# District Newsletter

JULY 3, 2026



From Our District Governor

## Welcome to Our New Rotary Year!

By Cynthia Edwards

It is an honor to serve as your District Governor for 2026–2027. I look forward to seeing the difference you continue to make in our communities and around the world, and to accomplishing even more together. Rotary International President Olayinka (Yinka) Hakeem Babalola's message for this year is **"Create Lasting Impact."** Our District theme is **Peace through Economics, Culture, and Education.** I also challenge every Rotarian to take **PRIDE** in all you do—**Personal Responsibility in Developing Excellence.** [more]

## LEADERBOARD

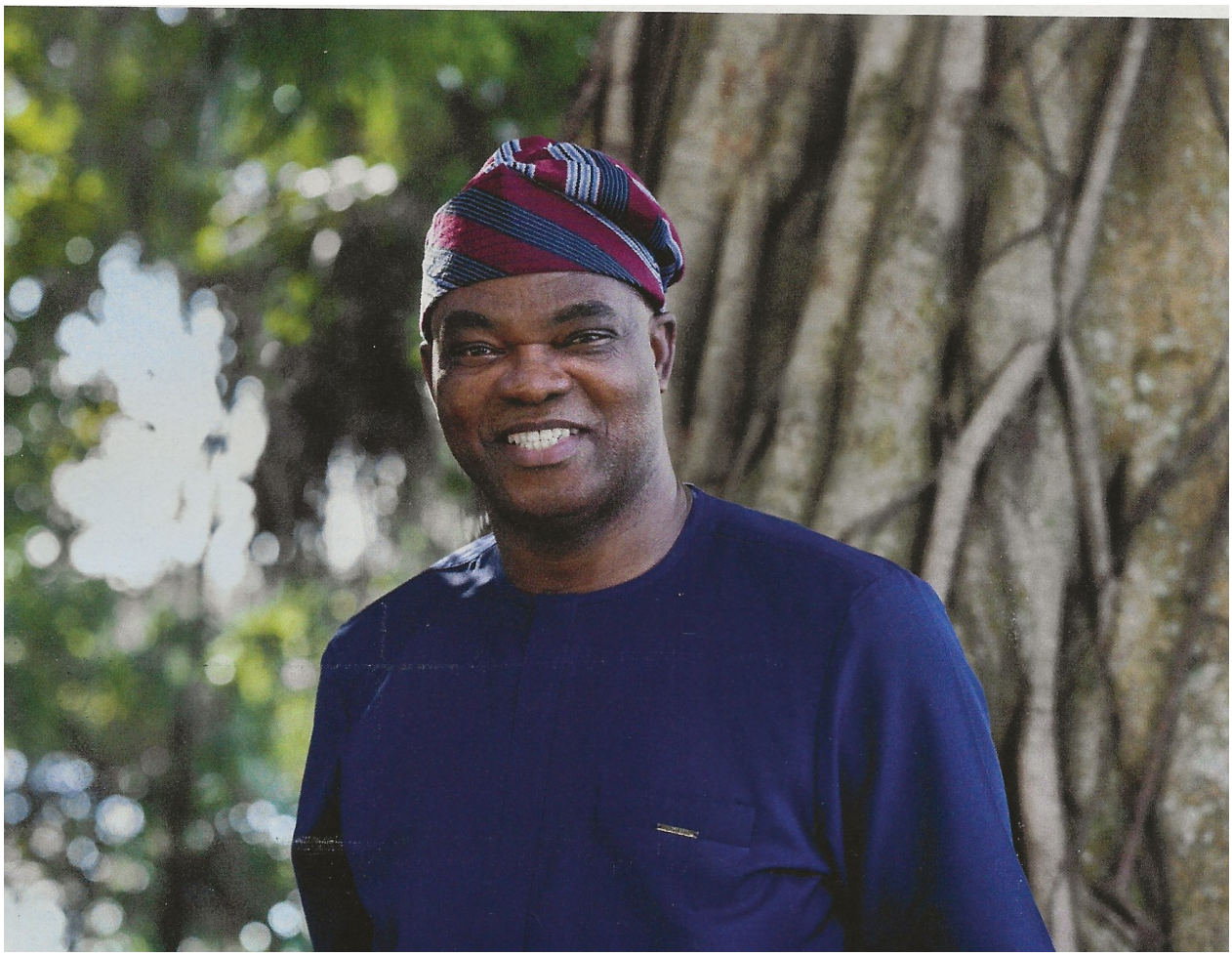
Check out the full district scoreboard

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 | **Cordele** | | |
| II | | | |
| III | | | |
| IV | **Columbus** | | |

## Key Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| Thursday, July 9th, 2026 | **North Atlanta Professional Alliance Governor Visit** |
| Tuesday, July 14th, 2026 | **Paulding County Governor Visit** |
| Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 | **Jackson-Butts County Governor Visit** |
| Thursday, July 30th, 2026 | **North Cobb County Governor Visit** |



From Our 2026-27 RI President

## Better Than Your Best

By Cynthia Edwards

Rotary has a way of surprising you. It surprises you when a stranger across the table becomes a lifelong friend. It surprises you when a small project in one neighborhood ripples outward in ways you never imagined. And it may surprise you when you realize that the person Rotary has changed most … is you.

That is why this year, we are called to harness the change within ourselves, to look to the future, and to ***Create Lasting Impact***.

[more]



July 19, 2026 | Piedmont Park

## Atlanta Is Making History — And We Need YOU There

By Dave McCleary
When the world gathers, Rotary shows up. As the FIFA World Cup closes out in Atlanta, District 6900 has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to stand on a global stage and declare: *human trafficking will not be tolerated in our city.* On **Sunday, July 19**, we are calling on every Rotarian in our district to roll up their sleeves, light a candle, and be part of something that will echo far beyond the final whistle.
