



From Our District Governor

**Thank You for a Year That Was All I Could Imagine and So Much More!**



We have just returned from the Rotary International convention in Melbourne, Australia which was very good. DGE André Marria was on the program and did an outstanding job and represented District 6900 very well. The meeting was very educational, and we all picked up a lot of good Rotary information. Several of stayed and toured part of Australia and saw what a beautiful country it is.

As this Rotary year comes to an end, I look back and remember so many excellent things that our District has accomplished. Clubs in our district have completed many service projects that have assisted in improving their communities. They have completed many fundraisers that have enabled them to accomplish these projects.

Again, congratulations to André Marria for being selected as one of six individuals as Rotary's People of Action: Champion of Inclusion. André represented our District and her home Rotary Club very well as she received her award in South Africa. Take time to visit <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-Ne27djE5w> to view Andre's speech and remarks from the other five recipients. Congratulations again André on an award well deserved and thanks for all you do! We look forward to your year as District Governor!

We are ending our Rotary year on a high note. We are currently on track to end the year with a higher membership than what we started. Our Polio Plus giving is up 33% over last year.

It has been an honor to serve as your District Governor this past Rotary year. Continue the excellent work that you and your clubs are doing and I look forward to seeing you down the road.

Posted by George Granade  
June 14, 2023

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Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## **2023-2024 Competitive & Collaborative Community Grant Awards Announced**

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



Thanks to the generosity of our fellow Rotarians to the Rotary Foundation, we had enough DDF to award

more than the originally stated competitive grants.

This year we received a total of 67 grant requests with a total of \$148,250 in grant funds awarded. \$78,250 was awarded in the standard grant category, and another \$70,000 in competitive and collaborative grant awards. As always, no grant funds can be spent prior to the official approval from the Rotary Foundation – stay tuned for an announcement from the Community Grants Chair when the approval is received.

We have awarded our first ever Collaborative Grant – with **Peachtree City** in the lead role for a \$30,000 project focused on Fighting Disease. Partner clubs include **Barnesville, Lake Spivey/Clayton County, Tyrone, Fayetteville, Griffin, Griffin Daybreak and Newnan.**

The following is a list of clubs receiving Competitive Grant awards for the 2023-2024 Rotary year:

- **Atlanta:** \$5,000 award - Area of Focus: Supporting Education
- **Atlanta Southern Crescent:** \$5,000 award - Area of Focus: Saving Mothers & Children
- **Carrollton:** \$10,000 award - Area of Focus: Supporting Education
- **Meriwether Co. (Warm Springs):** \$10,000 award - