

District 6900 Newsletter

March 2011



Casey's Calendar

Watch for sightings of Governor Casey this month as he travels the roads of District 6900.

MARCH

15 April newsletter deadline
18-20 PETS

APRIL

9 District Assembly, Columbus
8-10 Interact Conference (see p. 3)
15 May newsletter deadline
28 - May 1 District Conference

MAY

7 Rotary Leadership Institute (Roswell (see page 2))
6-7 Smoke on the Lake (music and BBQ sponsored by North Cobb (see page 8))
15 June newsletter deadline
22-25 RI Convention - New Orleans (see page 7)

March Mania: Three Important To Do's

Have you **registered for the District Conference in Callaway Gardens April 28 - May 1**? If you have, thank you. If not, you can still join hundreds of your Rotary Friends in a wonderful weekend of fellowship and family of Rotary. Just visit www.rotary6900.com to register on line. It's as simple as a few clicks of a mouse.

The Conference Theme this year is "Rotary Field of Dreams" and it compliments nicely our RI Theme of "Building Communities, Bridging Continents." Rotarians in our District help build communities and bridge continents by creating those fields of dreams. These dreams routinely come true through the passion and commitment of Rotarians like you. The Conference Committee - led by PDG AL Lipphardt - is working tirelessly to plan and produce a top notch event. Your attendance will make it a success.

We will kick off the weekend with a District Tail Gate and Block Party Thursday evening (April 28) in the Callaway Cottage area. We will have food prepared by our District's Top Chefs, libations and entertainment. Friday afternoon our conference begins with an opening session at 1:30PM. Yes, that's 1:30 in the afternoon so we can finish up in time to enjoy a member mixer at the Lodge at Callaway before the dinner lines open at 5:30 PM. All of this is scheduled early so you can finish up in time to enjoy Cindy Lou Harrington and her band at the lodge or make your way to the Beach Pavilion to experience the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra. Saturday and Sunday's itinerary follow a more traditional conference agenda - Plenary sessions in the morning and early evening after dinner. There will be a large block of free time Saturday afternoon to enjoy the local shopping and sites, trips to the Warm Springs Institute and family fun on the grounds of Callaway Gardens. In keeping with the "baseball" theme, there will be a whiffle ball tournament for those that are game for it.

In March, our current year **Rotary leadership teams put together their annual reports** for submission to the District Awards Chair Tom Mertl. As discussed in my official club visits, these reports are important. The simple archiving of the results of the plans and objectives made before our year began will serve the club well into the future for planning. Clubs will also earn recognition for their efforts for excelling in specified areas. You have much to be proud of for the hard work and passion you give to your clubs and community.

Last but not least, March is a wonderful time to **support The Rotary Foundation**. As we head into the last quarter of the Rotary Year, we simply ask that our clubs fulfill the pledges made over a year ago to support the Annual Program Fund. If you aren't sure if your club has done that, please contact PDG Bill Woulfin, our District Foundation Director. By honoring our pledges, we will assure a sustainable level of District Designated Funds returning to us in the Rotary Year 2013-2014 to support local District Grants and the Global Grants that let us to reach out to the international community.

Thank you once again for being a Rotarian and what you do for mankind!

Yours in Rotary Service

Casey Farmer

District Governor 2010-2011



District Governor
Casey Farmer



Don't Miss Out on the Field of Dreams that is Callaway Gardens in all its Spring and Rotary Splendor!

**District Conference
Callaway Gardens
April 28 - May 1, 2011**



Rotary Leadership Institute - Sunshine Division

Upcoming Session:

May 7, 2011
8 AM - 3 PM
Holiday Inn,
Holcomb Bridge Rd.
Roswell, Georgia



District 6900 Rotarians have a great opportunity to attend the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) in Roswell, Georgia this May. Registration is now open at <http://www.rlitraining.org>, where you can also find information about other upcoming classes in the Sunshine Division of Florida and Georgia. The cost is \$95/person and includes course material and meals.

What is RLI?

The Rotary Leadership Institute is a recommended unofficial affiliate of Rotary International, established in 1994 to improve Rotary knowledge, and provide clubs and districts with resources to train Rotarians as leaders at local levels. The institute offers a training program in three full-day sessions generally 8am – 3pm, followed by graduate membership seminars. Trainers are carefully selected from among Rotarians with outstanding leadership abilities and prepared to conduct innovative and participatory course sessions.

As an example, session titles include: The Perfect Meeting, Rotary Beyond the Club, The Rotary Foundation (two parts), Membership Development and Retention" (two parts), Leadership (four parts), Creating Hands-On Service Projects, Vocational Service, International Service, Analyzing a Rotary Club, Creative Service, Public Relations, Public Speaking and more.

Why RLI?

RI Director David Linett, international chair, said leadership development programs are critical for the continued success of Rotary clubs and the achievement of the Global Quest goals. *"Rotary is blessed with members of high quality, but all Rotary clubs depend on outstanding leadership to harness the talents and skills of our membership to high levels of accomplishment. The annual turnover of club presidents and other club officers places great pressure on our clubs to maintain a high level of leadership every year," he said. "Only through excellent education in Rotary and leadership skills can we develop the quality leadership we need to keep Rotary in the forefront of world service organizations."*

Learn More and/or Register for RLI

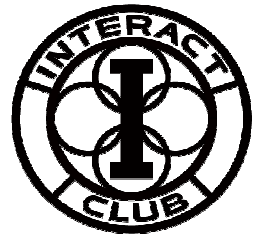
Visit <http://www.rlitraining.org>. You may also direct questions to **Fran Farias** at franfarias@comcast.net or 404-625-4741, or **Dean Free** at deanfree@alum.mit.edu or 229-246-8720.

Literacy Conference - A Day Rich with Inspiration

District 6900 hosted the fourth annual literacy conference at The Carter Center in Atlanta. Ideas were shared - club to club. Information was shared by speakers - from the community and from clubs. Guest speakers informed Rotarians about new project ideas, and guest presenters from communities confirmed, "Rotary IS making a difference!" The day was rich with inspiration, spirited conversation, and ideas to continue the work of literacy in Georgia.



Interact Conference: April 8-10, Berry College, Rome Georgia



CALLING ALL Interact Club members, Rotarians from around the state to the Interact Spring conference – a weekend of fun, fellowship and service at the Winshape Centre on the beautiful campus of Berry College in Rome—sponsored by The Interact Club of Rome High School. Please spread the word for the high school & middle school Interact students to get registered.

If your club does not currently sponsor an Interact group, we strongly encourage you to select and sponsor a teenage student between ages 12 and 18 who has been recognized by your club for outstanding achievement. What a great way to introduce that student and your club to the Interact experience that includes leadership activities, and dedication to community and international service projects that have a lasting impact.

This Georgia-wide Peachtree conference will involve Interact clubs and selected non-Interact students the three Georgia Rotary Districts: 6900, 6910 and 6920. It evolves from the very successful joint meeting October, 2010 where clubs from districts 6910/6900 attended at Lanier Tech, Gainesville, GA. DG 6900 Casey Farmer and the D6900 leadership team are eager to have 6900 I-clubs represented – so act NOW - reservations are limited to 200. See information below.

PLEASE NOTE: To be sure we have complete records of D6900's participation, once registered, please forward your information/below to Sid Disher.

- ◆ Name/ location of your Rotary Club.
- ◆ Name of the facility where your Interact club is located.
- ◆ Names and grade level of student participants.
- ◆ Names and phone numbers of participating Rotarians and adult chaperones.
- ◆ Total amount of your remittance to Mary Holcomb at Rome High School.

If you need further information about the Interact program, establishing an Interact club or about the Spring conference, please contact Sid Disher, Co-chair, D6900 Interact Committee, Phone: 770-977-4654, Fax: 770-977-3298, Email: siddisher@gmail.com

TO REGISTER FOR GEORGIA "PEACHTREE STATE" INTERACT CONFERENCE

Reservations limited to 200—Make Your Reservations Early

\$120.00 Per Person (includes 3 nights' accommodations, 5 meals, MUSIC, Ropes Course, Movie "Inception" & snacks)

Each club sponsor or advisor should send the names of those attending with their payment for all students and adult chaperones to: Mary Holcomb, c/o Rome High School, 1000 Veterans Memorial Highway, Rome, GA 30161. All payments must be received by **March 8, 2011**. Checks should be made payable to: **ROME HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB.**

Please call Mary Holcomb at 706-232-1458 if you have questions.

