

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR AUGUST, 2021

	From Our District Governor Creating a Vibrant Game Plan By Mary Ligon We have had a great start to our new Rotary year! Many of you have embraced our Youth and Peace in Action initiative; there's still time for more of you to join in - see the article later in the newsletter. District Grant projects are underway in your local communities. And soon we will be in SanDestin, renewing friendships and celebrating all that we did in 2020-21 under Kirk's leadership - and all we can accomplish going forward. This month, Rotary focuses on Membership. RI President Shekhar Mehta has a special initiative called "Each One, Bring One" designed to expand our reach and ability to do good in the world. He says "Rotary is a vibrant organization that has spread to nearly 200 countries and geographical areas and has a rich legacy of fighting to end polio. Don't you think we could have a greater impact on the world if more people were practicing Service Above Self? Members like you are our greatest asset. But for the last 20 years, Rotary membership has remained stagnant. Through a program I am calling Each One, Bring One, I ask each of you to commit to welcoming one new person into Rotary or Rotaract in the next 12 months." [more]
	Membership Membership Growth Starts with The Ask By Jaclyn Donovan Membership Month! And believe it or not, Rotary is a Membership Organization - we just offer Service as our product. If you get Membership right, pretty much everything else takes care of itself. If you don't get membership right, everything else is a struggle for the whole year. So we encourage you to commit a little energy to being intentional and deliberate in seeking new members and getting your current members to help. Shout out the the following clubs for adding new members in the first month of this new Rotary year (pictured from top left clockwise): • Griffin - Paul Sinor • Americus - Roger Bivings and Ty Kinslow • Bremen - Jerry Morris • Carrollton Dawnbreakers - Ryan Sammon, Marla Turpin, Jeremy Moore, Kiley Thompson, Bo Haynes, Jasmine Hilton, Bryce Haney Now read on for more thoughts about getting everyone on board with membership development! [more]
	Youth and Peace in Action Be on Board the Peace Train by September 10! By Becky Stone Youth & Peace in Action - Rotary's largest local youth peace education initiative ever kicks off with high schools and youth service clubs in Zone 33/34 on September 21-International Peace Day. If your school or youth service club has not registered for YPA, go NOW to the YPA website: www.youthpeaceaction.org and register by September 10. All are welcome! Students will receive virtual peacebuilding training and certification and each organization will design and deliver a peace project using the tools the students learn. Youth & Peace in Action will culminate in Spring 2022 with presentations by the students of their peace projects and their impact. It's not too late!! Jump on the Peace Train! Have questions? Contact Becky Stone at 770-634-2717 or Rebecca.stone@stonepc.net! [more]
	GRSP GRSP: Celebrating 75 Years and Going Strong ... Join the Celebration By Katherine Fields From a humble beginning of just four students in 1946, Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) has provided ambassadorial scholarships for more than 3,690 young men and women from 108 countries. During 2019-2020, the last year the program functioned, more than 40 students from around the world were involved. The 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start with more than 40 international college students from South America, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe selected for the program. We will welcome most of those students at our annual Conclave - and celebrate 75 years of Building Peace through Understanding. Conclave will feature student introductions for the Class of 2021-22 plus Trustee and host families, a parade of flags, a student Cabaret talent show Saturday, plus food and fellowship - and dedication of the GRSP Peace Plaza and William A. Watt Memorial Fountain on Friday morning. And, we will hold our inaugural Conclave Classic Golf Tournament on Thursday, August 19. All Rotarians are invited to join us for this celebration - August 19-21 in Thomasville, Georgia - home of GRSP Founder William A. Watt, PDG, PP, RC of Thomasville. You can learn more about the conclave and register now at www.grsp.org/conclave [more]
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	Our Rotary Foundation at Work Competitive District Grants Support Children and Seniors By Anne Glenn Thanks to the generosity of District 6900 Rotarians, we have awarded three competitive \$10,000 grants - to the Rotary Clubs of Buckhead, Columbus and Meriwether County. Each focuses on the needs of children and seniors in their communities. We will feature one in each of the next three newsletters - starting with Buckhead. Agape's young people and senior citizens currently have only indoor spaces to gather for activities and games after school and during the day. Their building is located in an industrial area of NW Atlanta. The Rotary Club of Buckhead will help Agape create an outdoor activity space with a turf field with their D6900 \$10,000 Competitive Grant. <i>Agape is a charitable organization dedicated to empowering and supporting underserved families within its community by encouraging each individual to discover, embrace, and achieve their full potential.</i> [more]
	Rotary Youth Exchange Applications Now Open for Rotary Youth Exchange Study Abroad Scholarships for Georgia Teenagers By Mike Parks Do you know a talented high school student in District 6900 who may be interested in a study abroad scholarship? The Rotary Youth Exchange scholarship program is recruiting now for high school students, ages 14 - 17, who would like to learn more about the program and scholarship opportunities for the 2022 - 2023 school year. The scholarship is valued at more than \$24,000 and includes tuition, room and board, language and cultural training, and a monthly stipend for a high school year overseas. Students and Rotarians can learn more about the program by reviewing our website at RYESE.org, and attending one of our local informational sessions. See the schedule and think about how to be involved. [more]
	District Awards for 2020-21 Congratulations to 2020-21 Award Winners! By Court Dowis, Jr.  Congratulations to all our District 6900 clubs for their work to make a difference during the 2020-21 Rotary year! We will be announcing some awards during our celebration in SanDestin this month, including: • Rotarian of the • Year Follow Me Award recognizing top Assistant Governor • Sheffield Leadership Award (all 5 categories) • Club of the Year (all 5 categories) and Runner-up Club of the Year (all 5 categories) Additional awards were mailed out in July and we'd like to recognize those award winners here! [more]
	Laws of Life Laws of Life Kicks Off Its New Year By Lakisha Taylor As the new school year begins, we have 23 Schools Registered! And it's time to register your club as a sponsor for the Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest. Join us on September 10 at the annual Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon at Emory Conference Center. Two guests from each sponsoring club or registered school are invited to attend for free. You'll hear first-hand as students and teachers share how the contest impacts their lives. For those unable to attend in person, online event viewing access will be provided. For more information about the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, watch Beth McIntyre, GLL Board Chair, as she provides an overview of sponsorship options. [more]
	Club News Alpharetta Rotary Seeks Partners for Brazil Project By Bob Koncerak Alpharetta Rotarian Bob Koncerak recently returned from his third trip to Brazil, during which he met with members of Rotary Oeste (D4680) to discuss a proposed global grant project to equip a Down center facility in Pelotas, Rio Grande de Sul. The project is progressing quickly: city officials have granted a 1.25 acre parcel ... [more]
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Upcoming Key Dates

