

Friday,
December 1,
2023

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Rotary
District 6920



Greetings from Governor Felix Smith



Greetings, Rotary Club Members!

This is your District Governor, Felix Smith, extending my warmest regards as we gather together for another month filled with service, fellowship, and the spirit of Rotary. November has been an invigorating month for me as your District Governor, marked by meaningful club visits, heartfelt conversations, and a steadfast commitment to our shared vision of gratitude and community.

As I've traveled across our district, I've had the privilege of witnessing the dedication and passion that define our clubs. The warmth of your welcome, the depth of your community projects, and the genuine camaraderie that permeates our Rotary family continue to inspire me.

This past month, as we celebrated Thanksgiving, I saw how we reflected on the abundance of blessings and the spirit of gratitude that unites us by giving back to our communities. Our commitment to service and community echoes the values of this season, and I am thankful for each one of you who contributes to making our world a better place.

I look forward to continuing our collective mission to make a positive impact, one project at a time. Thank you for your unwavering support, and I'm excited to see the meaningful achievements we can create together in the days ahead.

Exciting News for District 6920: Beverly Trainor Has Been Selected as District Governor for 2026-2027

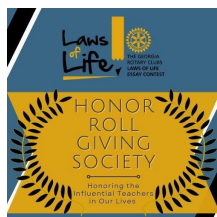
St. Simons Rotarian, Beverly Trainor, has been selected by the District Governor Nominating Committee to serve as Governor during the 2026-2027 Rotary Year.

A Rotarian for twelve years, Beverly has been actively involved in her club, serving as club president and on multiple boards at the club and District level.

Currently, Beverly serves as assistant governor and is the Chair for Saving Lives with Medicine. She is an RLI Graduate, District Emerging Leader, Paul Harris Fellow, Paul Harris and Bequest Society member.

Beverly is active in her community, serving on boards and committees and works professionally as a financial advisor.

Recognize a Teacher in the Honor Roll Giving Society



Recognize a Teacher in the Honor Roll Giving Society
By Carol Walker
Executive Director, Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest

"The duties of a teacher are neither few nor small, but they elevate the mind and give energy to the character."
— Dorothea Dix

Our teachers "past and present" hold a very special place in our hearts and often have a life-long impact. No matter how old we are, or how far removed we are from our formative school years, most of us never forget the teachers who made the greatest impression on us.

The Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest (GLL) proudly dedicates our 25th Anniversary to the teachers who have shaped young minds and ignited a passion for learning. We cannot think of a better way to show our appreciation to every teacher who has devoted their life's work to education.

CONTACT INFO AND LINKS:

District Leaders

**Felix M Smith
Jr.**
District Governor

**Todd A.
Freeseemann**
District Governor
Elect

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

**Heather Ann
Kellen**
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
Governors**
**Steven Michael
Bell**
Assistant
Governor
**Shana Dean
Brinson**
Assistant
Governor
**Daniel R
Broyles**
Assistant
Governor

more to education.

In keeping with this spirit, we invite you to celebrate the special teacher(s) in your life through Georgia Laws of Life's newly minted Honor Roll Giving Society. Your tax-deductible contribution of \$25 or more will support our mission to transform lives by encouraging Georgia high school students to reflect upon, express and affirm strong character values. It will also pay tribute to the very heroes in education who have given so much.

The Honor Roll Giving Society was created to support the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, which is offered free of charge to high school students around the state. To date, more than 807,000 Georgia high school students have written their personal Law of Life essay, and we aim to achieve one million students by 2028.

May we count on your support? Please visit our Honor Roll Giving Society donation page to honor teachers of the present and past, and to make it possible for more students to experience this impactful character education and ethical literacy program.

When you donate to honor your teacher, we encourage you to share via Facebook and tag #GeorgiaLawsofLife for additional exposure. The teacher with the most nominations will be announced in January. For gifts of \$100 or more, we will list your teacher's name on our website, send them a special recognition card (if mailing address is provided), and extend an invitation to the GLL annual teacher's workshop (\$250 or more). Let's give our teachers the honor they deserve!

LINK TO Honor Roll Giving Society donation page

<https://secure.givelively.org/donate/georgia-rotary-districts-character-education-program-inc/georgia-laws-of-life-honor-roll-giving-society>

Dec 2023 - Rotary club of Augusta's Exciting Month



On November 6 we were excited to welcome our illustrious DG Felix Smith. His presentation on the challenges of illiteracy and efforts to combat it was very inspirational. Many rave reviews from the members after the program!



Governor
Candace Spicer Christian
Assistant Governor
Taylor Keith Everett
Assistant Governor
William F. Franke III
Assistant Governor
Kingman P. Herin III
Assistant Governor
Charlene Hutchinson
Assistant Governor
Heather Klemm
Assistant Governor
Michael O'Neal
Assistant Governor
Jessica G. Pedigo
Assistant Governor
Jim Seifert
Assistant Governor
Abby W. Smith
Assistant Governor
Beverly J. Trainor
Assistant Governor
Pam Waters
Assistant Governor



On November 13 we celebrated our annual Veterans Day program. We enjoyed a rousing performance of patriotic and Americana music from a fabulous local high school singing group!