You will receive conference agenda and credentials when your reservation is confirmed.

Be sure & bring your club's scrapbook
There will be a scrapbook competition

Interact at Work Volunteering in the Community is a Great Way to Give Back

On January 27, the **Rotary of Marietta Club** Rotarians Chris Gruehn, Bret Tyler and Dale Covington teamed with seven high school students from the **Interact Club at The Walker School** in bringing the first dinner of the new year to approximately 50 guests at the Extension. Sera Kim, Co-President of the Interact Club, oversaw the meal's preparation and service. Helping Sera were Jaemin Yoon, Bianca Desai, Elizabeth Kacer, Kyle Rehl, Michael Leithood and Stephanie Will. Everyone bowed their heads as Michael said grace before all dived into a delicious meal of fried chicken, macaroni-and-cheese and green beans seasoned with bacon and chili tomatoes. Rave reviews abounded as folks lined-up for seconds of everything.





Future Vision: What Is a Pilot?

Perhaps this basic question should have been the basis for the first article of this year. As you all know by now we are one of 100 Districts that was selected to be part of the new Future Vision pilot program of The Rotary Foundation. It was decided by TRF that business as usual would not work in the future. Too much time and effort was being spent on projects that did not have a lasting impact on the recipients. While there are many examples of this in our past; the most outstanding being water wells, 70% to 85% of the wells we have dug fail within three to five years, we could not afford to continue in this manner. The demands on Rotary were increasing every year and we had to ensure that all funds were being spent in the most beneficial manner. That is the underlying goal of Future Vision.

TRF defined a new program they felt would address most of the issues on the past. You have seen this in the definition of new grant requirements and in the definition of the six areas of focus. New support systems have been put into place and new processes and procedures have been implemented both at TRF and in the pilot districts.

The purpose of the pilot is to test these processes and procedures. It is not for us to blindly accept them as correct or to simply follow the rules. It is to provide feedback to TRF so these rules and processes can be changed to be more efficient and to accommodate the needs of the clubs and TRF working together. This is the beginning of a three-year period and we are only eight months into it. We have seen good and bad things as a result of the new processes. Many of the goals of Future Vision are being met and many are not. The paperwork has proven more cumbersome, one of the goals was simplification;

several of the areas of focus have proven to be major irritants to the clubs in their narrow definition resulting in rejected projects; and the list goes on. However, that is why we are in the pilot. We chose to have our voice heard and try and get changes made. TRF is listening and is working to improve in many areas. The trustees are well aware of our dissatisfaction with several items and are reviewing them. There is no guarantee that any things will change, but they are listening.

We have heard a lot of comments from clubs that they do not like what they have seen experienced and would consider re-evaluating their Foundation gifts. This is a sad comment as the benefits you have received to date includes almost \$300,000 in local grants and scholarships and five global grants already approved that are the largest we have ever seen and involve many of the clubs. We have to remember that we asked to be part of this pilot so we could help mold it for the future, we have a three-year commitment to it and we should do everything within our grasp to ensure we provide TRF with feedback. This does not include holding back or redirecting Foundation gifts. The only ones being hurt by that decision is this District in the future when we have less funds available to do our projects.

I hope you are all having a great year and hope to report on changes made by TRF by early April after their next trustee meeting. Keep up the good work and annual giving needs your support.

Bill Woulfin
District 6900 Foundation Chair



Building Communities ... “Teddy to the Rescue” Helps Young Children in Moments of Fear

The young girl sat in the front yard shakings on the cold winter evening as the sirens roared as the lights flashed. Her grandfather lay motionless on the living room floor as the paramedics tended to him. Suddenly, the young girl began to smile as the ambulance paramedic handed her a cute little Teddy Bear. This same scene has been happening about 20 times per week as Metro Atlanta Ambulance personnel hand out the cute little Teddy Bears provided to them by the **North Cobb Rotary Club**.