**Sign Up for the Day of Service**
**Sign Up for the Candlelight Vigil**
[more]




## Nominations for 2029-2030 District 6900 District Governor Are Open

By Cynthia Edwards

**Nominations for our 2029-2030 District Governor are open**. We need your help in identifying qualified candidates and officially nominating them by resolution of your club. The certified club resolution form will be sent to club presidents along with Article 16 of the Rotary Manual of Procedure that outlines the role and responsibilities of a District Governor. Read on for more about the requirements, process and deadline for nominations. [more]



From Our (New) Past District Governor

## Thanks for a Year Well Done!

By Steve Ivory

In this month of **FIFA World Cup and Rotary Leadership Changeover,** I want to sincerely thank everyone for the honor and privilege of allowing me to serve you all as DG. We United for Good and had a very special and memorable year. You all continue to amaze me with all of your hard work, ideas, generosity and action to serve and help others so selflessly. I want to wish District Governor Cynthia Edwards and her leadership team the best as they work very hard to create lasting impact in the community and world. I want to thank the presidents for leading their clubs so effectively, the governor line and PDG Bob Hagan for mentoring me, the PDG's for selecting me, and the leadership team that always supported me and the district. It takes a village…… and June has been one of my most memorable months overall. It started off with ...

[more]



RYLA

## RYLA 2026 - A Rave Review

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 6-10 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University and included 104 high school students sponsored by 33 clubs. [more]




## Rotary International President Visits District 6900

By Steve Ivory
RI President Francesco Arezzo selected our district to visit immediately following the RI Convention in June in Taipei. DGN Amy Benton volunteered to be his weekend aide and our RI President and his wife Anna Maria had a packed schedule - including a district meeting hosted by the Rotary Club of Peachtree City, the Little White House in Warm Springs, a visit to our Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) session, and a special peace pole ceremony at The King Center in Atlanta. [more]




