Committee met on  
Saturday, November  
19, 2022 and  
interviewed qualified  
candidates  
nominated by their  
Rotary Clubs. I am  
pleased to announce  
that **Steve  
Ivory from  
the Rotary Club of  
Peachtree City** has  
been selected by the  
committee.

Steve served as  
President of the  
Rotary Club of  
Peachtree City in  
2020-2021 and was  
recognized with the  
Sheffield Leadership  
Award. He is a Will  
Watt Fellow and  
Paul Harris Major  
Donor. Steve  
currently serves as  
an Assistant  
Governor. He is  
married to Anna and  
they have two  
daughters, Kayla and  
Claire. Steve is  
passionate about  
Rotary, community  
service and GRSP.  
[more]

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Value of GRSP  
**Oglethorpe  
Students  
Value GRSP  
for Personal  
and  
Professional  
Development**

By Katherine Fields  
Four Georgia Rotary  
Student Program  
scholars believe  
Oglethorpe University  
provides the perfect  
backdrop to help  
achieve their  
professional as well as  
personal goals. The  
group agreed that  
participating in GRSP  
has benefitted them in  
many ways. They said  
they appreciate the  
efforts Georgia  
Rotarians are making  
on their behalf.

[more]

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What in the world is RYLA?



Jaclyn Donovan  
District 6900 RYLA Chair

Let me tell your club all about it!

RYLA  
Want to Learn More About RYLA?

By Jaclyn Donovan  
If your club has never participated in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program - or if it's been a while - and you'd like to know more, all you have to do is invite Jaclyn Donovan to visit your club. She'll be happy to share with you about all things RYLA and the great opportunities it could provide for young leaders in your ... [more]





Our Rotary Foundation at Work  
**Global Grant  
Supports Down  
Syndrome  
Education/Literacy  
Center in Brazil**

By Bob Koncerak  
The Rotary Club of Alpharetta just returned from a fantastic project trip to Pelotas, R.S. Brazil. With support from the Peachtree City, Dunwoody, Atlanta Brazil, Stone Mountain and Roswell clubs, Alpharetta serves as the international partner for both an Education/Literacy Global Grant and a Down Syndrome training & service center building project. Two clubs from District 7710 in Maine are also participating. Carolyn and Peter Johnson, both District 7710 PDG's, joined the group in Brazil. Carolyn is a Cadre Partner, and at one point had global RI oversight for all Education & Literacy projects. Her support and enthusiasm was key to getting global grant approval. The sponsored organization, known as "APADPEL" (Association for Parents of Down Syndrome Pelotas) will be featured in the December edition of RI's Education and Literacy newsletter. Fundraising and grants to date have raised more than \$150,000. [more]



Club News  
**Douglas  
County  
Supports  
Local  
Schools**

By Nell Boggs  
The Rotary Club of Douglas County counts the support of students and families at our local schools as one of our top missions.

Recently the club helped make a field trip to the Georgia Aquarium possible for all first graders at Beulah Elementary by paying for bus transportation. This was the first group at Beulah to go on a field trip since COVID. Rotarians Tekmekia Gilchrist and Michelle Porter were at the school early that morning to send students on their way! Rotary believes that out-of-the-classroom experiences are an important part of learning.

On November 16, the club delivered turkeys and all the trimmings for 20 families in need at Lithia Springs High School. Rotarian Joe Williams headed up the project, and Mitzi Blackstone, head counselor at Lithia, coordinated with the families. [more]



## Oslo International Summer School Scholarship

Rotary  
Districts  
6900, 6910, 6920



A GRSP Opportunity for Georgia Students

### Oslo Summer GRSP Scholarship Opens for Georgia College Students with Jan. 10 Application Deadline

By Kathyryne Fields

While Georgia Rotary Student Program spends the year hosting international college students, we are thankful for the one opportunity that allows college students from Georgia to spend the summer attending school and exchanging cultural customs in Norway. The GRSP scholarship application for International Summer School at the University of Oslo for summer 2023 is open.

The Norwegian Rotary Advisory Board partners with GRSP each year to offer the scholarship. The scholarship dates are June 26 to August 4, 2023 and includes students from all over the world in a diverse cultural program in the beautiful city of Oslo, Norway with six weeks of academic achievement and international goodwill. Students must have recommendation of Georgia Rotarian. Application deadline is January 10, 2023 through GRSP website: [www.grsp.org/oslo-application](http://www.grsp.org/oslo-application). Applications will be reviewed and all applicants will be notified by the end of January. [more]





Club News

## Columbus Helps Build Community Farm

By Julie Bond  
The Rotary Club of Columbus recently completed service project days at the George Washington Carver Garden. Volunteers helped clear the land by cutting down trees, clearing thick briars, and clearing tall weeds. This work was to prepare the area for the construction of a greenhouse in that space. The club will return later to complete that phase of the service project and has invited members of the public and other civic organizations to collaborate for future service dates.  
[more]

**Our children are in danger! Human traffickers are using personal and online connections to coerce our children. It is happening right here in North Fulton!**

**The Rotary Club of Alpharetta and End Human Trafficking Now are hosting:**



**You will learn:**

- What state and local officials are doing to combat trafficking.
- How everyone from corporations to our own children are involved in the fight against HT.]
- How to identify the characteristics of HT grooming.
- How to monitor your child's online activity.
- What to watch for throughout your community.
- How to get directly involved.

**When: Saturday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (Doors open at 8:00am, coffee and refreshments will be available)**

**Where: Innovation Academy, 125 Milton Ave., Alpharetta, GA.**

*This is a free event, but there is limited seating so you must register through Eventbrite to attend. Scan this code to register:*



**Donations are encouraged, but not required.**



## Interact Update **Newnan Interact Club Says Thank You!**

By Becky Stone  
The District 6900 Interact Conference was held on Nov. 5 at Global Impact Academy. One of the service projects the students participated in was collecting school supplies for Newnan High School students and teachers after the tornado destroyed their school in 2021. This project not only provides needed supplies, but let students and teachers know that they are not forgotten. The Newnan High Interact Club responded ...  
[more]

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GRSP

## **Applications Open for 2022-23 Barbara M and Donald L Thomas Peace Award**

By Jacque Digieso

Since 2002, The Rotary Club of Roswell has administered an annual award established from the Charitable Remainder Fund established for GRSP by a generous donation from the Thomas family. This award recognizes a deserving GRSP student from the current class who exemplifies the Rotary motto of Service Above Self. The funds make it possible for Georgia Rotarians to financially assist deserving GRSP students.

Due to COVID restrictions, the award had been suspended. However, we are pleased to announce, the award has been reinstated for the 2022-23 Rotary Year. Each Club President will receive a copy of the application form and instructions. [\[more\]](#)

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GRSP Update  
**GRSP  
Weekend in  
Alpharetta  
Focuses on  
Helping  
School**

By Katheryne Fields  
From fireside chats, to sprucing up a park and school plus learning how to tailgate, Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars made many memories in their student weekend sponsored by the **Rotary Club of Alpharetta** in mid-November. Any time all or most of our 44 international college students serve, sweat and gather in one spot is always encouraging. GRSP scholars washed the playground and buses at The Lionheart School for children with autism or other communication needs and helped spread pine straw in nearby Wills ParkSpecial thanks to weekend chair and GRSP Trustee John Norton along with President Katie Rocco for their excellent hospitality, plus to Rotarian Mickey Rogers for his pit-master barbecue skills and the Rotary Club of Roswell for helping serve as weekend hosts. Students will spend the holidays apart and gather in February for the GRSP Leadership Weekend. [more]