A screenshot of a document page. On the left side, there is a vertical strip of small, colorful images, possibly thumbnails or a gallery. The rest of the page is mostly blank with some faint horizontal lines, suggesting a table or a list of items that are mostly obscured or empty.

July 5, 2025



Rotary 100th Anniversary 2000

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MEMBER NEWS FROM JULY 2021

**Welcome to Our New Rotary Year!**  
I'm truly honored to serve as your District Governor for 2021-2022. As we begin this exciting new Rotary year, I feel so excited because I know that you, our members and our community have built a strong foundation for us to build upon.  
This year, guided by Rotary International's vision, "Change the World" and the principles of the Rotary Action Plan, our focus will be on growing our district, expanding our reach, enhancing our programs, and increasing our ability to address the needs of our communities. We will continue to work together to advance our public service projects, and strengthen clubs through strategic and forward-thinking leadership.  
I'm excited to work with you to make the "World" a better place, and I'm looking forward to working with you to make the "World" a better place. I'm excited to work with you to make the "World" a better place, and I'm looking forward to working with you to make the "World" a better place.

**Looking Forward to a Bright New Rotary Year!!**  
As we begin this exciting new Rotary year, I feel so excited because I know that you, our members and our community have built a strong foundation for us to build upon.  
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I'm excited to work with you to make the "World" a better place, and I'm looking forward to working with you to make the "World" a better place.

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**Join Us For GISSP Conclave**  
The Rotary Club of Jacksonville is pleased to announce the GISSP Conclave for 2021-2022. The conclave will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at the Jacksonville Marriott Hotel. The conclave will feature a variety of activities, including a luncheon, a presentation, and a social event. We invite all members to attend and enjoy the day.  
For more information, please contact the GISSP Conclave Committee at [giisp@rotaryjacksonville.org](mailto:giisp@rotaryjacksonville.org).

**Mark Your Calendars: Teacher Workshop Luncheon Returns + Founders Celebration Announcement**  
The Rotary Club of Jacksonville is pleased to announce the return of the Teacher Workshop Luncheon for 2021-2022. The luncheon will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at the Jacksonville Marriott Hotel. The luncheon will feature a variety of activities, including a presentation, a social event, and a luncheon. We invite all members to attend and enjoy the day.  
For more information, please contact the Teacher Workshop Luncheon Committee at [twl@rotaryjacksonville.org](mailto:twl@rotaryjacksonville.org).

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**Could This Be the Year We Shout Out Polio?**  
Polio is a disease that can cause paralysis and death. It is a disease that has been almost completely eradicated. We have made great progress in the fight against polio, but we still have a long way to go. We need your help to finish the job. Please contact your local Rotary club to learn more about how you can help.

**Let's Go Back to BYLA 2021!**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce the return of the BYLA 2021. The BYLA 2021 will be held on Thursday, August 12, 2021, at the Jacksonville Marriott Hotel. The BYLA 2021 will feature a variety of activities, including a presentation, a social event, and a luncheon. We invite all members to attend and enjoy the day.  
For more information, please contact the BYLA 2021 Committee at [byla@rotaryjacksonville.org](mailto:byla@rotaryjacksonville.org).

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**Heroes Among Us - 26900 Goes Above and Beyond!**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce the return of the Heroes Among Us program. The Heroes Among Us program is a program that recognizes and honors the heroes of our community. We invite all members to nominate a hero for the program. For more information, please contact the Heroes Among Us Committee at [heroes@rotaryjacksonville.org](mailto:heroes@rotaryjacksonville.org).

**Taking the Summer Off!**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce the return of the Taking the Summer Off program. The Taking the Summer Off program is a program that allows members to take a break from their regular duties during the summer months. We invite all members to apply for the program. For more information, please contact the Taking the Summer Off Committee at [tso@rotaryjacksonville.org](mailto:tso@rotaryjacksonville.org).

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**African Global Grant Partner of North Atlanta Club Receives a District Award**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce that the African Global Grant Partner of the North Atlanta Club has received a District Award. The award is given to the club for its outstanding service to the community. We congratulate the club on this achievement.

**Everybody's Job - Setting the Stage for Public Impact**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce the return of the Everybody's Job program. The Everybody's Job program is a program that allows members to work together to address the needs of our community. We invite all members to participate in the program. For more information, please contact the Everybody's Job Committee at [ej@rotaryjacksonville.org](mailto:ej@rotaryjacksonville.org).

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**North Cobb Sinks on the Lake Celebrates 15 Years**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce that the North Cobb Sinks on the Lake Club has celebrated its 15th anniversary. We congratulate the club on this achievement.

**Celtic Daybreak Honors Local Fifth Grade Students**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce that the Celtic Daybreak Club has honored local fifth grade students. The club presented awards to the students for their outstanding academic achievement. We congratulate the students on this achievement.

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**Dunwoody Rotary Joins Anchor Place Respite Celebrating One Year Anniversary!**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce that the Dunwoody Rotary Club has joined Anchor Place Respite in celebrating its one-year anniversary. We congratulate Anchor Place Respite on this achievement.

