

District 6900 Newsletter

May 2011



Casey's Calendar

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

MAY

- 7 Rotary Leadership Institute (Roswell)
- 22-25 RI Convention - New Orleans

JUNE

- 3 June Newsletter deadline
- 17 July Newsletter deadline
- 25-28 RYLA

SNEAK PREVIEW: AUGUST

- 6 Foundation Seminar, Columbus

Rotary District 6900 - A Field of Dreams

It's been almost three weeks now since we adjourned the conference at Callaway Gardens and I'm still excited. We could not have asked for a better year end conference and celebration. For the 761 guests that registered and attended, I know you will agree. We are very fortunate that Rotarians support the District Conference each and every year. It simply proves how important fellowship is to our clubs. From the pre-conference events to the closing ceremony, we get our money's worth.

This year's conference was kicked off in a typical down south way. A tail gate party complete with barbecue, music, dancing, and plenty of libations started us off on the right path. A big Thank Y'ou goes out to Elwyn Gaissert, Roswell RC, for chairing this event to success. Kudos, as well, to all of the clubs that supported the event with food and beverage. District 6900 has long been known as a charitable District, but now we can claim to be the best cooks as well. A good time by all was had.

The official conference itself started on Friday afternoon with a roll call of clubs in the District. It's always a good reminder to hear them all read out, just as a reminder as to the size and diversity of our District. It was in this first Plenary session that we officially introduced our RI Presidential Representative, Foundation Trustee and RI Director Elect Anne L. Matthews. Anne immediately connected with our members and quickly became one of us. The Friday afternoon session ended early enough for a quick change and move to the Lodge Conference Center where we enjoyed dinner, cocktails, dessert and entertainment for the evening.

Saturday morning we kicked off things early so we could finish up for afternoon activities at Callaway Gardens or elsewhere. One of the afternoon options was to visit the Warm Springs Institute for a tour of the facility and grounds. Many of our Rotarians and Guests did just that.

Later in the afternoon, we came back together for the evening session, where DGE Margie Kersey was escorted into the Rotary Dome for the ceremonially DGE installation. RI President's Representative Anne also gave us a spirited and passionate presentation about The Rotary



District Governor Casey Farmer and Anne Matthews, Trustee of the Rotary Foundation and our RI President's representative at this year's district conference, enjoy the tail gate party that started us off with a "home run."

(cont'd on page 2)

More from Governor Casey ...

Foundation. Woven into her remarks were some of the accomplishments that our clubs and District have made to The Rotary Foundation. The evening session was closed out by guest speaker Michael McQueen, who spoke about the



Conference Chair PDG Al Lipphardt and DG Casey kick off the 2011 District Conference.

“Rules of Engagement” when dealing with multiple generations and Will Watt IV, who gave a tremendous history about his great grandfather Will Watt who envisioned the Georgia Rotary Student Program.

Sunday morning sunrise was a very special time. Many attended the

interfaith service located at the beach pavilion and enjoyed Rev. Roy Plummer’s message for the day as we looked across beautiful Robin Lake. The service was also very moving as we remembered our Rotarians that had passed away during the past year.

The Sunday closing session is always a lot of fun. The major recognitions such as Best All Around Club, have folks sitting on the edge of their seats. While Sunday morning is also the time to promote the next District Conference and its new theme. DGE Margie and Conference Chair Bill Woulfin will have us partying again in San Destin as we celebrate Rotary Heroes.

Thank you once again to everyone that made this year’s District Conference the success it truly was. From the Conference Committee to all of our registered guests, you are what it’s all about. If you missed this year’s Conference, plan ahead to next April as we will once again come together to celebrate Building Communities Bridging Continents as we Reach Within To Embrace Humanity.

Yours in Rotary Service
Casey Farmer
 District Governor 2010-2011



The **Rotary Club of Henry County** captured Best Theme for Friday’s Field of Dreams parade and many additional awards - including Runner Up for Best Club in Category 2.



