DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR NOVEMBER, 2019

From the District Governor

## A Lot to Be Thankful For ...

By Jim Squire

As we approach Thanksgiving and I look back over the last month in Rotary, there is so much to be thankful for:

• The announcement on World Polio Day that we have eradicated wild Polio virus Type 3 and that the continent of Africa is three-years polio free
• The celebration of 100 years of the Rotary Club of Marietta
• The work we do in our communities and around the world to make the lives of others better - both through the Rotary Foundation and on our own. In Foundation month, it's important to note that our efforts through our Rotary Foundation represent more than $2.5 million in district and global grants
• Your hard work and friendship.

[more]

*DG Jim and Debra Lowe visited R/C Paulding County to present Paul Harris Fellows. They delivered 15 certificates and 25 pins and recognized a new Major Donor. Every month is Foundation Month at Paulding County Rotary!*

The Rotary Foundation

## Foundation Month - Thanks Giving Month

By Cheryl Greenway

Every month Rotary focuses on a different topic. For November that topic is Our Foundation - The Rotary Foundation. Since Thanksgiving is in November it seems fitting that November should be Foundation month.

It is time for us to give thanks for all our blessings - health, family, finances, etc. For many of us things are going really well, while others may be dealing with challenges or issues. But being Americans, most of us are very blessed. Sure we have our issues but there is nowhere else I would rather live. When most Americans get up in the morning, we have a clean toilet inside that we can use. We can get a glass of clean water without having to walk miles to get it. We have food for breakfast and we have food for our family. We have clothes to keep us warm and a roof over our heads. If we are sick, we have doctors and nurses close by to help us.

How many times have you seen someone going through a really tough time or health issues and it makes you pause and be thankful for all the things we take for granted? [more]

Happy Birthday Marietta!

## Rotary Club of Marietta 100th Anniversary Diamond Jubilee Gala

By Christopher Bethel

On Saturday, October 19, 2019 the **Rotary Club of Marietta** celebrated its 100th Anniversary by hosting a Diamond Jubilee Gala at the Marietta Country Club, where the club held its original charter meeting. Despite the rain and it being the University of Georgia homecoming, over 125 people attended the celebration.

Current President Christopher Bethel called the celebration to order and welcomed distinguished and honored guests to this once in a lifetime historic event. It was great to see a lot of familiar faces and faces not seen in a while. "I am humbled and honored to serve as the 100th President of the Rotary Club of Marietta. It's hard to believe that 100 years ago, 20 individuals - top in their vocations - came together at the Marietta Country Club to start a new service organization in a small town of 6,000 residents. Did the original charter members ever believe the legacy and impact that they started over the past 100 years? Founder John W. Hancock had to convince Rotary International that Marietta was large enough to support such a Club. Marietta was the smallest community in which a club had been chartered. The decision to start this Club was a world altering idea. I don't think the original charter members knew at the time, but we in hindsight, sure do! I get goose bumps just thinking about it. This Rotary Club, I believe, is one of the most special Rotary Clubs in the World - and that's due to the rich history that you will hear about throughout the evening." [more]

The Rotary Foundation at Work

## District 6900 Rotarian Activities Benefit Friends and Neighbors in Georgia

By Anne Glenn

Thanks to the generosity of our fellow Rotarians three years ago, we are able to award 61 District Grants for the 2019-2020 Rotary year. District Grants fund local, community service programs designed by local Rotarians. Every Club has an opportunity to apply for the grant money they need (up to $2000) for the project of their choice. Projects must be completed within one year.

In addition to smaller District Grants awards, Clubs are offered opportunities to submit "Challenge Grant" proposals."Challenge Grant" projects are still community-based and must be completed within this Rotary year; but they are larger in vision, scope and budget. Challenge Grants fund budgets from $2,000 to $10,000.This year, $59,223 was shared among seven Clubs who discovered large needs and addressed them in their neighborhoods. This was the largest number of Clubs achieving Challenge Grant awards in District history. [more]

*Family Health Days reach thousands*

The Rotary Foundation at Work

## Rotarians Generously Give Humanitarian Aid Worldwide

By Anne Glenn

D6900 has 20 global grants currently in progress or approved with total budgets of $2,465,237.All Funding for these projects is provided by individual club financial contributions, supplemented by District 6900 and The Rotary Foundation's World Fund.

District 6900 has, at this moment, 2 Global Grant Scholars plus 14 Clubs serving as International Humanitarian Global Grant Partners. Four of our Clubs are active in 2 or more Global Grants and another 10-20 Clubs are providing financial support to Global Grants originating with D6900 Clubs or clubs from other Rotary Districts.

