

Rotary



Rotary Opens Opportunities

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Club Leaders



Wayne Ellison
President



Wanda Weegar
President-Elect



Joe Godfrey
Secretary



Shelly Emanuel Hoffman
Treasurer



Mark Willis
Treasurer



Joseph Justin Ariano
Membership Chair



Jeff Alexander
Rotary Foundation Chair



Rodney T. Brundidge
District Grant Chair



Schelly Tennant Marlatt
Public Image Chair



Kelly Herndon Patterson
Laws of Life Contest Chair



Robert Rule
Attendance Secretary



Marlon Allen
On-To Conference Chair



David Thomas Upchurch
ROCK Chair
Club Polio Plus Chair



Shantell R. Wilson
Club Director
Club Programs Chair



Mike Fulton
Community Service Chair



Jennifer S. Hibbard
Past President
Webmaster



Derek Higgs
Youth Services Chair



Terry Swaim
iPast President

Birthdays



Jole S. Hain
July 7th



Wayne Ellison
July 11th



Lee R Jordan
July 15th



Michael R. Smith
July 21st



Sherwin M. Levinson
July 24th

About Rotary

Rotary International is an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. There are 34,282 member clubs worldwide, representing 200 countries and 1.2 million members.

RI President-elect Holger Knaack's theme for 2020-21, *Rotary Opens Opportunities*, asks Rotarians to create opportunities that strengthen their leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need.

Upcoming Programs

Upcoming Program: Khady Ellison, Clinical Training Manager - Advanced Urology



Beginning with the March 2nd meeting, you must REREGISTER to get a new Zoom link for our weekly meetings. That link is:
<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/8121sd-murDMrHNOZ1IKlmSqWcEf-ShnkPA1>

Khady Deborah Ellison is a community leader via her career in the medical field for 14 years. She has a deep passion for caring for the sick. She is a 2006 graduate from Lanier Technical College with her Certified Medical Assisting Certificate. She started her Journey in the medical field at Georgia Urology in 2007 where she would spend the next 5 years of her career learning the fundamentals of Urology under the wing of Dr. Edward Stark.

She received an opportunity to advance her career and was recruited to the Jenkin's Clinic formally the Malizia Clinic in 2012. Dr. Anthony A. Malizia, founder and CEO of the non-profit Urology clinic. A state-of-the-art Urology practice with partnerships with American Billionaire Businessman, Dan Cathy, Chairman, President and CEO of (Chick-Fil-A), Howard Jenkin's, Son of George W. Jenkins founder of Publix supermarkets (Publix), Bernie Marcus, co-founder of Home Depot (Home Depot) along with others. The clinic would later become the Jenkin's clinic, operated by the partners of the clinic.

Dr. Raymond Pak, Urologist took Khady under his wing and advanced her knowledge in urology making her the Medical Assistant she is today. The Jenkin's Clinic would later become Piedmont Urology. During the transition Dr. Pak ended his relationship with piedmont Urology to advance his career with the Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville Florida. Dr. Pak had a great relationship with Dr. Jitesh Patel and knew of his vision for Advanced Urology connected the two of them. Khady will gain another opportunity to advance her career and started her new Journey with Advanced Urology under the wing of Dr. Jitesh Patel.

She gained knowledge in Urodynamics/Anorectal Manometry Studies where she would later take lead in the creation of a Urodynamics department. She created, trained, and hired a team of technicians to perform studies in 12 office locations. She has been with the Advanced family for 5 years and has assisted in their growth from one location to now 13. She is currently the Clinical Training Manager. She oversees new employee orientations and training for all Medical Assistance in 13 offices.

Khady is the former Parent Action Committee (PAC) President for the 100 Black Men of North Atlanta Chapter. Currently, the Vice President of Society of Urologic Nurses and Associates (SUNA), Georgia Chapter.

Khady is the wife of a loving and supportive husband Wayne Ellison. And mother, of three sons, Gregory (24), Christopher (20), and Jalen (19). She also has a fur baby daughter Pilar Nicole (9mths), she loves her family deeply. Khady enjoys, a good laugh, traveling, kayaking, waterboarding, snorkeling. Her favorite mammal is the Dolphin, and she loves the sea. She loves spending time with Friends and family.

Upcoming Programs - Be sure to visit the DACdb calendar to see all upcoming events.

