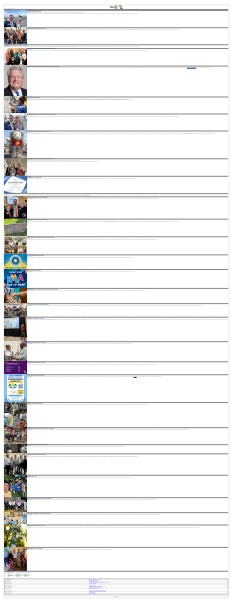
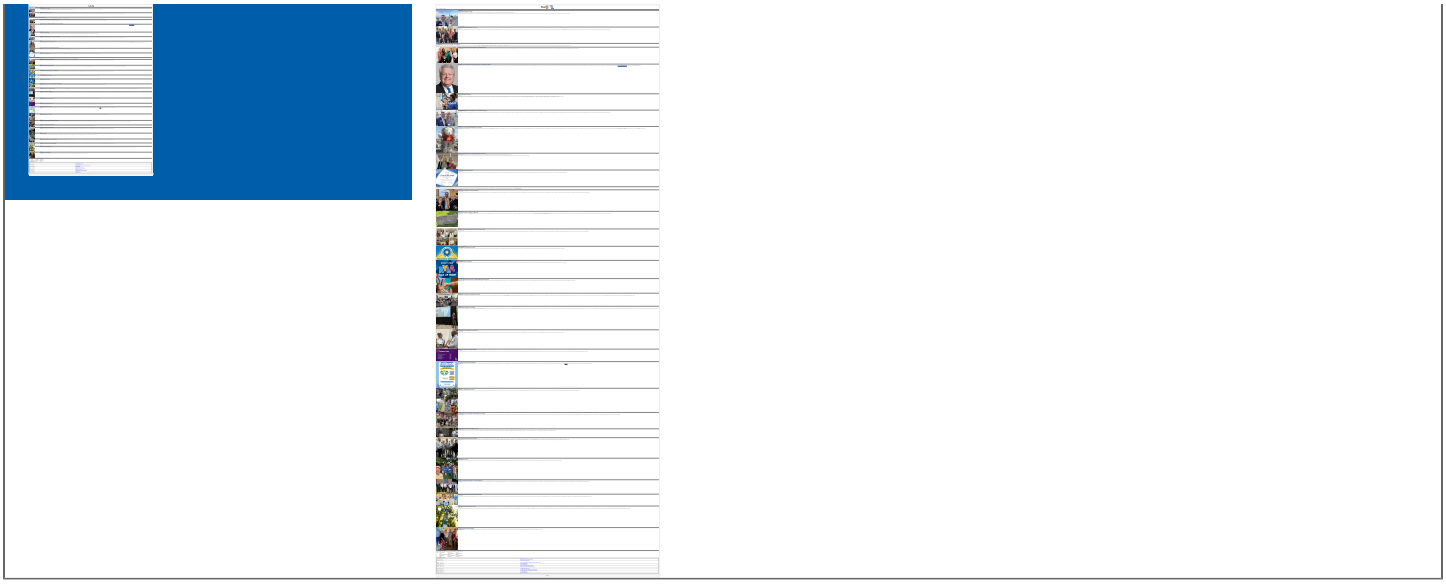
Rotary
District 6900



October 2, 2025



From Our District Governor

Continuing Our Support to End Polio



This month, we will celebrate World Polio Day (October 24) and I hope that your clubs are planning special events and looking at how you can continue to support Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio around the world.

During the recent Zone 33 and 34 summit in Jacksonville, I was able to attend a very special breakfast with Past RI President Stephanie Urchick and several other governors for agreeing to donate 20% of our district's designated funds to Polio eradication. Our contribution of over $57,000 will make a huge impact in our battle against polio. I got several photos and a signed invitation from Past RI President Stephanie.

I was also able to take several photos with the End Polio Now torch and participate in a "Zero K" event to help eradicate polio. This event was extremely well attended and fun. All "runners" received a photo crossing the finish line, a donut, a race number and t-shirt and of course, loads of fun and camaraderie. This is a great idea to help celebrate World Polio Day on Oct 24!

Rotary International and the Gates Foundation recently renewed their commitment to eradicating polio and protecting children everywhere from this paralyzing disease. Rotary will continue to raise $50 million per year, and each dollar will be matched with US$2 from the Gates Foundation. Over the next three years, this will dedicate up to US$450 million to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. **Take a look at this video from Bill Gates.**

The need for Rotary and our members to financially support these efforts is greater than ever. So take time to think what you can do to support End Polio Now this World Polio Day.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Steve Ivory
September 30, 2025

From Our District Governor

Help Us Select Our 2028-2029 District Governor

Nominations Open Until October 24, 2025



As first announced in late August via email and continuing in posts and newsletter articles over the last month, submissions for the 2028-2029 District Governor Nominee are now open. We need your support to identify and nominate qualified candidates through an official club resolution. If you are an interested Rotarian, please let your club leaders know of your interest. Follow the links to the **certified club resolution form** and **Article 16 of the Rotary Manual of Procedure, detailing the District Governor's role and responsibilities**.

Please ensure any candidate your club nominates meets the following qualifications:

Qualifications for a Governor-Nominee
At the time of selection, unless excused by the Rotary International Board, the nominee must:

- Be a member in good standing of a functioning club in District 6900
- Have served as club president for a full term or as charter president for at least six months
- Demonstrate willingness, commitment, and ability to fulfill the duties and responsibilities outlined in section 16.030
- Show knowledge of the qualifications, duties, and responsibilities of a governor as prescribed in the bylaws
- Submit a statement to Rotary International confirming they understand these qualifications, duties, and responsibilities, are qualified for the office, and are willing and able to faithfully perform them.

Once your club has nominated a candidate, please send the club resolution and a brief "Rotary Resume" to District Executive Secretary, Mandy Timmons (d6900secretary2526@gmail.com), with a cc to me (stiv1994@gmail.com), by **Friday, October 24, 2025**. The district nominating committee, chaired by me and consisting of our governor line and past district governors, will interview candidates on **Saturday, November 1, 2025**.

Thank you for your assistance in this important process. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Mandy or me.

Thank you all so much!

