DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR SEPTEMBER, 2020

From Our District Governor

Happy Labor Day!

By Kirk Driskell

Late in the 19th century the labor movement's effort to create safe and standard work environments created what we celebrate today. Labor Day became a federal holiday on June 28, 1894 when President Grover Cleveland signed it into law.
In the late 1800's when the Industrial Revolution was in full swing many Americans were working 12 hours a day, 7 days a week in an effort to just make enough to get by. People of all ages were in mills, mines and factories in unsafe conditions with limited sanitary facilities, no breaks and poor air condition.
For many Americans, today symbolizes the end of the summer and is celebrated with family, friends, long weekend road trips, events, family reunions and celebrations. In years past, cities and towns across our District hosted parades, barbecues, firework shows and public gatherings in their communities. Labor Day weekend is supposed to be filled with relaxation as our responsibilities are suspended for three days. As this holiday weekend draws to an end, I am sure yours may have been different like many other's.
[more]

The Rotary Foundation

District 6900 Scholarship Team Needs Your Help

By Kathy Brandt

Do you know outstanding college senior students, or recent graduates, in your community? Will you recommend them for Rotary's $30,000 scholarship to attend graduate school abroad next year? If yes, please continue reading for four easy steps to take action! **Final application deadline is 12:00 noon, October 12, 2020.** [more]

Opportunity to Learn

Rotary Club of Emory-Clifton Invites You to Join the Third Annual Polio and Health Symposium

By Alan Janssen

The **Rotary Club of Emory-Clifton**, with presenting partner United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Georgia and partners Shriners Hospitals for Children and the Medical Association of Georgia, will virtually present "Overcoming the Challenges of COVID-19 to Achieve a Global Health Legacy" on Saturday, September 26. The program will begin at 8:30 AM with a welcome and the first speaker at 9:00 AM to facilitate live viewing in Africa and Europe. The symposium is open to the public and will be presented through a live webcast.
Online tickets are $60 for health professionals seeking continuing education credits. Rotarians and members of the public are invited to participate, and are welcome to make a donation to support the program. You may view the agenda and purchase tickets at: **www.emoryliftonrotary.com**.
[more]

The Rotary Foundation

Important Changes to Global Grant Funding from The Rotary Foundation Effective July 1, 2020

By Anne Glenn

Beginning this Rotary Year, your Rotary Foundation will no longer match Club Cash or cash donations from other sources when they are applied to finance Global Grant requests.
In prior years, TRF matched cash contributions for a Global Grant project from money in the World Fund at a 50% rate ($1.00 cash donation +$.50 World Fund Contribution = $1.50 for the project). And The Rotary Foundation matched DDF (District Designated Funds) from Rotary Districts around the world at a rate of 100% ($1.00 DDF + $1.00 World Fund Contribution = $2.00 for the project). This year, beginning with applications submitted after July 1, 2020, The Foundation will continue to match all DDF funds supporting a Global Grant at 100% but not match any cash used in the funding. What does that mean to you?
[more]

Membership

Engaging Members

By Jaclyn Donovan

As Membership Month (August) comes to a close, this is a great time to consider how people can engage with Rotary so they are gaining value from being members. Here are just a few ideas from Rotary on how to keep your members involved ...
[more]

GRSP Update

New GRSP District Officers and New Opportunities for GRSP

By Ian Bond

The Georgia Rotary Student Program is alive and well in District 6900! As most of you know by now for the first time since 1946-1947 Georgia Rotarians will not welcoming international students to our state, our colleges and universities and our Clubs. Like Rotary Youth Exchange and other international programs, GRSP has cancelled the class of 2020-2021 due to the global pandemic. However, there is much work to do in the Clubs, the District and State to ensure GRSP emerges into the post-pandemic environment stronger and more vital than ever.
The original mission of GRSP is needed in today's geopolitical scene more than ever before in its 74 year history: "World Peace Through Understanding" So 2020-2021 is a year to refocus, reimagine, reinvent and renew. There are some of the exciting opportunities for GRSP this year! [more]

Laws of Life

LAWS of Life Essay Contest Offers Valuable Tool to Schools

By Natalie Marshall

Schools face a daunting challenge for the 2020-21 school year -- how to ensure that every student can reach their potential in the current education environment. Each passing week presents new changes and the stress that goes with them. Most schools will focus on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs to help students get the year started from a positive place. The Georgia Laws of Life (GLL) Essay Contest provides high school teachers with a powerful tool to promote SEL along with writing skills.
GLL invites Rotary Clubs throughout Georgia to join the Laws of Life program. As a Contest Sponsor your Rotary Club support provides a life-changing program for educators and students which encourages students to reflect upon values like those in the Rotary Four-Way Test. Contest Sponsors may also serve as a School Partner, working directly with a school or schools in your local area. GLL invites clubs throughout Georgia to participate with or without being a school partner.
[more]

End Human Trafficking

Atlanta Rotary Reports on Its Anti-human Trafficking Task Force's Work

By Bob Hope

Ted Blum, chair of the Anti-human Trafficking Task Force of the Rotary Club of Atlanta, addressed the club on the results of its two-year program to work with Atlanta's top corporations to end human trafficking in the city. "We saw our role as coordinating, encouraging and assisting the companies in learning from each other and either establishing or expanding their efforts to end human trafficking," Blum said.
Ted is pictured here with Dan Cathy, CEO of Check-fil-A. The full story includes a link to the report. [more]

2020-21 District Awards

Celebrating the Work We Do

By Court Dowis, Jr.

Each spring at District Conference (or for 2019-20 at a summer event in Columbus), we recognize clubs and Rotarians for their accomplishments during the year. Of course, that requires clubs to let us know what they're doing. The District presents most awards in categories - based on club size - and for the first time in 2021, we have divided ... [more]

Club News

Striving to Do Better - Living the Four-Way Test

By Susan Backofen

As we enter our 100th year, the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** is placing renewed focus on Rotary's code of honor--the Four-Way Test. To define those efforts and bring the Test to life, we gathered input from members of the executive board and from members of the club.
President John Brown and his board are making the Four-Way Test part of its Code of Conduct. They also hope to weave the Test into the very fabric of our club and our individual members' lives. The intent is to strengthen our club and to encourage our members to apply the Four-Way Test to their work, family, social, and community lives. "The result will be a better club, serving our community in more meaningful ways," said President John. "I firmly believe that as our members commit more fully to living the Four-Way Test, we'll also become better people--in our businesses, our families, our friendships, our churches, and in every other way we connect to the community."
[more]

From Facebook

Atlanta West End Partners for Change

By Jackie Cuthbert

Atlanta West End Rotarian Neil Shorthouse is spending his retirement founding a new organization, Partners in Change (PIC), that pairs trained volunteer coaches with adults who want to assert greater control over circumstances and challenges holding them back. Neil has recruited several Atlanta West End Rotarians to join him in this important work.
[more]

Serving During the Pandemic

A Community Partnership to Engage Employers with Job Seekers

By Trummie Patrick

Every community in our nation is dealing with massive unemployment and big changes in the employment world. Many careers/jobs are no longer what they were. Unemployed workers must remake themselves for this new marketplace and develop new skills in order to survive. How do they get the coaching, resources and networking skills needed to make this happen? With surprisingly little time, the answer could be, your Rotary Club!
Since 2010, the Roswell Rotary Club and Roswell United Methodist Church Job Networking have teamed up to help hundreds of job seekers with workshops, personal networking, LinkedIn headshots, spiritual support, Attire to Hire and Mini Job Fairs. Now the meetings have gone virtual, and they continue to attract hundreds.
[more]

Serving During the Pandemic

Paulding County Feeds Hungry Children

By Roy Strickland

Paulding County Rotarians recently completed an amazing local project. They applied for and received a competitive district grant to help feed hungry children in their county during the time schools were closed for Covid-19. In partnership with District 6900, The Rotary Foundation, Chick-Fil-A, Prime Engineering, and CAYA Ministries, more than 1,300 bags containing 6,500 lunches (and an equivalent number of breakfast items) were sourced and delivered.
[more]

Serving During the Pandemic

Vinings Cumberland and Smyrna Join Forces for Schools

By Narayan Sengupta

Vinings Cumberland Rotary and **Smyrna Rotary** have both spent years supporting area public schools. Vinings Cumberland Past President Neill Ferrill led a recent ad hoc service project to provide backpacks and supplies for Compton Elementary School in Cobb County - raising $500 per club for $1,000 total. "Historically," says Ferrill, "this Title I elementary school relied heavily on the contributions of nearby churches to meet the needs of its 500 students. With church-giving disrupted in this COVID environment, the generous Rotarians of the Vinings Cumberland and Smyrna Clubs took on this need that would have otherwise left many of Compton Elementary students without critical school supplies as they work remotely."
[more]

Serving During the Pandemic

Tablets for Nursing and Rehab Center Patients

By Samantha Rosado

It was **Douglas County Rotary**'s pleasure to serve the Douglasville Nursing and Rehab Center on Thursday, August 13! The club was able to bless them with brand new tablets for the residents to use during isolation. These allow them to see their families and loved ones. Extreme Images (a small business in our community) helped us brand them with our logo and the facilities logo! Pictured left to right: Stromboli Carter, Samantha Rosado (Rotarian), Kristine Aibangee, Alicia Steel, Brenda Waters and John Baker (Rotarian).
[more]

Club News

Creating Rotary Reads ... A Story of the Lake Spivey/Clayton County Book Club

By Ron Swofford

In early 2018 while searching for quietly active ways to promote interaction among members, the Public Image Committee of the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County encouraged interested Rotarians to think about developing a book club. Several members responded and following a low key approach, they conducted their first session on February 19, 2018 (pictured here). The participants named the book club Rotary Reads, and in the belief that not many Rotary Clubs also include book clubs, chose to call themselves "pioneers."
The basic outline of Rotary Reads is that, as a general rule beginning in February, it meets between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm on the third Monday of every other month. During the first fifteen minutes or so of each meeting, the Pioneers discuss potential future selections with the understanding that the person who recommends a selection will be the moderator of the discussion that focuses on that book. All genres are welcome, including history, fiction, science, philosophy, biography, etc.
[more]

Club News

Starfish Ministries Project Serves India's Differently Disabled

By Lisa Thompson

In keeping with Rotary's commitment to Polio, the **Rotary Club of Meriwether County** and Starfish Ministries are serving the people of India affected by Polio and other life altering disabilities. The club celebrates this young man's new knee joint for this prosthesis - donated by our project partner FODAC and transported to India by Past President Bob Prater. The doctor who fitted this young college student was so excited by the opportunities that Rotary has provided these differently disabled patients, he has offered to sponsor a "Fitment camp" in November, where he would give about 50 prosthetic legs to individuals in need. Parts to make these 50 prosthetic legs will cost about $100 per prosthesis.
[more]

From Facebook

Share Your Story of Making a Difference on Facebook and in the Newsletter

By Jackie Cuthbert

Many clubs are doing great work in their communities even during the pandemic. This Rotary year, I have been visiting each club's Facebook page as part of creating the newsletter, to give clubs a spotlight for work they are doing. The photo collages that follow this article all come from that journey through Facebook.
I plan to continue this but would love to have you send in the stories you are proudest to share - about service projects, fundraising ideas in a difficult time, ways your club or individual Rotarians are making a difference in the community. **Our deadline is the 25th of each month for publication in the next month's newsletter.** We love pictures - and a paragraph or two on your story (or more if there's more you'd like to tell) in a Word document or typed in the body of an email.
[more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, September 8th, 2020	**Americus Board & Official Visit**
Wednesday, September 9th, 2020	**Cordele Board & Official Visit**
Thursday, September 10th, 2020	**Blakely Board & Official Visit**
Tuesday, September 15th, 2020	**Meriwether County (Warm Springs) Board & Official Visit**
Wednesday, September 16th, 2020	**Harris County Board & Official Visit**
Wednesday, September 16th, 2020	**LaGrange Board & Official Visit**
Thursday, September 17th, 2020	**West Point Board & Official Visit**
Monday, September 21st, 2020	**Douglas County Board & Official Visit**
Tuesday, September 22nd, 2020	**Paulding County Board & Official Visit**
Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020	**Vinings Cumberland Board & Official Visit**
Wednesday, September 23rd, 2020	**Atlanta Brasil Board & Official Visit**
Thursday, September 24th, 2020	**North Cobb Board & Official Visit**
Thursday, September 24th, 2020	**South Cobb Board & Official Visit**
Friday, September 25th, 2020	**Dunwoody Board Meeting & Official Visit with District Governor Kirk Driskell**
Monday, September 28th, 2020	**Senoia Board & Official Visit**
Tuesday, September 29th, 2020	**North Columbus Board & Official Visit**
Wednesday, September 30th, 2020	**Columbus Board & Official Visit**
Thursday, October 1st, 2020	**Muscogee-Columbus Board & Official Visit**
Monday, October 5th, 2020	**Buckhead Board & Official Visit**
Tuesday, October 6th, 2020	**Fayette Daybreak Board & Official Visit**
Wednesday, October 7th, 2020	**Lake Spivey / Clayton County Board & Official Visit**

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From Our District Governor

Happy Labor Day!

Late in the 19th century the labor movement's effort to create safe and standard work environments created what we celebrate today. Labor Day became a federal holiday on June 28, 1894 when President Grover Cleveland signed it into law.

In the late 1800's when the Industrial Revolution was in full swing many Americans were working 12 hours a day, 7 days a week in an effort to just make enough to get by. People of all ages were in mills, mines and factories in unsafe conditions with limited sanitary facilities, no breaks and poor air condition.

For many Americans, today symbolizes the end of the summer and is celebrated with family, friends, long weekend road trips, events, family reunions and celebrations. In years past, cities and towns across our District hosted parades, barbecues, firework shows and public gatherings in their communities. Labor Day weekend is supposed to be filled with relaxation as our responsibilities are suspended for three days. As this holiday weekend draws to an end, I am sure yours may have been different like many other's. In this time of uncertainty and transition, it is more important than ever to be able to take some time to enjoy the present. With many planned annual events being canceled and our traditions being disrupted, let us not lose sight of all that we have to be grateful for in this day.

