



# Rotary Club of Covington Bulletin

<http://www.RotaryCovington.org>

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## Rotary Program 7-7-20 Meeting Canceled for 4th of July

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, July 6, 2020

**Meeting topic: Meeting Canceled for 4th of July**

**7-14-20 Meeting will be held at Covington First United Methodist Church at 12:00pm**  
**Zoom Virtual Meeting starts at 12:20 PM**



## July Birthdays & Anniversaries

By Joseph Davidson on Wednesday, July 1, 2020

### July Birthdays

**Billy McCart 7/13**

**Joshua Aaron 7/31**

### July Anniversaries

**Asher & Karen Dozier 7/1**

**Jim & Sandra Tudor 7/1**

**Ricky & Leanne Adams 7/8**

**Tarrence & Felicia Houston 7/8**

**Billy & Judy McCart 7/20**

**Caralyn & Leon Leonard 7/23**

**Levi & Christina Bailey 7/25**

### July Membership Anniversaries

**Covington Rotary / Rotary**

**Doug Bolton 16 Years 22 Years**

**Pete Carter 42 Years 42 Years**

**Gena McLendon 10 Years 10 Years**

**Michael Pulliam 3 Year 3 Year**

**Wayne Pugh 13 Years 13 Years**

**Lauren Singleton 3 Year 3 Year**

**Bob Stafford 13 Years 38 Years**

## Rotary Club of Covington Future Programs and events

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, June 8, 2020

07-07-2020 - Meeting Canceled for 4th of July

07-14-2020 - MEETING AT **Covington First United Methodist Church** and VIRTUAL MEETING: Club Assembly

07-21-2020 - To Be Announced

Rotary Club of Canton Steps up to Facilitate  
[National Retailer Donations to Cherokee  
County](#)

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[Club Foundation Headline](#)  
Published on 07/01/2020

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Published on 06/08/2020

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[A Life's Work ... Continues](#)

[PolioPlus COVID-19 Presentation](#)  
Published on 06/03/2020

## Club Leaders



[Thomas Kephart](#)  
President



[Bryan Fazio](#)  
President-Elect



[Lauren Poynter](#)  
Secretary



[Clay Hodges](#)  
Treasurer



[Jackie Gutknecht](#)  
Public Relations Chair



[Tarrence T. Houston](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair



[E. Wayne Pugh](#)  
GRSP Chair



[Brad Bettis](#)  
Club Director



[Douglas E. Bolton](#)  
Club Admin Chair



[Joseph Davidson](#)  
CCO-Club Comm. Officer



[Ricky Mock](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[John King](#)  
iPast President



[Dorothy Bala](#)  
Assistant Governor

## Installation of Officers and awards

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, July 6, 2020



2019-2020 Rotary Club of Covington President passes the gavel to Thomas Kephart 2020-2021 President



John King Rotary Club of Covington President 2019-2020 presents Rotarian of the Year to Rotarian Terrance Houston

## Birthdays

William McCart



July 13th  
Joshua Aaron  
July 31st

### Wedding Anniversaries

Asher Bedwell Dozier  
July 1st  
Jim Tudor  
July 1st  
Ricky Adams  
July 8th  
Tarrence T. Houston  
July 8th  
William McCart  
July 20th  
Caralyn Leonard  
July 23rd  
Levi Bailey  
July 25th

### Club Member Anniversaries

James R. Carter  
07-01-1978  
42 Years  
Douglas E. Bolton  
07-06-2004  
16 Years  
E. Wayne Pugh  
07-02-2007  
13 Years  
Bob I. Stafford  
07-02-2007  
13 Years  
Gena McLendon  
07-01-2010  
10 Years  
Michael Pulliam  
07-25-2017  
3 Years  
Lauren Singleton  
07-25-2017  
3 Years



John King Rotary Club of Covington President 2019-2020 presents W. Lee Arrendale award to Rotarian Dr. Carter Rogers



John King Rotary Club of Covington President 2019-2020 presents Robert S. Stubbs award to Rotarian Wayne Pugh

## Rotary Club of Covington's Pandemic Project

By Jackie Gutknecht on Tuesday, June 23, 2020



In early March, when the Corona Virus Pandemic hit the U.S. many retailers across the country were at a loss for what to do with excess inventory as the economy came to a standstill and shoppers were being asked to stay home. One major national retail store's overstock warehouse immediately felt the impact.

