Rotary District 6900

Rotary CREATE LASTING IMPACT Rotary District 6900

District Newsletter

JULY 5, 2024



Thank You For Your Leadership André!

A Friend For Life...

By Gordon Owens

The role of District Governor doesn't start on July 1 each year. It starts the day after the nominating committee makes their selection two and half years earlier. From that day forward you join the g-line on weekly calls, attend Rotary conferences around the world and put in a ton of time making plans for the year that you will have the honor to lead the district. Our Immediate Past District Governor, André Marria has been there for me along every step of that journey. I certainly would not be as prepared to start the 2024-2025 without her guidance and more importantly her friendship. A benefit of spending so much time together, André and I have become more than friends, she calls me her little brother and we are most definitely family. We all were witness to the amazing job she did *Creating Hope In The World* during the 2023-2024 Rotary year as the *Lady With A Song*. What you didn't get to see is all the work she put in behind the scenes to make sure our district remains one of the top districts in our zone. The compassion she has for fellow Rotarians, constantly checking in with our family of Rotary to ask, "how are you, really?" The determination she displayed when things didn't go exactly as planned, to push through and make an impact. Her amazing ability to challenge people with difficult questions and get people to see another perspective.

To André, my friend for life, my sister, thank you for your leadership as our District Governor! I love you and most importantly, "**I SEE YOU!**"

[more]



Thank you for allowing us to serve this "Awesome District"!

Much Love from Walter & André

By André Marria

Thank you to each one of you for all your support this Rotary Year. Walter and I could not have done it without you! We did our best to lead by the 4-way test. I hope time will tell that we succeeded.

It has been a long journey, filled with many good, inspiring, and challenging experiences. Yet, we faced them with "true grit."

The road ahead leads us home to work in our own garden. It will be fun to be among those who have supported us at every turn. Again, thank you!

To my Thomasville Rotary Club of Thomasville, we want to say thank you for having our back, for supporting us at every turn, for calling, the gifts, and the encouragement you gave us along the way. Most appreciated and dear to us was the "Rose Pin" that was given to us at the beginning of our journey. I wear that Rose with pride and will continue to do so.

I shared with you the belief that we needed to be intentional in all that we do, and the best way to engage is with genuine caring and authentic dialogue. Rotary will grow as we allow others to feel comfortable in the spaces Rotary provides.

We can create a new Culture when we embrace the collective traditions and values of those who come to us from every walk of life. They have the skills to grow us beyond the eighteen thousand (18,000) members we lost last year. Continue to "*Be The Inspiration as you Create Hope In The World", and you will embody "The Magic of Rotary.*" [more]

LEADERBOARD Check out the full district scoreboard

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

Category	NET MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
I	**Atlanta Brasil**	**Emory-Druid Hills**	**Brookhaven**
II	**Sandy Springs**	**Muscogee-Columbus**	**Muscogee-Columbus**
III	**North Atlanta Professional Alliance**	**Vinings Cumberland**	**Vinings Cumberland**
IV	**Dunwoody**	**Dunwoody**	**Marietta**
V	**Peachtree City**	**Alpharetta**	**North Cobb County**

Key Dates

Thursday, November 5th, 2026	**Rotary Means Business with the Decatur Rotary Club**
Monday, November 9th, 2026	**Douglas County Governor Visit**
Tuesday, November 10th, 2026	**Carrollton Governor Visit**
Wednesday, November 11th, 2026	**Carrollton-Dawn Breakers Governor Visit**
Thursday, November 12th, 2026	**Bremen Governor Visit**
Friday, November 13th, 2026	**Alpharetta Governor Visit**
Monday, November 16th, 2026	**Sandy Springs Governor Visit**
Tuesday, November 17th, 2026	**Forsyth-Monroe County Governor Visit**
Tuesday, November 17th, 2026	**Discover Rotary - Columbus Area**