Monday, August 9th, 2021	Marietta Metro Official DG Visit
Tuesday, August 10th, 2021	Smyrna Official DG Visit
Thursday, August 12th, 2021	District Celebration
Tuesday, August 17th, 2021	Quitman County Official DG Visit
Sunday, August 22nd, 2021	Sandy Springs Social
Monday, August 23rd, 2021	Sandy Springs Official DG Visit
Tuesday, August 24th, 2021	Fayetteville Official DG Visit
Wednesday, August 25th, 2021	Atlanta Brasil Official DG Visit
Thursday, August 26th, 2021	North Atlanta Official DG Visit
Thursday, August 26th, 2021	Atlanta Metro Official DG Visit
Friday, August 27th, 2021	Atlanta West End Official DG Visit
Monday, August 30th, 2021	Henry County Official DG Visit
Tuesday, August 31st, 2021	Barnesville Official DG Visit
Wednesday, September 1st, 2021	Griffin Social
Wednesday, September 1st, 2021	Griffin Daybreak Official DG Visit
Wednesday, September 1st, 2021	Rotary Youth Exchange scholarship informational session - Fayetteville
Thursday, September 2nd, 2021	Griffin Official DG Visit

From Our District Governor

Creating a Vibrant Game Plan



We have had a great start to our new Rotary year! Many of you have embraced our Youth and Peace in Action initiative; there's still time for more of you to join in - see the article later in the newsletter. District Grant projects are underway in your local communities. And soon we will be in SanDestin, renewing friendships and celebrating all that we did in 2020-21 under Kirk's leadership - and all we can accomplish going forward.