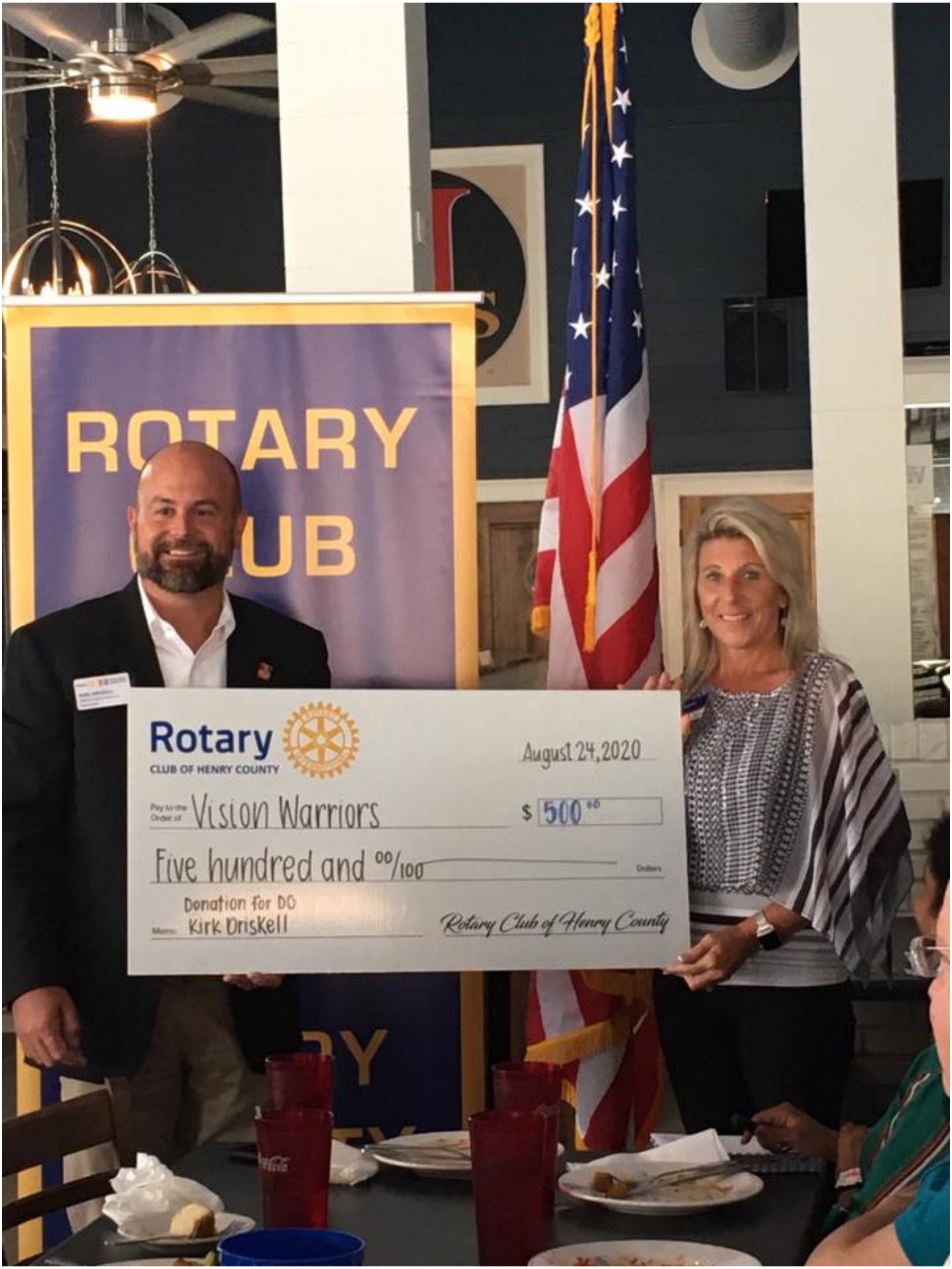
On this Labor Day while there are millions of Americans out of work, facing food insecurity and housing insecurity, let us remember those that have lost so much. As we reflect on our communities needs I am confident that D6900 Rotarians will continue to answer the call of their communities' needs. For Rotarians, our labor of service is able to provide the basic needs of those in our communities at the time of their greatest need.

As I reflect on what we do as a District and Rotarians, I am continuously amazed by your endless willingness to serve those in need. I am challenged daily to think bigger, do more and to keep going. I believe that Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said it best, "All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity."

Happy Labor Day, DG Kirk

Editor's Note: Facebook photos from DG Kirk's visits with our clubs (top to bottom) - ***Johns Creek North Fulton*** *welcomes DG Kirk;* ***Henry Count****y presents DG Kirk with a $500 check for Vision Warriors; fellowship with the* ***Camilla*** *club*

PHOTOS:


ROTARY
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Rotary
CLUB OF HENRY COUNTY
August 24, 2020
Pay to the Order of Vision Warriors
$ 500 00
Five hundred and 00/100
Dollars
Donation for DO
Memo Kirk Driskell
Rotary Club of Henry County

Posted by Kirk Driskell
September 7, 2020

The Rotary Foundation

District 6900 Scholarship Team Needs Your Help

Applicant Deadline is October 12, 2020 at Noon

Do you know outstanding college senior students, or recent graduates, in your community?

Will you recommend them for Rotary's $30,000 scholarship to attend graduate school abroad next year?

If yes, please

1. Send them the **informational flyer (you can download from here)**
2. Ask them to visit **our District web site** and review Rotary's requirements, consider the opportunity
3. Contact your Rotary Club or the D6900 Scholarship Committee at the address listed on p. 2
4. Apply. DO it now.

Final application deadline is 12:00 noon, October 12, 2020

Posted by Kathy Brandt
September 3, 2020

Opportunity to Learn

Rotary Club of Emory-Clifton Invites You to Join the Third Annual Polio and Health Symposium

Sept. 26, 2020 starting at 8:30 a.m. ... Virtually from Atlanta

The **Rotary Club of Emory-Clifton** (**www.emorycliftonrotary.org**), with presenting partner United Advanced Practice Registered Nurses of Georgia (UAPRN, **www.uaprn.enpnetwork.com**) and partners Shriners Hospitals for Children (**www.shrinershospitalsforchildren.org**) and the Medical Association of Georgia (**www.mag.org**), will virtually present this Third Annual Health and Polio Symposium on Saturday, Sept. 26, 2020 - "Overcoming the Challenges of COVID-19 to Achieve a Global Health Legacy" is open to the public and will be presented through a live webcast.

In this program, we will review the challenge of the COVID-19 pandemic to the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, and you will learn about a promising new polio vaccine, and be updated on the status of acute flaccid myelitis (a polio-like syndrome). You will also hear about progress in the development of a vaccine to prevent COVID-19, and the impact of this disease on cardiovascular health and delivery of health care in general. You will see how the capacity built by global polio eradication strengthened the fight against the pandemic and prepared the public health workforce to prevent COVID-19 once an effective vaccine is available.

Online tickets are $60 for health professionals seeking continuing education credits. Rotarians and members of the public are invited to participate, and are welcome to make a donation to support the program. You may view the agenda, purchase tickets and make donations at: **www.emorycliftonrotary.com.** The program will **begin at 8:30 AM with the first speaker at 9:00 AM** to facilitate live viewing in Africa and Europe.

Speakers include:

- Carlos del Rio, MD, infectious disease expert and distinguished professor of medicine at Emory University
- John F. Vertefeuille, PhD, MHS, polio eradication branch chief of the CDC Polio Emergency Response
- Carol Pandak, EdD., director of PolioPlus, Rotary's global effort to eradicate polio
- Patrice Harris, MD, immediate past president of the American Medical Association and the first African-American Women to hold this prestigious position

- Stephen L. Cochi, MD, senior advisor to the director of the Global Immunization Division, Center for Global Health
- Scott H. Kozin, MD, chief of staff of Shriners Hospitals for Children
- Laurence S. Sperling, MD, founder and director of Preventive Cardiology at Emory Clinic
- Ashley Blackmon, MS, FNP-C, APRN, Advanced Heart Failure and Heart Transplant at Piedmont Atlanta Hospital
- Lisa Eichelberger, RN, PhD, Dean and professor of the College of Health at Clayton State University in Morrow, Georgia

"Rotary has been a major partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative along with CDC, WHO, UNICEF and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation since 1988," said Dr. Isam Vaid, president of the Rotary Club of Emory-Clifton. "Through this coordinated effort, the disease has been eliminated in all but two countries. However, the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic is presenting unprecedented challenges to polio eradication, and potentially could lead to a reoccurrence of the disease. The symposium's speakers will update participants on the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, including Acute Flaccid Myelitis (AFM), known as the "new polio", as well as detail the latest developments on the treatment and prevention of COVID-19 and how the pandemic has affected worldwide and domestic polio eradication. The symposium is targeted to Rotarians, especially those working in healthcare, but it is open to anyone who is interested in this topic," he said.

"UAPRN is pleased to serve as presenting partner in this important annual event," said Michelle Nelson, PhD, RN, FNP-BC, state president of UAPRN Georgia. "Not only are there numerous lessons to be learned from the ongoing work to eradicate polio, but there will also be information presented on therapeutics that can be applied to rural and medically underserved areas. This is of particular interest to Georgia's Advanced Practice Registered Nurses, since we are on the front lines in the fight against COVID-19, and we often care for patients in areas where there are few doctors and no nearby hospitals."

Posted by Alan Janssen
September 3, 2020

Club News

Play Bingo with Stone Mountain and the Community Wins!

