



## From Our District Governor

## It's a Year of Imagining and Making a Difference - Help Us Celebrate



We are three quarters through our Rotary year. Thank you for all you are doing for Rotary. Everywhere I go, I see the impact Rotary is having on all the communities in our District and many places around the world. I was particularly touched recently by the work of the Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps - as they fund and train service dogs for people who need them in the community - and was happy to be able to provide a district grant to help them expand their reach in this area. You can read more about them later in this newsletter.

As you are probably aware, on January 12, tornadoes caused severe damage in five counties in our District. District Rotary Foundation Chair Anne Glenn has secured a Disaster Relief grant to assist those communities in recovering to damage caused by the tornadoes. This past weekend two of the five counties were hit again by tornadoes. We will be working to assist them in their recovery as well.

We have just returned from District Assembly, hosted by our DGE André Marria and her team. If you did not attend, you missed some excellent presentations.

### **Still Time to Sign Up for Green Acres ... The Place to Be April 27-30**

This month, we have a special opportunity to gather for fun, fellowship, a little bit of beach, a little bit of learning, at District Conference in SanDestin, Florida from April 27 to April 30. Our theme is Green Acres and in keeping with that theme:

- Thursday night will feature a pig roast, a Cornhole contest and judging of your unique Cornhole board designs, and an old fashioned country fair Tug-of-War contest.
- The Barnyard will serve as our House of Friendship for the weekend, a place for fellowship and learning about what other clubs are doing.
- Our walk-in parade for Friday evening gives you an opportunity to dress up in Green Acres style.

Earlier on Friday, we will hold a Leadership luncheon for the presidents, assistant governors and district leadership. And Friday afternoon features a reception and buffet dinner in honor of the District 6900 Rotary clubs.

At Friday night's plenary session, we will hear from Ms. Whitney O'Connor, a licensed therapist, public speaker and cancer survivor with a mission to encourage people to celebrate themselves and their circumstances by sharing how she created her own silver linings. After her talk, we will present the Sheffield awards, Follow Me Award and several other awards.

On Saturday morning, we will have workshops on membership, The Rotary Foundation, public image and future of Rotary. At the brunch, we will hear from our youth - Interact, Rotary Youth Exchange, Georgia Rotary Student Program, Georgia Laws of Life. Later that afternoon, there is a reception for District Governor Elect André Marria and Walter Marria. DGE André and Walter will enter the plenary session with her Rotary club. Our featured speaker is Randy Gravitt, a well-known author and leadership coach. After his speech we will pass out a few more awards.

Then comes the grand finale on Sunday morning, when we will have the pin exchange for all the Governor's line, and recognize the Club of the Year and Runner-up Club of the Year for each of the four categories.

Posted by George Granade  
March 27, 2023

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GRSP Update

## **Pelham hosts GRSP Students for 57th International Weekend**





Taking time to slow the pace and learn to say pecan seemed to be the theme for Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars who spent four days learning about rural life in South Georgia during a student weekend at the end of March. The **Rotary Clubs of Pelham, Bainbridge, Camilla and Thomasville** hosted the 40 GRSP scholars as they stayed with area Rotarians for the Larry Frosteg Pelham International Weekend, which served as 57<sup>th</sup> annual International Weekend event.

Ana Perez of Colombia attends Georgia Gwinnett College and is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Sugarloaf. "It was interesting to be out of the city and experience a small town," Perez said.

Scholars toured Pelham High School and historic Thomasville for a visit to Pebble Hill Plantation, which features a stately home along with 3,000-acres including barns and a museum. Thomasville, the home of GRSP Founder William "Will" A. Watt, Sr., also featured a stop at the signature GRSP Peace Plaza and Will Watt Memorial Fountain at the Courtyard by Marriott Thomasville Downtown as Watt's grandson and namesake, Will Watt III shared history and stories about his family's legacy.

Celina Duong said she enjoyed visiting the local high school. Duong is from Vietnam, sponsored by the Rotary Club of East Cobb and attends Kennesaw State University. "I've never explored a high school in the United States," she said. "It was nice to meet the students, faculty and staff there and see the school."

While some tours included on previous years for the Pelham Weekend were not an option for this year's group, the students were able to view an expansive citrus farm.