**Lakewood Rotary Joins Anchor Place Respite Celebrating One Year Anniversary!**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce that the Lakewood Rotary Club has joined Anchor Place Respite in celebrating its one-year anniversary. We congratulate Anchor Place Respite on this achievement.

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**Midtown Atlanta Celebrates Strong Year**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce that the Midtown Atlanta Club has celebrated a strong year. The club has achieved many milestones and has made a significant impact in the community. We congratulate the club on this achievement.

**Brookhaven Parks Luncheon for the Sandwich Project**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce that the Brookhaven Parks Club has held a luncheon for the Sandwich Project. The luncheon was a success and raised funds for the project. We congratulate the club on this achievement.

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**Nigeria First Peace Pole Project**  
Rotary International is pleased to announce that the Nigeria Club has completed its first Peace Pole project. The project was a success and raised funds for the project. We congratulate the club on this achievement.

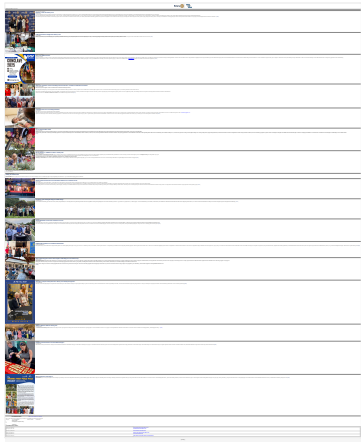
**LEADERBOARD**  
Check out the top 100 Rotarians!  
Category: ALL DISTRICTS  
Member: [Name]  
Club: [Club Name]

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**Upcoming Key Dates**

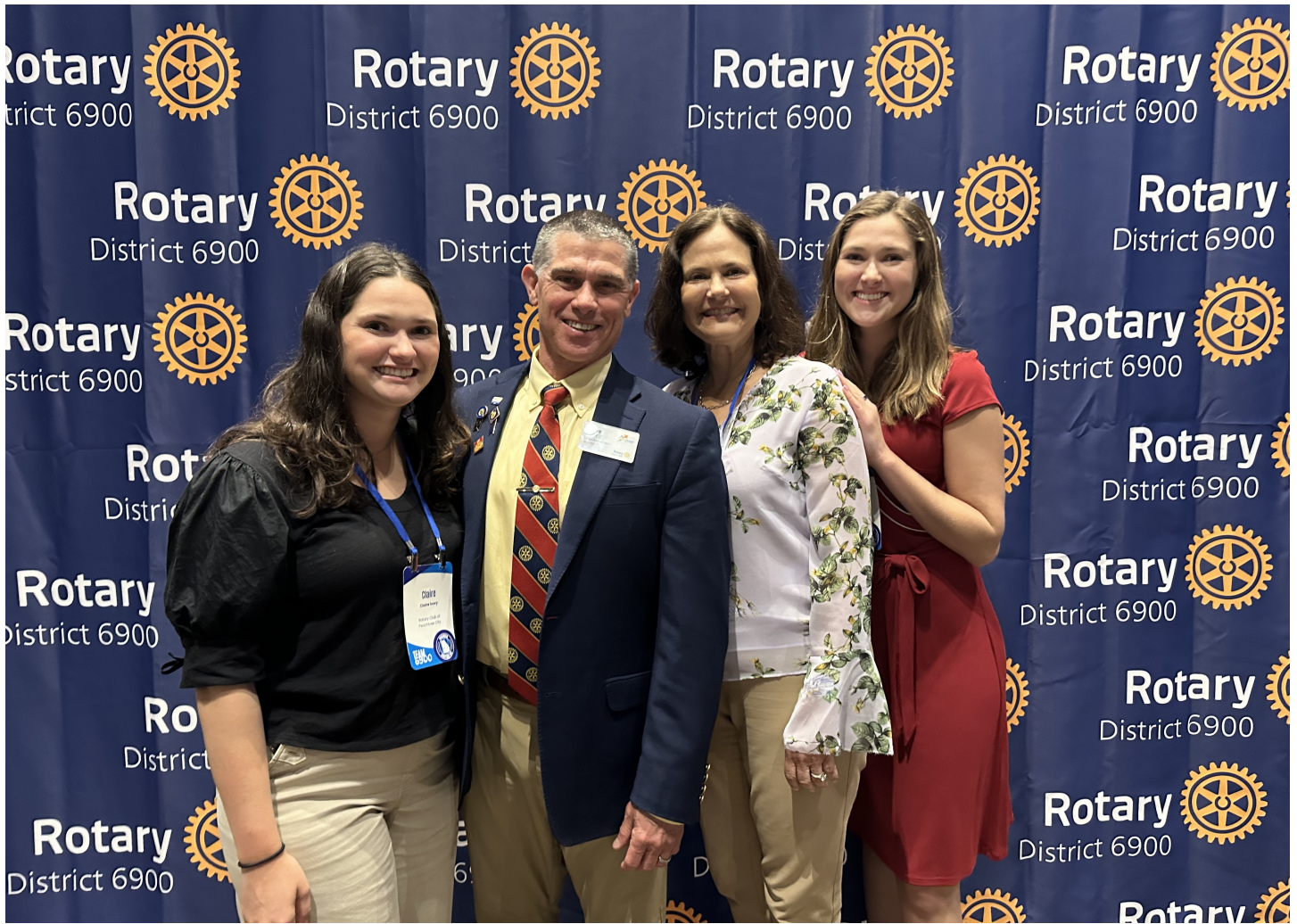
- Monday, July 26, 2021: [Berkley Rotary Society Spring Official Visit](#)
- Tuesday, July 27, 2021: [Berkley Rotary Society Official Visit](#)
- Thursday, July 29, 2021: [West Point West Point Official Visit](#)
- Friday, July 30, 2021: [Jacksonville Rotary Society Official Visit](#)
- Monday, July 31, 2021: [Jacksonville Rotary Society Official Visit](#)
- Tuesday, July 31, 2021: [Jacksonville Rotary Society Official Visit](#)

