

### This Week....JUDGE CLARENCE CUTHPERT, JR.

Judge Clarence Cuthpert, Jr. was appointed as the State Court Judge of Rockdale County by Governor Brian Kemp on February 1, 2021. Prior to serving as Chief State Court Judge, Judge Cuthpert was elected as Probate Judge in 2016, and re-elected in 2020. As a practicing attorney for 20 years, Judge Cuthpert practiced law throughout the State of Georgia prior to serving in the judiciary.

Judge Cuthpert received his Bachelor of Science degree from Savannah State University, Master of Public Administration degree from Georgia Southern University, and Juris Doctor degree from Nova Southeastern University. He is admitted to the U.S. Court of Appeals, 11th Circuit; U.S. District Court for the Northern, Middle and Southern Districts, Georgia; Supreme Court of Georgia, Georgia Court of Appeals; Superior and State Courts of Georgia; and is a registered Mediator and Arbitrator through the Georgia Office of Dispute Resolution.

In April 2020, Judge Cuthpert was appointed by the Supreme Court of Georgia to the Commission on Dispute Resolution as the first ever probate judge to serve on the Commission. In March 2018, Judge Cuthpert was appointed as the representative for the Probate Courts on the Judicial Council's Standing Committee on Access to Justice. The Committee is Chaired by Georgia Supreme Court Justice Charles J. Bethel. Committee members include representatives from the Court of Appeals of the State of Georgia, Superior, State, Magistrate and Probate Courts, and several legal organizations. The Committee's mission is to improve the public's trust in the judicial branch by promoting meaningful and effective access to courts and fairness for all. Judge Cuthpert is also a member of the Council of State Court Judges of Georgia, American Bar Association, Rockdale Bar Association, Gate City Bar Association and NewRock Legal Society.

The State Court handles misdemeanor criminal offenses, traffic violations, and civil matters. The DUI Court is also under the jurisdiction of the State Court.

### Next Week...Frida Eriksson & Al Myers - GRSP Program

### Rotary Announcements

- The workday at Lighthouse Village is scheduled for this Saturday, April 10, at 9 am We will need several strong backs to move mulch and pavers, trim trees and general grunt work. Please bring steel rakes and a wheelbarrow if possible. Please go ahead and put this date on your calander. Please click on the link below to sign-up if you plan to participate. <https://forms.gle/UJK6W2Uzvx2T5FU39>
- Rotary Golf Tournament - April 23, 2021 - Cherokee Golf Club
- DISTRICT CONFERENCE REGISTRATION:**  
Registration will be open and available starting March 10 through DacDB!  
**COST:** \$25.00 per Rotarian, \$15.00 for Guests/Rotaractors/Interactors  
**WHERE:** <https://www.dacdb.com/index.cfm?EventID=77520155>  
**WHY:** Each registrant will receive virtual registration gift(s) and a chance to win excellent door prizes. One lucky person will win a grand door prize valued at \$1200!

### Upcoming Programs...

April 22 No Meeting  
April 23 Golf Tournament  
April 29 Frank Fernandez President/CEO Community Foundation of Greater Atlanta  
May 6 Roy Strickland Rotary Foundation  
May 13 Shantee Henry & Dr. Jose Doss SANE Program  
May 20 Bryan Hillburn Hills Academy Interact Program  
May 27 No Meeting

### Should you have to miss, please make-up:

#### Make-up Locations:

Social Circle Magnolia Manor Monday Noon  
Covington First Methodist Tuesday 12:15  
Rockdale Rockdale Medical Ctr. Wednesday 7:15 am  
Loganville IHop Restaurant Thursday 7:15 am  
RotaryEClubOne.org  
RockdaleEClubOfTheSouth.org

Any club function including Board Meetings, Service Project, Fundraiser or Social Function also counts as a make-up,

Follow The Rotary Club of Conyers



Facebook Rotary Club of Conyers

[www.conyersrotary.org](http://www.conyersrotary.org)



Instagram

### Birthdays

No Birthdays Found

### Wedding Anniversaries

Sam Crowe  
May 2nd

### Years of Service

Edward L Cowan  
02-01-1973  
48 Years  
Tommy O. Morgan  
02-01-1981  
40 Years  
William T. Rogers  
04-01-1984  
37 Years  
Mark Chris Bowen  
04-01-1988  
33 Years  
Bruce C. Ahlstrand  
04-01-1990  
31 Years  
Albert A. Myers III  
03-23-2000  
21 Years  
Suchet L. Loois  
02-22-2007  
14 Years  
Sandra Cowan  
Etheredge  
03-01-2007  
14 Years  
Tonya Bloodworth  
03-22-2007  
14 Years  
Wayne Robinson  
03-29-2007  
14 Years  
Sam Crowe  
03-26-2009  
12 Years  
Thua G. Barlay  
01-14-2010  
11 Years  
Dorothy Balala  
02-10-2011  
10 Years  
Wendy A. Bear  
01-12-2012  
9 Years  
Michael Macchione  
01-10-2013  
8 Years  
Kenneth Gaylord  
02-14-2013  
8 Years  
Aubrey Hedrick  
03-07-2013  
8 Years  
Ernel E. Forrester  
02-18-2016  
5 Years  
Clarence Cuthpert  
02-18-2016  
5 Years  
Moses G. Kabia  
02-18-2016  
5 Years  
Tisa Smart-Washington  
01-26-2017  
4 Years  
Shane Persaud  
03-02-2017  
4 Years  
Dan Morgan

## Membership Roster 2020 - 2021

Last Name	First Name	MemberType	Classification	Pref. Email	PData	Code	Participation
Ahlstrand	Bruce	Active-R85	Two Way Radio Industry	bahlstrand@bellsouth.net	PHF,B,PP,PAS 2005,ROTY 2003, 2010,PHFn,4106,4107	ALU	ALUMNI or Rotary
Andersen	Beth	Active	Insurance-Life & Health	beth7754@gmail.com	PHF,PP,PAS 2005,ROTY 2007,PHFn,4106	B	Benefactor
Bala	Dorothy	Active	Printing Services	dotti@copycentral.comcastbiz.net	PHF,BS,PP 2017-18,PAS 2012,ROTY 2014,4106	BS	Bequest Society
Barksdale	Wales	Honorary		walesdale@bellsouth.net	PHF	CM	Charter Member
Barlay	Thua	Corporate-Active D6910	Attorney	tbarlay@luederlaw.com	PHF,B,PP 2014-15,PHFn,4106	DSA	Distinguished Service Award
Bear	Wendy	Active	Insurance	wendy@wendybear.net	PHF	DSM	Double Sustaining Member
Benson	Dave	Active	Religion-Methodist	pastordbenenson@gmail.com		GRSP	Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) +
Bloodworth	Tonya	Active	Education-Director Family Engagement	tbloodworth@rockdale.k12.ga.us	PHF,4106	4107	GRSP Hue Thomas Fellow Jr.
Bowen	Jimi	Honorary		bowenstv@bellsouth.net	PHF,PP,ROTY 2006	4108	GRSP Ronnie Waller Fellow
Bowen	Mark	Active-R85	Cemetery	mcbac6254@gmail.com	PHF,4106,4107	4106	GRSP Will Watt Fellow
Boyle	Stephen	Active-R85	Surgeon - Retired	sboylemd@gmail.com	PHF,PP,PRY 22,4106	MSA	Meritorious Service Award
Brown	Andrew	Honorary	Investment Advisor	andy@brownwm.com	PHF,PP	PDG	Past District Gov / District Served:
Cabe	James	Active		james.cabe@rockdalecountyga.gov		PP	Past President
Consolo	Joseph	Active	Financial Advisor	joseph.consolo@edwardjones.com		PDR	Past RI Director
Cowan	Edward	Active-R85	Hardware-Retailing	elcowan8535@comcast.net	PHF,PP,PHFn,4106,4107	PHFn	Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) +
Crowe	Sam	Active	Attorney - Trial	sam@crowelaw.org	PHF,4106	PAS	Perfect Attendance Since:
Cuthpert	Clarence	Active	Attorney - General Practice	cuthpertandassociates@gmail.com		PHF	PHF - Paul Harris Fellow
Digby	Daniel	Active	Military - Reserve	daniel@digbylegal.com	PHF,PP,PHFn,4106	PHFS	PHS- Paul Harris Society
Duncan	Heather	Corporate-Associate D6910	Real Estate Development	hduncan@luederlaw.com		PRY	Previous Rotary Years in other Clubs:
Etheredge	Sandra	Active	Hardware-Retailing	sandra@cowanhardware.com	PHF,4106	ROTY	Rotarian of the Year:
Evans	Vince	Active	Pharmacy - Retail	vinceevans@bellsouth.net	PHF,4106	SAS	Service Above Self Award
Forrester	Ermel	Active	Religion-Cooperative Baptist Fellowship	ernie@havenfellowship.org		SM	Sustaining Member
Gaylord	Kenneth	Active	Banking - Commercial	kgaylord@bbandt.com	PHF,SM		
George	Ann	Active	Executive Director Non-profit	fpnr1204@gmail.com			
Grace	Lewis	Honorary	Financial Advisor	lewisjgrace@gmail.com	PHF,PP 2015-16,ROTY 2012		
Harper	John	Active-R85	Airline Pilot	guntrain38@gmail.com	PHF,4106		
Hedrick	A.	Active-R85	Dentistry		PHF,4106,4107		
Hedrick	Aubrey	Active	Dentistry - Sedation	aubreyhedrickiii@yahoo.com	PHF		
Hilburn	Bryan	Active	Private School - Headmaster	hilburn@hillsacademyga.com			
Hutcheson	Michael	Active	Non-Profit Children & Families	director@rockdalecoalition.org			
Jones	Martin	Active-R85	Economic Development	Marty@conyers-rockdale.com	PHF,4106,4107		
Kabia	Moses	Active	Banker	moseskabia@yahoo.com			
Lassiter	Michael	Active-R85	Insurance - Retirement Planning	mwl_clu@msn.com	PHF,PP,PAS 1980,ROTY 2013,PHFn,4106,4107		
Lavigno	Bethany	Active		lavignolawfirm@yahoo.com			
Loois	Suchet	Active-R85	Sustainable Dev.	pesl1223@att.net	PHF,ROTY 2009, 2015,4106, B, RFDSA		
Lucas	Tony	Active	Municipal Director	tony.lucas@conyersga.com	PHF,4107		
Macchione	Michael	Active	Investment Broker	michael.macchione@edwardjones.com	PHF,SM		
Massey	Terry	Honorary	Attorney	terry@masseylawfirmllc.com	PHF,PP,ROTY 2011,4106,4107		
Mathews	Wilson	Active-R85	Insurance Medical	wilmat405@att.net	PHF,PP 2012-13		

