

District 6900 Newsletter

January 2011



Casey's Calendar

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

JANUARY

14 February newsletter deadline

22 Rotary at Work for Literacy - Carter Center (see page 2)

FEBRUARY

15 March newsletter deadline



Don't Miss Out on Callaway Gardens in all its Spring and Rotary Splendor!

District Conference



**Callaway Gardens
April 29 - May 1, 2011**

January is Rotary Awareness Month

Over the last six months our Rotary Clubs have made great strides in becoming Bigger, Better, and Bolder. I continue to be awestruck by the passion and commitment that Rotarians have for the betterment of our communities and our fellow man. Polio Eradication, Clean Water, Literacy, Peace, the list goes on and on. Rotarians lead the way in these causes as well as many others.

Rotary International has designated January as "Rotary Awareness" month. We truly should promote Rotary Awareness each and every day, but it is significant that we have a month designated to its promotion. Membership, The Rotary Foundation, Service Projects, Public Relations, and Club Administration all stand to benefit from a higher awareness of what Rotary is all about.

As I traveled the District for my official visits, I benefited from learning more about our clubs in the District and the ways they promote Rotary Awareness both internally and externally. Internally, we must educate our members to better understand Rotary, while at the same time externally we must do the same for non Rotarians. The Red Badge Program, mentoring for new members, and supporting members to attend Rotary Leadership Institute were among the most common ways clubs supported a higher awareness of Rotary internally. Externally, clubs commonly placed the Rotary wheel on service projects done within the community as well as providing local media outlets the opportunity to report on the projects at hand. Internally or externally, clubs are creating a Rotary Brand in order to create higher awareness.

In the Rotary Year 2000-2001, we had as our Rotary International theme, "Create Awareness-Take Action". Each year Rotarians do just that. From our founding in 1905 to the adoption of Polio Eradication as a corporate project, Rotarians make a difference throughout the World. It's through this higher awareness that we can accomplish so much.

I'm proud to be a Rotarian, and be engaged in a world of fellowship and service as we go about Building Communities-Bridging Continents. Thank you for what you do in the name of Rotary!



Casey Farmer
District Governor

Yours in Rotary Service

Casey Farmer
District Governor 2010-2011



Our Rotary Foundation: A Strong Way to Help Make a Difference

The first six months of Future Vision has been a learning process for all of us. Grant processing has proven to be more efficient for District Grants and somewhat more cumbersome for the Global Grants. We have; however, seen significant success in both areas. Our District Grants were issued to the clubs earlier than ever before and the amounts were significantly higher. In addition we were able to hand out several larger grants that involved groups of clubs at the District level. We have also received approval from the Foundation that the overall District Grant, the one the District applies for that represents the sum of all the club grants, our scholars, and our GSE team has been approved. On the Global Grant side, our first grant request has been approved and funded by TRF. We believe that the floodgates will open in January and we will see the great majority of our Global Grant requests approved.

We also need to see the floodgates on giving open. We still have 22 clubs that have not given anything to the Annual fund and we only have six clubs that have given at the \$100 per Rotarian level. This is the lowest

we have been in six years. Due to the delay in reporting from TRF, these numbers are only accurate through December 15th and it will be next month before I can provide you with the six-month numbers. If giving does not improve, we will have to seriously curtail our grant activity over the next two years. We have never had to prioritize our grants in the past due to the generosity of our Rotarians; there is a strong possibility that the next few years could see us implement some type of priority structure if the Annual funding does not improve.

I am asking everyone to do the best that they can and we will continue to report the progress to you. Hopefully, with everyone's increased support we will be able to continue all of the programs that we have supported in the past.

I hope you have all had a healthy and happy holiday season and the New Year brings the best to everyone. I look forward to seeing many of you at your clubs during 2011.

Bill Woulfin
District 6900 Foundation Chair

Rotary at Work for Literacy

Call for Presentation Proposals!

Rotary at Work for Literacy - Saturday, January 22, 2011!

The Carter Center 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM (Yes, this is a change from previous years.)

Please consider presenting your club's literacy project at Rotary at Work for Literacy. Email your details - district, club, name, project title, to me asap (brenda.c.erickson@gmail.com). Each presentation will be 30 minutes including discussion. Audio visual support is provided. Sharing your project is so important to the bigger picture of literacy in Georgia.