(Optional)



From Our District Governor

Welcome to Our New Rotary Year!



I'm truly honored to serve as your District Governor for 2025-2026. As we begin this exciting new Rotary year, I want to extend heartfelt thanks to DG Gordon Owens and the 2024-2025 leadership team for their outstanding service. Their vision, dedication, and commitment have built a strong foundation for us to build upon.

This year, guided by Rotary International's message - "*Unite for Good*" - and the principles of the **Rotary Action Plan**, our focus will be on growing our impact, expanding our reach, enhancing participant engagement, and increasing our ability to adapt. Together, we will continue to serve our communities, continue our efforts to eradicate polio, empower youth, and strengthen clubs through strategic and forward-thinking leadership.

As we unite for good, we'll also celebrate and do service projects with our "**Service Heroes**"—Rotarians, Teachers, Police, Fire, Medical, Mental Health, and Military personnel, who go above and beyond in service to others each and every day. I encourage each club to recognize and lift up these everyday champions of Rotary values. I encourage all club members to actively participate in their club and join teams and committees to help carry out the meaningful work that Rotarians are known for.

A proud member of the Rotary Club of Peachtree City since 2001, I've had the privilege of serving in many Rotary roles and strive to do as many service projects as I can. I have especially enjoyed many of our literacy and youth programs and seeing our young leaders thrive and develop. After careers in the U.S. Marine Corps and corporate leadership, I now dedicate myself fully to Rotary and community service. With the support of my wife Anna and our daughters Kayla and Claire, I'm energized to help our clubs thrive.

My focus is to serve you all alongside an amazing district leadership team. I will support each and every club to the

best of my ability. The district team will do the same so please reach out to any of us if you have any questions or need any support. I will mainly communicate with the entire district via monthly District newsletters and with direct emails to area governors and club leadership teams so you are not overwhelmed with too many emails. As needed, I may send all district emails.

Let's make 2025-2026 a year of purpose, unity, and meaningful impact—together.

Posted by Steve Ivory  
July 1, 2025

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Our Rotary Foundation

## **Looking Forward to A Bright New Rotary Year!!**

by District Foundation Chair Bob Hagan



This business selling fresh produce at a reasonable price to residents in a Honduran town was funded by a Rotary Global Grant

Thank you, Rotarians, for your outstanding support of The Rotary Foundation. Because of your dedicated commitment to our cause worldwide we are able to create lasting change around the world!! We had a banner year in District 6900 for 2024/25.

Because of your hard work with our Foundation, Rotary International funded 458 district grants, 1210 global grants and 69 disaster response grants this year collectively through The Rotary Foundation. These grants allowed Rotary members to tackle the urgent needs of communities and build a better future for all!

Together we had an even greater impact. In 2024/25 more than 270 million children covering 36 countries received over 1 billion doses of oral polio vaccines because of the work of Rotarians around the world. The tenacity of Rotary brings us closer each day to stamping out polio worldwide. Thank you, Rotarians, for remaining dedicated to Doing Good in the World!

I know we will have another successful year in 2025/26. We have a great team working together. If you have questions, feel free to reach to me anytime at my cell number - 770-330-9852 - or email - Bhagan@sterling-health.com.

Posted by Bob Hagan  
July 1, 2025

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August 15-17 | Athens

**Join Us For GRSP Conclave**



YOU ARE INVITED TO

# CONCLAVE 2025



**AUGUST**  
15-17, 2025



**UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA  
CENTER FOR CONTINUING  
EDUCATION & HOTEL**  
1197 S LUMPKIN ST  
ATHENS, GA 30602

**REGISTER NOW!**



**[www.grsp.org](http://www.grsp.org)**



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

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

- District Governor Elect Jessica Fleetwood, Rotary Club of Etowah Cartersville, will open the Friday

session with an introduction to Rotary International.