Help Rotary Spread Peace Around The World

Plant A Peace Pole This Year

By Gordon Owens
We have been challenged by RI President Stephanie Urchick to help Rotary spread the idea of peace around the world by planting peace poles in our communities. There was even a peace park at the Rotary International Convention in Singapore to learn more about how to engage in peace building initiatives sponsored by the Rotary Action Group For Peace. Every member is encouraged to go through the Positive Peace Academy, a free training course to discover the strategies and tools that can help individuals, Rotarians like yourselves, cities and nations build and sustain peace. I hope your club will take on this challenge and plant a peace pole this year. When you do, make sure it gets added to the Global Peace Pole Map. [more]

Wednesday, November 18th, 2026	**Emory-Druid Hills Governor Visit**
Thursday, November 19th, 2026	**Roswell Governor Visit**
Thursday, November 19th, 2026	**Atlanta Ascent GOVERNOR VISIT**
Tuesday, December 1st, 2026	**Fayetteville Governor Visit**
Wednesday, December 2nd, 2026	**Tyrone Governor Visit**



Leave A Lasting Legacy

Help Us Endow $1,000,000 To Rotary

By Lee Hollingsworth

We are looking for ~~**40**~~ 39 Rotarians (DG Gordon is our 1st) in our district to commit to leaving a gift of $25,000 or more to Rotary in their estate. That's right, no cash out of pocket today, just fill out a couple forms and decide how you want your gift to impact the world long after you are gone. With each gift of $25,000 or more to the Endowment Fund, Rotarians can establish a named fund and direct where the proceeds go to do good in the world. Leave your gift to SHARE and some of those proceeds come back to our district for local & global grants; dedicate it to an area of focus to support projects, scholarships & vocational training you are passionate about; or leave it to the World Fund and let Rotary decide the best way this gift will create positive change in the world. Contact our District Major Gifts Chair, **Lee Hollingsworth**, for more information or to setup your legacy gift to the Endowment Fund. [more]



PolioPickem.com

Win Up To $1000

2024 Summer Olympics

By Gordon Owens

All year long we are playing games for Polio Plus. The winner gets half the pool up to $1000 and the other half goes to our Rotary Foundation to support Polio Plus. Our first game is for the 2024 Summer Olympics. Once you pay the $20 entry fee you will select several countries to make your team. If your team wins the most points (3 for gold, 2 for silver, 1 for bronze) through medalling in events then you will win the Polio Pick'em 2024 Summer Olympics. Let's have some fun raising money for a good cause!

[more]



Rotavette.com

Win A Corvette C8

Or up to $50,000

By Will Daniel

One lucky winner will drive away from Jekyll Island on April 27, 2025 with a Corvette C8 or $50,000 in cash. We only have 3000 tickets available and they are going fast, just like the *Rotavette*. Purchase 1 entry for $100 or get 6 entries for $500. All the proceeds from the raffle go to our Rotary Foundation so it's a win-win. [more]



Jekyll Island | April 24-27, 2025

1st Ever Joint District Conference

By Ryan Swertfager

For the 1st time ever, all three Rotary Districts in Georgia are joining forces to put on a conference like no other. We hope you will mark your calendars to join us in April 2025 for what is going to be a Rotary take over of Jekyll Island. We will have a beach party, friendly competitions, inspiring speakers, a massive Hall of Friendship and most importantly fellowship with Rotary friends new & old from around the state. Registration is open and room blocks are filling up fast.

Visit GeorgiaUnitedDC.com and sign up today, you don't want to miss this!

[more]



Webinar - July 8 @ 5:30 PM

Driving Membership Growth

By Dave Schwickerath

The Membership Action Plan (MAP) Webinar series is designed for club leaders like you. Our viewers keep returning for strategies and ideas that truly work, and we are excited about our next session. Mark your calendars for July 8th and join us for **"Kickstart Your Year - Driving Membership Growth."** This webinar will provide you with actionable insights to help drive membership growth in your club, setting the stage for a successful year ahead.Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from experienced leaders who will share information that can make a difference in your membership efforts. [more]



RLI

RLI is On Fire in District 6900

By Tracy Van Norman

RLI had a great event on July 8 in Peachtree City, hosting Parts 1, 2, 3, and a graduate class in Public Speaking! We had over 45 attend a memorable day Hosted by the PTC Club and Cooper Lighting, beginning with a great breakfast and an even better lunch. Energy and enthusiasm abounded as participants increased their knowledge, skills, and abilities in Rotary.