04-06-2017  
4 Years  
Lewis J. Grace  
03-01-2018  
3 Years  
Bernard Stanford  
04-19-2018  
3 Years  
Bryan Hilburn  
01-08-2019  
2 Years  
Bennett E McCumber  
04-04-2019  
2 Years  
Laura Sistrunk  
04-11-2019  
2 Years

### Club Leaders



**Scott G. Slaughter**  
President



**Moses G. Kabia**  
President-Elect



**Sandra Cowan**  
Etheredge Secretary



**Bernard Stanford**  
Treasurer



**Wendy A. Bear**  
Membership Chair



**Ermel E. Forrester**  
Membership Retention Chair



**Dave Benson**  
Family of Rotary



**Daniel S. Digby**  
Laws of Life Contest Chair



**Al A. Myers Jr.**  
GRSP Chair



**Albert A. Myers III**  
Rotary Foundation Chair



**Shane Persaud**  
Public Relations Chair



**William T. Rogers**  
Bulletin Editor



**Beth Andersen**  
Literacy / Past President



**Dorothy Bala**  
On-To Conference Chair



**Doris Bala**  
District Events Coord



**Wayne Robinson**  
Sergeant-at-Arms











**Vince G. Evans**  
Club Fundraising Chair



**Michael**

Maxwell	James	Active-R85	Electrical engineer	jam1906@bellsouth.net	PHF,4106
McCumber	Bennett	Active	Education - CEO, Rockdale Career Academy	bmccumber@rockdale.k12.ga.us	
Moore	Garland	Active-R85	Attorney-Judicial	garlandmoore@bellsouth.net	PHF,PHFS,SM,B,BS,MD,PP,DSA,PDG 6910,SAS,PHFn,4106,4107
Morgan	Dan	Active	Public Safety-Fire and Rescue	dan.morgan@rockdalecountyga.gov	
Morgan	Tommy	Active-R85	Public Safety - Fire Consultant	tommymorgan861@gmail.com	PHF,PP,4106,4107
Myers	Al	Active-R85	Pastor-Presbyterian	aamii@att.net	PHF,PP,PAS 1993,GRSP 5,4106,4107,4108
Myers	Albert	Active	Attorney - Family Law	albertamyersiii@hotmail.com	PHF,PP,PAS 2000,4106
Oatts	Terry	Active	Superintendent Rockdale Co Schools	toatts@rockdale.k12.ga.us	
Persaud	Shane	Active	Architecture - Building	shane@designpartnerships.com	
Robinson	Wayne	Active-R85	IT-Information Technology	robi3088@bellsouth.net	PHF,ROTY 2018,4106
Rogers	William	Active-R85	Insurance-Wholesale Student	nanarogers10@gmail.com	PHF,PAS 1984,4106,4107
Siebert	Shelli	Active	Executive Director - Arts Council	ssiebert@conyersarts.org	PHF,ROTY 2016
Simpson	Brian	Corporate-Active D6910	Plumbing - Commercial	bsimpson@hpplum.com	
Sistrunk	Laura	Active	Director of Community Relations	Laura.Sistrunk@piedmont.org	
Slaughter	Scott	Active	Accounting - Tax	scott@jajohnson.com	PHF,4106
Smart-Washington	Tisa	Active	Local Government - Taxes	Tisa.Washington@RockdaleCountyGA.gov	
Smith	Ron	Honorary		ronaldsmith937@comcast.net	PHF,ROTY 2005,4106,4107
Stanford	Bernard	Active	Banking - Commercial	bernard_stanford@ucbi.com	

	Hutcheson Community Service Chair
	Martin Jones Club Service Chair
	Shelli Siebert Club Programs Chair
	Suchet L. Loois International Service Chair
	Michael Macchione Vocational Service Chair
	Bryan Hilburn Youth Services Chair
	Thua G. Barlay iPast President
	Kim Glaze Club Executive Secretary

## We Can Help Prevent the Death of 5.9 Million Children Annually

By DG Tina D. Fischlin on Thursday, April 1, 2021

### MATERNAL & CHILD HEALTH MONTH

One of the seven areas of focus for Rotary is *Maternal and Child Health*, and in April we celebrate the efforts of Rotarians and others worldwide, who work tirelessly to save women and children.

An estimated 5.9 million children under the age of five die each year because of malnutrition, inadequate healthcare, and poor sanitation--all preventable!

So how does Rotary help? The Rotary Foundation supports programs that provide education, immunizations, birth kits, and mobile health clinics. Women are taught how to prevent mother-to-infant HIV transmission, how to breast-feed, and how to protect themselves and their children from disease.

In our District, we support many Rotarian-initiated projects that support this area of focus. Alliance for Smiles <http://www.allianceforsmiles.org/> is a project near and dear to my heart. Be sure and read Sallie's article in this newsletter about all the lives that have been changed with your support.

Another amazing Rotarian initiated non-profit providing healthcare solutions for children is Gift of Life International. <https://www.giftoflifeinternational.org/> This amazing organization provides hope to children born with congenital heart disease, the number ONE birth defect worldwide. This picture of Sat Nu from Myanmar shows how this surgery saved her life.

These are just two of the wonderful programs your clubs can contribute to support maternal and child health.

District Conference registration is OPEN! Reserve your spot at the Fun in the Sun ♦virtual♦ District Conference. Simply [click on the link here!](#)



## Are You Ready?

Thursday, April 1, 2021





By Laura Dent and Paige Havens

Our amazing virtual *Fun in the Sun* District Conference is just 3 weeks away, and we're excited to bring the beach to you! More than 200 of you have registered to date, and the names keep pouring in. If you haven't already, [register here!](#)

It's amazing what we can now do together virtually. Our two-day conference will be packed with Rotary fellowship, fun activities with in-person options, excellent speakers, and a Pack-A-Backpack Service Project--all online! Here are some key resources you'll need to soak up all of the *Fun in the Sun*:

- **Conference Agenda:** [Click here!](#)
- **Conference Keynote Speaker Bios:** [Click here!](#)



Jennifer Jones  
Rotary International President 2022-2023



Reem Ghunaim  
Executive Director, Rotary Action Group for Peace



Dale Bracken  
Management Consultant



Jeff Henderson  
Entrepreneur, Speaker, Pastor, Business Leader

- **Shopping List for 5:00 Somewhere Cocktail Party:** [Click here!](#)
  - Recipes will be sent to attendees via Whova
- **Beach Bash Low Country Boil Recipe:** [Click here!](#)
- **Wine Coupon for your Wine Tasting Order:** [Click here!](#)
- **How to Set Up & Customize Your WHOVA Conference Portal:** [Click here!](#)

Cost to attend is only \$25 for Rotarians and \$15 for guests. Each registrant will receive virtual registration gifts and a chance to win excellent door prizes. One lucky person will win a grand door prize--\$1,200 Gift Certificate for a 3-night stay at The Westin Jekyll Island. To incentivize us all to be actively engaged in each session, you must be present to win!