Congratulations to the Clubs of the 2000-2010 Clubs of the Decade:

- ◆ **Roswell** (Category 4) ... who also picked up its 11th straight Club of the Year banner
- ◆ **Dunwoody** (Category 3) ... for its second straight decade
- ◆ **North Fulton** (Category 1) ... an amazing feat for a club who is just 11 years old.



Assistant Governor Kathy Brandt, winner of this year’s Follow Me Award for AGs, with DG Casey.



Friday night, the Family of Rotary danced to the sounds of Cindy Lou Harrington and her band.





Congratulations District 6900; Keep Up the Good Work!

\$200,000,000 Gates Challenge: District 6900 surpasses goal with a total of \$1,070,000

Thanks to the generosity of District 6900 Rotarians, we have passed our million-dollar goal. Significant gifts from **Atlanta and Decatur Rotary Club members** have moved District 6900 to number five in the world for giving to the Polio Challenge. All of the clubs of District 6900 have played an important part of reaching this goal and should be proud of the legacy we will leave: A WORLD FREE FROM POLIO. Worldwide, Polio giving has reached \$167,800,000.

As a result of their gifts to end polio, the District has new Arch Klumpf Society members - **Wilton and Martha Looney** (2010 – Atlanta) and **Jim and Donna Philips** (2011 – Decatur). A special thanks goes out to them for their generous help in meeting our goals.

Shaping TRF's Future Vision

We have seen an amazing change in the Future Vision program this past month. The Foundation has made a change to its areas of focus. This change was the result of a request from our District and shows that the trustees of OUR foundation are listening to us. The area of disease prevention was expanded to include accidents that could result in disease if left untreated. This is a significant change as many of our projects involve support for injuries that could prove fatal due to infection if left untreated. It also resulted in the re-evaluation and approval of one of our grants for a burn unit. We have also had another global grant approved and still have several pending approval. Remember, this is a pilot and we need to know the problems you are seeing.

Congratulations for TRF Giving

A special recognition, the Albert Thomson Award, was presented to the **Rotary Club of Stone Mountain** for the highest per capita giving to the annual fund – an average of \$490.98 per member. The club has also become a 100% Paul Harris Club this year. **CONGRATULATIONS.**

Stone Mountain is not alone in deserving special recognition. We now have 39 clubs that are over \$100 per person in annual giving. Of these, 14 have given over \$200 per capita and several are in the \$300 to \$400 range. Additionally, we already have 12 new EREY clubs and four new Sustaining Member clubs. These clubs will all be recognized at the Foundation Seminar on August 6 in Columbus. Plan now to attend; we will open registration in early June.

The Year is Not Over. Support Your Foundation Now.

There are 60 days left in the Rotary year, and we still need your help to get your gifts to the Foundation. We need to raise at least another \$125,000 before the year is over. Every club should do its best to give what it can by June 30. These are the dollars we need to fund your grant requests during our Centennial Celebration of 100 years of Rotary in Georgia.

This District is presently #13 in annual giving worldwide. I am superstitious, so you need to make me feel better by giving more and moving us into single digits.

As always, I hope you are having a great year.

Bill Woulfin
District 6900 Foundation Chair

District Foundation Dollars Help Peachtree City Club Make a Difference

The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City's** Dictionary project - funded by the club and a grant from District 6900 - was one of the initiatives honored as "Best New Generations" project at our recent District Conference. The project benefited 1,608 public school third grade students, 1 middle school, 200 middle school students in Fayette County and 71 teachers at 16 different school locations. In addition, a supply of dictionaries was provided to the Fayette County Board of Education for new enrollments. With the decrease in school funding, budget cuts, teacher reductions and furloughs, Peachtree City Rotary was able to assist and inspire students to be future focused. By providing the gift of understanding word meanings, reading and writing, the Club helped empower all third graders and their families to improve their lives and the lives of people around them.



**Building Communities ...
Rockmart/Polk County Rotary Club Helps Build Outdoor Learning Area**

The **Rockmart/Polk County Rotary Club** is supporting the Rockmart Eastside Elementary School Outdoor Classroom Project with a \$500 donation and volunteers to help restore an outdoor learning area for students.