Rotary

Virtual Bingo

The Rotary Club of Stone Mountain is hosting an afternoon of fun, games, and prizes!

Rotary Club of Stone Mountain

B	I	N	G	O
14	30	41	53	74
4	28	35	57	68
10	23	FREE SPACE	46	75
8	16	43	48	70
12	27	39	56	66

myfreebingocards.com

CASH GRAND PRIZE

Join us

When: Saturday, September 12, 2020 *Time:* 2:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.
Where: Online via Zoom
Why: Fundraiser to support Club's service projects and education initiatives, including college scholarships
How: Register via Eventbrite by Thursday, September 10, 2020
Link: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/virtual-bingo-tickets-117327103525
Contribution: $25 for 2 Bingo Cards / $50 for 5 Bingo Cards

For more information, contact Cynthia Dorsey Edwards, President via StoneMountainRotary@gmail.com or by phone at 770-634-6690

Space Limited. Register Early!

© xmple.com

Posted by Gillian Leggett

September 3, 2020

The Rotary Foundation

Important Changes to Global Grant Funding from The Rotary Foundation Effective July 1, 2020

Beginning this Rotary Year, your Rotary Foundation will no longer match Club Cash or cash donations from other sources when they are applied to finance Global Grant requests.

In prior years, TRF matched cash contributions for a Global Grant project from money in the World Fund at a 50% rate ($1.00 cash donation +$.50 World Fund Contribution = $1.50 for the project). And The Rotary Foundation matched DDF (District Designated Funds) from Rotary Districts around the world at a rate of 100% ($1.00 DDF + $1.00 World Fund Contribution = $2.00 for the project).

This year, beginning with applications submitted after July 1, 2020, The Foundation will continue to match all DDF funds supporting a Global Grant at 100% but not match any cash used in the funding.

For District 6900 clubs planning to request Global Grant programs this year, the new Foundation formula will have very little impact due to the unique way we use Club funds plus District DDF. District 6900 uses our DDF Funds to equally match your Club's Cash when it is pledged to a Global Grant Project you selected ($1.00 Club Cash + $1.00 District DDF = $2.00 for the Global Grant). When the Global Grant Application is actually approved by the Rotary Foundation, District 6900 pays the entire project cost as we pledged to the Grant (Club Cash + DDF Match) with DDF funds. In turn, The Rotary Foundation matches DDF funds at the 100% rate. This means that every $1.00 your Club pledged to the Global Grant has increased 4 times ($2.00 from the District + $2.00 from World Fund = $4.00 for the project).

Since the project costs are paid with DDF, District 6900 asks all Global Grant supporting Clubs to contribute their pledged funds to TRF's Annual Fund SHARE. By doing this, you are supporting future GG projects three years in the future when one-half of these 2020-2021 contributions return to our District as DDF in 2023-2024. So for example, for a project this Rotary year:

- You have $10,000 from the club pledged to support a Global Grant. When the Global Grant Application is approved, you donate that money to TRF's Annual Fund SHARE.
- With its available DDF dollars, the District matches your Club's $10,000 and pays $20,000 (your $10,000 + $10,000 from District DDF) for the Grant.
- TRF adds $20,000 to match D6900 DDF.
- Because your $10,000 was contributed to TRF's Annual Fund SHARE this Rotary year, half of that ($5,000) comes back to the District as DDF in 2023-2024.

District 6900 is only able to maintain our funding formula through amazingly generous donations to The Rotary Foundation from Clubs and Individual Rotarians just like us across the District over many, many years. Isn’t it great to be a Rotarian in District 6900? Please keep voting with your generous hearts.

Posted by Anne Glenn
August 28, 2020

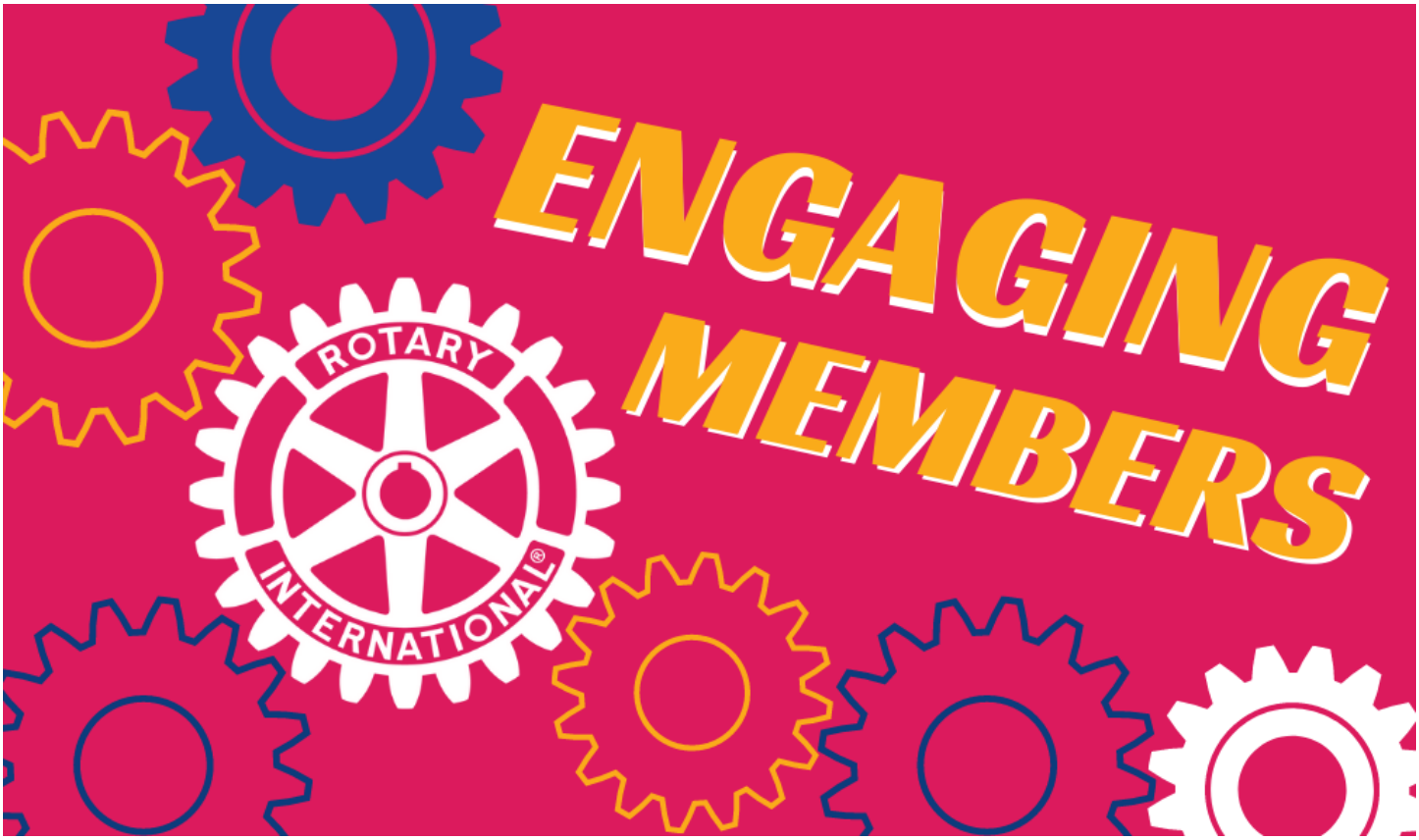
Membership

Celebrating New Members

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
September 3, 2020

Membership

Engaging Members



As Membership Month (August) comes to a close, this is a great time to consider how people can engage with Rotary so they are gaining value from being members. Here are just a few ideas from Rotary on how to keep your members involved:

"Travel" around the world with Rotary. Many Rotary and Rotaract clubs are holding virtual events and meetings instead of gathering in person. Now is a perfect time to visit! **Find a club**, see if it is meeting online, and request an online meeting invitation link. Whether you are visiting a different club in your hometown or a club halfway across the world, you will meet new people and enjoy a new Rotary experience.