Since December, the Club has partnered with Metro Atlanta Ambulance to provide teddy bears to be given out during traumatic circumstances to children and sometimes the elderly to provide a calming effect during those traumatic moments when the ambulance comes roaring in and responds to an emergency. Rotary President Esther Marshall had read about the program and wanted it to be one of new initiatives for the club during her year. It just so happened that Vocational Chair Mike Henderson heard Metro Ambulance was looking for someone to take over the Teddy Bear program from the major retailer that had been its partner. It turned out to be a perfect match.

The program is very popular and especially helpful during emergency situations – either on pediatric calls or when young children happen to be around. Since the



Metro Atlanta Ambulance brought an ambulance and several key area personal to the meeting and they graciously posed for a picture with club members and were recognized for the service to the community.

North Cobb Rotary Club began the program in mid December, they have given out almost 20 Teddy Bear’s per week in the Acworth and Kennesaw areas. Because of the success of the program, the North Cobb club is looking for other organizations and groups to partner with it. Contact Mike Henderson at mikehenderson@bellsouth.net if you would like to help.

Bridging Continents ... Bringing Hope and Work Skills to the Youth of Uganda

The Rotary Club of Marietta - along with the Rotary Clubs of Griffin Daybreak, Harris County and Henry County - has developed a partnership with the Rotary Club of Bugolobi, Uganda, to address the desperate need in the slum communities of Kasokoso, near the capitol city of Kampala and the Great Lakes Regional College at Kanungu.

This humanitarian activity focuses on basic education and literacy, as well as economic and community developments. It will reach out to 100 school youths living in Kasokoso slum area and 100 in Kanungu district where unemployment affects some 80% of school dropouts.

The program is intended to help these youths identify business opportunities and get gainful employment . Training can be applied to a variety of work situations for better quality as required in the marketplace.

Activities will include entrepreneurship, metal fabrication, woodwork, health studies, community service, and environmental management. All students will take courses in entrepreneurship, health studies, environmental management, and community services.

Members of the participating D6900 clubs will go to Uganda this spring.

- ◆ The Harris County Club is providing interaction through a scrapbook of comments and photographs. The dialogue will create “pen pals”, structured as a supportive, mentoring exercise. They have already requested names of 50 students.
- ◆ The Henry County Club has a member who owns a local cable television station so this project will be well publicized.

Watch for more in the newsletter as this project unfolds.



Rotary Essay Contest Receives Grant from the Templeton Foundation

The **Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program (GRDCEP)** recently received a two-year capacity-building grant from the John Templeton Foundation to expand the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest and to brand it as a Rotary program. The Templeton grant provides an outstanding opportunity for clubs to increase Rotary's outreach to schools and to promote a positive, values-affirming youth program.

GRDCEP's Georgia Laws of Life contest is a vital character education and ethical literacy program for high school students. The contest asks students to select a "law of life" such as "To give is better than to receive" or "Service above Self," and to write an essay on the character value expressed in the saying.



Rotary clubs became involved with the contest in 2002. Since that time more than 280,000 Laws of Life essays have been written in Georgia. Last year alone, 44,035 Georgia students wrote a Laws of Life essay. The Georgia Contest is now the largest values-based essay contest in North America, and the second largest in the world, next to China's.

Convinced of the contest's ability to truly make a difference in the lives of students, a group of Rotarians came together in 2009 to incorporate the Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program as a tax-exempt 501(c)(3) nonprofit dedicated to operating the Georgia Laws of Life contest. The 2010-2011 year marks the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest's first year as a full-fledged Rotary project.

GRDCEP incorporators from District 6900 were George Stewart (Rotary Club of Dunwoody), Ed Outlaw (Rotary Club of Peachtree City), and Don Griffing (Rotary Club of Dunwoody), who are now officers of GRDCEP's Board of Directors. Other District 6900 board members are AG Don Robinson (Rotary Club of Bainbridge), Bob Schwall (Rotary Club of East Cobb), and Sheri Willis (Rotary Club of Henry County). GRDCEP Advisory Board members include PDG Bill Mulkey (Rotary Club of Dunwoody), PDG Bill MacDonald (Rotary Club of Peachtree City), and Brenda Erickson (Rotary Club of Peachtree City).

For more information about how your club can become involved with the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, please contact Susan G. Mason at 404.367.9453 or email georgialawsoflife@gmail.com.