July 13th - District Governor Mike Berg

July 20th - Mark Farmer and Stephanie Sokenis, Executive Director - Gwinnett Entrepreneur Center - Overview of the Entrepreneur Center and Small Business Support

July 27th - Rodney Bullard, VP of Corporate Social Responsibility and Executive Director - Chick Fil A Foundation

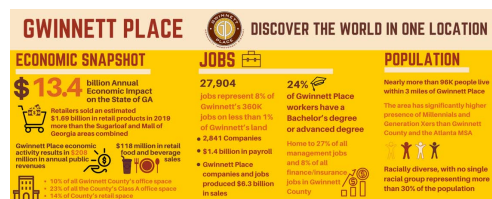
Recap of last week

Recap of Last Week

Last week, Joe Allen who is the Executive Director of Gwinnett Place CID shared the story of the "Not So Little Mall" - also formally known as Gwinnett Place Mall. Developer Scott Hudgens had a vision years ago to build a mall "way out in the country". Opening in 1984, Gwinnett Place drew crowds from near and far with just three anchor stores - Rich's, Davison's and Sears. While the mall was widely successful for decades, today it is sad, lonely and vacant, except for the Covid19 vaccination site. In 2006, the CID was formed to take a concerted effort to revitalize the mall and surrounding area. As a result of the CID's efforts and partnering with Gwinnett County - roads, bridges and intersections were improved, an area-wide traffic responsive and signal optimization system implementation occurred, and branding took place. Today, the CID has enhanced security with seven days a week community patrols including 63 flock safety cameras. Approximately 50 tons of trash/litter is removed, along with graffiti and broken infrastructure repairs. Plants and new sidewalks were installed, street sweeping occurs weekly, and economic development incentives have been added to attract new businesses and jobs.

Presently, Joe added that since the sale of the mall in 2020, in partnership with Gwinnett, they are kicking off an area-wide traffic and safety study to identify potential projects, costs, and impacts to include rapid bus transit, connecting GC CID to Sugarloaf and Gateway85's CIDs. The CID has a \$13.4 billion annual economic impact on the state, with nearly 96K people living within a three-mile radius of Gwinnett Place.

Thank you, Joe for a very informative update since you last spoke to us in 2019. We look forward to seeing all the amazing things the GPCID does for our amazing county!



Introducing The 2021-2022 Board of Directors



CART Fund

CART is Change for Alzheimer's Research Trust, an organization founded by Rotarians and operated by Rotarians. One hundred percent (100%) of donated funds go to cutting edge research to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Thanks to your support CART was able to provide \$1,000,000.00 in Grants again this year. The bad news is that District 6910 has only raised \$38,000.00 as of March 31st and in 2020, we contributed over \$45,000.00. Please consider contributing in the next ten days to help us get closer to or previous levels of support.

Individuals who would like to make a CART Contribution and get Tax or personal Credit: you can go to [Login Form \(mycartfund.org\)](#) and using your DACdb credentials to log in. once you are logged in click on ♦Make a Contribution♦ on the left-hand side of the page. Not only will you get credit, but so will your Club.



Matthew Holkamp
July 28th



Happy Fourth of July!
Wishing you and your family a safe, fun and Happy 4th!



Stay Connected - Follow us on Social Media!



RYLA - About Building Grit

By Jeremy Echuck on Saturday, June 5, 2021



RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is back and in a big way! Click the [Read More](#) link to find out more about this year's adventure.



It seemed like it would never get here, but it ♦s time, RYLA 2021.

The first weekend of June welcomed an eager group of 66 students from across the district to the beautiful Tallulah Falls Community. This high energy leadership camp was more than just building friendships, it was about building grit. Something that can only be created when you are faced with leadership challenges like; navigating a class 5 rapid, climbing a four-story tower, working as a team to complete a high-low ropes course, or preparing a presentation for your peers. This message was also reinforced from one of our guest speakers, Rose Proctor (the director of ethical leadership at the Mike Cottrell College of Business at University of North Georgia) when she spoke about the importance of purpose and values. These students arrived at this camp with various levels of leadership experience, but everyone left a better leader than when they arrived.

This could not have been possible without the support of our local Rotary clubs and all the wonderful volunteers that choose to donate their energy and wisdom to this camp. With another year in the books and approaching our 30th anniversary of this camp, we anxiously await that next group of students that will arrive someday in the future, on the doorstep of the RYLA experience.



Georgia Laws of Life Names Rotary D6910 Teachers of Distinction

Friday, May 28, 2021

By Linda Hatten, Program Manager - Schools, Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest

R. L. Panyik Leadership Award Recipients

Monday, April 26, 2021

By PGD Don Martin, with contributions from Erika Neldner, Laura Dent, Mandy Volpe and Richard Butler

The R. L. Panyik Award was established in 2015 by PGD Bill Strickland. The award is named after past District Governor, Rich Panyik, who showed us all what extraordinary leadership should look like. This year's recipients of the award demonstrate those same qualities while executing their roles as club President in an exceptional manner. The five 2020-21 winners of this award were announced at the District Conference by District Governor, Tina Fischlin. This month we'd like to shine our leadership spotlight on these terrific leaders, who are an inspiration to us all.



