Rotary District 6900

Rotary CREATE LASTING IMPACT Rotary District 6900

# District Newsletter

DECEMBER 5, 2024




The Okra Brothers

## Right Back Where We Started

By Gordon Owens

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

[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** |



District Governor Nominee Designate

## Congratulations to Buck Buchanan

By Gordon Owens
It's official, Buck Buchanan from the Rotary Club of Marietta Metro is our District Governor Nominee Designate. Buck will serve our district as governor during the 2027-2028 Rotary year. The governor team and several past district governors were on hand to make the announcement to the Marietta Metro club. We look forward to working with Buck as he prepares to lead our district. Please join me in congratulating **Buck Buchanan** on this great honor.
[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** |




January 6-11, 2025

## Join Us For A Week Of Service

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




Monday, December 9 @ 5:30PM

## Your Membership Wishlist

By Dave Schwickerath

Santa is coming early to your club membership team. Join the next Membership Action Plan (MAP) webinar for some great breakout sessions and take a deeper dive into:

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

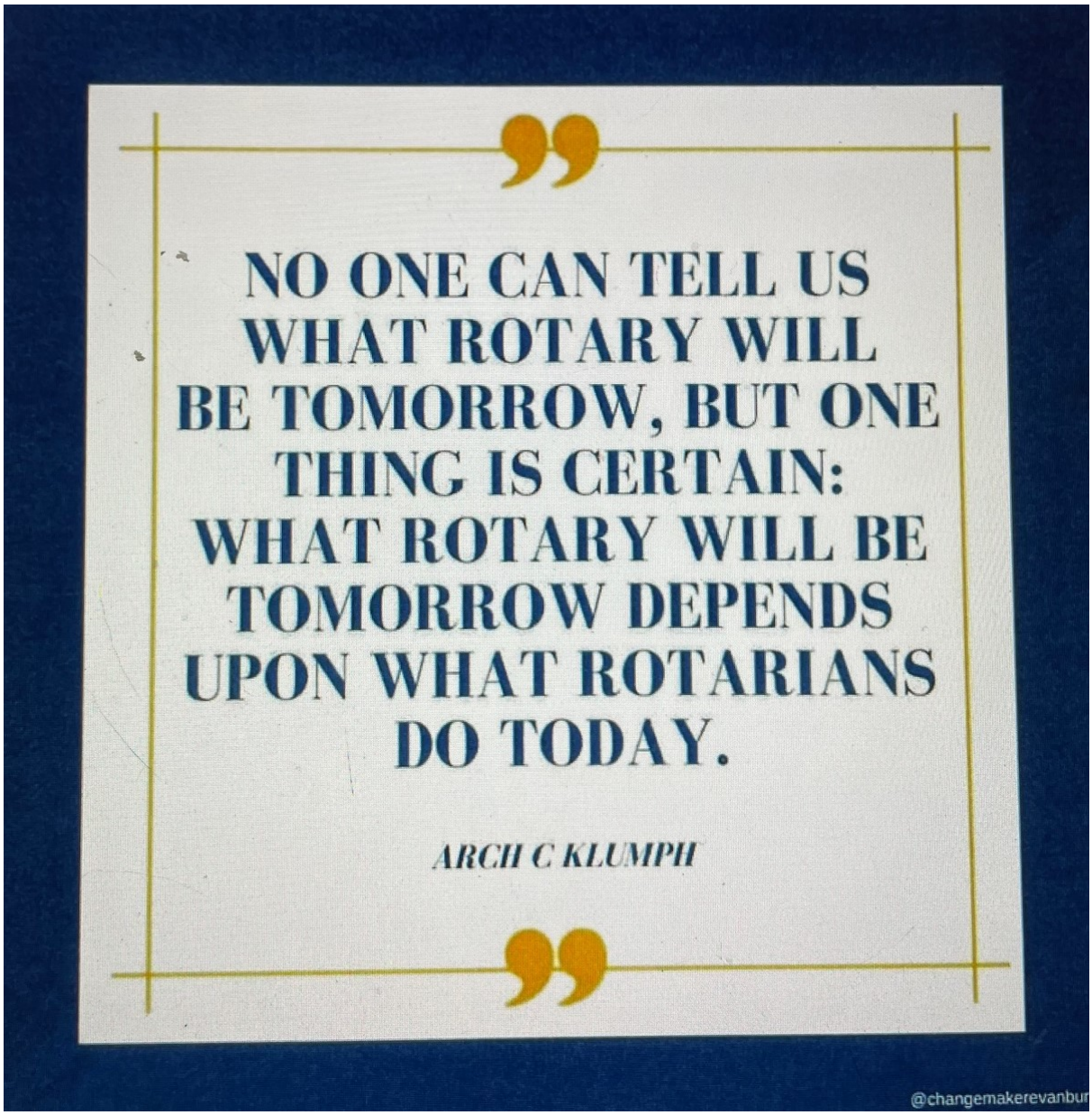
**Join this webinar** for great ideas to grow Rotary in the new year. [more]




Disaster Relief Trailer

## $20,000 Disaster Grant From Zones 33/34

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




Our Rotary Foundation

## Consider the Rotary Foundation in Your Year-End Giving

By Bob Hagan

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




Thursday, December 19 @ 6PM

## Foundation Matters Webinar

By Bob Hagan

Mark your calendars for the third Thursday of the month at 6PM EDT and join us for the **“Foundation Matters” Webinar**. We know you want to have an amazing year at your club, so we’re bringing you experienced leaders to share how to structure your Foundation Committee so you will create an exceptional year of foundation giving. Don’t miss this series! The “Foundation Matters” Webinar Series was developed especially for you- Club Presidents and Club Foundation Chairs. These monthly webinars will provide “bite-sized chunks” of valuable insights and actionable strategies that really work to increase club engagement in The Rotary Foundation. [more]




Tuesday, December 17 @ 6PM

## Public Image Ask Me Anything

By Mandy Timmons

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

[more]



Planning Your Year End Giving

## Gifting Securities May Have Added Tax Benefits

By Lee Hollingsworth

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




December 5, 2024 - 10AM

## Future Proofing Rotary Webinar

By Lee Hollingsworth

Gifts to Rotary's Endowment play a vital role in providing districts with a reliable income stream to support projects and grants. **Join us this December** to explore how Rotary's Endowment complements Annual Giving to enhance district sustainability and support impactful initiatives. Panelists will discuss how a well-funded Endowment contributes to membership growth and community engagement by funding scholarships, humanitarian grants, and district grants. Additionally, the session will cover strategies for engaging your district leaders and club members in raising awareness of the Endowment's importance. Discover how effective use of Rotary's Endowment can drive long-term success and amplify your district's impact. [more]



Thank You For Supporting Laws of Life

## We exceeded our Meet Our Match campaign goal!

By Carol Gray Walker

We are delighted to announce that the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest has exceeded its Meet Our Match campaign goal, raising an incredible $80,911—far surpassing our $60,000 target! This success is a testament to the generosity and dedication of our donors, Rotary Club sponsors, and corporate partners who believe in the power of strong character values. As Helen Keller wisely said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” Your support inspires students to embrace character values that lead to lifelong success. Together, we are making a difference—one essay, one student, and one life lesson at a time.

[more]




Friday, December 6 @ 2PM

## North Cobb Peace Summit Series

By Ada Wikina
North Cobb Rotary peace builder Club invites you to the second 'Rotarians promoting Peace Summit. This will take place on the 6th of December 2024 via zoom. Use Meeting ID **810 9789 3217** and passcode **PEACE** to join the summit. Our conversation is with the Rotary Club of Umuahia, district 9142 in Nigeria ably represented by PDG Grace Okaro who is also an IEP peace ambassador and PAG Jude Ohanele, also an IEP ambassador. Details are in the flyer below. We hope you can join the conversation. [more]




Support Thomasville Rotary

## 1st Annual Big Impact Auction

By Mary Beth Donalson
Rotarians, friends, and business associates donated a wonderfully eclectic mix of high-end items for our first annual BIG IMPACT AUCTION. We're asking friends and neighbors near and far--to place your bids. **Everyone is invited to participate!**
Rotary Club of Thomasville does good work in the community and around the world. Auction proceeds will help fund those good works. Club projects range from monthly fresh produce market for those in need to honoring first responder heroes to celebrating those who serve in the National Guard and other branches of service to supporting senior adults. Youth projects, scholarships, and recognition programs also are a priority. Our aim is to make a big impact in as we work to make our community a better place for all. [more]




GRSP Update

# Oslo Summer 2025 GRSP Scholarship Opens for Georgia College Students

*by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director*

By Katheryne Fields
Norwegian Rotarians will partner with Georgia Rotary Student Program to sponsor two college students from Georgia to attend Oslo International Summer School. Dates will be June 28-July 15, 2025. Application is now open and closes Jan. 15, 2025. Applicants must have completed their first year of college by Spring 2025 and have the recommendation of Georgia Rotarian.
For questions regarding requirements or obtaining the Rotarian endorsement, please email **grsp@grsp.org** for assistance. Please reference the **attached Oslo flyer** for more information, dates for the summer session and the January 15, 2025 application deadline. Visit GRSP website: **www.grsp.org** to apply. [more]



Club News

## Carrolton Dawnbreakers Honors Local Veterans

By Sarah Powell

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




Club News

## Clubs Collaborate to Promote Peace

By Mandy Timmons

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

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

[more]




Club News

## Roswell Puts DG Gordon to Work!

By Kathryn Igou

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




Club News

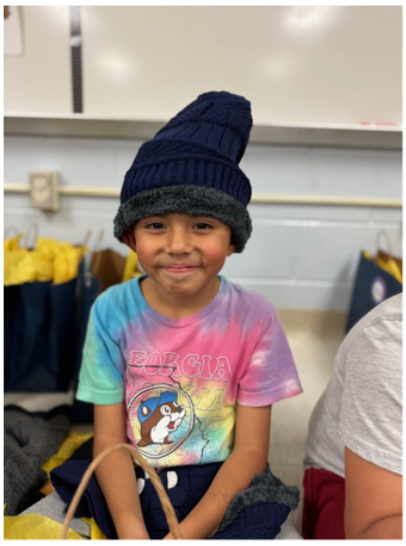
## Dan Amos of Aflac Inspires at Rotary Club of Columbus Meeting

By LeighAnn DiCesaris

The Rotary Club of Columbus had the honor of hosting Dan Amos, CEO of Aflac, at their weekly meeting. Attendees were captivated by Mr. Amos's presentation, which detailed Aflac's incredible journey from its humble beginnings to becoming a globally recognized brand with a remarkable 90% name recognition rate. Mr. Amos highlighted Aflac's roots in Columbus, Georgia, where the company was founded in 1955 by three visionary brothers—John, Paul, and Bill Amos. What started as a small insurance business grew into a powerhouse in the industry, transforming lives with its innovative supplemental insurance policies. Despite its global success, Aflac has remained deeply connected to its hometown, continually investing in the community and exemplifying the spirit of giving back. [more]

The After- Smiles from Mimosa Kids





Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## Roswell Grant Helps Keep Children Warm

By Kathryn Igou

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




## Join Us for Rotary Means Business in January

By Carter Stout

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



Club News

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

By Mandy Timmons

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



Club News

## Dunwoody Supports Family Food Needs for Thanksgiving

By Jackie Cuthbert

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

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

[more]



