

Thursday, June  
26, 2025

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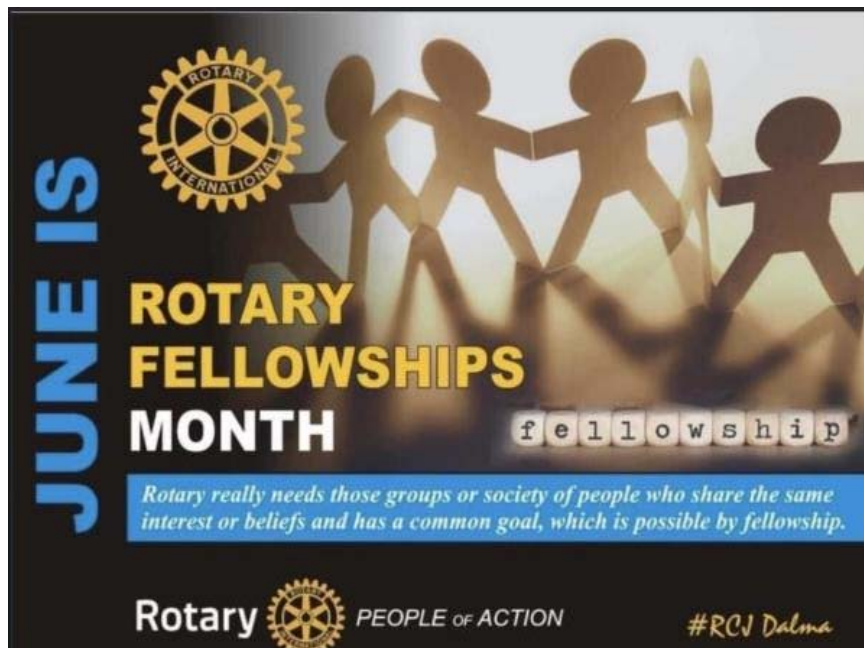
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## June is Rotary Fellowship Month



## A Year of Impact, a Year of Gratitude

As my term as District Governor comes to a close, my wife Penny and I find ourselves reflecting with deep gratitude on what has truly been a remarkable year for Rotary District 6920. Serving in this role has been one of the greatest honors of my life, and I am profoundly thankful for the opportunity to walk alongside you all in service, fellowship, and purpose.

From the very beginning, I was inspired by the strength and spirit of our individual clubs. Time and again, I've seen how one Rotary club—one group of passionate, committed individuals—can make a world of difference. Whether it's tackling local challenges or reaching across borders, your impact is real and lasting.

This year brought many milestones worth celebrating. Together, we launched four new clubs, including innovative E-Clubs and an Impact Club that are bringing new energy and fresh ideas into our district. We celebrated the formation of the Rotary Peacebuilders of Savannah, two Milledgeville Satellite Clubs, and a Rotaract Club sponsored by the Rotary Club of Metropolitan Savannah. These clubs are proof that Rotary continues to grow and evolve in meaningful ways.

Another significant accomplishment this year was bringing Rotary Youth Exchange across the finish line. Under the tireless leadership of Dana Park and Aaron Miller, we are proud to send our first outbound students to study abroad this coming school year



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in Spain and Brazil, while also preparing to welcome inbound students from Croatia and Brazil. This program will move forward into the future, in step with our tried and true partnership with the Georgia Rotary Student Program, led by the energetic and capable Katherlyne Fields. What a powerful reminder of the bridges Rotary builds between cultures and communities.

Our membership has held strong and even grown in some areas, thanks to the tireless efforts of Rotarians who understand that our strength lies in the invitation. A simple ask can unlock a lifetime of service.

Through the Rotary Foundation, our district has supported meaningful projects, including several disaster grants that helped our neighbors in the wake of natural disasters right here at home. When storms struck, you were there. When families needed support, you answered the call. You exemplified “Service Above Self” in the most tangible ways.

We also expanded our reach through Rotary Global Grants, including the launch of a new international partnership with Serbia—a powerful reminder that Rotary’s reach is truly global. And closer to home, we began an exciting and meaningful collaboration with the Georgia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Disabilities, working to confront the opioid crisis head-on. This is the kind of strategic partnership that can save lives and build healthier communities.

And who could forget Georgia United—our joint conference on Jekyll Island that brought all three Georgia districts together for a weekend of learning, laughter, and connection? What a joy it was to be surrounded by so many passionate Rotarians in one unforgettable setting. Thank you so much to Steve Acuff and Kelly Knitter for helping spearhead this amazing event.

Oh—and 2,500 trees! Yes, across the district, we planted and delivered over 2,500 trees. This started as an initiative of my predecessor, PDG Dr. Felix Smith. And what a legacy it leaves for future generations—rooted, quite literally, in service and sustainability.

As for specific thanks—there’s not enough room in this newsletter to name everyone. There are certainly far too many individuals to thank: the District Leadership Team, the District Area Governors, and especially the Club Presidents who dedicated a year of their lives to leading your individual clubs. And then there is each and every one of you. It has been my pleasure to get to know so many of you, and I appreciate and treasure each new friendship.

Special shoutout to the Public Image Team, led by Erin Andrews, which continued its tireless work bringing Rotary’s image into the forefront. Your creativity and consistency helped shine a light on all the good happening in our district.