PDG Rich Panyik
Namesake of the
R.L. Panyik Leadership Award

Max Caylor

Rotary Club of Jasper

By PGD Don Martin, Rotary Club of Jasper

As each Rotary year begins to draw towards the annual transition of leadership on July 1, we always try to take a few minutes and offer our heartfelt gratitude and some well-deserved recognition to the Rotarians and Rotary Clubs who by dint of effort and sustained perseverance made the Rotary year an exceptional one.

Whether you realize it or not, you belong to one of the best Rotary Clubs in the District, and your activities are known throughout the District and beyond. You were recognized once again this year as Gold Level Club and were a strong contender for the Club of the Year.

How does a club gain members, increase the number and scope of service projects, increase its Foundation giving, and make a lasting impact on its community—all during a year of dealing with a worldwide pandemic that seemed destined to thwart Rotary activities all together? It does so with solid, insightful, motivating, servant-based leadership—and we had an abundance of that in 2020-2021 Rotary Club of Jasper President Max Caylor. (OK, I left out nagging, but this is a positive, award winning, write up and sometimes a leader has to use all the skills that are available.) You have lived through the year with Max, so I won't recount all the victories. I will let someone do that at the year-end banquet.

However, those projects, successes, goals achieved, giving levels attained, and new members added did not go unnoticed. DG Tina Fischlin carried on a District 6910 tradition of recognizing the top club leaders throughout the District and at the District Conference, which concluded Saturday night. Max was named as an R.L. Panyik Leadership Award Recipient. The RLP Leadership awards are given to only one club President in each size club. Being club president is considered the best job in all of Rotary and winning the R.L. Panyik Award is truly the icing on the cake. The Award is named for PGD Rich Panyik, who served as District Governor in 1999-2000 and has served the District, Zone 34, RI HQs, The Rotary Foundation, and the Rotary Leadership Institute in a variety of roles ever since.

The R.L. Panyik Award does not automatically go to the Club of the Year winner, because that is a club award, and not all clubs are created equally. Instead, the award recognizes leadership and extraordinary effort by presidents who served their clubs by leading them to exceptional accomplishments. Max's selection was no surprise to all of us who watched him deliver success after success in a year that was challenging by any standard one chooses to use.

Congratulations Max. Wear that pin proudly. You earned it.



Amanda Groover

South Hall Rotary

By Mandy Volpe, PI Chair, South Hall Rotary

There is a great reason why Amanda Groover was honored with the Leadership award for our district. She gives service above self around every corner. She has led the South Hall Rotary club during the unprecedented pandemic and found ways for our club to use tools and flexibility to identify new needs in our community and make an impact. During a year when it would have been okay to coast through as Rotary president due to the high stress of the economy, she found ways to reinvent service projects, create new ones, and included surrounding clubs to join in our collective efforts to make a huge community impact. She constantly challenges the members of our club to seek peace, give a meal, and find a need to fill in the community.



Amanda states, "I can't thank the other presidents in Area 13 enough for being willing to partner with our small club for some big ideas. It was collaboration of our clubs that allowed us to pull off our Peace Day ceremony, introduce our Rotary Rocks program, support organizations in the South Hall and Jackson communities through the Farmer's to Families efforts, and host a super successful Rotary Means Business meeting." Amanda believes in the power of networking, found a way for our club to meet in person during social-distancing measures and continues to find ways to spur business relationships amongst Rotary members.

In addition to Rotary, Amanda also serves within the community in the following capacities: She currently serves on the UNG Alumni Association Board of Directors, Board Member for Friends of Recovery Hall County, Peer Advisor for J's Place Community RCO in Hall County, Peer Advisor Council for Leadership Hall, UNG Greek Advisory Mentor for Sigma Kappa, and she is a part of numerous industry-affiliated organizations such as Athens Area Women In Construction, Partnership Gwinnett Redevelopment Task Force, ABC of Georgia, and the Southeastern Chapter of CMAA among others. Amanda also serves at her church as a small group leader.