Sarah Engonjo, who is from the Democratic Republic of Congo and is sponsored by the Rotary Club of Tifton, attends Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College. She said she enjoyed the quick visit to the citrus farm where they learned how the staff budded trees to yield the sweetest fruit and saw the difference in color between citrus trees grown from seeds.

The weekend ended with a banquet and student talent show, featuring a lot of karaoke and laughter. Camden County will host the final student weekend April 13-16 in coastal St. Mary's before the scholars attend their respective district conferences and conclude the year-long scholarship program in May.

## PHOTOS:

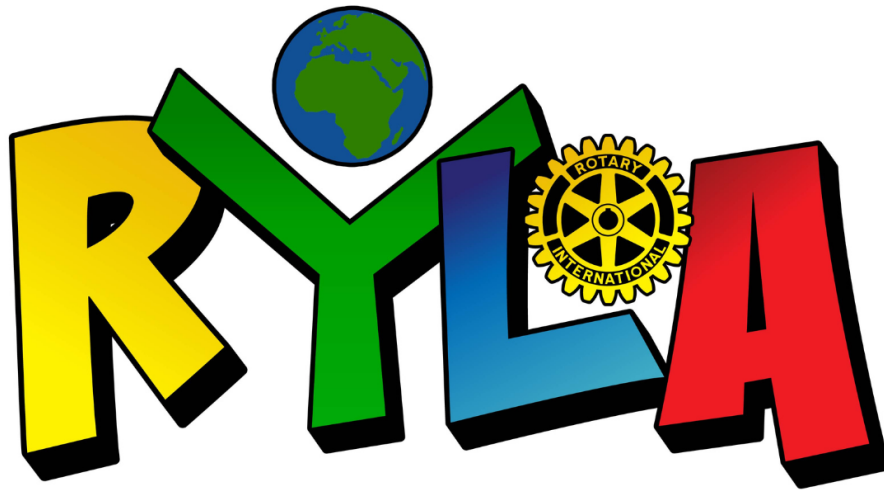






RYLA Update

**Don't Miss Out ... Register and Pay Now**



**June 17-21, 2023**

**GEORGIA SOUTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY**

**[www.RYLA6900.com](http://www.RYLA6900.com)**

There's still time to submit your Club Commitment Forms and verify that you are sponsoring a student to attend RYLA this summer. You can email to [susanruckman@att.net](mailto:susanruckman@att.net) or fax to 229-924-7617.

If you have already committed to sponsor a student or two (or ten), registration payments are now due. Please mail to: Rotary Youth Leadership Awards c/o Susan Ruckman, P.O. Box 1547, Americus, GA 31709.

Please contact Jaclyn Donovan ([jaclyn.k.donovan@gmail.com](mailto:jaclyn.k.donovan@gmail.com)) if you have questions or need additional information.



March 6, 2023

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Rotary Foundation at Work

## Grant with Matching Funds for the Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps



District Governor George Granade presented the **Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps** with a District Grant for \$500 along with matching funds from an anonymous D6900 Rotarian to help the RCC with its annual service project of donating a service dog to someone in need in the local community. The RCC started this program several years ago and increased their impact to be able to donate two dogs last year through additional fund raising.

The Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps was formed in 2015 to allow adults with special needs an opportunity to give back to their community through the ideals of Rotary. This group has now grown to almost 30 members since that time with so many others in the community being involved in supporting them with their projects. Thanks to DG George, District 6900 and our special anonymous donor for believing in this project and this very special group of Rotarians!

Posted by Mandy Timmons  
March 28, 2023

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Our Rotary Foundation

# District Grants Are Now Community Grants

As you can see by the headline, the District Grants program is changing. We are now **COMMUNITY Grants**. This change is made to avoid ongoing confusion with the District Designated Funds (DDF) that are passed along to the District from The Rotary Foundation (TRF) as one block grant. This block grant is also a District Grant. Another reason for the change is to remind ourselves that 50% of our donations to TRF Annual Fund comes back to D6900 three years later for use in our communities. What a wonderful way to create hope right in our own back yard!

