



ROTARY DISTRICT 6900



August 2009 - Issue 2

Roy Strickland, District Governor

Dream Big, Have Fun, & Serve Meaningfully

Rotarians and Family of Rotary,

Official visits are well underway and Suzanne and I are having the best time! We enjoy so much visiting the clubs and being with our Rotarian friends. The good works of the clubs in this District are just incredible. I hope to share many of these good works in the Newsletter as the year progresses.

District 6900 has twice been featured this year on the front page of the RI website. Our outstanding Projects Fair was touted and your very special Annual Giving achievement received prominent mention. We are the first district in the world to record an Annual Programs gift from every club. That you did this in the first days of the new Rotary year makes it a first-ever accomplishment in Rotary. Our Foundation giving is off to a record start! You make me proud. Membership growth is robust. I have had the pleasure of inducting new members during my visits – a lot of new members. Thank you for identifying people in your community who have the vocational credentials to be considered for membership in your Rotary club. They are responding and our numbers are growing.

I must share with you how proud I am of our very successful District Assembly, Foundation and Membership Seminars, Projects Fair, and Foundation Dinner. District 6900 Rotarians have attended and participated in record numbers. You are excited about Rotary, and it shows.

Planning for the District SuperConference continues. For the very first time, we will convene within our District at the Cobb Galleria Centre in metropolitan Atlanta. We are lining up great programs, outstanding speakers, and lots of recreation and entertainment opportunities. This will be a SuperConference you won't want to miss.

We are honored that Rotary International President John Kenny has named as his Representative to our SuperConference, Glenn Estess. Glenn is Chairman of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation and Past Rotary International President. Selection of Chairman Glenn is an indication of the respect in Evanston for District 6900 Rotarians and your outstanding support and participation in The Rotary Foundation.

Please visit the District website when you can. We are upgrading its content and you will find timely and accurate information there that will be useful to you as we go about the business of Rotary. www.rotarydistrict6900.org
Thank you for all you do. Thanks for all you will do this Rotary year because *The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands*.

DG Roy

Smyrna Rotary-Investment Properties
my e-mail preference is dgroy0910@comcast.net

Rotary Rocks - April 22-25, 2010
District 6900 SuperConference



DISTRICT 6900 FOUNDATION & MEMBERSHIP SEMINAR

2009-10





Rotarian President Jim Wilcox plays his Guitar for the Hope for Heroes Fund Raiser. **The Forsyth – Monroe County Rotary Club** not only promoted the event and sold drinks to raise money but had a good time doing so! Hopes for Heroes is a non-profit organization dedicated to working with service members, veterans and their families as they cope with the emotional issues that arrive from war time service. Their goal is to create a community of support and an emotional outlet for returning war veterans and their families



“Allen Edwards proudly accepted the Hunt Cup from **Griffin Rotary Club** President Dick Brooks in recognition of the stellar work of Allen and his Literacy Committee this past year. The Griffin Rotary Club received a number of awards at the recent District 6900 Convention for literacy projects. In presenting the award, President Dick Brooks said that Allen “did whatever he was asked to do during the year and more.” The Hunt Cup has been awarded annually since 1939 to the committee deemed most effective accomplishing and exceeding its goals and objectives for the year.”

Rotarians Honored for Perfect Attendance

The Rotary Motto is: Service Above Self. There is no doubt that Rotarians are devoted to serving others as evidenced by the many local, national and international projects they have provided and supported over the 42 years since the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** was first chartered. Each year, Rotarians that have shown exceptional participation in Rotary by their perfect attendance are honored. This year, three very devoted Rotarians were especially honored with special gifts for their continued perfect attendance.