- Dr. Anna Westerstahl Stenport, Dean and UGA Foundation Professor of Arts and Sciences, Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, will be the keynote speaker for the scholars on Saturday. A native of Sweden, Shenport spent her first year of college as a GRSP scholar at UGA, sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Peachtree City and Canton in 1993-94.
- A special welcome dinner for registered Rotarians and guests will be held Friday from 6-9 pm. Enjoy a Tuscan buffet for \$58 per person. Students will provide a short introduction and name their trustee and their sponsoring Rotary Clubs.
- Saturday evening attendees (6:15 to 9:15 pm) - business/smart attire, will enjoy a dinner and program at Mahler Hall - featuring the GRSP Cabaret, the popular variety-style performance and parade of flags The dinner will be \$63 per person for a Travelers Buffet. Afterwards, students and Rotarians will have separate mixer events, including a cash bar for Rotarians
- On Sunday morning, the students will experience the Ultimate Football Experience, getting a glimpse of Sanford Stadium and the West End Zone Facility, including historic displays, before leave at 11 AM to return to their respective colleges and universities or their host families.

### **Registration and Housing**

GRSP students are pre-registered for the event and meals. They will be hosted by Athens-area Rotarians for the weekend.

Rotarians and guests may register for Friday and/or Saturday dinners through the GRSP web site at [www.grsp.org](http://www.grsp.org). The UGA Center for Continuing Education & Hotel, 1197 S. Pumpkin St., Athens, GA 30602, has a block of rooms set aside for Conclave participants who need lodging - with a special GRSP limited-availability rate that's available for reservations made by July 2. Lodging reservations can be made via a link on the GRSP website - separate from the link to register for Conclave meals.

Posted by Katheryne Fields  
June 13, 2025

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Laws of Life

## **Mark Your Calendars: Teacher Workshop Luncheon Returns + Founders Celebration Announced**



## We're back in person! Register now for the 2025 Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon

After being held virtually last year, the Georgia Laws of Life Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon is returning in person—and we couldn't be more excited to gather again face-to-face. The luncheon will be held on Friday, August 22, at the Emory Conference Center Hotel in Atlanta.

This special event brings together teachers, Rotary Club members, and supporters from across Georgia to learn, connect, and celebrate the impact of the Laws of Life Essay Contest. All participating schools and sponsoring Rotary Clubs receive **two complimentary tickets**, and attending educators are eligible for **continuing education credits** and substitute reimbursements.

Whether you're a returning partner or new to the contest, this luncheon is a great way to get inspired and better understand how the program works. This year's agenda will include:

- A keynote on how the contest aligns with new curriculum standards

- Former student winners sharing their powerful essays
- Practical guidance for teachers and clubs
- Opportunities to connect with fellow educators and Rotarians

It's also the perfect chance for Rotary Clubs to invite school leaders and strengthen those important community partnerships. Learn more and register at <https://georgialawsoflife.org/events/>

### **Save the Date - Founders Celebration: October 9**

We're also thrilled to announce that the 2025 Founders Celebration will take place on **Thursday, October 9**, at the **Piedmont Driving Club in Atlanta**. This elegant evening celebrates our top student essayists and the core values they write about with such honesty and courage.

**Sponsorship opportunities are available** for businesses and organizations that want to support character education and amplify student voice—while gaining meaningful community visibility. Depending on the sponsorship level, benefits may include **recognition in print and digital event promotions, complimentary tickets to the celebration, and the opportunity to provide branded items** to attendees. It's a powerful way to showcase your company's values and connect with educators, community leaders, and future Georgia leaders.

**To learn more about sponsorship opportunities**, contact Bob Hagan, D6900 PDG, at [bhagan@sterling-health.com](mailto:bhagan@sterling-health.com)

Posted by Carol Gray Walker  
July 2, 2025

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End Polio Now

## **Could This Be the Year We Stomp Out Polio?**

by District Foundation Chair Bob Hagan



Remember we are this close to the eradication of Polio worldwide!!

Eradicating Polio is still THE number One initiative of the Rotary Foundation. Every dollar counts and we still have the Gates Foundation 2-1-dollar match to go along with the goal of every Rotary Club pledging \$1,500 per year. We can certainly meet our goal! How pleased I am that our Polio Chair this year is Wynita Cannon of the Rotary Club of Americus. Her cell is 229-886-7459. Wynita's email is: [WLScannon@gmail.com](mailto:WLScannon@gmail.com)

Wynita is more than eager to assist with ideas, fundraising, programs, etc. Please reach out to her or me if we can help you in any way. Polio is a plane ride away. We must halt this terrible disease, and we are so close, so let's make that happen for the children of the world, they are counting on us! Let's work together to End Polio Now!

Posted by Bob Hagan  
July 1, 2025

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RYLA

**Let's Go Back to RYLA 2025!**



Another great RYLA in the books! With the support of 33 clubs from around District 6900, RYLA 2025 directly impacted the lives of 104 students and we have high hopes for the positive change they will bring back home to their schools, teams, clubs, and communities.

The days were packed with a wide range of learning experiences on aspects of leadership such as communication, conflict resolution, teamwork, trust, and how personalities influence interactions. Students were given opportunities to build confidence in themselves while expanding their comfort zones. With the help of the Americus Rotary Club, we were once again able to bring in "Rise Against Hunger" for a meal packing service project that produced 14,256 meals for families in need. We fought with the South Georgia summer weather, but with a staff always prepared to pivot to Plan B we managed to complete all activities with minimal interruption. There was enough good weather to be outside when we needed to be and enough air conditioning to cool us off afterwards.

