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From Our District Governor

Imagine a Year Filled with Fun, Fellowship and Service!



DG George visits with Newnan High School Interact Club

Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a safe and happy holiday season. As we begin 2023, we should re-examine our goals and see where we are. One of the best ways to accomplish this is updating our goals in Rotary Club Central and checking to be sure we are on track to receive the Governor's Citation and the Rotary Citation as well as other awards.

We need to continue to attract new members and grow our District membership. Remember membership is the responsibility of all Rotarians not just the membership committee. Since January is Vocational Service Month, look at your membership and see what other vocations should be added to make your club well rounded.

As we are heading into the last half of the Rotary year, plan on attending the District Conference at SanDestin Beach and Golf Resort from April 27 to 30. A lot of fun events are being planned around the Green Acres theme. There will be pig roast on Thursday night and a cornhole contest. Friday we will hear from our youth programs and give out some of the awards that have been earned this Rotary year. Saturday we will have time to go to the beach and later that afternoon meet District Governor Elect Andre' Marria and her family. I believe there are lots of opportunities for everyone to have fun! Don't miss out - go straight from here to the District website and register and get your hotel reservations made now.

At all club meetings, I have discussed the "Imagine One's Dream" print from a painting that RI President Jennifer Jones' brother Darren painted for her. For each \$100 you donate to Polio Plus, you will have an opportunity to win the framed print. At District Conference, we will draw to see who will take home the print.

Looking back at the first half of the Rotary year, I am proud to be serving with you. Clubs have accomplished so many excellent service projects thus far. Not only have they done service projects but have also held fun socials. I have attended many of the socials and enjoyed my time at them. Keep up the good work and fun times!

PHOTOS:



"Imagine One's Dream" print of a painting created for RI President Jennifer Jones by her brother Darren - every contribution of \$100 or more to Polio Plus enters you in a drawing to win this at District Conference

Rotary Foundation at Work

Thomasville Shows a Heart for Seniors



Editor's Note: One of the main reasons we donate to The Rotary Foundation is the good it allows us to do in the world. Here's a story that illustrates that. Take time to share your stories and think about what your contributions to the Foundation could do.

Thomasville Rotary used this year's District Grant to adopt local seniors. Club President Danny Braddy explained their new grant, saying every Rotary Club has access to an application provided by the Rotary Foundation. "Every club contributes to the Rotary Foundation and a lot of people leave their inheritance to the Rotary Foundation," Braddy said. Some of the money donated to The Rotary Foundation

comes back to the district for use in local projects. Our grant this year that was approved was for the seniors at Scott Senior Center,” Braddy shared. “When we were thinking about the grant, Rotarians in our club were the ones who got the Senior Center reopened and had a real passion for seniors.” The club made every senior a goody bag, complete with stationary, hygienic items and pre-stamped envelopes that allow the seniors to communicate with the Rotarians.

“There’s about 10 to 15 Rotarians who write the seniors and in the goody bags we provided a picture of the Rotarian who writes them, so they can see them,” Braddy said. “Then typically on Valentine’s Day, we have a cookout and grill hotdogs and hamburgers and that’s when they meet their pen pals.” In addition to the cookout, Rotary has also used the grant to sponsor a birthday luau.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
November 30, 2022

End Human Trafficking

Join Alpharetta's January 21 Seminar



Our children are in danger! Human traffickers are using personal and online connections to coerce our

children. It is happening right here in North Fulton! The Rotary Club of Alpharetta and End Human Trafficking Now are hosting a FREE seminar on Saturday, January 21 from 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM where you can learn

- What state and local officials are doing to combat trafficking
- How everyone from corporations to our own children are involved in the fight against HT
- How to identify the characteristics of HT grooming
- How to monitor your child's online activity
- What to watch for throughout your community
- How to get directly involved.

When: Saturday, January 21st, 2023. 9:00 am - 1:00 pm (Doors open at 8:00am, coffee and refreshments will be available)

Where: Innovation Academy, 125 Milton Ave., Alpharetta, GA.

Registration: This is a free event, but there is limited seating so you must register through Eventbrite to attend. Scan the code to the left or [visit this Eventbrite link](#) to register. Contributions are welcome but not required.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Paul Ray
January 7, 2023

Membership

Here We Grow Again!