- 1) Tom Rolka, past president and membership director congratulates Doc Jaleel for 26 years of perfect attendance
- 2) Tom Rolka, past president and membership director and (right) Doc Jaleel, club president, congratulate (center) John Vogel for 25 years of perfect attendance
- 3) Ed Ahneman (left) is honored with plaque and gift for his 40 years of perfect attendance by Doc Jaleel, club president



KUDOS to the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club

Dear District Governor Strickland,

It is my pleasure to have recently been connected with the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club. I am currently serving on the Board of Directors as the immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Arlington, MA and am continuing to experience the greatness of Rotarians.

My husband and I have served as a host family to a wonderful Rotary Youth Exchange Student, Claudia, from Chile this past year. Wednesday we said tearful goodbyes and put her on a plane in Boston to go home to her family in Chile. She missed her connection in Atlanta and was stranded at 10:30 pm Wednesday night. Responding to my Facebook posting and desperate late night telephone calls, District 7930 Rotarians and Rotary's Eastern States Student Exchange got to work. In less than an hour I was connected to John Marriner, Club Secretary of the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club.

Even with the late call, John explained to me a little bit about the Club and its role in helping stranded students at the airport. He then jumped into action getting me the names and phone numbers of members to contact who would be ready for my call and available to help. I felt completely confident the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club would take good care of Claudia. Past President Deborah Martino got a 7 am start in helping Claudia with lunch, extended accommodations for the day, dinner, airport transportation, and company at the departure gate. John, Deborah, and other Rotarians working behind the scenes exemplified Service Above Self.

I can't thank the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club enough. The difference they made for Claudia is immeasurable. I could hear the impact their generosity and support was having on Claudia in her voice. Being in the Greater Boston Area, there was little my husband and I could do. It was a great comfort to have the help of amazing Rotarians and to know Claudia would be in good hands.

Please accept our sincerest gratitude for the help we received from Atlanta Airport Rotary Club and its members John and Deborah.

Yours in Rotary,
Jessica (Slate) von Goeler
Rotary Club of Arlington, MA

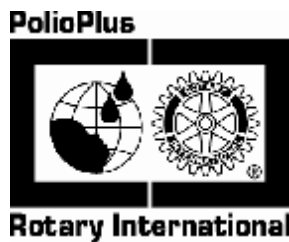


The Coweta-Fayette Rotary Club and Operation Boot Camp, and their families, joined together on Saturday, August 8th to help spread mulch at the Line Creek Nature Area in Peachtree City across from McDuff Parkway. The Line Creek Nature Area is managed by the Southern Conservation Trust and is open from dawn to dusk, 7 days a week

The Rotary Club of Newnan is hosting the 5th Annual Coweta "Up In Smoke" BBQ Cook-Off on Saturday, October 3rd at the Coweta County Fairgrounds. This event is the Georgia State Championship of the Florida BBQ Association and provides a day of fun, fellowship and great food for our community. In addition to great BBQ, there will be activities for the kids, a Fireman's Rodeo, and lots of exhibitors.

Please join us in the fun by visiting the event that day, or putting together a team for the competition.

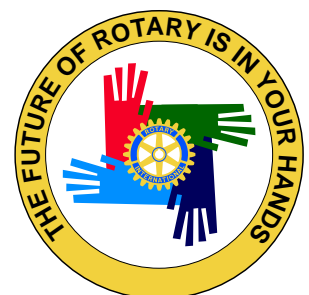
All proceeds from the event will benefit local charitable organizations. For more information, visit our website at www.cowetabbq.com or contact Kim Higgins at kim.higgins@firstchoice1874.com



More than 600 Georgia Rotarians took to the field (Turner Field) on Saturday night, August 22 to Strike Out Polio. A portion of the ticket sales went to the Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus Campaign. After enjoying a private patio party, the group took part in a Rotary Parade around the baseball field to promote the Polio eradication message. A good time was had by all, and the Braves beat the Marlins 4-3!

Forsyth-Monroe Rotary Club

Past Assistant District Governor Claudia Mertl speaks to Rotary on Ethics and the sharing the Rotary Vision. Pictured from left to right President Jim Wilcox, Past ADG Claudia Mertl and Public Relations Chairwoman Cheryl Treadwell.