Blackshear Rotary Club Hosts Annual Veterans Day Breakfast

Blackshear Rotary Club partnered with our Main Street program to host the annual Veterans Day breakfast in our town's historic Train Depot. Club members were honored to be part of this event and grateful for the opportunity to show our appreciation for the veterans in our community.



Jekyll Rotary Club's Month was in Full Swing

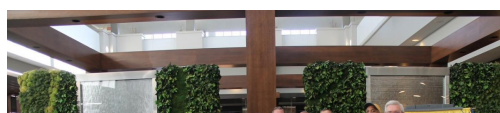
The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Maria Gamble from the Saved By Grace Glynn organization. Saved By Grace is a non-profit that serves Glynn County and surrounding counties whose services are available to those experiencing homelessness. They provide transitional housing and walk-in services to the homeless population, including housing applications, SNAP applications and job application services. They also provide basic essentials for those that sleep outdoors. Pictured are Rotarian Deborah Exum (from left), Gamble and Club President Joe Gore.



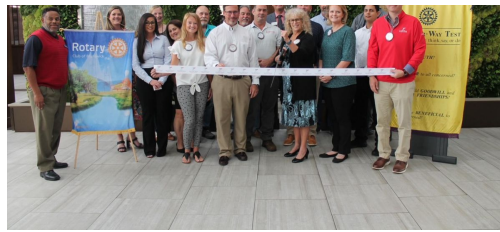
The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Mark Williams, the Executive Director of the Jekyll Island Authority. Prior to joining JIA, Mr. Williams held the role of Commissioner for the Department of Natural Resources. He explained several current projects and initiatives currently underway at JIA and their impact on the island. Pictured are Rotarian Glenn Cook from left, Williams and Club President Joe Gore.

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Rotary Club of Brunswick: A Month of Impact and Engagement



Rotary Club of Brunswick changed locations and held a ribbon cutting with the Chamber of Commerce to celebrate the new space!



Keeping our communities clean is a TOP priority. Rotary Club of Brunswick is proud to show support every chance they get, including afternoons spent on beautifying the roads.

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District Governor Felix Smith Visits Macon Rotary Club



The Macon Rotary Club had a wonderful visit from District Governor Felix Smith on November 13. See attached pictures from his meeting with our board and his recognition of a club member who received her Paul Harris Society Plus 1 pin while he was there.

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Dec 2023 - Macon North's 2023 Rotary Friendship Exchange

The first leg of the 2023 District 6920/4895 Rotary Friendship Exchange has been completed.

A Rotary Friendship Exchange can take a couple of years to plan and consists of a desire to explore a particular area and one district reaches out to another district for an exchange. In late October, George Peake (Perry), Jerry Thomas (Savannah South), Cindi Bauer (Brunswick), Stephen Feitshans (Perry) and Dana Park (Macon North) boarded a plane from Atlanta, GA to Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The five participants from 6920 were given an itinerary where landing in Buenos Aires was just the beginning of an adventure. They were immersed into the community and taken to what could be considered the suburbs, Escobar, Buenos Aires. The five Rotarians were taken to their host families, shown around town and later gathered for dinner sponsored by clubs in the area as well as tours and a red carpet treatment and met the four hosts from General Pinto for the rest of the trip.

Those four hosts and one other, we later met in the city, are the five exchange Rotarians that will be coming to District 6920 in April. After a few days in Escobar, the Exchange moved to the city of



city, are the five exchange Rotarians that will be coming to District 6920 in April. After a few days in Escondido, the Exchange moved to the city of Buenos Aires. In the city there were new accommodations and new Rotarians, Rotary meetings, tours of the city and new adventures and friends made that will last a lifetime. Learning the rich history and culture of Buenos Aires included trips to Tamiken - a bio park, down the Tigre River to Isla de Descanso, a day in Colonia del Sacramento, Uruguay, a Tango show, a tour of Teatro Colón, a visit with the Paul Harris Statue and so much more.

The hope is that you will have the opportunity to meet and possibly house one or two of the Exchange Team members from District 4895. The stories are abundant and the goodbyes became "see you soon".

Join the 2023 Rotary Friendship Exchange for the full story and to meet the visiting members of the Exchange Team at the Rotary District Conference in Jekyll.

[Read More](#)

McRae Rotary Club was visited by District 6920's Foundation Chair, Hamsa Thota



He spoke to the club about the good The Rotary Foundation is doing around the world! There are currently 1.2 million Rotarians. With access to the Foundation through District and Global Grants, they can come together for a common good when a need presents itself anywhere in the world! In the last 10 years, our district has supported 41 Global Grant projects in 14 countries! These grants have supported projects like providing clean water in Malawi, 2 sustainable water well projects in Bolivia, supporting reading and literacy in Haiti, and providing the gift of mobility in India with the donation of 500 hand-cranked tricycles. Not all Global Grants are for projects overseas. One impactful project is happening right here in Georgia.