Posted by Steve Ivory
September 23, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

Congratulations to Our 2025-26 Competitive Grant Winners!

by Kay Williamson, D6900 Community Grants Chair

Rotary District 6900 and The Rotary Foundation have awarded $35,000 in grant funds for projects starting in the 2025–2026 Rotary year. The following clubs were selected to receive funding:

- **Meriwether County Rotary Club** – Supporting K-12 students by providing access to everyday essential items needed for students and their families to eliminate Learning Barriers through the Meriwether County School System Wraparound Care Center
- **North Fulton Rotary Club** – Creating a Peace Garden with two peace poles with grand gardens at WellStar North Fulton Medical Center, offering quiet respites and peaceful spaces for patients and visitors
- **Carrollton Rotary Club** – Providing three different therapeutic entertainment, music, art, and exercise events for the elderly community members in the Carrollton area
- **Roswell Rotary Club** – Hosting a Family Farm Day to honor and support first responders, police officers, firefighters, and their families with meaningful activities, along with hands-on activities such as building community-themed bird houses
- **Peachtree City Rotary Club** – Building a “Melody Meadow” outdoor sensory space at Camp Southern Ground featuring outdoor musical instruments for music enrichment programs for kids and their families
- **North Cobb Rotary Club** – Installing an integrated therapy platform system at McKenna Farms to enhance gross motor skills for individuals who are undergoing physical, occupational, and speech

therapy.

This program is part of The Rotary Foundation (TRF), which allocates funds for District Grants to clubs based on contributions made to the Rotary Annual Fund three years prior.

- Key elements of the grant application process include:
- Clearly outlining the problem or need.
- Explaining how the project will address or alleviate the issue.
- Detailing Rotarian involvement (required for all projects)
- Describing how the club will promote The Rotary Foundation.

Congratulations to all the winning clubs for their outstanding projects and commitment to service! We'll keep you posted on their progress.

Posted by Kay Williamson
September 25, 2025

Peachtree City Rotary Club Celebrates Historic Day with DG Steve Ivory



The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** marked a milestone this month, hosting District 6900 Governor and Past President Steve Ivory, while celebrating two new inductees into Rotary International's prestigious Arch Klumph Society — DG Steve & Anna Ivory and Past President Mary & Bubber Chapman. The Arch Klumph Society honors those who give $250,000 or more to The Rotary Foundation; with these additions, District 6900 now has 11 members.

"This is an extraordinary honor that speaks volumes about the heart, vision, and commitment to service in the Rotary Club of Peachtree City," said AKS Member, Past District Governor and District Foundation Chair Bob Hagan of Roswell.

The celebration also highlighted the club's impact: nearly 30% membership growth, $500,000+ contributed to The Rotary Foundation, and countless service projects in the last four years - building on the great year (during Covid) under DG Steve's leadership as club president.

District leadership roles held by Peachtree City Rotarians - District Executive Secretary Mandy Timmons, District Treasurer David O'Rear, Area Governor Amy Benton and the 2024–2025 Board of Directors were also recognized.

"This was Rotary at its very best — service, generosity, leadership, and impact," said DG Ivory.

Posted by Mandy Timmons
September 27, 2025

Join District 6910 and Past RI President Mark Maloney in a Foundation Celebration



The **Rotary Club of Greene & Putnam Counties and Rotary District 6910** are delighted to host Past RI President Mark Maloney for a celebratory luncheon as Rotarians across Georgia kick-off The Rotary Foundation Month. Mark is also the Immediate Past Chair of the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation. The event is open to all Georgia Rotarians! Hear the latest on Rotary's polio eradication efforts and other key Rotary initiatives impacting lives around the world.

The event takes place on at noon on Thursday, October 30, 2025 at the Lake Oconee Church 1101 Village Park Drive, Greensboro GA. You can **register online by clicking this link**; $25 per person covers admission and lunch.

Posted by Steve Ivory
September 30, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation

"Money for Nothing? I Think Not"



I think it is safe to say that as a society, we are fairly numbers driven when measuring how successful we've been on a project. Certainly, this is true of investors when analyzing year-end reports or the success of any fundraiser. A friend of mine reminded me of what his father always used to say. "Money may not be the most important thing, but it's way ahead of whatever is in second." Before we dissect this statement, let's look at what we did in The Foundation from a numbers perspective for the year 2024/2025.

The Foundation raised more than $569 million this year! In addition, it surpassed the milestone goal of $2 billion dollars for the Rotary Endowment. Those are incredible numbers that should be celebrated as they are something we all can be proud of being a part of. Without question, those are big dollars. Revisiting my friend's father's statement, I suppose we could stop the discussion right there and pat ourselves on the back. But we can't stop there, we're Rotarians and our motto really says it all as to what we are truly about. "Service Above Self." We repeat that phrase at every gathering. Not because it's just what we say, but rather because it always reminds us of **who we are** as Rotarians. Therefore, it's not the dollars that are important by themselves, that's just the start. What's more important is what we do with those dollars to transform the world and our communities into something better.

So, what did we DO with those dollars as a Foundation? The Rotary Foundation awarded 1,424 global grants, 468 district grants, and 74 disaster response grants. What else was accomplished? We renewed our agreement with the Gates Foundation, which is a total recommitment to finishing the fight to end Polio. By the way, are you ready for World Polio Day on October 24? Make sure your club is ready to put on its event and be sure to register your event.

Additionally, as Rotarians, we are fully committed to bringing peace to the world as The Foundation awarded the prestigious "Programs of Scale" grant to "The Pathways to Peace and Prosperity in

Colombia."

So, let’s revisit that statement of my friend’s father. Yes, money is important, but as Rotarians we know it’s NOT the dollars themselves, it’s what we do with them that makes them important. We should be very pleased with what we did last year, now let’s make this year even better. For as **I** always like to say, “Let’s continue to work together to make our Foundation stronger as it reaches greater heights.”

If I personally can assist you in any way, please don’t hesitate to reach out to me via cell or email. Unite for good!

Posted by Bob Hagan
September 25, 2025

From Our District Governor

Zone Summit: Spotlight on Leadership, Innovation and Global Challenges



I wanted to share with all of you some of the learning, leadership, innovation, and fellowship opportunities

that happened when Rotary leaders from across Zones 33 and 34 gathered in Jacksonville a few weeks ago for the highly anticipated Rotary Summit.