Conference attendees, watch your email closely for lots of great conference information coming to your inbox. We can't wait to celebrate this year's great accomplishments of our Clubs and District 6910 with you!

## Alliance for Smiles

By Sallie Boyles on Thursday, April 1, 2021

The signature international project of the Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties, Alliance for Smiles (AFS) is especially near and dear to District Governor Tina Fischlin. She became involved with the medical nonprofit in 2007 and joined the board in 2009.



Established in 2006 by six Rotarians from San Francisco, AFS conducts missions to correct cleft lip and palate anomalies in children (primarily) from underserved communities worldwide. As Tina says, "Even in parts of the US and Western Europe, we have a group of doctors with mobile clinics." To date, AFS has treated more than over 8,700 children.





Choosing destinations that can require more than a day of travel each way within any two-week operation (14 days are standard), Tina has assumed the role of mission director for 27 trips since her first undertaking to China in 2007. So far, she has organized and led groups of medical and nonmedical volunteers to 12 countries.

Having contributed \$2 million to support AFS missions initiated through District 6910, Rotary clubs in the District and around the world, Rotary International has approved the latest grant for Bangladesh scheduled to take place in early November.

Dedicated volunteers include (two each) plastic surgeons, anesthesiologists, operating-room nurses, and recovery nurses. Among the others are a pediatrician, physician's assistant, sterilizer, record keeper (AFS tracks every patient to follow up), and photographer (someone to document the mission). Since deafness can be a comorbidity of the cleft lip/palate, audiologists have also accompanied the team. Other support personnel, such as an interpreter, might be part of the volunteer group or hired locally.

♦All of our volunteers are amazing,♦ Tina says. Several Rotarians from her club and around District 6910 have joined AFS missions, although individuals come from all over. Plastic surgeons from Pakistan, Italy, Australia, and Norway have served on her teams. Admiring their ability to conceptualize how a distorted child's mouth should look and their skill to correct it with surgery, Tina refers to the specialists as ♦true artists.♦

To build a cohesive, international team before all parties finally congregate at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta, or at another point in transit, they♦ll start with monthly and proceed to weekly Zoom calls for ♦icebreaker conversations.♦ In getting to know one another, physicians discuss their practice methods. If they have different approaches to pain management, for instance, they♦ll work out discrepancies to establish a cohesive care plan.

Positive attitudes are essential. Each mission accommodates 80 to 90 patients (with children as young as ten-months old and adults as old as 63) during the two weeks. With time allotted for travel and patient screening, surgery might be packed into nine days that begin at dawn and end at dusk.

Keeping spirits high through long days is a minor challenge compared to myriad others: securing licenses to practice in the country; obtaining custom clearances; getting teams in and out safely; gathering the necessary medical supplies; spreading the word about upcoming clinics to remote communities ♦ the checklist is extensive. Tina is still amazed at times by the way certain factors fall into place.

For instance, to alert isolated villagers of an upcoming mission to Zimbabwe, AFS sent a mass text message to everyone in the country. ♦Seventy-percent of our patients came to us because of that notification,♦ says Tina. She later talked about the mission with a GRSP student from Zimbabwe whom she met while attending the conclave in Savannah. Tina was stunned when he said, ♦I still have that text message on my phone at home.♦

Humbled by her role, Tina describes herself as ♦just a voice to put the pieces of the puzzle together, to determine where to go next and how to address the need at hand.♦

♦What Tina has done as mission director is something only one in 100,000 could do,♦ says Gwinnett County Rotarian Tom Upchurch, a retired plastic surgeon who has volunteered on a similar mission (unrelated to AFS) to Guatemala.

Tina's motivation is pure and simple: ♦seeing the face of a mother who's holding a baby with a repaired lip or palate or both, when they know there's a chance for their child to have a normal life.♦ Mothers love their babies as they are, she explains, but societies don't. Some afflicted newborns, mainly girls, are discarded. Many infants don't thrive because they cannot nurse effectively. Those who survive are often shunned through life for their disfigurement and speech impediment.

Despite the sad cases, many uplifting stories stick in Tina's mind.

One little girl with a cleft lip wanted to be a teacher; however, her mother homeschooled the child to keep her from classmates who verbally and physically bullied her. After her daughter's surgery, the mother appeared to be suffering a seizure, yet she was crying uncontrollably from sheer joy.

Wearing an oversized hat to cover his face, a young man told Tina he just wanted a normal life with a respectable job and a family. Deemed a good candidate, he underwent surgery. On the next AFS mission, he was fitted with dentures. By then, the fellow informed Tina, he was employed as a carpenter. On the next mission, he shared the happy news of his impending marriage.

♦Over the years, we've evolved beyond a med team that takes over for two weeks and leaves,♦ says Tina. ♦We now work closely with Rotary and hospital partners on the ground.♦ Such relationships are important for many reasons. Locals, for example, are more effective in convincing third-world people to trust western doctors. Patients further benefit from ongoing care and follow-up treatments, such as fitting for dentures after healing from surgery or later doing surgery on a child who was too young at the initial assessment. Overall, Tina explains, ♦By aligning with likeminded people who do good, we build goodwill.♦

Tina welcomes individuals and clubs to contact her for information about how they can get involved. Besides volunteering, tax-deductible monetary donations are incredibly helpful.

<https://www.allianceforsmiles.org/>



## '20-21 Laws of Life Winners Announced

Friday, April 2, 2021



In March the 2020-2021 Georgia Rotary Clubs *Laws of Life* Essay Contest School-Level Winners were announced. A total of 25,112 students from 48 schools shared their Law of Life essay in this year's contest, notwithstanding the challenges of distance learning and hybrid schedules. Over 100 Rotarian volunteers patiently navigated a new online judging platform and worked with staff to successfully read, score and judge the 1173 essays that were submitted for judging. [Click here](#) to see a list of all the winners. To read the official press release from the Laws of Life Executive Director, Carol Gray Walker, [click here!](#)

The state winners will be announced in early April.

## Feed10Million Update

By Randy Redner on Saturday, April 3, 2021



***This is no April Fool's Joke - DISTRICT 6910 HAS NOW PROVIDED  
1,837,742 MEALS  
TO FAMILIES IN NEED!***

- **2,205,290 pounds of food**
- **1,102 tons of food**
- **74 tractor trailers of food**
- **Lined up that would be over 1 mile of tractor trailers**
- **Provided 517,516 meals in March ♦ That's an average of 16,000+ meals a DAY**

***Our revised goal of 2 million meals is within sight...but we are not done yet.***

Here are the two things your club can be doing right now to support the Feed10Million campaign:

1. **Farmers to Families** ([see flyer attached](#)) ♦ This is a USDA program that in response to COVID provides **food truck deliveries for free** through local charitable organizations like Rotary. Doug Bolton out of the Covington Club is coordinating these deliveries across the District, so if you club is interested in receiving one of these truckloads of free food, contact Doug at [dougbolton@yahoo.com](mailto:dougbolton@yahoo.com).
2. **Log your meal projects** -- Remember, in Rotary it doesn't count until the paperwork is done, so click [HERE](#) to log your meals each time you complete a project.

## '20-21 District Grant Projects

Saturday, April 3, 2021

Rotary clubs throughout District 6910 complete amazing projects every year with the help from District Grants. These projects are immensely impactful in helping communities and real people. Over the course of the next few months, in the District Newsletter we would like to feature some of these terrific projects so that Rotarians around the district can share ideas and see what is being accomplished. When you start to realize the scope and reach of these projects and multiply them across the district and around the world, it becomes exciting to see the dramatic impact of Rotary! It truly is astonishing and makes you proud to be a Rotarian.



This month we will feature four such projects, funded with the help of District Grants (click the see more link below):

- Rotary Club of Forsyth County & Rotary Club of South Forsyth
- Lanier-Forsyth Rotary
- Rotary Club of Jefferson
- Banks County Rotary

District grants fund small-scale, short-term activities that address needs in our district's communities and communities abroad. For more information on District Grants, [click here](#) to visit the D6910 District Grant web page.