Lu Frier Byrd

Rotary Club of Greene & Putnam Counties
By Laura Dent, P.I. Chair, Rotary Club of Greene & Putnam Counties

Lu Frier Byrd is the current president of the Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties. She is the kind of individual who conducts herself in a quiet but incredibly consistent manner. Always living the Rotary 4-Way Test to its fullest, her career has involved serving in a variety of roles from health care, community-based business, local government, and most recently as a key manager in a law firm. Her work ethic has shined in everything she has done. Lu is always thoughtful and respectful of others. She always works towards the betterment of those around her. She is an extraordinarily proud Rotarian, and hardly a day goes by that she doesn't wear her Rotary pin as a badge of honor ready to share with others what it really means to be a Rotarian. Lu is held in high esteem by our Rotary club, her community, her work group, and her family. If there is a Rotary function to participate in, a seminar to attend, a committee role to fulfill, Lu is there. This commitment to excellence has followed her throughout her career and anyone she has supported, served, or mentored along the way.

Lu can be counted on. Her son sees her as an amazing role model. The past presidents of our club will tell you that she was always ready to lend a hand, take on a role, or perform a project that bettered our club. Her record of personal integrity can be summed up in two words: absolutely impeccable. Several years ago, Lu was our Club's nominee of the Robert S. Stubbs II Guardian of Ethics award because every action she takes exemplifies ethics and character. Whether in her personal life, her family life, her professional life, or as a member of this Rotary club, she works with integrity, diligence, and amazing personal commitment to be the best she can be and provide excellent service. Her commitment to everything she does is unwavering.

Past presidents will tell you that Lu is one of those Rotarians that is always there for you. Leads, she was there. Rotary Leadership Institute, count her in. Foundation Meetings, she's sure to participate. District conference, when is the sign up? Local functions, there's Lu. While the club hasn't kept score, we suspect she may have attended more official Rotary functions than we could count on a dozen hands, and she never boasts about her commitment. She wears her Rotary pin ALL THE TIME. Why? Because she is a dedicated Rotarian, living the values of the 4-Way Test, every day, in everything she does, and eager to tell the Rotary story to anyone who inquires. Lu is soft-spoken, consistent, and dedicated to a life of integrity and to be the best person she can possibly be.

Mike Everett

Rotary Club of Hartwell

Nothing symbolized this past Rotary year in Hartwell, Georgia, like the club's District Grant project entitled, Rotary and Hart Partners Backpack and Food Pantry. Mike was the driving force behind this project from inception through completion, and he was very passionate about making it a success. The project helped to fund the food pantries in the local middle school and high school, provide personal hygiene items for students, and fund food backpacks for seven children during the school year. It was a lot to take on, but it turned out great!

According to President-Elect, Rich Mewborn, that is the way Mike approached his year as president as a whole. "He has set the bar very high as he demonstrated his great leadership skills through the example that he set, he was extraordinarily conscientious," said Mewborn. "He was outstanding, especially considering the difficult circumstances of the pandemic, he was such a positive influence and he engaged members in a remarkable way," added Mewborn. One of the greatest measurements on the club's success, he said, was that the club enjoyed tremendous growth during the year.



President Mike is shown here posing having just receiving the R.L. Panyik Leadership Award, presented by District Governor, Tina Fischlin, and Assistant Governor, Neil Azavedo.

Mike is very involved in the community, not just Rotary. But he is a Rotary ambassador in all that he does. Here is a list of activities to which Mike invests his time: driver for meals on wheels, volunteer driver for cancer patients to doctor appointments for the American Cancer Society, member of the South Hall Elementary School Advisory Council, mentor for REACH, past president of the United Methodist Men's Group at Hartwell First United Methodist Church, and a member of the Vision Planning Committee at HFUMC.

Phil Ciccone

Rotary Club of Towne Lake
By Erika Neldner, P.I. Chair, Rotary Club of Towne Lake

R.L. Panyik Leadership Award Winner Phil Ciccone represented all that the award stands for during his year as Rotary Club of Towne Lake President. He jumped in with both feet, ready to serve the small club of nearly 30 members. He invested his own money in equipment and software to create the first hybrid meeting setup, opening doors for a more robust selection of speakers and offering club members an option of attending in person or remotely. In 2020-21 Rotary Year, the Rotary Club of Towne Lake undertook new service projects in addition to its existing efforts. From monthly food deliveries to low-income seniors and Farmers to Families deliveries to hard-hit communities, to beautification projects in the Woodstock area, the Rotary Club of Towne Lake kept service at the forefront of its mission.

While fulfilling the service mission, Phil took on a district role in technology to assist District Governor Tina Fischlin and the District Conference committee to make a virtual conference successful. With the investment he already had made to create the hybrid meetings and then some, Phil started a new production company, Blue Sonix, and donated all of his services to making the virtual conference successful. For weeks, he drove thousands of miles across the state of Georgia filming segments, returning to his Holly Springs home to put in hours of editing time. And when the weekend of the event arrived, he and his wife Debby hosted district representatives at their home studio and the entire program came together.