The summit featured powerful presentations, including expert-led sessions on **Artificial Intelligence and Disaster Relief**, highlighting how new technologies can transform Rotary's response to crises worldwide. Another highlight was the **Peace Moonshot 2030** initiative, where D**istrict Governor Steve Ivory and District Governor-Elect Cynthia Edwards** joined Rotary International President-Elect Larry Lunsford and Zone Director Patrick Eakes in discussions about advancing Rotary's peacebuilding mission. And, innovation took center stage when **CEO Jim Marggraff** and **Dave Cochran of the Alpharetta Rotary Club** presented the **Kibeam E-Book Reader** during a "Shark Tank" event of Rotary leaders, showcasing the power of technology to expand literacy and education access.

As you will read later in the newsletter, our own emerging leaders **Amy Benton (Peachtree City) and Lisa Gelber (North Fulton)** proudly represented future generations of Rotary leadership, engaging in training and networking sessions.

A highlight of the summit was **DGE Cynthia Edwards' formal introduction**, as she walked the stage to represent District 6900 with pride. I also had the opportunity as your DG to deliveed a heartfelt **Rotary Moment**, reminding all participants of the values and impact that unite Rotarians worldwide.

PHOTOS:


SERVICE PROJECT
SHARK
ROTARY
TANK


Rotary




Steve



Posted by Steve Ivory
September 30, 2025

End Polio Now

Still Time to Create a Plan for World Polio Day – October 24!

by Wynita Cannon, District Polio Chair



We’re thrilled to celebrate **World Polio Day** with you!

Why October 24?
World Polio Day was established by **Rotary International** to honor **Dr. Jonas Salk**, who developed the first successful polio vaccine in 1955. It's a day to raise global awareness about **polio**, a crippling and potentially deadly disease, and to recognize the incredible progress made toward its eradication.

A Global Movement

Since the launch of the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI)** in 1988, polio cases have dropped by **99%**, and over **20 million people** have been spared from paralysis thanks to vaccination efforts. But the fight isn't over - polio remains endemic in a few countries, and continued support is critical to:

- Maintain high immunization coverage
- Prevent resurgence in polio-free areas
- Achieve full eradication—making polio the **second human disease** ever eliminated (after smallpox)

This Year's Challenge: Raise $1,500 per Club for PolioPlus! We're calling on every club to step up and help us reach this goal. Let's make a powerful impact together!

Contest Alert!

This year, we want you to create and submit a plan for World Polio Day - and we'll recognize Rotary District 6900's BEST WORLD POLIO DAY CELEBRATION! Submissions are due by the end of the day on World Polio Day (October 24). We want to know:

- How is your club celebrating World Polio Day?
- Who will raise the most funds?
- Which club will come up with the most **creative and innovative** fundraising idea?

Who will come out on top? Let's make this year unforgettable!

Have questions or need help? Contact

- District 6900 Polio Plus Chair – Wynita Cannon, 229.886.7459. WLSCANNON@gmail.com
- District 6900 Foundation Chair – Bob Hagan, 770.330.9582. 1516DGBob6900@gmail.com

Posted by Wynita Cannon
September 21, 2025

District 6900 Leaders Shine at the 2025 Emerging Leaders Conference



Jacksonville, FL was the host city for this year's Emerging Leaders Conference for Zones 33 and 34, bringing together Rotary's brightest future leaders for a week of learning, networking, and inspiration.

Representing District 6900 were Area Governors and Sheffield Winners **Amy Benton (Peachtree City)** and **Lisa Gelber (North Fulton)**. They joined "emerging" leaders from across the Southeast and Caribbean to prepare for future leadership opportunities in Rotary.

Throughout the week, attendees heard from dynamic speakers, including:

- Stephanie Urchick, Immediate Past President, Rotary International
- John Caufield, Co-Founder, Innovadores Foundation
- Hamzah Shabari, Director of Innovation, Haskell
- Patric Young, Studio Analyst, SEC Network
- Kristen Keen, Founder & CEO, Rethreaded
- Angela TenBroeck, Executive Director, Center for Sustainable Agriculture
- Michele Berg, Deputy General Secretary, Rotary International
- Eden Kendall, Co-Host, WJXT River City Live
- Charles Elwood, CEO, SolisMatica
- Andy Weitz, Chief Marketing Officer, PGA Tour

They were also joined by Rotary International President-nominee Larry Lunsford, RI Director Patrick Eakes and RI Director-elect Marshall Butler, who shared valuable insights on Rotary's future.

Workshops throughout the conference covered timely and impactful topics such as Artificial Intelligence, Public Speaking, Disaster Response, Human Trafficking, Impact Clubs, and Empowering Women.

Other highlights included a Roaring 20s-themed cocktail party, a hands-on service project with Rethreaded, a Shark Tank-style competition (featuring District 6900's own KiBeam project!), a House of Friendship, and countless opportunities for networking and collaboration.

We are grateful to Amy and Lisa for representing District 6900 so well at this exciting event. Their leadership journey is just beginning, and we look forward to seeing the impact they will make in the years ahead.

Posted by Mandy Timmons
September 21, 2025

Magic of Rotary

Club of Excellence Awards 2024-2025



Congratulations to the clubs who submitted their goals in Rotary Club Central and achieved enough of those goals to qualify for the Rotary International Club of Excellence award. On behalf of PRIP Stephanie and TRF Chair Mark, I want to thank you for the hard work that went into making the 2024-2025 Rotary year one of our district's best yet! Here are our Club of Excellence winners:

- Altanta West End
- Columbus
- Decatur
- Dunwoody
- Fayetteville
- Griffin
- Henry County
- LaGrange
- Lake Spivey / Clayton County
- Marietta Metro

- Marietta
- Muscogee Columbus
- Newnan
- North Cobb County
- North Columbus
- Peachtree City
- Roswell
- Senoia
- Stone Mountain
- Thomasville
- Tyrone
- Vinings Cumberland

Posted by Gordon Owens
September 29, 2025

Thoughts on the Value of Membership

In a recent meeting with the Rotary Club of North Cobb, District Governor Steve was approached by Rotarian Pete Kane, who is a coach and a podcaster. Pete invited DG Steve to join him in a podcast on various Rotary topics. This one talks about why someone might want to join Rotary … take a listen on **YouTube**.

