

# District 6900 Newsletter

July 2010



## Casey's Calendar

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

### JULY

- 9 Alpharetta (breakfast)
- 9 Atlanta Airport (lunch)
- 12 Fayetteville (lunch)
- 13 Midtown Atlanta (lunch)
- 14 Lake Spivey (breakfast)
- 14 Clayton County (lunch)
- 15 North Cobb (breakfast)
- 15 Forsyth-Monroe County (lunch)
- 16 August newsletter deadline
- 19 Marietta Metro (lunch)
- 20 Barnesville (lunch)
- 21 East Cobb (breakfast)
- 21 Marietta (lunch)
- 22 Roswell (lunch)
- 23 Newnan (lunch)
- 26 Windward (lunch)
- 27 Carrollton (lunch)
- 28 Carrollton Dawn-Breakers (breakfast)
- 29 Atlanta Peachtree (lunch)
- 30 Decatur (lunch)

### AUGUST

- 2 Henry County (lunch)
- 3 Jackson-Buttes County (lunch)
- 4 Griffin Daybreak (breakfast)
- 5 Dallas-Paulding (breakfast)
- 5 Bremen (lunch)
- 6 Atlanta West End (lunch)
- 10 Dougherty County (lunch)
- 11 Cordele (lunch)
- 12 Camilla (lunch)
- 15 September newsletter deadline
- 16 Sandy Springs (lunch)
- 17 North Fulton (lunch)
- 18 Johns-Creek (lunch)
- 19 Northlake (lunch)
- 20 Dunwoody (breakfast)
- 21 District Foundation Seminar
- 23 Douglas County
- 24 Meriweather County
- 26 Westpoint
- 30 Coweta-Fayette
- 31 Smyrna

## Building Communities, Bridging Continents

Have you ever been in a situation, perhaps in an elevator, and someone asks you about the organization that your lapel pin represents. Trusting that it's a Rotary pin you're wearing, you commence to describe the fellowship and service projects that Rotary does so very well. Before you know it the elevator has reached the lobby and you've not even begun talking about Polio Eradication, or World Peace Fellow Scholarships. The "deer in headlights" look is soon replaced with the "I'm late for my next appointment" look and away the inquisitive party goes. You feel like you've done your duty and given an abbreviated orientation to Rotary. But have you really? This is one of the challenges that President Ray Klingensmith wanted to overcome with our theme this year, "Building Communities, Bridging Continents." How can it be summed up in the fewest words of who we are and what we do? I'm convinced he has the right idea!



District Governor  
Casey Farmer

Not to be confused with this Presidential Theme, we also have a battle cry this year. We want to build Bigger, Better, and Bolder Rotary Clubs. From President Ray down to this District Governor and all Rotary Senior leadership in between, we recognize the value of the individual Rotary Club and its significance to Rotary International. This is why all of the efforts from the District Leadership Team and beyond are geared towards supporting and assisting our clubs to be the best they can be. Throughout the year, clubs can rely on the District Team's support in the form of passionate and knowledgeable individuals chairing committees ... to traditional meetings such as the Foundation Seminar, District Assembly, PETS, and District Conference. We have also engaged technology in these efforts this year with the addition of monthly Webinars on a host of topics. All of these have one goal in mind

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— to make us more knowledgeable, thus making our clubs better. From this springboard we can dare to be bolder as we seek to improve our clubs in ways that only you know how.

As we venture out into the District for our official visits, I encourage you to visit my Facebook page as we will do our best to keep it up to date on our travels.



*Barry Oxford from Carrollton Dawnbreakers and Governor Casey at the Southland Brunch in Montreal, Canada - the site of this year's Rotary International Convention.*

There is a link on our newly designed District 6900 Website along with many new features for you to explore. Please visit [www.district6900.org](http://www.district6900.org) soon and often for updates and news from around the District.

Missy, Ashley, and I truly look forward to the coming year as we visit our great Rotary Clubs throughout our District. It's an honor to serve you.

Your Friend in Rotary Service,

**Casey Farmer**



*Missy, Ashley and Casey start their journey around District 6900 on Saturday night at the District Super Conference in Atlanta.*

## **Rotary International Convention Will Return to Atlanta in 2017**

At the RI Convention in Montreal last month, Atlanta was named as the 2017 Convention city. This will be the second time Atlanta hosts Rotarians from around the world - the first was in 1917, when the Rotary Foundation was created.