Roswell Rotary Holds Leadership Day For Local High School Students

With Roswell High School and its PTSA, **Roswell Rotary Club** sponsored a unique student activity called Leadership 20/20. Over 80 high school students are selected by the RHS faculty to participate in this all day event that actively engages students actively to help them understand leadership concepts and develop leadership skills. Students were involved in lectures and group discussions led by local business leaders. They attended the Roswell Rotary Club's weekly lunch meeting where Mike Gilliam of Opportunities Through Athletics, Inc. spoke about being the person you want to be. Leadership 20/20 is an annual event and you can find more information about it at RoswellRotary.com.

Elementary School Benefits from Rotary Literacy Grant



The **Cuthbert Rotary Club** presented the school supplies to Randolph County Elementary School on February 16th. This donation was made possible by the Rotary Foundation's Southwest Georgia Literacy Grant. Pictured: Teacher Heather Melton, Principal Sheila Brown and students from RCES with Rotary Club

Reading Bowl Competition 2011

The **Rotary Club of Marietta** has once again sponsored this annual reading event for all elementary schools in the Marietta City School System. Preparations are arduous with each Reading Bowl Team committing to reading over 30 books for the competition. The Rotary Club provided all the Team Trophies, Bowl Competition Reading Medallions, and Reading Bowl Certificates for all participants. Club President Mark Barbour moderated the competition held at Marietta Junior High School.

RI Convention New Orleans-Bound: Let the Good Times Roll!

There are few places in the country more dedicated to helping people have a good time! We are fortunate that the Rotary International Convention has selected New Orleans as the site of the 2011 RI Convention - running from May 22 - 25. This will be the last time the convention will be held in the U.S. until Atlanta in 2017. If you have never attended an RI Convention, this is your perfect opportunity!



You can get information about registering for the convention, reserving a hotel room, signing up for hosted events and joining tours at:

- ◆ The District 6900 website - www.rotarydistrict6900.org
- ◆ RI's website - www.rotary.org/convention
- ◆ The host committee site - www.rotarycon2011.com). The Host Committee has arranged many unique and entertaining activities which I am sure you will enjoy.

Registrations made by March 31 will be \$340/person. After March 31, the price increases to \$380/person. Registrations should be made through the RI website.

There are many wonderful local hotel rooms available with reduced prices negotiated by RI. Many are within easy walking distance from the Convention Center and the French Quarter. In addition to the hotels on the RI website, there are still other chains with hotels in close proximity to the Convention Center.

In addition to the activities offered through the Host Committee, there are special events for our Rotary District 6900 attendees:

- ◆ On Sunday evening, please join us for dinner at the world famous Commanders' Palace in the beautiful Garden District. A four course dinner will include Commanders' Palace's specialties with the entrée including fish and beef. The cost is \$70/person, excluding alcoholic beverages. Seating is limited. Register online at the district website.
- ◆ On Tuesday afternoon, May 24, you will have the opportunity to experience New Orleans' cuisine at its finest, sampling food prepared by knowledgeable chefs. You will also receive recipes and detailed instructions on how to prepare each dish and learn about New Orleans' culinary heritage and history. The New Orleans School of Cooking (www.nosoc.com) will hold a special cooking class for us from 12:30 - 2:30 p.m.

Roswell Awards Elwyn Gaissert, Sr. Service Above Self Award

Congratulations to Ken Briggs, this year's recipient of the Elwyn Gaissert, Sr. Service Above Self Award. This is the largest award that Roswell Rotarians present to its membership. It is given to the Roswell Rotarian who has consistently exemplified our motto of Service Above Self.



Before 2005, this award was titled "Outstanding Award for Past Service". In 2005, the Board of Directors renamed the award to honor the memory Mr. Elwyn Gaissert, Sr. who was a charter member of our club. Mr. Gaissert remained active in Roswell Rotary until his death. Those of us who knew "Mr. Elwyn" know that no one, past or present, lived the Service Above Self motto better. While it is in his memory that we make the award, it is also by his standards that the award recipients are chosen.