Every club has been working on literacy. Now is the time to share your wonderful projects. Clubs are invited to set up a table and inspire others to get to know (and perhaps share in) your literacy project. Questions? 770-335-2743. Register at www.rotarydistrict6900.org. The cost is \$50 per person. See you at the conference!



**Building Communities ...
Rotarians Throughout District 6900 Make the Holidays Bright**

Rockmart/Polk County Collects Toys for Children



In the "spirit of the season" the **Rockmart/Polk County Rotary Club** is helping make Christmas brighter for some Polk County children. The club collected toys for the "Christmas is for Kids" project sponsored by the Rockmart Police Department. Club members brought toys to their December meetings.

Club members (left to right) Avery Weldon, Maryellen Hittel, Michael Paulk, Dr. Doug Mitchell, Laron Maloney, Al Cunningham, Heather Stegall, and Rae Herndon pack up toys for delivery to the Police Department.

Breakfast with Santa

The **Henry County Rotary Club** held its annual Breakfast with Santa at PJ's Restaurant in McDonough Square. "We began this event year's ago to provide a time where foster care children of Henry County can come and have a wonderful holiday experience," said Brad Facet the event's founder.



Henry County Club President Kerry Arnold and his daughter

"We have partnered with many of our friends in the community to bring the joy of the holidays to children who may not otherwise share in such a festive occasion," remarked Kerry Arnold who is President of Henry County Rotary. "What better season to illustrate the meaning of our Service Above Self motto than the Christmas Holidays. The excitement of seeing the children interacting with Santa and opening presents is priceless."

"We thoroughly enjoy our partnership with the Rotary Club in providing a fun-filled Holiday experience for these children," commented Paul the owner of PJ's. "Our staff enjoys the interaction with the children and seeing their smiles. It truly is a day we look forward to all year long."

Relief for Local Families

In the true spirit of the holiday season, the **Rotary Club of North Fulton** was able to acquire 500 milk carton crates from an anonymous donor to help North Fulton Community Charities provide relief to the thousands of families they serve each year. Club President Steve Siders said, "We are glad to be able to do this in support of the community and are thrilled to be able to fill a need that will help so many individuals and families. People sometimes forget that



there is great goodness in this world. This combination of a specific need from a charity, the resources and persistence of a Rotary club, the open mindedness of a corporate manager, and the grace of God above made for a great holiday miracle."

Sharing Holiday Smiles with Local Marietta Children

Every year, the **Rotary Club of Marietta** celebrates Christmas with 100 disadvantaged elementary school children.

On a snowy December Sunday, a rocking party organized by club member Kelly Maxwell at Lockheed Elementary School attracted more than 290 Rotarians, spouses and children .



Songs and carols filled the air accompanied by troubadour Bert Reeves and singing Rotarian elves outfitted with Santa hats, jingling bells and reindeer antlers.

The youngsters began coloring gift bags and making Christmas tree ornaments. All at once, "Ho Ho Ho" was heard in the hallway. It was jolly Santa himself bursting through the cafeteria doors



and parading with the boys and girls before finding a rocking chair where he could set down his huge pack and start distributing gifts with the help of his chief elf, Mrs. Claus. In addition to a warm hug

from Santa, each child receives huge bags overflowing with games and toys. Sharing smiles with those less fortunate brings such extraordinary blessings to us all in this season of cheer and good will.

Barnesville Recognized for Literacy Efforts

The **Rotary Club of Barnesville** was recently honored with a Literacy Award from the Lamar County Board of Education for significant participation this year with our local school system:



Lamar County School System Superintendent and Rotary member Dr. Bill Truby presents award to Club President Mark Stone.

- ◆ Dictionary Project (3rd Graders)
- ◆ AIDS Awareness Presentations to 9th, 10th, and 11th Grades
- ◆ DARE (Drug Abuse Resistance Education)
- ◆ RYLA (2 students annually sponsored)
- ◆ Interact Club (initiating new club at LCHS)
- ◆ Laws of Life Essay Program participant
- ◆ FERST Foundation books Sponsor
- ◆ Sponsorship of a field trip for 100 needy students to see The Nutcracker
- ◆ Job Shadowing (Mentor)
- ◆ GRSP Student at Gordon College

The club has also provided "Flu Mist" for needy students, sponsored the Trojan Football Program and just supported the annual Toys for Tots Drive.

