Rotary
District 6900

February 13, 2024

Rotary District 6900

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR FEBRUARY, 2024

From the District Governor

It's time to Soar Like the Eagle

By André Morris

"Hello Rotarians! Welcome to the home stretch of our Flight! You have done an amazing job of collaboration, building new friendships, and relationships! I am so proud of all we have accomplished! Let's Finish Strong! To encourage you along the way, let's examine a few lessons we can learn from the Eagle.
The Eagle is mighty and majestic, so are we!
Eagles fly alone or with their Kind. We too are looking for like-minded individuals as leaders.
Eagles are Strong, Fast, Focused, and Have Good Eyesight. Rotarians are Strong in their Northwest Island, abilities, and values, and when we allow them the opportunity to work together, we work in a more inclusive and well-oiling community for people." [more]

District Conference 2024

Jekyll Island: Don't Miss Out on All You Can Explore

By Stephanie Windham

There's a lot to do in your free time on Jekyll Island - especially after lunch on Saturday, March 23 when there is a break half into the District Conference schedule until 6:30 pm. If you're looking for something to do, there's plenty to do on the island.

Read on to learn about the possibilities. ... from golf or tennis ... to bike rentals, local history, sea turtles and even a tour of NASF International, a long-term Rotary District 6900 partner in Brunswick, Georgia. Who knows? you might want to stay an extra day after District Conference.

Don't forget to register for the District Conference yet, what better time than now. To register, head to: rotarydistrict6900.org [more]

The Freedom Series This Friday, February 2 at 2:00 PM via Zoom

By Gillian Leggett

I want to invite you to some very special Zoom meetings that I know are going to be very exciting! The Rotary Satellite Club of Stone Mountain Passport with the R12 Sandtoe Division started sponsoring a series of presentations called "The Freedom Series" in January of last year. We have had over 100 Veterans and Active Duty from WWII Pearl Harbor Veteran, Herb Kilbing. The event was well attended, and Herb shared his memories of what it was like to be near the action when Pearl Harbor was bombed. We received fantastic feedback from our members.

The second speaker is scheduled for Friday, February 2, 2024 via Zoom from 2 pm to 3 pm EST and you won't want to miss hearing him speak! We are honored to have Lt. Col. Harry T. Stewart - Legendary Tuskegee Airman, Author, Speaker, Mentor, and Inspirational Leadership Coach. Lt. Col. Stewart will be speaking from a 200NM Satellite/Passport club and R12 Sandtoe Division to bring history making leaders to our District sharing their stories.

Because of the high demand for this series, you are asked to preregister by following this link. When you have registered, you will receive an email with a Zoom link before the event this Friday. We look forward to seeing you there. [more]

Laws of Life

Laws of Life Helps Teachers Build Relationships

By Linda Sullivan

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest has become a key lesson for English Language Arts classes, fostering meaningful connections and understanding among students and their teachers at many participating high schools. Amanda Howell of Rome High School shared her initial perception of the essay contest, admitting that she was skeptical about its potential impact on students' grading. However, upon reading the first essays, she was amazed by the depth and uniqueness they brought.

"Our relationships with our students have become so much richer and our ability to connect with those 180 students has been so much more meaningful. The essays have provided a window into their lives, changing perspectives, from shared stories of resilience to overcoming challenges to faster care to discovering purpose through simple moments with family. [more]

Engaging Your Members

By Mandy Tassone

Please make plans to join the Zone 33 & 34 Membership teams (including some special guests from District 6900) for a webinar on February 12 at 6 pm EST to learn more about how to ENGAGE your new members - unlock your potential - increase impact and enhance participation! Let's all work together to find out how to develop ROTARIANS (and not just members)!!
Use this link to register for the webinar:
https://Rotarianteam.DSCdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77666881&NoCaptcha [more]

Laws of Life

Congratulations to Georgia Laws of Life Honor Roll Nominees

By Carol Gray Walker

It is our pleasure to announce that Pelzena Childs of Greenville High School has received the most nominations for the first year of the Georgia Laws of Life Honor Roll Society. In all, 15 students received nominations.

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the contest, GLL looked to honor the teachers who have shaped young minds and fostered a passion for learning. The Honor Roll Society was established to allow individuals to express appreciation for the influential educators in their lives. Georgia Rotary Clubs along with friends of the contest were invited to make a tax-deductible contribution of $10 or more to GLL to nominate a deserving teacher. The Honor Roll Society closed its donations and nominations on January 12. [more]

RYLA Update

It's Time to Think About RYLA 2024

By Jordyn Donovan

It's a new year and that means it's time to start thinking about RYLA!! Not that we ever really stop thinking about RYLA... If you're some brand of RYLA, here's a quick introduction:

RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a 5-day leadership development program that targets young adults, ages 15-18, to further develop character and leadership skills and learn about Rotary. RYLA in District 6900 is a 5-day summer camp experience.

RYLA 2024 is June 8-12 and will be held on 5-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. Cost per student is $275, and this covers all necessary expenses related to attending RYLA. For any students riding our charter buses from the Atlanta area, there is an additional $50per student cost.

[more]

GRSP News

GRSP Honors Teri White as First Frank Bentley, Sr. Fellow, Selects 24-25 Class

By Katherine Fields

At the mid-january GRSP Trustees Winter Business Meeting in Savannah,

the GRSP Foundation inducted the first Frank Bentley Sr. Fellow to Teri Hand White. Teri is a member of the Rotary Club of Thomasville and a GRSP Foundation Director. Cumulative contributions of $25,000 or more qualify for the Frank Bentley, Sr. Fellowship. Teri's contribution of $25,000 to the GRSP Foundation qualified her Endowment Fund to the 1990s to successful campaigns that established financial stability for GRSP. He was a member of the **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs**.
Trustees also selected students for scholarships for the Class of 2024-25. [more]

Rotary Means Business

Join Us for Rotary Means Business on February 22

By Carlee Hand

Rotary Means Business will meet Thursday, February 22 from 6-8 PM at Iondell Brewery - Perimeter. The Rotary Club of Roswell ... [more]

RLI: A Wealth of Information ... Sign Up Now

By Stephanie Windham

The District Leadership Training team would like to thank the Rotary Club of Thomasville (and especially PE Marla Tanner) for their hospitality and assistance in making RLI a success on January 13, 2024. We had a great group of Rotarians - participants and Discussion Leaders - and are looking forward to hosting additional sessions ... [more]

District Conference 2024

Coming to Jekyll? Where to Stay ...

By Stephanie Windham

Several hotels have room blocks reserved for us through February 21, 2024. BUT OUR BLOCKS ARE SELLING OUT QUICKLY!! These are still rooms available, though, so make your reservations now to take advantage of the special Rotary District Conference rate. Remember, the rate is based on being part of the 6900 2024. We have still have room blocks available with the Courtyard by Marriott and The Residence Inn, which have a few island-wide shuttle; Hampton Inn & Suites, Seaborn Inn & Suites, Holiday Inn Resort, Villas by the Sea, and Jekyll Island Club Hotel. Rooms at Jekyll Island Club Hotel, Florida and Palmer/Pladies are sold out, but you can ask to be placed on the waiting list in case of cancellations.
Read on for specific hotel information ... [more]

Club News Continued

Challenge Accepted, DG Andre!

