



August 5, 2025



Celebrating All Your Good Work



DG Steve Ivory had a great time at his official visit with the Rotary Club of Senoia, with a pizza social and service project to pack out cans of peaches and spaghetti sauce at Midwest Food Bank Georgia! Club members were joined by students from East Coweta High School!

July is wrapping up and I have visited many clubs already. My club visits have all been fun and inspiring so far and have included officer and president installations, service projects, board meetings and club meetings. I truly look forward to seeing you all soon and seeing the impact your clubs are having in the community.

We are awaiting funds from The Rotary Foundation to distribute for your community grant projects this year and are excited to launch a competitive grant program that can provide up to \$35,000 in additional grants for local projects (up to \$7,000 for any one project) - with grant applications due by September 1.

Special thanks to Chris Brand, our disaster relief chair, for heading to Texas recently to help the communities devastated by the floods. He and his team provided much needed medical equipment to folks in need.

I hope that many of you will attend our Membership Summit on August 16, and that you will join us next

spring at Lake Lanier for our District Conference. Our dates are April 16-19, 2026, and you can find more information on the [District website](#).

Thanks for all you are doing; continue to Unite for Good.

Posted by Steve Ivory
August 5, 2025

August 16 | 9AM-2PM

Let's Grow Rotary Together: Don't Miss the D6900 Membership Summit

Gary C.K. Huang
RI President, 2013-2014

"The more members we have, the more
people we can help."

**JOIN
US**

MEMBERSHIP SUMMIT

Saturday, August 16

9 am - 2 pm

Jonesboro, GA

Rotary
District 6900



www.rotary6900.org

Membership is the heartbeat of Rotary - and this August, Rotarians from across District 6900 will come together to energize, innovate and strengthen our clubs at the 2025 Membership Summit. Whether you're a Membership Chair, club officer, or simply passionate about growing Rotary, this interactive workshop is for you!

- Location: Fellowship Hall at Jonesboro Baptist Church
- Date: Saturday, August 16, 2025
- Time: 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM
- Includes lunch, coffee breaks and free parking

This summit features a dynamic lineup of local and international speakers who will dive into the latest

tools, strategies, and models for building and sustaining vibrant clubs. You'll walk away with practical ideas you can put into action right away, including:

- New member orientation best practices
- How to host effective Discover Rotary events
- Innovative club models and alternative membership types
- Attraction and engagement strategies that work
- A chance to connect with fellow Rotarians who are also passionate about growth and service

Attendees will also enjoy a delicious pre-boxed lunch, complete with your choice of sandwich (vegetarian, tuna, ham or chicken), cheese cubes and grapes, broccoli salad and fresh baked cookies, all served with Rotary fellowship and warm hospitality.

Register at <https://rotary6900.org/event/8566> before July 19 to take advantage of the early bird rate of \$10.

Whether you're a Membership Chair, club leader, or passionate Rotarian, this summit is for you! Let's come together to ensure our clubs remain strong, welcoming and ready for the future. See you in Jonesboro!

Posted by Audley Knight
July 3, 2025

District 6900 & FODAC Deliver Vital Medical Equipment to Texas Flood Survivors



When disaster strikes, Rotary shows up. In late July, **District 6900 Disaster Relief Chair Chris Brand**, who also serves as **President of FODAC (Friends of Disabled Adults and Children)**, led a critical mission to Texas to support communities recovering from devastating floods. In partnership with the American Red Cross and local response teams, Chris and his team delivered 250 pieces of durable medical equipment to aid survivors in urgent need. These included wheelchairs, walkers, shower chairs, and other essential items for individuals with mobility challenges.

“Getting this equipment into the hands of people who lost everything is why we do what we do,” said Brand during the handoff at a Red Cross facility. “We’re proud to partner with Rotary and national relief agencies to make recovery just a little easier for those hit hardest.”

The team on the ground, including Rotary and Red Cross volunteers, was all smiles during the delivery — a moment captured in the image of the memory wall — symbolizing a shared mission of hope and resilience.

The other photos show the impact zone where recovery continues, as well as a touching tribute wall filled with flowers and messages, honoring the lives affected and lost in the flood's aftermath.

District 6900’s continued commitment to disaster response ensures that when help is needed most, Rotary is there — prepared, equipped, and ready to serve.

Editor's Note - the "Rest of the Story" ... Two other points are important to recognize when talking about FODAC ... #1 - the continued support of Rotary clubs throughout the District and the State to collect supplies for FODAC - including Roswell Rotary, Alpharetta Rotary, Big Canoe, Dawson, and many others who do annual equipment drives like the Dekalb County Rotary Council drive on August 9 and Henry County on August 16. And #2 ... Chris spoke about FODAC's work recently with WABE's A Closer Look program host Rose Scott. [Listen to his interview by clicking here.](#)

PHOTOS:







Posted by Nicholas Ramey
July 27, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation

Seeing the Forest

by Bob Hagan, District 6900 Rotary Foundation Chair



While we're talking trees, Nassau Sunrise Rotarians and Rotaractors plant mangrove trees at Bonefish Pond National Park in Nassau as part of a project to restore the mangrove ecosystem and help protect the

coast against hurricanes.