Posted by Steve Ivory
September 30, 2025

GRSP Update

GRSP Salutes Partnerships in Norway and Denmark

by Katheryne Fields, GRSP Executive Director



Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) Executive Director Katheryne Fields and District 6910 Chair and Foundation Director Cheryl Huffman traveled to Scandinavia in early September to honor the 79-year partnership between GRSP and Norwegian Rotarians. At the invitation of District Governor Sean Armana, who also serves as GRSP Coordinator for Norway, the pair spoke at District 2260's conference in Oslo while also visiting alumni and partner institutions in Denmark and Norway.

"Our time in Norway was marked by exceptional hospitality," Fields said. "It was such an honor to share the GRSP story and celebrate our longstanding partnership. I returned energized and deeply grateful for the opportunity to collaborate with Rotarians around the world. Meeting our alumni abroad and walking the campuses of our summer programs gave me valuable insight to bring back to our Georgia scholars."

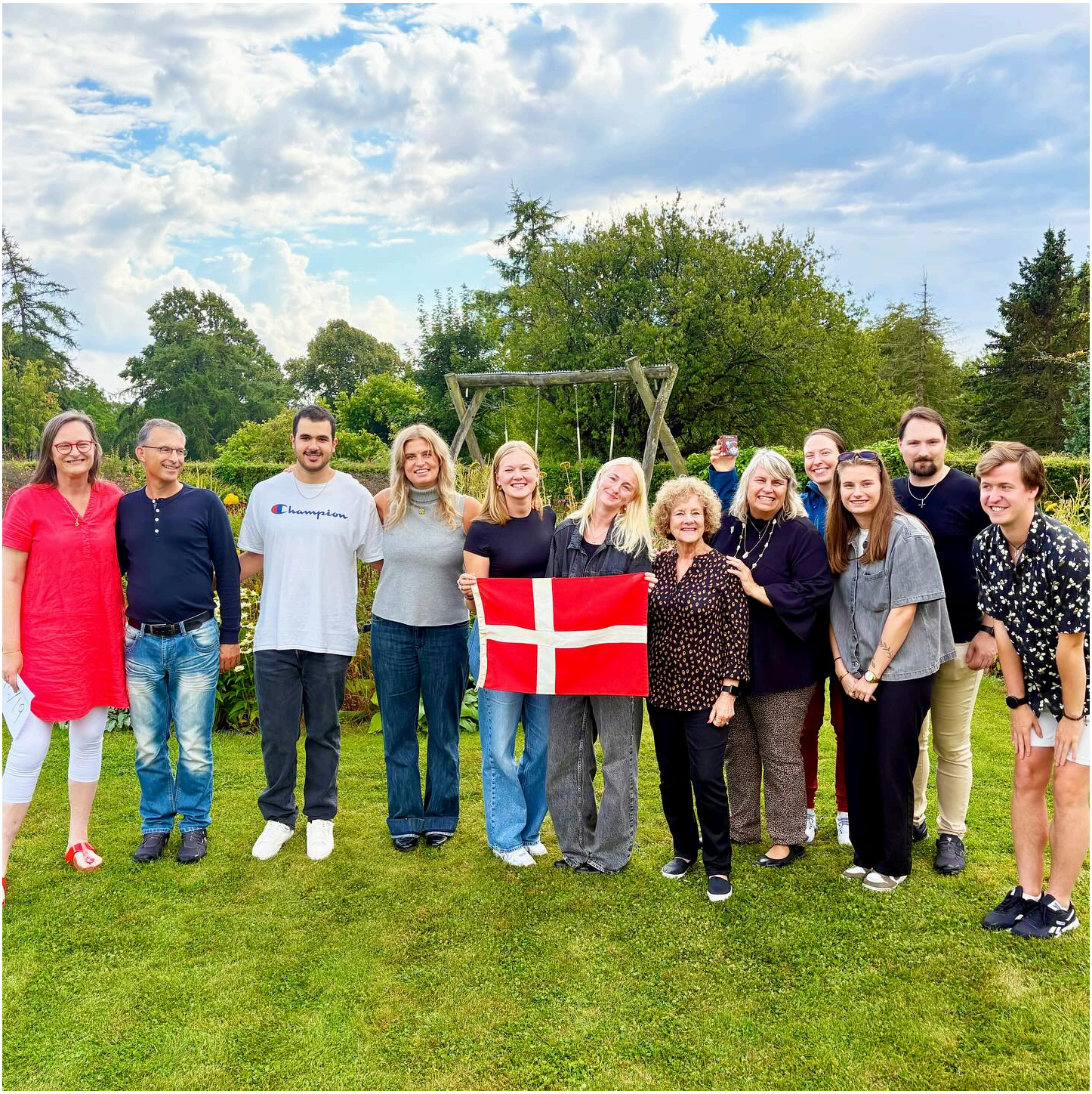
The tour began in Aarhus, Denmark, where area Rotarians hosted Fields and Huffman at Aarhus University, which was a new affiliation for two Georgia college students this summer. As guests of PDG Thomas Korsgaard, father of GRSP alumna Nana Rasmussen (Class of 2022-23), they presented to the Rotary Impact Group. Danish coordinator Birgitte Illum (Class of 1989-90) welcomed nearly a dozen alumni into her home for fellowship and Denmark's famous open-face "shooting star" sandwiches. Alumni reflected on lifelong friendships with classmates and host families, emphasizing how GRSP continues to shape their lives. In Copenhagen, the group enjoyed a community dinner with alumni and explored the capital with former scholars as guides.

The program's roots in Norway run deep. GRSP was founded in 1946 by Will Watt, with Norwegian student Paul Dietrichson among the first four scholars. In 1956, King Haakon VII awarded Watt the St. Olaf Citizen of Honor medal for his efforts to build goodwill. Since then, GRSP has welcomed 312 students from Norway and 322 from Denmark.

"Both cultures often describe themselves as not naturally social, yet we were met with remarkable warmth everywhere we went," Huffman shared. "Regardless of whether our alumni had been home one year or thirty, their gratitude for GRSP was consistent. Many told us their careers were shaped by their time in Georgia."

The final leg of the trip took them to Oslo, where highlights included a visit to Oslo University on its 214th anniversary, a meaningful tour of the Nobel Peace Center, and time exploring museums, canal rides, botanical and sculpture gardens, fjords, and consuming coffee along with shrimp sandwiches on fresh-baked bread. Speaking at the District 2260 Conference served as the capstone—an opportunity to celebrate GRSP's history, encourage membership growth, and reaffirm the program's mission of promoting peace through understanding.