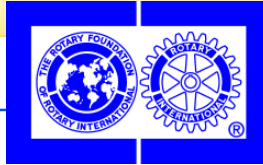


**Email your news for the August newsletter to [cuthbert@mindspring.com](mailto:cuthbert@mindspring.com) by July 16**

**Share interesting stories about:**

- ◆ **unique Club projects**
- ◆ **ways you are making a difference in your communities and around the world.**
- ◆ **special Rotarians and their accomplishments**
- ◆ **fundraisers**
- ◆ **important Family of Rotary events.**

**Send your stories as Word documents or in the body of an email; we'll do the formatting! Send photos separate - small electronic files if you can. We'll print as much as**



## **Shaping the Future of The Rotary Foundation**

This is a new year with a new Foundation. The Rotary Foundation (TRF) is changing. It is changing for the future. We are looking at the beginning of the next 100 years. District 6900 is part of a pilot that is defining the future success of the TRF. In the truest sense of the word, this is not a pilot, it is the fine tuning of a program that is here to stay. We are one of 100 districts in the world that was selected to help TRF fine tune this new program. We were selected because we are known for our generosity and because we are known for taking advantage of and using all of TRF's programs.

We have scholars and GSE teams. We encourage District Simplified Grants in every club. We excel at doing Matching Grants through the Rotary Foundation. In brief, we are what a Rotary District should be. In the next three years our grant process will change; however, our giving is the same. We still need Every Rotarian Every Year, Paul Harris Society members and new Major Donors. Everyone tells us we are in a recession; Rotary cannot afford to participate in it. We have obligations as Rotarians and I expect we will all meet those obligations. The needy of the world still need our help and I assure you they are worse off in many ways than a simple economic crisis.

### **Our Goal: Every Rotarian as a Paul Harris Fellow**

District Governor Casey has asked that we all try to become Paul Harris Clubs. This means that every member in your club, at one point in time is a Paul Harris Fellow. The District can help you by giving your club points that you can assign to your members. I expect those of us that have committed to the Paul Harris Society will fulfill our pledges and move closer to becoming Major Donors. Most important is that every Rotarian continue to give at the level they feel comfortable.

**For information or help on our Paul Harris Fellow program, contact Ray McKemie at [grmck54@bellsouth.net](mailto:grmck54@bellsouth.net)**



*Seven District 6900 Rotarians attended the Zone 34 Foundation Seminar in Evanston this May. Pictured (back) Scott Cuthbert, PDG Ralph Thurmond, DG Casey Farmer, PDG Robert Hall, (front) Jackie Cuthbert (Zone Foundation Newsletter Editor), DGN Cheryl Greenway, Grants Chair Sally Platt.*

### **Grant Program Changes**

Grants have been changed. Your District Simplified Grant is now simply a District Grant. Due to your generosity three years ago, you will receive \$1500 from the District for each of your grants. Matching grants will have a minimum project size of \$30,000 and will have stricter requirements. All of these details are available to you on the new District Foundation website, along with a complete description of the Future Vision pilot program.

**For details on Future Vision and how it affects District 6900 and your club, visit [www.district6900.org/XXXX](http://www.district6900.org/XXXX)**

### **Where Should You Give?**

I have been asked this question many times. Should I give to the Annual Fund (Paul Harris), polio, or the GRSP program? The answer is, there is no bad way to give to Rotary. Give where you want to. Give to your passion and to your programs.

I encourage every Rotarian in District 6900 to give DG Casey the best Foundation year ever. It is up to every one of us and I know we can do it. I wish you all a happy, healthy and giving 2010-2011 Rotary year.

**Bill Woulfin**  
**District 6900 Foundation Chair**



## First Annual Smoke on the Lake BBQ Festival Is a Great Success!

Over 5,000 people attended this **North Cobb Rotary** fundraising event this May, including now PDG Roy Strickland and two District 6910 PDGs, and many candidates running for the state offices and the Cobb County Commission.



Rotarian Mike Straus chaired the festival

The club raised over \$25,000 to support community service projects in North Cobb and Marietta areas, including Cobb Christmas, The Extension in Marietta, Horizon Field in Acworth, the Cobb Special Needs Prom and the Interact Clubs at Allatoona, Harrison, Kennesaw Mountain and North Cobb High Schools.

One of the most fun parts of the event was the awarding of the Boss Hawg Trophy, a brightly painted flying pig painted for the event by Holly Jones, a well known folk artist from Kennesaw. Competitors included four teams - each headed up by a local West Cobb mayor. Mayor Tommy Alegood of Acworth, Mark Mathews of Kennesaw, Steve "Thunder" Tumlin of Marietta and Pat Vaughn of Powder Springs. Mayor Mathews won the Boss Hawg Trophy; Mayor Tumlin was the runner up. All the Mayors said that they had a really fun time and we hope that they will all be back next year.



Former Cobb County Commission Chair Sam Olens presents the Boss Hawg Trophy to Mayor Mathews of Kennesaw while the other competing mayors look on.

The date is set — **Saturday, May 7, 2011** - and we hope you'll join us for a great afternoon of BBQ.