Everyone has heard the adage, "You can't see the forest for the trees." It's easy for us to get so caught up in what we are doing and our own projects that we sometimes fail to see how our projects roll up into the big, no really the huge picture of The Rotary Foundation.

Even though we don't yet have the final numbers from last year, the numbers we do have are quite impressive and they are worth sharing with you now. Because of the hard work we all did last year, The Rotary Foundation contributed to funding more than \$88 million in global grants and more than \$28 million in district grants worldwide. It's a great example of how the Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts, changing lives both close to home and abroad. People from around the world are now able to live healthier lives, live in better communities, live in safer spaces and more beautiful places. What we have all accomplished together cannot be understated. Since the establishment of the Foundation more than 100 years ago, it has invested more than \$4 billion in changing lives and sustaining projects. All these point back to our mission: The Rotary Foundation helps Rotary members to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace by providing quality education, improving the environment, and alleviating poverty.

District 6900 also had a banner year in 2024/25 and just as we are awaiting the worldwide numbers, we are still awaiting the district numbers, though we should see them very soon. What I can share is that both Foundation giving and Polio giving were up this year and that is always good news. We had 19 Global Grants submitted which was a record for the district. In addition, District 6900 contributed over \$69,000 to Zone 34 for Polio Plus. We awarded 59 Community Grants and 7 Competitive Grants. All of this adds up to a very successful year in 2024/25.

Now we look forward to 2025/26. I recently read one of the best quotes I've seen in a while and it's worth sharing here: "Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves." Certainly, the quote fits very nicely with this year's message, "Unite for good."

When we partner with The Rotary Foundation great things happen. Not only do we see it in the numbers, far more importantly, we see it in the faces of the people we serve and that's why we do it. Here's to a new year of Service Above Self! Let's continue to work together to make our Foundation stronger as it reaches greater heights.

If I personally can assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via cell or email.

Posted by Bob Hagan
July 29, 2025

GRSP Update

GRSP Approves Budget, Elects New Leadership & Honors Christopher at Summer Meeting

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director



The Georgia Rotary Student Program and GRSP Foundation held its annual summer business meeting in mid-July in Macon. During the session, members approved the 2024 audit and upcoming fiscal budget, elected officers for 2025-2026, recognized new trustees and directors, and honored distinguished service and donor contributions.

The GRSP continues its 79-year mission of “World Peace Through Understanding” by awarding one-year ambassadorial scholarships to international college students sponsored by Rotary Clubs in Georgia.

Financial Integrity and Transparency: An independent audit by Fulton and Kozak confirmed a clean financial report for FY 2023-2024, with no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies. GRSP

maintains a favorable nonprofit efficiency ratio, dedicating 84 cents of every dollar to programmatic efforts.

2025-2026 Leadership Elections: Chair Emeritus and Parliamentarian Bert Guy presented the new slate of officers, unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees:

- Chair: Ian Bond (Columbus)
- Vice Chair: James McCoy (Lanier Forsyth)
- Treasurer: Al Hombroek (Lawrenceville)
- Assistant Treasurer: Steve Harrell (Athens)
- Secretary: Jackie Cuthbert, (Dunwoody)
- Assistant Secretary: Meredith Deal, (Brunswick)

GRSP Foundation Leadership and Recognition: The GRSP Foundation welcomed new directors including Past District Governors Andre Marria (Thomasville), Ken Townsend (North Columbus) and Ed Presnell (Augusta). District 6920 District Governor Terry Adkins (Brunswick) was elected as Foundation President, with Mike Alexander (Hartwell) as Vice President, Teri White (Thomasville) as Treasurer, and Cheryl Huffman (Rome Seven-Hills) as Secretary.

District Governors, Steve Ivory for District 6900, Jessica Fleetwood for District 6910 and Adkins for District 6920 each reaffirmed their continued support for both GRSP and the GRSP Foundation.

Distinguished Honors: Lorri Christopher, Rotary Club of Dunwoody, was named Trustee Emeritus for her extensive service to GRSP and the Foundation. Christopher was celebrated for her strategic leadership and deep involvement, including hosting multiple international students and spearheading new initiatives. She is also a Jim Brim Fellow, which includes cumulative contributions of \$15,000 or more to the GRSP Foundation. Her full resolution is available at www.grsp.org.