### Forsyth Central High School BYOT Grant

The Rotary Club of Forsyth County and Rotary Club of South Forsyth Focus on Education

2020 has changed life for us all. Students, especially, have had to adapt on almost a daily basis to new ways of learning and new technology. Last spring, when schools were closed all across the state and in our county, students were sent home and had to be ready for total distance, online learning. Not every child had access to a computer. Forsyth Central High School Principal Mitch Young told us, ♦We scrambled to make sure all students had a device to access online learning. We found that sometimes our students only had one device per family, and sometimes that was a smart phone. This was not conducive to learning. ♦ Once The Rotary Club of Forsyth County and the Rotary Club of South Forsyth heard the call, they decided to pool their resources and help as many students as possible by applying for a District Foundation Grant to stretch their combined reach even further. The project allowed more students who could not afford a personal ♦Smart♦ technology device to checkout a Chromebook and have access to online learning at home. Now that our county has both virtual and in-person class, students can use these devices at school for classroom instruction, too. If there are future events requiring students to be at home for extended periods of time, more students will be able to have a personal device at home so they can participate easily in online learning. As most End of Course testing has changed to online, these extra Chromebooks are going to enable more students to easily take these tests at school.



With the aid of matching district grant monies, 52 Chromebooks outfitted per the school's requirements and two full-size charging stations were purchased and delivered to Forsyth Central High School. A 4-Way Test sticker placed on each Chromebook reminds students every day the values that Rotarians hold in highest esteem and hope the students will use in making future life decisions. The expected long-term community impact is huge, as the Chromebooks will be available for future students as well.



### CEMPROC's "Conflict Transformation Across Borders" Program Grant

Lanier-Forsyth Rotary Supports the Expansion of Peace

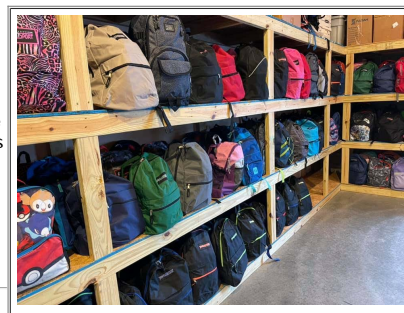
The Center for Mediation, Peace, and the Resolution of Conflict (CEMPROC) is a non-profit organization committed to peaceful resolutions to worldwide conflicts. Among other things, they coordinate the logistics for peace-building training programs around the globe. Rotary District 6910 and Lanier Forsyth Rotary are supporting CEMPROC's Summer Institute, Conflict Transformation Across Borders program through a Local District Designated Funds (DDF) Grant. While the initial intent was to fund scholarships to the 2020 program, COVID necessitated a change, and the funds will be used to fund projects proposed by the institute's students. With the Institute's focus on Central and South American countries currently in the midst of severe economic and political turmoil, proposal candidates include two aimed to replicate the training model of The Summer Institute in Haiti and Venezuela. With this grant, Rotary is fostering the expansion of peace to countries deeply in need of this support.



### Bags of Love Program Grant

Rotary Club of Jefferson Partners with IServe Ministries

On January 12, 2021, the Jefferson Rotary Club was pleased to present a check to IServe Ministries in the amount of \$4,250.00. IServe Ministries is a Christian organization whose vision is to end generational poverty in the communities we serve through meeting needs and teaching life skills. Our District 6910 2020-2021 Governor, Tina Fischlin, was on hand to help in the check presentation. The donation is targeted to their Bags of Love Program, which provides nondescript backpacks containing an entire weekend of food for families in need. In our local community, between 50-60% of our school-age children live at an income level that does not allow them to have food for the weekends. The only meals they receive are provided at the school. This donation, along with the efficiencies of IServe Ministries, will allow these funds to provide meals for 250 families for 32 weekends per school year. That is over 17,000 meals. This local community project will dovetail in with the Rotary Zone 33-34 10 Million Meals Challenge.



### Food-2-Kids Program Grant

Banks County Rotary & Interact joins forces with the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia and the Banks County Schools

The Banks County Rotary works in conjunction with the local Banks County School District, the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, and our Banks County Middle School Interact Club to pack and deliver 100 sacks of nutritious kid-friendly food to 100 students in the school district to take home every weekend during the school year. The students are identified and recommended for the program by teachers, administrators, and counselors. The food comes from the Food Bank, the bags are packed weekly by the Interact students, and our Rotary Club oversees, assists, and funds the project. One particular challenge that arose during the pandemic year of 2020 was the limitation imposed upon the students to gather together at school to pack the bags. In the interim, volunteers at the food bank stepped forward to help fill the void.

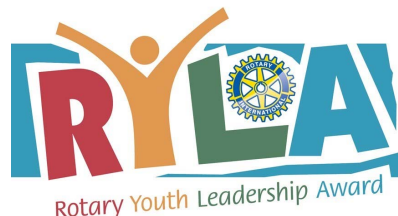
**FOOD 2 KIDS**

The total cost of the program for the entire year is \$27,500, and the Banks County Rotary is responsible for fulfilling this budget through fundraising events. One key element of that effort came in the form of a District 6910 Grant in the amount of \$4,000. The remainder is covered by a variety of activities and events, including random donations submitted from the community.

So far in the current Rotary year, 2,522 sacks have been sent home with Banks County students. This represents 17,654 meals. By year end, the program will reach at least 3,300 sacks and 23,100 meals, respectively.



## Is Your Club Up To Speed On RYLA?



[RYLA](#) is a GO for this year and is scheduled to take place June 3 to June 6 at Tallulah Falls School in beautiful Tallulah Falls! Student applications are due April 30! With club officer turnover from the 19-20 Rotary year, some clubs may not realize they've already paid for a slot for last year's cancelled event. Any questions about your club's commitment, feel free to contact District Chair, [Bob Alman](#).

Here's your link to the RYLA links that you will need, located on the D6910 Web Page: [Click here!](#)

## Leadership Spotlight: Becky Carlan

By Paige W Havens on Thursday, April 1, 2021



Becky rocking her Rotary spirit on the crater of the world's largest dormant volcano at the Haleakala National Park in Hawaii.

Continuing our District Leadership series, we want you to get to know some of the terrific Rotarians that have stepped forward to help in the Rotary District 6910 efforts to serve all of its clubs. This month we shine our spotlight on district board member, Becky Carlan. A member and past president of the Banks County Rotary, she currently serves as the club's on-to conference chair. To find out why her job helps her to know every resident in the county, be sure to click read more.

Becky Carlan grew up in Commerce, Georgia. She graduated from Commerce High School, earned an associate degree from Gainesville College, and graduated from UGA with a BA in Consumer Economics and Housing. Becky and her husband Tim have been married 20 years and are proud parents to two feisty red heads, Ben (18) and Brooke (16). The Carlans live in Homer with their cat Oliver. In 2012 Becky, was elected Tax Commissioner of Banks County, and she began serving January 1, 2013. She just began her third term and will be quick to tell you just how much she loves serving the citizens of Banks County.

In early 2012 Sallie Hensley invited Becky to join the Banks County Rotary Club. Becky jumped in full force and has enjoyed how Rotary connects her to so many great people all over the state. She has now earned the coveted Past President pin and currently serves as the On-to Conference Chair at the District level, as well as on the District Board. Two of her favorite service opportunities to date have been her Club's Food 2 Kids project that provided meals to 100+ children that were food insecure and serving as Sargent at Arms at PETS. Becky says, "I love getting to know members of other clubs, whether they are a small, medium or large. We all have our

strengths and weaknesses, and when we come together and learn from each other, we improve our impact for all."

In her free time Becky loves to go thrifting and yard-sale hopping. Her favorite escape is aboard a cruise ship traveling to new places. She's actually been on 18 cruises to date and can't wait to get back on the high seas post-pandemic. Becky's playlists include country and 80s' music, and her teens keep her current on the latest hip hop. Helpful Hint: If you want to motivate her, bring donuts!



Becky Carlan speaks to the Banks County Rotary Club.

## Let's Make Every Day Earth Day

Tuesday, March 23, 2021

By Schelly Tennant ♦ Rotary Club of Gwinnett County



For me, the environment isn't just the focus of my career ♦ it's a focus in my life.

Every year the world commemorates Earth Day--the one day a year that we turn our attention to the needs of the planet. While April 22 marks one of my favorite days of the year, I can't help but think, "Why can't we make every day Earth Day?" After all, the environment isn't just an ecological part of this planet--it's an integral link in the chain of life. The health of the environment not only impacts the health of the people and animals who live in an ecosystem, it impacts the economic welfare of the community it encompasses. Graffiti-filled walls and litter-strewn streets are rarely, if ever, associated with an economically thriving community. That's why it's up to all of us to serve as stewards of our local environment.

