

July 5, 2025



August 15-17 | Athens

Join Us For GRSP Conclave

YOU ARE INVITED TO

CONCLAVE 2025



AUGUST
15-17, 2025



**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA
CENTER FOR CONTINUING
EDUCATION & HOTEL**
1197 S LUMPKIN ST
ATHENS, GA 30602

REGISTER NOW!



www.grsp.org



Rotarians and guests are invited to Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2025-26 in Athens - August 15-17. Conclave is hosted this year by District 6910 and under the direction of the Athens, Oconee County and The Classic City of Athens Rotary Clubs.

Conclave is the kickoff event for GRSP and allows the international college scholarship students to interact with one another as well as Georgia Rotarians. Students, trustees, officers, host families and friends of the program will participate in important informational sessions beginning at 12:30 pm on Friday at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel, and throughout the day on Saturday. Here are some of the featured activities:

- District Governor Elect Jessica Fleetwood, Rotary Club of Etowah Cartersville, will open the Friday

session with an introduction to Rotary International.

- Dr. Anna Westerstahl Stenport, Dean and UGA Foundation Professor of Arts and Sciences, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, will be the keynote speaker for the scholars on Saturday. A native of Sweden, Shenport spent her first year of college as a GRSP scholar at UGA, sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Peachtree City and Canton in 1993-94.
- A special welcome dinner for registered Rotarians and guests will be held Friday from 6-9 pm. Enjoy a Tuscan buffet for \$58 per person. Students will provide a short introduction and name their trustee and their sponsoring Rotary Clubs.
- Saturday evening attendees (6:15 to 9:15 pm) - business/smart attire, will enjoy a dinner and program at Mahler Hall - featuring the GRSP Cabaret, the popular variety-style performance and parade of flags The dinner will be \$63 per person for a Travelers Buffet. Afterwards, students and Rotarians will have separate mixer events, including a cash bar for Rotarians
- On Sunday morning, the students will experience the Ultimate Football Experience, getting a glimpse of Sanford Stadium and the West End Zone Facility, including historic displays, before leave at 11 AM to return to their respective colleges and universities or their host families.

Registration and Housing

GRSP students are pre-registered for the event and meals. They will be hosted by Athens-area Rotarians for the weekend.

Rotarians and guests may register for Friday and/or Saturday dinners through the GRSP web site at www.grsp.org. The UGA Center for Continuing Education & Hotel, 1197 S. Pumpkin St., Athens, GA 30602, has a block of rooms set aside for Conclave participants who need lodging - with a special GRSP limited-availability rate that's available for reservations made by July 2. Lodging reservations can be made via a link on the GRSP website - separate from the link to register for Conclave meals.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
June 13, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

African Global Grant Partner of North Atlanta Club Receives a District Award



The **Ethiopian Rotary Club of Addis Ababa - Central Mella** won the Anna Award for "Most Impressive Project and Best Maternal Child Project" at the Centennial District 9212 Conference in Mombasa.

The club is **North Atlanta's** "boots on the ground" partner in a five-year Rotary Global Grant project to provide supplemental folic acid tablets to women at risk, aiming to reduce spina bifida and other birth defects. Hospitals in Ethiopia distribute the tablets, with 1.8 million purchased to date from an Indian supplier.

Other global partners in this initiative include the **Rotary Clubs of Coppel, TX, Raleigh, NC and Addis Ababa West**, along with the ReachAnother Foundation (RAF) of Oregon and Ethiopia, working with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MOH). The **Rotary Clubs of Dunwoody and Tyrone** contributed. Rotarian Dr. Yakob Ahmed is the RAF's Country Director. Dr. Ralph Peeler of the North Atlanta Club is the principal of the club's signature project.

The North Atlanta Club developed an online spina bifida prevention forum to foster collaboration among the participants and other interested parties: <https://sbf-forum.org/index.php>

The spina bifida prevention initiative is in its third year, now involving six hospitals and planning to enroll 2500 high-risk mothers. Other hospitals in Ethiopia are referring at-risk patients for the folic acid tablets that are unavailable elsewhere.

Epidemiological data is being compiled and analyzed in Ethiopia for publication to demonstrate the project's quantitative scope and positive impact.

For further details, refer to Rotary's Service Project Center or contact Dr. Ralph Peeler at rdpiiimd@comcast.net.

Rotary: <https://spc.rotary.org/project?guid=58368E94-0EEB-425B-A603-3B33487A45D9>

"Teamwork makes the dream work."

PHOTOS:





Posted by Jon Yaeger
June 11, 2025

Club News

North Cobb Smoke on the Lake Celebrates 15 Years



North Cobb's Smoke on the Lake is a popular annual BBQ festival held at Logan Farm Park in Acworth, Georgia, traditionally taking place over Mother's Day weekend. It is hosted by the **Rotary Club of North Cobb** and serves as our largest fundraiser, with 90% of net proceeds supporting local charities and 10% benefiting international causes.

The event has become a major regional attraction, drawing over 12,000 attendees and featuring more than 30 competitive BBQ teams from across the Southeast. The whole club membership gets involved in one way or the other, directing traffic, manning the different parking lots, selling taster tickets, welcoming guests and having fun!!

