

Rotary



Club of Gilmer County

Club Meeting

Rotary Club of Gilmer County meets on the Second and Fourth Mondays at Harrison Hall.
180 North Dalton St.
Ellijay, GA 30540
Time: Noon

Events

June 10th
Gilmer County Club Meeting

June 24th
Gilmer County Annual Meeting with Installation of Officers for the new Rotary year

July 1st
Gilmer County Club Board Meeting

July 8th
Gilmer County Club Meeting

July 22nd
Gilmer County Club Meeting

Club Leaders



Karla Roper
President



Jason C
Payne
President-Elect



Marvin
Chance
Secretary
Laws of
Life
Contest
Chair



Jerry D
Johnson
Past
President
Club
Executive
Secretary
Vice
President



Charles
Pults
Treasurer



Penelope
Oldfield
Marshall
Rotary
Foundation
Chair
Training
Officer

Email: GilmerRotary@gmail.com; Website: www.GilmerRotary.com

Meeting Agenda - Monday, June 10, 2024, Noon

Call to Order and Welcome	President Karla Roper
Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance	Club
Lunch	
Introduction of Guests and Visiting Rotarians	Secretary Marvin Chance
Announcements and Business	Election of Officers
Sergeant-At-Arms	Gabe Harrison
Program	
Dismissal	The Four Way Test

Jessica Wells, CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of North Georgia, Update

Monday, May 13, 2024



Jessica Wells, CEO of Boys and Girls Clubs of North Georgia, was our guest speaker at our May 13 meeting. Jessica brought Rotarians up-to-date on how the Gilmer "Three Rivers" club is functioning in its new facilities on Progress Road, and about plans for expansion in the future. You can find more information about activities and plans at their [website](#) or their [Facebook page](#).

Stellar Role of Rotary in Empowering "New Generations" through Youth Services



Robin E
Massaro
Club
Service
Chair
Family of
Rotary



Gabriel R
Harrison
Sergeant-
at-Arms



Barry A
Lee
Past
President
Club Admin
Chair



Jared
Arrant
Community
Service
Chair



Scott C.
Chastain
iPast
President

Birthdays

Karla Roper
June 10th

Jason C Payne
July 2nd

Travis N Poole
July 2nd

Katherine Meyer
July 10th

Penelope Oldfield
Marshall
July 26th

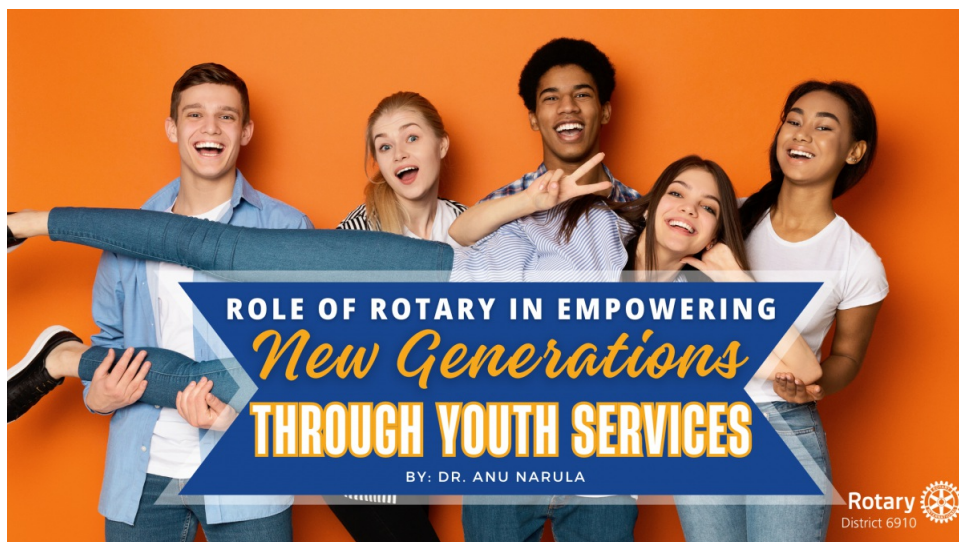
Wedding Anniversaries

Robin E Massaro
June 11th

Shay Lykins
June 20th

Rebecca A Marshall
July 6th

By Dr. Anu C. Narula



By: Dr. Anu Narula, Dr. Susan Padgett-Harrison, Peter Gleichman

Any time we think about the Youth Services, the following words of H. Jackson Brown, Jr. come to my mind, “Twenty years from now you will be more disappointed by the things that you didn’t do than by the ones you did do, so throw off your bowlines, sail away from the safe harbor, catch the trade winds in your sails. Explore, Dream, Discover.” This quote, in our view, sums up the ethos of Youth Services in Rotary.

As we celebrate the Youth Services Month in Rotary in May every year, it gives us reason to celebrate the “Basic Education and Literacy” projects being done in our District 6910 and around the world, all of which are doing justice to the following mission statement on <https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/youth-programs>, “Rotary believes in developing the next generation of leaders. Our programs help younger leaders build leadership skills, expand education, and learn the value of service.”



Every time we explore the programs being done by way of Youth Services, we are left in awe of the stellar community service and leadership programs being done by clubs around the world and in my home district, in alignment with Early Act, Interact, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, Youth Services Exchange, Georgia Rotary Student Program, and many more programs. Rotary clubs around the world supported the activities of youth as early as the 1920s by sponsoring Boy Scout troops and encouraging young people to promote civic values, health and hygiene, education, and vocational training. By the 1950s, Rotary International was discussing ways of engaging young people in community service and helping them create avenues for expanding their world views. These conversations gave birth to the creation of Rotaract and Interact clubs.