We also have other improvements coming to the grant program such as **Rotaract Clubs can now apply** for a Community Grant in conjunction with their sponsoring club. Funding is lower for a Rotaract Club for this first year as we need to test the program and make sure we don't run out of grant funding. Rotaract Club grant funding will be evaluated at the end of the 2024 Community Grant year (around April '24) and adjustments will be made based on the success of the program. **(In order to have Rotaract Clubs apply, be sure their information is updated on the District website at [rotary6900.org](http://rotary6900.org).)**

We have added a **Collaborative grant category to join our Standard and Competitive grants**. This grant will allow three (or more) Rotary Clubs to apply for a Community Grant of up to \$30,000! One Collaborative grant will be selected for the upcoming year. The more clubs collaborating, the merrier!

**So what does your club need to do to take advantage of the world of Community, Competitive and/or Collaborative Grants for the 2023/24 Rotary year?**

- **Meet the March 31, 2023** deadline for submitting ALL your documentation for 2022-23 district grants spending to District 6900 via Rotary6900. All that paperwork must be fully accepted and the 2022-23 grant must be closed by **April 7, 2023**.
- **Get your project ideas ready now** - know what your community needs and how you can help so you're ready to complete the grant applications. And think about the clubs you might collaborate with on a larger community project.
- **Attend Training Session for Community Grants, Competitive Grants, and the exciting Collaborative Grant worth up to \$30,000** (remember at least three or more clubs planning and implementing one entire project together) - training dates will be announced soon.
- **Submit your grant applications to the District by May 15, 2023** - 2023-2024 Community, Competitive and Collaborative Grants received by the District. Start Planning now as no requests will be honored after this day.

On May 19, 2023, - 2023-2024 Competitive and Collaborative proposals will be reviewed and winners will be selected and notified.

We hope to make additional improvements to the Community Grant program and announce those changes soon. For now, check out the provisions for [grants for the 2023-2024 Rotary year](#) with regards to funding and deadlines. Let the planning begin!

Zoom discussion/training sessions for the 2023-2024 Grant year will be scheduled soon to be held after April 7, 2023, which is when the current grant season must be closed out.

Thank you for all you do for your communities, your club, and for Rotary around the world!

Gillian Leggett - D6900 Community Grants Chair

[gkleggett@att.net](mailto:gkleggett@att.net)

404.202.2409

Posted by Gillian Leggett

March 28, 2023

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Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent Good Shepherd Clinic Project**





**Atlanta Southern Crescent** used its community grant was to provide Uber Health Rides for those patients going to the Good Shepherd Clinic who have transportation difficulties. The patients can't get to their medical appointments, which often results in no-shows, and not getting the care they need. Uber Health provides rides to medical appointments. One of the single most impactful services we could provide is this one. Rotarians volunteered at the Good Shepherd Clinic throughout the year. The Clinic reaches

uninsured residents of Clayton County and the Doctors, who work there, volunteer their time. Neither the patients nor the Uber drivers could be photographed, so staff and Atlanta Southern Crescent Rotarians posed for the picture. Tom Mertl, Claudia Mertl, Joyce Baul, GSC staff, and Dawn Massenburg.

Posted by Claudia Mertl  
April 4, 2023

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Club News

## **Join Sandy Springs Pickleball Tournament**



The **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** is hosting a Pickleball fundraiser on April 14 at the Sandy Springs



Tennis Center near the intersection of Roswell Road and Abernathy. A portion of the proceeds will go to one of our community partners, Vision To Learn. Vision To Learn is a not-for-profit organization that provides free eye exams and glasses to children in low-income communities across the United States. This year, the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs partnered with Vision to Learn, and our club donated more than 800 pair of eyeglasses to elementary and middle school students in Sandy Springs.

Our club is now registering players for the Pickleball Madness Tournament. All skill levels are accepted. If you've never played Pickleball before you can pick it up in mere minutes - I played just one time a few weeks ago for an hour and I'm ready to play! Our tournament will be played by doubles using a round robin format. You'll be able to play in about three matches. You don't need a partner to play as we'll pair you with someone of similar skill. If you don't have a paddle, one will be provided. Below are the key details of the tournament:

1. Tournament Date: 4/14
2. Tournament Time: Begins at 2:30
3. Tournament Cost: \$75/player (will include a t-shirt and SWAG bag depending upon the sponsors)
4. Tournament Number of Players: Max 80 - (tournament is coed, round robin and double-blind draw)
5. Tournament Location: Sandy Springs Tennis Center
6. Pickleball Skills Level: Beginner and above - (we'll match players to their skill level)
7. Acrylic Awards to the top three male and female point totals

There are two ways to register:

1. Go to [www.RotaryPickleBall.com](http://www.RotaryPickleBall.com)
2. Use the QR Code attached to this email

Please share the QR code and/or website with your community, work colleagues, family and friends. If you know anyone that might want to become a sponsor of the tournament, please have them call me at 404.272.0294 and I can provide details.

