

January 5, 2026



Membership

"Discovery Rotary" - An Event for Prospective Rotarians Only

by Audley Knight, District Membership Chair

Connect with Rotary in the Greater Atlanta Area

REGISTER NOW for an evening of networking, food and drinks (cash bar). Learn more about Rotary, how to join, serve, and make an impact in your community.

January 13, 2026
Copelands of New Orleans - Vinings-Cumberland, GA
6:00 pm-7:30 pm

A photograph showing four people (three women and one man) sitting around a round table in a modern library or community center, engaged in conversation. Bookshelves are visible in the background.

Rotary

District 6900

District 6900 is planning a special evening of networking, food and drinks (cash bar) to give **prospective Rotarians in the Greater Atlanta** area an opportunity to learn more about Rotary, and how to join, serve and make an impact in our Georgia communities. The event will take place on Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at Copelands of New Orleans - Vinings-Cumberland, GA from 6:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

Clubs in the Greater Atlanta area are invited to encourage their prospective members to join in this night of Rotary fellowship and connections - to help solidify their interest in joining our great organization! Prospective members can use this link to register to attend: [Register for Prospective Member Event.](#)

Invitations will be sent to potential Atlanta area members who are identified in Rotary International's leads platform - and to individuals your club asks to have added to the list.

Posted by Audley Knight

November 30, 2025

RYLA

Happy New RYLA in 2026!



It's a new year and that means it's time to start thinking about RYLA!! Not that we ever really *stop* thinking about RYLA... but now we can say that RYLA is happening This Year!!

RYLA 2026 will be held June 6-10 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University.

Cost per student is \$500, and this covers all necessary expenses related to attending RYLA. For any students riding our charter buses from the Atlanta area, there is an additional \$50/per student cost.

We hope that you and your club will consider sponsoring a student (or more than one) to attend RYLA this year! We have seen first-hand how it can change the lives of our students and want to share that experience with as many students as possible.

If you and your club want to get in on all the great things that come along with sponsoring a student to RYLA, use one of the following routes to send in your RSVP:

1. Use this link to complete our RSVP online: <https://forms.gle/SsLFt1wFuW38UgPk8>
2. Visit our page to download the forms: www.rotary6900.org/page/656
3. Email us at RYLA6900@gmail.com

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
December 21, 2025

End Polio Now

District 6900 Celebrates World Polio Day with Remarkable Fundraising Efforts

On **October 24, 2025**, Rotary clubs across **District 6900** came together to commemorate **World Polio Day**, marking another milestone in the global fight to eradicate polio. On this special day, the district raised an impressive **\$22,000** for the **PolioPlus Foundation**, reinforcing Rotary's commitment to ending this devastating disease.

Clubs across the district hosted creative and engaging events to support the cause, including:

- Score for Polio Plus Competition in Atlanta Metro
- East Cobb Rotarian Brad Groff's 500-mile Camino de Santiago walk in Spain
- Newnan's Pints for Polio
- Our own District Governor, Steve Ivory, raising over \$1800 in Push-Ups for Polio

Additional celebrations were held by clubs in **Johns Creek North Fulton** and **Americus**, showcasing the district's widespread dedication.

District 6900 extends heartfelt thanks to every Rotarian and supporter who contributed to this important mission. Together, we are one step closer to a polio-free world.

Posted by Wynita Cannon
December 19, 2025

Laws of Life

A New Year, A New Opportunity to Change Students' Lives



As we begin a new year, Rotary clubs across Georgia have a powerful opportunity to make an immediate and lasting impact on young people through the **Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest**. January marks a pivotal moment—for recruiting essay judges, strengthening school partnerships, and planning for the year ahead.

See the Contest Through the Eyes of a Volunteer Judge

Each spring, Rotarians from sponsoring clubs across the state serve as essay judges, reading students' personal reflections on values like perseverance, honesty, and compassion. For many volunteers, it's one of the most meaningful experiences Rotary offers.

"Such a special experience to read these stories from so many wonderful young people!" — **Bernard Santa Maria, Rotary Club of Buckhead**

Judging requires no prior experience, just a willingness to read and reflect. It's a flexible, rewarding way for Rotarians to connect directly with students' voices.

A Turnkey Service Project with Deep Community Impact

For Rotary clubs, Laws of Life is a **turnkey service project**. Georgia Laws of Life provides the curriculum, training, materials, judging platform, and program support—allowing clubs to focus on what Rotary does best: **building relationships and celebrating young people**.

Clubs that partner with a school often share that the greatest joy comes from reading students' stories and recognizing them at a Rotary meeting or school celebration.

Why Schools Say Yes

School leaders consistently emphasize how the contest supports both academics and character development.