Donor Milestones: Numerous Trustees and leaders were honored for reaching new cumulative donor levels, including:

- **Will Watt Fellows (\$1,000):** Aaron Strimban (East Cobb)
- **Hue Thomas Jr. Fellows (\$2,500):** George Siggins (Newnan), Susan Fortson (Elberton), Hunt Thornhill (Camden County)
- **Kendall Weisiger Fellows (\$5,000):** Kerry Arnold (Henry Co.), Mike Alexander (Hartwell)
- **Jake Cheatham Fellow (\$7,500):** Cheryl Huffman (Rome Seven Hills); Larry Frosteg in memorandum (Pelham)
- **Ronnie Waller Fellows (\$10,000):** PDG Andre Marria (Thomasville), Clarence “Pete” McDonald (Rome).

District and Trustee Updates: New district chairs include Scott Rich (District 6900) and Cheryl Huffman (District 6910). Rob Kellner continues as District 6920 Chair. District Directors include Aadu Allpere, (Buckhead) and George Siggins (Newnan) for District 6900; Mike Alexander (Hartwell) and John Richmond (Dalton) for District 6910 plus Dave Razo (Warner Robbins) along with Meredith Deal (Brunswick) for District 6920.

Several new trustees were appointed across the three Georgia districts, including Julio Portillo (Columbus) and Kevin Barbee (Newnan) for District 6900; Pete McDonald (Rome), John Petrillo (Gwinnett County), Jan Rooney (Lanier-Forsyth) and (Toccoa), for District 6910 plus Hunt Thornhill (Camden County) for District 6920.

Upcoming Events

- **GRSP Conclave:** August 15-17, 2025, in Athens, GA - Hosted by District 6910 ... Rotarians and guests are invited to Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2025-26.
- **GRSP Winter Business Meeting:** January 23-24, 2026, in Macon, GA

For more information, visit www.grsp.org or follow GRSP on social media.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Katheryne Fields
July 16, 2025

At Work for Our Rotary Foundation

Crazy - Rotarian's Death Valley Jog for Those Can't

Alert Medicare!



On August 1st, one D6900 Rotarian Lee Hollingsworth (Roswell) is doing something crazy for the Foundation: jogging across Badwater Basin in Death Valley, the lowest, hottest place in North America—at age 70!

What started as a personal challenge has become a mission: To raise \$15,000 for two Rotary causes all of us believe in:

- 50% to PolioPlus - finishing the fight to eradicate polio
- 50% to a Global Grant for Kibeam literacy tools - voice-guided projectors that help K-3 children learn to read in underserved communities

A \$5,000 challenge match has already been committed: conditional on raising an additional \$10,000. There is a \$1,000 minimum Foundation donation, and the donors and THEIR clubs get the credit. It helps Foundation directors meet their PolioPlus and annual fund commitments!

Whether you're an individual Rotarian or a group with a single club, a pledge will directly support this

bold—and hot—effort.

No money is needed today—just your pledge.

“Some run from the heat. I’m running into it—for children that may never run anywhere. To be served the gift of knowledge the way all Rotarians have at one time been led. ” Lee H

Join us! Contact Lee Hollingsworth at lee@leehollingsworth.com or by phone at 678-576-4838.

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth
July 28, 2025

CART

Help Change the Future of Alzheimer’s — One Coin at a Time

The CART Fund is dedicated to raising funds to provide "seed money" for cutting-edge, high-impact research to find a prevention, treatment or cure for Alzheimer's Disease. CART Fund by-laws require that 100% of all donated funds go directly to Alzheimer's research.

www.cartfund.org



SCAN TO LEARN
MORE



Have you ever dropped change in the blue CART bucket at a Rotary meeting? That spare change supports **early-stage Alzheimer's research** through the **Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust (CART)**, founded by Rotarians in 1996.

Every penny goes directly to research — no admin costs deducted.

- Drop coins, cash, or checks in the bucket

- Donate online at mycartfund.org
- Honor a loved one with a gift

Together, we're turning small change into big hope.

Please contact D6900 CART Fund Chair Nancy Alterman (nancyhalterman@gmail.com, 770-262-6300) with any questions or help needed with cart fund giving for the 2025-2026 Rotary year.

PHOTOS:

The CART Fund is dedicated to raising funds to provide "seed money" for cutting-edge, high-impact research to find a prevention, treatment or cure for Alzheimer's Disease.

CART Fund by-laws require that 100% of all donated funds go directly to Alzheimer's research.

www.cartfund.org



SCAN TO LEARN
MORE



TO DO

- ☐ Identify a club CART chair/champion as point of contact. Schedule a CART program for your club. Set a club CART goal and enter in the donor portal (www.mycartfund.org). Enroll as a recurring donor to be recognized as a member of the Roger Ackerman Circle.
- ☐ Little Blue Buckets are provided at no charge to Rotary Clubs - request from District CART Chair or tiffany@tiffanyervin.com.
- ☐

Donate Online:
mycartfund.org

ABOUT US

Started in 1995 by Rotarians in Sumter, SC, voluntarily emptying their pockets and purses of spare change into "little blue buckets" at their weekly lunch meetings.