Get creative with your own meetings and events. If your club is thinking about moving club meetings online exclusively or simply offering a virtual option, look at the **Meeting Online learning topic** (My Rotary login required) for tips on virtual engagement.

Learn something new. You can develop and practice your communication skills with new courses in the **Learning Center** (My Rotary login required). The **Develop a Speech** course teaches ways to organize a speech that will leave a lasting impression on your audience. The **Deliver a Speech** course focuses on the use of body language and the effective use of vocal variety. These courses, developed exclusively for Rotary members by Toastmasters International, are part of a series on leadership development.

Make sure your club members are heard. To be engaged, members need to feel they are getting value out of their Rotary experience. Clubs should ask their members what they are interested in and how they would like to be involved. Conduct a **member satisfaction survey**, host a virtual group discussion, or brainstorm new ideas at an upcoming club meeting. Then start planning how you will use those ideas.

Don’t ignore your club’s challenges. Answer a few questions in the **Club Planning Assistant** to get

solutions that are tailored to the issues you are facing. Talk with others in your club about how to put those solutions into practice.

Find more membership resources in **My Rotary**.

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
September 3, 2020

GRSP Update

New GRSP District Officers and New Opportunities for GRSP

The Georgia Rotary Student Program is alive and well in District 6900!

As most of you know by now for the first time since 1946-1947 Georgia Rotarians will not welcoming international students to our state, our colleges and universities and our Clubs. Like Rotary Youth Exchange and other international programs, GRSP has cancelled the class of 2020-2021 due to the global pandemic. However, there is much work to do in the Clubs, the District and State to ensure GRSP emerges into the post-pandemic environment stronger and more vital than ever.

The original mission of GRSP is needed in today's geopolitical scene more than ever before in its 74 year history: "World Peace Through Understanding"

So 2020-2021 is a year to refocus, reimagine, reinvent and renew. Here are some of the exciting opportunities for GRSP this year:

1. Complete the implementation of the GRSP Strategic Plan developed under the leadership of the Fanning Institute at UGA
2. Move the GRSP Endowment from the operating organization to it's own 501 C 3 organization, the Georgia Rotary Student Program Foundation
3. Select the class of 2021-2022. Clubs may wish to reoffer their scholarship to their 2020-2021 student.
4. Inform Clubs about new ways to sponsor students that are more affordable, especially for smaller Clubs. This is the "pilot program" pioneered in District 6900.
5. Prepare for the 75th Anniversary GRSP Conclave to be hosted by the RC of Thomasville in August 2021.

Finally, with the beginning of the new Rotary year all three GRSP District Officers changed. First, many thanks to outgoing District Chair, Lynn Clarke (RC of Bremen) and outgoing District Directors, Bill Smith (RC of Brookhaven) and Ian Bond (RC of Columbus). For the last six years this has been a strong and energetic team.

Meet the new District GRSP Officers approved by the GRSP Trustees for 6900:

- **District Chair: Ian Bond (RC of Columbus)**, pictured with GRSP students from Sweden, Belgium and Germany at a dinner hosted by Columbus State University. Julie and I have been a multiple host family and I have served six years as a Trustee and another six years as a GRSP District Director.
- **District Director: Aadu Allpere (RC of Buckhead)**. Aadu has been a host family and served for six years as a Trustee. He will be supporting the 6900 Trustees in the Atlanta metro area and West Georgia north of I-20.
- **District Director: George Siggins (RC of Henry County),** pictured here introducing the joy of gliding to GRSP students from Brazil and Colombia. George has been a host family, served for six years as a Trustee and three years as an Advisory Trustee. He will be supporting the 6900 Trustees outside the metro area and south of I-20 all the way to the Florida border.

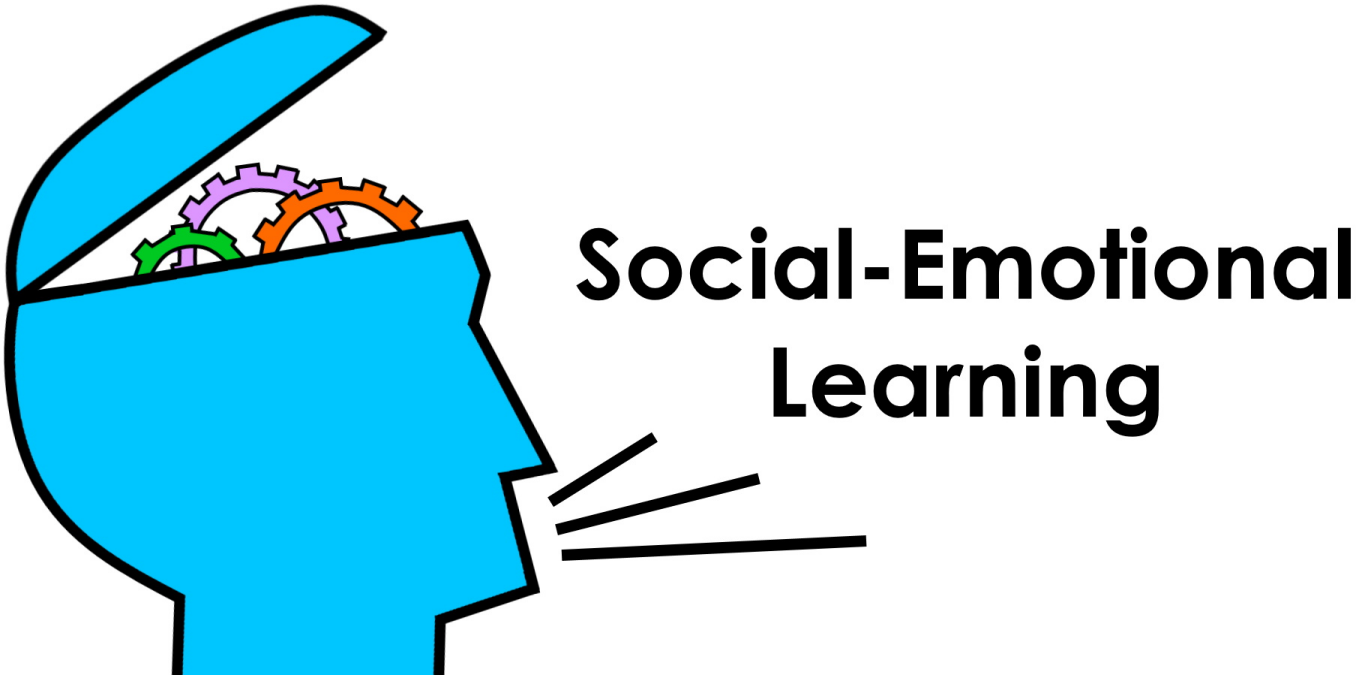
PHOTOS:

Posted by Ian Bond

September 3, 2020

Laws of Life

LAWS of Life Essay Contest Offers Valuable Tool to Schools



Schools face a daunting challenge for the 2020-21 school year -- how to ensure that every student can reach their potential in the current education environment. Each passing week presents new changes and the stress that goes with them. Most schools will focus on Social-Emotional Learning (SEL) programs to help students get the year started from a positive place. The Georgia Laws of Life (GLL) Essay Contest provides high school teachers with a powerful tool to promote SEL along with writing skills.

According to Edweek, a recently released survey of high schoolers found that a large share of teens struggled with depression, anxiety, and unhappiness during the school closures due to the coronavirus pandemic this spring. The Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning (CASEL) offers an SEL guide that lays out what schools can do to help students develop the emotional skills to build personal relationships and academic partnerships. This enables them to endure personal challenges, including missed milestones, economic instability, racism, and even the death of loved ones. Research shows strong emotional health leads to improved academic outcomes.

Exploring life lessons in the development of the Laws of Life essay fosters self-awareness for students. As they peer review their work with classmates, students feel connected and supported. “All my teachers are amazed at how the assignment to write a Laws of Life essay opens up a dialogue with their students,” said Melissa Giggey, GLL Contest Chair at West Hall High School, “It is the best way to earn trust and create a classroom environment. We always do it at the beginning of the school year.”