This month, Rotary focuses on Membership. RI President Shekhar Mehta has a special initiative called "Each One, Bring One" designed to expand our reach and ability to do good in the world. He says "Rotary is a vibrant organization that has spread to nearly 200 countries and geographical areas and has a rich legacy of fighting to end polio. Don't you think we could have a greater impact on the world if more people were practicing Service Above Self? Members like you are our greatest asset. But for the last 20 years, Rotary membership has remained stagnant. Through a program I am calling Each One, Bring One, I ask each of you to commit to welcoming one new person into Rotary or Rotaract in the next 12 months."

We're going to talk about that and more in a special Saturday morning experience in SanDestin, where we're hosting Vibrant Club huddles. I hope you will join in as we focus on developing new plays for

- delivering exceptional club experiences to our members
- forming new clubs with new formats
- attracting former and new members

- serving our communities, and
- much more!

Pick up new ideas, share your successes, and discuss ways to create value for your members. We will have a variety of subject matter experts available to answer questions. Come be part of the huddle!

And thanks for all you do as Rotarians to be a vibrant part of your communities and the world as we serve to change lives!!

Pictured: DG Mary with PDG Blake McBurney, Alpharetta Club President Mickey Roger and PDG Kirk Driskell

Posted by Mary Ligon
August 2, 2021

Membership

Membership Growth Starts with The Ask



August is

As a president or membership chair, if you personally ask each member to bring a new member into the club – in an eyeball-to-eyeball conversation over breakfast, lunch, coffee, adult beverage or 2-way telephone conversation – you'll make progress. You can use this sample script in your "personal ask" to members:

- "Is this an OK time, or are you tied up with something?"
- "We have a great Rotary club..."
- "At its current size its long term sustainability is in jeopardy..."
- "We could do a whole lot more for our community with 10 more members..."
- "I need your help to get there -- I need you to bring in one -- only one -- member into our club in the next three months."
- "Can I count on you doing this not only for the club but also for me?"
- "How can I help you get a list together of people you can invite to one of our meetings?"

The intentional part is the personal part. It's not an "anonymous" request like a podium announcement or an email broadcast. In those cases, members many times think, "Someone else will do that -- I don't really

need to." Take the opportunity to really get everyone involved.

Welcome New Members!

Shout out to the following clubs for adding new members in the first month of this new Rotary year (pictured from top left clockwise):

- **Griffin** - Paul Sinor
- **Americus** - Roger Bivings and Ty Kinslow
- **Bremen** - Jerry Morris
- **Carrollton Dawnbreakers** - Ryan Sammon, Marla Turpin, Jeremy Moore, Kiley Thompson, Bo Haynes, Jasmine Hilton, Bryce Haney

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
July 31, 2021

Youth and Peace in Action

Be on Board the Peace Train by September 10!



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Have questions? Contact Becky Stone at 770-634-2717 or Rebecca.stone@stonepc.net!!

Posted by Becky Stone
July 31, 2021

GRSP

GRSP: Celebrating 75 Years and Going Strong ... Join the Celebration

GRSP Conclave and Anniversary Celebration - Thomasville - August 19-21



GRSP 75th ANNIVERSARY @ CONCLAVE | THOMASVILLE | AUG. 19-21, 2021

GOLF | GRSP PEACE PLAZA DEDICATION | STUDENT CABARET

CONCLAVE REGISTRATION OPEN

WWW.GRSP.ORG

From a humble beginning of just four students in 1946, Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) has provided ambassadorial scholarships for more than 3,690 young men and women from 108 countries. During 2019-2020, the last year the program functioned, more than 40 students from around the world were involved.