As DG George says, membership growth is everyone's responsibility ... and it benefits everyone ... new perspectives, new project ideas, new people to enjoy! Here are some pictures and ideas shared on Facebook:

- **Barnesville Rotary** held a "Bring a Guest Day" in October - pictured are Jackie Bumgardner, Olivia Jefferis, David Hacker, Marie Bundy, Cindy McGee, & Brenda Brown (now a member)
- **Fayetteville** added four new members in December - Carolyn Greene, Realtor w/Harry Norman; Michelle Bennet, Fayetteville Library Director; Jacqueline Roberts, Retired Atlante Public Schools/Instructional Liaison Specialist; and Bishop David Kimbrough, Seeds of Faith Church
- **Americus Rotary's** newest member is Han Ching Wu, President, Owner and Founder of Spring Precast, LLC. Han - sponsored by Dr. Lou Riccardi
- **Buckhead Rotary** gave a big shout out to one of its newest members, Shirley Anne Smith who recently joined six other Atlantans on the front cover of Simply Buckhead as a Rising Stars in the metro area. Shirley Anne is the Executive Director at the Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation.
- **Camilla Rotary** recently welcomed new member Justin Williams

PHOTOS:





SHIRLEY ANNE SMITH

A dedicated nonprofit professional is on a mission *story: Amy Meadows*

According to Shirley Anne Smith, she is—and forever will be—a Girl Scout.

"When I was in the second grade, I joined a Girl Scout troop in Puerto Rico," she says. "What always stuck with me was the Girl Scout mission, which is to use your resources wisely and make the world a better place. I would say that has driven everything in my professional life."

Smith has enjoyed a prolific career in the nonprofit sector, working in leadership roles for such organizations as the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta and LaAmistad, Inc., an organization that prepares Latino students and families for success through academic and life enrichment programs. In 2016, she became the founding executive director of the Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation which brings together individuals, businesses and civic groups to assist Atlanta's firefighters.

"When I began at LaAmistad in Buckhead, we had several families who experienced an apartment fire just across the street from that complex. My job was right next to it, and I got to see how those firefighters helped families, how quickly they responded, created this interest in me to figure out how I could support these firefighters," Smith says. "I was naturally compelled to give back to these firefighters from Buckhead, so she began looking for ways to get involved. She unexpectedly landed the executive director role with the Atlanta Fire Rescue Foundation. "I've served in this capacity, and you see the different mission that went into it," she says Smith, who

"I was always meant to be here."

ment and training and to help grow and enhance its workforce. "When the firefighters have needs, we are

Atlanta Business Chronicle's 40 Under 40 award and a place in the

... 17,000 square feet of rentable building area on approximately 8.2 acres commonly known as 2589 Tyson Road and 2613 Tyson Road, Decatur, GA 30032 USA including appliances, fixtures and equipment.
A. Purchase Price: The purchase price shall be \$1,500,000.
B. Date of Agreement: The date of agreement shall be the date that a purchase agreement has been fully executed by both Buyer and Seller and provided to Escrow Holder ("Date of Agreement").
C. Close of Escrow: Escrow shall close 30 days after the waiver of expiration of the Buyer's Contingencies ("Closing").
D. Deposit: Within 5 business days after the Date of the Agreement, Buyer shall deliver to Escrow Holder the sum of \$10,000.00 which shall be held as a ... purchase price
E. Contingency Period: See Documents ...
F. ...



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 8, 2023

RLI Update

Building a Better Rotary through Education



RLI is going strong in District 6900! We have more opportunities for you to Learn, Grow, Share and Lead. If you are registered for January 14, 2023 in Thomasville, Georgia, we will see you this coming Saturday, January 14, at Southern Regional Technical College in Thomasville, Georgia. Some of the interesting leadership topics that will be discussed during our classes include: Membership Engagement, Analyzing Your Rotary Club, Strategic Planning, Service Projects, Effective Leadership Strategies and the History of Rotary.

There will be other live opportunities on February 11 in Greensboro, Georgia (D6910) and on March 11 in Tallahassee, Florida (D6940). You can also check rlitraining.org for Live Online RLI sessions and in person events all over the Sunshine Division. The cost for in-person sessions is \$100 and includes materials, breakfast and lunch; online sessions are \$15.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR REGISTRATION:

1. Go to rlitraining.org If the link does not work, either copy and paste or type the website address into your browser.
2. Click on Course Information.
3. Click on Course Schedule.
4. Scroll down until you see the information you are looking for (e.g. January 14 - RLI Thomasville).
5. Click on More Info.
6. The event window should pop up. When it does, if you have previously attended RLI, click on RLI Member. If you have not attended RLI in the past, click on Request an ezLink Registration Link. Be sure you use the email address associated with your My Rotary account. If your email address is not recognized, click on Register as Guest. If you register as a guest, please send me an email and let me know the name of your club. *Call, email or text swindham@icloud.com or 770-757-1187.*

We look forward to seeing you at a Rotary Leadership Institute session soon!

Posted by Stephanie Windham
January 8, 2023

Thoughts from Our Readers

The Rotary Foundation: Giving and Major Donor Credit

by Robert Hall, Past RI Director

Most of you probably know that anyone who gives at least \$10,000 to The Rotary Foundation is recognized as a Major Donor. There are different levels of Major Donor recognition based on a person's contributions.

I have had some questions about what donations count toward Major Donor status when you give money to The Rotary Foundation. Some people seem to think that only their donations to the Annual Fund count.

Here's some clarification: Any donation to The Rotary Foundation by a Rotarian or any other individual counts toward his/her individual giving record and will be credited toward Major Donor status. This includes donations to The Annual Fund, PolioPlus, Peace Programs, or a specified donation to one of the seven areas of focus.

It is also true that a new cash donation you make to recognize another person can make someone a Paul Harris Fellow counts toward your personal Foundation Account, but does not count to the recognized person's Foundation account. A person only receives credit toward Major Donor status for their own donation to their personal account.

Hopefully this helps you understand how donations are recorded in your Rotary Foundation account and count toward Major Donor status. You can ask your club Foundation chair to check your balance or sign into My Rotary at www.rotary.org to see where you stand and make additional contributions.

Posted by Robert Hall

January 7, 2023

Club News

Atlanta Southern Crescent Spreads Holiday Cheer



The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent** was busy enjoying fellowship and spreading holiday cheer with the community in December.

Tom and Claudia Mertl hosted the club's Christmas party - where Tom Mertl won the ugly outfit contest, with Ed Taylor a close second. The entire group enjoyed good food, good friends and great fellowship, and gathered for a family photo before the night was over.

The club also spread holiday joy at the "Giving Side of Christmas", held at the Griswell Senior Center. Rotarians partnered with "Kinship Care" to show the children what it means to give a gift to others. A big thank you to all the volunteers from the senior center, who assisted the children in selecting gifts for those on their list and those who were wrapping the gifts when the finished "shopping". Also a BIG thanks to those who provided financial support.

PHOTOS:







Club News

Sandy Springs Brings Vision to Local Schools



The **Rotary Club of Sandy Springs** recently partnered with a national organization called Vision to Learn to provide nearly 800 pairs of glasses for students in Fulton County Schools based in Sandy Springs. Most recently, the club provided over 240 students at Sandy Springs Middle School with either the first glasses they've ever received or the only ones they have had on their own.

During the two-day delivery process, we heard many good stories from students. One of them was very telling, however. The child put on his glasses for the first time and quietly said, "Wow- I can see!" It's something most of us take for granted, but for a student who had been struggling to see many things and read in class, that revelation was life-altering for him.

Vision to Learn was started in Northridge, California by Austin Beutner in 2012. Austin started the non-profit because he found out that so many children in Los Angeles-area schools were struggling in school, partly because they couldn't see the board or read clearly. The idea was to bring a vision clinic to the kids (or at Boys and Girls Clubs) access whether the children needed glasses and if so, to ultimately provide the kids with cost-free glasses for them to be able to see and do better in school and life.

As of 2022, Vision to Learn has visited 5000 schools and Boys and Girls Clubs around the United States - providing 350,000 children with glasses. They currently have 50 mobile clinics and over 200 employees working for them.

Our club visited the Sandy Springs Middle School on December 8, 2022, and I've included one picture of that visit/delivery as an attachment. (Note: the other picture is from October when we first presented the donation of \$10000 to purchase the glasses.) We have more glasses to deliver in 2023 and will be working on that with Fulton County School Leadership during Q1.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jay Brackman, Sr.
January 7, 2023

Club News

Dunwoody Brightens Children's Holidays



The **Rotary Club of Dunwoody** continued two long-time traditions this holiday season - both benefiting local children. For more than 20 years, the club has made a point of donating books to elementary students - a tradition started with Dresden Elementary School and extended a few years ago to Kingsley Elementary School - both Title 1 schools. This year's project was funded in part by our District Grant from The Rotary Foundation. We add bookplates and an English-Spanish translation card. Thanks to Roy Ethridge for getting us started on this project 20+ years ago and Jack Sparks for leading our efforts in recent years.