Health challenges this year have unexpectedly kept me from being as active as I wanted to be, and I fear I had to turn down a few excellent invitations. But please know that every invitation I received was treasured, and I still hope to attend as many club events as possible going forward. Please—keep inviting me. Nothing brings me more joy than seeing your work up close and celebrating with you.

Now, as I pass the baton, know that my pride in this district runs deep. Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving as your District Governor. Your energy, compassion, and resilience have made this an unforgettable year. Rotary is in good hands—your hands.

With heartfelt gratitude,

Todd Freeseemann  
District Governor, 2024-2025  
Rotary District 6920

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# District News

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## Introducing the District Blog

Want to share your club or district news *before* the next newsletter hits inboxes?

We’re now posting regularly on the **District 6920 Website Blog**, giving you a faster way to spread the word!

Got exciting updates? Submit them anytime — and check out what’s new right here:

<https://www.rotarydistrict6920.org/news/>

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## Rotary Districts in Georgia Sign Historic Intercountry Committee Agreement with Serbia on Jekyll

Landmark partnership aims to promote

[Annual Scholastic Achievement Awards](#)

[0626-Jekyll Island Participates in Honor Flight](#)

[Rotary Club of Kings Bay Celebrates District Conference Achievements](#)

[Blackshear Rotary Club Wraps up Literacy Project](#)

[Blackshear Rotary Club Wraps up Literacy Project](#)

[Jekyll Island Rotary Club Celebrates Successful Year](#)

[Rotary Club of Jesup - Shine the Light Seminar](#)

[Rotary Club of Dublin recently recognized the 2025 Davis-Hilburn Scholarship winners](#)

[Camden County Hosts GRSP Weekend](#)

[Macon Rotary Has Successful Year At Conference](#)

[Jekyll Hosts Local Author](#)

[Jekyll Island Rotary Club Presents Paul Harris Fellow Plus 5 and Plus 6](#)

[Jekyll Hears from Rotarian Serving Mission in Ukraine](#)

[Golden Isles Rotary Celebrates Successful Spring](#)



peace, cultural exchange, and joint service projects across borders

(JEKYLL ISLAND, Ga.) In a landmark step toward promoting international goodwill and peace, Rotary District Governors from Georgia's Districts 6900, 6910, and 6920 signed an Intercountry Committee (ICC) agreement with Serbia during a special ceremony at the Rotary United District Conference on Jekyll Island.

This pivotal agreement connects Rotary clubs in Georgia with their counterparts in Serbia, forming a cross-cultural partnership aimed at enhancing cooperation, fostering dialogue, and launching joint service projects. The signing marks a significant milestone in Rotary's ongoing mission to build peace and understanding across borders.

District Governor Todd Freeseemann of District 6920, District Governor Gordon Owens of District 6900, and District Governor Bobby Hildreth of District 6910 led the initiative, alongside District Rotary Foundation Chair Hamsa Thota, Past District Governor and ICC Section Chair for D6920.

Thota is the first chair of the Georgia-Serbia ICC Section for 2025. The Georgia ICC Section has 43 members.

The Serbian delegation was led by District Governor Vlada Mijatovic of District 2483 and ICC National Coordinator Marko Mitrasinovic. Also representing Serbia were Past District Governor Vladimir Matic, Section Chair for D2483, and Janice Davis and Bob Hagan, Section Chairs for D6910 and D6900, respectively.

"Rotary has always been about 'Service Above Self,' and this ICC agreement is a testament to our shared dedication to creating lasting, positive change worldwide," said Freeseemann. "By working together, we can bridge divides and build a future grounded in mutual respect and cooperation."

Intercountry Committees (ICCs) are one of Rotary International's most impactful tools for international collaboration. First established in 1950 by French and German Rotarians to heal post-war wounds, ICCs have since expanded globally, especially across Eastern and Central Europe after the fall of communism. These committees promote peace by strengthening relationships between nations through service, cultural exchange, and dialogue.

The Georgia-Serbia ICC agreement builds upon this legacy and creates new opportunities for projects addressing global issues such as poverty, health disparities, education, and youth engagement. Upcoming programs include youth exchange opportunities, community service initiatives, and cross-cultural leadership development.

"In 1946, Georgia Rotarians came together to support peace through education via GRSP," said Thota. "Today, we continue that legacy by forming this powerful partnership with our friends in Serbia."

The agreement was also signed by Rotary ICC Chair Nathalie Huyghebaert of Belgium, who oversees ICC operations internationally, and Claudine Schooley, ICC National Coordinator, USA.

Rotary International's broader network also supported the collaboration, which is expected to serve as a model for future intercountry partnerships.

About Rotary International:

Rotary International is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who unite to take action and create lasting change — across the globe, in communities, and in ourselves. Rotary's mission includes promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, supporting education, and growing local economies.