We had 67 Rotarians participate in the event, with several helping out on the club level by helping to nominate and select the students to represent their clubs at RYLA. And we were fortunate once again to have support from the very top of the District, starting with DG Gordon Owens for working the entire event as a Counselor and assisting with setting up events. We also enjoyed having DGE Steve Ivory, DGN Cynthia Edwards, and DGND Buck Buchanan come visit with us during RYLA, staying in the dorms as chaperones, and partnering up with our teams to see what RYLA is all about.

The RYLA Family (staff) absolutely loves being able to pour ourselves into this program to build the next generation of leaders. We wait all year every year to give our energy, creativity, and passion to RYLA and we so appreciate the support we get from district clubs and district leadership. Let's do it again next year!! Mark your calendars for June 6-10, 2026 and we'll be

ready!

**PHOTOS:**









Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
July 2, 2025

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Our Rotary Foundation

**Heroes Among Us - D6900 Goes Above and Beyond!**



This community park in Houston TX was funded in part by a Rotary Foundation grant. Our contributions help keep the Rotary legacy of doing good in the world alive for future generations.elp

**Rotary Foundation fund-raising fun? Hardly.** Look up “drudgery” and you’ll see our assignment this past year: form a committee to reach out one-on-one to fellow Rotarians, explaining why we included the Rotary Foundation in our wills. Goal: inspire others from example to join us in the **Bequest Society**, the most painless way to give!

We all knew that a strong and generous Rotary Foundation is the quiet, but essential, life-blood of Rotary’s unique self-funded, and incredibly FUN, service to our fellow man.

**It worked. This Rotary year, the committee TRIPLED the Bequest Society Commitments from year prior!**

Here are the **HEROES** who made that happen:

- **Leslie Bassett (Roswell)** - A busy attorney and mother of two teens, Leslie led with personal \$25,000 bequest.
- **Becky Stone (Roswell)** - Past President, lawyer, and first to finish her calls—plus she organized the Conference Games!
- **Sandy Buhler (Roswell)** - Veteran Rotarian who brought boundless energy

and enthusiasm to the effort.

- **Nancy Alterman (Roswell)** -President who still carved out time to serve on this committee. Won Sheffield Award besides!
- **Sid Disher (Roswell)** - Past District Rotarian of the Year, always willing to say yes
- **Mary Trapp (Roswell)** - Past President, realtor, and unstoppable Rotary force—she jumped in without hesitation.
- **Doug Higgins (North Fulton)** - Past President who signed up to help... and is still going!
- **Frederick Levy (Roswell)** - Rookie of the Year whose very first Rotary act was a \$25,000 bequest!
- **Bob Hagan (Roswell)** - PDG Bob sets a high bar and inspires everyone around him.
- **Alec Smythe (Buckhead)** - This PDG heroically overcame the hesitation we all feel—and led by example.
- **Richard Matherly (North Fulton)** - Not just a caller: our largest single donor at \$50,000!
  - **Lisa & Marc Gelber (North Fulton)** - PP Lisa inspired her husband Marc to join Rotary, and he became the *first* new member to make a \$25,000 bequest.
  - **Chris Archer & Don Howard (Roswell)** - Stepped up without hesitation and joined at the \$25,000 level.

**Need help in YOUR club?** Want to make Foundation fundraising easier—or more inspiring? Please lean on our experience. Especially if you're a PE or incoming Foundation Chair, reach out to our District Major Gifts Officer at [Lee@leehollingsworth.com](mailto:Lee@leehollingsworth.com) for ideas and support.

Posted by Lee Hollingsworth  
July 1, 2025

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Rotary Means Business

## Taking the Summer Off!

Rotary Means Business is going to take the summer months off. Carter Stout is looking for four or five additional people to help with planning our Fall activities. If you're interested in helping, please let him know.

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## African Global Grant Partner of North Atlanta Club Receives a District Award



The **Ethiopian Rotary Club of Addis Ababa - Central Mella** won the Anna Award for "Most Impressive Project and Best Maternal Child Project" at the Centennial District 9212 Conference in Mombasa.

The club is **North Atlanta's** "boots on the ground" partner in a five-year Rotary Global Grant project to provide supplemental folic acid tablets to women at risk, aiming to reduce spina bifida and other birth defects. Hospitals in Ethiopia distribute the tablets, with 1.8 million purchased to date from an Indian supplier.

Other global partners in this initiative include the **Rotary Clubs of Coppel, TX, Raleigh, NC and Addis Ababa West**, along with the Reach Another Foundation (RAF) of Oregon and Ethiopia, working with the Ethiopian Ministry of Health (MOH). The **Rotary Clubs of Dunwoody and Tyrone** contributed. Rotarian Dr. Yakob Ahmed is the RAF's Country Director. Dr. Ralph Peeler of the North Atlanta Club is the principal of the club's signature project.

The North Atlanta Club developed an online spina bifida prevention forum to foster collaboration among the participants and other interested parties: <https://sbf-forum.org/index.php>

The spina bifida prevention initiative is in its third year, now involving six hospitals and planning to enroll 2500 high-risk mothers. Other hospitals in Ethiopia are referring at-risk patients for the folic acid tablets that are unavailable elsewhere. Milestones of the project at the official close of Year One include:

- One million folic acid tablets will be available for distribution starting July 1.
- 42 mothers enrolled in the program have given birth to healthy babies, and 29 more are expecting

Epidemiological data is being compiled and analyzed in Ethiopia for publication to demonstrate the project's quantitative scope and positive impact.