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Milledgeville's Thanksgiving Dinner Project

Club members donated over \$1,600 to purchase the food. Over 68 volunteer hours were contributed by club members, and 20 hours from Interact Club members, as well as some from a few other family members who volunteered.

If each turkey was 12 lbs, then we moved over 900 lbs of turkey today and approximately 500 lbs of fixings!

75 families received Thanksgiving Dinner this year.

We think Fredrick's son Jeremiah said it best, "That was fun!"



Perry Rotary's Hustle and Bustle: A Busy Month



November is Rotary Foundation Month. Congratulations and thank you! We have achieved 100% of our members for POLIO PLUS SOCIETY and PAUL HARRIS FELLOW! Our contributions to the Foundation have been instrumental in initiating and sustaining transformational projects, fostering goodwill, and promoting peace throughout the world.



Great participation from Perry Rotarians, Perry Rotary Satellite club, staff from the Native Plant Society medical students from Trinity Medical School, and community volunteers,



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Rotary Club of Savannah East & West: A Vibrant Month in Review



In mid-August, several of our members assisted in providing a meal for 30 family members who were staying at the house at that time. Many additional RCSE members donated the food that was prepared. The Rotary Club of Savannah East participated in a Day of Service project, where RCSE members prepared a meal for families at our local Ronald McDonald House.

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St. Simons Rotary Club's Thriving Month of Engagement

St Simons Island Rotary Club recently welcomed Mohit Sadhwani, 2023-24 Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) student from the island of Monserrat, part of the Leeward islands in the Caribbean. Mohit presented features of his home and will be spending 1 year attending a variety of classes and living on campus at the College of Coastal Georgia.

Pictured, from left, Mohit Sadhwani, GRSP student from Monserrat; Janice Lamattina SSI Rotary club president; Claton Watson, SSI Rotarian and one of Mohit's host families.



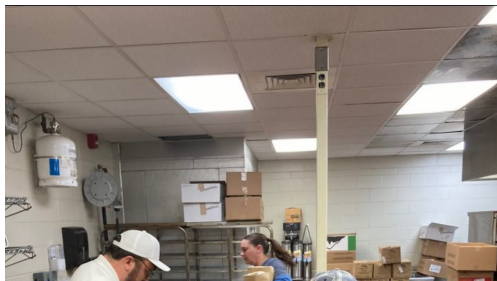


St. Simons Rotary Club recently hosted Ralph Staffins III, President and CEO Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce. Ralph presented an update on local Chamber activities and the annual fly-in to DC. A Chamber Foundation was begun recently to improve the community's Workforce Development: scholarships are available to middle schoolers, business leader mentors and teacher externships are set up and the chamber supports the focus to improve literacy rates in elementary school students. Also, the chamber helped secure funding to expand the College of Coastal Georgia's nursing program. Pictured from left, Donna Davis SSI Rotarian and Chair of Brunswick-GI Chamber Board with Ralph Staffins, President and CEO Brunswick-Golden Isles Chamber of Commerce.

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Savannah Metro Rotary Club Had A Dynamic Month

3 shifts of Metro Rotarians worked from 5am-12:00 on Nov. 15th at Senior Citizens Inc. to prepare meals for delivery in their



Meals on Wheels kitchen. Volunteers packed close to the 1,200 daily meals that are sent out. Metro Rotary is committed to doing this monthly in the new year!



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United Way and Savannah-Chatham schools join forces for Read United Buddies



From understanding “see Spot run” to exercising empathy, reading paves the way for a child’s success. However, it seems these benefits may be at risk. The Georgia Board of Education reported that only 56% of Chatham County second-graders read on their grade level.

To address this drop, the [Rotary Club of Savannah](#) has partnered with [Savannah-Chatham County Public Schools](#) and [United Way of the Greater Coastal Empire](#) to launch the **Read United Buddies** program. With the help of dedicated volunteers and a few good books, the organizations hope to inspire the next generation to take an active role in their community.

“The ability to comprehend [through reading] enables you to step in front and be a part of the conversation rather than sit back because you’re not sure what’s being said,” Rotary Club of Savannah President Eddie DeLoach said. “We want our kids to be able to feel confident enough in themselves and their abilities that they can step forward and say what needs to be said at the time and understand what they’re saying.”

Read more about this here: <https://www.savannahnow.com/story/news/education/2023/09/07/volunteers-needed-for-savannah-chathams-read-united-buddies-program/70757781007/>

Valdosta Rotary Club's Packed Month

In our recent meeting on 11/15 we did a joint service project with the Georgia Christian School’s interact Club! They led us in writing Cards to Veterans that were hand-delivered to the patients of the Veterans Hospital in Lake City.



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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO AND LINKS:

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DACdb: <http://www.dacdb.com>

District Website: www.rotarydistrict6920.org

District Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Rotary6920

Rotary International Website: www.rotary.org/en

Rotary International Foundation: www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation

My Rotary: my.rotary.org/en/

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