Rather than merely observing litter and expecting someone else to pick it up, get in the habit of carrying a plastic bag to collect trash during your evening stroll or sign up to [Adopt-A-Road](#) through Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful or your local affiliate, regularly policing your adopted stretch of roadway. As a matter of fact, there are dozens of ways to get involved in the stewardship of your county's local environment. Beautifying the local



area also has a positive impact on the environment, so you can plant a shade tree or an entire garden this spring. Whatever resonates with you personally and makes you feel as though you are making a difference in our little corner of the world!

I hope you will join me in making a conscious effort to make our local environment a focus in your life. Let's work together to make every day Earth Day!



Photos From Around the District



"Late last year Johns Creek Rotary Club, together with Daffodils 4 Hope, gathered to plant daffodil bulbs near the club's Peace Pole at Emory Johns Creek Hospital. The bulbs were planted as a message of hope near the entrance of the Winship Cancer Center. March 15 was a great day for our club. We met at the hospital to see the results of a project in which we participated. It took days to plan, many hands to prepare and plant, and weeks to grow. In mid-March we all met to see the results of this great project. Think about a chemotherapy patient that is going to the cancer center at the hospital. Imagine what a bright spot that individual saw. We had the opportunity to brighten someone's day!"  
-John Salter

For more great District 6910 photos and memories made during the month of March, click the link below.

Banks County Rotary & The Rotary Club of Madison County GA



Banks County President Vicki Boling was approached by a local Banks County resident who was in dire need of a handicap ramp for their home. Vicki reached out to the experts, the world renowned Madison County Rotary Ramp Crew for help. The two clubs partnered to make it happen. The Madison County club recently received a grant from Jackson Electric Membership Corporation which is intended to be used for anyone in JEMC's service area. For their part, this was ramp number 811 by the Madison County club. Crew leader Ed Brown went out of his way to help make this happen and the Banks County Rotary Club is so appreciative of their partnership.

The Rotarians and volunteers on the Madison County ramp crew consisted of Mitchell Hill, Ed Brown, Bruce Gandy, Johnny Minish, Wade Scarboro, Allen Phillips, Artry Bishop, Walton Hill, David McGinnis, and from the Rotary Club of Banks County the crew consisted of the President Vicki Boling, and Carolyn Moon, Cheri Nash, Brian Witfield, Rick Billinglea, Doug Cheek, Becky Carlan, and Dakota Holcomb.

## Rotary Club of Canton



If you want to see Service Above Self in motion, please watch this video of the wonderfully successful and feel-good Farmers to Families Food Distribution Project, a cooperative effort of the **Rotary Clubs of Cherokee County** (Canton, Woodstock, Towne Lake, and Cherokee County) on March 20! Many thanks to Canton Rotarian Francisco Lozano for putting this video together! Click on the photo above or [this link to watch the video!](#)



### CANTON ROTARY SUPPORTS NORTH GEORGIA ANGEL HOUSE

The Rotary Club of Canton is giving its time and treasure to support North Georgia Angel House. On March 30, Canton Rotary donated \$1000 to the program that provides help for young women ages 12-21 in foster care. On Saturday, March 13 the Canton Rotary Club in conjunction with a church regional youth group, provided a mini-makeover for the Angel House facility. Click on the photo above or this [link to watch a video about the mini-makeover event!](#)



### CANTON ROTARY HAS "FUN IN THE SUN" PACKING BACKPACKS

The Rotary Club of Canton had no trouble living up to the "Fun in the Sun" billing of its backpack packing service project at Reformation Brewery at The Mill on Etowah in Canton on March 30. The many hands and enthusiasm of 25 Canton Rotarians made for lighter work and a lot of fun in the sun packing 96 backpacks with school supplies in 25 minutes for students at Hasty Elementary School Fine Arts Academy and Teasley Middle School in Cherokee County.

The funds for the project were originally intended for a backpack community service project at the District 6910 Conference at Jekyll Island in late April. However, when the in-person Conference had to go virtual due to the continuing pandemic, the District redirected the funds to local clubs to

provide backpacks with school supplies in their communities. With many Canton Rotarians sporting tropical shirts, hats, and sunglasses in the spirit of the "Fun in the Sun" theme of the 2021 District Conference, the assembly-line packing of backpacks with pencils, rulers, crayons, markers, post-its, and other school supplies was sheer joy for these 2 dozen Rotarians who were together in person for the first time in many months. Many thanks to President-Elect Greg Elder for organizing the event and ordering the backpacks and school supplies and to Greg's son, Chandler Elder, who video recorded the event for our Virtual District Conference.

### ***The Classic City Rotary Club of Athens***



The Classic City Rotary Club partnered with Our Daily Bread Community Kitchen to serve nutritious meals to over 150 people in need.



The Classic City Rotary Club is a Partner in Education with JJ Harris Elementary School. The Club recently purchased and assembled picnic tables for the students and teachers to use. Club member, Becky Engel made a new friend while working on the tables.





Classic City Rotary Club members Ray Watson, Al Hawley, and Marilyn Appleby assemble picnic tables for JJ Harris Elementary.



Classic City Rotarians Kemp Gaskill and Heather McElroy included their children when volunteering for the Keep Athens-Clarke County Beautiful cleanup of Sunset Drive in Athens.

***Columbia County West Rotary Club***







The Columbia County West Club donated funds and labor to the Columbia County Cares Food Pantry. They have worked with this agency for close to ten years. They meet a need in the rural area of Columbia County where there has been an ongoing need for food assistance, a need that has been amplified during the COVID-19 emergency.

***Forsyth County (Rotary Clubs)***





Photos from the Farm to Families event on March 11 in Cumming, supported by 4 of the Forsyth County Clubs: **Lanier-Forsyth, Johns Creek, Forsyth, and South Forsyth.**

***Rotary Club of Hall County***



Rotary Club of Hall County received Rotary Foundation grant money that it matched to provide gifts of gratitude to Northeast Georgia Hospital staff. The hospital now has a Rejuvenation room in which staff goes to relax on breaks. The club provided not only Valentine's Day gifts with balloons and an original painting by a club member, but also St. Patrick's Day cheer was delivered as well. Food, snacks and thank you cards were provided.



Even in a virtual meeting mode, the Rotary Club of Hall County donates a book every week to the library at their [#PartnersInEducation](#) school. [#sugarhillelementary!](#)

Shown here with the kids receiving the books is [Alan Trembley](#), one of their club Presidents.

[#RotaryClubHallCounty](#)

***South Hall Rotary***





South Hall Rotary President Amanda Groover was grateful for the opportunity to present checks to the Adult Literary program at Lanier Tech recently. [#Rotarians](#) from the South Hall and the [Rotary Club of Braselton](#) collaborated to provide grant funding for 50 GED tests. Obtaining a GED can help transform the lives and [#openopportunities](#) for families in our area without college degrees. We appreciate the leadership from [Lanier Technical College](#) for working with them this past year to create this new fund. Pictured with Amanda are Interim President Tim McDonald and Program Director Shannon Cole [#serviceaboveself](#)



South Hall Rotary dropping off donated PPE masks that was through the District to the Hall County Bus Shop. Clay Hobbs with Hall County said that those 8000 masks was about a three week supply for the bus drivers in Hall County who are passing out the mask to students daily.

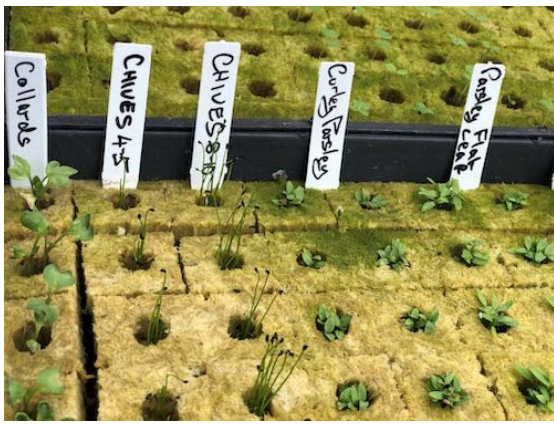
### ***Lake Chatuge Rotary Club***



The Lake Chatuge Rotary Club took to the road to visit a working aquaponics farm in Elkin, NC. As they continue to explore and plan for a community garden project involving aquaponic gardening, this trip gave them a firsthand look at a working farm, with 100 tower gardens, raising a wide variety of non-pollinated greens and vegetables.

Pictured above (left to right): Susan and Gene Boyd, Rick Dubois (the Rotarian who introduced the club to aquaponics), Kerry Clem, Joe Lashley, Carolyn Cheek, Jack Payne, Debra Lowe, Club President John Scott, and Gerry Gutenstein.