"Eastside Elementary, like the butterflies of spring, will undergo a metamorphosis with the assistance of individuals and community organizations such as the Rockmart Polk County Rotary Club," said Sharon Coffman, executive director of Keep Polk Beautiful. Plans are underway and dirt and trees are already being moved aside to make room for Outdoor Volunteers.

On May 7 volunteers will lend a hand with plants and mulch and final placement of items to translate a badly storm-damaged area into a place students and teachers can use for reading groups, science experiments, native plant identification, art activities, and writing inspiration. The area will have special locations to compost material and grow plant cuttings and the opportunity for future growth.



From L-R: Back: Tommy Engram, Keep Polk Beautiful; Michael Paulk & Dr. Doug Mitchell, Rotary Club; Karen Parker and Angela Colston, Parent Teach Organization; and Mark Lumpkin, Eastside Elementary Principal. Front: Students Allie Sproull and Drew Fairel.

**Bridging Continents ...
Rotarians Help Schools and Clinic in Honduras**

Twelve years ago a group of individuals from Atlanta - led by now Rotarian Bob Hope of the **Atlanta Rotary Club** - took on the task of supporting the schools and medical efforts in the remote Agalta Valley region of Honduras.



Rotarians Jack Ward, David Allison and Bob Hope.

Since then, the group that calls themselves the "Wilderness Team" has made an annual trip to the Agalta Valley to work on the schools and in the clinics. When they return to their U.S. homes, they spend the rest of the year raising money to support education and healthcare in their special place.

This past March, 30 Wilderness Team members took the trip - including Rotarians from the **Atlanta and Stone Mountain Rotary Clubs**. They worked to complete a library at the school complex, building a cement sidewalk from the main school to the library. They also built cement walkways from the dirt road to the elementary school. They painted the elementary school, middle school and high school, and decorated the lunch shack with butterflies. At the clinic, a doctor and nurse from the group worked with the Honduran medical staff. A Rotarian who was an auditory expert fit deaf patients with hearing aids.

Public relations agency owner Bob Hope of the Rotary Club of Atlanta sets up the Wilderness Team trip each year. Other Rotarian members of the team include newspaper editor David Allison of RC Atlanta, Atlanta Community Foundation CEO Alicia Philipp of RC Atlanta, retired CEO Jack Ward of RC Atlanta and the auditory specialist Joe Stone of Stone Mountain Rotary Club. Others in the clubs support the efforts by contributing to HAVE Foundation, the 501(c)3 corporation formed by the Wilderness Team to fund education.



Rotarian Alicia Philipp blows bubbles with local village children

"Education is the answer to curing the ills of the third world," said Hope about their efforts. "These are very bright people who have never had access to knowledge. By assisting the people of the valley with education and healthcare, we are empowering them to build better lives for themselves and also transforming the valley."

HAVE Foundation is working with Rotary International Foundation to be part of the "Future Vision" initiative of Rotary. The Wilderness Team is open to any Rotarian who would like to help the wonderful people of the Agalta Valley. The next trip will be March 10, 2012.



School Supplies for Costa Rica



North Fulton Rotarians Sue Galgano, President Steve Siders and International Director Scot Cuthbert

North Fulton Rotarians recently worked with Rotarians from Heredia, Costa Rica to bring school supply kits including pencils, pens, notebooks, hand-held pencil sharpeners, crayons, rulers and chalk to elementary to students in the Heredia region.

The Rotarians from Heredia (a province bordering northwest San Jose) traveled to the poorest town in their province, named Sarapiquí, where the average annual income per family is \$750. They took

photos and communicated via email and FaceBook with North Fulton Rotary members who built the kits and packed and shipped the supplies to the students. The recipients were most grateful and very pleased to receive what amount to an entire school year's worth of supplies.

East Cobb Celebrates Charter Night

On March 12, the **Rotary Club of East Cobb** celebrated its 26th Charter Night anniversary. For the second straight year, the evening event was held at the Georgian Club. PDG Robert Hall, and his wife, Charlene gave the keynote



presentation on Polio Plus and Rotary's progress toward the world eradication of Polio.