By Mandy Tassone

At the beginning of the new Rotary year, the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** was given what seemed to be an impossible challenge by District Governor Andre Morris. The challenge was to double our Rotary Club's Foundation goal for the year (we set at $100,000 to be eligible for any district clubbing for the year. President Amy and Foundation Chair Will knew this would be one of the biggest challenges for the year and would need 100% participation from our club and our community to reach this goal.
As with most things in Peachtree City, though, we did not dip away and simply put our heads together to come up with a plan to accomplish the impossible. We ended up not only doubling our Rotary Club's Foundation goal for the year (over $170,000 in Foundation giving) already by January 1 through these efforts and the commitment of our entire membership and the extended community! [more]

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

North Fulton Provides Elementary School Art Kits to Help Students Express Emotion

By Lisa Gerber

Rotary Club of North Fulton partnered with a local non-profit, ArtsAlphabetic, to create nearly 600 Take-Out Art Kits for students at Dolvin Elementary. The kits are used to teach students how to express their emotions. This is critical with younger children who may not have adequate vocabulary to work out their feelings. This project is funded by a competitive grant awarded by Rotary District 6900 and has positively impacted the mental health of hundreds of elementary students in need.
[more]

Celebrating Shared Success in Brazil

By Bob Kosowsk

Bandeirantes Rotary is proud to announce the 'grand opening' celebration on Saturday, April 13th of the APADFPI Down Syndrome Training and Education Center in Pelotas, R.S. Brazil.
14 Rotary clubs and 2 District clubs spanning three districts and two countries have partnered with universities, companies, local governments and the state of Rio Grande do Sul to construct a 6,000 sq. ft. facility to house occupational therapy and education for APADFPI, The Association of Parents of People with Down Syndrome of Pelotas. Training and education will be underwritten through a $70,000 Global Grant approved by Rotary International in 2022. [more]

Vintage Cumberland Supports LaAmistad

By Bonnie Tucker

Vintage Cumberland Rotary celebrated the holidays in a special way at their annual party this year! Members brought over 50 new unwrapped presents to be given to LaAmistad in addition to a $1000 gift to support the organization's mission. Vintage Cumberland Rotary has been a longtime supporter of Hispanic Author students and families for success through academic and life enrichment program. Vintage Cumberland Rotarian also tutor and teach ESL in their center.
[more]

Club News

Roswell Police and Fire Chiefs Share State of Departments

By Becky Nelson

Roswell Rotary started 2024 with hosting the Roswell Police Chief Joe Cosey and Roswell Fire Chief Joe Mathews for their annual "State of the Departments" update. Their collaboration, competition, and support of each other is remarkable while our citizens continue to feel safe in our community. They are great examples of leadership for Roswell, Georgia.
[more]

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Marietta and North Cobb Team Up with Community Grant That Says Aloha to Aging

By Lisa Gerber

The Rotary Club of Marietta and the Rotary Club of North Cobb have teamed up, and partnered with "Aloha to Aging, Inc." to provide educational and program resources to our area of 13 counties!
Aloha to Aging, Inc. - established in 2009, provides assist and all therapy, day respite, caregiver support, and educational programming for those living dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and general aging issues. The District Grant money is being used to purchase supplies and equipment so that "Aloha to Aging, Inc." can continue this important work. Click AlohaToAging and scroll down to Day in the Life for more information and a full schedule of programming.
[more]

Club News

DG Uplifts Stone Mountain Club with Her Song and Her Story

By Gardner Daly

Accompanying her husband, Evangelist Walter Morris, District Governor André Morris graced the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** (9C600) as the distinguished guest during her Official Club visit on January 23. The event featured insightful presentations on RCSM by club leadership (see attachment), followed by a warm welcome to DG Andre' and her husband Walter, accompanied by their son Andre' Morris, Jr., Rotary Club of Roswell Club, and honored guests. The following day, DG Andre' embarked on illuminating tours of Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse and Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), with deep thanks expressed to both organizations for their gracious hospitality. The entire RCSM extends our appreciation to DG Andre' the following day, DG Andre' embarked on illuminating tours of Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse and Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), with deep thanks expressed to both organizations for their gracious hospitality.
[more]

Club News

Roswell Brings Presents to Local Community

By Becky Nelson

Roswell Rotary is proud of all we accomplished in December! Man, have we been busy. We partnered with Roswell Police, Fire, and Rotary Club of Roswell to bring presents to the Boys & Girls Club. Our Rotary Club Grovan Village on the historic Bulloch Home campus has brought what we hope will be a new annual tradition to our ... [more]

Club News

Peachtree City Hosts Only Winter Half Marathon on Atlanta's South Side

By Nelda Duncan

The only half marathon on the south side of Atlanta during the winter months led to an amazing event hosted by the Rotary Club of Peachtree City! The frigid temperatures for an 8:00 start time didn't stop 600+ runners from showing up for our first of many to come half marathons in PTC! With the history of the club being the Peachtree City Road Runners, the Rotary Club of Peachtree City wanted to bring back a local race. "Run the Pulse" was the theme as 95% + of the course was across the golf cart paths of Peachtree City. With support from over 100 local (non-Rotarian) volunteers and ALL of the club members, it was a very successful day of raising funds for our charity partners and bringing our community together in a big way!
[more]

Club News

Griffin Daybreak Speaker Underscores Rotary's Focus on Mental Health

By Debby Daniel-Bryant

Jessica Thomas, owner of CREO Community Enrichment, presented a program on mental health to Griffin Daybreak Rotary recently. She highlighted definitions of mental health as well as some common problems and treatments. Addressing mental health is a special focus for Rotary International President Gordon McInally this year.
[more]

Club News

Douglas County High School Interact Club Serves Community

By Neil Boggs

Rotary Club of Douglas County believes in investing in young people. Part of this commitment is demonstrated by the Rotary Club of Douglas County's Interact Clubs in local middle and high schools and the funding of two or three students to attend RYLA each summer.
This year the Interact Club at Douglas County High School collaborated with Keep Douglasville Beautiful in a project to plant 100 trees. The students organized, promoted, and successfully enrolled and pruned more than 60 trees planted along Campbellton Road on the school campus. [more]

Club News

Peachtree City Wears Blue

By Nelda Duncan

#PeachtreeBlueDay was established by the US Dept of Homeland Security and is a way to help raise awareness of the Human Trafficking crisis in the US and around the world. As we have learned over the years through the End 97 Now platform, human trafficking happens everywhere - rural areas, cities ... [more]

Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, February 13th, 2024	**Council of Governors**
Thursday, February 15th, 2024	**Monthly call of Rotary Youth Exchange volunteers**
Tuesday, February 27th, 2024	**Rotary Means Business**
Thursday, February 29th, 2024	**District Leadership Training**
Friday, March 1st, 2024	**P.E.T.S. (President Elects Training)**

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From Our District Governor

It’s time to Soar Like the Eagle

We are moving into the home stretch of our Flight! You have done an amazing job of collaboration, building new friendships, and relationships! I am so proud of all we have accomplished! Let’s Finish Strong!