“The Laws of Life Essay Contest gives our students a rare chance to reflect on who they are and what matters most. It builds empathy, strengthens writing skills, and helps us understand our students on a deeper level. We look forward to it every year.” — Dr. Terri Bell, MTSS, Stone Mountain High School

January is the Time to Start Conversations

January and February are critical planning months for schools. **To engage a new school for the upcoming academic year, initial outreach should take place before March**—before testing season and the end-of-year rush begin. That said, Rotary clubs are encouraged to share the Laws of Life program with local schools year-round. Helpful tools and talking points for school outreach are available at <https://georgialawsoflife.org/why-rotary/>

When a school expresses interest in participating, the partnering Rotary club should plan to commit to its Georgia Laws of Life sponsorship at that time. Our team is happy to support clubs every step of the way—offering guidance on timing, outreach, and next steps to make the process simple, effective, and rewarding for both the club and the school.

We Look Forward to Partnering with You

Whether your club is ready to:

- Recruit essay judges
- Sponsor the contest
- Partner with your local school
- Re-engage a past school partner
- Or explore Laws of Life for the first time

Georgia Laws of Life is here to help. Together, we can give more students the opportunity to reflect, write, and grow—while strengthening Rotary’s connection to the communities we serve.

To learn more or schedule a presentation for your club, contact **Carol Gray Walker, Executive Director**, at carol@georgialawsoflife.org.

Posted by Carol Gray Walker
December 19, 2025

Club News

Decatur Celebrates Bedros Sharian Jr. at 100 Years



Bedros Sharian Jr. and Decatur Club President Alison Weissinger

On Friday, November 21, at the Historic Decatur Courthouse, the **Rotary Club of Decatur** and the City of Decatur, Georgia honored long-time member **Bedros Sharian Jr.** as he approached his 100th birthday on Thanksgiving Day. City Manager and Rotary member, Andrea Arnold, read the proclamation signed by Mayor Patricia M. Garrett that proclaimed November 25, 2025, as Bedros Sharian Jr. Day. Former Decatur Mayor Walt Drake also provided a historical perspective on Bedros' rich life and his impact on the Decatur Community.

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS , Bedros Sharian, Jr. was born on November 25, 1925 to Armenian immigrants who arrived in the United States in the early 1900s, whose journey to this country has been an integral part of his rich family legacy; and

WHEREAS , in 1931, Bedros' parents established the Sharian business, initially starting with a rug cleaning operation in their backyard on Drexel Avenue, which eventually grew to become a cornerstone of the Decatur business community; and

WHEREAS , Bedros graduated from Decatur Boys High School, attended Emory University at Oxford, and served in the U.S. Navy during World War II, epitomizing the courage and sacrifice of the "Greatest Generation"; and

WHEREAS , upon returning to Decatur in 1946, Bedros completed his education at Emory University, joined the family business, and became its President, and later Chair of the Board of Directors, always leading with integrity, dedication, and an unwavering commitment to excellence; and

WHEREAS , Bedros has been instrumental in guiding Sharian, Inc. through four generations of ownership and management, fostering not only its success but also a strong legacy of service to the community, and

WHEREAS , Bedros' contributions to the Decatur community extend beyond business, as he served as President of the Decatur Rotary Club and the Executive Club of Decatur, with nearly 50 years of active service to both organizations; and

WHEREAS , it is fitting that we celebrate Bedros Sharian, Jr. on the occasion of his 100th birthday, recognizing his remarkable legacy as a Decatur business leader, a proud American, a distinguished World War II veteran, and the patriarch of the Sharian family, whose contributions to our city have been immeasurable.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Patricia M. Garrett, Mayor of the City of Decatur, the “City of Homes, Schools, and Places of Worship,” do hereby proclaim November 25, 2025 as **BEDROS SHARIAN, JR. DAY** in honor of his 100th birthday and in recognition of his lifelong dedication to Decatur, his service to our nation, and his exemplary leadership in business and community life.

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereto set my hand and cause the Seal of the City of Decatur to be affixed this 21ST day of November, 2025

Patricia M. Garrett

Mayor

Posted by Dudley Larus
December 3, 2025

Club News

Rotary Club of North Fulton Launches Phase 3 of the Greenway Mural Project



Fall was the time for another exciting phase of the **Rotary Club of North Fulton's** Greenway Mural Project!

Our latest efforts began in late September with a **Design Workshop**, where student artists learned how to translate their creative concepts onto a challenging cylindrical, concrete canvas.