- Supported by more than 600 Rotary clubs in 40 Rotary districts
- Awarded more than \$13 million in research grants to 60+ different research institutions in the US
- Founding member of Alzheimer's & Dementia Rotary Action Group
- 100% of all donations go directly to research



Record number of applications received in 2024 by researchers wanting to partner with CART



Record fundraising - more than \$2 million donated to CART in 2023-24

Executive Director:
Tiffany Ervin
tiffany@tiffanyervin.com
828-243-5870

District Chair:
Nancy Alterman
nancyhalterman8@gmail.com
770-262-6300



cartfundnews@gmail.com

Sharing the Story of Our Bob Hope



Bob Hope is known in District 6900 for the annual service trip he leads to Honduras, his work on the 2017 Rotary International Convention, and so much more. He has a long and storied career in public relations, including many years with the Atlanta Braves.

Recently, he shared this story, "A half century ago I regularly joked with Ted Turner that our goal for him was not just getting publicity but to be in the encyclopedia and history books. Encyclopedias have vanished to the internet but he did make history. It never occurred to me that I might become history too. I enjoy the Atlanta History videos in the weekly Saporta Report. Lance Russell does a great job telling stories of our city's past, mostly what happened prior to 1900. This new episode is both surprising and fun. Not sure what I think of his title, but it seems I am history."

[Click here and take a minute to listen to this special moment in history.](#)

Posted by Steve Ivory
July 27, 2025

Meet Our Polio Plus Foundation Team

by Wynita Cannon, District Polio Chair



Your Polio Plus Foundation Team is thrilled to kick off this Rotary Year with energy and purpose! We've partnered closely with District Leadership and have full support of our Zone to introduce an exciting new way for every Rotarian to support the Polio Plus Foundation.

Over the next month, you'll receive detailed information about a unique opportunity for every Rotarian in our district to contribute in a new and meaningful way. Stay tuned—exciting updates are on the way!

This year, we're proud to offer **two powerful matching opportunities**:

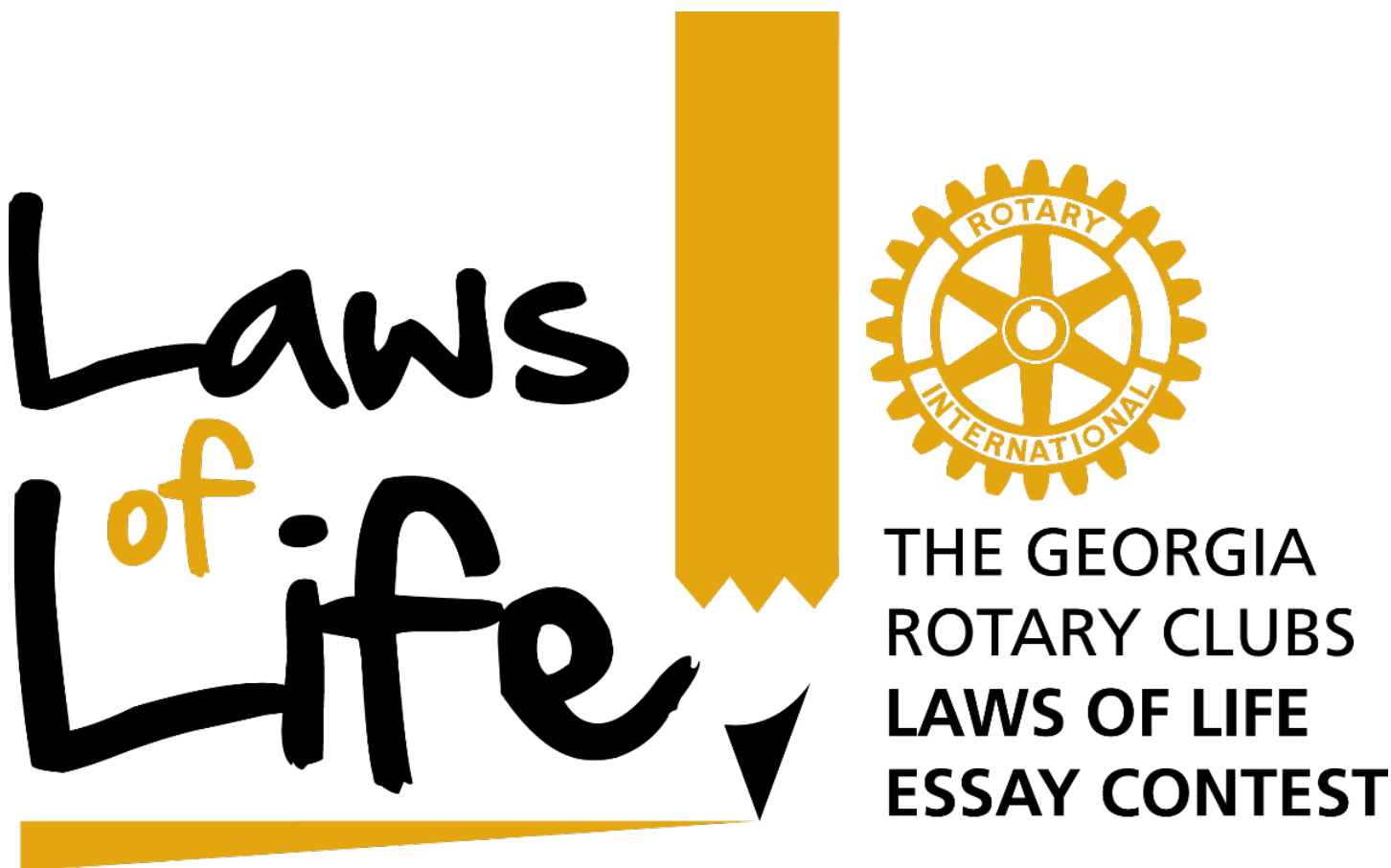
1. **Individual Donor Match** - A generous donor has pledged to match every Polio Plus gift with an additional \$100. Bruce Azevedo, Georgia's End Polio Now Coordinator (EPNC), is tracking donations and will match **up to \$500,000** in giving!
2. **Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation** 2-1 match still applies, multiplying your impact even further.