PHOTO: LEFT TO RIGHT: Vlada Matic, Marko Mitrasinovic, Hamsa Thota, Gordon Owens, Vlada Mijatovic (speaker), Todd Freeseemann, Bobby Hildreth, Bob Hagan, and Janice Davis

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**GRSP Presents Inaugural Lynn Clarke Leadership Award**



[Rotary Club of Jesup Hosts Shine The Light Seminar](#)

[0626-Jekyll Hosts New Member Talks](#)

[Jekyll Island Rotary Club Welcomes New Member](#)

[Jekyll Island Dives Into Baseball History](#)

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[2024-2025 Leadership Team](#)

[Todd A. Freesemann](#)  
District Governor

[Terry Adkins](#)  
District Governor Elect

[Beverly Trainor](#)  
District Governor Nominee

[Felix M Smith](#)  
iPast District Governor

[Fel Lee](#)  
Zone 33/34 District RLI Chair

[Paula K. Goodnow](#)  
District Communications Officer

[Hamsa Thota](#)  
District Foundation Chair

[Steve Williams](#)  
District Membership Chair

[Erin Andrews](#)  
District Public Image Chair

[Elizabeth Hardin](#)  
District

Georgia Rotary Student Program District 6910 Director James McCoy presented the inaugural Lynn Clarke GRSP Women in Leadership Award to Atche Bilyal at the Rotary Club of Hall County on April 22.

Atche was also named a Top 5 finalist for the International Youth Representative for the Europe, Mediterranean, and Arab States Region of The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Foundation and founded the only International Rotaract Club in the 1610 District, Rotaract Club of Tilburg International, which turned out to be a great success with the support of Rotary District 1610 Zuid-West of Netherlands.

Atache exemplifies Service Above Self, one willing to give back with her time and talents, as evident by recently helping organize area Rotarians and participating in the Women Build 2025 with Habitat for Humanity. Equally impressive was her immediate desire to connect and assist family businesses in North Georgia, winning Brenau University's Annual Speech Competition followed by your research journey that you presented at the National Conference on Undergraduate Research in Pittsburgh earlier this month.

We were very impressed with her desire to learn, network and experience American culture from Rotarians as well as her fellow GRSP classmates. It is our honor to recognize Atche as the 2024-2025 recipient of the Lynn Clarke Women in Leadership Award, named for advancing "World Peace through Understanding," exhibiting extraordinary leadership and serving an international ambassador for Bulgaria, for GRSP, Brenau University as well as the Rotary Clubs of Gainesville, Hall County and White County.

Lynn has been a member of the Rotary Club of Bremen since 1997 and served Georgia Rotary Student Program for more than 20 years as a former District 6900 Chair, Trustee and host family. She is a graduate of the Woodrow Wilson College of Law and licensed attorney in Georgia for the past 50 years, specializing in estate and business planning. Lynn's named scholarship is the result of a \$100,000 anonymous donation made in 2017 to GRSP in Lynn's honor.



## Georgia Laws of Life Launches “Honor Roll Society” and Publishes 2024–2025 Essay Collection

The Georgia Rotary Clubs Law of Life Essay Contest is proud to announce two exciting updates this spring: the launch of the second annual Honor Roll Society and the release of the 2024–2025 Georgia Laws of Life Essay Collection e-booklet.

Join the Honor Roll Society

In celebration of Teacher Appreciation Week, and continuing all month long, we invite you to say thank you in a meaningful way.

The Honor Roll Society celebrates teachers who shape our stories by recognizing teachers, coaches, mentors, and role models who've helped shape the character of and lives of Georgia's students and leaders.

For every \$25 donation made in the month of May, you can nominate someone who made a difference in your life. Honorees will be recognized on our website and social media, and each gift will directly support character education efforts in Georgia high schools.

Whether it was a teacher who helped you find your voice, a coach who taught you perseverance, or a mentor who modeled integrity—this is your chance to say thank you with a lasting gift.

“Every great leader started with a great teacher.”

Make your nomination and donation on our website at [www.georgialawsoflife.org](http://www.georgialawsoflife.org).  
2024–2025 Essay Collection E-Booklet Now Available

We're also thrilled to announce the publication of this year's Essay Collection e-booklet, featuring the full essays of our State Winners, a list of School Winners, program highlights, impact statistics, and recognition of our valued Rotary partners and supporters.

With over 30,000 students from 65+ schools participating this year, the contest continues to amplify student voices and promote the values of ethics, empathy, and resilience that align so deeply with Rotary's mission.

The essay booklet is available to view or download from the homepage on our website at [www.georgialawsoflife.org](http://www.georgialawsoflife.org).

We invite all to help us celebrate these milestones and share with family and friends. Together, we are making a lasting impact - one essay, one student, and one life lesson at a time.

## Georgia Rotary Student Program Announces Inaugural Toccoa Falls Student

Sara Hijazeen of Jordan has been named the inaugural Georgia Rotary Student Program scholarship recipient for Toccoa Falls College for the Class of 2025-26. Rotary Club of Toccoa President and GRSP Trustee Elect Leon Womack, who assisted with the interview process, made the announcement to his club during their meeting on campus Tuesday. Sara is an impressive student

Treasurer

Amy Heil Maley  
District Co-Treasurer  
District Learning Facilitator

Lisa Birch  
District Learning Facilitator

Anne M. Cordeiro  
District Simplified Grants Chair

Heather Klemm  
District Awards Chair

Brian M. Weese  
RYLA Chair

Joe Leek  
District Webmaster

Shrad Amrit  
District Polio Plus Sub-Committee Chair

Elizabeth Hardin  
District International Service Chair  
Paul Harris Society Coordinator

Maria Jennings  
District Membership Attraction Chair

Stephen D. Acuff  
District Conference Chair

Pryce May  
District Rotaract Chair

Jan Hordan  
District Interact Chair

Dana Park  
District Youth Exchange Chair

Maj. William Phelps  
District Youth Protection Chair

William Von Alt  
District Youth Chair

who is majoring in global engagement with a passion for art education. She is conversational, appreciative and honored to represent Georgia Rotary Student Program, Rotary Club of Toccoa and Toccoa Falls College for the upcoming academic year. She is a “raving fan” of Chick-fil-A, tied to royalty in Jordan and quick to talk about camels. While GRSP has sponsored five students from Jordan, Sara is the first in 50 years.