In early October, club members turned their attention to preparing the mural sites. After power washing, members primed **14 raised sewer covers—each over six feet tall!** (Extension poles definitely earned their keep this year.) The following day, volunteers organized all art supplies for the student artists, wrapping up the week with a lively Happy Hour at Lazy Dog—because Rotary always knows how to blend service with fellowship.

All that preparation paid off the next weekend, as the Alpharetta Greenway came alive with color, creativity, and collaboration. Rotary members and student artists worked side by side to bring their visions to life. Reflecting one of Rotary's seven areas of focus, this year's theme was **"Clean Water for All."** We were thrilled to receive **36 concept submissions** from local high school students—proof that word is spreading about how meaningful this project has become for young artists.

With Phase 3 now complete, the Greenway proudly showcases 32 vibrant murals spanning two miles. This achievement wouldn't be possible without the invaluable support of Fulton County Public Works, Arts Alpharetta, Alpharetta Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services, and the City of Alpharetta.

A special thank-you goes to club members **Amie Blanton, Richard Matherly, and Thomas Nolf,** whose dedication and leadership drove this project forward—and to our talented professional muralist, **Annalysa Kimball**, whose artistry continues to inspire us all.

PHOTOS:







Posted by Lisa Gelber
December 3, 2025

Club News

Meriwether County Scores Big for the Rotary Foundation Through “Foundation Football”



As the college football season kicked off, the **Rotary Club of Meriwether County** - joined by enthusiastic “friends of Rotary” - selected their favorite teams to follow and cheer for throughout the season. Each week, members gathered at Rotary meetings to track and discuss their teams’ scores, fostering camaraderie, spirited conversation, and plenty of friendly competition.

This year, our club fully embraced Foundation Football, a fun and meaningful way to give back! For every point their chosen team scored, participating Rotarians donated that same amount to the Rotary Foundation. Every touchdown, field goal, and extra point wasn’t just a victory on the field—it was a win for service. At the end of the season:

- The Rotarian who raised the most earned an additional \$100 donation to the Rotary Foundation made in their name by the club.
- Participants also earned one ticket for every point scored in a drawing for a \$1,000 cash prize!

Thanks to the excitement of this initiative and the generosity of our members, the Rotary Club of Meriwether County is donating an impressive **\$3,496** to the Rotary Foundation!

This friendly competition made game days even more exciting and strengthened our club’s ability to support the Rotary Foundation’s vital work—both locally and across the globe.

We’re proud to turn our love for football into meaningful contributions that change lives!

PHOTOS:



Posted by Kay Williamson
December 18, 2025

Club News

Paulding Hosts Dallas Christmas Parade



The **Paulding Rotary Club** was privileged to host the annual Dallas Christmas parade. The club once again brought the community together with a successful and well-attended parade. Families lined the streets to enjoy festive floats, local organizations, marching bands, and community leaders who helped make the event a memorable celebration. Thanks to dedicated volunteers and strong community support, the tradition continues to grow each year. You can watch the parade on YouTube at <https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=uBpfCjoFoms>

Posted by Alex Crenshaw
December 18, 2025

In Memoriam

Remembering Blakely Rotarian Robert William Collier Sr.



State Rep. Gerald Greene of Cuthbert presents a resolution at the Blakely Rotary Club to Robert Collier Jr., left, and Jack Watson that praised the life of Robert W. Collier Sr., who died Oct. 18

At a late November meeting of the Blakely Rotary Club, State Rep. Gerald Greene saluted the late Blakely Mayor, businessman and **Blakely Rotarian Robert William Collier Sr.**

Rep. Greene presented members of Mr. Collier's family, his son Robert Collier Jr., and his son-in-law, Jack Watson, with a resolution passed by the Georgia House of Representatives that praised Mr. Collier's life.

"The State of Georgia mourns the loss of one of its most distinguished citizens with the passing of Robert William Collier Sr. on October 18, 2025," the resolution reads.

"Whereas, affectionately known as 'Mr. Blakely,' he served his community as mayor of Blakely for two

terms, president and director of the Chamber of Commerce, and as longtime member and president of the Blakely-Early County Rotary Club for more than 60 years...”

The document speaks of Mr. Collier’s love and long marriage to his wife, Alicia, and their two children, Robert Jr. and daughter Ginger Watson, his five grandchildren and his 12 great-grandchildren.

It spoke of Mr. Collier’s “...magnanimous strengths, with an unimpeachable reputation for integrity, intelligence, fairness and kindness, and by the example he made of his life, he made this world a better place in which to live.”

The resolution called Mr. Collier “a compassionate and generous man” who “will long be remembered for his love of family, friendship and community and will be missed by all who had the great fortune of knowing him.”

Mr. Greene represents House District 154, which includes Early County.

Posted by Charles Gordon
December 18, 2025