Together, we're off to a phenomenal start!

Finally, I'd like to introduce this year's dedicated **District Polio Team**, who will be working hard to support and inspire your efforts throughout the year. It includes Wynita Cannon (Dougherty County), Bob Hagan (Roswell), Paddi Sharma (Peachtree City), and Maryann Cathopoulos (Decatur).

Posted by Wynita Cannon
July 30, 2025

Celebrating Character, Service, and the Impact of Rotary



As we kick off the new school year, we invite you to join us for the annual **Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon on Friday, August 22**, at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta. This special event honors the educators who lead the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest in their schools and offers an opportunity for Rotarians to connect more deeply with this powerful character education program. All schools and Rotary clubs registered for the 2025-26 contest receive two free tickets.

Whether you're a returning partner or new to the contest, this event is your opportunity to:

- Hear from inspiring state-winning student writers
- Learn from experienced teachers how the contest continues to align with Georgia ELA Standards
- Connect with educators, Rotary sponsors, and contest leaders
- Receive school and student tools, and continuing education credits (teachers)

We are proud to share a compelling reflection, [The Ethos of the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest](#)

Program: The Profile of Winners, from former board member and long-time Rotarian **Dr. Anu Narula**, who beautifully captures the spirit and impact of the contest on students and communities across Georgia.

Reserve your luncheon tickets today at www.georgialawsoflife.org/events. Virtual option available.

We encourage all Rotary clubs to engage in this life-changing program by sponsoring the contest at a local high school or inviting a club presentation.

To learn more, contact Carol Gray Walker at carol@georgialawsoflife.org

Posted by Carol Gray Walker
July 31, 2025

RYLA

Save Room for RYLA!



The logo features the word "RYLA" in large, bold, multi-colored letters (R: blue, Y: orange, L: teal, A: pink). Below it is the date "June 6-10, 2026" in bold black text, followed by "GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY" in smaller black text. The website "www.RYLA6900.com" is displayed in blue text. At the bottom, the names "Susan Ruckman" and "Jaclyn Donovan" are listed as District Chairs, with the email "RYLA6900@GMAIL.COM". A Facebook icon is in the top left, and decorative brush strokes in blue, orange, and pink are on the right and bottom left.

 **RYLA**
June 6-10, 2026
GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY
www.RYLA6900.com
Susan Ruckman District Chair
Jaclyn Donovan District Chair
RYLA6900@GMAIL.COM

As you and your club are making plans and moving forward into the new Rotary year, we hope you will save a spot in your lineup for RYLA. If you've never heard of RYLA, here's a quick introduction:

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive training program that targets young adults, ages 15-18, to further develop character and leadership skills and learn about Rotary. RYLA in District 6900 is

a 5-day summer camp experience.

We have the dates all set - June 6-10, 2026 - and the RYLA staff is already hard at work making plans. Our goal is to fill every available spot in the camp so this year we are starting the process sooner in hopes of reaching everyone in plenty of time.

RYLA participants are nominated by local Rotary clubs, and the clubs are responsible for all expenses. For these young adults, RYLA offers the opportunity to build self-confidence, gain exposure to a variety of issues and people, meet active community leaders, and learn valuable information and career skills.

RYLA also benefits Rotarians by giving them the opportunity to mentor promising young leaders serving their own communities and beyond. Rotarians serve as resources for participants on the path to becoming professional and community leaders. In turn, RYLA can bring new energy to a Rotary club and district, inspire ideas for service, increase support of community service projects, and develop future Rotarians.