The warehouse had an overwhelming quantity of goods that had been returned from the regional stores that were either seasonally out of date or not moving off the shelves.

Previously, the warehouse manager had sold the items at a fraction of the cost to another company to maintain a slight profit rather than taking a loss on the overstocked items. As the pandemic continued, that company no longer wished to purchase or haul the excess inventory and the retailer's warehouse became overwhelmed as it continued to collect the excess goods from the region's stores.

That's when opportunity made its way to the Rotary Club of Covington, Georgia, Club Administrative Chair Doug Bolton said. One, actually two, of the club's members own trucking companies. A driver for one of those companies just so happened to be on a delivery when a friend who was the director of a nonprofit asked if the driver could pick up a load of donated goods nearby. The driver asked permission from the owner and the owner, being a Rotarian, immediately agreed if it would help someone in need.

◆However, he told his driver he wanted to make contact with the warehouse manager to ensure the request was valid. Contact was made, and the manager assured that they did want to donate the goods. Then the Rotarian was asked if he knew of any other nonprofits in need.◆

That Rotarian happened to be Tarrence T. Houston, the club's foundation chair, and he worked with the manager to provide all of the 501(c)3 information needed to start taking in the excess inventory for donation.

◆Almost immediately the manager asked if a tractor trailer could pick up a load,◆ Bolton said. ◆Tarrence said absolutely and went to pick up the load himself. He returned to the city of Covington to his trailer lot. He had a full trailer load of just about everything the retail stores sold ◆ clothes, household goods, cleaning supplies, over the counter medicines, books, school supplies, food items, etc. While the club board was excited and knew they could help a lot of people in the community in need, the logistics of where to store, sort, organize, and distribute became quickly obvious.◆

As fate would have it, the other club member who owned a trucking company ◆ the club's GRSP Chair Wayne Pugh - advised that he just happened to have an empty warehouse that could be used.

◆The generosity of the two trucking company owners to use the trucks and trailers and the warehouse cannot be understated,◆ Bolton said.

During the following two months 10 trailer loads of goods were donated by the generous warehouse manager who asked not to be identified by name or company.

Approximately a quarter of a million dollars worth of goods were distributed to more than 50 nonprofits by the Rotary Club of Covington and thousands of individuals in need were served during a time when many could not afford to purchase those items. As the virus became less of a threat, the company that had been purchasing goods from the warehouse resumed its routine, and the donations to the Rotary Club of Covington ceased, but not before a huge impact was made on so many lives.

◆Rotarians are people of action and in a time where there was an uncertainty for the future, our members took action,◆ Public Image Chair Jackie Gutknecht said. ◆We are grateful for all of the volunteers who gave of their time and resources to make this massive undertaking a huge success for our community and region. Donations from this partnership spread far and wide and the impact will be felt for years to come.◆

The Rotary Club of Covington was chartered in 1939 and meets weekly at noon on Tuesdays at the First United Methodist Church of Covington. For more information on how to get involved with the club, please visit [www.rotarycovington.org](http://www.rotarycovington.org).

[Read More](#)

## The Vidalia Onions are here!

By Joseph Davidson on Tuesday, April 14, 2020

The Vidalia Onions are HERE! The Vidalia Onions are HERE!

Vidalia Onion sales is a Rotary Club of Covington fundraiser to finance our Empty Stocking Fund that provides Christmas Gifts to children in Newton County.

Everybody loves Vidalia's. You get to enjoy some of the best Onions grown and the children of Newton County benefit. It is a winner for everyone.

**Onions are 25 lbs. bag and are @\$20.00 per bag. They will be available in May 27th. Order now and reserve yours.**

If you are interested in a bag or bags of onions please let us know at [info@rotarcovington.org](mailto:info@rotarcovington.org) or click on the Add to Cart to purchase one or more bags. Delivery available in the Covington area.