“Social, Emotional and Ethics Learning is proven most successful when repeated and supported by a broad network of family, community and social reinforcements,” said Carol Gray Walker, Executive Director for Georgia Laws of Life. “This perfectly describes the community network of Georgia Laws of

Life. Students, their teachers, peers, family, friends and local Rotarians are engaged in and impacted by the contest."

To further support teachers and students in this distance learning era, GLL will implement online training for teachers and their Rotary Club partners as well as online essay submission and judging. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools and students will rely more heavily on technology for the 2020-2021 school year. Students may spend less time in the school building, so teachers will stay connected via online classroom platforms. A grant from the John Templeton Foundation provides some financial support for this timely technology investment.

GLL invites Rotary Clubs throughout Georgia to join the Laws of Life program. As a Contest Sponsor your Rotary Club support provides a life-changing program for educators and students which encourages students to reflect upon values like those in the Rotary Four-Way Test. Contest Sponsors may also serve as a School Partner, working directly with a school or schools in your local area. GLL invites clubs throughout Georgia to participate with or without being a school partner.

The average cost per school, including student and teacher prize money, school contest materials, essay publication, student recognition, and administrative costs is approximately $1,200 per year. Your support provides the program free of charge to Georgia Schools.

For more on serving as a GLL Contest Sponsor or School Partner simply complete a **Sponsorship Form** or contact Executive Director, Carol Gray Walker at carol@georgialawsoflife.org, 404-590-8039.

Posted by Natalie Marshall
September 3, 2020

End Human Trafficking

Atlanta Rotary Reports on Its Anti-human Trafficking Task Force's Work

Ted Blum, chair of the Anti-human Trafficking Task Force of the **Rotary Club of Atlanta**, addressed the club on the results of its two-year program to work with Atlanta's top corporations to end human trafficking in the city. "We saw our role as coordinating, encouraging and assisting the companies in learning from each other and either establishing or expanding their efforts to end human trafficking," Blum said.

While several clubs have worked with government entities and have their own approaches to solid programs, the Atlanta club focused on CEOs, where the club has its unique influence. Blum joined with Delta CEO Ed Bastian two years ago to host a breakfast of the CEOs of the top companies in Atlanta, and at the breakfast, the CEOs pledged to make ending human trafficking a top priority of their companies. More than 50 companies representing thousands of employees met at a series of club hosted seminars where the companies learned from each other and addressed best practices. All of the major companies in Atlanta participated, including Delta, The Coca-Cola Company, Home Depot, IHG, Georgia-Pacific, UPS, Chick-fil-A and others.

Dave McCleary of Roswell, who is the Rotary International Chair of its Action Group to End Slavery was honored by Atlanta with its Service Above Self Award, and regular programs and updates took place at club meetings. Former U.S. Attorney General Sally Yates was catalyst to the Atlanta club's efforts when she spoke to the club and encouraged it to get involved. After he program, the club gathered and establish a new and larger facility for Covenant House. That opened the door and was followed by a presentation from the CEO of National Center for Missing and Exploited Children. Once the task force was formed two years ago and Blum selected as chair, the decision was made to focus on the corporate community, where the club has its greatest involvement and influence. You can **read the report delivered to the club.**

Ted is pictured with: 1) Dan Cathy, CEO of Chick-fil-A, 2) Ed Bastian, CEO of Delta Air Lines, and 3) Past Atlanta Rotary President Clark Dean and Christian Fisher, CEO of Georgia Pacific.

PHOTOS:

#GET SIF
ONBOARD

Posted by Bob Hope
September 3, 2020

2020-21 District Awards

Celebrating the Work We Do

Each spring at District Conference (or for 2019-20 at a summer event in Columbus), we recognize clubs and Rotarians for their accomplishments during the year. Of course, that requires clubs to let us know what they're doing. The District presents most awards in categories - based on club size - and for the first time in 2021, we have divided clubs into five categories (in the past there were four):

- Category 1: 1-30 members
- Category 2: 31-59 members
- Category 3: 60-99 members
- Category 4: 100-149 members
- Category 5: (new) 150 members or more

You can learn more about the awards, and what your club needs to collect and submit on the **2021 Awards page on the district website**. Use this link or click on the 2021 Awards button at the top of the district web site.

DG Kirk is looking forward to seeing the accomplishments and service projects that your club creates this Rotary year 2020-2021 through the District 6900 Governor Citation, the Rotary International (RI) Club Citation, and your club's community service projects. Please be sure to download and review all the Award information as soon as possible so you and your club can prepare for the awards season. Feel free to email any questions to District Awards Chair Court Dowis at Courtdowisdg1819@gmail.com.

Posted by Court Dowis, Jr.
September 3, 2020

Club News

Striving to Do Better - Living the Four-Way Test

By Marta Jones Turner

Contributors: Nathaniel Abrams, John Brown, Ed Elam, Cameron Jahnke, Andy Jones, Andre' Marria, Fran Milberg, Nate Tyler, Scott Rich, Angela Williamson

As we enter our 100th year, the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** is placing renewed focus on Rotary's code of honor--the Four-Way Test. To define those efforts and bring the Test to life, we gathered input from members of the executive board and from members of the club.

President John Brown and his board are making the Four-Way Test part of its Code of Conduct. They also hope to weave the Test into the very fabric of our club and our individual members' lives. The intent is to strengthen our club and to encourage our members to apply the Four-Way Test to their work, family, social, and community lives.

"The result will be a better club, serving our community in more meaningful ways," said President John. "I firmly believe that as our members commit more fully to living the Four-Way Test, we'll also become better people—in our businesses, our families, our friendships, our churches, and in every other way we connect to the community."

What is the Four-Way Test? It's twenty-four words. Only twenty-four words. But, taken to heart and put into action, they are powerful words that form a foundation for truth, justice, friendliness, and helpfulness. At its core, the Test focuses on doing what is right.

The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

- Is it the truth?
- Is it fair to all concerned?

- Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
- Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Created in 1932 by Chicago Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor when he took charge of a company facing bankruptcy, the Four-Way Test became a guide for that company and its employees. Their ultimate business success is credited to the simple philosophy.

In 1943, Rotary adopted Taylor's Four-Way Test as watchwords for Rotarians worldwide. The Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It is one of the world's most widely quoted statements of business ethics.

Rotary Clubs around the world have worked through almost eight decades to ingrain the Four-Way Test in members' daily lives. The Thomasville club is no exception. A silk-screened banner of the Test hangs behind the speaker's podium at every meeting—it's been a tradition for at least 40 years. Wallet cards and desk placards, discussions at fireside chats, reciting the Test at club meetings, special speakers and an annual four-Way Test Award honoring a club member are among the methods the Thomasville Club has used to encourage an understanding of and adherence to the Test.

Today, as our club renews emphasis on the Four-Way Test, we asked Rotarians to summarize how they view the Test and what it means to them. Here's what they said:

- Nathaniel: *"Without the preamble 'of the things we think, say or do' there is no value in a recitation of the 1,2,3,4 of the Test. An example of someone who lived the Four-Way Test is John Lewis with his 80 years of service to others without scandal, moral missteps, or the acquisition of wealth via his position--only service to others above self."*
- John: *"It lays down not only the way Rotarians should conduct their business, but the way they should conduct their lives."*
- Cameron: *"The essence and the core foundation of the Four-Way Test is truth and fairness. When those core ideals are enacted, the remaining values of the Test occur naturally. At a personal level, following the Test is a self-check on an individual's character. Living by the Four-Way Test builds an ethical business culture and cultivates personal and meaningful relationships."*
- Andy: *"Truth matters. Truthfulness is next to Godliness. My Mother taught me and my siblings to treat all people the same. We need to help each other no matter what or who they are. That's the essence of the Test."*
- Andre': *"Character that is authentic. My husband Walter is my living example of the Test. Walter's life reflects JOY, or J-Jesus, O- others, and Y- yourself. He always put our family first and every day he works in service to others in the ministry."*
- Fran: *"It's the core value for Rotary and life. I negotiate in my professional life and I apply all four questions to my negotiating, especially, 'Is it fair to all concerned and is it the truth.'"*
- Scott: *"It is an honor code for adults. In high school my daughter wrote an essay about how important it was to always tell the truth. She said I was the one who instilled that belief in her. She got an "A"!"*
- Nate: *"'North Star' comes to mind. It's how I separate the noise in the echo chamber of life. When confronted with confusion, I pull out my North Star, the Four-Way Test. The Test always corrects and focuses my thinking. During a difficult time in my career, when assaults were made to undermine the hard work of loyal and dedicated fellow employees, the Four-Way Test guided me as I spoke truth to power."*
- Angela: *"To me it means trust. Honesty allows me to trust someone no matter the situation. I knew Nathaniel had a document shredding business, but thought it was for businesses only. When my sister told me to call Abrams to shred my mother's items, I called Nathanial and he explained the*

processs. I simply told Nathanial I knew he would do the right thing and handle things appropriately because I know he lives the Four-Way Test."