State Representative for House District 32 Chris Erwin addressed the Rotary Club of Toccoa this week and welcomed Sara along with President Elect Jason Tanner and President Leon Womack. Their club has co-sponsored 46 students since 1961, primarily sending students to the University of Georgia or Piedmont University. Sara is the first student to represent Toccoa Falls College, a Christian College established in 1907 in the foothills of North Georgia. Their club meets at Toccoa Falls College, which will make for a fabulous partnership for all parties.

Since 1946, Rotarians in Georgia have promoted world peace through understanding by offering one-year ambassadorial scholarships to international students to Georgia colleges and universities. The students benefit from a local Rotarian host as well as Trustee and living on or near campus at the school they attend. GRSP has more 3,856 alumni from more than 113 countries. Each year, 40 or more students from all over the world make friends in Georgia while learning about different cultures, customs and lifestyles.

## District 6920 Shines in CART Giving!

A big **congratulations** to the dedicated Rotarians of District 6920 for your incredible generosity during the 2024-2025 Rotary year!

**Total CART Contributions:**  
**\$69,000.08** raised to support Alzheimer’s research — an outstanding effort across the district!

**Top Club Contributions:**  
**Macon Rotary Club** led the way with an impressive **\$8,934.04** in total giving.

**Highest Per Capita Giving:**  
**Camden County Rotary Club** takes top honors with a remarkable **\$154.95 per member**.

**District Conference Giving:**  
An additional **\$807.00** was contributed during our 2025 District Conference!

Thank you to every Rotarian who dropped a coin, wrote a check, or inspired others to give. Together, we are making a difference in the fight against Alzheimer’s.

## Camden County and Valdosta North Rotary Clubs Recognized with Prestigious EPIC Award

The Rotary Club of Camden County and the Valdosta North Rotary Club have been honored with the distinguished EPIC (Excellence in Public Image Coordination) Award from Rotary Zones 33/34. These two clubs were the only ones in District 6920 to receive the recognition for the 2024-2025 Rotary year.

The EPIC Award highlights clubs that demonstrate exceptional efforts in enhancing Rotary’s public image through strategic communication, community engagement, and consistent branding. It celebrates those who effectively tell the Rotary story and connect their local service with the global mission of Rotary International.

The **Rotary Club of Camden County** received the **Silver EPIC Award**, recognizing their outstanding commitment to sharing their club’s impact and service through dynamic storytelling and creative outreach.

The **Valdosta North Rotary Club** earned the **Bronze EPIC Award**, honoring their strong and thoughtful efforts to elevate Rotary’s presence in their community through social media, public relations, and visual branding.

These recognitions place both clubs among the top public image leaders in Zones 33/34, setting an inspiring example for others across the district and beyond.

# Important Information

## Rotary Leadership Institute Opportunity

Rotarians from Districts 6900 and 6920 are invited to attend the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) on **Saturday, August 9**, at **Wiregrass Georgia Technical College** in Valdosta. This one-day training event will run from **8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**, with breakfast and sign-in beginning at **7:00 a.m.**

**Glenda Kessler**  
District CART  
Chair

**Rob Kellener**  
District GRSP  
Chair

**2024-2025  
AREA  
GOVERNORS**

**Kelly Knitter**  
Augusta-West

**Jim Seifert**  
Blackshear

**Steve Bell**  
Downtown  
Macon

**Ashlee Torpy**  
Dublin

**Abby Smith**  
Effingham  
County

**Pam Waters**  
Glennville

**Jessica Pedigo**  
Metropolitan  
Savannah

**Shana Brinson**  
Millen

**Michael O'Neal**  
Savannah West

**Beverly Trainor**  
St. Simons  
Island

**Taylor Everett**  
Tennille

**Bonnie Sayles**  
Tifton

**Danny Broyles**  
Valdosta-North

**Kingman Herin**  
Vidalia

**Dave Razo**  
Warner Robins

Hosted by the RLI Sunshine Division, this leadership development program is designed to equip Rotarians with the knowledge and tools to become stronger leaders within their clubs and communities. Attendees will benefit from engaging discussions with Rotarians from across multiple clubs and will enjoy a full day of interactive learning and fellowship.

The registration fee is **\$100 per person** and includes course materials, a certificate of completion, breakfast, lunch, and facility fees. Three course levels are offered:

- **Part 1 – The Rotarian**
- **Part 2 – The Rotary Club**
- **Part 3 – The Rotary Journey**

Topics explored during the day include Planning for Success, Rotary Opportunities, Leading Volunteers, Foundation Basics, Public Image, Effective Leadership Strategies, Service Projects, Grants, and the History of Rotary.