To encourage you along the way, let’s examine a few lessons we can learn from the Eagle.

The Eagle is mighty and majestic; so are we!!

Eagles fly alone or with their Kind. We too are looking for likeminded individuals as leaders.

Jennifer Jones, PIP, has said: “We are on a journey in Rotary seeking leaders who have different talents, abilities, and values, and when we allow them the opportunity to work together, we work in a more inclusive and welcoming community for people.”

The Eagle has excellent vision and concentration. So do we as Rotarians, Let’s focus on the task of Increasing our Impact. Let’s reach those membership goals and go beyond! *Use the tools, given, and continue to attend the monthly MAP meetings to gain new ideas.*

Eagles feed on live Prey. As Rotarians, we must keep our eyes on the things we can accomplish, *not on our past successes. Focus on what is needed NOW.*

The Eagles love the Storm! Any Storm presents a challenge. Therefore, we as Eagles must do all we can to finish our flight.

Eagles go through a rebirthing process where they shed the old to regenerate. You, as leaders have the ability to adapt, which can free you as leaders to explore new approaches, and ideas, to bring about growth, in our communities and in ourselves.”

Rotarians, prepare our next generation of Leaders. Require your president elects, president nominees, secretaries, treasurers, membership, foundation, public image, and service project chairs, to attend all required meetings to learn that which is new in Rotary. You have an excellent DGE who will guide you into the Magic of Rotary!!

I challenge you to finish strong!! Do not be afraid to change the directions you are going, Update those Strategic plans. Leave your comfort zone! Use your obstacles to rise to a higher height.

It’s about fellowship. Let’s lift beyond our obstacles, and reach those goals, and have fun as you Soar!

Posted by André Marria
January 30, 2024

District Conference 2024

Jekyll Island: Don't Miss Out on All You Can Explore

Join Us March 21-24, 2024

There's a lot to do in your free time on Jekyll Island - especially after brunch on Saturday, March 23 when

there is a break built into the District Conference schedule until 4:30 pm. If you're looking for something to fill those hours, this article is for you! Who knows: you might want to extend your stay after District Conference.

- **Golf:** While the 18-hole golf courses will be closed to host both men's and women's intercollegiate tournaments, the 9-hole Great Dunes Course will be open. To reserve a tee time, call (912) 635-2368. If miniature golf is more your thing, Jekyll Island Miniature Golf, located at 100 Great Dunes Lane, is a guaranteed blast for the whole family.
- **Bike Rental**: You can visit the Jekyll Island Bike Barn at 100 Great Dunes Lane or one of the other bike rental locations on the island.
- **Tennis or Pickleball?** Pickleball courts are coming to Jekyll Island, but sadly not in time for District Conference. Pickleball is available on nearby St. Simons Island. If tennis is your game, reserve a court by calling the Jekyll Island Tennis Center at (912) 635-3154.
- **Interested in local history?** Mosaic Jekyll Island Museum at 100 Stable Road is for you. The museum itself has in-depth and interactive exhibits, and Mosaic also offers private VIP Experiences. To book a tour, or for more information, call (912) 635-4036.
- **Who doesn't love sea turtles?** The Georgia Sea Turtle Center located at 214 Stable Road is a nature center and rescue and rehabilitation center for sea turtles. This is Georgia's only sea turtle education and rehabilitation facility.
- **Tour MAP International:** Steve Stirling, CEO of MAP International in Brunswick, has agreed to offer a unique opportunity for District 6900 Rotarians to tour the headquarters of MAP International at 4700 Glynco Parkway, Brunswick, Georgia, on Saturday, March 23, 2024 as part of the 2024 District Conference. Steve has spoken at Rotary events all over the world, including many clubs in District 6900. If you would like to tour, please contact District Conference Chair Stephanie Windham at swwindham@icloud.com. To learn more about Steve and MAP International, visit the website at **map.org**.
- While the water might be a little chilly, the weather in March is predicted to be warm and sunny, so a **walk on the beach** is always a good way to spend an afternoon.
- You can also hang out in **The Rotary Disco Lounge** (this year's House of Friendship), where there will be music, a non-alcoholic beverage station, and lots of club displays to peruse. For more information on The Rotary Disco Lounge and to sign up for a table, contact PDG George Granade at granadeg@bellsouth.net.

We are looking forward to District Conference and hope to see you there! To register, head to **rotary6900.org** today!

PHOTOS:

Posted by Stephanie Windham
January 29, 2024

The Freedom Series This Friday, February 2 at 2:00 PM via Zoom

THE ROTARY SATELLITE CLUB OF STONE MOUNTAIN PASSPORT

&

THE ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE - SUNSHINE DIVISION

PRESENT

THE FREEDOM SERIES

4-PART SPEAKER SERIES FOCUSING ON OUR MILITARY VETERANS VIA ZOOM

FEATURING LEGENDARY TUSKEGEE AIRMAN LT. COL. HARRY T. STEWART

FEBRUARY 2, 2024 2PM - 3PM EST

WE ARE HONORED TO WELCOME TUSKEGEE AIRMAN FROM THE FAMED "RED TAILS" FIGHTER GROUP, AIR FORCE VETERAN LT. COL. HARRY T. STEWART JR., AS OUR FEATURED FREEDOM SERIES SPEAKER. ENLISTED IN THE ARMY AIR CORPS TO QUALIFY AS A PILOT., LT. COL. STEWART EXCEEDED ALL EXPECTATIONS HAVING COMPLETED 43 MISSIONS DURING WORLD WAR II AND IS ONE OF ONLY FOUR TUSKEGEE AIRMEN TO HAVE EARNED THREE AERIAL VICTORIES IN A SINGLE DAY OF COMBAT. JOIN US TO HEAR THIS INCREDIBLE HERO SHARE HIS EXPERIENCES.

DUE TO HIGH DEMAND, WE REQUEST ATTENDEES PREREGISTER FOR THIS EVENT. THIS EVENT IS PRESENTED AT NO COST DUE TO THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE PASSPORT CLUB AND RLI SUNSHINE DIVISION.

REGISTER BY CLICKING THE LINK BELOW. PROVIDE YOUR NAME & EMAIL ADDRESS, AND A ZOOM LINK WILL BE SENT 24 HOURS BEFORE THIS HISTORIC MOMENT VIA EMAIL.

I want to invite you to some very special Zoom meetings that I know are going to be very exciting! The **Rotary Satellite Club of Stone Mountain Passport** with the RLI Sunshine Division started sponsoring a series of 4 presentations called the "Freedom Series" which began on November 6, 2023. At that meeting, we heard from WWII Pearl Harbor Veteran, Herb Elfring. The event was well attended, and Herb shared his memories of what it was like to be near the action when Pearl Harbor was bombed. We received fantastic feedback from attendees.

The second speaker is scheduled for Friday, February 2, 2024 (via Zoom from 2 pm to 3 pm EST and you won't want to miss hearing him speak! We are honored to have **Lt. Col. Harry T. Stewart – Legendary Tuskegee Airman**! Please do everything you can to attend and support this event. This event is a collaboration between a D6900 Satellite/Passport club and RLI Sunshine Division to bring history making leaders to our District sharing their stories.

This event is at ***no charge*** for attendees. This is a Public Image event (not a fundraiser). We can only host 1000 attendees and it is open to Rotarians, non-Rotarians, and all interested people. It is being promoted with VFW, American Legion, and several home-schooling organizations – as well as Rotarians. We want to increase awareness of Rotary, RLI, and our Veterans. Please share the attached flyer on your social media, with friends, family, and any organizations that you think will love to hear from Lt. Col. Stewart! Let's participate and celebrate this history making event

Because of the high demand for this series, you are asked to preregister by following this link. When you have registered, you will receive an email with a Zoom link before the event this Friday. We look forward to seeing you there.

Posted by Gillian Leggett
January 29, 2024

Laws of Life

Laws of Life Helps Teachers Build Relationships

by Linda Hatten, Program Manager

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest has become a key lesson for English Language Arts classes, fostering meaningful connections and understanding among students and their teachers at many participating high schools. Amanda Howell of Rome High School shared her initial perception of the essay contest, admitting that she initially viewed it as just another assignment for grading. However, upon reading the first essays, she was amazed by the depth and uniqueness they brought.

"Our relationships with our students have become so much richer and our ability to connect with those 180 students has been made so much better" Howell states. Reflecting and writing the essay has led to life-changing perspectives, from student stories of resilience in overcoming challenges in foster care to discovering purpose through simple moments with family.

At Rome High School, the contest is integrated into the curriculum, with a focus on personal identity and narrative exploration. Howell explained that the ELA team collaborated to make the contest a schoolwide initiative, adapting and maturing the lesson as students progress through different grade levels. At the **2022 GLL Founders Celebration**, Amanda shared her gratitude for the contest and support from the **Rome Seven Hills Rotary Club** who makes the Laws of Life Student Recognition program a memorable event each year.

The GLL team can help your club bring the contest to a high school in your community. We invite President Elects to stop by our table at **PETS** to learn more. Current sponsor clubs, please stop by to pick your partner school partner's student medallions and a small thank you for your club's sponsorship.

Posted by Linda Hatten
January 29, 2024

Engaging Your Members

A February 12 Webinar

Please make plans to join the Zone 33 & 34 Membership teams (including some special guests from District 6900) for a webinar on February 12 at 6 pm EST to learn more about how to ENGAGE your new members - unlock your potential - increase impact and enhance participation! Let's all work together to find out how to develop ROTARIANS (and not just members)!!!

Use this link to register for the webinar -
https://Registrations.DACdb.com/Register/index.cfm?EventID=77666881&NoCaptcha

Posted by Mandy Timmons
January 29, 2024

Laws of Life

Congratulations

Posted by Linda Hatten
January 31, 2024

Laws of Life

Congratulations to Georgia Laws of Life Honor Roll Nominees

by Carol Gray Walker, Executive Director, Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest

It is our pleasure to announce that Patissia Childs of Greenville High School has received the most nominations for the first year of the Georgia Laws of Life Honor Roll Society. In all, 14 teachers were nominated to the society.

In celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the contest, GLL looked to honor the teachers who have shaped young minds and fostered a passion for learning. The Honor Roll Society was established to allow individuals to express appreciation for the influential educators in their lives. Georgia Rotary Clubs along with friends of the contest were invited to make a tax-deductible contribution of $25 or more to GLL to nominate a deserving teacher. The Honor Roll Society closed its donations and nominations on January 12.

With support from Rotary Clubs and donors, the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest is offered free of charge to high schools across the state. The goal is to encourage students to contemplate and articulate their personal values through a Law of Life essay. Over 807,000 Georgia high school students have participated in the contest, with the aim to reach one million students by 2028.

Thank you to all who nominated teachers, offering honor and recognition they truly deserve. We are grateful for your support in making a positive impact on character education and ethical literacy for Georgia high school students. Thanks go out to the Rotary Club of Conyers, the Rotary Club of Hartwell Jim Squire, Joel Terry, Anu Narula, Linda Hatten, Leah Adams, Janice Bayruns, and Sean Hatten.

Posted by Carol Gray Walker
January 31, 2024

RYLA Update

It's Time to Think About RYLA 2024

It’s a new year and that means it’s time to start thinking about RYLA!! Not that we ever really stop thinking about RYLA… If you’ve never heard of RYLA, here’s a quick introduction:

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

District 6900 is a 5-day summer camp experience.

- Participants are nominated by local Rotary clubs, which are responsible for all expenses. For these young adults, this recognition offers the opportunity to build self-confidence, gain exposure to a variety of issues and people, meet active community leaders, and learn valuable information and career skills.
- RYLA gives Rotarians the opportunity to mentor promising young leaders serving their own communities and beyond. Rotarians serve as resources for participants on the path to becoming professional and community leaders. In turn, RYLA can bring new energy to a Rotary district, inspire ideas for service, increase support of community service projects, and develop future Rotarians.
- RYLA 2024 will be held June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. Cost per student is $475, and this covers all necessary expenses related to attending RYLA. For any students riding our charter buses from the Atlanta area, there is an additional $50/per student cost.
- If you are a club President, President-Elect, RYLA Chair, Service Chair, or Assistant Governor you should have received an email a few weeks ago containing all details about the 2024 edition of RYLA. Attached to the email were all relevant forms and documents. If you didn't receive this email or can't locate it, please reach out to District Chairs Susan Ruckman and Jaclyn Donovan.

We hope that you and your club will consider sponsoring a student (or more than one) to attend RYLA this year! We have seen first-hand how it can change the lives of our students and want to share that experience with as many students as possible. If you have any questions about RYLA, please contact Susan and Jaclyn – they will be happy to help you!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
January 29, 2024

GRSP News

GRSP Honors Teri White as First Frank Bentley, Sr. Fellow, Selects 24-25 Class

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director

Georgia Rotary Student Program selected students for scholarships for the Class of 2024-25 and celebrated a milestone in mid-January during the GRSP Trustees Winter Business Meeting in Savannah.

GRSP is always encouraged by the efforts our volunteer leaders invest in our students with their time and treasure.

During the sessions, GRSP Foundation inducted the first Frank Bentley Sr. Fellow to Teri Hurst White. Teri is a member of the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** and a GRSP Foundation Director. Cumulative contributions of $25,000 or more earn the Frank Bentley, Sr. Fellow designation, honoring this past GRSP Endowment Chairman. Bentley guided the Endowment Fund in the 1990s to successful campaigns that established financial stability for GRSP. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs.