This year we had District 6900 dignitaries in attendance. DG Gordon and his wife Ashley and DGE Steve were there.

Interesting facts about Smoke on the Lake include:

- The festival spans two days: Friday night offers a concert under the stars along with a "Lord of the Wings" wing-tasting contest where attendees can buy tasting tickets and vote for their favorites; Saturday is dedicated to a BBQ competition with cook teams judged both publicly and by certified judges from the Georgia Barbecue Association (GBA), which is the second largest BBQ competition sanctioning body in Georgia

- Over its 15 years of running, Smoke on the Lake has evolved into one of Cobb County and Acworth's most cherished events, fostering a strong community atmosphere with family activities, local business booths, live music, making it a memorable experience for visitors and participants alike
- The event benefits from partnerships with the City of Acworth, the Georgia Barbecue Association, and professional event management, ensuring a smooth and high-quality festival experience

This combination of community charity work, vibrant festival atmosphere, competitive BBQ cooking, and live entertainment makes Smoke on the Lake a standout event in North Cobb's social and cultural calendar.

PHOTOS:







Everybody's Job: Setting the Stage for Public Image



As we enter the next Rotary year with new teams, boards, and presidents, we are seeing the role of public image become even more significant. An important principle for our own **Roswell Rotary** PI team is *"If you don't tell people about it, it didn't happen."* In an era dominated by social media, instant videos, and continuous communication with numerous distractions competing for attention, it is crucial to ensure that the efforts of Rotary Clubs receive adequate exposure throughout the community.

Plan: To effectively communicate service projects and messages, planning before the event is essential. Public image should be integrated into the pre-planning process for every project. For larger projects, thinking of the post-event publicity beforehand ensures that visuals and words are prepared for social media posts, newspaper articles, etc. New committee chairs or project chairs should coordinate with their Public Image Chair to disseminate information about their project effectively.

Set the Stage: For large events, preparation is key to creating opportunities for high-quality pictures and videos. The background and foreground of a picture are vital. At club meetings, consider what elements appear in every meeting photograph. If organizing a ribbon-cutting ceremony, decorating in advance with balloons, streamers, signage, and bubbles can add visual and auditory interest.

Rotarians in Action: Consider how club members' activities will be communicated both within and outside the club during service projects. For example, a picture of a Rotarian helping a smiling child to put on their new mittens and hat conveys a strong message. A photo of District Governor Gordon Owens in flight over the pool in the Polar Plunge belly flop contest captures engagement. Always think about how to convey the actions Rotarians take in service.

Tell a Story: People remember stories and emotions associated with them. Articles with facts and group shots are informative, while memorable stories create lasting impressions. For instance, at a Memorial Day event, two sisters of Rotary Club Past President Elwyn Gaissert II shared a story about Elwyn leaving on a train for the Navy, which connected emotionally with attendees. On a day when we were remembering those who did not return, this family sharing the farewell at the train station was poignant. Capturing stories like these add depth to the event's significance.

Everybody's Job: Ensuring the message of service is not solely the responsibility of the public image team. Every committee chair should consider how to promote their project or event. Members can contribute by taking pictures and sharing posts on social media or through personal interactions. Effective communication can attract more attendees to meetings and new members to clubs. Plan ahead and make it happen.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Kathryn Igou
June 6, 2025

Club News

Griffin Daybreak Honors Local Fifth Grade Students



The **Daybreak Rotary Club of Griffin** honors exceptional fifth graders in the Griffin-Spalding School System every year. There are 11 elementary schools, so 11 students, selected by their teachers, are recognized by club members at their fifth-grade graduation programs. Rotarians present these students with a certificate and a medal after highlighting each student's accomplishments. Students and their families are also invited to a Daybreak meeting for breakfast and to be recognized as a group. This year, we had seven of the students and their families able to come to the breakfast meeting to be recognized - Riley Monroe (Orrs), Chloe Stone (Moore), Alejandra Tellez-Beltran (Jordan Hill), Vivian Benefield (Futral Rd), Messiah Stroud (Crescent), Kayden Lloyd (Cowan Rd), and Kendrick Sims (Anne St) - all pictured with Debby Daniel-Bryant, President Elect, Daybreak Rotary Club.

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant
June 13, 2025

Club News

Lake Spivey Clayton County Welcomes "Rotary 101 and Beyond"

Speaker

JUNE 04, 2025



Lake Spivey/Clayton County

Rotary

District 6900



Thank You!

**GUEST
SPEAKER**

RENEE WELCH

The **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** extends a heartfelt thank you to Renee Welch for serving as our guest speaker during our June 4th, 2025 meeting, held at the beautiful Hearts to Nourish Hope building in Riverdale, GA. Renee shared invaluable insight during her presentation, "Rotary 101 and Beyond," inspiring our members with her decades-long commitment to service and Rotary leadership.

Originally from Greenville, SC, Renee is a practicing attorney, a Furman and University of South Carolina Law graduate, and a passionate Rotarian since 2000. Her extensive service within Rotary reflects a deep dedication to goodwill, fellowship, and impactful leadership. Thank you, Renee, for reminding us of the Rotary Four-Way Test and encouraging all of us to continue building a better world through truth, fairness, goodwill, and service.

Posted by Trina Kolawole

June 6, 2025