We can change the lives of 144 students at RYLA and create a positive impact on 144 homes, schools, and communities. To that end, we hope that every club in District 6900 will choose to participate in RYLA this year. You will be hearing from us soon with more details so we can get things rolling!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
July 22, 2025

Rotary Means Business

While We Take the Summer Off ...

ROTARY MEANS BUSINESS MEETING

DISTRICT 6900



Rotary Means Business is taking the summer months off but plans to be back in full swing this fall - offering opportunities to make business connections while enjoying fellowship one evening a month. Carter Stout leads this initiative, and is looking for four or five additional people to help with planning our Fall activities. If you're interested, please contact Carter at cstout@stoutkaiser.com

Posted by Carter Stout
July 27, 2025

Club News

Lake Spivey/Clayton County Enjoys Fellowship and Fun at B'Mari Event & Art Studio



The **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** recently came together for a wonderful lunch social at B'Mari Event & Art Studio, an inspiring event space and art gallery located in downtown Jonesboro, Georgia. This special gathering was generously sponsored by Rotary Club members, who made it possible for everyone to enjoy a delicious meal in a beautiful, creative setting. Surrounded by local art and the vibrant atmosphere of B'Mari Event & Art Studio, members shared fellowship and meaningful conversation while celebrating the spirit of Rotary.

The afternoon included not only a fantastic lunch but also fun games and lighthearted activities that brought plenty of smiles and laughter. It was a chance to unwind, connect, and strengthen the bonds that make our club such a supportive community. Events like these remind us that Rotary is about more than service—it's also about building lasting friendships and supporting one another. Whether serving the community or gathering together to enjoy each other's company, the Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County is committed to living out the values of fellowship, leadership, and community engagement.

We're grateful to B'Mari Event & Art Studio for providing the perfect backdrop for our social and to our members for making this event possible. We look forward to many more opportunities to connect and make a difference together!

Posted by Trina Kolawole
July 17, 2025

Club News

Roswell Honors Hometown Hero



Jarrad Turner, Sr compares stories – and biceps – with Roswell Police Chief James Conroy

Inspired by DG Steve Ivory, **Roswell Rotary Club** President Trummie Lee Patrick has committed to honoring a Hometown Hero each month.

Our first RRC Hometown Hero honoree recognized decorated retired Army Medic Jarrad Turner, Sr. Turner, an Army medic who was deployed twice to Iraq and served a total of 10 years, is now Chief Executive Officer of Veterans Technology Solutions (VTS) USA and serves on the board of The Shepherd's Center in Atlanta. He has built a career defined by purpose, resilience, and results from the battlefield to the boardroom. He is committed to advancing the technology that addresses veterans' unique challenges including improving healthcare outcomes for those diagnosed with Traumatic Brain Injury.

As a member of the Shepherd's Men, he is one of many who are dedicated to raising the funds to support the Shepherd Center SHARE Military Initiative which has seen over 125 million people since the 2014 inception and raised over \$15million. In 2018, he and Scott Johnson founded the Warrior Alliance platform which serves 12,000 veterans across the South. Through his efforts, the Atlanta Braves donated a 5,000 square foot facility dedicated to veteran support in the Battery Atlanta. We are honored to recognize you, Retired Medic Jarrad Turner, Sr and all of your work to improve the lives of those who fought to protect our freedom.

PHOTOS:



GA Attorney General Chris Carr (our featured speaker) congratulates Jarrad Turner, Sr as President Trummie Lee Patrick looks on

Posted by Hal Schlenger
July 27, 2025

Club News

Americus Creates J. Thurston Clay Memorial Scholarship



For more than four decades, listeners to local Americus radio station WISK/WDEC have been able to immediately recognize the distinct, familiar voice of Thurston Clary. Sadly, that voice has been so terribly missed since his passing on March 9. While a vital part of the radio station, Thurston was equally important to both the Rotary Club of Americus and Georgia Southwestern State University.

To remember their dear friend Thurston, the **Rotary Club of Americus**, in partnership with the GSW Foundation, created the Americus Rotary Club's J. Thurston Clary Memorial Scholarship Endowment. This new scholarship benefits undergraduate students majoring in Music or Communications and Emerging Media now and for generations to come.

This scholarship endowment is established as a lasting tribute to Thurston's love and lifelong service to and support of his community, the Americus Rotary Club, and GSW students. It will be a permanent fund providing scholarships to enrolled undergraduate students with preference given to Southwest Georgia residents and RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) students.

Thurston was also very involved in Rotary at the district level as well, having served as Assistant District Governor and Disaster Relief Chair. If anyone would like to contribute to the Americus Rotary Club's J. Thurston Clary Scholarship Endowment, contact the GSW Foundation Inc. at (229) 931-2014. All donations are tax deductible. Checks can be made payable to the GSW Foundation Inc. (Note: J. Thurston Clary Scholarship in memo) and mailed to P.O. Box 926, Americus, GA, 31709. If you prefer to pay online, visit <https://www.gsw.edu/giving/general-giving>, select "other" for designation, then type in J. Thurston Clary Scholarship in the space provided.