We're exciting to host our 1st Annual Rotary Club of Sandy Springs Pickleball Madness Tournament!!!

Posted by Scott Einfeldt  
April 4, 2023

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Club News

## **Marietta Metro Scores Big with SOUPer Bowl**



While the NFL had the Super Bowl, the **Rotary Club of Marietta Metro** scored big with its SOUPer Bowl. During the month of January 2023, teams of club members competed to see which could contribute the most cans of soup. The final tally was nearly 800 cans, which were divided equally between the food pantries at Georgia Highlands College and Chattahoochee Technical College. Many students struggle to make ends meet while they're in college and having access to a food pantry can be a determining factor when it comes to staying in school. Marietta Metro is proud to partner with both Georgia Highlands and Chatt Tech to provide scholarships and provide other assistance to help students stay in school.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Sally Platt  
March 27, 2023

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Club News

## **Stone Mountain Recognizes Champions of Education**





The **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** hosted its Second Annual Champions of Education fundraiser event, Saturday, March 18, at the Georgia Piedmont Technical College DeKalb Conference Center. The event featured the presentation of awards to 19 individuals who included retired legendary educators and current inspirational educators as well as law enforcement professionals, public servants, community-based organizations, and businesses that have provided extraordinary support to students, teachers, and local education systems, especially during the pandemic.

Among the recipients of this year's awards was Orrin C. Hudson (pictured), a renowned chess champion and founder of the Be Someone academy, which has mentored and taught over 88,000 students. Hudson was recognized for his outstanding contributions to the educational sector and his commitment to teaching and mentoring young people through the game of chess.

"I am honored to receive this award from the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain," said Hudson. "It is a privilege to be recognized for the work we do at Be Someone and to be among so many inspiring educators and organizations who are making a difference in the lives of young people."

The 2nd Annual Champions of Education Fundraiser event was a celebration of the community's commitment to education.

"We are excited to annually host this event and recognize the outstanding individuals and organizations who have made a difference in education," said Stone Mountain Rotary Club President David Cesar. "We believe that education is the key to a brighter future, and we are proud to support those who are making a positive impact in the lives of young people."

For more information about the club's annual Champions of Education fundraiser event, contact Cynthia Dorsey Edwards, Director of Membership and Fundraising at [stonemountainrotary@gmail.com](mailto:stonemountainrotary@gmail.com) or visit the club's website at [stonemountainrotary.org](http://stonemountainrotary.org).

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Cynthia Edwards  
March 28, 2023

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Club News

## **North Cobb Educates about Sex Trafficking Issues**





Earlier this year, the **North Cobb Rotary** hosted “The Truth About Sex Trafficking” in partnership with Rescuing Hope ([rescuinghope.com](http://rescuinghope.com)) and through grant funds from Rotarian Action Group Against Slavery that is a collaboration between **RC of Marietta, RC of Smyrna, RC of Alpharetta and RC of North Cobb.**

Rescuing Hope Founder Susan Norris moderated a panel of law enforcement and community experts in discussion of sex trafficking in our community and across our state. Panelists included Kaitlyn Salinas from the GA Attorney General Human Trafficking Division, Ana Murphy Supervisor of Cobb Schools Social Workers, Julie Bossie Director of ER Nursing Wellstar/Douglas Hospital, Acworth PD Chief and Rotarian Jesse Evans, Detective Daniel Wood of Kennesaw PD, Lieutenant David Collins of Marietta PD, FBI SA Josh Norris, and Roswell Rotarian and Co-Founder of RAGAS David McCleary.

The room of 150 or so attendees heard a frank description of internet grooming of young people, the signs of someone caught in trafficking, active trafficking cases in our community and the state as well as ways to join in awareness training for the community. Ample evidence was presented to indicate that trafficking of people, particularly young teens, is a threat throughout Georgia.