Enter the Rotary member's name selling the onions  
Rotary member's name

**Add to Cart**

Thank you for your support

Rotary Club of Covington



## Mid-Island Rotary helping the less fortunate -- and assisting high school student volunteers

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, July 6, 2020



Members of the Mid-Island Rotary and high school students help serve at Project Hospitality. (Courtesy/Linda Aubrey) Staten Island Advance

Editor's Note: Welcome to Inside Out, our weekly roundup of stories about Staten Islanders of all ages who are making waves, being seen, supporting our community and just making our borough a special place to live. Have a story for Inside Out? Email Carol Ann Benanti at [benanti@siadvance.com](mailto:benanti@siadvance.com).

The five Rotary Clubs have been making headlines these days. For good reason.

Staten Island is home to dozens of not-for-profit organizations whose members share a passion for community service, and the borough's Rotary Clubs work year-round in a number of fundraising capacities, all of which contribute to the betterment of Staten Island.

So, during these trying times amid the ill effects of the coronavirus pandemic, they've been stepping to the plate in ways we could have never imagined.

Not only have members of the Mid-Island Rotary Club been donating food to restock the food pantries at Our Lady of Good Counsel R.C. Church, the Stapleton Union American Methodist Episcopal (UAME) Church, the St. Peter's Food Pantry and Project Hospitality, but have been distributing PPE including masks and gloves to volunteers and patrons at the above locations. Their next food donation will be in another week.

Since this pandemic began the need for food has risen tremendously, said Linda Aubrey, secretary of the Mid-Island Rotary Club. Much of the funds we used for this have been generously donated to the Bernard Del Rey Memorial Fund. Bernard was a prominent Rotarian in our club who passed away too soon, and this money was donated in his name. He always felt the importance of feeding the hungry, so we are continuing his legacy.





Katie Dougherty and Andrea Chetirko at the New Lane Senior Center. (Courtesy/Linda Aubrey) Staten Island Advance

Aubrey said the club also supports two Interact Clubs, which is the high school version of Rotary.

◆ This summer, we have been overseeing the help and volunteerism of some high school students who wanted to get involved and help our community. Katie Dougherty, Andrea Chetirko, Marianna Mezzacappa, and Ryan Vann have been helping out at the New Lane Shores. They have been given some administrative work connected to the inventory and distribution of food at the facility, ◆ she said.

Aubrey adds residents at New Lane Shores comprise about 270 units of one- and two-bedroom apartments.

◆ In the past, residents have been fed via the kitchen on the premises, but with the COVID-19 virus, the kitchen has been closed down and many residents have been ◆ quarantined. Mass gatherings in the cafeteria are not allowed. City Foods, now sends boxes of food twice a week to residents. Our volunteers have been going there to distribute boxes of prepared meals that are ready to heat. There are 10 floors of residents, so this task has been greatly appreciated by both the staff and recipients, ◆ she said before stating the motto for Rotary is ◆ Service Above Self. ◆

One of the goals of the Mid-Island Rotary Club is to fundraise throughout the year so they can award scholarships to deserving high school students who have served the community of Staten Island.

◆ This year, we are awarding a \$5,000 scholarship to Syeda Manahil Jafri of Curtis High School, a \$1,000 Service Award to Angela Bunay of Susan Wagner High School and will be presenting two \$1,000 scholarships to a St. Peter ◆ s and Notre Dame High School Interact Club senior who has shown outstanding community service, ◆ she states.

A number of grants are usually distributed during this time of year and under normal circumstances, check presentations would be made at breakfast meetings. However, this year, a Rotarian will be making the presentations at respective homes.

Charitable organization receiving a check from the Mid-Island Rotary Club are: On Your Mark, Michael ◆ s Cause, Cancer Tamer, the GRACE Foundation, Staten Island Center for Independent Living, Staten Island Technical High School Green Technology Club, Fresh Kills Park, the Staten Island Children ◆ s Museum, the Staten Island Museum and Opening Doors Wellness. In addition, the Port Richmond High School Culinary Department will receive a scholarship donation

In addition to Aubrey, who serves as secretary, Mid-Island Rotary Club, officers include Robert Moore, president and Carmine DeSantis, treasurer.

The food pantry committee is comprised of George Dougherty, Marguerite Fiore and John DeAmicis.