Posted by Angela Smith
July 27, 2025

Peachtree City Awards 13 Grants —With \$70K Surprise Boost from QTS Data Centers

Powered by Purpose: Where Your Dollars Go



CAMP
SOUTHERN
GROUND



CLEARWATER
ACADEMY



The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** recently awarded grants to 13 outstanding nonprofit organizations dedicated to transforming lives both locally and globally. These funded projects span a wide range of service areas, including inclusive play, mental health, education, food security, animal welfare, and support for individuals with special needs.

2024 Funded Projects Include:

- *Inclusive Experience Playground* – Camp Southern Ground
- *Flexible Seating & Learning Tools* – ClearWater Academy
- *“Rotary Room” for Behavioral Health Programs* – FACT/Fayette Accountability Courts
- *CHAMPS Program* – Fayette County Sheriff’s Department
- *Fayette Love Your Pet* – Fayette Humane Society
- *Teal for Teachers* – Harts of Teal
- *Integrated Nursing Station Wall System* – Healing Bridge Clinic
- *Heart Health Education & Screening* – Heart Attack Ethiopia, Inc.
- *Mobile Pantry Trailer Graphics* – Midwest Food Bank
- *Dog Park Maintenance* – Peachtree City Dog Park

- *Orchard Power & Equipment* – Real Life Center
- *Monthly Game Nights for Special Needs Teens & Adults* – Southside Support
- *HVAC Dehumidifier System* – Hope House Children’s Center at Southwest Christian Care

The highlight of the day came from special guest Suntina Hinton, Senior Community Impact Manager at QTS Data Centers, who surprised attendees with an extraordinary announcement: a **1.5X matching donation totaling \$65,000** to support these same 13 nonprofit recipients. As if that wasn’t enough, QTS added **another \$5,000 gift to the Rotary Club itself** to further fuel future service initiatives.

Total impact from the day: Over \$116,000!

This unforgettable moment reminded us all why Rotary—and partnerships like these—make a powerful difference in the world. The Rotary Club of Peachtree City is honored to serve alongside these nonprofits and grateful to QTS for believing in the mission of Rotary to create lasting change.

Posted by Jason Aldrich
July 22, 2025

Club News

Dunwoody Bookbags Starts School Year Off Right



In partnership with Tapestri, **Dunwoody Rotarians** and members of the Dunwoody High School football team recently filled 92 "packed to order" backpacks that will be distributed to kids who need them. The organization had specific lists for 92 children about to start back to school and the Dunwoody club purchased the backpacks and needed school supplies. With all the help on hand, backpacks were done within an hour. Great fun, great work! Thanks to Alison Norris for all her work coordinating this event!

Club News

North Cobb Builds Bridges to the Community



The **Rotary Club of North Cobb** is off to a fast start again this Rotary year - building bridges through community projects, socials and a visit with a Rotarian from India.

- Rotarians attended and served dinner for the men in the faith-based program at the Men's Extension located in Marietta. Rotarians prepped food, cutting vegetables, fruit and cooked burgers and hot dogs for over 70 participants. Before dinner, the group prayed together and during dinner, Rotarians, and participants of the program sat together, sharing stories, supporting one another, and building community. Next month, Rotarians will serve food with the women in the program.
- The club partnered with Kennesaw State University students to unload a freight truck and restock the shelves at the pantry for students who need food while studying and learning at KSU. The food is distributed for free for students. New club member Adam Rife joined the service project for the first

time, attending in a full suit and still worked diligently to stock shelves. Thanks Adam!

- Several members (including Megan, Nancy P., Lao R., and Charity D.) visited the Marietta City 6th grade school where Scouting America provided a program for over 200 youth. This program was supported by a generous grant from the North Cobb Rotary.
- Club President Jose Gonzalez met with past District Governor Asha Venugopal of District 3030 to discuss Rotary in India and the NCRC! Asha is from the Rotary Club of Nasik Grape City. Thank you so much Asha Venugopal for spending time with us! We are super excited to connect with different clubs with the hope to collaborate on future global grants. Sharing Rotary stories and service projects is also a plus. Jose gifted her a club banner and she gave Jose a rotary pin with a peacock and a few spices.

PHOTOS:







Posted by Jose Gonzalez
July 27, 2025

Club News

North Fulton Supports NFCC Back to School Efforts



For its first community service project of the new Rotary year, **Rotary Club of North Fulton** organized a back-to-school supply drive for North Fulton Community Charities. The need for financial help in our community has drastically increased over the last year and our members donated funds so that we could purchase exactly what the students need to start the year off right. We were thankful that Sandy Holiday, President of NFCC and her colleague, Sara Spring Weston, were able to join us at our July 22nd meeting to help us organize the supplies and share their appreciation with us as well.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Lisa Gelber
July 27, 2025

Club News

Newnan Welcomes 2025-26 GRSP Student



The **Rotary Club of Newnan** is thrilled to welcome Gabriela Gomezese Rugeles of Colombia as our 2025-26 Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) scholar. Gabriela arrived in Georgia on July 31, marking the beginning of a year that promises to be filled with cultural exchange, academic growth, and meaningful Rotary connections.