Visitors enjoyed the People's Choice Awards tasting - purchasing BBQ pork samples from backyard BBQ teams. Over 4,000 \$1 tasting tickets were sold ... and more would have been sold if most of the teams had not run out of meat. This year the People's Choice Award was won by North Cobb Rotary's Mama's Team headed up by North Cobb Rotary Charter member and former President Ralph Stephens and Paige Bass, the wife of Jeff Bass our outgoing President.

## Rotary Supports the American Cancer Society's Relay For Life

The American Cancer Society extends its appreciation to the members of the **Roswell Rotary Club** for their generosity and support of Relay For Life of Roswell. In addition to Rotary's \$3,000 Gold Level Sponsorship, the Rotary team raised over \$1,500 toward the Society's fight against lives threatened by every type cancer, in Georgia and throughout the world. Event organizers are proud that Relay For Life of Roswell has exceeded its goal. Although money is still being collected, the event has raised \$137,000 to date!



This outstanding show of support proves that Roswell Rotarians stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the American Cancer Society to achieve its mission of saving lives by helping people stay well, by helping people get well, by finding cures, and fighting back against cancer. Rotarians assisted with event preparations, set up the Rotary Team's campsite, made donations, purchased luminaria (in honor or in memory of a loved one battling cancer) and joined in our many activities throughout the night. The highlight of the night for Rotarians was seeing President Elwyn Gaissert dressed up as a 'Diva' for our annual Diva Contest. Dressed in a pink evening gown and flaunting a pink boa, Ella-wyn (Elwyn) was quite possibly the most beautiful of the Divas in the contest!

## Harris County Third Graders Get Free Dictionaries

The **Rotary Club of Harris County** has provided a free dictionary for every third grader in the County's four elementary schools for the last two years and will continue this year. Shown here are Ms. Hancock's 3rd graders at Park Elementary showing off their new dictionaries. Harris County Rotary is devoted to literacy; providing funds to the Early Childhood Literacy Project through the First Foundation, Laws of Life Essay Contest for high school students & funds the GED project, as well as dictionaries.



## Harris County Helps To End Polio



The **Rotary Club of Harris County** placed End Polio Now coin boxes with several local businesses. Our local bank, First Peoples Bank, decided to donate candy; which was sold to the public — raising close to \$250 to the effort. Derek Williams, Bank President & Charter President of HC Rotary Club, presented the check to President Nick Simpson. This was a front page story in the Harris County Journal. Having the boxes in so many locations was excellent PR for Rotary International & our club.



**Dunwoody Rotarian Laura Kann** joined Rotarians from all over the world to participate in a National Immunization Day in February. In her report back to the Club, Laura reported, "The kids were uniformly dirty but absolutely precious. Truly beautiful little ones. And you could see in the parents' eyes that they knew we were giving their children the gift of a life without this horrible disease. It was amazing to participate in this effort. We have to see it through to the end."

## Photo Story Rotary Club of North Fulton Salutes Student Character



## Scholarships Encourage Service Above Self



**North Cobb Rotary** presented five scholarship awards to deserving high school Interact Club members in June – based on service to the community, leadership and academic achievement. Pictured are the 2010 North Cobb Rotary scholarship winners.

- ◆ Victoria Daniels- North Cobb High School Interact attending Howard University: Dudley Field Founder's Scholarship
- ◆ Aubrey Devaney – Harrison High School Interact attending Kennesaw State University: Ralph Stephens Scholarship for Leaders
- ◆ Hannah Bechke Kennesaw Mountain High School Interact attending Kennesaw State University: Jack Smith Service Scholarship
- ◆ Brittany Bechtel Kennesaw Mountain High School Interact attending Kennesaw State University: Jack Smith Service Scholarship
- ◆ Morgan Wojihowski Allatoona High School Interact attending Georgia Southern University: Glenn Reese Founder's Scholarship.



## Barnesville Honors World War II Veterans



On June 12, **Barnesville Rotarians** and the Chamber of Commerce co-sponsored a special event to pay tribute to 83 of our great men and women of the Greatest Generation, our WWII Veterans. The event featured Atlanta entertainment group Banks & Shane, VIP's, Bagpipes, Robins AFB Honor Guard, Baptist Church Choir, Vintage military vehicles, and displays.

"It was a wonderful program, with a lot of emotion," event-coordinator and new President of the Barnesville Rotary Club Mark Stone stated. "Our goal was to properly thank this group of men and women who answered the call to duty when our country was attacked, and who conducted two wars simultaneously, with victory! An amazing feat, which protected our many freedoms that we enjoy today."

Congressman Lynn Westmoreland was in attendance to personally present each veteran with a flag that had flown over the United States Capitol in Washington, D.C. Army Captain (RET) Tommy Clack spoke on "Freedom's Not Free," and the price that has been paid by this generation, and others to protect and preserve our country and its many freedoms.