## Boothbay Harbor Rotary ◆ s ◆ Circling the Wagons ◆ party a success

By Joseph Davidson on Monday, July 6, 2020



Rotary's ♦♦Circling the Wagons♦♦ at the Boothbay Railway Village.

Over 30 cars and their riders circled the lawn at the Boothbay Railway Village last Thursday for the official ♦♦Change-Over♦♦ party. It sure was great to see everyone and socialize while maintaining our social distances. The evening started with bright sun and a nice cooling breeze as members brought out their tailgating gear.

After a short welcome by your incoming president, there was a half hour break for socializing and reconnecting. Incoming president Irene Fowle started the program by thanking Rick Elder for his leadership and mentorship during this most extraordinary year. Along with the customary wall plaque, Rick was also presented with a Rotary Foundation Face Mask. Hopefully he will be the last president needing one. Rick then thanked the club members for their support and flexibility during this past year. He gave the ♦♦Rotarian of the Year♦♦ award to Vic Taylor for his work with the Visioning Committee, role as webmaster, and the many other ways he keeps the club moving towards our goals. Rick then awarded Linda Clapp the ♦♦President Award♦♦ for her leadership of the membership committee, Silent Auction, and her dedication to club member engagement. Linda introduced all the new members. They have quickly become engaged and active in the club. Our newest member, Ken F. Fitch, had only met us virtually. I wonder if he recognized us without a frame around our faces?!

Then, the highlight of the evening --- the Rotations with their lively and humorous recap of president Rick's year. Then time for a bit more socializing as the skies turned black and the sound of thunder was becoming louder. Remember those sunny skies. The weather sure changed quickly providing a dramatic ending to a fun night.



Many thanks to the staff at the Boothbay Railway Village. So very generous of them to offer their great lawn for our gathering. They just couldn't have been more helpful. Thanks also to Jonne Trees from Channel 7, who took wonderful pictures of the event with his drone.

The Rotary Foundation slogan this year is ♦♦Rotary Opens Opportunities♦♦. I want to thank you for opening the opportunities of Rotary to me. You are an amazing and diverse group of people. I am proud to be your president this year. We have challenging times ahead of us, but hang in there with me. Together we can meet these challenges.

The Rotary Barn sales are now approaching \$20,000. Hooray. A big thank you to Auction co-chairs Laurie and Debbie. We love buyers and donors but only by appointment with Deb or Irene. Please text us to set up an appointment: Irene: 315-5429, Deb: 380-3550. We would not be selling from the barn without the foresight of the members who identified the need for it, persuaded



the club members to support it, built it and now maintain it. Talk about projects, this was a huge one. We thought it would just be for storage. Now during COVID-19 it is allowing us to raise the money to support our projects and commitments. Did you say "People of Action"? That sure defines this club.



The ♦Eat Well, Play Well♦ garden at the Edgecomb Eddy School is growing fast and looking so beautiful. The rains are decreasing the need for watering, but the weeds love the rain, too. If you know the difference between a weed and a vegetable, spend some time in this beautiful garden weeding.

## Guide for Hybrid Meetings

By Leo J. Lawrenson on Monday, July 6, 2020

In this period of COVID-19 and the need for social distancing, most clubs turned to online meetings. Now, as many clubs are returning to conducting meetings in-person, some members still need or prefer to attend online. Here is a terrific guide, provided by Zone 33/34, to conducting "hybrid" meetings- part in-person and part online, to meet the needs of all club members!



## RI Monthly Themes

[Click here](#)



# Communication Pipeline

[Click here to send a note to the Public Image Committee](#)

July 2020

## NEW Doors of Opportunity

By Tina Fischlin on Friday, July 3, 2020

One of the many wonderful things about Rotary is that every time we near an end, we are already looking forward to another beginning.

Rotarians continue to find opportunities to turn their passion for change into action. This past Rotary year, **you** stepped up to help those in need during the initial COVID19 pandemic, and **you** continue to address those needs. **You** found ways to stay connected not only to your personal family, but to your Rotary family. **You** have continued to change lives with your service projects and your donations to The Rotary Foundation. The ripple effect of your service will be felt for generations. A huge THANK YOU!