White is pictured with GRSP Foundation President and Chair Emeritus Jim Drake, Rotary Club of Savannah South, GRSP Financial Advisor Frank Bentley, Jr., Rotary Club of Sandy Springs and GRSP Chair Mike Sweigart, Rotary Club of Duluth.

“The GRSP Foundation is grateful to Teri for her support and commitment to our program,” Drake said. “It is fitting that we would honor a Thomasville Rotarian as our first recipient of the

Frank Bentley, Sr., Fellow. Our program was founded by Thomasville Rotarian William A. “Will” Watt, Sr., in 1946, and we recognize donors on the $1,000 level as Will Watt Fellows. Teri earned that distinction many years ago and sets an excellent example of service and generosity for others to follow.”

In addition in drafting students for the next class, leadership, Trustees and staff discussed ways to enhance our 78-year program of serving international college students with one year ambassadorial scholarships. GRSP’s summer trustee meeting is scheduled for July 13. Conclave is scheduled to be hosted by District 6900 and will be held in Columbus August 23-25.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Katheryne Fields
January 30, 2024

Rotary Means Business

Join Us for Rotary Means Business on February 22

Rotary Means Business will meet Thursday, February 22 from 6-8 PM at Ironhill Brewery – Perimeter. The Rotary Club of Roswell will be paying for some food and the first drink. Come network with your fellow Rotarians.

Please like our Facebook page. **https://www.facebook.com/RMBDistrict6900**

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Carter Stout.

Posted by Carter Stout
January 9, 2024

RLI: A Wealth of Information … Sign Up Now

The RLI Sunshine Division would like to thank the Rotary Club of Thomasville (and especially PE Marta Turner) for their hospitality and assistance in making RLI a success on January 13, 2024. We had a great group of Rotarians – participants and Discussion Leaders – and are looking forward to hosting additional onsite RLI session in Barnesville and Peachtree City in the near future. New RLI events, both online and onsite, are being scheduled, so be sure to go to rlitraining.org and review the course schedule. District 6910 will be hosting RLI in Jasper, Georgia on Saturday, February 17, which will include Parts 1, 2 and 3 as well as the "Transforming Your Club" Graduate Course. Registration is open, so register today!

Here are just a few of the comments we received from participants at our Thomasville event:

- "Great Seminar! Everyone should be required to do at least Part One. Especially within the first six months of becoming a member. You get so much information and it gives you a whole new perspective as to what Rotary is all about!"
- "This was exceptional. Every member should go through RLI."
- "I love you peoples!"
- "I feel that these sessions were very helpful to my understanding of Rotary. I feel that these sessions should be mandatory within the first 90-180 months of joining Rotary. I feel this would help with retention."

RLI is not "just for leaders" – it is for all Rotarians regardless of their tenure within Rotary– we have had new members who were not even on the roles yet and Rotarians with 30 years of experience in the same class! In fact, one of our unofficial slogans is "Making Better Rotarians - One Saturday at a Time" and that is exactly what we strive to do. If you invest just one Saturday with us, we will send you back to your club with a better understanding of Rotary and you will be able to help make your club a stronger, better Rotary Club.

If you want to know more about this great organization called Rotary and you want to enhance the likelihood that you will stay in Rotary, then give yourself the gift of RLI and find out what you have been

missing! See you soon at RLI!

Posted by Stephanie Windham
January 29, 2024

District Conference 2024

Coming to Jekyll? Where to Stay …

Several hotels have room blocks reserved for us through February 21, 2024. BUT OUR BLOCKS ARE SELLING OUT QUICKLY!!! There are still rooms available, though, so make your reservations now to take advantage of these group rates. When making your reservation, please be sure and reference Rotary District 6900 2024. We have still have room blocks available with the Courtyard by Marriott and The Residence Inn, which have a free island-wide shuttle; Hampton Inn & Suites; Seafarer Inn & Suites; Holiday Inn Resort; Villas by the Sea, and the Beachview Club Hotel. Our room blocks at The Westin and Home2Suites are sold out, but you can ask to be placed on the waiting list in case of cancellations.

For reservations:

- Courtyard by Marriott/Residence Inn – Call 912-319-5855 and reference the Rotary District 6900 Block, or reserve online using this reservation link: **Book your group rate for Rotary District 6900**
- Villas by the Sea – Call 800-841-6262 or reserve online at **www.villasbythesearesort.com**. The Group Login code is R-6900.
- Hampton Inn & Suites – Call 912-635-3733 and reference Rotary District 6900 2024.
- Seafarer Inn & Suites – Use the link https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/UJ64P5

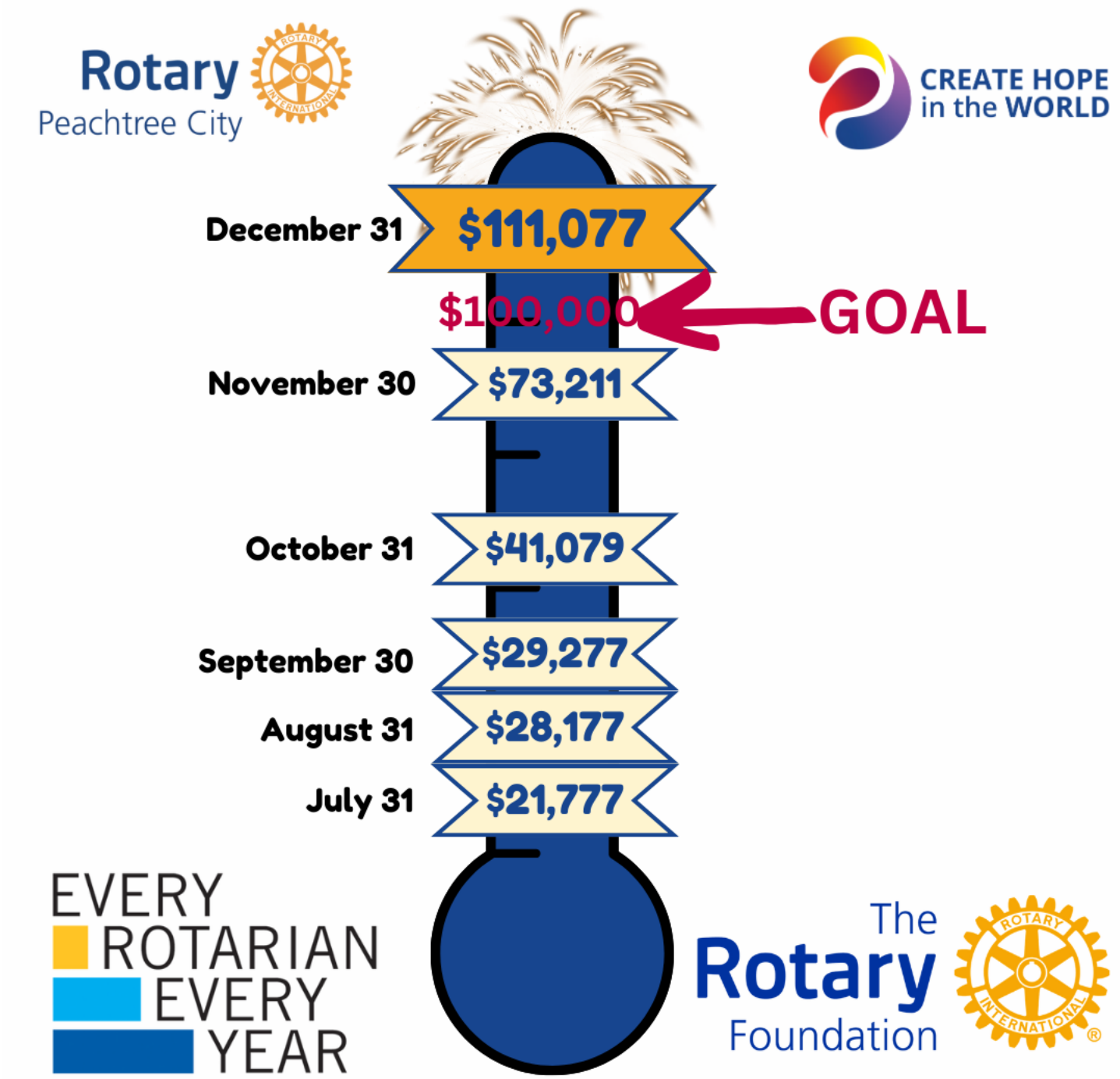
There are other hotels on the island, as well as short-term rentals and camping opportunities, but as of right now only the hotels listed here are offering reduced rates for conference attendees.

