

Saturday,  
December 30,  
2023

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## District Leaders

**Felix M Smith Jr.**  
District Governor

**Todd A. Freese**  
District Governor Elect

**Bev Trainor**  
Governor Nominee Designate

**William T. Adkins Jr.**  
District Governor Nominee

**Heather Ann Kellen**  
District Governor Elect



## Greetings From Governor Felix Smith

### Greetings, Rotary Club Members!



As the year gracefully winds down, I'm thrilled to reach out to each and every one of you with a heart full of gratitude and admiration. Throughout this remarkable year, I've had the privilege of connecting with our incredible clubs, witnessing the passion and commitment that define our Rotary family.

Club visits have been the highlight of my year, allowing me to witness firsthand the transformative projects and unwavering dedication that each of you brings to your communities. Your enthusiasm and resilience have left an indelible mark on our district, and I couldn't be prouder of the collective impact we've made.

In our pursuit of a polio-free world, your tireless efforts have been nothing short of heroic. As we continue to march towards the finish line, your commitment to eradicating this disease showcases the true spirit of Rotary – a force for positive change in the world.

But our journey doesn't end here. With immense pride and excitement, I look forward to launching us into the new year, 2024. Together, we will embark on fresh initiatives, explore innovative avenues for service, and further strengthen the bonds that make our Rotary family truly exceptional.

As we reflect on the accomplishments of this year, let's celebrate the impact we've made, the lives we've touched, and the difference we continue to create. Thank you for your unwavering dedication, and here's to an even brighter, more impactful 2024.

## 2024 District Conference



We are happy to remind you that the hotel accommodation bookings for the 2024 Rotary District 6920 Conference to be held on Jekyll Island, Georgia, April 26-28, 2024, is now open. Listed at the bottom of this email you will find six hotels that have blocked rooms for us. The cut-off date for discounted hotel room booking is March 26<sup>th</sup>. [Read More](#)

## Rotary District Leadership Attends Vital Meetings

Rotary District 6920 leadership, including District Governor (DG) Felix Smith, were excited to be a part of the Thursday, December 14, 2023, soon-to-be chartered Long County Rotary Club. The president of the new club is Brandi Castano, and other officers are Tammy Goober, Vice President; Amy Swindell, Secretary; Chris Ellison, Treasurer; James Craft, Dr. Patricia Krumnow, Jesse Holtz, Tamara Brogan, and Christina George-Directors; and Holden Osborn, Sergeant-at-Arms.

President Castano stated that the dues for the Long County Rotary Club had been approved by the Board of Directors as \$250 per year, billed at \$62.50 per quarter. She also announced that the January 11, 2024, meeting will have Brooklyn Waters, a Tattnall High School Interact Club member, share her experiences when she attended the RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) event in June of 2023 in Brunswick at the Coastal College of Georgia.

Long County Rotary Club meetings are to be held on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month at 5:30 p.m. in the Long County Board of Education meeting room. However, the club will not hold a meeting on December 28 due to the holidays.

In addition to DG Smith, other District leadership included Past District Governor Steve Barnes of Valdosta; Todd Freese of Savannah, Governor Elect for 2023-24 year; Terry Adkins of Shellman Bluff, Governor Nominee for 2024-25 year; and Beverly Trainor of St. Simons Island, Governor Nominee Designate for 2025-26 year. Attending from the Glennville club were Donald Fountain, former District Services Chairman and former Assistant Governor; and Assistant Governor Pam Waters.



IPDG

**Paula K. Goodnow**  
District  
Communications  
Officer

**H. Bruce Montgomery**  
District Co-  
Treasurer

**Elizabeth W. Hardin**  
District Co-  
Treasurer

**Stephen D. Williams**  
District  
Membership  
Chair

**Glenda H Kessler**  
CART Chair

**Leslie Davisson Mattingly**  
RYLA Chair

**Hamsa Thota**  
District Rotary  
Foundation  
Chair

**Erin Andrews**  
District Public  
Image Chair

**Lily Kovacheva**  
District  
Newsletter  
Editor

**Rob Kellner**  
GRSP Chair

**Assistant  
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**Steven Michael Bell**  
Downtown Macon  
**Shana Dean Brinson**  
Millen

**Daniel R Broyles**  
Valdosta North

**Candace Spicer Christian**  
Dublin

**Taylor Keith Everett**  
Tenille

**William F. Franke III**  
Augusta

**Kingman P. Herin III**  
Vidalia

**Charlene Hutchinson**  
Ocilla

**Heather Klemm**  
Byron

**Michael O'Neal**  
Savannah West

**Jessica G. Pedigo**  
Metropolitan  
Savannah

**Jim Seifert**  
Blackshear

**Abby W. Smith**  
Effingham  
County

**Beverly J. Trainor**  
St. Simons  
Island

**Pam Waters**  
Glennville



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## Augusta's Busy End to the Year



Westminster Interact Club met with the mayor of an Augusta and about issues of the day.