Rotary Opens Opportunities, and **now** is the time for us to walk through those NEW doors of opportunity with excitement and enthusiasm.

We are guided by the four strategic priorities in Rotary's Action Plan. Increase our impact, expand our reach, enhance participant engagement and increase our ability to adapt. How do we achieve these things? By staying connected, by continuing to serve with compassion and being courageous as we embark on a new Rotary year.

We are blessed to have an outstanding leadership team serving during the 2020-2021 Rotary year. They, along with the District Governor chain, are ready to guide and assist you to achieve your club goals.

In a message to the 1914 Houston convention, Paul Harris said, "The future of Rotary is shrouded in expectant mystery. It will be for you, my Rotarian friends, to aid in the unfurling of the Rotarians destiny. Whatever Rotary may mean to us, to the world it will be known by the results it achieves."

I look forward to serving with you.

Yours in Rotary Service,

DG Tina

## Monthly Rotary Theme



## New Year - New Leadership



July is Rotary's New Leadership Month. Congratulations to all the 2020-21 Presidents! Be an inspiration this year, especially to your Presidents-Elect. You can only be successful if they are successful!!

[Read More](#)

## District Conference



## Remarkable Rotary International Recognition for District 6910



It was an incredible spectacle at the 2019-2020 Virtual Rain Check Awards program on the evening of June 13th, as District Governor Don Martin proclaimed that District 6910 achieved an amazing feat by 'running the table' on the major Rotary International Awards! It's kind of like a 'grand slam!' Gene Windham, Bill St. Claire, Bill Strickland and Joe Whittemore, all Past District Governors, help to make District 6910 a real powerhouse on the world stage. Their experience and leadership are certainly well documented with these prestigious awards. Congratulations Gene, Bill, Bill and Joe ... you are each incredible and amazing Rotarians and a blessing to all of us!

## Important Dates & Deadlines

[Click here for PDF](#)

## Congratulations all District Conference Rain Check Award Recipients

District Conference may have faced incredible obstacles this year, and it may have looked just a little different from what we have grown accustomed to, but there is no holding back the excitement, energy and enthusiasm of Rotarians all across the district as they participated in the three day virtual event. District Governor Don Martin became a legitimate TV STAR right before our eyes, and Peter Gleichman had the whole Hollywood props & costume department at the ready! The event demonstrated tremendous resilience, determination and good old Rotary fun. Congratulations to the entire District Conference Committee for pulling off a masterful program. Congratulations are also in order for the many, many award recipients during the conference ... almost too many to name. Well not really, just click the link below for a complete list of District level award winners. Special accolades to District Rotarian of the Year Leo Lawrenson, for his extraordinary contributions to the District, especially all of his behind the scenes work on revamping the D6910 website! Congratulations Leo and all the Rotarians and Rotary Clubs who celebrated a successful year during the Virtual District Conference Rain Check event. [Read More](#)



**Leo Lawrenson, District 6910  
Rotarian of the Year**

## Congratulations to 'Our District's Mr. Polio'

By Bill Strickland on Wednesday, July 1, 2020

It is with great honor that we recognize a great 6910 Rotarian for being selected by the Board of Trustees of the Rotary Foundation to receive the **PolioPlus Pioneer Award**.

[Read More](#)



**PolioPlus Pioneer Award Winner, PDG Joe Whittemore (center) is**

## Make Plans Now

# Beach Towel COMPETITION

## Show your club spirit!

**Present your towel or mat  
during your club's DC visit!**

**Must Include:**

- Name of Club
- Showcase the Spirit of Your Club
- Anything attached should be securely fashioned
- Bring it to District Conference for the House of Friendship