Be sure to catch the flame in one of the upcoming sessions: August 17, October 26 or November 16. Details follow ... [more]





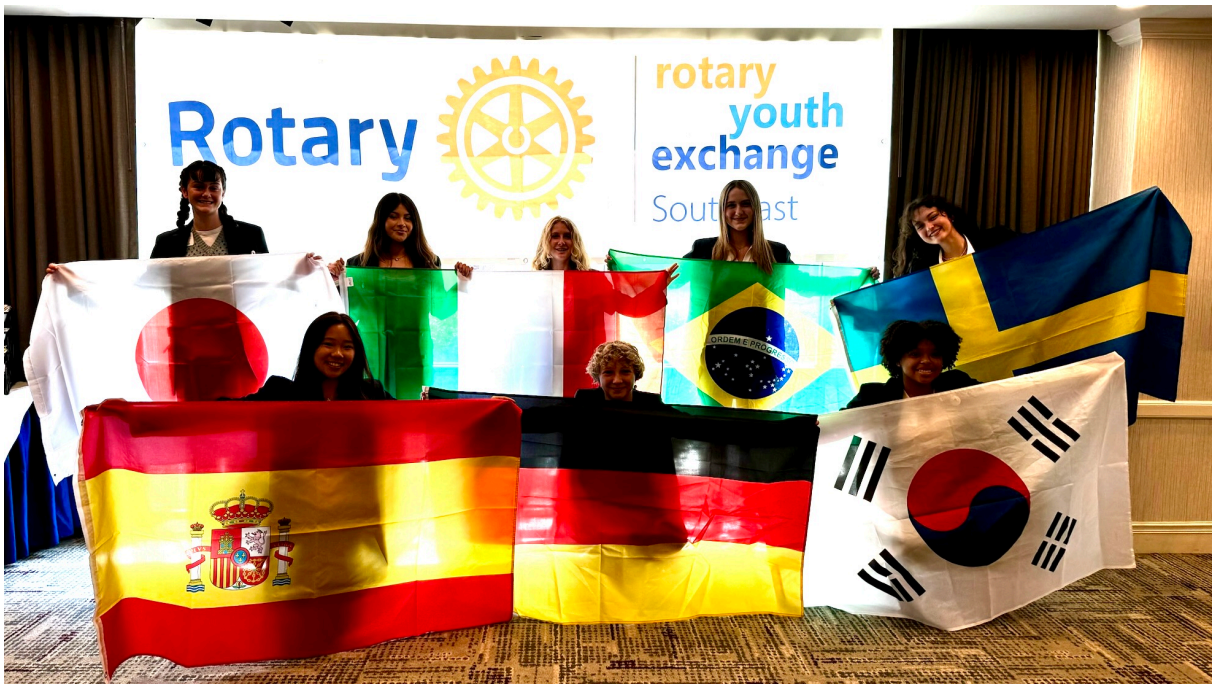
2024 GRSP Conclave Weekend

August 23-25, 2024 | Columbus, GA

By Katheryne Fields

Rotarians and guests are invited to Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2024-25 in Columbus August 23-25, 2024. Conclave is hosted this year by District 6900 and under the direction of the Rotary Club of Columbus, Muscogee-Columbus and North Columbus. Registration is now open for Conclave, please **visit the GRSP Calendar** to sign up.

[more]



Rotary Youth Exchange

Class of 2024-25 Graduates!

By Mike Parks

The Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast final training and orientation session for the 2024 - 2025 Outbound Class of Rotary Youth Exchange students from Georgia and Florida was a great success! The students learned all about cultural adaptation and becoming truly bilingual and bicultural. They honed their skills in improving resiliency while on exchange, and participated in role plays and exercises to be a more effective ambassador for the USA and for Rotary while overseas. Parents, friends, family, and Rotarians from all over Georgia and Florida participated in the long-awaited graduation ceremony and the awarding of the prestigious Rotary Youth Exchange blue blazers. Congratulations to the 2024 - 2025 Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students from Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast [more]



A Look Back: RYLA 2024

Jaclyn Donovan, RYLA Co-Chair

By Jaclyn Donovan
Summertime in District 6900 mean it's time for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, better known as RYLA!! RYLA is designed for young adults with proven leadership ability and a commitment to community service. The District 6900 RYLA camp was hosted by the Rotary Club of Americus and held June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University and included 95 students sponsored by over 30 clubs.
RYLA brings together these young people from different backgrounds - home, educational, religious, and lifestyle – for the opportunity to challenge themselves through small team activities, large group activities, and candid, round-table discussions. RYLA programming includes individual personality profiles, conflict resolution styles, and ropes course activities in a schedule designed to encourage each student's growth in the areas of teamwork, communication, and trust. So what did they do this year? [more]



My.Rotary.org

Learn Your New Role Online

By Mary Ligon

It's a new Rotary year and you may be kicking off a new leadership role for your club. Even if you have an awesome mentor helping you learn the responsibilities that come with the role, remember, just because "it's the way we've always done it" doesn't mean it's the way it should be done. The Learning Center on more]



Congressional Office For International Leadership

Open World Program

By Gordon Owens

The Open World program offers clubs and districts in Rotary a way to enjoy meaningful international exchanges while giving professionals from Eurasian countries personal experiences with U.S. democracy. This program, funded by a U.S. government agency, focuses on developing an international network that allows leaders with common interests to consult and cooperate with each other on issues that affect their communities. [more]



Due: September 1, 2024

Nominations Are Open For RI Director

By Gordon Owens
Past RI Director, Robert Hall was the last Director to serve Zone 34 from District 6900. There are several qualifications any candidate must meet, so be sure to read through those before making a nomination. If your club wishes to submit a qualified Rotarian for consideration by the Nominating Committee for Director in your zone, the club must follow these guidelines: [more]



Representatives from all the winning organizations gather with Grant Chair Kelly Caudle (left) and President Tozzi (right)

Club News

Decatur Club Gives Back!

By Dudley Larus

Decatur Rotary was very pleased to welcome seven leaders of outstanding Dekalb County Non-Profit organizations to the Historic Dekalb Courthouse. All these organizations support causes that we hold dear: Literacy and Youth-At-Risk. Each organization was able to tell its story and explain the specific project that the Rotary grant supports. [more]



Club News

Vinings Cumberland Rotary Sponsors New Junior Book Club at the Vinings Library

by Linda Muir and Amanda Dusse

By Brenda Borden

The Junior Book Club for 3 to 5 year-old children is a weekly, early literacy-based program at the Vinings Library. It is designed to help young library patrons, who attend with their parents or caregivers, to develop language and literacy skills. A Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club Local Service Grant funds the program, and Rotary Club members are encouraged to become volunteers at the library to read to the preschoolers and to help with book-based discussions afterward. The Rotary grant makes it possible to give books away to the Junior Book Club members and to entertain them with professional puppet shows put on by the Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts.

[more]



Club News

Rotary Club of North Fulton Initiates Innovative Emergency Management Coordinator Meeting

By Lisa Gelber

Rotary Club of North Fulton President Lisa Gelber recently invited FOX Weather Journalist Robert Ray, and local resident, to present to the Club at their regular bi-monthly meeting. Ray began with a video on situations in which national media, first responders, and emergency management find themselves in and how they historically collaborated. Many times, things don't go to plan, and confusion takes hold in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters. Ray went on to explain how the media assists in managing disasters by educating the public about disasters, warning of hazards, gathering and transmitting information about affected areas, and alerting government officials, relief organizations, and the public to specific needs.

[more]

Annual Sheffield Gala

July 27, 2024

The Wheatley Building
Georgia Southwestern State University

Social & Silent Auction: 6:00 pm
Dinner & Program to follow

Recognizing Sheffield Leadership Award Winners and Honoring the Class of 2024

Tickets are $100 per person and include
Open Bar, Catered Surf & Turf Dinner, and Live Music
(Registration: https://rotaryamericus.org/event/update/7768

The Americus Trolley will provide round-trip transportation from Windsor Hotel and silent auction and fellowship begins at 6 pm in the Rotunda.

Join us for Sunday Brunch from 9-11 am at 105 Morningside Drive

Block of rooms reserved under "Sheffield Gala" at the historic Windsor Hotel (229-924-1555) through June 27, 2024.