Rotaract is now an independent entity, but it continues to function as a role model for Interact clubs to emulate. Early Act and Interact clubs around the world organize at least two projects every year, one that helps their school or community and another one that promotes international understanding. The Interact club, an arm of Rotary International that comprises of the high school students in the age group of 12-18 across the world who are seeking to impact their communities with their creative energy, their treasure trove of talent, their passionate desire to serve humanity, their leadership skills, and their inimitable spirit of enterprise. At present, there are 14,911 Interact clubs around the world, comprising of 342,953 Interactors in 145 countries around the world.

The Canton Rotary Club was chartered in 1937. We have also sponsored five other Rotary Clubs formed in the area (Woodstock, Jasper, Towne Lake, Cherokee County, and Carpe Diem). As a club peopled by eminent educators and teachers, Canton Rotarians believe in the acumen of individuals to serve, whether old or young, near or far. Our club realizes that in a technology-driven world, more and more must be done to aid our schools and parents, not only to increase literacy, but also to aid teachers in any way possible to increase their time for working with children to build literacy. In view of the fact that no matter what the assistance is, any additional help in a variety of community and content areas helps improve literacy in a variety of ways. For example, writing improves reading and as students work to express their thoughts and feelings and share them through journaling, they increase vocabulary. This is particularly important for students who are learning English. Rotarians serving as Journal Buddies (funded by a Rotary District Grant) are also building lasting relationships and teaching young people to interact with adults in ways that may be different from what they are used to at home.



This year, one of the culminating services of our club is to present six \$1,000 scholarships to local students. While we are blessed to live in a state with 34 public colleges and universities and 22 technical colleges, tuition is



Six local students received \$1,000 scholarships from the Rotary Club of Canton.

university and 22 technical colleges, tuition is free with an A or B average under the HOPE Scholarship. However, this does not cover a myriad of fees from athletics to parking, which, in some schools around the country, equals the price of tuition. So, our funds are well spent on aiding students to be able to participate in further education. In one such program called Book Buddies, Rotarians read books together with teachers, assisting with phonemic awareness, context and comprehension skills.



Rotarians from both District 6900 and 6910 meet in Atlanta to kick off a new year of the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest!

The Rotary Club of Canton also assists the Cherokee County elementary schools with Book Fairs, helping children select books in grade appropriate areas of interest, particularly in Title I schools, where parents are at work and cannot participate. We participate in a wide variety of ways with the Georgia Laws of Life Program that is unique to our state. This program offers opportunities to high school students across Georgia to participate in essay writing that enables them to reflect on their core values, and awards students with certificates and financial awards, while recognizing teachers with teacher and student appreciation events. And, we do fan out across the county for Read Across America Day!!! After a tragic earthquake in Turkey, the club sent many books there to be distributed by Rotary Clubs.

The Rotary Club of Canton is peopled by eminent educators, scientists, education professionals, and school board members, all of whom help and support the literacy initiatives in eclectic ways. With the prevalence of STEM schools in Cherokee County, the Canton Rotary Club has funded a Hydroponics Lab for an elementary school, where we grow flowers and plants for a STEM program, emphasizing farm-to-table lessons where students grow vegetables for school lunches. We also sponsor the Robotics team at a local high school to assist with materials for building prosthetics and shipping them to other countries, which helps students advance their learning on the high school level in complex areas of science. In the Canton Club's efforts to be inclusive, a Sensory Lab for Autistic Children enhances their abilities to learn as well.



Canton Rotarians pose with students from Teasley Middle School at the conclusion of a tremendous Career Day event.

In view of the fact that an average of 47% of students who begin higher education do not finish a degree within 6 years, the Canton Rotary Club assists in Career and Technical programs and organizes site visits to school programs in Cherokee County for programs in avionics and cybersecurity. All of this can lead to a wide variety of careers in the field of Air Traffic Control and the building of drones for the growing film industry in Georgia. When students participate in any of 40 career pathways, they are learning the language and vocabulary of diverse disciplines, ranging from health care to teaching to preparing for fire and police certification. The prospect of students graduating in any of the state licensed programs further enhances the productivity of the state. Probably one of our favorite programs is the extensive history of sponsoring the Georgia Will Watt program that funds tuition for students from around the world to attend a college in the area and become a part of our Rotary family.

In keeping with the goal of promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion through Rotary, the language and literacy of a different culture is as important as reading a book. Our most successful GRSP (Georgia Rotary Student Program) student came from Mazatlan, Mexico and fell in love with America. He finished his college education and became a member of the Club and is now serving "20 years later" as our Rotary Club President, while working with our Youth Services chair and all the members of our club, on a range of Literacy Initiatives. Education, they say, is the most critical tool for empowering our "new generations" in Rotary. It fills our hearts with joy and gratitude to appreciate the stellar projects being done by clubs in District 6910 and the Rotary Club of Canton by way of our Literacy Initiatives, all of which will go a



way of our literacy initiatives, all of which will go a long way in promoting the expansive goals of education, literacy, and reading readiness across the district. Amen.



Canton Rotary President, Francisco Lozano (right), a native of Mexico, poses here with GRSP student Ignacio "Nacho" Morzone of Brazil, along with GRSP Director Kathryene Fields (left to right); and sponsors Greg & Virginia Elder.