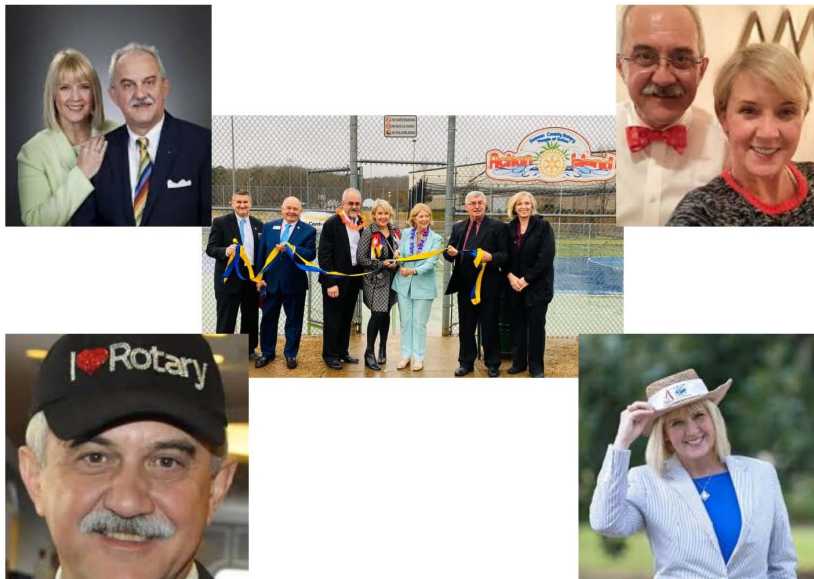


## District Focus



## Thank You To A Brilliant Servant

By Brandy Lynn Swanson



**David Stovall and Kim Waters**

Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU **David Stovall** for your service and leadership as Zone Director and a special thank you to your wife and Past District Governor **Kim Waters** for all the background work! You made David shine even brighter.

Rotary, communities and the world are a better place because of you both. We have all greatly benefited from your willingness to say ♦YES♦ to just about everything. Even on the rare occasion that ♦yes♦ was not the answer, you always had an



alternative on hand to make sure we all accomplished our goals. Not only was David a resource for all districts in Zone 34, but since district 6910 is his home district, we were privileged to have some additional insights and resources.

For those of you who don't know David & Kim, please take a moment to read their bio. You will see leaders who truly embody Service Above Self and the 4 way test, as well as understand why it was a blessing for all of District 6910 to have them represent us at Rotary International! You will also notice that just because the zone role is finished, they are still serving and being our advocates in other offices at the international level.

THANK YOU Kim & David for you unwavering service!

[Read More](#)

## Gene Windham Receives Rotary's Highest Honor

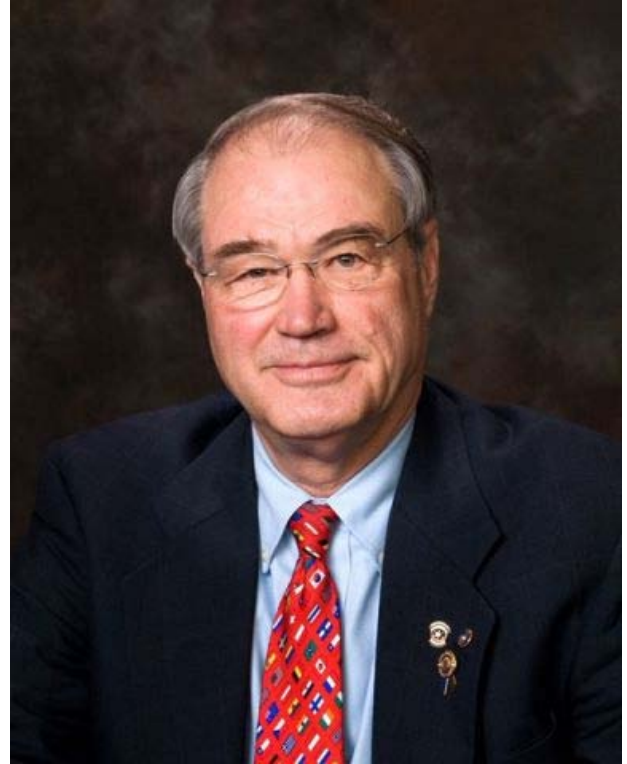
By Sallie Boyles

Why did PDG Don Martin collude with Rotarian Denise Windham to ensure her husband Gene did not fall asleep on June 13 before observing the very end of the district's virtual awards ceremony?

Gene conveys how he felt to have received Rotary International's highest honor and shares insights about the CART Fund, his current passion.