For further details, refer to Rotary's Service Project Center or contact Dr. Ralph Peeler at [rdpiiimd@comcast.net](mailto:rdpiiimd@comcast.net).

Rotary: <https://spc.rotary.org/project?guid=58368E94-0EEB-425B-A603-3B33487A45D9>

"Teamwork makes the dream work."

#### **PHOTOS:**





DC'S AWARD  
MOST IMPRESSIVE PROJECT

**ROTARY CLUB OF  
ADDIS ABABA  
CENTRAL MELLA**





Posted by Jon Yaeger  
June 11, 2025

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**Everybody's Job: Setting the Stage for Public Image**



As we enter the next Rotary year with new teams, boards, and presidents, we are seeing the role of public image become even more significant. An important principle for our own **Roswell Rotary PI** team is *“If you don’t tell people about it, it didn’t happen.”* In an era dominated by social media, instant videos, and continuous communication with numerous distractions competing for attention, it is crucial to ensure that the efforts of Rotary Clubs receive adequate exposure throughout the community.

**Plan:** To effectively communicate service projects and messages, planning before the event is essential. Public image should be integrated into the pre-planning process for every project. For larger projects, thinking of the post-event publicity beforehand ensures that visuals and words are prepared for social media posts, newspaper articles, etc. New committee chairs or project chairs should coordinate with their Public Image Chair to disseminate information about their project effectively.

**Set the Stage:** For large events, preparation is key to creating opportunities for high-quality pictures and videos. The background and foreground of a picture are vital. At club meetings, consider what elements appear in every meeting photograph. If organizing a ribbon-cutting ceremony, decorating in advance with balloons, streamers, signage, and bubbles can add visual and auditory interest.

**Rotarians in Action:** Consider how club members' activities will be communicated both within and outside the club during service projects. For example, a picture of a Rotarian helping a smiling child to put on their new mittens and hat conveys a strong message. A photo of District Governor Gordon Owens in flight over the pool in the Polar Plunge belly flop contest captures engagement. Always think about how to convey the actions Rotarians take in service.

**Tell a Story:** People remember stories and emotions associated with them. Articles with facts and group shots are informative, while memorable stories create lasting impressions. For instance, at a Memorial Day event, two sisters of Rotary Club Past President Elwyn Gaissert II shared a story about Elwyn leaving on a train for the Navy, which connected emotionally with attendees. On a day when we were remembering those who did not return, this family sharing the farewell at the train station was poignant. Capturing stories like these add depth to the event's significance.

**Everybody's Job:** Ensuring the message of service is not solely the responsibility of the public image team. Every committee chair should consider how to promote their project or event. Members can contribute by taking pictures and sharing posts on social media or through personal interactions. Effective communication can attract more attendees to meetings and new members to clubs. Plan ahead and make it happen.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Kathryn Igou  
June 6, 2025

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Club News

## North Cobb Smoke on the Lake Celebrates 15 Years



North Cobb's Smoke on the Lake is a popular annual BBQ festival held at Logan Farm Park in Acworth, Georgia, traditionally taking place over Mother's Day weekend. It is hosted by the **Rotary Club of North Cobb** and serves as our largest fundraiser, with 90% of net proceeds supporting local charities and 10% benefiting international causes.

The event has become a major regional attraction, drawing over 12,000 attendees and featuring more than 30 competitive BBQ teams from across the Southeast. The whole club membership gets involved in one way or the other, directing traffic, manning the different parking lots, selling taster tickets, welcoming guests and having fun!!

This year we had District 6900 dignitaries in attendance. DG Gordon and his wife Ashley and DGE Steve

were there.

Interesting facts about Smoke on the Lake include:

- The festival spans two days: Friday night offers a concert under the stars along with a "Lord of the Wings" wing-tasting contest where attendees can buy tasting tickets and vote for their favorites; Saturday is dedicated to a BBQ competition with cook teams judged both publicly and by certified judges from the Georgia Barbecue Association (GBA), which is the second largest BBQ competition sanctioning body in Georgia
- Over its 15 years of running, Smoke on the Lake has evolved into one of Cobb County and Acworth's most cherished events, fostering a strong community atmosphere with family activities, local business booths, live music, making it a memorable experience for visitors and participants alike
- The event benefits from partnerships with the City of Acworth, the Georgia Barbecue Association, and professional event management, ensuring a smooth and high-quality festival experience

This combination of community charity work, vibrant festival atmosphere, competitive BBQ cooking, and live entertainment makes Smoke on the Lake a standout event in North Cobb's social and cultural calendar.