Our Rotary Foundation

## The Ides of June ... 2026!

By Bob Hagan

While the Ides of March have an ominous ring in ancient history - marking the March 15 assassination of Julius Caesar, it also marks the middle of a month - a time to look back at what we've accomplished and ahead to our goals for the future. This June, the 15th marked the end of the Rotary International Convention in the beautiful city of Taipei, Taiwan - with more than 37,000 Rotary friends. Rotary Foundation Chair Holger Knaack inspired us with all The Rotary Foundation has accomplished and can be - based on the support of all of us. I want to share some of this with you ... along with my favorite photo from the convention. [more]




GRSP Update

## GRSP Conclave Slated Aug. 21–23 in Savannah, Georgia!

By Katheryne Fields

Rotarians and guests are warmly invited to a very special Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2026–2027 and celebrate a historic milestone—our 80th Anniversary! This commemorative kickoff event will take place August 21–23, 2026, at The DeSoto Hotel in historic Savannah, Georgia. Learn more by reading the rest of this article, then **register at: https://www.grsp.org/conclave2026/**

[more]




District Conference 2027

## Join Us in Asheville for the 2027 District 6900 District Conference

By Cynthia Edwards

It's never too early to add District 6900's 2027 Conference to your calendar. Next year, we're headed to Asheville, NC from Thursday, April 22 to Sunday, April 25. The host hotels are the Embassy Suites and the Doubletree, located in downtown Asheville, both in the Hilton family of hotels. Asheville is a beautiful city nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains - known for its creative spirit, deep roots, and steady mountain rhythms. And we'll have lots of fun and inspirational activities planned for you to enjoy! Learn more about conference reservations and booking your rooms. Then mark your calendar! [more]




Rotary Youth Exchange

## D6900 Rotary Youth Exchange Students Ready for a Year Abroad

By Kelly Caudle

After many hours of training and preparation, including new language learning, our outbound Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) students officially "graduated." These high school students will spend the 2026-2027 school year in Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, and Sweden. The **Rotary Clubs of Columbus, Decatur, Marietta Metro, Newnan, and Roswell** are sponsoring this year's outbound students. [more]



*actual students benefiting from the “mBots Robots for Primary Schools” project, funded by the Foundation, Districts in Serbia, US, USAID*

Our Rotary Foundation

## Why Rotary Foundation Giving Matters

By Lee Hollingsworth
Look at these faces. Children and a teacher, at a desk absorbed in a laptop, a big a small thing. It is the beginning of everything we say we care about. Education is the one of the quietest and most powerful tool The Rotary Foundation funds. It's a new Rotary year and a great time to join the fellowship of Foundation donors. [more]











Laws of Life

## Registration Open for the Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon

By Carol Gray Walker

Registration is now open for the annual character education and partnership luncheon on Friday, August 21, from 11:30 AM-1:15 PM at the Emory Conference Center Hotel in Atlanta. The Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon is the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest's annual gathering for inspiration, professional learning, and connection. Educators, Rotarians, volunteers, and community partners come together to explore the impact of character education and reflective writing, hear powerful student and alumni stories, and strengthen partnerships that help students thrive.  Register for the Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon **here**. [more]



Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)

# Welcome Our New RLI Directors

By Walter Marria, Jr.

We are honored and excited to introduce Walter Marria Jr. and PDG Andre Marria as the new Co-Directors of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) Sunshine Division for District 6900. [more]