Click here for the whole story:

[Read More](#)



## 20-21 District Goals

As we launch ahead, seeking new opportunities in 20-21, the District Leadership Team has outlined a number of top level District Goals. According to District Governor, Tina Fischlin, it is important that we communicate our overall District Objectives effectively to all of our clubs and our members so that we can build a shared partnership in realizing the vision by this time next year!

[Read More](#)



## Leadership Spotlight

By Paige W Havens on Wednesday, July 1, 2020

Our new District Governor Tina Fischlin's Rotary journey has most certainly opened many doors of opportunity for her around the world. Her story is inspiring and compelling. Read on to learn all about Tina and what makes her tick.

[Read More](#)



One of the highlights of Tina's life was having the opportunity to drive a school bus full of children through the streets of Myeik, Myanmar during one of her many international missions. This is the main mode of transportation for the kids that come from one of many surrounding islands to the mainland.

## 2020 District Ethics Award Winner Passes Away

By Peter Gleichman

It is with great sadness that I announce the passing of Colonel George L. Bailey on June 18, 2020. George passed away just 5 days after the public announcement of his receipt of the Rotary District 6910 Robert S. Stubbs, II Guardian of Ethics Award at the Rotary Family Vacation Virtual Rain Check Awards on Saturday, June 13. The award had been privately presented to George in early May. Click here to read more: [Read More](#)



Club Focus

 Rotary Opens Opportunities

## Rotary Club of Union County Awards Scholarships

By Cathy O♦Gara on Wednesday, July 1, 2020

The Rotary club of Union County is proud to announce that Jordan Workman and Isabella Harris, recent graduates of Union County High School, have received college scholarships from Rotary. [Read More](#)

## Rotary Club of Canton Steps up to Facilitate National Retailer Donations to Cherokee County

By Peter Gleichman

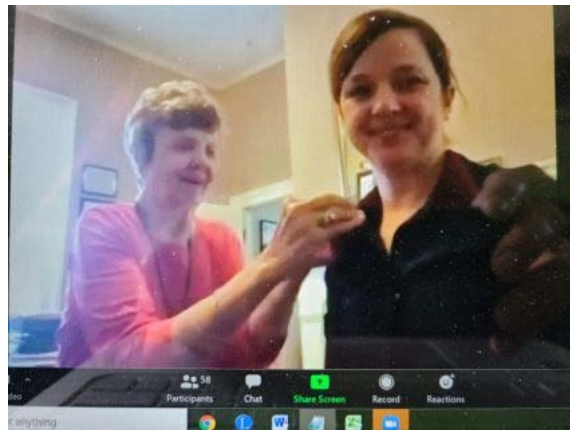


In what is becoming a phenomenal program with significant impact across our district, find out how the Rotary Club of Canton really stepped up to pull all the necessary levers to bring amazing donations to the nonprofits of Cherokee County, click here: [Read More](#)

## COVID 19 Adjustments

By Kimberly S Reynolds

[Reach the District P.I. Team](#)



Connecting through COVID-19 has had its challenges, but many clubs around the district are getting creative. A few have passed the gavel through virtual club meetings and recognized members with virtual awards ceremonies. Some are even calling in experts to help keep everyone safe during the pandemic. [Read More](#)

***New Member Orientation Via Zoom?  
The Rotary Club of Athens welcomes new member, Casey Spell, who completed her Rotary orientation virtually!  
First ever?***

## Club Foundation Headline

By Nicole Stewart on Wednesday, July 1, 2020





## Ted Bearden is officially a Paul Harris + 6!!

### Rotary Connects

By Tina Fischlin on Monday, June 8, 2020



**Rotary Opens Opportunities**

On behalf of all Rotarians in District 6910, I thank you, District Governor Don, for your steadfast leadership during unprecedented times. We must also thank First Lady Regina for her constant support as you traveled around the district on this journey. Her passion to serve and dedication to Rotary were evident by her presence in person and behind the scenes. As a true example of the motto ♦People of Action,♦ you both inspired and empowered us to ♦Go Forth and Do Great Things.♦

The theme for 2019-2020, Rotary Connects the World, could not have been more fitting with keeping us connected as a district. Under your leadership, the clubs in our district united in fighting the impact of Covid-19 and took the pandemic as a call to action. Clubs stepped up and took the challenge by:

- ♦ Donating money and supplying food banks and other charities
- ♦ Making masks for medical personnel and first responders
- ♦ Disseminating news to benefit the community
- ♦ Delivering meals to hospital workers

Championing ingenuity, Governor Don inspired clubs and members to remain engaged via online meetings and social distancing. He, along with the training team, communication and technology experts, and talented presenters, also delivered an amazing ♦virtual♦ District Assembly. Much to our surprise, we ended up with record-breaking attendance at every session, including those late-evening breakouts.