At only 18 years old, Gabriela brings with her a world of experience and enthusiasm. Born and raised in Colombia, she grew up in a family that values curiosity, learning, and connection — traits that shine through in everything she does. Whether she's leading school events, creating content for her podcast, or organizing Interact service projects, Gabriela approaches each opportunity with creativity, empathy, and drive.

This fall, Gabriela will begin her studies at the University of West Georgia in Carrollton, where she looks forward to exploring new academic opportunities while immersing herself in campus life. She's excited to share her Colombian culture and make lasting connections with fellow students — all while representing Rotary values in and out of the classroom.

In high school, Gabriela co-founded an Interact Club through her mother's Rotary connections. That club didn't just survive — it thrived. Under her leadership as treasurer and secretary, it grew in membership and impact, reaching communities in need and raising awareness about global challenges like polio. Even after graduation, Gabriela continues to support youth service by mentoring younger students and helping launch a new Interact club. It's clear she lives Rotary's motto: Service Above Self.

Gabriela is also a gifted communicator with a passion for storytelling. She enjoys acting, dance, and film — and runs her own podcast exploring themes of emotion, society, and personal growth. Her dream is to work in the entertainment industry, producing films and content that spark dialogue and understanding across cultures. As she puts it, “Whether behind the scenes or in front of the camera, I want to create stories that bring light to diverse issues and impact communities everywhere.”

Through the GRSP experience, Gabriela is excited to expand her worldview, sharpen her academic focus, and build a network of lifelong friendships. She believes this year will help her grow into a more confident, resilient, and globally minded leader — someone ready to give back not only in Colombia, but to the world.

Please join us in giving Gabriela a warm District 6900 welcome. Let’s make her feel at home here in Georgia — and show her what it means to be a Rotarian, a scholar, and a friend.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Nicholas Ramey
August 2, 2025

Club News

Americus Distributes Backpacks



In July, **Americus Rotarians** assembled packets of school supplies for area students in elementary, middle and high school. Included with the supplies was a message from the Rotary Club of Americus which included the 4-Way Test. The backpacks were distributed as part of the Back to School Bash coordinated by the Americus Police Department, alongside those from other collaborating organizations. Hundreds of children were served at this event which paired together a free school supply giveaway for all grade levels and other resources for families.

PHOTOS:





Good decisions
don't just happen.
Ask yourself these 4
questions:

As you start back
to school, the
Americus Rotary Club
is happy to provide
you with these
school supplies and
send you our best
wishes for a
fantastic year!

We also want to share
Rotary's Four Way Test
and hope that you
will consider using it
as a guide when you
make decisions and
choices.



THE ROTARY 4-WAY TEST

1

Is it the truth?

2

Is it fair to all concerned?

3

Will it build goodwill
and better friendships?

4

Will it be beneficial
to all concerned?

Roswell Memorial Day Observances: Honoring with Purpose



Roswell honors veterans during Memorial Day ceremony



Memorial Day observances—distinct from celebrations—hold deep meaning for our communities. When Rotary amplifies the legacy of our fallen heroes, we help strengthen the soul of our neighborhoods.

Roswell Rotary Club's Past President Lynne Lindsay made a powerful impact during Roswell's Memorial Day 2025 outreach by securing coverage from two major broadcast outlets for the 26th Roswell Remembers Memorial Day Ceremony:

- Roswell remembers Memorial Day ceremony | FOX 5 News - Highlights the community's tribute and Rotary's role in educating youth through interactive exhibits. View at <https://youtu.be/vQftsKnRhy8>
- Roswell Remembers Memorial Day 2025 - Captures the solemn gathering at the Faces of War Memorial and the heartfelt reflections shared by attendees. View at <https://www.11alive.com/video/news/local/roswell/roswell-honors-veterans-memorial-day-ceremony/85-225900d4-3616-4c5b-abea-322882923dca>

These features not only honored the fallen but also highlighted Rotary's commitment to civic engagement.

According to Past President Lynne, broadcast reporters and news journalists are always seeking

compelling stories. Reaching out about **three weeks in advance** allows them time to schedule coverage and conduct background research. To maximize engagement:

- Share key details: date, time, location, guest speaker(s), and bios.
- Offer to meet them at the event for personalized interviews.
- Invite them to your club to build deeper connections.
- Emphasize the community impact and significance of your event.
- And always—express sincere gratitude for their time and coverage.

Approximately 3,000 attended this year's event, the largest of its kind in the Southeast.

Posted by Hal Schlenger
July 23, 2025