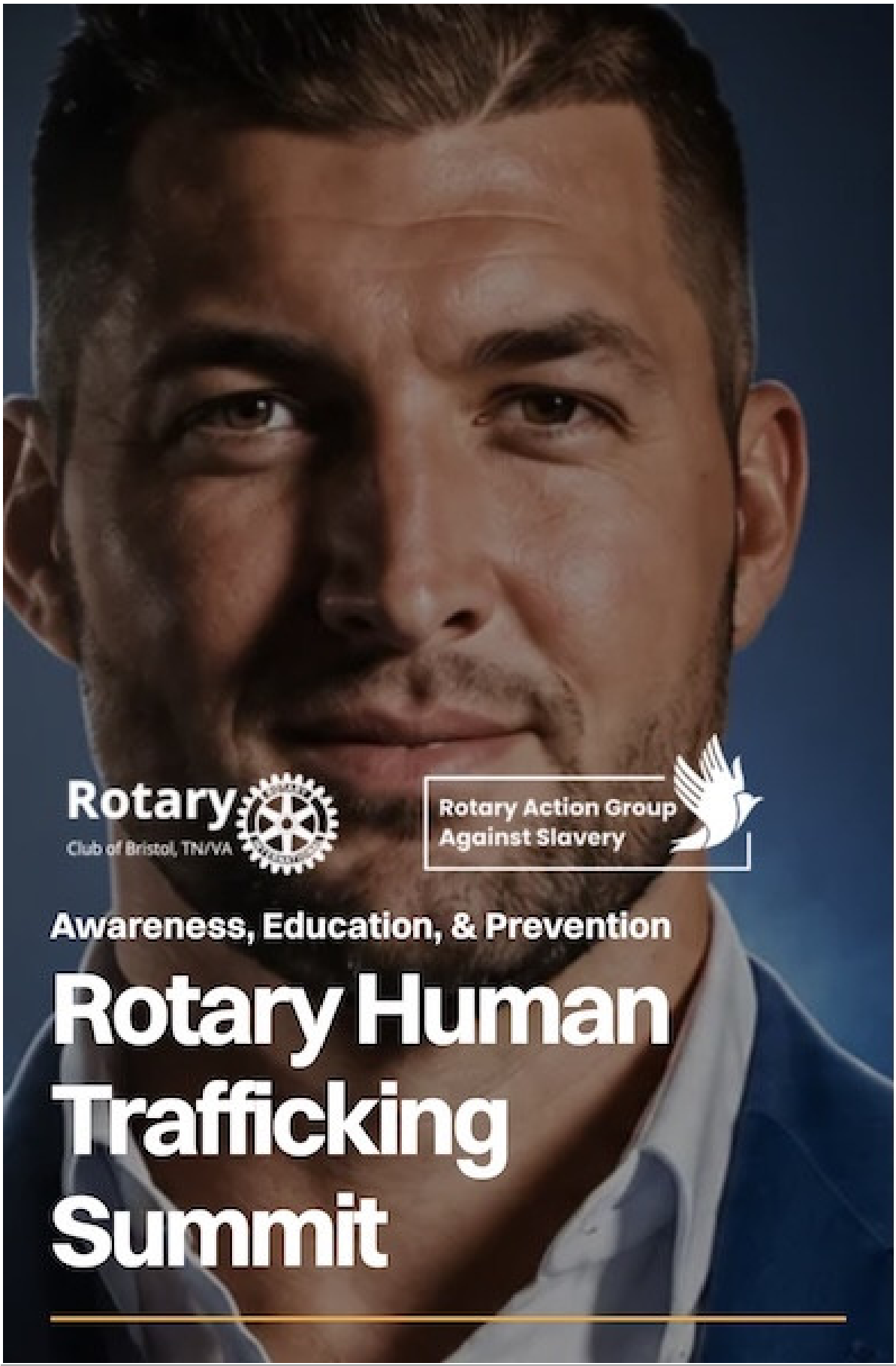



End Polio Now

## Polio at the Start of the Second Quarter of the 21st Century!

By Bob Hagan

Let the title of this month's Polio article sit with you for a moment. Can you believe that we have already traveled one quarter of the way through the 21 st century? It seems like just yesterday the world was petrified about the potential effects of Y2K and now we have already moved 25 years past it. [more]