PHOTOS:


Champion




SERVICE CENTER



Posted by Katheryne Fields
September 24, 2025

End Polio Now

Update from the Camino - “The Way” to Fight Polio



Local Rotary club in Santo Domingo de la Calzada marking the 190km point on the Camino

Hola from Logrono Spain, where this **East Cobb Rotarian** is taking a much needed rest day after a little over a week walking the Camino de Santiago. So far I have walked more than 160km (over 100 miles). The first stages, up and over the Pyrenees, were challenging to say the least. The downhill sections are particularly hard on the knees, especially with the additional weight of a full backpack.

My physical training for the Camino started in earnest last December after hip replacement surgery, working my way from using a walker, then struggling to the end of the street with a cane, and eventually on to Kennesaw Mountain and Blood Mountain in north Georgia, gradually adding weight to the backpack and swapping the cane for hiking poles. But I've learned that nothing really prepares you for walking the Camino like walking the Camino.

The support from our Rotary family though my "Pilgimage Against Polio" fundraiser (**https://raise.rotary.org/Brad-Groff/challenge**) has definitely helped to keep my spirits up and motivate me to keep putting one foot in front of the other. A huge thank you to everyone who has contributed. *Editor's Note: Brad Groff has raised just over $10,000 so far for polio eradication.*

PHOTOS:

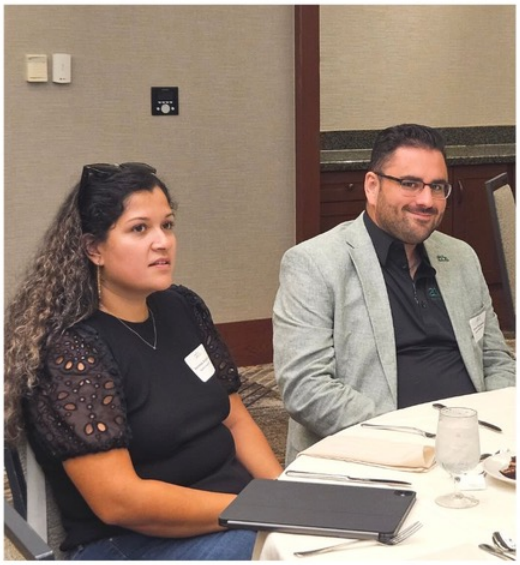


View from the auberge (hostel) in the Pyrenees

Posted by Brad Groff
September 21, 2025

Laws of Life

Rotarians and Teachers Kick Off 2025–26 Laws of Life Essay Contest









In late August, Rotarians, educators, and supporters from across Georgia gathered at the Emory Conference Center in Atlanta—and online—for the annual Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon. The event launched the 2025–26 Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest.

A character-building, values-based writing program that builds partnership between teachers, who guide students through the essay-writing process, and Rotary Clubs, which sponsor contests in their local schools and communities, reaches more than 33,000 students each year. Together, we give students an opportunity to reflect on the life lessons that shape who they are—and who they want to become.

Highlights of the luncheon included remarks from Adam Throne, English teacher at North Springs High School a partner school of the Rotary Club of Sandy Springs. Adam shared how the contest both aligns with Georgia's ELA standards and empowers students to discover their voice. Guests were also moved by Alphonsa Joby, last year's state winner from Denmark High School, who read her award-winning essay and reminded attendees of the contest's lasting impact.

Selena Blankenship, Board Member and Rotarian from the Rotary Club of Classic City Athens, offered insights from her dual perspective as a Rotarian and retired educator. She emphasized that the contest not only supports Rotary's mission of service but also with teachers a powerful way to understand their students more deeply - building empathy, strengthening relationships, and creating classroom connections

that no other assignment provides.

Last year, 65 Rotary Clubs and 65 schools across Georgia participated. Now is the time for returning sponsors to recommit and reconnect with partner schools, and for new clubs to get involved. Rotary Clubs serve as sponsors and honor students for their work, and Rotarians serve as judges selecting the winning essays - ensuring student voices are heard and recognized.

To learn more about how your club can participate, visit **georgialawsoflife.org/why-rotary** or contact Carol Gray Walker, Executive Director, at carol@georgialawsoflife.org

The 2025 Founders Celebration

Ready to Mingle & Sip in Style? The 2025 Founders Celebration is the party you won't want to miss!

Enjoy cocktails, delicious bites, and an evening of fun—all while supporting the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest and the students whose voices inspire us.

There's still time to join us for the celebration on Thursday, October 9—an inspiring evening that honors students, teachers, and the supporters who make this work possible. Individual tickets are just $75, and sponsorship opportunities remain open for businesses that want to stand alongside Georgia's Bridge Builders of tomorrow. We are especially grateful to our Rotary partners—Roswell Rotary Club, Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club, and the North Metro Rotary Council—for stepping up as early sponsors of this year's celebration.

Reserve your tickets or sponsorship today at **georgialawsoflife.org/events**.

Posted by Carol Gray Walker
September 25, 2025

Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)

Join Us for RLI in Columbus This November



GREAT NEWS! We have thoroughly reviewed the 2025 college football schedule and selected a weekend that avoids conflicts with home games for major teams in the area. We hope this date works for as many members as possible!

On Saturday, November 8, 2025, there will be an RLI event in Columbus, GA featuring Parts 1, 2, 3, and a Graduate class on Facilitation Techniques. The event will take place at Columbus Technical College, Patrick Hall, 928 Manchester Expressway, Columbus, GA 31904. The cost is $100 per member, which includes breakfast, lunch, and Student Guides.

This venue was nearly sold out when we hosted here in 2022, so be sure to secure your spot early. Join us to enhance your facilitation skills, connect with peers, and enjoy a full day of learning and networking.

Register now here or at RLIsunshine.org/course information/course-schedule/ to secure your spot! Columbus Technical College is a fantastic, easy-to-find venue on Waze, Google, or Apple maps.

We are also planning a January event in Thomasville and a February/March event in Kennesaw, so stay tuned for more details!