Rescuing Hope provides training for schools, EMS and first responders, Law Enforcement and other organizations that might be on the front line. Awareness programs are also available to churches, business associations and ROTARY CLUBS.

Grant funds are available to cover any expenses incurred by the Rescuing Hope team when speaking to District 6900 Rotary Clubs. Please, join the fight and contact [crystal@rescuinghope.com](mailto:crystal@rescuinghope.com) to schedule or Hicks Malonson from RCNC for grant questions [hicks.malonson@harrynorman.com](mailto:hicks.malonson@harrynorman.com)

## PHOTOS:



Posted by Hicks Malonson  
March 27, 2023

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Club News

## North Fulton Serves Up Literacy





The **Rotary Club of North Fulton** sponsored a Literacy Night at Children's Development Academy on March 23. Rotarians provided dinner for families at the school, supplies for an art project, literacy packs and the cost of an artist/performer. Members of the club served dinner, set up for the entertainment and did clean up duty. The families and students had a great time eating dinner together and enjoying a musical performance centered around reading.

Posted by Lisa Gelber  
April 5, 2023

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Club News

## **Rotarians Awarded National Presidential Volunteer Service Award**





At the end of the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain**'s fundraising event, President Cesar announced that there were two other awards to present. These surprise awards were Presidential Volunteer Service Awards and were presented to Past Presidents Cynthia Dorsey Edwards (2013-2014 and 2020-2021) and Irvine Weekes (2021-2022). The President's Volunteer Service Award is a civil award bestowed by the President of the United States. Established by executive order by George W. Bush, the award was established to honor volunteers that give hundreds of hours per year helping others through the President's Council on Service and Civic Participation.

Through his personal efforts and with a commitment to secrecy from President David Cesar, Dr. Thomas L. Smith established the Rotary Club of Stone Mountain as an official certifying organization to award the Presidential Volunteer Service Award



(PVSA) to volunteers. Certifying Organizations verify and certify that a volunteer has met the requirements to receive a PVSA within a 12-month period specified by the Certifying Organization. To receive an award, a volunteer must complete eligible service within a 12-month period. Designated hours of service qualify volunteers for annual Bronze, Silver, and Gold Awards and, over a lifetime, for Lifetime Achievement Awards. Rotarians Edwards and Weekes were presented Gold Awards earned by volunteering more than 500 hours of unpaid acts of volunteer service benefitting others within a designated period of 12 months.

Posted by Cynthia Edwards

April 4, 2023

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## Club News

# Douglas County Serves the Homeless, Honors Top Students



The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** brightened the day for residents of the homeless camp located beside the courthouse on January 27. It was a sunny but chilly day as Rotary members served lunch that included smoked ribs, pork barbecue, chicken, beans, and slaw. Many thanks to Rotary member Joe Williams who coordinated the project and did the cooking.

The Club also hosted its annual luncheon recognizing the STAR Student and STAR Teacher from every high school in Douglas County. Their speeches were inspiring. Students selected as STAR Students must have the highest score on a single test date on the SAT and be in the top 10 percent or top 10 students of their class.



## PHOTOS:



Posted by Nell Boggs  
March 27, 2023

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Club News

## Carrollton Dawnbreakers Supports K-9 Unit





The **Carrollton Dawnbreakers Rotary Club** had a special guest at their Wednesday meeting, Kilo, one of Carrollton Police Department's K-9 Unit. Kilo is one of four from the K-9 unit and he is retiring soon. A check for \$10,000 was presented to Carrollton's police department for the purchase of a police dog, training of the dog and the dog's handler.

"Dawnbreakers Rotary is proud to partner with the Carrollton Police Department," said Rotary president Lauren Gann. "Through this donation we desire to support the K-9 unit's purpose, which is to enhance the department's efforts to keep our community safe. Our club wants to extend our appreciation to the men and women of our local law enforcement for their dedicated service. "The K-9 program provides an additional tool to further the objectives and goals of Carrollton's police. "Our goal is to continue with at least one K-9 officer per shift, so we may help with missing persons and assist with crimes any time of the day," stated Captain J.J. Cole. "We are proud to serve in Carrollton and assist around Carroll County, as needed."

Posted by Jessica Ainsworth  
April 4, 2023

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