The 2021-2022 school year is off to a great start with more than 40 international college students from South America, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Europe selected for the program. We will welcome most of those students at our annual Conclave - and celebrate 75 years of Building Peace through Understanding." Conclave will feature student introductions for the Class of 2021-22 plus Trustee and host families, a parade of flags, a student Cabaret talent show Saturday, plus food and fellowship - and dedication of the GRSP Peace Plaza and William A. Watt Memorial Fountain on Friday morning..

All Rotarians are invited to join us for this celebration - August 19-21 in Thomasville, Georgia - home of GRSP Founder William A. Watt, PDG, PP, RC of Thomasville. You can learn more about the conclave and register now at www.grsp.org/conclave. From there, you can:

- **See the agenda for the weekend .**
- **Sign up for the inaugural Conclave Classic Golf Fundraiser** - which takes place Thursday, August 19 at the historic Glen Arven Country Club in Thomasville, with a 1:30 p.m. start. Teams will feature four golfers, and the fee is \$150 per golfer. There is not team rate for this event. Golfers paid together will be kept together. The golf pro will group players who do not have pairing preferences. All players should list handicap or note average score for 18 holes. Driving range and box lunch included. The Conclave Classic will benefit the GRSP Foundation 501(c)(3), the GRSP Peace Plaza, and Will Watt Memorial Fountain. Limited space. The deadline is August 13.
- **Make hotel reservations** - with a special rate at the Marriott Courtyard (use the link from the GRSP website to register there in our GRSP block of rooms)
- **Register for dinner events** on Thursday, Friday and Saturday evenings.

Posted by Katheryne Fields
August 2, 2021

Our Rotary Foundation

Good News About Doing Good!

The Rotary Foundation



We will be giving you a full update on 2020-21 contributions to The Rotary Foundation (TRF) in next month's newsletter, but for now we have a few highlights:

Congratulations to Our Leading Clubs

PDG Kirk Driskell recognized these clubs for leading the way - all for both total and per capita Foundation giving in 2020-21:

Category I: Emory Druid-Hills, runner-up Muscogee

- Category II: Lake Spivey/Clayton County, runner-up Sandy Springs

- Category III: Vinings Cumberland, runner-up Dunwoody
- Category IV: Peachtree City, runner-up Thomasville
- Category V: Roswell, runner-up Atlanta

TRF District Designated Funds Support 2021-22 Work in Our Communities

As Grants Chair Anne Glenn reported last week, The Rotary Foundation has approved our 2021-22 district grant application for District Designated Funds (DDF). This means that clubs can move ahead with their District Grant Projects. We look forward to hearing about how you are making a difference in your communities.

Welcome to Hinako Unno!

As our District's first inbound Global Grant Scholar in many years, Hinako arrived last week from Japan. Hinako will be attending Emory's Rollins School of Public Health to earn her Master's Degree and her special area of interest is Mental Health. The Rotary Club of Dunwoody is hosting Hinako for her two-year degree program.

Posted by Cheryl Greenway
August 3, 2021

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Competitive District Grants Support Children and Seniors



Thanks to the generosity of District 6900 Rotarians, we have awarded three competitive \$10,000 grants - to the Rotary Clubs of **Buckhead, Columbus** and **Meriwether County**. Each focuses on the needs of children and seniors in their communities. We will feature one in each of the next three newsletters - starting with Buckhead.

Agape's young people and senior citizens currently have only indoor spaces to gather for activities and games after school and during the day. Their building is located in an industrial area of NW Atlanta. The Rotary Club of Buckhead will help Agape create an outdoor activity space with a turf field with their D6900 \$10,000 Competitive Grant.

Agape is a charitable organization dedicated to empowering and supporting underserved families within its community by encouraging each individual to discover, embrace, and achieve their full potential.

Agape achieves its mission by providing academic support and family services focusing on character development, academic achievement, reading proficiency by third grade, successful high school graduation and post-graduation placement.