Posted by Tracy Van Norman
September 25, 2025

RYLA Update

RYLA Club Registration Now OPEN



RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) will be held June 6-10, 2026. To help us get ready for RYLA we are opening registration Now. Our goal is to fill all 144 student spots for 2026 and we are aiming for 100% club participation in District 6900.

All we are asking at this point is to decide if your club is going to sponsor students to attend RYLA and how many students that will be. Then you may use one of the following routes to send in your RSVP:

1. Use this link to complete our RSVP online: **https://forms.gle/an2X1i7FiufUo8CBA**
2. Email us at RYLA6900@gmail.com

If you are a club President, President-Elect, RYLA Chair, Service Chair, or Assistant Governor you will also receive a separate email soon containing all details about the 2026 edition of RYLA. Attached to the email will be all relevant forms and documents. If you have any questions at any time, please reach out to

District Chairs Susan Ruckman and Jaclyn Donovan.

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan
September 23, 2025

Our Rotary Foundation

Big Tax Law Enhances Direct IRA Gifts – Qualified Charitable Donations (QCD)



Imagine a way to turn your retirement savings into a lasting legacy that brings health and hope to communities worldwide. With a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD), those aged 70½ or older can give directly from their IRA to The Rotary Foundation—satisfying required minimum distributions while sidestepping extra income taxes. This means your gift goes farther, supporting life-changing projects instead of slipping away to taxes.

Your QCD helps fuel Rotary's epic mission: ending polio once and for all, delivering clean water, empowering learners, and creating peace in places that need it most. Every dollar given is a step toward a

world where no child fears polio and every community can thrive. With the Gates matching 2/1 for Polio, they end up having 200% of the impact.

If you're ready to make a difference in this powerful way, reach out for personal guidance. Email Lee Hollingsworth, Major Gifts Officer, at lee@leehollingsworth.com, and take the next step in your giving journey with Rotary.

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth
September 26, 2025

Club News

Roswell Shares Strategies for Launching Interact Clubs



Launching a new Interact Club is truly a celebration. Why? It can take years to find the right people in the right roles at the right time with the right vision and energy. The **Rotary Club of Roswell** is thrilled how both Fellowship Christian High School and The Cottage School Middle School (two of our local private schools) have found that the 2025-26 academic year is the right year to add an Interact Club.

CONTEXT: Fellowship, for example, took more than eight years of annual conversations with school leadership. Why this year? Truly it seems that the new Head of School was talking with a new teacher only to find a common commitment to having their students serve the community. With meetings in the Spring of 2025 to help better understand Interact, Roswell Rotary, Service Above Self, service projects and collaboration, the teacher liaison, Mrs. Shawn Ferrara, with support and communication her Rotary liaison, Mrs Angela Medley who had also been a Fellowship Parent, were ready to invite a few students to

consider leadership roles and attend RYLA. Although none of them were able to attend, they began to realize just how robust, impactful yet flexible Interact is as a program for the entire campus.

LAUNCH: Their first school-wide club meeting was held the week after Labor Day and hosted 95 students! Ferrara and Medley had taken the time to better understand the program and how to plug into it. They now have students engaged in the Roswell Youth Council (a collaboration between Roswell Rotary and the City of Roswell) as well as the upcoming Youth Day Parade! Both are service projects supported by Roswell Rotary Club. Although their participation with the RRC service projects is never required, we have found that it is a great way for the new Interact Clubs to feel immediately engaged while making decisions for the next semester.

This year, Roswell Rotary Club has 14 active clubs: five elementary, four middle, and five high schools. We are proud to support the next generation of service leaders through our thriving Interact Program. These clubs support and advise students across our community with service projects that are local, regional and international. For more information, reach out to RRC member and long-term Interact Club Coordinator Becky Nelson 404-406-6121 or BNelson@CCHL.com

PHOTOS:



Posted by Becky Nelson
September 25, 2025

Club News

Americus Rotarian Supports Peacebuilding



At the recent Rotary International Conference in Calgary, Americus Rotarian Laura McConatha had two opportunities to present on the peacebuilding work taking place in Americus, Georgia. A Rotary International/Institute for Economics and Peace Positive Peace Activator, Laura is both Service Chair and Peace Chair of the Americus Rotary Club. She had a three-hour kiosk presentation in the Peace Park on “Building Peace and Promoting Unity in rural Georgia: A Carter Legacy”. In addition, she co-

presented with fellow Positive Peace Activators Tamara Larson and Patricia Shafer on “Positive Peacebuilding: Engaging Youth Through Rotary, Communities, Schools." Laura focused her talk on the Grace Camp initiative that took place this summer in Americus. Grace Camp was an idea born during a series of workshops co-facilitated by Laura late last year titled “Coming Together in Unity: Community Dialogue for Peace with Youth at the Center.”

Using Rotary’s 8 Pillars of Positive Peace, local high school students and community leaders came together to identify the root causes of violence and brainstorm potential solutions. During one session, a teen participant expressed concern that, despite the presence of many churches in the community, none had taken concrete action to show youth that they are seen and cared for. Inspired by his idea, a faith-based collaborative was formed to create a community-building safety net for youth through summer programming - resulting in the launch of Grace Camp. Along with the Americus Rotary Club, 10 area churches and 3 community organizations were actively involved in the rollout of Grace Camp this summer.

The work of the Americus Rotary Club’s Peace Committee recently earned the club the distinction of being awarded Peacebuilder Club status by the Rotary Action Group for Peace. Next up for the club is a Unity in Community Festival, which will take place on Saturday, October 25 in Rylander Park, the site of the club’s inaugural Peace Pole installation.

PHOTOS:

Building Peace and Promoting Unity in rural Georgia: A Carter Legacy

















Americus Rotary Club

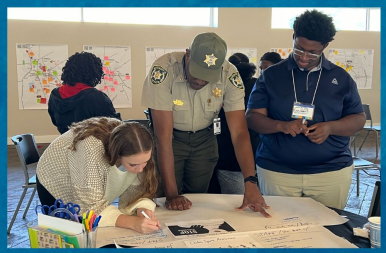
















Posted by Angela Smith
September 21, 2025

Club News

Celebrating Service and Excellence in Fayetteville



The **Rotary Club of Fayetteville** recently shared in a proud moment at the District 6900 Assembly. Representing our club, Shawn Elzie accepted the Club of Excellence Award, a recognition that reflects the dedication and teamwork of our members throughout the year. From community fundraisers to youth leadership initiatives, this award honors the collective spirit that makes our club thrive.

