DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR JANUARY, 2020

From Our District Governor

Start the New Decade By Connecting with Rotary's Many Opportunities

By Jim Squire

We're off to a fine start to a new decade and the second half of our Rotary Year. The holidays were extra special this year for Donna and I because we had the chance to spend time with many of you and learn about the good work you are doing to connect Rotary to the needs in your communities.

As you read this newsletter, you'll learn about projects that benefit Make A Wish Foundation, Scouting, holiday shopping and photos with Santa, women's shelters and more. You can get a glimpse into the world of our Global Grant Scholar Sean Minton as he makes the most of his year in London focused on Peace and Conflict Resolution. And you'll see some important dates to keep in mind - starting with the Rotary Leadership Institute this week and moving on through a February webinar on district awards, a special Rotary Foundation event in April with RI President Mark Maloney and First Lady Gay, our District Conference in Jekyll Island that includes a Derby party, and RYLA camp in June.

It's all part of connecting with each other and the world! [more]

District Awards Information

District Awards Deadline - March 6; Webinar - February 11

By Raymond Ray, Jr.

Awards are a really big deal in our District! We distribute them to reward the long hours of hard work performed by our fantastic District Rotarians to make a difference in our communities and the world!

We are well along in our 2019-20 Rotary year! We have passed the half way mark and I want to remind all D6900 Clubs of District award submissions that must be submitted no later than March 6,, 2020. In accordance with the Governor's Citation, there are mandatory actions each D6900 Rotary Club must complete to qualify for the 2019-20 D6900 Governor's Citation. We have been tracking Rotary International/District information and found many of you exceed requirements in membership, Foundation and service. Quite an accomplishment!. You can get information on the district website and at our upcoming webinar. [more]

The founders of SusanSnaps - Susan and mom Laura (who is a Rotary Foundation alumnus because of her participation in Rotary Youth Exchange)

The Rotary Foundaton

Are You a Rotary Foundation Alumnus?

By Cheryl Greenway

The Rotary Foundation has more than 394,000 alumni, however, less than 15,000 are registered as Rotary alumni they can be located everywhere. You never know where you will find an alumnus.

Take a recent meeting of the **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs**. The guest speakers - Laura Stachler and her daughter Susan are the co-founders of Susansnaps, a nationally recognized cookie company. They spoke of unlikely adversity and their unique "cancer to cookies" story as chronicled in their book entitled "The Cookie Cure." Susansnaps has been nationally recognized and most notably featured on The Today Show, CBS Evening News with Katie Couric, CNN and in publications like Redbook, O Magazine, and Family Circle. In addition to learning about their company, the audience also learned that Laura is an alumnus of our Rotary Youth Exchange program. [more]

GRSP Update

Students Immersed in US Culture and Taking Time to Serve Others

By Lynn Clarke

Holiday Reflections

We were thrilled that many of our students elected to travel to Washington D.C. this year. This class continues to amaze us with their thirst for American culture and even wanting to see the seat of our American Government. We like to encourage our students to see the diversity throughout the US and ... [more]

Mathilde Illum, cousin Catharina Vandekerckhove and Mhairi Gormley (all GRSP students) with Jackie Cuthbert at Atlanta Botanical Gardens last Christmas

GRSP Alumni Perspectives

Reflections on a Singular Year

By Lynn Clarke

To describe this year with one word is a considerable challenge. The word, like my year here, must be complicated, yet simple; meaningful to me, yet to other people, a thing said in passing and never considered again. With these criteria (and my cousin) in mind, I decided that the best word would be some physics term, and what better than " ... [more]

From Our Chaplain

Consider "2020 VISION" as We Begin a New Year

By Mark Barbour

2020 Vision will allow all Rotarians to see that our common, mutual consideration as Rotarians is the clear "VISION" for all Rotarians to be intentionally **R**elational, **O**pportunity oriented, 'vibrantly' **T**ransformational(!), **A**ffirmational *(*being *affiliated* with ... [more]

RYLA

Get Ready for RYLA!

By Jaclyn Donovan

RYLA 2020 is on the calendar for June 20-24, and we are already getting excited! Application materials are updated on the website – www.ryla6900.com – and will be sent out to clubs very soon.So start making plans now to sponsor a student or two. Or 10... we'll take them all! The ideal RYLA student is ... [more]

Register now on the District Website!

Club News

Peachtree City Golf Cart Gets Local Family to Australia

By Mandy Timmons

If you could be anything, go anywhere, or meet anyone, what would you wish for? The Make-A-Wish Foundation has been asking seriously ill children that question for 35 years. Make-A-Wish is a growing organization that spent more than 200 million donated dollars on wishes last year. It's headquartered in Phoenix, has more than 60 local chapters across the country, and almost 40 more around the world.

The **Peachtree City Rotary Club** had the unique opportunity to help raise funds to sponsor a wish through Make-A-Wish Georgia this year. On Thursday, October 31, we were so blessed to be able to grant Kyle's wish to travel to Australia with his mom, dad and three sisters. [more]

Club News

Vinings Cumberland Serves Lunch at My Sister's House

By Ross Henderson

Members of the **Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club** met right after Thanksgiving at My Sister's House, Atlanta Mission, a shelter for homeless women and their children, in Atlanta. Pictured are Juliann Northrop, Jolee Northrop, daughters of Rotarian Jolene Northrop, Rotarian Wally Horlacher, and his grandson Burke Volkmann, as they take ... [more]

Club News

Rotary Club of Americus Hosts Free Photos with Santa

By Angela Smith

Tis the season to be jolly and the **Americus Rotary Club** engaged Santa himself to bring a bit of magic and joy to Sumter and the surrounding communities! Each year, the club hosts its Photos with Santa event providing a photographer and FREE pictures for families and children of every age. "This tradition is one that has proven to be a wonderful opportunity to share some holiday cheer with our community," exclaimed Rene Smith, President of the Rotary Club of Americus.

Rotarian Vic Patel graciously offers the lobby of the Best Western Windsor Hotel to stage the perfect spot for Santa to visit with his fans. An adjoining room serves as a gathering spot for families to enjoy cookies and hot chocolate while they wait their turn and children are entertained with a table stocked with crayons and holiday coloring sheets. [more]

President-Elect Mary Ansley Southerland, Councilman Joseph Goldstein, Dr. Emily Lembeck join Kiwanis President Debbie McCracken and another Kiwanian at the annual holiday children's party

Club News

Marietta Sponsors Annual Around the World Children's Party

By Dale Covington

The **Rotary Club of Marietta** and Marietta's Police Athletic League teamed up for the 13th year to put on the Holidays Around the World" Children's Party for 200 underprivileged youngsters in Marietta's depressed, crime-infested area of Franklin Gateway. Rotarian Holly Walquist and 11 other Rotarians in the RC of Marietta ... [more]

Bainbridge Receives Scouting Award

By Jackie Cuthbert

The **Bainbridge Rotary Club** was recently recognized by the International Fellowship of Scouting Rotarians (IFSR) with a Youth Service Award as a result of an article published in the December 3, 2019 ... [more]

Club News

Lake Spivey Clayton County Share Spirit of Giving with Local Kids

By Ron Swofford

Members of the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** gathered to celebrate the beginning of the Holiday Season at a reception hosted by fellow members Claudia and Tom Mertl. The reception followed the completion of one of the club's most respected projects called "The Giving Side of Christmas" at the First Baptist Church ... [more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, January 21st, 2020	**Polk County Board Meeting**
Tuesday, January 21st, 2020	**Polk County Governor Visit**
Friday, February 7th, 2020	**District Leadership Training**

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