Agape serves **200 school-age children** year round through innovative in-school and after-school academic support programs. They also provide **40 senior citizens** a vibrant, social, safe space in their home community. Agape gives everyone a **supervised, safe haven** in the after-school programs. Students and mentors are often paired in elementary school and the relationship may last through high school graduation.

The average Agape **high school senior** has been enrolled at Agape for an **average of eight and one half years** offering a remarkable opportunity to influence behavior and perspective students who remain in Agape's programs through 12th grade have a **98% high school graduation rate**. Once graduated, **20% gain employment, 40% enroll in vocational school and 40% enter college**. These students are the first in their families to ever attend college.

Agape has been selected as Buckhead's signature project for 2021-22. Pictured at the club's first meeting of the year, Club President Cathy Wilson LaMon and key note speaker Nell Benn, CEO of Agape Youth & Family Center.

Posted by Anne Glenn
August 5, 2020

Rotary Youth Exchange

Applications Now Open for Rotary Youth Exchange Study Abroad Scholarships for Georgia Teenagers

The Youth Exchange Scholarship
provided by your local Rotary Club

Valued at over **\$24,000**: Room, board, tuition, and monthly stipend for a high school year abroad.

HAVE YOU ALWAYS DREAMED OF...

- ▶ TRAVELING THE WORLD?
- ▶ LIVING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY?
- ▶ BEING FLUENT IN ANOTHER LANGUAGE?

Study Abroad for a Year!

Do you know a talented high school student in District 6900 who may be interested in a study abroad scholarship? The Rotary Youth Exchange scholarship program is recruiting now for high school students, ages 14 - 17, who would like to learn more about the program and scholarship opportunities for the 2022 - 2023 school year. The scholarship is valued at more than \$24,000 and includes tuition, room and board, language and cultural training, and a monthly stipend for a high school year overseas.

Students and Rotarians can learn more about the program by reviewing our website at [RYESE.org](https://ryese.org) and attending one of our local informational sessions for prospective students and parents in the district:

- August 19, 2021 - Alpharetta
- September 1, 2021 - Fayetteville
- September 14, 2021 - Dunwoody

Sign up to participate in one of the informational sessions at [RYESE.org](https://ryese.org)

Posted by Mike Parks
August 2, 2021

District Awards for 2020-21

Congratulations to 2020-21 Award Winners!



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Congratulations to all our District 6900 clubs for their work to make a difference during the 2020-21 Rotary year! We will be announcing some awards during our celebration in SanDestin this month, including:

- Rotarian of the Year
- Follow Me Award recognizing top Assistant Governor
- Sheffield Leadership Award (all 5 categories)
- Club of the Year (all 5 categories) and Runner-up Club of the Year (all 5 categories)

Additional awards were mailed out in July and we'd like to recognize those award winners here!

Best Membership Growth

- Category I: Henry County
- Category II: Atlanta Metro
- Category III: Americus
- Category IV: Alpharetta
- Category V: no award

There were no runner-ups, as many clubs experienced membership loss last year.

Al Daniel Membership Award ... presented by Buckhead for best membership increase: Alpharetta

Giving to The Rotary Foundation (see Foundation article)

Best CART Participation

- Category I: Winner Muscogee, Runner-up Atlanta Airport
- Category II: Winner Sandy Springs, Runner-up Marietta-Metro
- Category III: Winner Dunwoody, Runner-up Carrollton Dawnbreakers
- Category IV Winner Peachtree City. Runner-up Buckhead
- Category V: no awards

Jake Cheatham Awards for Best GRSP Giving (presented by Griffin)

- Category I: Atlanta Airport
- Category II: Lake Spivey/Clayton County
- Category III: Dunwoody
- Category IV: Thomasville
- Category V: Roswell

Best International Service Project Winners

- Category I: Emory-Druid Hills; runner-up Emory Clifton
- Category II: Lake Spivey/Clayton County; no runner-up
- Category III: Americus, runner-up Vinings Cumberland
- Category IV: LaGrange, no runner-up
- Category V: Roswell, no runner-up