DISTRICT 6900 FOUNDATION DINNER

Over 200 Rotarians enjoyed the Foundation Dinner to honor all those that support the Rotary Foundation. Frank Devlyn, Past RI President was our keynote speaker for the evening.



Some of the 18 new Paul Harris Society Members for the 2009-2010 Rotary Year



Some of the Major Donors





Clayton County Rotarian Baggarly named Hue Thomas Fellow

Rotary Club of Clayton County President Mike Twomey (L) presented Sergeant at Arms Raymond Baggarly (R) with the Hue Thomas Fellow Award last week for his contributions to the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP). Since 1946, Rotarians in Georgia have promoted world peace through understanding by offering GRSP scholarships to international students for one year of study in Georgia

colleges and universities. The students become adopted members of a Georgia "host family," but live on-campus at the school they attend. Each year, about 75 students from all over the world make friends in the United States and learn about differing cultures and lifestyles.

Lose The Training Wheels... and see where they go! Roswell Rotarians Rudy Lind and Lou Tabickman spent the week assisting children at the Lose the Training Wheels Camp. This is the first year the camp has come to the Roswell, GA area and Roswell Rotary Club was excited to participate.

Lose The Training Wheels is more than just a bike-riding program. For many children with disabilities, it's a seemingly impossible task they can typically master in less than a week's time. Within days of learning to ride, many children exhibit independent behaviors for the first time ever. This achievement, in turn, creates a gateway of opportunity, helping them gain assurance and self-reliance in many other aspects of their lives.

Learning to ride a two wheel bicycle has many benefits, some obvious and some not so obvious including:

- Increase in self esteem & self confidence
- Inclusion
- Positive change in family dynamics
- Improved quality of life through recreation
- Independent transportation



*Picture 1: Lou Tabickman with his rider Matthew Wynne and volunteer Zada.

**Picture 2: Rudy Lind with his rider and volunteer Jennifer

Rotary Club of Peachtree City Donates to Promise Place

Promise Place executive director, Vanessa Mottley, is presented with a donation check from Rotary Club of Peachtree City president, Doc Jaleel. "We are proud to support this incredible organization as they support the needs of woman and children in Fayette County that are victims of domestic violence," said Jaleel.

PHOTO L-R: Eva Durham, Rotary Club member and charitable contributions committee representative, Vanessa Mottley, Promise Place executive director, Doc Jaleel, Rotary Club president and Renee Spence, Rotary Club member and former Promise Place board member.



The North Fulton Rotary Council helps neighbors in need:

Recently, the NFRC was deciding on how to spend the dues money they've collected the past couple years. The first thing discussed was to have a picnic with the members of all the member clubs. While discussing the particulars, Elwyn Gaissert (PE Roswell), asked if it were appropriate for us to have a picnic while our neighbors were hurting. Of course, Elwyn was right. The Council decided to donate \$500.00 to the Roswell Job Networking Club and \$500.00 to the North Fulton Community Charities. Which they have done. The Council is made up of RC's of Alpharetta, Johns Creek North Fulton, North Fulton, Roswell, Sandy Springs and Windward. Thanks to them for helping neighbors.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: W. Dan Wilmarth, President (770) 516-4822 wdanw@hotmail.com



Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) for GEORGIA in 2009-2010 TIME TO REGISTER!!

The past year was a great one for RLI in D6900. We had successful RLI sessions in Peachtree City, Bainbridge, Jekyll Island, and Columbus. The current year will be even better, as the word spreads. This year, all RLI sessions will be on Saturday only.

Who should consider RLI?? Everyone! RLI classes cover everything Rotary from basic information about the Foundation and membership to advanced discussions about Leadership. And the skills you learn can be applied outside Rotary. So if you are a brand new Rotarian or a Past President, there is something here for you!