The celebration didn't stop there. Laura Weishaar was named a Paul Harris Fellow, a distinction that honors significant contributions to The Rotary Foundation. Laura's recognition is a testament to her passion for service and her commitment to Rotary's vision of creating lasting change, both locally and globally.

These honors remind us that when we come together in fellowship and service, the impact we make stretches far beyond our meetings. The Fayetteville club is proud to be a part of District 6900's tradition of excellence, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.'s tradition of excellence, and we look forward to building on this momentum in the year ahead.

Posted by Laura Weishaar
September 21, 2025

Club News

Dunwoody Recognized for Alzheimer's Support



At a celebration last month for the good work being done around the Southeast to support Alzheimer's The Longest Day program, the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody** was recognized several times for its $20,000 contribution from its annual FORE! the Memories Golf Tournament fundraiser www.rcdgolftournament.com.

The club was in the Top 10 in Georgia within the Alzheinmer's/Dementia Rotary Action Group and #1 in the US! It was the 4th largest contributor in Georgia and received the Visionary Award this year which recognizes a shared vision of support for Alzheimer's for the club's $85,000 lifetime donations. Next May will be Dunwoody's 5th annual golf tournament and the club hopes to top the $100,000 lifetime donation level.

In addition to its financial support for Alzeheimer's The Longest Day program, the club is proud of its work with Anchor Place, a respite care program serving Dunwoody families dealing with a family member's memory issues. The Rotary Club of Dunwoody helped launch this program a year ago, and invests about 35-40 volunteer hours each week, along with some financial support to this program. You can learn more about Anchor Place at

Posted by Bob O'Brien
September 21, 2025

Club News

Forsyth-Monroe County Takes Up Pickleball!



The **Forsyth-Monroe County Rotary Club** recently partnered with the City of Forsyth to build 16 pickleball courts in one of our city parks. Our partnership permits us to host two tournaments per year. So

now the club is excited to host its inaugural Pay It Forward Pickleball Tournament on October 25, 2025 – just 20 days from now!

Our mission for our tournament is multi-faceted:

- To raise awareness about Rotary in general and about our local club in particular
- To bring a fun activity to our neighbors, contributing to positive physical and mental health in Monroe County
- To raise funds for our club's causes – both existing and new … including scholarships for local high schoolers, literacy programs for both children and adults, and nutrition programs for mothers and children locally and globally - through Backpack Buddies (local), Food Bank (local) and Rise Against Hunger (global)
- To recruit new members to join our efforts
- To create a collaborative environment among non-profits and ministries in Monroe County by inviting other area non-profit organizations to set up booths at our tournaments where they can promote their services to our community (future tournaments)
- To host simple projects that can be completed collaboratively by hosts, guests, visitors, and fellow non-profits so that people experience the joy of engaging in service, even if briefly (future tournaments)

This inaugural tournament will feature two round-robin events – women's doubles (morning) and men's doubles (afternoon). We invite our fellow District 6900 Clubs to join us! We need tournament participants, volunteers (our club is small, only 10 current members), and even spectators cheering on our participants and making them feel extra supported! We also need help spreading the word. So join us in whatever capacity you can. Let's start this bi-annual tournament off with excellence!

People can register as tournament participants, donors, and sponsors at **Eventbrite**. Reach out to club president Matt Harner for information – forsythrotary@gmail.com.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Matthew Harner
September 25, 2025

Club News

Atlanta West End Rolls into Streets Alive!



On Sunday, September 14, 2025, the **Rotary Club of Atlanta West End** brought our signature energy and purpose to Atlanta Streets Alive on Peachtree Street. Our booth, located at 5th and Peachtree, was just a couple of blocks from our longtime meeting spot at the Georgia Tech Hotel and Conference Center.

We interacted with countless neighbors, community partners, and even visiting Rotarians from around the country. Together, we shared stories of our local and international service, from cultivating a STEAM garden at M. Agnes Jones Elementary with our District Grant funds to delivering ultrasound technology to clinics in South Africa through a grant-funded collaborative international service project.

Most importantly, we connected with people who care about building a stronger, healthier, and more united Atlanta. Some may even become future members of our club! Many thanks to our dedicated members who shared their time and stories with such warmth and enthusiasm. Our thanks as well to Membership Chair Sonia Hantman for capturing the day in photos.

If you missed us in September, you have another opportunity to join us. On Sunday, October 26, 2025, from 2:00 to 6:00 PM, Atlanta Streets Alive will return, this time connecting West End to Grant Park. We will be set up near the Krispy Kreme on Ralph David Abernathy Boulevard by the West End Mall.

Atlanta Streets Alive is more than a walk or bike ride. It is a reimagining of our shared public space that invites community members to explore, engage, and connect. We invite all Rotarians and neighbors to come see us, learn more about our work, and experience Rotary in action.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Jared Evans
September 25, 2025

Club News

A Behind-the-Scenes Look at LifeLine: Buckhead Rotary on the Road



Buckhead Rotary members got an up-close look at one of our signature projects, LifeLine Animal Project, and the impact they're making in our community. Our quarterly Rotary on the Road luncheon took us to the Fulton County Animal Shelter, managed by LifeLine, where 40 members and guests enjoyed lunch before touring the 50,000-square-foot facility.

As a signature project, Buckhead Rotary invests three years of volunteering and supporting them financially to make a lasting impact. LifeLine is a purr-fect fit given their mission of keeping pets with their people and preventing shelter overcrowding.

The modern shelter, triple the size of its predecessor, houses 430 cats and dogs, with twice that number in foster care, all searching for their fur-ever homes. Spacious housing, a full-service clinic, and dedicated

play yards make it a welcoming, adoption-friendly environment. Members even got a glimpse of a spay-and-neuter procedure in the OR—no scrubs were required!

LifeLine's results are impressive with 1,557 adoptions in August, across their three shelters. Buckhead Rotary is proud to support initiatives that improve the mental well-being of both people and animals. We look forward to several upcoming events to help LifeLine continue this life-changing work.