**Space is limited**, and registration closes **Saturday, August 2**, so early registration is encouraged.

## How to Register:

Choose one of the following options:

### Option 1:

- Visit [www.RLIsunshine.org](http://www.RLIsunshine.org)
- Click on **Course Information**, then **Course Schedule**
- Scroll to **August 9** and click **More Info**, then follow prompts to register

### Option 2:

- Log into DACdb
- Click on the **My CLUB** tab and select **Calendar & Events**
- Scroll to **August 9**, click **Register NOW**, and follow the instructions

For questions or help registering, contact:

**Tracy Van Norman**, District 6900 RLI Director at [Tracy.Vannorman@gmail.com](mailto:Tracy.Vannorman@gmail.com)

**Fel Lee**, District 6920 RLI Director at [FelLeeD6920@gmail.com](mailto:FelLeeD6920@gmail.com)

Don't miss this opportunity to grow as a leader and strengthen your Rotary journey!

## GRSP Conclave Slated for August in Athens

Rotarians and guests are invited to Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2025-26 in Athens August 15-17. Conclave is hosted this year by District 6910 and under the direction of the Rotary Club of Athens, Rotary Club of Oconee County and The Classic City of Athens Rotary Club.

Conclave is the kickoff event for GRSP and allows the international college scholarship students to interact with one another as well as Georgia Rotarians. Students, trustees, officers, host families and friends of the program will participate in important informational sessions beginning at 12:30 p.m. on Friday at the University of Georgia Center for Continuing Education & Hotel and throughout the day on Saturday.

District Governor Elect Jessica Fleetwood, Rotary Club of Etowah Cartersville, will open the session Friday with an introduction to Rotary International. Dr. Anna Wester Stahl Stenport, Dean and UGA Foundation Professor of Arts and Sciences, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, will be the keynote speaker for the scholars on Saturday. A native of Sweden, Stenport spent her first year of college as a GRSP scholar at UGA, sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Peachtree Corners and Canton in 1993-94.

A special welcome dinner for registered Rotarians and guests will be held 6-9 p.m. for \$58 per person for a Tuscan Buffet. Students will provide a short introduction along with naming their trustee as well as their sponsoring Rotary club or clubs. Saturday evening attendees, business/smart attire, will enjoy a dinner and program at Mahler Hall for the "GRSP Cabaret," the popular variety-style performance and parade of flags, which is scheduled from 6:15-9:15 p.m. The dinner will be \$63 per person for a Travelers Buffet.

Saturday concludes with a social for the students and a separate mixer for Rotarians, including a cash-bar option from 9:15-10:30 p.m. On Sunday morning, the students will experience the Ultimate Football Experience, getting a glimpse of Sanford Stadium and the West End Zone Facility, including historic displays before leaving at 11 a.m. to return to their respective colleges and universities or their club host family.

The UGA Center for Continuing Education & Hotel, 1197 S Lumpkin St, Athens, GA 30602, has a block of rooms set aside for Conclave participants who will need lodging with a July 2 deadline to reserve the special GRSP limited-availability rate. Registration for the hotel is a separate link than the registration link for meals at Conclave. A special thanks to the Athens-area Rotarians who will serve as weekend hosts for our students.

GRSP scholars are pre-registered for the event and meals. Rotarians and guests may register for Friday and/or Saturday dinners



through the registration information below as well.

Registration is now open for Conclave, please visit the GRSP website at [www.grsp.org](http://www.grsp.org).

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## EXPERIENCE THE WORLD WITH ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE

### Rotary Youth Exchange: A Life-Changing Opportunity for Students and Families

High school students ages **15 to 18** are invited to **experience the world** through **Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE)** — a unique, study abroad opportunity offered through Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast.

Each year, students embark on a journey that allows them to **immerse themselves in a new culture**, become **global ambassadors**, and build valuable skills for their future. The program fosters leadership, independence, and cross-cultural understanding — all while strengthening students' college applications and career prospects.

#### Benefits for Students:

- Become a global ambassador
- Immerse yourself in a new culture
- Gain leadership skills, confidence, and independence
- Strengthen college and career opportunities
- Explore the world!

But the experience isn't just for students — **host families and schools** also play a vital role. By opening their homes and hearts, hosts help shape a young leader's journey while building international friendships and promoting peace and understanding.

#### Benefits for Host Families & Schools:

- Make a meaningful difference
- Share your culture and community
- Help shape a future global leader
- Promote peace and global awareness
- Create a more connected and peaceful world

**Applications for the 2026–2027 exchange year open August 1st**, so now is the time to explore this incredible adventure!

Visit [www.RYESE.org](http://www.RYESE.org) for more information and to get started.

**Join the adventure — the world is waiting!**

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## Club News

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### Rotary Club of Brunswick Celebrates 100 Years

With thanks to the Rotary Club of Savannah from 1921, who helped charter our club, the Rotary Club of Brunswick, members celebrated their 104th Anniversary Founding Date on May 1, 2025. Our 104 delicious six-layer caramel cake is from Brunswick's own Sugarbaker's Bakery displayed with our club's recent GOLD award from 2025 All-clubs Conference.





## Jekyll Island Hears from Newest Club Member



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted L.C. (Buster) Evans, who is not only the newest Rotary Club member but is on the Jekyll Island Authority Board of Directors and is the Executive Director for the State of Georgia's Teachers Retirement System. Dr. Evans detailed his extensive background in education and educational supervision. Pictured are Evans on left and Club President Alan Price.