We were recently called the most active participating District in The Rotary Foundation's Global Grants program. While this title is continually changing, we honor and thank you for being among the most generous Rotarians in the world.

Here are details on exactly what you're doing to make our world better - right now. [more]

The Rotary Foundation at Work

## Global Grants Improve Maternal and Child Health in Kenya

By Wally Horlacher

The **Rotary Club of Vinings Cumberland** has been at the center of three Global Grant projects in Kenya - all looking to improve maternal and child health in Kenya. This work started in 2009 in Kilifi County and continues today in Makueni and Elgeyo Marakwet. RC Vinings Cumberland has partnered with many clubs in Georgia and the USA ... [more]

The Rotary Foundation at Work

## Global Grant Scholar

By Jackie Cuthbert

Greetings Rotary District 6900!

My name is Molly Wilson and I had the honor of being the 2017 recipient of the Global Grant Scholarship. I spent a year in the brilliantly cloudy and uniquely welcoming city of Edinburgh, Scotland completing a Masters of Science in ... [more]

District Conference 2020

## Sample a Taste of the District Thursday Night at Jekyll Island

By Lauri Young

We have a special treat planned for the 2020 district conference. On Thursday night, you'll be treated to a **Taste of the District.** Join us to taste what makes our district unique and special by sampling some of the best food available in the towns or at the meetings in D6900.

All clubs are invited to submit a recipe ... [more]

RI Convention 2020

## Join Us in Beautiful Honolulu, Hawaii

By Kirk Driskell

Take time now to register for the 2020 Rotary International Convention. RI Convention is an amazing experience on its own - with opportunities to:

• network with Rotarians from around the world
• learn about our local and global work to make a positive difference in people's lives
• hear from world leaders on key ... [more]

Membership

## Leap Into Rotary

By Jaclyn Donovan

"Leap Into Rotary" is a Rotary Social Event on Saturday, February 29th (or as close to that date as possible) where all of Rotary Zone 34 will be hosting individual Club parties for prospective Rotarians. The year 2020 happens to be a Leap Year, so this gives us a great opportunity to have a fun theme for a party that helps us bring ... [more]

*Click on this image to see more about this amazing opportunity for Georgia students to study in Oslo next summer - as a thank you from Norwegian Rtoarians for GRSP*

## GRSP in November

By Lynn Clarke

Read about student weekends, student selection for 2020-21 and the GRSP pilot program, planning for Thanksgiving and student travel, the endowment and more ... and click the link to the left to learn more about the Oslo scholarship for Georgia students that represents Norway's thank you to Georgia for GRSO. [more]

GRSP Student Perspectives

## An Opportunity to Know Each Other Better

By Lynn Clarke

As she was getting ready to complete the 2018-19 GRSP year, Mhairi wrote:

I started off this year quite nervous as this is the longest that I've been away from home and I would end up missing a lot of events and activities as a result, but I am so thankful that I decided to go with it and that I was given the opportunity to come here. Coming ... [more]

Club News

## Support Our "Be The Voice" Efforts

By Debbie Cwalina

In 2015, Debbie Cwalina read an article about the damaging effects of cyberbullying, and it lit a fire in her soul. She was able to do something with that passion when she joined her local Rotary Club and met others who shared her enthusiasm. "I asked, 'What can we do to help students safely defuse a bullying situation?'" After months ... [more]

Vocational News

## Rotary Means Business

By Famous Lou Alvarado, Jr.

**Rotary Means Business**, **Atlanta Networks** met on October 15.

- New day, third Tuesday of the month at 6:30 pm every month.
- New location, the Hudson Grille in Brookhaven.
- New leadership, Jonathan Clark of the **Rotary Club of Tucker.**

In attendance were members from ... [more]

*Jerry Urmanski, Alpharetta RC, Bill St. Clair, District 6910 PDG, RC of Gainesville, PP Arnaud Gahimbare and Pres. Edgar Muganwa, RC Arusha Mt. Meru, Larri Christopher, Dunwoody RC, and Bob Koncerak, Alpharetta RC.*

Club News

## Tanzania Service Project and Safari An International Success

By Bob Koncerak

An **Alpharetta Rotary** project team returned from a successful, worthwhile trip to Tanzania in early October. Faculty and students at the Njiro school in Arusha were excited to receive three laptops and connection equipment for their computer library—and the administration was TREMENDOUSLY grateful for $7,000 of well-drilling funds raised by the club for the school. The multi-club team included Jerry Urmanski and Bob Koncerak from the Rotary Club of Alpharetta, Larri Chritopher from the Rotary Club of Dunwoody, and District 6910 PDG Bill St. Clair from the Rotary Club of Gainesville. [more]