One of the highlights of the night was Foundation Director Jerry Capps unfurling the Club's Paul Harris Fellow banner while announcing 22 new Paul Harris Fellows. This accomplishment places the club in very elite company in the Rotary World as a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club.

The club also presented five multiple Paul Harris Fellows. Member Dick Concilio, presented a Will Watt Fellowship to our own Joe Murphey. Along with a full cast of East Cobb members, PDG Roy Strickland and his wife, Suzanne were in attendance to enjoy the evening.

Rotary Essay Contest Draws More than 40,600 Student Entries



The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest just completed its first year as a program of the new Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program (GRDCEP). As a character values competition for high school students, the contest attracted more than 40,600 essays and presented more than \$16,000 in student and teacher award money.

Rotary clubs became involved with the Georgia Laws of Life Essay contest in 2002, and since then more than 250,000

Laws of Life essays have been written by Georgia students. This year, as an official GRDCEP contest, the contest had 36 Rotary club sponsors from all three Georgia districts and 46 participating high schools.

The contest asks students to select a maxim or "Law of Life" and discuss the character value in the maxim. It recognizes students who exemplify values such as compassion, courage, perseverance, generosity, and integrity. This year's winning essays make for compelling reading. A downloadable copy of the essay booklet may be found on-line at <http://www.georgialawsoflife.org/pdf/EssayBrochure2010-2011.pdf>

Rotary clubs who sponsored a school in the contest are hosting their student winners at various recognition events this spring. The events are always heart-warming and memorable.



Barnesville Rotary's Laws of Life winners.

Happy 90th Birthday to the Rotary Club of Thomasville!

On May 5, the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** celebrated the 90th anniversary of the club's founding on May 1, 1921. DG Casey Farmer joined President Joseph Brown to cut a birthday cake for the occasion to start the festivities.

Casey read a Letter of Congratulations from RI President Ray Klinginsmith, who wrote "It is an impressive achievement that should give pride to both your club and your community."

Rotary Past Presidents Tom Hill, Tom Faircloth, and PDG Fran Milberg shared stories about the club's history. When chartered, Thomasville was the 924th club and there were 60,000 Rotarians worldwide. Now there are 33,000 clubs and 1.2 million members.



Past President Tom Hill, in collaboration with Robert Porter, presented a video highlighting the first 50 years of the club - personalities and accomplishments.

The first President of the Thomasville Rotary Club was J. B. Jemison. He was followed by E. R. Jerger, Hansell Watt, R. C. Balfour, Jr. and Martin Cooper. The next President, John T. King had 50 years of perfect attendance. The club helped him achieve that by holding its meeting in his hospital room on one occasion. Two of his sons, Bill and Jack, became Presidents later. Another President was Sam Hjort, one of the founders of the Rose Show and the acknowledged expert on Roses. His son, Paul, is a current member and past President who has also compiled a 50-year perfect attendance record.

John F. Archbold was an early Rotarian. When his father and one of the founders of Standard Oil, John D. Archbold died, his son wanted to build a hospital in his memory in the Hudson Valley of New York. Plans for it were already developed. Rotarians told him that we needed a hospital here and so the John D. Archbold Hospital was built in Thomasville according to New York State code. Some of its original buildings are still in use.

Four District Governors

The club has had four District Governors: Will Watt, Pratt Secrest, Robert Jinright, Sr. and Fran Milberg. PDG John Hinrichs of New York has moved to Thomasville and joined our club.

PDG Pratt Secrest achieved an important office in Rotary International - serving as a Rotary International Director. He started the Rotary Family Friendship Exchange to advance international understanding and was Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Rotary



DG Casey Farmer and Thomasville President Joseph Brown cut the cake to start the festivities.

International Board and the Vice Chairman of Polio Plus, a cooperative program with Rotary and the World Health Organization, that has eliminated polio in all but four countries and will soon stamp it out completely.