Stepping into Governor Don shoes, I have my work cut out for me. Thankfully, I am blessed to preside over an outstanding District of Rotarians with amazing leaders in every club and an incredible team at the district level.

Our incoming Rotary International President, Holger Knaack, who spoke during our virtual General Assembly, also affirmed that Rotary remains in solid hands. He couldn't have chosen a better theme for the 2020-2021-year: Rotary Opens Opportunities and these Opportunities Open Rotary.

By marshaling courage to create the ♦new♦ Rotary, radiating compassion to serve our communities and the world, and forging connections to expand our reach, we will open those doors of opportunity. Mike and I look forward to meeting with you soon!

### Ringing in the New Year

Whether it's 'Passing the Gavel', 'Changing the Guard,' or just plain 'Happy New Year,' Rotary Clubs around the district started ushering in the new 2020-2021 Rotary Year in their own unique and special ways. Click below to scroll through a number of great photos from around the district!

[Read More](#)



After ceremoniously passing the gavel, outgoing Winder Rotary Club President, Lynn Stevens, and incoming President Ben McDaniel, proudly pose with their respective theme banners. Ben is the club's 57th President.

## Rotary Loves Banks County Day



The Rotary Club of Banks County declared June 19th as 'Rotary Loves Banks County Day!' The day's events and activities culminated with a 'Rotary Salute: A Distinguished Service Awards Program' to recognize and honor first responders and community leaders.

[Read More](#)

**Above Photo (left to right): Deputy Brian Gilbert, HERO Unit; Deputy Josh White, HERO Unit; Sergeant Kelle Patterson, Award of Merit; Stacey Krumnow, Community Leadership Award; Corporal Sharon Chapman, Lifesaving Award; Mike Cleveland, Distinguished Service Award; Sergeant Joshua Robertson, Award of Valor; Lee Humphrys, Lifesaving Award; Deputy Spenser Ventrice, HERO Unit and Deputy Joe Williams, HERO Unit.**

## Training



## ezStory is the Bomb

This month's training focus is on the subject of something called ezStory, a wonderful free module available in DACdb. It is a platform for clubs to use to enhance efficiency and communication in writing articles for their bulletins or newsletters. It is a valuable resource for every club's Public Image team.

[Read More](#)

# TRAINING

## Odds & Ends



### Pic of the Month

Click here to see this month's picture of the month. [Read More](#)

### A Life's Work ... Continues

As the month of July is upon us, a Rotary Salute is in order for Past District Governor Don Martin. Rotarians across north Georgia came to know Don and truly appreciate how much he loves Rotary. They found a dedicated and eager servant, determined to "Go Do Rotary!"

His energy, enthusiasm and sincerity are his trademarks! Above all he delivered decisive, steady and strong leadership from day one .... then was forced to pivot into the role of a crisis manager as the COVID Pandemic took hold. His performance was uplifting, supportive, encouraging and inspiring.

It would appear that Rotary has become, at least in large part, his life's work! It is a noble and honorable pursuit familiar to many Rotarians, but Don leads by example and one can't help but want to follow.

The good news, this life's work of his continues. At last count he has already signed up for at least 5 or 6 different jobs for the coming Rotary year.

Thank you, Don and Regina! What a tremendous team! Your time, sacrifice, hard work, and passion for Rotary and for life has left us all in a better place.

We are indebted and eternally grateful!



### PolioPlus COVID-19 Presentation

Wednesday, June 3, 2020

**PolioPlus within the context of COVID-19**

**Carol Pandak, Director, PolioPlus**

**Zones 33 & 34**

[Click here for presentation.](#)

[Click Here for Upcoming Key Dates](#)