## Augusta West's Last Service Project of 2023



Thanks to all the "AWRC ding-a-lingers" who rang bells on Thursday at Krogers to raise money for our community!

Ho Ho Ho Everyone!!!

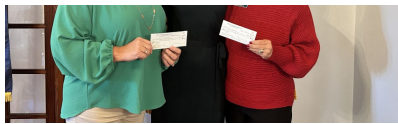


## Blackshear Rotary Club's Cheerful December

In November, Blackshear Rotary Club collected donations from its members in order to fund Christmas projects for The Sycamore Tree and Hospice Satilla. Each local nonprofit received \$520. Club officers expressed their appreciation to all members and organizations who



appreciation to all members and organizations who participated in the project.



Blackshear Rotarians participated in the annual Christmas parade and represented some of the "Angels Among Us" - Doctors, military service members, first responders to name a few - along the route. Club member Steven Stipe donated his classic truck for the parade, and [Stewart Distribution](#) donated soft peppermints for the Club members to toss out.

## Rotary Club of Brunswick Rotary Reads Day

Our local grant with First Readers of Glynn County where Brunswick Rotarians and their family members read to 11 classrooms of 3 and 4-year-olds at Glynn Head Start Program.



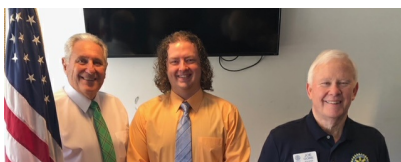
## Camden County Rotary Spreads Cheer



Camden County Rotary Club joined forces with Salvation Army for their bell-ringing campaign.

## Jekyll Island's Exciting Last Month of 2023

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently delivered "Ditty Bags" to the International Seafarers' Center in Brunswick. The bags contain toiletries and various sundry items that are distributed to seafarers passing through our port during the holiday season. The club has supported this effort for many years and will continue to provide them to the center for weeks to come. Pictured are Club President Joe Gore on left and Peter Boyton from the center.



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Dr. Dustin Horne, the physician at Mercer Medicine Jekyll Island. He detailed his education and background for the club. He also explained the services





available, hours of operation and future plans for the clinic. Pictured are Rotarian Tim Kinsey from left, Dr. Home and Club President Joe Gore.

## Kings Bay Angel Tree Donations



The Rotary Club of Kings Bay partnered with the Fraternal Order of Eagles and hosted 50 children on Saturday. Santa gave out presents and we had lunch for them. These children were Angel Tree kids from the Salvation Army.

## Macon North's 8th Annual Boston Butt-Scholarship Fundraiser

Macon North Rotary had their 8th Annual Boston Butt-Scholarship Fundraiser. Due to the growing success of the fundraiser, the club has had to put a limit on the number of tickets to be sold in 2023.

Although the bulk of the event takes place in November, planning begins in August, pre-sales start in October and end with an all-hand-on-deck cook prior to Thanksgiving.

2023 tickets sales topped out at 209 Boston Butts to be purchased, prepped and cooked by members and volunteers. Pre-sales, sponsorships and post-sales netted Macon North Rotary over \$6600. Proceeds are used to help sponsor a student from St. Peter Claver Catholic School to continue their education at Mount de Sales Academy through their high school years.

[Read More](#)

## Metro Savannah Rotary's Busy Holiday Season



Holiday Story Time!

Volunteers read holiday stories to students of Juliette Low Elementary for their holiday hot chocolate party. We had 11 readers and provided over 100 mugs and over 500 packets of hot cocoa!



#### Re-Purpose Rendezvous: Annual Service Partner Fundraiser

We had a sold out show at Front Porch Improv Theater and we raised over \$17,000 for Re:Purpose and other Rotary-related charitable endeavors!