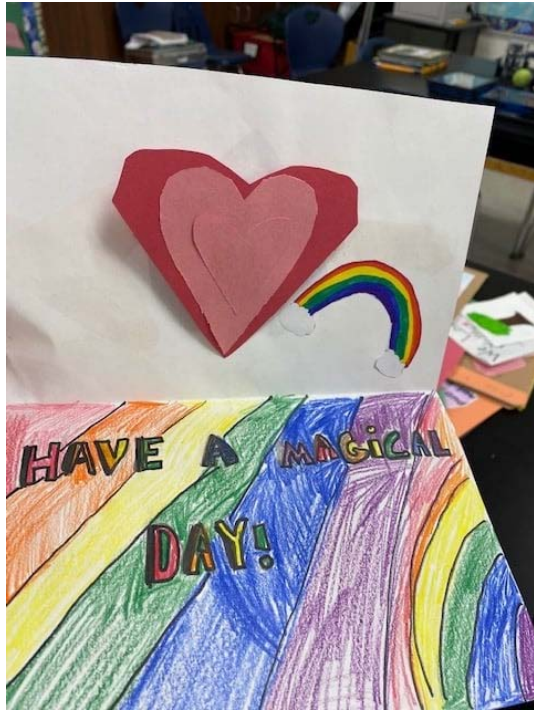
Seedlings being grown to be placed into the towers. These seedlings are about two weeks old. They will never touch soil as they develop and are harvested.



Three towers ♦ one mostly empty, one with recent seedlings beginning to grow, and one with mature plants in the process of being harvested. The enthusiasm of the club is through the roof for this project, which they feel potentially will impact several Rotary Areas of Focus.

***Rotary Club of Martinez-Evans***





The Eagles EarlyAct club at Baker Place Elementary are once again doing wonderful things. Our seniors were especially hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. For the past year, our high risk seniors were unable to be with their loved ones, completely isolated in assisted living communities or nursing homes. The Eagles EarlyAct club participated in a letter writing campaign where 25 members of the club generated 3,307 cards for seniors. The effort was part of the District 6910 Youth Services letter writing campaign that generated more than 5,000 letter for the Letters Against Isolation organization. Now, seniors across District 6910 will feel loved and know that, even in the middle of this horrible pandemic, they are not forgotten.







The Rotary Club of Martinez-Evans volunteered at the University Hospital Vaccination Clinic. The clinic occurred at First Baptist Church of Augusta on February 25th. Our volunteers supported by the clinic by verifying appointments and assisting the 2200 individuals scheduled to receive vaccinations. Thank you to our volunteers for helping make this clinic a success!!!

***North Oconee Rotary Club***



North Oconee Rotary Club cleaned up! It apparently was a ladies event until Kay's dad showed up. Girl power plus one! 15 bags of trash! Y'all stop littering!

***Rotary Club of Oconee County***



Rotarians working hard on a warm sunny Wednesday (March 3) and ramp #87 is completed!

***Rotary Club of Union County***



President Elect of Union County Rotary, Daniel Duello, presents a contribution to Katy Jones, Director of Union County Family Connection, for The Backpack 2 School Bash while Richard Raborn, Ed Sternberg and Angela Sarrell look on.



Rotarian Angela Sarrell presents a check to Kristen Hacker in front of First Baptist Blairsville's donation storage facility on Blue Ridge Street.



Helping with the delivery of Rotary Dictionary Project books are the three newest members of Union County Rotary: Angela Sarrell of Harry Norman Realtors, Jon Sliver of McNabb Properties, Jonathan Cox with C4 Innovations, and UGS teacher, media specialist, honorary Rotarian and Interact coordinator, DR. Melissa Bridges.



## CANTON ROTARY HOSTS A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHAMBER BUSINESS AFTER HOURS

By Peter A. Gleichman on Wednesday, March 24, 2021

It was a different sort of Rotary and business fellowship on March 23 when the Rotary Club of Canton hosted the Cherokee Chamber of Commerce's monthly Business After Hours (BAH) virtually. Held in lieu of its weekly meeting, Canton Rotary members had several opportunities to promote the community service and many other benefits of membership in Cherokee County's oldest civic organization due to the technical wizardry of Chamber staff.

After the customary welcome by Chamber Executive Director Pam Carnes and Chamber President Adam Smith and promotion by BAH series sponsor AT&T, Club President Shane Moore opened the meeting by introducing President Elect Greg Elder. He reported on the club's immensely successful Farmers 2 Families food distribution service project on March 20 in which 27,500 meals were distributed to families in need throughout Cherokee County. Next was President Nominee Nicole Lawson, who invited everyone to Canton Rotary's backpack packing service project at Reformation Brewery in Canton for its March 30 in-person lunchtime meeting.

Then the fun began!

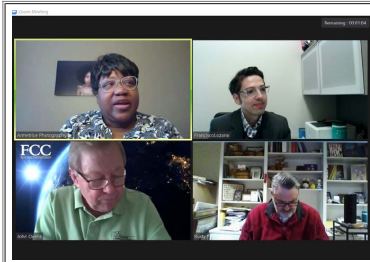


Canton Rotary President Shane Moore welcomed everyone to the Chamber Business After Hours hosted by the Rotary Club of Canton.



A gallery view of the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce's Business After Hours hosted by the Rotary Club of Canton. During a promotion of the many opportunities for service that membership in the Canton Rotary Club provides, member Peter Gleichman was able to slip in "Great fellowship, too" in the chat box as a value-added benefit!

BAH attendees were asked a series of poll questions related to how the pandemic has impacted their businesses. After that, Rotary-related questions were asked throughout the rest of the meeting with the first to answer having the opportunity to promote his or her business. One of the quick responders was Canton Rotarian Francisco Lozano, who impressed everyone with his spontaneous and passionate "elevator speech" that described all the benefits of membership in the Canton Rotary Club!



Canton Rotarian Francisco Lozano (upper right) hosted this breakout room session, one of several throughout the Business After Hours when Chamber members got to learn the benefits of membership in the Canton Rotary Club.

There were numerous fellowship opportunities as BAH attendees were randomly placed in virtual breakout rooms for 5 minutes at a time, where a Canton Rotarian hosted introductions and moderated discussion about Chamber members' businesses. It was a chance to talk about Canton Rotary close up and personal! Many thanks to the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce for creating a recipe for fellowship and fun at its March Business After Hours which the Rotary Club of Canton was proud to host! For more information about the Rotary Club of Canton, go to [www.therotaryclubofcantonga.org](http://www.therotaryclubofcantonga.org) or to Canton Rotary's Facebook page.

## Towne Lake Celebrates Small Business Owners

By Debby Ciccone on Thursday, April 1, 2021



While the heart of Rotary for Towne Lake will always be *Service Above Self* and giving back to the community, no one can deny that it is all made possible because of the hearts of the members. And those members are comprised of many small business owners.

Vocational Service is rooted in the second object of Rotary, whereby, we encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise and in particular, to encourage and foster, high ethical standards in business professions; the recognition of the worthiness of all useful occupations; and the dignifying of each Rotarian's occupation as an opportunity to serve society.

Debby Ciccone, the District Vocational Service Chair and member of the Towne Lake Club, wanted to recognize all the small business owners in the club during the month of March. March 29 is recognized as National Mom & Pop Business Owners Day.

Small businesses are vital to our communities, as they provide opportunities for entrepreneurs and create meaningful jobs with greater satisfaction than positions with larger, traditional companies. They also foster local economies, keeping money closer to home, supporting neighborhoods and communities.

In the Towne Lake Club, many different local businesses are represented such as property management, real estate, finance, lending, IT, video production, shipping, insurance, investments, health care, and more!

To celebrate, members enjoyed a decadent cheesecake-filled white cake. This was a special treat, as dessert had not been on the menu in over a year due to menu changes related to COVID-

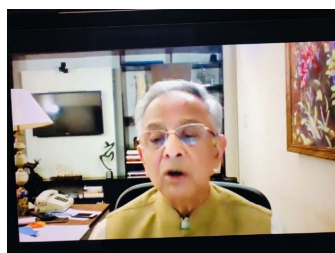
related restaurant adjustments.

Not only did members enjoy cake, the club enjoyed Happy Dollars with members expressing their gratitude for the surprise dessert!