The partial schedule for this year in Georgia:

- 26 September Stockbridge, hosted by the RC of Henry County (D6900)
- 24 October Rome, hosted by D6910
- 23 January Forsyth, hosted by the RC of Forsyth-Monroe County (D6900)
- 30 January Dalton, hosted by D6910
- 10 April Vinings, hosted by the RC of Vinings (D6900)

D6920 plans to hold RLI sessions in Valdosta, Macon, and Savannah. Dates unavailable at this time.

The Institute is a three part discussion-based series for Rotarians wanting to learn more about Rotary leadership opportunities and successful club management.

For each Saturday session, Parts 1, 2, and 3 will be offered. Actual classes held will depend upon student registration, which closes out ten days prior to the event (Tuesday at midnight of the preceeding week). For each session, breakfast and registration begins at 7:15, classes at 8:00, ending at 3:30, well in time to be home for dinner for those within about 100 miles. Cost for each part is \$95, which covers class materials, classroom fees, and meals. Motels with Rotary rates are also being arranged for each location, see website for details.

Register at the RLI website: www.rlittraining.org. Registration now open for Stockbridge and Rome. You must register as a returning user if you have previously registered for a course. Only new registrants should register as a New User. If you have any problem with this, email Debbie Maymon, the Sunshine Division RLI Registrar, demaymon@amilink.com

Parts 1, 2, and 3 **must be taken in order. Each part lasts one day.** You will receive a certificate for each part and a graduation pin once you have completed all three parts.

For this Rotary year, DG Roy Strickland has made attendance at RLI a requirement for the Governor's Citation. Questions, problems? Dean Free, D6900 RLI Director, email deanfree@alum.mit.edu 229 246-8720

President "Papa" Fernando Calvo of the Atlanta Peachtree Rotary Club becomes a new Dad after 18 long hours of Labor, Tara and I are proud to present the newest addition to our family, A baby GIRL: Baby & Mom are doing fine.

McKenna Jeanne Calvo

Weight : 8 lb 08oz - Length: 22 "

Date: August 20th, 2009 - Time: 8:55 p.m.



RYLA Attendees Speak to Club

Dawnbreakers Rotarian Tammy Hughes introduced Caroline Colpini, Ann Marie Sammon, Cody Mezzo and Carly Cagle who spoke about their experiences at the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy ("RYLA").



HBO's Documentary on Polio Eradication

No longer just a drop in the ocean..?

HBO's 38-minute film "The Final Inch", filmed with Rotary's help and **nominated for an Academy Award for Best Documentary Short**, is available for purchase at <http://www.thefinalinch.org> now. The proceeds generated from the sale of the DVD will be donated to Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge. \$2 from the sale proceeds of each DVD will go towards polio eradication, presumably to Rotary. The DVD is also available with sub-titles in several languages and therefore would have very wide appeal.

[The Final Inch](#) didn't win [the Oscar for the best short documentary film made in 2008](#). But the nomination has given a boost to the film and its cause: even before its official release in April 2009, it is already raising global awareness on the major public health challenge of banishing [polio](#) from the planet.

[The Final Inch](#) is a film from Vermilion Pictures, in association with www.Google.org, about the historic global effort to eradicate polio. Here, the story told is as much about the messengers as the message.

You'll meet Munzareen Fatima, one of the thousands of community "foot soldiers" across India working to sway reluctant families to vaccinate their children, and Dr. Ashfaq Bhat, who travels into the backwaters of India's Ganges Basin by boat and foot to detect emerging cases of polio.

Rotary District 6900 SuperConference!

April 22-25, 2010

Dream Big with me as we move forward for the Biggest and Best District Conference in the Rotary world!