## **PHOTOS:**







Posted by Ada Wikina  
June 6, 2025

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Club News

## Griffin Daybreak Honors Local Fifth Grade Students



The **Daybreak Rotary Club of Griffin** honors exceptional fifth graders in the Griffin-Spalding School System every year. There are 11 elementary schools, so 11 students, selected by their teachers, are recognized by club members at their fifth-grade graduation programs. Rotarians present these students with a certificate and a medal after highlighting each student's accomplishments. Students and their families are also invited to a Daybreak meeting for breakfast and to be recognized as a group. This year, we had seven of the students and their families able to come to the breakfast meeting to be recognized - Riley Monroe (Orrs), Chloe Stone (Moore), Alejandra Tellez-Beltran (Jordan Hill), Vivian Benefield (Futral Rd), Messiah Stroud (Crescent), Kayden Lloyd (Cowan Rd), and Kendrick Sims (Anne St) - all pictured with Debby Daniel-Bryant, President Elect, Daybreak Rotary Club.

Posted by Debby Daniel-Bryant  
June 13, 2025

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## Dunwoody Rotary Joins Anchor Place Respite Celebrating One Year Anniversary!



**Dunwoody Rotarians** joined Anchor Place Respite Care in mid-June to celebrate a major milestone - the one-year anniversary of Anchor Place! What an incredible celebration at St. Patrick's Episcopal Church in Dunwoody, GA. Huge congratulations to Mary Cohen, the program's dedicated leader, who has guided this vital community resource from its early days to the thriving success it is today. And a special shoutout to Rotarians Charlie Augello and Louise Barden for their unwavering support of this program.

During the celebration, Mary took time to recognize all the amazing supporters who made this first year possible, including RCD volunteers Louise and Ron Barden, Jackie Cuthbert, Fred Bounds, Tina and David Philpot, Les Woulfin and Anne Glenn.

It truly takes a village of volunteers to make programs like this work! The Rotary Club of Dunwoody is proud to have been part of the start of this fine program and an integral part of its future! If you want to know more about starting a respite care program in your community, contact Charlie Augello at [italian@e48thstreetmarket.com](mailto:italian@e48thstreetmarket.com).

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Mark Galvin  
June 15, 2025

Club News

# Lake Spivey Clayton County Welcomes "Rotary 101 and Beyond" Speaker

JUNE 04, 2025



Lake Spivey/Clayton County

**Rotary**

District 6900



*Thank You!*

**GUEST  
SPEAKER**

**RENEE WELCH**

The **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** extends a heartfelt thank you to Renee Welch for serving as our guest speaker during our June 4th, 2025 meeting, held at the beautiful Hearts to Nourish Hope building in Riverdale, GA. Renee shared invaluable insight during her presentation, "Rotary 101 and Beyond," inspiring our members with her decades-long commitment to service and Rotary leadership.

Originally from Greenville, SC, Renee is a practicing attorney, a Furman and University of South Carolina Law graduate, and a passionate Rotarian since 2000. Her extensive service within Rotary reflects a deep dedication to goodwill, fellowship, and impactful leadership. Thank you, Renee, for reminding us of the Rotary Four-Way Test and encouraging all of us to continue building a better world through truth, fairness, goodwill, and service.

Posted by Trina Kolawole  
June 6, 2025

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Club News

## Midtown Atlanta Celebrates Strong Year



The **Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club** held their last meeting for the fiscal year June 24th at Ansley Golf Club. There were reflections on the great programs, visit from the District Governor, service projects, the newly formed Past Presidents Council and more. The club is excited to welcome the incoming president, Juanita Sheppard to bring new ideas and ways to continue to serve the community. Thank you Midtown Atlanta Rotary and District 6900 for all the partnership to make a difference in our communities and beyond.

Pictured: FY25 Midtown Atlanta Rotary Board: Rocky Ford, Dave Crow, Kim Hutchens, Araba Dowell, Will Grossenbacher, Todd Croom, Dee Dixon-President 24-25, Meredith Ragains, Sophie Mason, Julie Goldberg, Bill Burns, Jane Rafferty, Juanita Sheppard President 25-26