## PRIP Saboo Talks World Peace with the Rotary Club of Johns Creek

By Anu C Narula on Friday, April 2, 2021



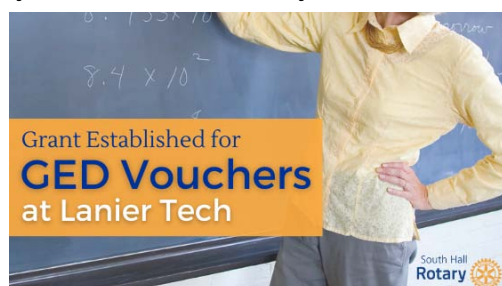
In celebration of the 116th birthday of Rotary International on February 23 this year, Rotary Club of John Creek, District 6910, got an amazing opportunity to host a talk on ♦Rotary and World Peace♦ by Past Rotary International President Raja Saboo. Mr. Saboo is celebrating sixty years of sterling service in Rotary, and his message of ♦Look beyond Yourself♦ continues to resonate with Rotarians across the world with the theme of ♦Service above Self.♦ Besides Functional Literacy, Combating Hunger, Polio Eradication and medical missions across the world, one of the outstanding missions of PRIP Saboo♦s leadership has been the flagship programs of Rotary Peace Centers.

Hundreds of Rotarians from across the district, including dignitaries of Rotary International, were treated to profound, first-hand accounts of Mr. Saboo♦s peace and medical initiatives across the world. Mr. Saboo reflected at length on the hands-on projects done by him and his wife Usha Saboo in African countries, Cambodia, Mongolia, and the most underprivileged segments of India. Mr. Saboo♦s reflections on his endeavors to alleviate hunger and illness in war-torn countries across the world were deeply poignant and motivational. The people afflicted by atrocities and poverty in war-torn areas whose lives were touched by Mr. and Mrs. Saboo will remain etched in our sensibilities as memorable souls. The brave volunteers who joined hands with him to alleviate the problems faced by people in those countries will remain as shining examples of people at large in our communities who contribute to the mission of Rotary across the world.

Mr. Saboo dwelled at length on the role played by WHO in conjunction with Rotary International for medical missions across the world. Mr. Saboo♦s personal delineation of his pioneering work for polio eradication, besides ♦Gift of Life♦ and ♦Heartline♦ projects in India remains exemplary. ♦We live once and we die once, ladies and gentlemen, let♦s do something to help humanity♦♦ will echo forever in our hearts, along with his message on the need to replace ♦the love for power♦ with ♦the power of love♦ to make the world even a better place to live in.

## South Hall Rotary Establishes a Grant for GED Vouchers

By Amanda R Groover on Monday, March 1, 2021



The South Hall Rotary club recently designated \$1,000 toward GED Vouchers for Adult Education students in Hall County. The goal of the grant is to help offset the state required cost for the four test needed to obtain the GED. The South Hall Rotary club recently designated \$1,000 toward GED Vouchers for Adult Education students in Hall County. The goal of the grant is to help offset the state required cost for the four test needed to obtain the GED.

The grant was established after club members heard from Lanier Tech Interim President Tim McDonald about the Adult Education programs offered in our area. He was invited to the club to speak back in September during Rotary International♦s month focused on basic education and literacy in our community. He was able to talk about the programs successes and the challenges faced by participants.

♦I was really moved by how possible we make adult education classes in our community and how heartbreaking it is for someone to struggle to be able to come up with the full \$160 to pay for the tests♦ stated Club President Amanda Groover.

Many of the participants of the GED program are already struggling to make ends meet because they do not have a diploma. Participants commit to attending classes that are offered free of charge but there is still a necessary cost commitment in the \$40 per test for the four core subject areas.

Lanier Tech Program Director Shannon Cole spoke to the challenges of finding spaces to provide classes in many geographic areas where Lanier Tech serves our community. He mentioned that they specifically struggled to provide classes in the South Hall Community because of a lack of available meeting rooms. However, he said that the students who do participate are willing to put in the effort to pass these tests.

The South Hall Rotary Club realized that it would be very easy to help supplement the cost of GED vouchers for members of our community that are working hard to improve the quality of their lives and the lives around them. Through the \$1000 donation, 25 test vouchers can be provided for vetted students.

♦We don♦t want \$40 or \$80 or even \$120 prevent someone from making an additional \$10,000-\$20,000 a year when they get past this hurdle. Providing a grant for Lanier Tech to be able to provide vouchers is a really simple way we can help bridge that gap and hopefully help these students make a bigger investment in themselves and the community♦ state♦d Groover.

After a few months of working through the technicalities of making a program like this function, the club was excited to be able to dedicate funds this February to present to Lanier Tech in March. The club was also able to partner with the Braselton Rotary Club to double the funds and add students from Jackson County to the grant opportunity.

We shared the program with club president Hardy Johnson and he was all for helping us support this opportunity. I would love to see it grow through all the programs in Lanier Tech's service area stated Groover. The club hopes to be able to celebrate the recipient's successes at their GED graduation ceremonies as well as here the difference the GED programs have made in their lives.

Sometimes of the smallest and simplest solutions can provide opportunities for huge impacts. It was because of COVID-19 that we had the opportunity as a club to slow down and find simple ways to contribute. We hope that this grant leads to an annual opportunity to support literacy and education in our communities.

For more information about the GED programs at Lanier Tech, please visit their [Adult Education Program](#).

## Happy Birthday to the Rotary Club of Hartwell

By Mike Everett on Monday, March 15, 2021



Happy 84th birthday to the Rotary Club of Hartwell. The club was chartered March 19, 1937, and has a long history of serving the community and the world. Especially on their birthday, they are grateful for those Rotarians who have come before them and set such a great example of Service Above Self. They look to the future where opportunities to serve others are endless.

## April 2021

### HOT NEWS: Fun in the Sun



Who is ready to have some **Fun in the Sun**? The [District 6910 Conference](#) isn't at Jekyll this year, so we are bringing the beach to you! Your conference committee has been working hard to plan a wonderful **Virtual District Conference** event to include Rotary fellowship, fun activities with in-person options, excellent speakers, and a Pack-A-Backpack Service Project.

In this newsletter, you will find valuable information about registration, our virtual conference platform [Whova](#), conference activities, our virtual House of Friendship, and Club Hospitality Suites. We hope you will plan to participate in all the activities offered throughout the two-day event. The entire event is designed to be a fun time to interact and network with other Rotarians within your Clubs and across District 6910.

#### AGENDA:

Friday, April 23, 2021	
12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	<i>General Session 1</i>
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<i>It's 5:00 Somewhere</i>
5:30 pm - 6:00 pm	<i>HOF Scavenger Hunt</i>
6:00 pm - 7:00 pm	<i>Club Hospitality Suites</i>
7:00 pm - 8:00 pm	<i>General Session 2</i>
Saturday, April 24, 2021	
10:00 am - 11:30 am	<i>General Session 3</i>
5:00 pm - 5:30 pm	<i>Wine Tasting / Education</i>
5:30 pm - 6:15 pm	<i>Beach Bash</i>
6:15 pm - 7:00 pm	<i>Club Hospitality Suites</i>
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	<i>General Session 4</i>

#### REGISTRATION:

Registration will be open and available by March 10 through DacDB!

**COST:** \$25.00 per Rotarian, \$15.00 for Guests/Rotaractors/Interactors

**WHERE:** <https://www.dacdb.com/index.cfm?EventID=77520155>

**WHY:** Each registrant will receive virtual registration gift(s) and a chance to win excellent door prizes. One lucky person will win a grand door prize valued at \$1200!

Prizes Include:

- \$700.00 Gift Certificate Barnsley Gardens
- \$700.00 Gift Certificate Chateau Elan
- \$200.00 Home Depot Gift Card
- \$100.00 Starbucks Gift Card
- \$100.00 Amazon Gift Card
- \$100.00 Target Gift Card
- \$500.00 Best Buy Gift Card
- \$200.00 Target Gift Card
- \$100.00 Starbucks Gift Card

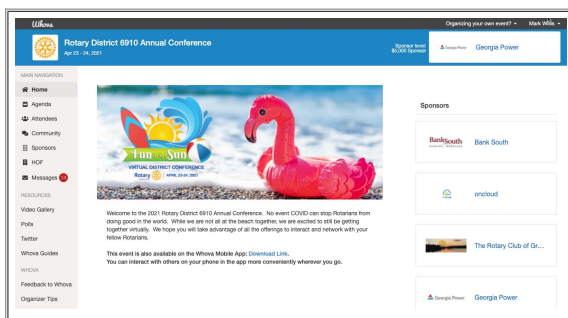


**GRAND PRIZE:** \$1,200.00 Gift Certificate for The Westin Jekyll Island--3 night stay includes dinner.

Additional Opportunities for Door Prizes: Special drawings and gifts will be presented during General Session 3--TRF Major Donor Recognition.

*\*Only those who register for the conference are entered into the drawings. Must be present to win.*

## WHOVA



This year's District Conference will be through an event platform called Whova, chosen to create a much more engaging and interactive experience for you while attending sessions, interacting with other attendees, and visiting the virtual House of Friendship. Connect and network with your fellow District 6910 Rotarians and remember to vote in our Beach Blanket Photo contest!