Best Community Service Project Winners

- Category I: Emory Clifton, runner-up Stone Mountain
- Category II: Lake Spivey/Clayton County, runner-up RC of Marietta Metro
- Category III: Vinings/Cumberland, runner-up Americus
- Category IV: Buckhead, Runner-up Thomasville
- Category V: Roswell, no runner-up

Best Youth Service Project Winners

- Category I: Stone Mountain, Runner-up (tie) Thomaston-Upson and Griffin Daybreak
- Category II: Sandy Springs, runner-up North Columbus
- Category III: Vinings Cumberland, runner-up Americus
- Category IV: LaGrange, runner-up Peachtree City
- Category V: Roswell, no runner-up

Best Public Image Service Project Winners

- Category I: Tucker, runner-up Thomaston-Upson
- Category II: East Cobb, runner-up Moultrie
- Category III: Americus, no runner-up
- Category IV: Peachtree City, no runner-up
- Category V: Roswell, no runner-up

Best Vocational Service Project Winners

- Category I: Johns Creek- North Fulton, no runner-up
- Category II: Marietta Metro, runner-up Sandy Springs
- Category III: Americus, no runner-up
- Category IV: Griffin, no runner-up
- Category V: Roswell, no runner-up

Best Fundraiser Service Project Winners

- Category I: Tucker, runner-up Stone Mountain
- Category II: Moultrie, runner-up
- Category III: Vinings Cumberland, runner-up Carrollton Dawnbreakers
- Category IV: Peachtree City, runner-up LaGrange
- Category V: Roswell, no runner-up

Posted by Court Dowis, Jr.
August 1, 2021

Laws of Life Kicks Off Its New Year



As the new school year begins, we have **23 Schools Registered!** And it's time to [register your club as a sponsor](#) for the Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest.

Join us on September 10 at the annual Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon at Emory Conference Center. Two guests from each sponsoring club or registered school are invited to attend for free. You'll

hear first-hand as students and teachers share how the contest impacts their lives. For those unable to attend in person, online event viewing access will be provided.

For more information about the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, [watch Beth McIntyre, GLL Board Chair](#), as she provides an overview of sponsorship options.

Posted by Lakisha Taylor
August 2, 2021

Club News

Alpharetta Rotary Seeks Partners for Brazil Project



Alpharetta Rotarian Bob Koncerak recently returned from his third trip to Brazil, during which he met with members of Rotary Oeste (D4680) to discuss a proposed project to equip a Down center facility in Pelotas, Rio Grande de Sul.

The project is progressing quickly: city officials have granted a 1.25 acre parcel of land, an architect has presented facility plans, and phases of construction have been proposed. The community enthusiasm for this project is impressive!

Rotary-Oeste has offered to host D6900 members for a visit to beautiful southern Brazil and Iguazu Falls later this year. The purpose of the trip is to further D6900's engagement for D4680's work in the community, visit the club's ongoing projects and treat us to a "bucket list" visit to incredible Iguazu Falls. The strength of the US dollar to the Reis will make this a surprisingly affordable adventure. The proposed time for the trip is mid-November (likely the week of 11/14-20).

The Alpharetta club will host a Zoom call in mid-August to discuss the project, review an itinerary and travel plans. For more information, contact Bob Koncerak @ RDAHKoncerak@yahoo.com.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Bob Koncerak
August 2, 2021

Club News

Alive in Roswell Returns!



Roswell Rotarians showed up in force as a flash mob on Canton Street dancing to "Celebration" by Kool and the Gang. Thanks to RRC member Nancy Alterman for organizing this great time and to all the Rotarians who put on their dancing shoes. Rotarians also enjoyed live music by Savannah Hughes at our Rotary Tent at the Hagen Center where we welcomed guest and new members to cold beverages, and hotdogs provided by Fresh Market.

Posted by Becky Nelson
July 31, 2021