"This event was created as a follow-up to the Roswell Rotary Club Honor Air Flight, which took WWII Veterans to Washington, D.C. to visit their WWII Memorial. The Barnesville Club was invited to participate, taking 29 of our local vets on the April 14 trip. In doing this, it was apparent that most of our WWII Veterans were not physically able to make that trip, prompting our planning of the tribute event," Stone said. A lot of Rotarians, sponsors, and volunteers worked diligently to produce this great event, which drew over 700 family and community attendees.

"Our hope is to repeat this patriotic event in the near future to honor other groups



*Country music DJ Moby in the Morning served as the emcee for both the Barnesville and the Roswell events.*

## Thousands Gather in Roswell for Memorial Day

The **Rotary Club of Roswell** and the City of Roswell joined together once again this year to honor those who have given the ultimate sacrifice to ensure our freedom. This year, it marked 15 years since the original Vietnam Memorial was dedicated. Congressman Tom Price (Past President of the Roswell club) and Senator Johnny Isakson were both on hand to speak. This event has become the largest Memorial Day Gathering in the Southeast. It provides an opportunity for remembrance and a celebration of freedom and family.



*Roswell Rotary 2010 co-chairs XXXXX (at the mike) and David Young (with the clipboard)*



*On June 12, the City of Barnesville officially dedicated a section of Highway 341 that comes through our town as VETERANS PARKWAY. The flag that you see was draped on the stage and measures 38' long x 20' tall - it created quite a patriotic spirit as we lowered it into place and marched out the 83 WWII Veterans.*



## Building Communities ... Local Individuals Recognized for Making a Difference in the Lives of North Fulton Children

The **Rotary Club of North Fulton** recently presented Vocational Service Awards to three extraordinary non-Rotarians for their exceptional service to the North Fulton community and its children, recognizing them for their passion, dedication, and spirit for youth and character education.

Liz McFarland, Head Varsity Lacrosse Coach for Blessed Trinity High School and President of the Board for the Roswell Youth Lacrosse Association, presented the Club's first ever award for Coach of the Year to Tom Pratt, the former President of the Roswell Youth Lacrosse Association. Last year, under Tom's leadership, the association saw more than a 100% increase in youth participants. He has worked tirelessly to promote the sport of Lacrosse in greater Atlanta and the Southeast, and to instill the life lessons of sportsmanship, respect, teamwork, and love of the game.



Rotarian Joy Schroerlucke presented the Club's Teacher of the Year award to Dana Ferrara of Holcomb Bridge Middle School. Dana fosters the ideals of service to others and high ethical standards within one's business and personal life. Focusing on equity and the celebration of differences, Dana champions choice of religion, country, culture, race, creed, political persuasion, language, and ethnic identity.

Rotarian John Bach presented the Club's Boy Scout Leader of the Year award to Dale Heady, leader of Milton District Troop 2000, with over 90 Scouts and 75 registered adults. Troop 2000 has an 80% retention rate and a 100% advancement rate. Thirty of Dale's Scouts have earned the President's Gold Service Award and 12 earned the rank of Eagle Scout in 2009. Dale has been awarded the National Court of Honor Scoutmaster Award of Merit for his accomplishments. He is a member of the Order of the Arrow, the Boy Scout Honor Society.

## Bridging Continents ... Rotarians Team Up to Make a Difference for Premature Babies in the Bahamas



Premature neonates at Princess Margaret Hospital's NICU can now breathe easy thanks to the generous donation of an incubator by Rotary International Districts 6900 & 7020 (Caribbean) — both part of Rotary International Zone 34. As the only Neonatal Intensive Care Unit in the Region, management and staff at the Princess Margaret Hospital were pleased to accept such a generous donation presented by Rotary.



The donation of the much needed incubator was made possible through a District Simplified Grant in partnership with the Rotary Club of East Nassau, Bahamas and District 6900 Rotary Clubs of **Forsyth-Monroe County, Barnesville, La Grange, Meriwether County, Jackson Butts County, Griffin Daybreak**, District 6900 and the Rotary Foundation.

Jim Wilcox, 2009-10 President of the Rotary Club of Forsyth-Monroe County commented, "We felt it was important to lend support to such a worthy cause; this meaningful donation to the Princess Margaret Hospital's Neonatal Intensive Care Unit is another way to give back to the international community, and we encourage other persons to become involved and do their part in helping the world. We are delighted to be able to provide an incubator for such a worthy cause."

Michele Rassin, President of the Rotary Club of East Nassau, Bahamas, said: "On behalf of the Bahamas, I would like to

thank all of our partners for their generous donation which will help save the lives of hundreds of premature babies who would be unable to breathe without the assistance of these incubators. We are delighted to be able to receive this donation and present it to the NICU as no child should have to struggle for that first breath. We would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to all of the Rotary Clubs and District 6900 who have contributed to this life-saving initiative."