In 2010, we will convene at the Cobb Galleria Centre, in suburban Atlanta, Georgia - not just in-state - we will convene in District 6900. I promise you exceptional speakers and entertainment. The House of Friendship will be akin to an International Convention. The plenary sessions will be all about Rotary and Rotary's good works. We will celebrate our year and will have some surprises for you! Please join with me as we introduce this incredible venue to Rotarians from all over the district.

We will share more with you soon. The big names will surprise and delight you. In the meantime, get ready to start our year together and make it the best possible for your clubs.

Visit the SuperConference website at www.rid6900conference.com



Rotary at Work for Literacy

Dear Rotarians of District 6900: There is an international literacy project available that I believe could be of interest to many clubs and districts. This literacy project directly impacts preschool children in disadvantaged areas and townships near Cape Town and Knysna in South Africa. The project could develop over the next few years into a tremendous opportunity for Rotary to make significant changes in the future of so many bright and eager minds that, without our help, will not have the tools to lead a productive life. Mortality for children has many faces – one of which is the painful melting away of dreams and potential. For years the Ilitha School in the township of Khayelitsha has existed through the guardianship, time, money, and talents of the Sea Point Rotary Club in Cape Town. During the past year, the Rotary Club of Peachtree City, Georgia, and one of its Interact Clubs have joined Sea Point in this endeavor. Sea Point has provided the facility and classroom needs to date; Peachtree City and the Interact Club have funded and assisted in the Souns for literacy program, a Rotary International Literacy Resource Group (RILRG) option. The impact of the Souns program on these children has been so positive that as many as 38 preschools, under the guardianship of the Knysna Education Trust, are now interested in the Souns program. These schools are small and survive only by the assistance of organizations such as Rotary. South Africa has eleven official languages; but, the common denominator of these languages is the print symbol. Although there are variations, the majority of the letters have the same or very similar sound in the different languages. The Souns program arms the children with individual letter-sound knowledge at an age when research confirms they are most receptive, thus bridging their language differences and better preparing them for success in school. The Knysna Education Trust, in support of this project, has committed to train the preschool teachers in the implementation of the Souns program. I have been encouraged by Richard Hattwick, General Coordinator of RILRG, to consider the clubs that would like to be engaged in an international literacy project that they can see, hear about, and take ownership in. Please consider participating in this international literacy project to help the children in South Africa. You will be kept informed of the progress through images, and regular communications. If each participating club designates \$200 to support Souns for literacy materials for a class of 24 children, our district can proudly exclaim “We did it! We have directly and positively impacted the lives and dreams of 1000 children this year.” Their future is, indeed, in our hands.

Thank you,
Brenda Erickson, Literacy Chair, District 6900
Rotary Club of Peachtree City brenda.c.erickson@gmail.com (770) 335-2743

If your club is interested in adopting a school by providing the much needed Souns for literacy materials, please sign up on the following page. We will accept either a check, credit card information, or we will bill your club based on your club president's signature. The exorbitant shipping fees have been waived; therefore, 100% of your contribution is for materials that reach these children.



DG Roy Strickland...we are dreaming big! **The Atlanta Airport Rotary Club** left the Projects Fair in Columbus with one of their big dreams accomplished - all the requirements for the Zone Literacy Award were scheduled for the year. What a successful Project Fair, indeed!

Congratulations to Club President Cam Sutherland (far right) for a great literacy plan for 2009-10 from AG Ron Redner (far left), PDG Ted Propes and District Literacy Coordinator, Brenda Erickson.



Celebrate International Literacy Day by attending a literacy workshop - building literacy zero to five on Saturday, September 12th, from 10AM to 1 PM at the NE Spruill Oaks Public Library at 9560 Spruill Road, Johns Creek 30022. This three hour workshop is a collaborative effort for literacy sponsored by the Atlanta-Fulton County Public Library System and the Rotary Clubs of Johns Creek of North Fulton and North Atlanta.

The event is free and is a powerful way for Rotary District 6900 to make a statement for literacy in celebration of International Literacy Day! When libraries and Rotary clubs work together...literacy happens!