Jingle Jog Gives a Boost to Henry County's Giving

The **Henry County Rotary Club** held its third annual Jingle Jog



through the heart of downtown McDonough. The race was a tremendous success - with more than 550 runners and proceeds of more than \$10,000. These funds support of the Rotary Foundation as well as local projects - including this year's signature effort - the build out of the children's playground located at the new Haven House Facility - as well as the local wheel chair ramp renovations for which the club is well known.

A Story of Clubs Helping Clubs to Improve Literacy in Their Community

For seven years, the **Rotary Club of Dallas** has sponsored the Paulding Teacher of the Month Award - not only to recognize individual teachers, but to increase public awareness of the tremendous contribution made by all teachers and administrators.

This year, President Terry Leard challenged the club to increase its commitment and contribution to education and the



promotion of literacy. During his attendance at a District Foundation Seminar in Columbus, Terry became aware of a Literacy program designed to encourage third grade students to develop their reading skills and to increase their vocabulary by providing them with a personal dictionary. At the seminar, Terry met Dennis Martino, General Manager and Vice President of White Printing, Inc., and a member of the Atlanta Airport Rotary Club. They talked about the dictionary project and Dennis said he had been involved with the project in his club and would be happy to help Terry initiate the project in Paulding County.

Club members quickly embraced this project. Money was committed from the club's community service fund, grant monies were received from Rotary District 6900, and the project became a reality. The club purchased more than 2,200 dictionaries to ensure that every third grader in the Paulding County School System would receive one as a gift from the Rotary club. President Terry and other club members have been delivering the dictionaries. In his first presentation, Terry asked, "Does anyone know what the most important invention of all time was?" After a variety of answers from the students, he suggested it was the printing press, and encouraged the students to devote a minimum of 30 minutes a day reading interesting books and reminded them to look up the words that they didn't understand in their dictionaries.

In December, the Paulding County School Board recognized the Dallas Rotary Club for its efforts. "We appreciate the club's involvement so much and look forward to many more years of their support as a Partner in Education in our community."

Holiday Events Recognize Rotary Foundation Giving

As the **Rotary Club of Fayetteville** celebrates its 30th anniversary, it's also celebrating its status as a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club. PDG Roy Strickland



presented the "100% Paul Harris Fellow Club" banner to R/C Fayetteville 2009-2010 President Tony Fritz and Foundation Chair Hector Colon. The Club was certified as 100% PHF on June 18, 2010.

Continuing its generous tradition of Foundation support, the **Rotary Club of Smyrna** was number seven in the world in per capita support for the 2009-2010 Annual Programs Fund. Here, Smyrna Rotarians Roy Strickland, 2009-2010 President Dan Hoppe, and Foundation Director Sam Whitfield proudly accept Rotary Foundation recognition banners for 2009-2010. Shown are the 100% Sustaining Member Banner, a 100% EREY Banner, and a flag signifying Smyrna Rotary as the



July 1, 2009 with the award of 23 new Paul Harris Fellowships. 53% of the current members are multiple Paul Harris Fellows.

Number One Club in Rotary District 6900 in support of The Rotary Foundation.

Smyrna was the first club in the district to become a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club back in 2004. The distinction was again achieved on



At the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody's** holiday luncheon, Amelia Grace Merkl, age 11 months, became the fifth grandchild of Dunwoody Rotarian Jeanne De Boer to become a Paul Harris Fellow. Jeanne is a Paul Harris Society member and was recognized with a PHF+3 pin.

Dunwoody Rotarian Fred Brandt had the opportunity to serve as escort to two very special World War II veterans when the Roswell Club took a group to Washington DC earlier this year. At Dunwoody's holiday luncheon, he honored both Paul M. Crawford and Scott J. Morgan with Paul Harris Fellows – in honor and thanks for their service to our country.



Recognition for Foundation giving have long been a tradition at Dunwoody's holiday event. This year, the Club recognized more than \$50,000 in giving, with

- ◆ 16 Paul Harris Fellows ... including 10 to family members (4 grandchildren, 1 son, 2 daughters, 1 wife and 2 mothers)
- ◆ 5 Multiple PHF Pins
- ◆ 1 Paul Harris Society member
- ◆ 1 Major Donor Level 1
- ◆ 1 Bequest Society Level 1