Herbert Taylor said in 1943 when summarizing the impact of the honor code he created and applied to his business: "We found that you cannot constantly apply the Four-Way Test to all your relations with others in business without getting into the habit of doing it in your home, social and community life. You thus become a better father, a better friend and a better citizen."

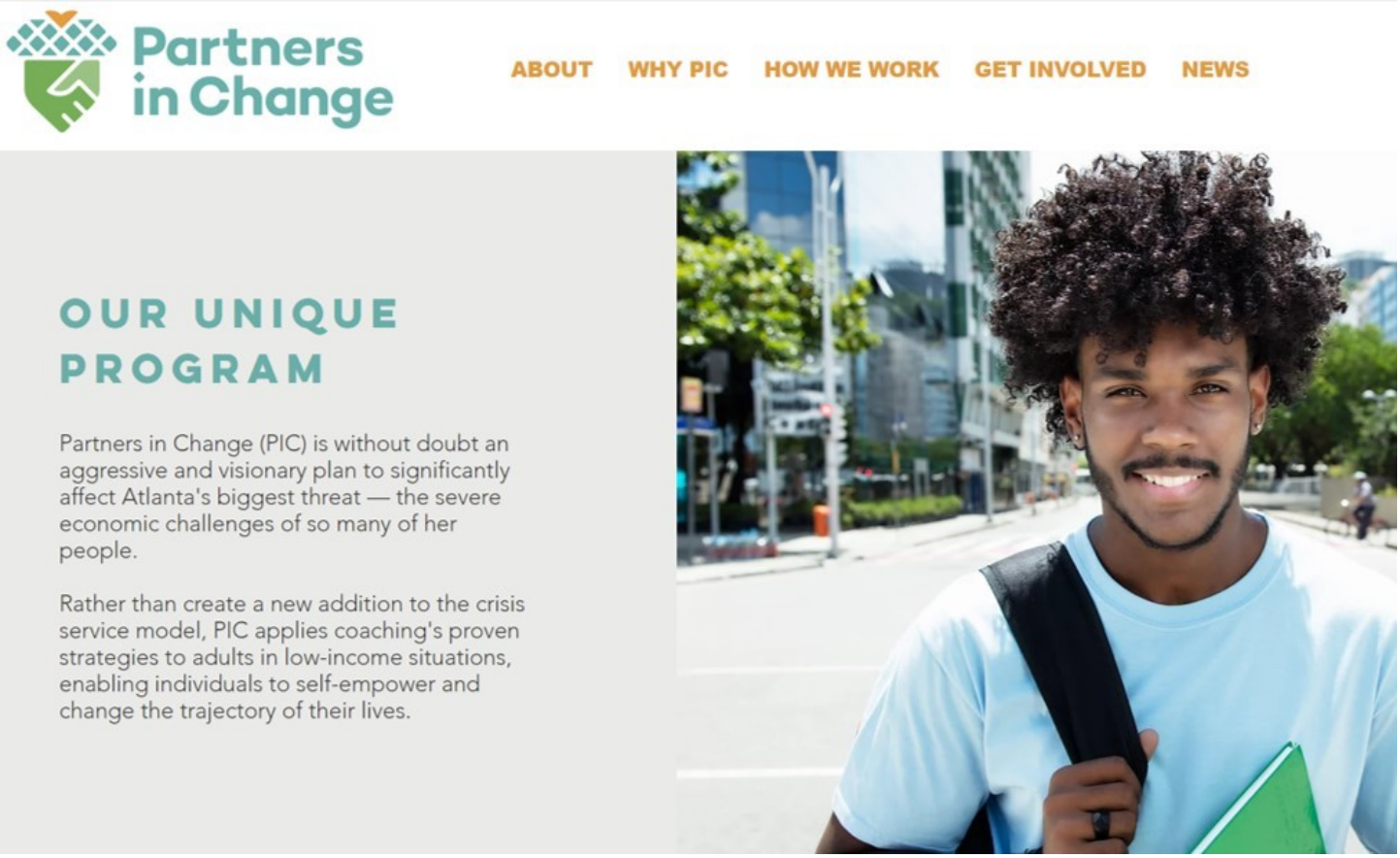
For more about the Four-Way Test, visit the Rotary International website or open these links:

- **https://rotary5630.org/history-of-the-four-way-test/**
- **https://www.youtub e.com/watch?v=sktFpl2OYTo**
- **https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kJlc0sVX-og**

Posted by Susan Backofen
September 3, 2020

From Facebook

Atlanta West End Partners for Change



Atlanta West End Rotarian Neil Shorthouse is spending his retirement founding a new organization, Partners in Change (PIC), that pairs trained volunteer coaches with adults who want to assert greater

control over circumstances and challenges holding them back. Neil has recruited several Atlanta West End Rotarians to join him in this important work.

This is not Neil's first venture … In 1972, he helped create Communities in Schools (CIS). Today, CIS is the nation's leading dropout prevention program, operating in thousands of schools in 25 states and engaging with 1.6 million children, most of whom are living in poverty. CIS surrounds students with a community of support, leading to a substantial increase in school attendance, grade promotion, and higher graduation rates.

Over the years, Neil came to see adults as the lynchpin for the transformation of economically-struggling communities. Having witnessed the long-lasting impact of intentional, personal support for youth, Neil shifted his focus to adults whom he saw as keys to children's success and community strength — creating Partners in Change in 2019. PIC offers a new approach to poverty reduction - taking coaching's proven track record of success for executives and college students and bringing that potential to people in low-income situations. PIC invests in the existing capacity within adults wanting to move their lives forward.

You can learn more about Partners in Change at **their website** (pictured here).

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
September 3, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

A Community Partnership to Engage Employers with Job Seekers

Every community in our nation is dealing with massive unemployment and big changes in the employment world. Many careers/jobs are no longer what they were. Unemployed workers must remake themselves for this new marketplace and develop new skills in order to survive. How do they get the coaching, resources and networking skills needed to make this happen? With surprisingly little time, the answer could be, your Rotary Club!

Since 2010, the **Roswell Rotary Club** and Roswell United Methodist Church Job Networking have teamed up to help hundreds of job seekers with workshops, personal networking, LinkedIn headshots, spiritual support, Attire to Hire and Mini Job Fairs. Now the meetings have gone virtual, and they continue to attract hundreds.

Virtual Mini Job Fairs are held every 4-6 weeks and last 60 minutes. Each starts with hour-long career workshops led by the RUMC team. These workshops help you attract job seekers to your Mini Job Fair. Your Rotary Club would “sign-up” employers with job openings. The employers would announce these openings during the Mini Job Fair and job seekers would contact them directly.

To find out more, contact Lou Tabickman at prado465@gmail.com or 678-372-7037.