Having a true production and experience is what we needed to make a virtual district conference memorable, enjoyable and a true tribute to all of the accomplishments the Rotarians and clubs had throughout the year. Phil said, "As owner of onCloud, I have extensive technical knowledge and knew that there was a way to bridge the gap and create something special and that is where BlueSonix was born. I created a production company and donated my services to create a robust experience where we leveraged prerecorded segments interlaced with live hosts, which also allowed us to bring in live speakers. This was overlaid with a platform and mobile app that created high user engagement. While everyone is still looking forward to when we can have an in-person conference, this was the most dynamic online experience we have had. And, of course, the Bloopers segment was the fan favorite!"



Phil's dedication to service and leadership at not only the club level, but the district level as well, earned him the coveted R.L. Panyik Leadership Award something he was surprised to receive.

Receiving the R.L. Panyik was quite a surprise, especially since I pre-filmed all four recipients, he said. Each year, the award is only given to four club presidents throughout the entire district. Receiving the award is not only special, but to be the fifth amongst such other worthy colleagues made it even more meaningful.

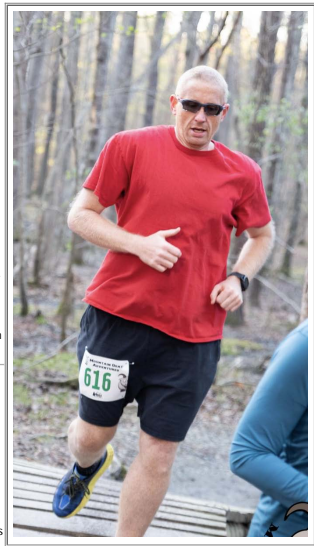
About Rich Panyik

(Re-printed from the Rotary Club of Lawrenceville Website)

Rich was born in Alton, Illinois but has lived in the Atlanta, Georgia area since 1972. He is a graduate of Fort Hays State University in Hays, Kansas, with a B.S. in Business Administration. He is President of R.L. Panyik & Associates, a manufacturers representative agency, dealing in custom-engineered metal and plastic components.

Rich is a charter member of the Rotary Club of South Gwinnett and has served as Club President and various other positions in the Avenues of Service. His club has honored District 6910 Foundation Chair from 2002-2005, District Trainer from 2004-2006, and General Chair of the Zone Institute in 2006. He participated as a Training Leader at the International Assembly in San Diego in 2006 and 2007. Rich served as the Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator (RRFC) in Zone 34 for The Rotary Foundation in 2007-2010.

Rich is a recipient of the Rotary International Service Above Self Award, The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service and Distinguished Service Award. He is a Major Donor and Bequest Society Member. His hobbies include cycling and Native American culture. Personal accomplishments include running the Atlanta and New York Marathons and participating in the Bike Ride Across Georgia (BRAG). His most recent accomplishment was completing the 107 mile Ride To End Polio event in Tucson, AZ. Rich's wife, Maria is a retired school teacher and a member of The Rotary Club of Loganville, GA. They have two children, Chris and Carrie and three grandchildren, Zachary, Zoie and Allie Jane. Rich is currently a member of the Rotary Club of Greene & Putnam Counties.





Changing of the Guard

By Paige W Havens on Wednesday, May 19, 2021
This time of year is always full of transition as we work to close out one Rotary year and launch a new one. Now is the perfect time to take a moment to recognize some of our district leaders for their dedication and loyal service to our mission as we have a changing of the guard.
CHANGING OF THE GUARD

Thank you to these retiring Board of Directors Members & Assistant Governors:

- Dianne Cammarata ♦ Board Member
- Bill Strickland ♦ Board Member
- Jason Park ♦ Area 1 Assistant Governor
- Jessica Fleetwood ♦ Area 2 Assistant Governor
- Cindy Haddon ♦ Area 7 Assistant Governor
- Donald Davis ♦ Area 9 Assistant Governor
- Mike Albright ♦ Area 11 Assistant Governor
- DD Lee ♦ Area 15 Assistant Governor

We welcome these new leaders in to fill the big shoes of those above:

- David Cooper Board of Directors
- Donald Davis Board of Directors
- Jackie Killings Area 1 Assistant Governor
- Bill Strickland Area 2 Assistant Governor
- Cheryl Legget Area 7 Assistant Governor
- Ron Tolen Area 9 Assistant Governor
- Steffanie Sorrells Area 11 Assistant Governor
- Regina Martin Area 15 Assistant Governor

We are truly grateful to everyone for your leadership and service to our District!

Gwinnett County
Meets at The 1818 Club

Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM