

# Rotary



# Rotary Opens Opportunities

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## Club Leaders



Terry Swaim  
President  
Laws of Life Contest Chair



Wayne Ellison  
President-Elect



Shelly Emanuel Hoffman  
Secretary



Wanda Weegar  
President - Nominee  
Treasurer



Mark Willis  
Treasurer-Elect



Joseph Justin Ariano  
Membership Chair



Scott P. Zanardo  
Membership Retention Chair



Jeff Alexander  
Rotary Foundation Chair



Rodney T. Brundidge  
District Grant Chair



Jennifer K. Hendrickson  
Family of Rotary  
International Service Chair



Schelly Tennant Marlatt  
Public Image Chair



Robert Rule  
Attendance Secretary  
Club Executive Secretary  
Sergeant-at-Arms



David Thomas Upchurch  
ROCK Co-Champion  
Club Polio Plus Chair  
Training Officer



Marlon Allen  
On-To Conference Chair



Scott Jordan  
Club Programs Chair



Terri Kolander  
Club Service Chair



John D. Gibb  
Vocational Service Chair



Sherwin M. Levinson  
AV & Stage Manager Chair



Joe Godfrey  
Club Fellowship Chair



Jennifer S. Hibbard  
iPast President

## Birthdays

## About Rotary

Rotary International is an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. There are 34,282 member clubs worldwide, representing 200 countries and 1.2 million members.

RI President-elect Holger Knaack's theme for 2020-21, ***Rotary Opens Opportunities***, asks Rotarians to create opportunities that strengthen their leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need.

## Upcoming Programs

**Upcoming Program: Wayne Hill - "Remember When"**



**Beginning with the March 2nd meeting, you must REREGISTER to get a new Zoom link for our weekly meetings. That link is:**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/71sd-murDMrHNOZLIKkImSqWcEf-3hpkPA1>

This week, we will hear from one of our Club's longtime members, Wayne Hill who will speak to us about Gwinnett's history and success over the years.

A lifelong resident of Gwinnett County, Wayne was born and raised in Sugar Hill. He was educated in the Gwinnett County School System.

Wayne's first longterm job was running his father's cabinet business for 32 years. While he has held many different positions throughout his years, his public service career began in 1993 when he was elected to the Gwinnett County Board of Commissioners where he served as Chairman until 2004. He has served on multiple boards and commissions including the Atlanta Regional Commission, National Association of Regional Councils Board, the National Association of Counties and Association of County Commissioners of Georgia, just to name a few.

His service doesn't stop there, as he is heavily involved in civic activities, including but not limited to giving his time to the American Cancer Society, Leadership Gwinnett, Regional Leadership Institute, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful, Gwinnett Children's Shelter, North Georgia Community Foundation and the Council for Quality Growth.

Since 2011, Wayne works part-time for ATLAS, formerly known as Moreland Altobelli as their Marketing Executive.

Wayne and his wife, Carolyn, married in 1961 and reside in Suwanee, Georgia, where they raised three children, who continue to live and work in Gwinnett. Wayne and Carolyn have nine grandchildren and Twelve great grandchildren. All of the Hill children and grandchildren were educated in the Gwinnett County School System.

**Upcoming Programs - Be sure to visit the DACdb calendar to see all upcoming events.**

April 20th - David Snell, Vice President - E.R. Snell

April 27th - Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson and Former Chairman Charlotte Nash - Reflections and Forward

May 4th - Angel Cabrera, President - Georgia Tech Institute of Technology

May 11th - TBD

## Recap of last week

### Recap of Last Week's Program

Louise Radloff introduced Josiah Johnson, development officer and Jaimie Johnson, founder and executive director who spoke at today's meeting. Jaimie provided a detailed overview of how Boy with a Ball originated. The faith-based organization is celebrating its 20<sup>th</sup> year. In 2013, Boy with a Ball moved the global headquarters to Atlanta. The Gwinnett programs started in 2017 working with the Berkmar school cluster. The nonprofit is currently implementing its Velocity program, a cross-age mentoring program for high school and middle school students. The program's mission is to mobilize young people to be leaders and transform cities/communities.

Velocity encompasses a number of activities including weekly after-school programs, family engagement, quarterly Super Saturdays where families, mentors and mentees all gather for joint activities, mentoring of mentors, and collecting evidence-based data. Velocity has a 100% high school graduation rate and a 95% college matriculation rate for its participants. Velocity is currently taking place in several school clusters across Gwinnett County (Berkmar and Central Gwinnett). Boy with a Ball is planning to add the Collins Hill cluster next year.

An interesting side note-Jaimie Johnson came up with the name Boy with a Ball based upon the time when his son carried a red kickball everywhere with him when he was a young boy.

Thank you for sharing your story with us!

### Classification Talk - Erica Brown

New member, Erica Brown gave her classification talk. Originally from Macon with a degree in business, Erica serves as the Associate Development Officer for the Atlanta Mission. Atlanta Mission is the city's largest and longest-running provider of services to homeless men, women and children. She also shared with us that she is expecting twins in early July. Welcome to our club, Erica!

### CART Fund

CART is Change for Alzheimer's Research Trust, an organization founded by Rotarians and operated by Rotarians. One hundred percent (100%) of donated funds go to cutting edge research to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Thanks to your support CART was able to provide \$1,000,000.00 in Grants again this year. The bad news is that District 6910 has only raised \$38,000.00 as of March 31st and in 2020, we contributed over \$65,000.00. Please consider contributing in the next ten days to help us get closer to or previous levels of support.

Individuals who would like to make a CART Contribution and get Tax or personal Credit: you can go to [Login Form \(mycartfund.org\)](#) and using your DACdb credentials to log in. once you are logged in click on ♦Make a Contribution♦ on the left-hand side of the page. Not only will you get credit, but so will your Club.



### March Madness Results

The 2021 March Madness for the Rotary Club boiled down to four teams: Gonzaga (Adam Pomeranz); UCLA (Wayne Hill); Baylor (Wanda Weegar) and Houson (Mark Willis.)

The best game of the tournament may have been Gonzaga vs. UCLA, a three point buzzer-beater giving the win to Gonzaga. But the Zags could not hold up in the finals against a strong and most athletic Baylor team, easily giving Wanda the \$100 prize money. Congratulations on your \$5 pick, Wanda!

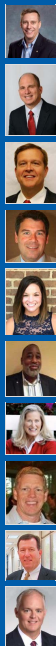


### Calling All Volunteers For April 16th and 23rd

We've got two more Rotary sponsored Farmers to Families Food Truck Deliveries the morning of April 16th and 23rd in Duluth. If you can help us unload and distribute the food to our nonprofit partners, please register here:  
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/409094aa5a82ca64-rotary1>

### Oyster Roast-Food & Fellowship!

Plan to join us for our first social gathering of 2021 being held on April 14th. There is a sign up link in the flyer as well as you can use this link. Please note we need a well in advance number so please sign up now if you plan on coming. It has been a long year without social gatherings and fellowship opportunities, this should be a great one!  
[https://urldefense.com/v3/\\_https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084EACA22A3F94-oyster-\\_lICzZfjcuE1naQh5RI-J5Hu37QU\\_DaYu\\_MHjy01vfer186idUCnucvUYM\\_17F2o3\\_md4XUKmk\\$](https://urldefense.com/v3/_https://www.signupgenius.com/go/20F084EACA22A3F94-oyster-_lICzZfjcuE1naQh5RI-J5Hu37QU_DaYu_MHjy01vfer186idUCnucvUYM_17F2o3_md4XUKmk$)



Mark Willis  
April 12th

Adam Pomeranz  
April 15th

Emory L. Morsberger  
April 17th

Brian D. Blough  
April 17th

Shelly Emanuel Hoffman  
April 18th

Derrick Bell  
April 21st

Audrey Arona  
May 1st

Slade W. Lail  
May 1st

Randy L. Dellinger  
May 9th

Mike Fulton  
May 10th



#### Virtual District Conference



#### VIRTUAL DISTRICT CONFERENCE



APRIL 23-24, 2021

#### FEATURING

- Virtual Activities
- **Dynamic Speakers**
- Digital House of Friendship
- **Beach Towel Contest Voting**
- Club Social Opportunities
- **District Awards**

LEARN MORE



**\$25** PER ROTARIAN  
**\$15** FOR ROTARACTORS,  
INTERACTORS, & GUESTS

Hosted on  
**Ukova**

ONLINE REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 1ST

Follow us [rotarydistrict6910.org](https://www.rotarydistrict6910.org)



#### Stay Connected - Follow us on Social Media!



#### 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 ◆ill 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 ◆ill 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-five 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

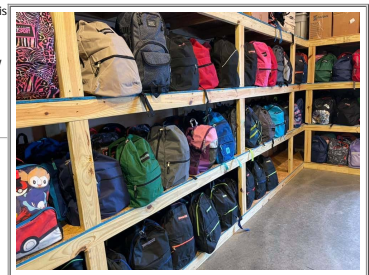
The Center for Mediation, Peace, and the Resolution of Conflict (CEMPROC) is a non-profit organization committed to peaceful resolutions to worldwide conflicts. Among other things, they coordinate the logistics for peace-building training programs around the globe. Rotary District 6910 and Lanier-Forsyth 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

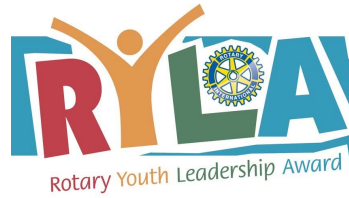
The Banks County Rotary works in conjunction with the local Banks County School District, the Food Bank of Northeast Georgia, and our Banks County Middle School Interact Club to pack and deliver 100 sacks of nutritious kid-friendly food to 100 students in the school district to take home every weekend 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 80's 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!