Posted by Trummie Patrick
September 3, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Paulding County Feeds Hungry Children

Paulding County Rotarians recently completed an amazing local project. They applied for and received a competitive district grant to help feed hungry children in their county during the time schools were closed for Covid-19. In partnership with District 6900, The Rotary Foundation, Chick-Fil-A, Prime Engineering, and CAYA Ministries, more than 1,300 bags containing 6,500 lunches (and an equivalent number of breakfast items) were sourced and delivered.

Paulding County Rotary volunteers made a significant impact in the late weeks of this 20-weeks long program. The Summer Lunch Program from all donors and sources delivered 60,135 lunches to hungry kids in our community this year. Here we go again Opening Doors of Opportunity!

Posted by Roy Strickland
September 3, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Vinings Cumberland and Smyrna Join Forces for Schools

Vinings Cumberland Rotary and **Smyrna Rotary** have both spent years supporting area public schools.

Vinings Cumberland Past President Neill Ferrill led a recent ad hoc service project to provide backpacks and supplies for Compton Elementary School in Cobb County - raising $500 per club for $1,000 total. “Historically,” says Ferrill, “this Title I elementary school relied heavily on the contributions of nearby churches to meet the needs of its 500 students. With church-giving disrupted in this COVID environment, the generous Rotarians of the Vinings Cumberland and Smyrna Clubs took on this need that would have otherwise left many of Compton Elementary students without critical school supplies as they work remotely.”

Through amazing financial support AND a boots on the ground efforts, in one week much needed school supplies were collected and delivered to Compton Elementary School! Ferrill adds, “The school was so thrilled by how many of their needs were met: 30 new backpacks FULL of needed supplies, 500 assignment folders, 150 pairs of children scissors and an additional $250 to quickly respond to additional school supply needs when they arise!” “I’m proud that we could partner with the Vinings-Cumberland Club to provide much needed basic schools supplies to kids in our area,” added Smyrna Rotary’s President Roy Acree. “Having a local impact, helping our kids, and serving our community is a significant aspect of what Rotary is all about.”

Posted by Narayan Sengupta
September 3, 2020

Serving During the Pandemic

Tablets for Nursing and Rehab Center Patients

It was **Douglas County Rotary's** pleasure to serve the Douglasville Nursing and Rehab Center on Thursday, August 13! The club was able to bless them with brand new tablets for the residents to use during isolation. These allow them to see their families and loved ones. Extreme Images (a small business in our community) helped us brand them with our logo and the facilities logo! Pictured left to right: Stromboli Carter, Samantha Rosado (Rotarian), Kristine Aibangee, Alicia Steel, Brenda Waters and John Baker (Rotarian).

Posted by Samantha Rosado
September 3, 2020

Club News

Creating Rotary Reads … A Story of the Lake Spivey/Clayton County Book Club

ERIC HOFFER
THE TRUE BELIEVER
THE TRUE BELIEVER
THOUGHTS ON THE NATURE OF MASS MOVEMENTS

In early 2018 while searching for quietly active ways to promote interaction among members, the Public Image Committee of the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** encouraged interested Rotarians to think about developing a book club. Several members responded and following a low key approach, they conducted their first session on February 19, 2018 (pictured here). The participants named the book club Rotary Reads, and in the belief that not many Rotary Clubs also include book clubs, chose to call themselves "pioneers."

The basic outline of Rotary Reads is that, as a general rule beginning in February, it meets between 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm on the third Monday of every other month. During the first fifteen minutes or so of each meeting, the Pioneers discuss potential future selections with the understanding that the person who recommends a selection will be the moderator of the discussion that focuses on that book. All genres are welcome, including history, fiction, science, philosophy, biography, etc. To date, we have discussed:

- The True Believer: Thoughts on the Nature of Mass Movements, Eric Hoffer
- The Things They Carried, Tim O'Brien • Little Fires Everywhere, Celeste Ng
- Letters from Nuremberg: My Father's Narrative of a Quest for Justice, Criss Dodd
- Educated, Tara Westover
- The Traveler's Gift, Andy Andrews
- Born a Crime, Trevor Noah
- The Greatest Day in Sports: 15 Reasons Why There's Nothing Else Like the Kentucky Derby, Jim Weber
- Black Winning Jockeys, James and Monica Saunders.
- Here Comes Exterminator, Eliza McGraw.
- Secretariat, a movie based on the novel Secretariat: The Making of a Champion, William Nack.
- Untamed: The Wildest Woman in America and the Fight for Cumberland Island, Will Harlan
- A Colony in a Nation, Chris Hayes
- A Nation of Nations, Tom Gjelton
- The Promise of a Pencil, Adam Braun
- Night, Elie Wiesel
- My Own Country: A Doctor's Story, Abraham Verghese
- Not Without My Father, Andra Watkins
- Where the Crawdads Sing, Delia Owens
- The Great Alone, Kristin Hannah
- The Book Woman of Troublesome Creek, Kim Michele Richardson (Scheduled for September 21.)

Valuing flexibility and to assist with promoting our major fundraiser in 2019 which had a Kentucky Derby theme, the Pioneers conducted a program at a regular meeting of the full club several weeks before the running of the Derby that featured different Pioneers discussing four books about different aspects of the Kentucky Derby. Another interesting event occurred when we discussed the book, Not Without my Father written by Andra Watkins, who we learned also is a Rotarian living in South Carolina. We invited her to join us for the discussion, and she did, which resulted in a great meeting.

During DG Jim Squire's visit to our Rotary club last year, we presented him with a copy of the book, "The Rotary Club Murder Mystery."

This past spring the potential impact of the Corona virus created some concern, but Rotary Reads has not been seriously affected. Instead, we have met once with proper social distancing at Stately Oaks in Jonesboro and also via Zoom. Indications suggest that the book club actually might have increased in importance because of the way it develops and nurtures connections between members during this time of increasing isolation. As Dr. Edward Hollowell of the Harvard Medical School describes in his book

Connect, and I paraphrase, the daily demands of careers and life often cause us to give less attention than we should to maintaining connections with each other and our world, connections which he argues are critical to health and happiness. Rotary Reads provides our Rotary Club an important avenue that can help members develop and maintain those connections, and if so, it fulfills its fundamental purpose of quietly promoting interaction among members.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Ron Swofford
September 3, 2020

Club News

Starfish Ministries Project Serves India's Differently Disabled

In keeping with Rotary’s commitment to Polio, the **Rotary Club of Meriwether County** and Starfish Ministries are serving the people of India affected by Polio and other life altering disabilities. The club celebrates this young man's new knee joint for this prosthesis - donated by our project partner FODAC and transported to India by Past President Bob Prater. The doctor who fitted this young college student was so excited by the opportunities that Rotary has provided these differently disabled patients, he has offered to sponsor a "Fitment camp" in November, where he would give about 50 prosthetic legs to individuals in need. Parts to make these 50 prosthetic legs will cost about $100 per prosthesis.

With over 30 years of service in various roles of vocational rehabilitation, Past President Bob Prater leads this initiative to to develop a network of providers who may assist in receiving usable orthopedic equipment including refurbished polio braces, wheelchairs, prosthetic parts, and in providing transportation for individuals in need. Bob also offers his expertise to help develop various vocational

training programs, workshops and educational materials to assist with child development and the coordination of STEM education between a rehabilitation facility in India and Georgia Southern University.

Posted by Lisa Thompson
September 3, 2020

From Facebook

Share Your Story of Making a Difference on Facebook and in the Newsletter

Many clubs are doing great work in their communities even during the pandemic. This Rotary year, I have been visiting each club's Facebook page as part of creating the newsletter, to give clubs a spotlight for work they are doing. The photo collages that follow this article all come from that journey through Facebook.

I plan to continue this but would love to have you send in the stories you are proudest to share - about service projects, fundraising ideas in a difficult time, ways your club or individual Rotarians are making a difference in the community. **Our deadline is the 25th of each month for publication in the next month's newsletter.** We love pictures - and a paragraph or two on your story (or more if there's more you'd like to tell) in a Word document or typed in the body of an email.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
September 3, 2020

From Facebook

Making a Difference

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