Club News

## Atlanta Brazil Rotary Club Host Traditional Brazilian Children's Day

By Clarissa Costa

Brazil celebrates its children on October 12th. It's the National Children's Day, and all over the country parties and toys are shared. Following the tradition, the **Atlanta Brazil Rotary Club** hosted a Children's day festival at East Cobb Park, in Marietta, to celebrate the Brazilian culture and heritage with more ... [more]

The Rotary Foundation at Work

## Paulding County Uses District Grant to Support McKenna Farms Therapy Services

By Roy Strickland

The **Rotary Club of Paulding County** recently met at McKenna Farms to unbox and assemble pediatric therapy equipment they purchased with a Rotary Foundation Grant.

McKenna Farms Therapy Services is a non-profit organization - run by volunteers - whose mission is to provide therapeutic programs and resources for children with ... [more]

Club News

## Alpharetta Builds Habitat House

By Clark Savage

Members of the **Alpharetta Rotary Club** assisted in building a Habitat for Humanity house in Gainesville, GA on Saturday, November 2. The group photo includes Mickey Rogers, Scott French, Charlie Swahn, Scott Doll, Jack Hausmann, Sid Browning, Alyson Foy (Representing Joe Wargo), Michael Gordy and Paul Slavik. Not pictured are ... [more]

Club News

## Hurricane Dorian Relief

By Karen Schwank

Following the terrible destruction of the Bahamas by Hurricane Dorian in August, the **Rotary Club of Roswell** made a decision to do something about it. The Rotary International theme for this year is, *"Rotary Connects the World"* and the Roswell Club is no stranger to doing good beyond the borders of our country. It just ... [more]

Club News

## Quitman Rotarian Honored for 50+ Rotary Years

By David DeSantiago

In his official visit to the **Rotary Club of Quitman**, DG Jim Squire recognized Dr. Hugh Bassham for more than 50 years in Rotary. In reflecting on what his years in Rotary mean to him, Dr. Bassham shared a story with DG Jim about connecting the world.

"Three years ago my wife and I were in Germany and had supper with her ... [more]

## DG Visit Celebrates New Paul Harris Fellow, Murder Mystery and End Polio Now

By Ron Swofford

When DG Jim Squire visited the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County**, the club include a Paul Harris ceremony for newly inducted member Dr. Manohar Nallathambi. A recently retired surgeon, Dr. Nallathambi stated that he has admired Rotary for many years but that the demands of his profession prevented him from making the time ... [more]

Club News

## Pints for Polio Raises Money to Help End Polio

By Jaclyn Donovan

The **Rotary Club of Moultrie** hosted a "Pints for Polio" event on World Polio Day! The club partnered with a local restaurant, The Square, to host the event on October 24th.The Square donated $1.00 for every craft pint purchased that night and an addition $1.00 for every dinner entrée. Polio facts were posted on each ... [more]

Club News

## Douglas County Recognized for Backpack Donation

By Samantha Rosado

The Douglas County School System recently recognized the **Rotary Club of Douglas County** in its digital newsletter) for generously donating almost 1,600 backpacks to Douglas County School System students at the beginning of this school year. Some schools gave the backpacks to students who showed up the first day of school ... [more]

Club News

## Marietta Metro Projects Support Cobb County Youth

By Rene Lanier

The **Rotary Club of Marietta Metro** has been at work at The Center for Children and Young Adults (CCYA) and the Emily Lembeck Early Learning Center in Cobb County.

**CCYA:** The club recently purchased and installed two brand new Speed Queen washers for The Center for Children and Young Adults. In addition, Rotarians ... [more]

Club News

## Roswell Rotary Cleans Up!

By Karen Schwank

In late September, **Roswell Rotary Club** joined in with Rivers Alive to clean up the Chattahoochee River. Roswell Rotary has been participating for about the past 10 years. As part of the Georgia Adopt a Stream program, Roswell Rotary has adopted the section ... [more]

Club News

## Why Not Combine a Service Project and a Rotary Meeting?

By Dale Covington

This year, October 3-9, marked the 20th anniversary of Public Safety Appreciation Week in Cobb County. Vice-President Mary Ansley Southerland realized that the **Rotary Club of Marietta** could publicly thank Marietta's fire and police officers at the Club's weekly meeting on October 9. President Chris Bethel and the Board ... [more]

Calling All Clubs!