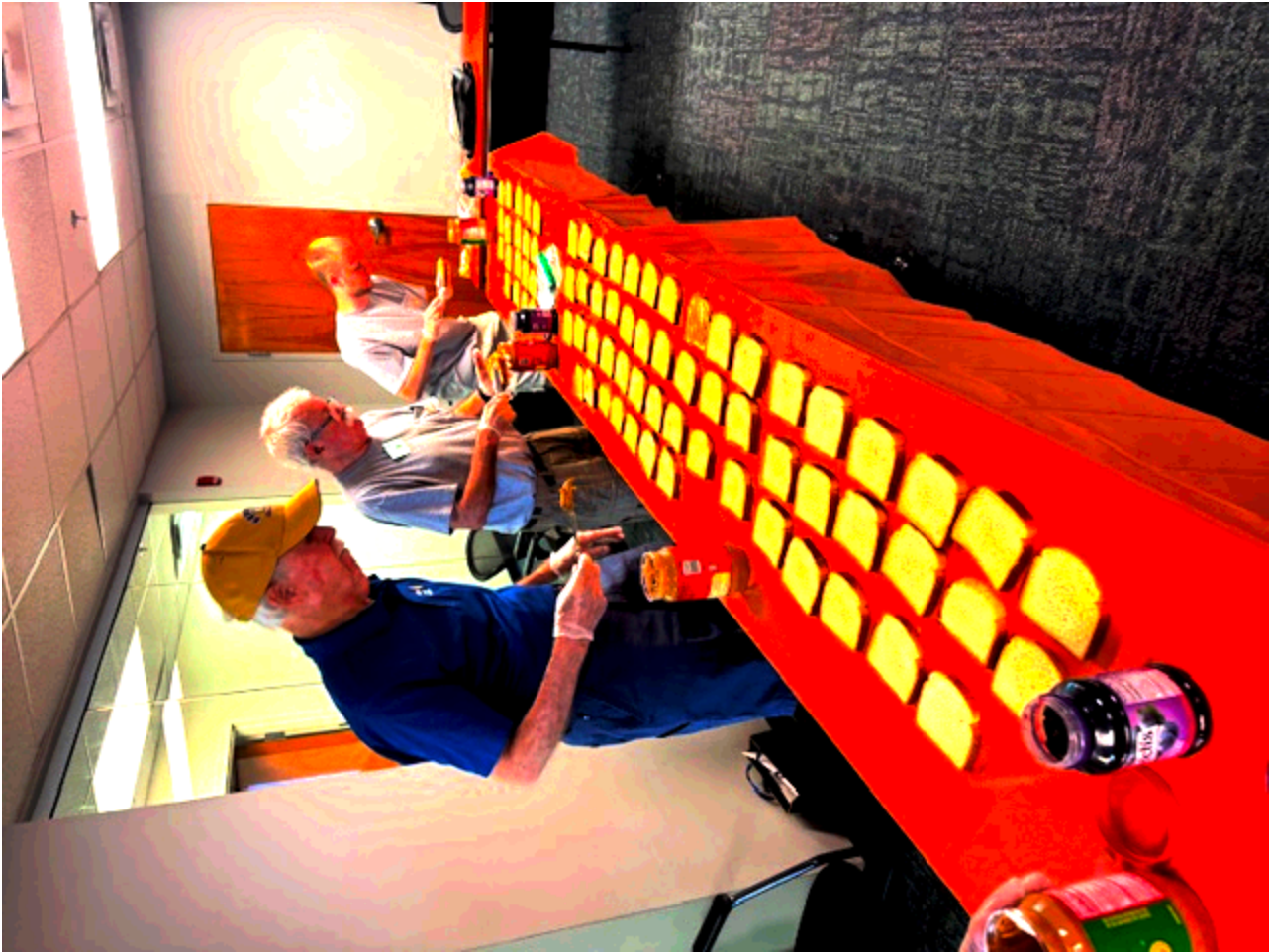
Posted by Deirdre Dixon  
July 1, 2025

## Brookhaven Packs Lunches for The Sandwich Project



The **Brookhaven Rotary Club** held its last meeting at the old Brookhaven Town Hall, and ended this Rotary year, with another community service project. Club members and other volunteers spent their lunch hour making dozens of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for The Sandwich Project. The Sandwich Project is an Atlanta-based 501(c)(3) non-profit organization whose volunteers assemble and donate fresh, homemade sandwiches to help meet the food scarcity needs in Metro Atlanta.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Judith Fuller  
July 2, 2025

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Club News

# **Nigeria First Peace Pole Project**

# The NIGERIA FIRST PEACE POLE PROJECT

by Rotary Club of Umuahia & Rotary Club of North Cobb



The commissioning of the inaugural Nigerian Rotary Peace Pole Project by Rotary Club of Umuahia, District 9142 Nigeria and Rotary Club of North Cobb on May 18th 2025 was a resounding success, marked by significant community participation and a powerful message of unity. The event, held in Mater Dei Cathedral Umuahia, drew a diverse crowd, including Abia leaders, Priests and community members, all united in their commitment to peace. The atmosphere was filled with optimism and hope as the peace pole, bearing the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in multiple languages, was unveiled.



The ceremony included speeches from key figures (The Bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Umuahia, the Government Officials, Rotary Peace Ambassadors, Traditional Rulers and Rotarians), who emphasized the importance of peace and the role of the community in fostering it.



The project's success was evident in the enthusiastic engagement of the participants, who actively participated in the unveiling of the peace poles, gave handsomely to the project and pledged to promote peace within their communities.

The inaugural Nigerian Rotary's Peace Pole Project commissioning served as a powerful symbol of hope, and a call to action for peace. The event's success highlights the potential of community-driven initiatives to promote understanding and cooperation. It sets a strong foundation for future peace-building efforts across Nigeria.



The commissioning of the inaugural Nigerian Peace Pole Project by the **Rotary Club of North Cobb** (D6900) and the **Rotary Club of Umuahia** (Nigeria District 9142) in May was a resounding success, marked by community involvement and a powerful message of unity. Held in Mater Del Cathedral Umuahia, the event drew a diverse crowd including Abia leaders, priests and community members, all united in their commitment to peace. The atmosphere was filled with optimism and hope as the peace pole, bearing the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in multiple languages, was unveiled. Thanks to North Cobb International Service Chair, Lao Rimanelli for coordinating this special event.

Posted by Ada Wikina  
July 1, 2025

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