Their mission is:

- Advocate, educate, and provide a **climate-conscious** alternative to conventional demolition that mitigates environmental and public health impacts
- Connect best practices for structural removal with **historic preservation**, emphasizing research and documentation to preserve the diverse histories in our community
- Train **women+**, including women-identified, trans, non-binary, and other underrepresented people, for careers in construction

#### Millen Rotary Club's Heartwarming December Initiative for Jenkins County Middle School St

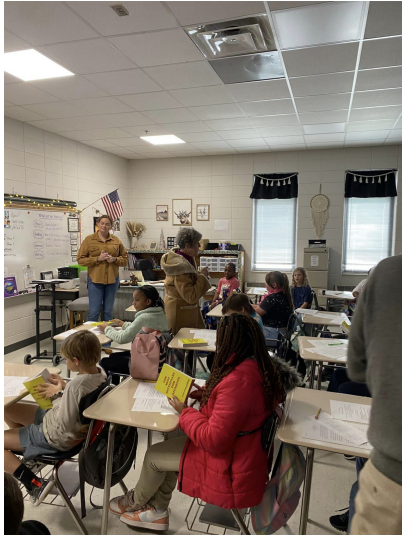


This year the Millen Rotary Club decided to use our district grant funds to continue the project our immediate club past president, Jessica Bragg Suggs, started last year. This December, Rotarians from the Millen Rotary Club and one high school interact member from the Jenkins County High School Interact Club, delivered and distributed pancake breakfast kits and Christmas Cards to all Jenkins County Middle School Students.





## The Millen Rotary Club's Donations to JCES



The Millen Rotary Club donated dictionaries to JCES 3rd grade students to aid in teaching a broader vocabulary and fostering reading comprehension.

## Millen Rotary Spreads Cheer this Holiday Season

Rotarians with the Millen Rotary Club & a few guests had the privilege of spreading some festive joy and brightening up the holiday season for the wonderful residents of Pruitt Health Bethany-Millen. Our dedicated Rotarians went above and beyond, ensuring that each senior received a gift this Christmas.

It was heartwarming to witness the smiles and gratitude on the faces of these amazing seniors. We believe that everyone deserves to experience the magic of Christmas, and through the Senior Santa Project, we aimed to make that a reality for these beloved community members. We want to express our deepest gratitude to all the Rotarians who generously contributed their time, resources, and compassion to this beautiful cause. Your dedication and commitment to serving others is inspiring!

We would also like to extend a special thank you to Pruitt Health Bethany-Millen for allowing us to be a part of their residents' Christmas celebrations. Together, we can make a positive and meaningful impact on the lives of those in need. As we approach the holiday season, let's keep spreading love, joy, and kindness in our community. Together, we can make a difference, one gift at a time.

## Nashville-Berrien Rotary Clubs Active December



On December 21 the Nashville-Berrien Rotary Club donated \$500 dollars and 22 bicycles to their local Toys for Tots.

For years, Nashville-Berrien Rotary Club has partnered with Pam Joiner, their local Toys for Tots representative, to make sure every child in Berrien County has a Christmas.

Current President Alonso Martinez also initiated a continuous six-month service project to collect toys that were to then be donated for this same cause. The club was able to collect more than two boxes full of toys that were delivered to Pam Joiner who later was able to distribute amongst the community.

[Read More](#)

## Perry Rotary's Packed December



Christmas Fundraiser for Perry Volunteer Outreach

A Night of Festivity and Philanthropy at the Annual Perry Rotary Club Christmas Party



The holiday spirit was in full swing as the Perry Rotary Club hosted its annual Christmas party on Tuesday, December 12th, transforming the Houston Lake Country Club into a winter wonderland of goodwill and generosity. The highlight of the evening was a dual auction, featuring both silent and live bidding, with all proceeds dedicated to supporting the local charity Perry Volunteer Outreach.

The star of the "Live Auction" was the famous "Million Dollar Caramel Cake" from Mike's Mama with a whooping bid of \$2,000.00!

Many thanks to the Mercer University String Quartet for providing the backdrop of enchanting music. We would like to thank all the guests, auction donors, generous bidders, and all the people behind the scenes who made this event a huge success.

The funds raised during this festive event will undoubtedly contribute to making the holiday season brighter for those in need, reinforcing the Rotary Club's commitment to "Service Above Self." Merry Christmas to all!

Perry Rotary Club Volunteers Extend a Helping Hand at PVO Annual Christmas Banquet

The Perry community came together in a display of warmth and generosity at the Perry Volunteer Outreach Annual charity banquet held on December 7th 2023 at the Georgia National Fairgrounds with the local Rotary Club taking an active role as volunteers to ensure the event's success. The Rotary Club, known for its commitment to service, joined forces with other community organizations to make a meaningful impact on the lives of those in need.



[Read More](#)

## IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO AND LINKS:

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District Website: [www.rotarydistrict6920.org](http://www.rotarydistrict6920.org)

District Facebook Page: [www.facebook.com/Rotary6920](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary6920)

Rotary International Website: [www.rotary.org/en](http://www.rotary.org/en)

Rotary International Foundation: [www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation](http://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation)

My Rotary: [my.rotary.org/en/](http://my.rotary.org/en/)

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