Club News

## Marietta Serves Record 153 Meals at MUST Ministries

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




Club News

## Douglas County Hears from RYLA Students

By Nell Boggs

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

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

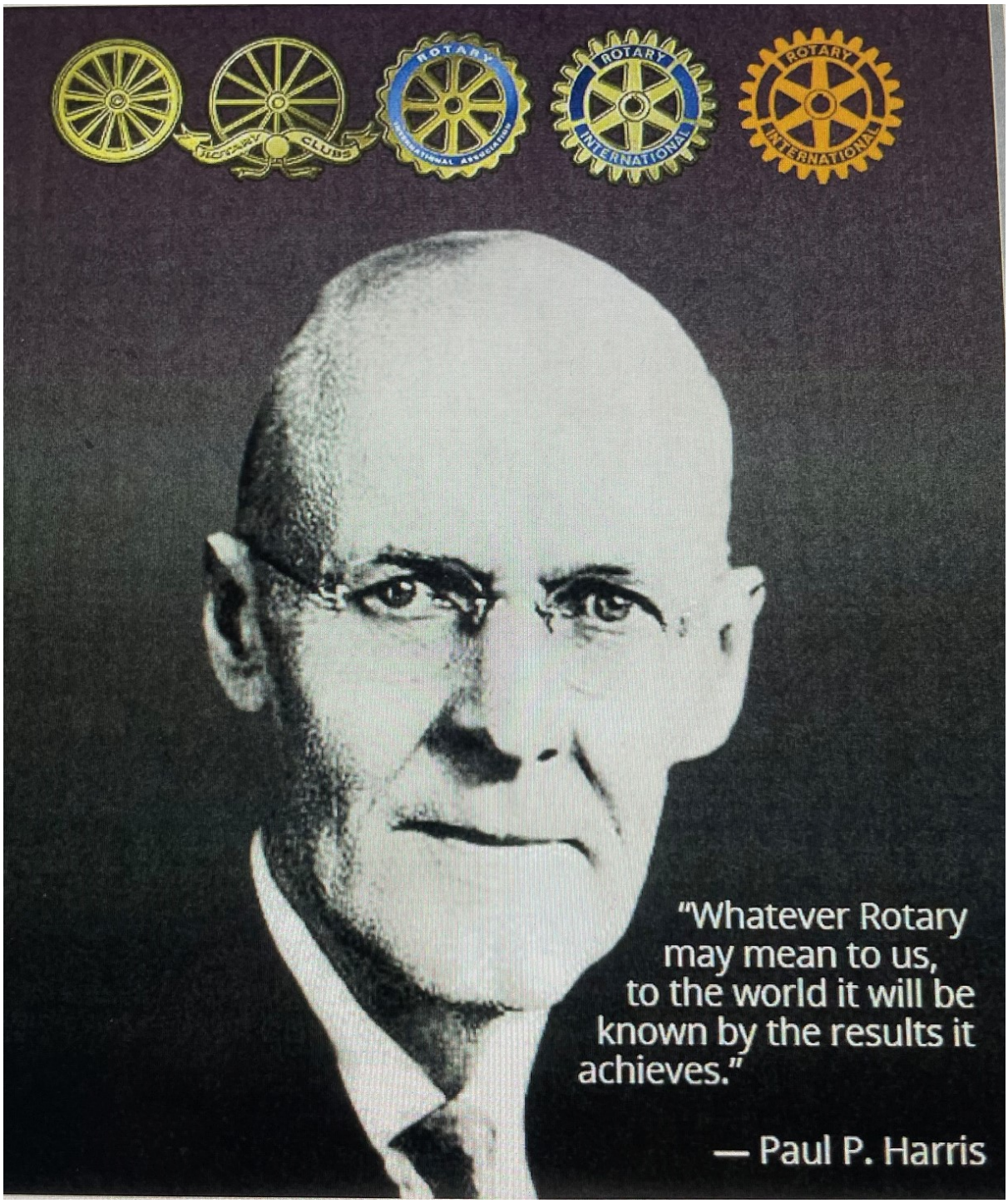
[more]




Club News

# Wreaths Spread Cheer and Support Good Works

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




End Polio Now

## Give the Gift of Polio Eradication

By Bob Hagan

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

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



Club News

## Peachtree City RCC and DG Gordon Visit Fire Station

By Mandy Timmons

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




## Peachtree City Rotarians Honored

By Mandy Timmons

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



Club News

## Roswell Hosts Multi-Generational Fishing Derby

By Kathryn Igou

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