And remember, hotel reservations are separate from District Conference registration - you can register at **rotary.6900.com** - hope to see you in Jekyll in March!

Posted by Stephanie Windham
January 30, 2024

Our Rotary Foundation

Challenge Accepted, DG Andre!



At the beginning of the new Rotary year, the **Rotary Club of Peachtree Cit**y was given what seemed to be an unattainable goal for Foundation Giving for this year. Due to our record-setting year in 2022-2023 of $97,000, our goal for this year was set at $100,000 to be eligible for any district citations for the year. President Amy and Foundation Chair Will knew this would be one of the biggest challenges for the year

and would need 100% participation from our club and our community to reach this goal.

As with most things in Peachtree City, though, we did not shy away and simply put our heads together to come up with some creative ways to reach the new goal.

1. Contact each member within range of the ‘next’ level of Paul Harris Fellow and encourage them to donate accordingly: **Mission Accomplished** – five members became major donors in the FIRST meeting of the new year and over 15 more have reached the next level of PHF.
2. Come up with a quick and easy way to have fun while raising money each week for the Foundatio: **Mission Accomplished** – Foundation Football was kicked off for a third year with more members participating than ever before. At $1 pledged per point scored across our pee-wee league, local high schools, NCAA and NFL teams, we raised over $14,000 in three months!
3. Host a Foundation FUNdraiser to include our community partners: **Mission Accomplished** – through the efforts of a few key members on the committee, the first annual Bourbon & Bow Ties / Pinot & Pearls event was created. With ~200 community attendees, live music, great food and most importantly – awesome bourbon & wine – we were able to bring in over $30,000 in a matter of three hours!

We are proud to say that we have reached 110%+ of our goal for the year (over $110,000 in Foundation giving) already by January 1 through these efforts and the commitment of our entire membership and the extended community! We can’t wait to see what can be accomplished in our district with these funds being returned to us over the next 3 years!

Posted by Mandy Timmons
January 30, 2024

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

North Fulton Provides Elementary School Art Kits to Help Students Express Emotion

Rotary Club of North Fulton partnered with a local non-profit, ArtsAlpharetta, to create nearly 500 Take Out Art Kits for elementary students in North Fulton. Did you know that art helps children express their emotions? This is critical with younger children who may not have adequate vocabulary to work out their feelings. This project is funded by a competitive grant awarded by Rotary District 6900 and has positively impacted the mental health of hundreds of elementary students in need.

PHOTOS:

Posted by Lisa Gelber
January 29, 2024

Celebrating Shared Success in Brazil

Alpharetta Rotary is proud to announce the ‘grand opening’ celebration on Saturday, April 13th of the APADPEL Down Syndrome Training and Education Center in Pelotas, R.S. Brazil.

14 Rotary clubs and 3 Interact clubs spanning three districts and two countries have partnered with universities, companies, local governments and the state of Rio Grande do Sul to construct a 6,600 sq. ft. facility to house occupational therapy and education for APADPEL –The Association of Parents of People with Down Syndrome of Pelotas. Training and education will be underwritten through a $70,000 Global Grant approved by Rotary International in 2022.

Hats off and a big thank you to the **Rotary Clubs of Roswell, Stone Mountain, Peachtree City, Dunwoody, Atanta Brazil, Innovation Academy Interact, the Rotary clubs of Bath-Sunrise and Yarmouth in D7780, the six clubs of Pelotas, R.S., led by Rotary Pelotas-Oeste and the Interact**

Clubs of Pelotas and Pelotas-West who have supported the global grant and project construction.

This link shows video progress of the facility from April 2021 through present and includes thanks and an invitation from APADPEL leaders to join the April celebration. For more information and travel itinerary, contact RDAHKoncerak@yahoo.com.

Posted by Bob Koncerak
February 7, 2024

Vinings Cumberland Supports LaAmistad

Vinings Cumberland Rotary celebrated the holidays in a special way at their annual party this year! Members brought over 60 new unwrapped presents to be given to LaAmistad in addition to a $1000 gift to such a worthwhile organization. LaAmistad is a non-profit founded in 2001 with the mission of preparig Latino students and families for success through academic and life enrichment program. Vinings Cumberland Rotarians also tutor and teach ESL in their center.

PHOTOS:

ANDY
BARTON

Posted by Brenda Borden
January 29, 2024

Club News

Roswell Police and Fire Chiefs Share State of Departments

Roswell Rotary started 2024 with hosting the Roswell Police Chief Jim Conroy and Roswell Fire Chief Joe Pennino in their annual State of the Departments update. Their collaboration, competition, and support of each other is enviable while we citizens continue to feel safe in our community. They are great examples of leadership for Roswell, Georgia.

Chief Conroy announced that they are one of a few police departments statewide with 100% staff! No vacancies! This is quite an accomplishment throughout their administration, 9-11 and uniform departments. He also shared the good work with arrests of many involved in a human trafficking ring started in Roswell! In his closing remarks, he invited attendees to attend one of their Jujitsu classes open to the public but given through our community.

Chief Pennino was accompanied by Firefighter Chad Miller proudly holding their First Responder trophy won at the 2023 Roswell Rotary Golf Tournament. Chief shared how the transition from a primarily volunteer team to full-time, fully trained Department has gone through 2023. 2024 is looking more positive with some new recruits as well as better compensation for all involved. In his closing, he also invited attendees to their Fire Citizen Academy starting in February.

Posted by Becky Nelson
January 29, 2024

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Marietta and North Cobb Team Up with Community Grant That Says Aloha to Aging

The **Rotary Club of Marietta** and the **Rotary Club of North Cobb** have teamed up, and partnered with "Aloha to Aging, Inc." to provide educational and program resources to our area of 13 counties!