At our holiday luncheon, we also supported Toys for Tots - at least a 10-year Dunwoody tradition. Thanks to Jim and Janet Glass for coordinating this effort.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 7, 2023

Club News from Facebook

Meriwether County Brightens Senior Holidays



Meriwether Co Rotary Club played Santa by giving out over 90 gift bags to the residents of Warm Springs Nursing Home and Mountain View Assistive Living Facility. The Manchester High School Jazz band was a part of the magical afternoon by adding holiday cheer through a variety of Christmas songs played for the Rotary Club members, the Warm Springs Nursing Home residents and the staff. The Rotary Club is grateful for the community partners who played a major role in making this event happen: Manchester Kiwanis Club, Manchester Women's Club, Manchester High School Jazz band, and Warm Springs Baptist Church.

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 8, 2023

Club News from Facebook

Making a Difference in Our Communities



Here are some examples of the difference we are making through our work in the community:

- Brookhaven Rotarians continued their bell-ringing tradition on behalf of the Salvation Army
- The **Rotary Club of Harris County** names a teacher of the month. In December the club honored Mrs. Lindsey, the Speech Pathologist at Park Elementary school where she serves students from Pre-K to 4th grades. She also works after class hours as director of Park's After School Enrichment Program. Emily Byrd, club Youth Services director, presented the certificate.
- **Blakely Rotary Club** recently presented dictionaries to third graders at SGA.
- **Bremen Rotary** donated tubs of books to a second grade classroom at HA Jones Elementary School
- The Henry County Rotary Club's book drive for A Friend's House, Inc. was a huge success. The club

also gave a donation to help complete their academic room.

PHOTOS:









Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 8, 2023

Club News from Facebook

Carrollton Sponsors Second Annual West Georgia Talent Show



Takes place January 28 at 7:00 pm at the Carrollton Center for the Arts. Visit www.westgatalent.com for information about the competition and how you can buy tickets to the show.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 8, 2023

Club News from Facebook

Paulding County Feeds Troops at Hartsfield-Jackson Airport



When the USO needed to serve our brave soldiers returning from leave, **Paulding County Rotarians** answered the call. Lots of volunteers mean lots of sack lunches made for these men and women in uniform coming through Hartsfield-Jackson Airport on their way to Fort Benning and Fort Gordon. Thank you Jeb Gordon for organizing this project and thank you to all the volunteers!

PHOTOS:



Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 7, 2023

Club News from Facebook

DG Gives Coins of Excellence, Meets with Interactors in Newnan



Newnan Rotarians were recently honored by DG George Granade with the 2022-2023 Coin of Excellence. Honorees included Clay Neely, Cathy Wright, Jay Boren, Granade, George Siggins, and John Thrasher.

While visiting Newnan, DG George also took time to meet with the Newnan High School Interact Club.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 7, 2023

Club News from Facebook

North Cobb Fighting Hunger



North Cobb Rotary joined together to help Forever Fed's Mobile Food Pantry deliver food support to families in need. What's different? Forever Fed travels to communities. One fixed location would only serve one small area... and hunger is everywhere. Learn more at <https://foreverfed.org>

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 8, 2023

Club News from Facebook

North Columbus, Quitman and Vinings Cumberland Adopt Parts of Their Communities



The **Rotary Club of North Columbus** was glad to be a part of Adopt a Family at Rigdon Road School! As Rotarians, we love any opportunity to get involved & give back to our community. **Vinings Cumberland Rotarians** dropped off 50 gifts for the young children at La Amistad for the after-school participants; many are ESL kids and some of club members volunteer to tutor them. The **Rotary Club of Quitman** spent a chilly but worthwhile morning picking up litter on the club's adopted two-mile stretch of SH37 north of Quitman. Eighteen big bags were collected. "Don't Mess with Texas!"

PHOTOS:





Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 8, 2023

Club News from Facebook

Roswell Helps Kids "Sing in the Rain"