Attendees will be able to experience the conference from either a computer or from the Whova Mobile App on an iPhone or Android device. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event. We'll have opportunities for you to learn more about the platform and test your access before the event.

## It's 5 O'Clock Somewhere

It's always 5 o'clock somewhere, and on **Friday, April 24 from 5:00 to 5:30 pm**, you can join us at your favorite dive bar or in the comfort of your home as we learn from one of the best Mixologists, Freddy Ramirez from Reynolds, Lake Oconee. Get ready for some great cocktails and great fun at our virtual happy hour!

If you don't drink, don't worry! Non-alcoholic versions of these drinks can be enjoyed by everyone.

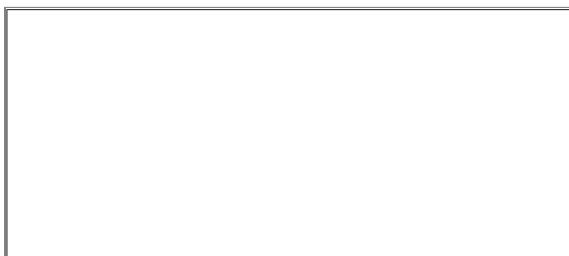
We'll prepare you in advance by emailing drink recipes to you when you register.



## Wine Tasting / Education

On **Saturday, April 24 from 5:00 to 5:30 pm**, "wine" down the conference with the Women of Rotary! Wine is everywhere, we'll be pouring a rare Georgia Fruit "country wine" at the virtual conference. Look no further! Join some of the ladies of Rotary from Sweet Acre Farms Winery (at 7584 Bill Wilson Rd. Alto, GA 30510) who will host a virtual tasting with some fascinating educational notes. Matt Vrahiotes, owner and operator, will also share his story about becoming the first winery in Hall County, along with what makes his wines so unique, and give us a virtual tour while we're tasting. Order your bottle(s) in advance online at [www.sweetacrefarms.com](http://www.sweetacrefarms.com)

## Beach Bash







On **Saturday, April 24 from 5:30 to 6:15 pm**, grab your beach towel, sunglasses, favorite Hawaiian shirt, and join us for our virtual Beach Bash. Join Gainesville Rotarian, Chef Mike Giles, and Gary Black, the Georgia Commissioner of Agriculture, in the Georgia Grown Kitchen as they cook a traditional Low Country Boil. We're bringing the outdoor Low Country seafood boil experience inside, sizing it for the stovetop and preparing a meal for two (or a few extra people)!

Focusing on locally sourced food, this meal is one that will satisfy your palate while you learn the history of the dish, including the farmers and fishermen who supply the ingredients.

We will provide an article on the history of this culturally important cooking tradition and a detailed list of ingredients and equipment needed to prepare everything in your home kitchen. You'll be ready to cook along with Mike and Gary during the virtual, live Beach Bash broadcast. The recipe will be emailed to you after you register.

For those who are allergic to shrimp or other shellfish, optional ingredients will be suggested for you to enjoy the Low Country Boil experience.

## House of Friendship

Plan to spend some time in the virtual House of Friendship this year. In order to have a ♦booth♦ at the HOF, clubs need to register no later than March 19 by downloading and submitting the [House of Friendship Registration Form](#).

Clubs can participate in the HOF by sending in a short video, pictures, or documents of a service project or fundraising event. The videos will need to be sent in by March 31. There is no cost to submit the video and participate in the House of Friendship. Clubs will be notified once they have registered with instructions on the process of uploading their HOF materials into our Whova Virtual portal.

Conference attendees can participate by visiting the HOF room and watching the videos. While you are there, you can get the answers to the clues for the virtual scavenger hunt held on April 23. The winner will have a chance to win prizes! If your club wants to participate and has questions, please get in touch with Jessica Fleetwood at [jbfleetwood1@gmail.com](mailto:jbfleetwood1@gmail.com) or Cindy Haddon at [chaddonrotary08@gmail.com](mailto:chaddonrotary08@gmail.com). Otherwise, simply complete the [HOF registration form](#).

## Pack-A-Backpack Service Project



What is the Project? Purchase backpacks and school supplies, fill the backpacks with the supplies, and distribute the backpacks to students in your community who need them. Include a note of encouragement in each backpack.

For additional information, including step-by-step directions and a suggested supplies list, [check out the full details](#). You may also contact Donna O♦Neal, [donnaoneal1050@gmail.com](mailto:donnaoneal1050@gmail.com), 404.630.0427

## Club Hospitality Suites

Club Hospitality Suites are a time when we rekindle friendships; many of these friendships have been built over several years of conferences. Then, there will be new and instant friendships made. We exchange Rotary experiences of how to build clubs, how to maintain enthusiasm, and how to bounce back from unforeseen drops in memberships. Each hospitality suite is a melting pot of personalities, educational levels, cultures, and shared successes and failures.

Our virtual conference platform is very user friendly and interactive. Club Hospitality Suites will be held on **Friday, April 23, 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm**, and **Saturday, April 24, 6:15 pm to 7:00 pm**.

Club Requirements: Each club will need a Zoom account and designated club member to host a Hospitality Suite. Free Zoom accounts allow up to 40 minutes per session. For +40 minutes, a paid Zoom account is needed.

There is no charge to have a Club Hospitality Suite--just [click on the link to register](#)! After registering, you will be emailed instructions for setting up and running your Club Hospitality Suite, which will be listed in the online Conference Agenda for others to "attend." The registration deadline is March 19.

## So, are you ready for some FUN IN THE SUN?

We hope that we have given you a glimpse of what our **Fun in the Sun Virtual District Conference** is all about! We need you ALL to **REGISTER NOW** so you do not miss out on any **Fun in the Sun!** In the coming weeks, we will continue to update you with information about the **Fun in the Sun Virtual District Conference**.

For any additional questions about this year♦s conference, please contact Dianne Cammarata at [dicamma@bellsouth.net](mailto:dicamma@bellsouth.net).





Find the latest updates and a full list of sponsors, check out the [Rotary District 6910 website conference page](#) and follow us on social media.

## Special District Conference Edition

### Your District Conference Committee Chairs

#### **Tina Fischlin**

- District Governor
- Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties*

#### **Mike Berg**

- District Governor Elect
- Rotary Club of Dawson County*

#### **PDG Dianne Cammarata**

- Chair
- Rotary Club of Hall County*

#### **Shannon Osborne**

- Co-chair
- Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties*

#### **Renee Carden**

- Activities
- South Hall Rotary*

#### **Pete McDonald**

- Audio-Visual
- Rome Rotary Club*

#### **Gerry Taylor**

- Awards
- Classic City of Athens Rotary Club*

#### **PDG Alan Smith**

- Chaplain
- Rotary Club of Thomson*

#### **Peter Gleichman**

- Consultant
- Rotary Club of Canton*

#### **Carla Abshire**

- Decorations

#### **Judy Wright**

- District Office

#### **Tricia Stoeckig**

- District Office

#### **Jeffrey Wells**

- Entertainment Coordinator

#### **Steve Harrold**

- GRSP
- Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties*

#### **PDG Bruce Azevedo**

- Foundation
- Rotary Club of Madison County*

#### **Jessica Fleetwood**

- House of Friendship
- Etowah Cartersville Rotary*

#### **Jennifer Hendrickson**

- Master of Ceremonies
- Rotary Club of Gwinnett County*

#### **Mark Willis**

-Master of Ceremonies  
-Rotary Club of Gwinnett County

**PDG Shane Burr**  
-Presenter Coordinator  
-Rotary Club of Canton

**Phil Ciccone**  
-Production  
-Rotary Club of Towne Lake

**Laura Dent**  
-Public Relations  
-Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties

**Micki Tanner-Baird**  
-Registration  
-Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties

**Bobby Hildreth**  
-Sergeant at Arms  
-Rotary Club of Morgan County

**Donna O'Neal**  
-Service  
-Rotary Club of Greene and Putnam Counties

**PDG Diane Cammarata**  
-Sponsors  
-Rotary Club of Hall County

**Leo Lawrenson**  
-Registration / Technology  
-E-Club of the South

**Andrea McKenzie**  
-Treasurer  
-Rotary Club of Dawson County

Rotary International



Public Image



Virtual Fundraising



Laws of Life



Club Focus



## Important Dates & Deadlines

[Click Here for PDF of Upcoming Key Dates](#)

Monthly Rotary Theme



District Conference



District Focus



Odds & Ends



## Communication Pipeline

[Click here to send a note to the Public Image Committee](#)

## RI Monthly Themes

[Click here](#)

Training