District 6900 offered a Special District Grant to address mental health needs of our aging population. "Aloha to Aging, Inc." established in 2009, provides music and art therapy, day respite, caregiver support, and educational programming for those facing dementia, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and general aging issues. The District Grant money is being used to purchase supplies and equipment so that "Aloha to Aging, Inc." can continue this important work.

"A Day in the Life" simulation is a 1 ½ hour immersive program that offers participants a glimpse into the world of the aging, and practical responses to improve the life of the loved one. Ten sessions are scheduled to offer this especially to Rotarians, but this programming is ongoing to the broad community. Pictured are two sessions done this week for Marietta and North Cobb members.

Click **AlohaToAging** and scroll down to Day in the Life for more information and the full schedule of

programming.

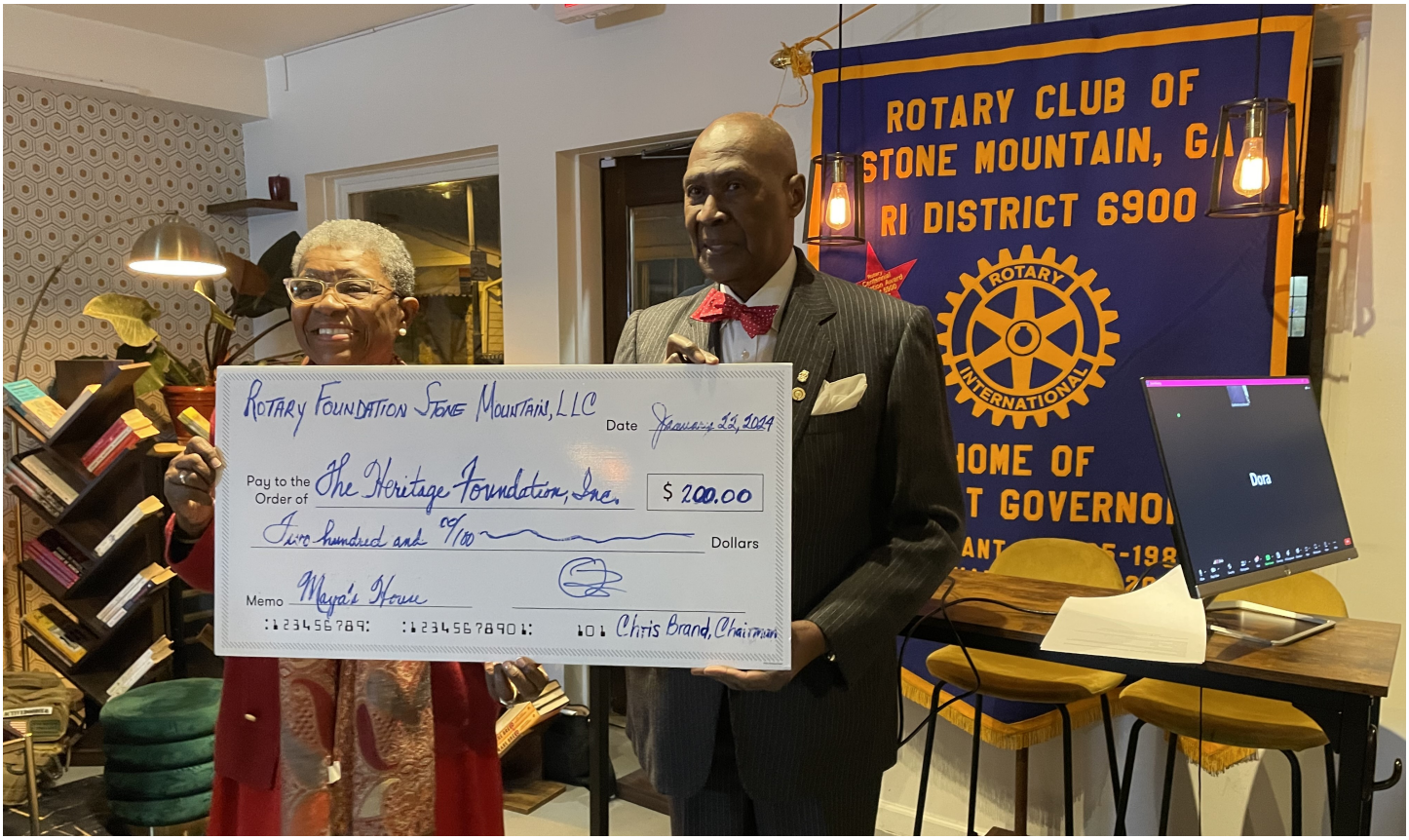
PHOTOS:

I Caught
The Aloha Spirit...
And It Feels Good!!!
Thank You
Rotary
ROTARY
INTERNATIONAL
District 6900
Marietta Rotary Club
North Cobb Rotary Club

Posted by Nancy Prochaska
January 30, 2024

Club News

DG Uplifts Stone Mountain Club with Her Song and Her Story



Accompanied by her husband, Evangelist Walter Marria, District Governor André Marria graced the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** (RCSM) as the distinguished guest during her Official Club visit on January 23. The event featured insightful presentations on RCSM by club leadership (see attachment), followed by a warm reception at The Vibrary, attended by Assistant Governor Villard (Ardy) Bastien, RCSM members, the Satellite Club, and honored guests. The following day, DG André embarked on illuminating tours of Side by Side Brain Injury Clubhouse and Friends of Disabled Adults and Children (FODAC), with deep thanks expressed to both organizations for their gracious hospitality.

On January 24, DG André captivated RCSM members and guests with an inspiring presentation, sharing her life, passion for music and family, and the focal points of Rotary for the 2023-2024 Rotary Year. Reflecting on her early Rotary journey as the sole black female Rotarian in a male-dominated and culturally homogeneous club, DG André also shared heartfelt personal experiences of loss. Now, as the Governor of District 6900, she emphasized the importance of mental health, drawing from her own commitment to the cause.

The Lady with a Song, DG André, uplifted the spirits of RCSM members with inspirational and melodious songs. She underscored the significance of fostering club leadership and membership, which mirrors the community's diversity in race, culture, thought, age, gender, backgrounds, and experiences. In a gesture of appreciation, President Weekes and Cynthia Edwards presented DG André, an avid reader, with a contribution to her favorite charity and books highlighting the rich history and diversity of Stone Mountain and DeKalb County.

Posted by Darlene Daly

January 29, 2024

Club News

Roswell Brings Presents to Local Community

Roswell Rotary is proud of all we accomplished in December! Man, have we been busy: We partnered with the Friends of Bulloch Hall to bring Christkindlmarket to Roswell from Nov 24-Dec 24. Strolling the authentic German Village on the historic Bulloch Home campus has brought what we hope will be a new annual tradition to our area. We also shipped 42 boxes of necessities and some fun items to South Korea where a son of one of our members is stationed. Finally, we supplied almost 200 new toys for the North Fulton Community Charities Holiday Shop while also supplying another 100 new toys to the local VFW for military families. Looking forward to 2024!