## Share Your Stories in the District Newsletter

By Jackie Cuthbert

DG Jim Squire is encouraging all clubs to share their stories in this year's district newsletter. You can use the newsletter to:

- **Celebrate** ... service projects, member engagement activities/strategies, club and member successes/achievements
- **Enlist support** ... for fund-raising initiatives, service projects, global grants
- **Get ideas** ... for taking your club and your service initiatives to the next level
- **Keep up** ... with what's going on around the district

[more]

## Upcoming Key Dates

| | |
|---|---|
| Tuesday, November 12th, 2019 | **Thomaston-Upson County Board Meeting** |
| Tuesday, November 12th, 2019 | **Thomaston-Upson County Governor Visit** |
| Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 | **Brookhaven Board Meeting** |
| Wednesday, November 13th, 2019 | **Brookhaven Governor Visit** |
| Friday, November 15th, 2019 | **District Committee Meetings** |
| Saturday, November 16th, 2019 | **District Nominating Committee** |
| Tuesday, November 19th, 2019 | **Midtown Atlanta Board Meeting** |
| Tuesday, November 19th, 2019 | **Midtown Atlanta Governor Visit** |
| Thursday, November 21st, 2019 | **Rotary Leadership Summit 2019** |
| Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019 | **Quitman County Board Meeting** |
| Tuesday, December 3rd, 2019 | **Quitman County Governor Visit** |
| Wednesday, December 4th, 2019 | **South DeKalb Board Meeting** |
| Wednesday, December 4th, 2019 | **South DeKalb Governor Visit** |

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# GRSP in November

**LIKE THE GRAPHICS?**

To see them larger, click the words here to 1) **learn about the Oslo summer scholarship opportunity for Georgia students** - a program in place for several years to thank Georgia for GRSP; and 2) **read about the experiences of this year's GRSP students in their first newsletter of the year** - they have truly taken this newsletter to a new high!

**STUDENT WEEKENDS**

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the students enjoyed a wonderful weekend with the Savannah area Rotary Clubs, one of two weekends each hosted by District 6920. Again, a big thank you to District 6910

who continues to charter a bus for the long trip to Savannah. As the newsletter goes to press, the **Alpharetta RC, Johns Creek RC, Milton-Windward RC, North Fulton RC, Roswell RC and Sandy Springs RC** will have already hosted the final student weekend for this calendar year. Students will have arrived in Alpharetta on Friday night with Alpharetta RC hosting a pot luck dinner and bonfire. The students will have been picked up by the many weekend host families to spend the night with them. A big shout out to these families that open their homes and their hearts to these students for a weekend!!!! It is very much appreciated by the students and the rest of the hosting Rotary Clubs in all three districts.

Last year the students were treated to the Main Event, but this year they will be spending time at WhirlyBall Atlanta, where they will have team building, games and karaoke. The students will have gone to the Computer Museum of Atlanta. As if that isn't enough, they will have also gone to Lucky's Burgers and Brew for college football, tailgating and burgers and then to the Roswell Visitors Center for a service project and other activities. The day will end with a spooky walking tour of Roswell.

The next student weekend is the GRSP Leadership Weekend - scheduled for the Martin Luther King Holiday Weekend - January 17-19. Watch for information from the Rotary Club of Dunwoody this week.

**THANKSGIVING**

It is not too early to start talking with your student about holiday plans, particularly Thanksgiving. There is not another country in the world that celebrates Thanksgiving and this is the favorite holiday of nearly every student we have hosted. We think it evokes memories of their own families at significant holidays in their own countries. For those clubs that do not partner with other clubs, students seem to like to visit several families, rather than just staying with their main host family. Obviously, this depends on the student, but for those Rotarians who are not official host families, this could be a good way to find out a little more about the program by visiting with your student. For the Rotary Clubs who are partnering with other clubs, please be sure to work out details of the entire week with your other host families to be sure that everyone is included.

**STRATEGIC PLANNING/PILOT PROGRAM**

As reported earlier, the **RC of Dunwoody** chose to be the first club in a pilot club that was designed for the specific purpose of bringing more diversity of countries being involved with the Program and it appears that this program has worked very well for them. They are hosting a student from Ethiopia this year. It has been many years since we have seen a student from Ethiopia. The executive committee of GRSP has agreed to open the pilot program to a few other Rotary Clubs for the coming year.

The program works by allowing the Rotary Club to review the applications of students that have already been approved by the university. This process, however, cannot be started until as late as May or June, depending on the university. Due to FERPA, public universities may need to be handled a bit differently. If a club has a member working for the subject university or if the university is willing to notify the applicants that a Rotary scholarship may be available to them, perhaps prospects can apply directly to the Rotary Club. The Rotary Club must also be committed to spending a good deal more time in the selection process than in the past, so it is advised that a committee be formed to review the applications and make a selection. It is also recommended that the Rotary Club select a student from a country that has not previously been represented in the Georgia Rotary Student Program. The student must comply with all requirements of the program in order to be selected and will be considered a normal GRSP student.