## Valdosta North Rotary Hosts Senior Prom Fit for Royalty

The Valdosta North Rotary Club recently brought the joy of prom night to the residents of *The Canopy at Azalea Grove*, hosting a heartwarming **Senior Citizen Prom** that had everyone smiling, dancing, and reminiscing.

The evening featured delicious hors d'oeuvres, a fun-filled photo booth, and professional prom portraits to capture the magic of the night. Residents were treated like royalty — literally — with a Prom King and Queen crowned to the delight of all.

A special thank you goes to **Pearls and Lace The Bridal Place** for generously donating beautiful dresses, allowing residents to get all dressed up and feel their best for the occasion.

The event was a celebration of joy, dignity, and community — proving you're never too old to dance the night away.



## Jekyll Rotary Club Visits with Director and Actor

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted actor Shawn Holiday and director/producer Tommy Glover. They were the subject and producer for the mini-series titled "Walk with me". It is based on the true story of Shawn Holiday, who spent 15 years behind bars for a crime he did not commit. Pictured are Holiday





second from left, Rotarian Ernest Gilbert, Glover and Club President Alan Price.

## First Annual Vidalia Onion Festival Golf Classic Hosted by Vidalia Rotary

The First Annual Vidalia Onion Festival Golf Classic hosted by the Rotary Club of Vidalia was a success! Thanks to all our teams who came out to play for a good cause!

Congratulations to our winners! First Place Team Woodruff, Second Place Team TQ Construction and Third Place Team One World Solar! Also, Garrett Curtin won Closest to the pin and Sloan Fountain won Longest Drive.

It was a great day to kick off the Vidalia Onion Festival! All proceeds went to scholarships and local projects.



## Jekyll Island Supports Pier Road Grand Opening Celebration



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club was recently involved in the Jekyll Island Authority's Pier Road Grand Opening Celebration. The stores have been completely refurbished with new owners, new merchandise and services as well as expanded hours. The Rotary Club showcased their tent with both past and current community focused initiatives as well as Rotary's core missions and beliefs. Pictured are Club President Alan Price from left, Marlee Price, Jekyll resident Rita Thompson and Rotarians Charles Collins and Bill Hill.

## Rotary Club of Augusta Receives Awards at District Conference

We received expected and unexpected awards:

Club Gold Award – Todd Freesemann – SG 2024-25, Surendra Gupta, President 2024-2025

Club of the Year Reward – Extra Large Club

Rookie of the Year Award to Dat Hoang

GRSP Student Award – Daniel Lopez

Horatio "Cabby" Cabrasers Vocational Excellence Award – Brittany Burnett

Our Club Speech Contest 2<sup>nd</sup> Winner and the Rotary Northern Zone Champion 1st Winner Award - Coralyn Cairnes

T R Reddy won an auctioned item (Tie and Scarf) for \$1100, which was donated to the End of Polio Fund.

## Jekyll Island Volunteers at Manna House

Members of the Rotary Club of Jekyll Island recently volunteered at Manna House in Brunswick, preparing over 300 bag lunches and serving more than 600 cups of tea and water to those in need. Manna House, a local nonprofit, serves meals 365 days a year—over 100,000 annually—to support the area's indigent population.

Pictured from left: Glenn Cook, Wendy Cook, Joe Gore, Burt Cramer, and Randy Gardner.



## Rotary Club of Augusta's Interact Students Host Service Project

Three dedicated Interact students from Richmond Academy volunteered their time at GAP Ministries' annual Thanksgiving lunch, where 124 meals were served to those in need. The students shared that they truly enjoyed the experience and were grateful for the opportunity to give back to the community during the holiday season.

## GRSP Alumnae Zoe Bremner visits Valdosta North

Zoe Bremner, GRSP Class of 2019-20, of the United Kingdom returned to Valdosta North Rotary Club in mid May with a life update and a reflection on the impact GRSP has had on her. After her year at Valdosta State University, Zoe returned home to Scotland where she began her studies at the University of St. Andrews.

Last year, she applied for a £15,000 scholarship offered by the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, the oldest golf club in the world, founded in 1754. While the R&A typically funds STEM projects, they elected to fund her project taking music to areas around the world that may not have exposure to music and/or instruments. Her project Brass across Borders has allowed her to work with disadvantaged youth and share music education in Rwanda, Uganda, Australia, New Zealand, Mexico and the United States. She will be return St. Andrews to finish her degree next year.



## Augusta Participates in District Grant

Seven volunteers packed 417 sacks for the backpack program at Golden Harvest Food Bank, Augusta on January 24, 2025. We know that every day, many of our kids are experiencing food insecurity. We've got





\$2500 dollars that we've received from District 6920 to support this program to make sure that no kid goes hungry, here, in our community.



### Jekyll Island Rotary Club Visits with Established Steps

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Chris Hunt, Executive Leadership Coach at Established Steps. They envision a world where leaders unlock their full potential to drive transformational impact within their organization and beyond. Their objective is to serve executives by dismantling barriers to success and facilitating their journey towards unrivaled achievement. Pictured are Hunt on left and Club President Alan Price.