We currently have 20 past award recipients who are members and active in our club. They include: David Bourne, Frank Brown, Maurice Hilliard, Bill Lewis, Chief Reeves, Buddy Stamps, Trummie Patrick, Skipper Hoke, Tom Mote, Tom Price, Malone Dodson, Tom Campbell, Phil Mathis, Steve Stroud, Don Howard, Stan Moses, Charles Pettett, Aubrey Hawkins, Pat DiGeorge and Gary Garrett. Past recipients of the award make up the committee that nominates and chooses the current winner. Again, congratulations to Ken!!

Jambalaya, Gumbo, Bread Pudding and Pralines are on the menu - YUM! The cost is only \$25/person and seating is limited. Register online at the district website.

- ◆ The Southland Breakfast is for our Zone and will be held on Monday morning at 7:00 a.m. in the Convention Center. DGE Margie Kersey has tickets for \$50/person.
- ◆ Many of our clubs have been involved in water projects in the past and have an interest in doing them in the future. There will be a Water Summit on May 20 at the Convention Center. The registration cost is \$140 and includes lunch, the seminar and materials. Please contact Sally Platt (seplatt@cs.com) for more information.

Please contact Rene Lanier at renerotary@gmail.com if you have any questions. We will look forward to seeing you there!

Argentina/Roswell Teacher Exchange

Roswell Rotary Club recently recognized visiting Argentine "Teacher of the Year" Mirta Frank with a Paul Harris Fellowship. The Roswell Club has teamed up with the Rotary Clubs of Pilar and Pilar Norte, Argentina, a suburb of the capital Buenos Aires, in a newly-developed annual Teacher Exchange.



Mirta Frank is the second Argentine teacher to visit Roswell. Her two-week visit is sponsored by the three Rotary Clubs. Staying with families of Rotarians and local educators, Ms. Frank has studied our school systems, and will report her findings to the Rotary Clubs and a Global Educational Congress next year. She participated in programs at Sweetapple Elementary, Roswell High School, the Cottage School, Every Woman Works, among others. Her stay was coordinated by Rotarians Linda Schultz, Nancy Diamond, Sid & Marilyn Disher, Ed Spurka, Jeannie & Mickey Deaton, and Lilia Sadoux.

Because seasons are reversed, teachers in Argentina are on their summer break, making it easier to travel. In July, while our schools are out and theirs are in session, a Roswell teacher will be selected and sent on an expense paid study trip to Argentina.

As the ongoing teacher exchange is strengthened and expanded, a student exchange is also being discussed. "In our increasingly global environment, we want to provide the greatest perspective and learning environment we can for our children", said Ms. Shultz.

A Rotary Welcome for Traveling Rotarian



When **North Cobb Rotarian** Mike Strauss and his wife took a Caribbean cruise the week of Atlanta's Great Snow Storm of 2011, Rotary was there to meet them as they got off the Caribbean Princess in Tortola, British Virgin Islands.

Banner Year for Buckhead

The Diamond Jubilee of the **Buckhead Rotary Club**, founded in 1951, was celebrated with great style, sparkle and panache at its 5th annual Foundation Ball. Chaired by Kay Quigley and Shannon Price, this year's event raised over \$57,000 for the Foundation besting the 2010 fundraiser by \$10,000.

Proceeds from the evening are allocated to the Rotary Club's principal community and international beneficiaries ranging from youth and education, including two scholarships at Oglethorpe University, and health programs in the Atlanta public schools to Rotary's International Student scholarships and the economically challenged for whom Habitat for Humanity builds homes.

Calling All Rotarians, Do You Know How to Make Great BBQ
Prove It By Entering the North Cobb Rotary Smoke on the Lake BBQ



On May 6 - 7, North Cobb Rotary will host the 2nd Annual Smoke on the Lake BBQ Festival on Lake Acworth. A fun new feature is the Rotary Challenge Trophy. We are inviting teams from our fellow Rotary Clubs to come and show us who can make the best Que. The Rotary team with the highest overall score will win a new Primo Grill* and a really neat hand painted pig. The entry fee is only \$150 for all categories plus the Rotary Challenge. All members of your team must be Rotarians or spouses. North Cobb's own Mama & Nem's Team winner of last year's Peoples Choice Award is ready to take on all comers. Everyone had lots of fun and we raised over \$20,000 for local charities. So, join us and show us which club can make the best BBQ. For more information contact: **John West at 678-361-0999 or john.west@directlendersllc.com**
www.smokeonthelakebbq.com