Posted by Shelley Hammell
September 25, 2025

Johns Creek-North Fulton Co-Hosts Patriot Day Event



On September 11, the **Rotary Clubs of Johns Creek and Johns Creek-North Fulton** co-hosted the City's annual Patriot Day Commemoration at the Mark Burkhalter Amphitheater in Newtown Park. Community members, local officials, firefighters, police officers, veterans, and Rotarians gathered for a ceremony marked by solemn respect, tribute, and remembrance. The program included a moment of silence, the ringing of a memorial bell, and thoughtful reflections honoring the first responders and civilians who lost their lives in the 2001 attacks.

Guest speakers, the City's public safety officials, and a musical performance added personal touches that reminded everyone why Patriot Day remains so meaningful.

Rotarians also underscored the importance of service: alongside reflection, the event provided an opportunity to activate support for the Johns Creek Public Safety Foundation, recognizing that honoring the past also means supporting those who continue to keep our community safe.

Posted by Dave Bernard
September 21, 2025

Club News

North Cobb Pints and Pearls Supports Polio Plus



The **Rotary Club of North Cobb** gathered for its second annual Pints and Pearls event at Red Top Brewhouse in Acworth GA. It was a wonderful evening filled with fun, fellowship, and generosity in support of ending polio. More than 50 members, guests, and friends gathered to play Heads and Tails. The event raised $1,837.81 for the Polio Plus campaign, and our winning participant was Beth Riedemann.

Additionally, DG Steve Ivory joined the event to recognize club member Robert Hankinson and his wife Marion as Major Donors for the Rotary Foundation. This marks the second major donor for the North Cobb Rotary Club. DG Steve also supported the pinning ceremony for six new Paul Harris Fellows and three level promotions. With these additions, the club has earned 19 new and leveling up Paul Harris Fellows this Rotary year.

PHOTOS:



Rotary
North Cobb

JOIN US FOR

PINTS & Pearls

'UNDRAISER TO END POLIO!

LAST MAN STANDING WINS!



SEPT | 18th | 2025

Tickets $20.00 pre-ordered | $25.00 at the door

RED TOP BREWHOUSE 4637 S Main St, Acworth, GA 3010

HOW TO PLAY: Play "heads or tails" and win prizes.
Tickets include two strands of pearls to play.
Buy more pearls and stay in the game



Posted by Jose Gonzalez
September 26, 2025

Club News

Americus Adopts a Street



Rotary Club of Americus is participating in the Adopt-a-Street program with the City of Americus and took charge of cleaning their assigned Glessner Street from Lee Street to Georgia Southwestern State University's Perimeter Road. They recently held a trash pick-up event ahead of Move-In Day at GSW in which a record number of freshmen moved into the residence halls on campus. The club regularly fulfills its commitment to the program and organizes trash pick-ups at least once a month. As the saying goes, "many hands make light work." Americus Rotarians know that this is true and can usually get both sides of the route done in an hour or less. They will all agree that it goes by quickly as they work and get to fellowship with one another at the same time.

PHOTOS:





Posted by Angela Smith
September 21, 2025

Club News

Roswell Recognizes Hometown Hero: Fire Captain Jeff Mealor



DG Steve Ivory joined **Roswell Rotary** President Trummie Lee Patrick and Roswell Mayor Kurt Wilson in congratulating Captain Mealor as the Roswell Rotary Club September Hometown Hero of the month.

“It’s not just his military service or his fire service record that stands out but rather his consistent commitment to growth, service and community. We are fortunate to have Captain Jeff Mealor as part of

the Roswell Fire Department family," said Roswell Fire Chief Pabel Troche.

Captain Mealor is a proud U.S. Army Veteran and recipient of the Purple Heart. He joined the Roswell Fire Department in 2022 where he has built a record of protecting property, saving lives and leading with integrity as the Captain of the Heavy Rescue Special Operations Unit. He has an unwavering commitment to excellence in his crew because he invests heavily in training and department projects ensuring his team is prepared for any challenge. His mentorship of the young firefighters has strengthened morale and shaped the next generation of the Roswell Fire Department.

Thank you for all you do!
Posted by Becky Nelson
September 25, 2025

Club News

Fellowship Meets Philanthropy in Dunwoody Whiskey Raffle



The **Rotary Club of Dunwoody's** annual fall whiskey raffle is underway. Last year, we raised about $10,000 to help fund our work in the community and we're looking to raise even more this year, with more than 10 prize packages comprising 30+ selections of whiskey from all around the world. The event will be held on November 20. Best news of all, you need not be present to win! Stay in touch with the prizes and updates at our dedicated website (appropriately enough: http://whiskey-raffle.com).

Even better, we will be holding whiskey tastings as part of the ramp-up for the auction itself. The club extends an invite to any whiskey enthusiast who would like to participate in either the tastings or the raffle itself.

For more information, contact David Burr (dave@mailcenteretc.com) or Neal MacDonald (neal@proof66.com).

PHOTOS:



Posted by Neal MacDonald
September 26, 2025

Club News

North Cobb and Kennesaw Install Peace Pole



The **North Cobb Rotary Club** recently partnered with the City of Kennesaw to install a peace pole at the popular Swift Cantrell Park. The city shared this message: "Yesterday, the City of Kennesaw unveiled a Peace Pole at Swift-Cantrell Park, a new symbol of our community's commitment to peace and unity. Painted by Devereux Georgia Program Manager David "JD" Hurlock, along with Devereux students, the pole displays the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in English, Spanish, and Cherokee, reflecting Kennesaw's history and community. We appreciate North Cobb Rotary's partnership in bringing this meaningful addition to our city."

Posted by Jose Gonzalez
September 26, 2025

Club News

Buckhead Connects at Thirsty ThirdsDay



Buckhead Rotarians gathered for another evening of fellowship at our newly renamed *Thirsty ThirdsDay,* a nod to its timing that makes it easy to remember and even easier to enjoy. This monthly

social has taken on fresh energy, thanks to President Shelley Hammell's vision of creating a more relaxed, convivial atmosphere by rotating the gatherings through members' homes over the course of the year.

September's Thirsty ThirdsDay did not disappoint. More than 30 Rotarians and guests came together over good food, refreshing drinks, and plenty of laughter. A heartfelt thank you goes out to Jeff and Nanette Nicholson for opening their beautiful home and setting the stage for an evening that brought members together and sparked new friendships. These monthly gatherings are quickly becoming a way for members to connect and build connections that last.

Posted by Shelley Hammell
September 25, 2025