If a club is interested in this program, please contact Lynn Clarke, the GRSP District Chair for 6900. The Club or combination of clubs can offer a scholarship that is at least $6,000.00. GRSP will provide an

additional $6,000 from the endowment this year for that student, but cannot provide more than one scholarship per club. If you need further details about the pros and cons of the pilot program, please contact Jackie Cuthbert or Lorri Christopher with the RC of Dunwoody.

**OSLO SCHOLARSHIP**

Deadline is December 30 for this all-expense paid trip to Oslo, Norway next summer. Ask your trustee for details or check out our website at www.grsp.org. Please understand that Rotarian children and grandchildren can and do apply for this scholarship.

**BARBARA M. AND DONALD L. THOMAS PEACE AWARD**

The **Roswell Rotary Club** is proud to continue this award once again. Thanks to the continued generosity and support of the Thomas family, an award of $1500 will be presented to a deserving GRSP student who exhibits the spirit of the GRSP program and who is in need of additional financial assistance.The application form was sent to all Club Presidents in October. The completed application and accompanying letters must be returned no later than February 15, 2020. The award will be presented at a meeting of the Rotary Club of Roswell at a time convenient to all parties.

If you have any questions please contact Jacque Digieso, Roswell Rotary Club, 770-851-3435 (cell) or by email at digieso@bellsouth.net. Contact numbers are also listed at the bottom of the application form.

**ENDOWMENT NEWS**

We are very excited to once again be giving out checks to clubs in our district that donated at least $50 per capita to the GRSP Endowment. Calculations for those checks are in process. This District always receives the lion’s share of the award, since we are such supporters of the endowment. Please understand that this is not the $7 per member that each club gives to GRSP each year to keep the program running, but are the donations that Rotarians make to the GRSP Endowment. The GRSP Endowment is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and donations are considered tax deductible. Confirm that your treasurer sends in any donations you have made before the end of the year in order to get credit for your donation in the year in which it was made.

In further news the trustees of the GRSP this past summer voted unanimously to separate the operational part of GRSP and the GRSP Endowment because of increased liability due to General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), which is Europe’s new framework for data protection laws. This decision will further protect the assets of the endowment.

**SELECTION NEWS**

Each fall, the executive committee of GRSP meets to review the anticipated earnings of the endowment and to discuss projections on tuition/room and board cost increases in Georgia for the following year. The goal of the committee is to give as much as possible out of the endowment in order to reduce the financial burden on sponsoring Rotary Clubs. We always have a representative for the Board of Regents in order to have current information. Latest intelligence is that club president elects will be receiving the Selection Book the middle of November; however, please be advised that we have fewer applications than ever before. No one is sure why, although it appears that it may be a combination of reduction in educational visas being issued from the United States, increased competition from other scholarship providers and concern from International Students regarding the United States.

Every club will want the “best” student, but it is impossible to know which student the “best” student is by looking at a two page document with a picture. We all do what we can with the limited information available and choose our top six. Clubs have different methods of working together to come up with a selection. When multiple clubs are selecting, the methods are as many as the partnerships that are selecting. The president elect will sign the Commitment Form committing his or her club to paying a certain amount for a student. These forms must be submitted prior to January 3 for final selection by their trustee on January 24. Many factors influence whether or not a club gets their first choice or a student that wasn’t selected by the club at all. A selected student may turn down the scholarship for another one that they applied for or may decide that the university the club wants to send them to is not their first choice. Fortunately for many clubs, they find that even if they didn’t get their first choice, the student that they receive exceeds all expectations.

Please remember that there is quite a lot of confidential information in the Selection Book. Do not let your student from this year look through the book or post the information for anyone to see.

**STUDENT TRAVEL OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES**

Please be advised that the schools and universities in Georgia require notification when a student plans to exit the United States to visit another country. Such travel requires approval from the university or college and notification must be given to the Home Office (Barbara Lariscy or Holly Baker). Any questions may be directed to the home office as well.

In addition, the GRSP Office will need to know 1) where the student plans to go, 2) the length of stay and 3) the name of the group that the student will be traveling with, whether it is a travel agency, sponsored trip or on their own. Students need to understand that returning to the United States through customs and immigration could present a problem, if proper notification has not been given to the college or university. Also, even if a student is traveling within the borders of the United States, it is always recommended that they keep their passport with them at all times for proper identification.

**PHOTOS:**

Posted by Lynn Clarke
November 6, 2019