Monday, July 27, 2026

## Hear Tim Tebow Speak at The Rotary Human Trafficking Summit

By Dave McCleary

Rotary District 6900 members are encouraged to join fellow Rotarians from across the region at the **Rotary Human Trafficking Summit** — a powerful, one-day event dedicated to awareness, education, and prevention of human trafficking. The summit will be held on **Monday, July 27, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at the **Marriott Meadowview Resort & Convention Center, 1901 Meadowview Pkwy, Kingsport, TN 37660**. [more]




## Peace Pole At The King Center

By Gordon Owens

On Saturday, June 20, Rotary District 6900 made history in one of the most meaningful locations in America — planting a permanent Peace Pole at the entrance to the Peace & Meditation Garden at The King Center in Atlanta, just steps from the tomb of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Eternal Flame that bears his legacy. The dedication ceremony was led by Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo, who joined district members, representatives from the City of Atlanta, and The King Center for the unveiling. The gathering was a testament to what Rotary looks like when it operates at its best — local commitment backed by global leadership, united around a single, powerful message. [more]




Club News

## District Investment Helps Transform Law Enforcement's Fight Against Human Trafficking

By LeighAnn DiCesaris

The **Rotary Club of Columbus** welcomed an important and timely program last week focused on the ongoing fight against human trafficking and the role specialized law enforcement training plays in protecting vulnerable individuals. The club heard from a panel of local law enforcement individuals who benefited from special training offered through a $15,000 grant available through the District's End Human Trafficking Committee. The Rotary Club of Columbus partnered in the effort by providing the venue and hospitality for the training event. [more]




Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## Update on Global Grant to End Spina Bifida

By Jon Yaeger

The **Rotary Club of North Atlanta (RCNA)** and their partners are in the third year of a planned five-year global grant project to reduce severe birth defects in Ethiopia, supported by District 6900 and The Rotary Foundation. Collaborators include Emory University, two other U.S. Rotary clubs, the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Central Mella and the ReachAnother Foundation. The preliminary results are encouraging. [more]



Club News

## Doggone Good Time Had By All!

By Shelley Hammell

40 volunteers, 25 minutes and 500 pounds of dog food.

**Buckhead Rotary** headed on the road to the Fulton County Animal Shelter for their Monday lunch and a short volunteer activity where we helped break up 40-pound bags of dog food into smaller bags to be distributed to foster families. This was a huge need and with the number of Buckhead Rotarian volunteers, we were able to accomplish what would have taken the staff two weeks to do. [more]



Club News

# Roswell Rotary Continues Tradition of Leadership and Fellowship

By Trummie Patrick, III

In June, the **Roswell Rotary Club** proudly continued one of its longest-standing traditions by hosting its annual Past Presidents' Dinner — a gathering that has brought together club leadership for more than 30 years. The evening serves as an opportunity for past presidents and the current Board of Directors to come together for fellowship, reflection, and leadership transition as the club prepares for a new Rotary year. More importantly, it provides an opportunity for incoming leadership to receive wisdom, encouragement, and perspective from those who have previously served in the role of club president. Amazingly, of the 29 living past Presidents of Roswell Rotary, 25 of them were in attendance! [more]




Club News

## Emory Druid Hills Celebrates Club Leadership

By Rani Singh

The **Rotary Club of Emory Druid Hills** recently celebrated its annual installation of officers - where District Governor Steve Ivory and incoming District Governor Cynthia Edwards led the installation of officers. Ramo Singh was installed as President, and outgoing President Bhairavi Nadgonde reflected on all the club accomplished during the 2025-26 Rotary year. [more]




Club News

## North Cobb Helps Feed and Refresh the Community

By Jose Gonzalez
Among all its projects, **North Cobb Rotarians** help friends at KSU CARE Services supporting Fast Start Academy who help advance children's education and provide them with free food to send home with the kids struggling with food insecurity, and partner with iLoveKare to deliver refreshing drinks to the Acworth Police Department during this summer's expected heatwaves. [more]