Posted by Becky Nelson
January 10, 2024

Club News

Peachtree City Hosts Only Winter Half Marathon on Atlanta's South Side

The only half marathon on the south side of Atlanta during the winter months led to an amazing event hosted by the **Rotary Club of Peachtree City**! The frigid temperatures for an 8:00 start time didn't stop 600+ runners from showing up for our first (of many to come) half marathons in PTC! With the history of the club hosting the Grand Prix Series for the last 18 years, it was an easier than expected transition into a Half Marathon. "Run the Paths" was the theme as 90%+ of the course was across the golf cart paths of

Peachtree City. With support from over 100 local (non-Rotarian) volunteers and ALL of the club members, it was a very successful event – raising funds for our charity partners and bringing our community together in a big way! Thanks to our presenting sponsor – BMW of South Atlanta, all of our emergency services and the entire community of PTC who stepped out of their homes to cheer the runners on as they ran the golf cart paths through the many neighborhoods! We are already planning to make next year's race even bigger!

Pictured: PTC Rotarian Ryan Peurifoy crossing the Half Marathon Finish Lane, VP Chavdar Zdravkov and President Amy Benton, Runners coming through the golf cart tunnels around mid-way and the map showing the route for the 5K and Half Marathon along with the medals given to all participants completing the Half Marathon

Posted by Holly Davanzo
January 30, 2024

Club News

Griffin Daybreak Speaker Underscores Rotary's Focus on Mental Health

Johntavious Jones, owner of CEED Community Enrichment, presented a program on mental health to **Griffin Daybreak Rotary** recently. He highlighted definitions of mental health as well as some common problems and treatments. Addressing mental health is a special focus for Rotary International President Gordon McInally this year.

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant
January 29, 2024

Club News

Douglas County High School Interact Club Serves Community

The **Rotary Club of Douglas County** believes in investing in young people. Part of this commitment is demonstrated through the sponsorship of several Interact Clubs in local middle and high schools and the funding of two or three students to attend RYLA each summer.

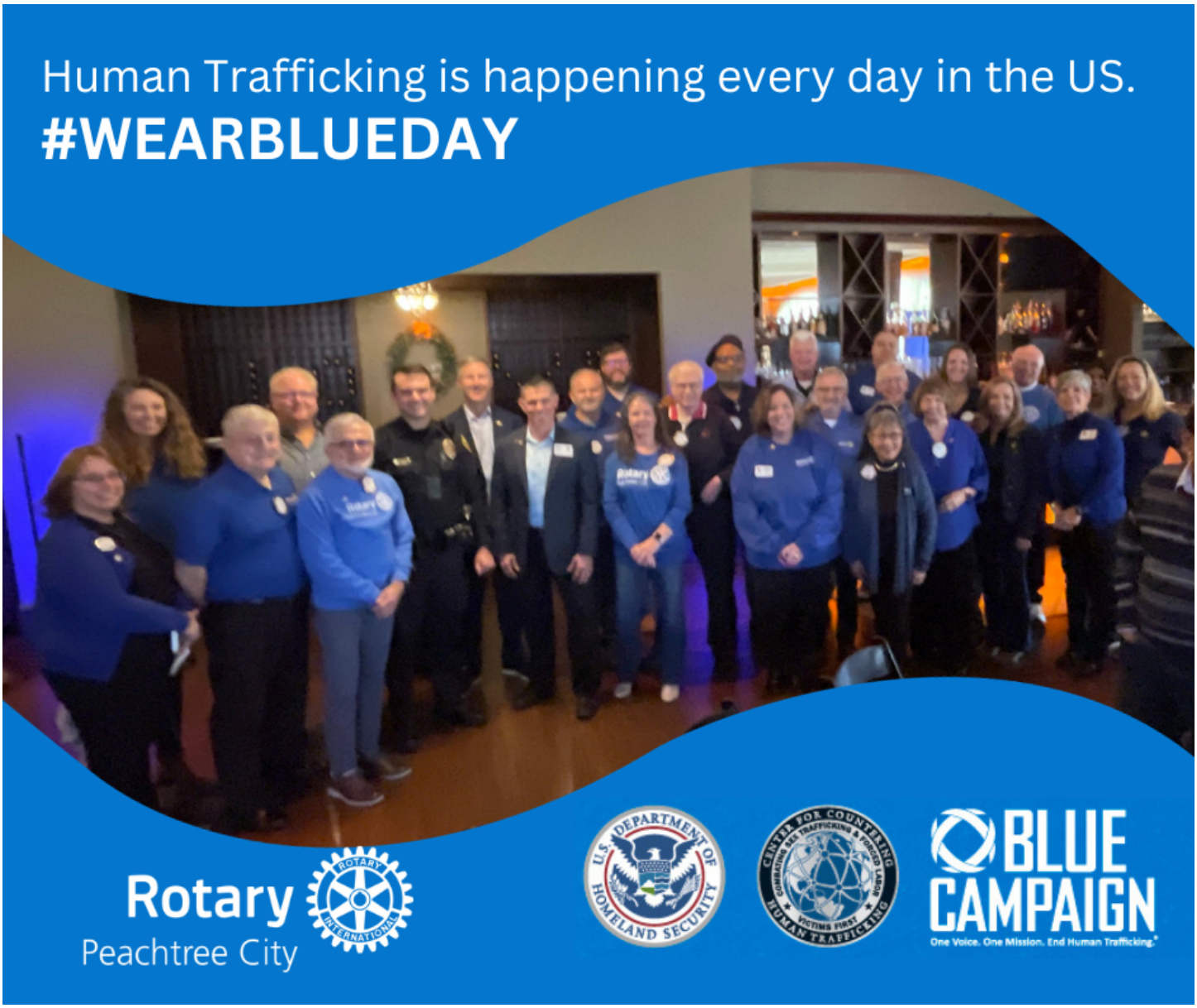
This year the **Interact Club at Douglas County High School** collaborated with Keep Douglasville Beautiful in a Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service project at their school. Volunteers mulched and pruned more than 60 trees planted along Campbellton Road on the school campus. The road serves as a main entry point to the city of Douglasville.

"Interact prides itself in community engagement on national and local levels, and we were happy to use our skills for the MLK Day of Service," said Drenay Everett, DCHS Interact Club sponsor.

Posted by Nell Boggs
January 30, 2024

Club News

Peachtree City Wears Blue



#WearBlueDay was established by the US Dept of Homeland Security and is a way to help raise awareness of the Human Trafficking crisis in the US and around the world. As we have learned over the years through the End HT Now platform, human trafficking happens everywhere – rural areas, cities and even in our affluent suburbs. It can also happen to anyone – regardless of gender, age, race, immigration status or socioeconomic status. This is now considered one of the fastest growing crimes in America. **Peachtree City Rotarians** all wore our #RotaryBlue to shine a light on this crisis and to help show our support of the victims and survivors!

Posted by Holly Davanzo
January 30, 2024