Home of GRSP

The Georgia Rotary Student Program was started by local Rotarian, Will Watt, to reach out to college age students in a devastated Europe after World War II. This international student scholarship program has since been adopted by Rotary

International and expanded to the whole world. Will was the Mayor of Thomasville, crowned the first Rose Queen and started a program to provide relief supplies to the citizens of Lüneburg, Germany, for which he was made an honorary citizen.



Past President Tom Faircloth presented the history of the 70s and 80s.



PDG Fran Milberg took the Thomasville story from the 90s to the present.

Serving the Community

The Rotary Junior Tennis Tournament was started during the term of Cliff Campbell in 1978-79. Over the past 30+ years, under the watchful eyes of Peppy Williams, Gene McNease and Tom Harrison, this USTA sanctioned tournament has become one of the most respected play for Juniors and is held at Glen Arven - one of the best facilities for tennis.

PDG Fran Milberg described the significant accomplishments of the club in terms of community and international service during the past two decades. Since its founding 90 years ago, the Club has been an integral part of the local community, and through Rotary International and the Rotary Foundation, a part of the global community. Among many other beneficial results, there is now a real prospect of eradicating polio.

The local conditions are good. As Past District Governor, Fran Milberg, said "Thomasville is a unique cosmopolitan community hidden in the southwest corner of Georgia. Our members know it is up to us to carry the history and legacy forward for generations to come."

GRSP Student Gives Back to Host Club Community



As Anders Hardmeier of Sweden came to the end of his GRSP year, he spent some time working with one of the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody's** long-time partners - the Atlanta Day Shelter for Women and Children. Here's what Anders had to say:

I have never volunteered at a shelter before so it was very interesting. I arrived early in the morning and prepared breakfast for the women. After serving them all breakfast I worked a

few hours with the children that were there. The women are able to educate themselves while someone else is taking care of their children.

I was surprised to see how well kept most of the women's' clothes were. The thing that struck me the most though was the lack of hope .

I was surprised on how fast the children accepted me. As soon as I was accepted they didn't want me to leave. Some time after lunch I told them I had to leave and they walks up to me and asked "will you be back tomorrow?" I said I had classes but would be back next week. Angelina, the girl I am holding at the picture, then clutched my hand and said "please come back." It might just have been Angelina and her brother but they seemed desperate in a way I did not experience with the kids I worked with in Ecuador. I cannot imagine what it is like to grow up as a kid without a home.

I am glad I could contribute some of my time to help.

Prayer Breakfast Honors America's Soldiers



Roger Wise, Col. Michael Steele, Bo Wagner (President-Elect), Steve Siders (President)

On May 5, more than 200 people joined the **Rotary Club of North Fulton** for its Tenth Annual "North Atlanta Interfaith Prayer Breakfast" at The Metropolitan Club in Alpharetta.

This year's theme was "A Might Fortress is Our God" and the Keynote Speaker was Ret. Col. Michael Steele.

Col. Steele was raised in North Georgia, graduated from UGA and played offensive guard for the 1980 National Championship winning Bulldogs prior to joining the Army. While well known for deploying his Ranger company to Somalia as made famous by the book and movie "Black Hawk Down", upon retiring from the military he founded "The Faces of Freedom", supporting veterans who have been wounded in combat operations.



Serving Meals at MUST Ministries

Rotary Club of Marietta chefs Bill Brumby, Dawn McEachern, Judd Smith, Mitzi Moore and Fred Saavedra donned their Rotary aprons to cook at MUST Ministries. Travis Lee, one of our Rotaractors from Kennesaw State University, also helped cook and serve, as did Mitzi and Fred. It was a special treat for our cooks to work alongside chef Spencer Owens (Aspen Grill) – son of Past President Glenn Owens, Jr. and grandson of Glenn Owens, Sr., who joined Rotary in 1954. The cooks prepared eight big serving pans of penne chicken casserole and a salad that featured tangy pineapple chunks. Doug Hayne served the casserole. Bill and Dale Covington resupplied the serving line.

Pictured: Doug Haynie, Fred Saavedra, Spencer Owens, Mitzi Smith-Moore, Bill Brumby