### Millen Rotary Club Hosts Annual Scholastic Achievement Awards

The Millen Rotary Club recently hosted its annual luncheon and Rotary Scholastic Achievement Awards program for eligible 7th-12th grade students in the Jenkins County School System. President Brian Nunnally made the presentation of certificates and congratulated students on their achievement. Twelfth grade recipients, including 6-year recipients, are shown.





## Jekyll Island Participates in Honor Flight

Jekyll Island Rotarians Glenn Cook, Ron Dickerson, Alan Price, Thorny Parker, and Ernest Gilbert (left to right) recently participated in the Coastal Georgia Honor Flight to Washington, D.C., honoring America's veterans and ensuring their service and sacrifice are never forgotten.



## Rotary Club of Kings Bay Celebrates District Conference Achievements

The Rotary Club of Kings Bay received the Gold Award at District Conference

The Rotary Club of Kings Bay came in 3rd place for per capita giving to the Rotary Foundation



## Blackshear Rotary Club Wraps up Literacy Project

Blackshear Rotary Club recently donated a copy of "I Like Me" to every first grade student in the Pierce County School System. The book is a personalized story for each student. The book distribution is one of our Club's annual projects to promote literacy and support students in the community.

The following donors helped make this project possible: [Foundation for Excellence in Education- Pierce](#), Dan Bennett, Riverbend and Thom's Transport. Thank you for your support!

A shout out to our Club's corporate members whose contributions also help make this



annual project a success: [Compass360 Realty Inc.](#) and Pierce County School System.



## Jekyll Island Rotary Club Celebrates Successful Year

It's been a remarkable year for the Jekyll Island Rotary Club, marked by impactful projects, community engagement, and club growth. Here are a few highlights:

### 1. Lost Buildings Memorial Brick Walkway Dedication

In November, we celebrated the official ribbon cutting of our *Lost Buildings Memorial Brick Walkway*. Mark Williams, Executive Director of the Jekyll Island Authority, delivered inspiring opening remarks. The event received great coverage in *The Brunswick News*. To date, nearly 100 commemorative bricks have been sold. We'll soon be ordering and installing 29 additional bricks to honor the founding members of the Jekyll Island Rotary Club — a tradition 40+ years in the making.

### 2. Supporting Local Students Through Education and Essentials

Last fall, we continued our annual support of Burroughs Molette Elementary School by providing backpacks for back-to-school and winter coats as colder weather arrived. We also led a six-week STEM program for 4th and 5th graders, covering topics such as tides, marine life, gravity, and practical math.





The sessions were well-attended and filled with curiosity, learning, and fun.

### 3. Membership Growth and Community Literacy

Our club has grown to 46 active members, plus 2 honorary members — up from 40 the previous year. Among our featured speakers and supported causes is *Great Books for Kids*, founded by Jen Tacbas, which continues to inspire a love of reading in young learners.

### 4. Ongoing Support for Coastal Medical Clinic

We remain committed to supporting the Coastal Medical Clinic, a vital service for individuals without access to traditional healthcare. This ongoing partnership is part of a joint initiative with MAP International, helping extend care to those who need it most.

Thank you to every member and partner who made this year so impactful — here's to continued service above self!

[Read More](#)

## Rotary Club of Jesup - Shine the Light Seminar



On Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup>, 2025, Rotary Club of Jesup hosted our 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of Shine the Light on Human Trafficking seminar. It was a profoundly powerful and impactful event. We had an informative panel of speakers such as Christ Hunt, (President of The Lily & The Sparrow), Shelby Anderson (Executive Director of Boys & Girls Club Altamaha), Michael Morrison, (Retired US Navy), Christy Leigh (Author & Survivor), and Kristina DeLeGal (Executive Director of Family Connections). We appreciate the contributions of our speakers, partners, Wayne County High School, and the Rotary Club of Jesup Board of Directors.

Partners for this event: Anchored in Wellness, Anchored in Wellness Junior Board, Boys & Girls Club, Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center, The Lily & The Sparrow, and Rotary Club of Jesup.



## Rotary Club of Dublin recently recognized the 2025 Davis-Hilburn Scholarship winners

The Rotary Club of Dublin recently recognized the 2025 Davis-Hilburn Scholarship winners:

District 6920 Winner - Peyton Michael Lee

Local Winner – Ava Bell Craft

The Davis-Hilburn Memorial fund was established to memorize the lives of Jeff Davis and Jim Hilburn,

who served as presidents of the Dublin Rotary Club. Scholarships are awarded to deserving students who are planning to advance their education at the college level with a desire to become future leaders in their communities.

Pictured is Meg Evans, Youth Recognition and Scholarships Chair, President Ryan Waldrep, Peyton Lee, and Ava Craft.



## Camden County Hosts GRSP Weekend

It was Camden County's turn to host students during GRSP weekend in April. Our club was thrilled to welcome students from around the globe for a few days of fellowship, cultural exchange, and Rotary connection.

We kicked things off Friday morning with a club breakfast, where each student shared insights about their home country, their GRSP experiences so far, and how the program has shaped their view of Georgia, and Rotary. From there, the weekend unfolded with a full itinerary of activities, hospitality from local Rotarians and families, and plenty of laughter and learning along the way.

Thank you to our fellow District 6920 clubs for continuing to support GRSP and the incredible students who remind us why this program is so meaningful. We're already looking forward to future weekends together.