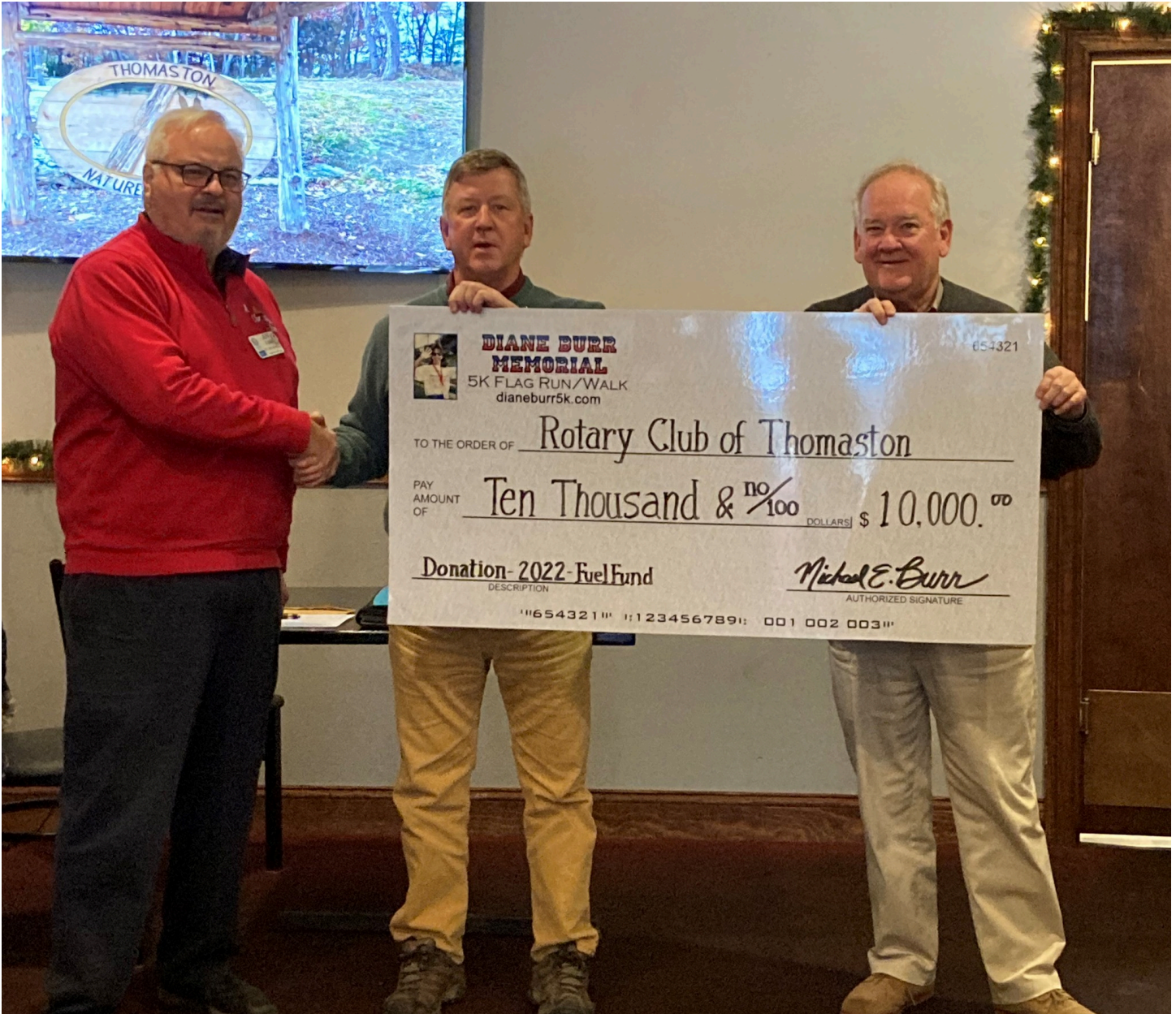


Fellowship Christian School has been growing, and part of that growth involves building renovation. Unfortunately for the 5th grade class, they have been temporarily displaced to an exterior building with no covered walkway, and that is no fun when it rains. **Roswell Rotarian** David Wash has a son who attends Fellowship Christian and remembered the club had a bunch of golf umbrellas left over from our recent charity golf tournament and asked club president John Carruth if we could donate them to the class. John agreed and Dave was able to deliver the umbrellas just before the last rainy day. In appreciation, the Fellowship Christian 5th grade class sent the club a very nice thank you card signed by all the students and teachers who can now stay dry when they come and go. This small project It shows the compassion of one of our Rotarians, recognizing a problem & taking individual action.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 8, 2023

Club News from Facebook

Thomaston Gets Help with Community Relief Efforts



The **Rotary Club of Thomaston** received a special gift from the Diane Burr Memorial 5k Flag Run/Walk - \$10,000 for the Club's Fuel & Crisis Fund! Generous donations like this allow the club to provide relief to pay heating bills during the winter months and to enable Thomaston's Social Services Department to help Thomaston residents in need. Pictured presenting the check to Club President Jeff Dunn are Mike Burr and George Seabourne.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert
January 8, 2023