## Macon Rotary Has Successful Year At Conference



### Rotarian of the Year

Congratulations to Dana Park, who was honored as *Rotarian of the Year* at the 2025 District Conference! Dana's dedication and passion for service exemplify the very best of Rotary.

### GRSP Send-Off

Macon North Rotary recently hosted a heartfelt send-off for GRSP student João Vilela. João has been a vibrant part of the Rotary family this year, and we wish him continued success as he begins his next chapter.

### Will Watt Fellow Recognition

Congratulations to Tera Edwards, who was awarded the prestigious *Will Watt Fellow* by incoming District Governor Terry Adkins for her outstanding support of the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP).

These moments remind us of the power of connection, service, and the impact Rotarians make every day!



## Jekyll Hosts Local Author

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted author and local resident Mason "Sly" Parker. Mr. Parker



shared with the club a brief synopsis of 14 of his published works along with his motivations and mindsets behind each. His writing that spans multiple genres proved to be quite engaging. Pictured are Rotarian Thornwell Parker, Sly and Club President Alan Price.



## Jekyll Island Rotary Club Presents Paul Harris Fellow Plus 5 and Plus 6



Charles Collins, the Foundation Chair for the Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently presented Paul Harris Fellow plus 5 and plus 6 pins to Dr. Bill Hill. Plus pins are awarded to members who achieve incremental levels of monetary giving to the Rotary Foundation, an international effort to achieve world understanding and peace. Pictured are Collins on left and Dr. Hill.

## Jekyll Hears from Rotarian Serving Mission in Ukraine

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted author and fellow Rotarian Susan Middleton. She told the club about her missions to the Ukraine beginning in 2019, prior to the current war. Her connection with one family from Kiev and their subsequent relocation to another town as well as the family's efforts to raise their daughter safely was highly engaging. Pictured are Middleton on the left and club President Alan Price.



## Golden Isles Rotary Celebrates Successful Spring

The Golden Isles Rotary Club recently welcomed two inspiring guest speakers, each sharing powerful stories of service on both local and international levels.

### Great Books for Kids

Jennifer Tacbas, founder of *Great Books for Kids*, shared her mission to promote literacy by providing a carefully selected book each school month to every 4th and 5th grader in Camden and Glynn Counties. The organization—run by Jennifer and her daughter—focuses on distributing books that





are engaging, age-appropriate, and free of political or social agendas.

*Pictured: Rotarian Bruce Dixon, Jennifer Tacbas, and Club President Marjorie Mathieu.*

#### **Global Rotary Impact**

The club also hosted St. Simons Rotary Club member and District International Grants Coordinator, Hamsa Thota. He provided an insightful update on the District's international

efforts, including:

- Progress in Rotary's *Polio Eradication* campaign
- Prenatal care initiatives in Guatemala and upcoming projects in Panama
- Hydroponic agriculture training in Guatemala
- A peacebuilding robotics program in Serbia

*Pictured: Golden Isles President-Elect Jenn Agnew and Hamsa Thota.*

From promoting literacy at home to improving lives across the globe, the Golden Isles Rotary Club continues to live out Rotary's motto: *Service Above Self*.



## **Rotary Club of Jesup Hosts Shine The Light Seminar**

Rotary Club of Jesup hosts their second edition of "Shine the Light on Human Trafficking" seminar on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at their local Wayne County High School. Shine The Light on Human Trafficking is a FREE seminar to educate our community about Child Trafficking in our State and local community. This seminar is open to the public, students and parents to attend. We will feature guest speakers, including a trafficking survivor and investigators, along with a dedicated Question & Answer session. This event was a tremendous success, featuring inspiring educational speakers and powerful survivor stories.

The Rotary Club of Jesup collaborated with various local organizations, including Anchored in Wellness, the Anchored in Wellness Junior Board, The Lily & The Sparrow, the Boys & Girls Club of the Altamaha Area, and the Safe Harbor Children's Advocacy Center. Guest speakers were Chris Hunt, President of The Lily & The Sparrow, Kristina De Le Gal, Executive Director of Wayne County Family Connection, Michael Morrison, a former US Navy, and Christy Leigh, Author of "I AM HER: A True Story by Christy Leigh" and survivor of trafficking, and Shelby Anderson, survivor of grooming. Their 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of Shine the Light will take place this Fall 2025.

## **Jekyll Hosts New Member Talks**

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently listened to Joe Coryea as he presented his "New Member Talk". All new members of the club have the opportunity to tell the club of their family, education and career accomplishments. It's a great way to get to know our fellow Rotarians. Pictured are Rotarian Jerry Ezell,

Coryea and Club President Alan Price.



## Jekyll Island Rotary Club Welcomes New Member



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club is proud to welcome its newest member, **Buster Evens**, to the Rotary family!

Buster was officially inducted at a recent club meeting and is already showing enthusiasm for service and fellowship.

*Pictured: Club President Alan Price (left) with Buster Evens.*

We're excited to have Buster on board and look forward to the impact he'll make in our club and community!

## Jekyll Island Dives Into Baseball History

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted local author David Sweat. His recently published book "Brunswick's Golden Era of Minor League Baseball" details the early years of baseball in southern and coastal Georgia. Pictured are Sweat from left, Club President Alan Price and Rotarian Dr. Bill Hill.

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**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)

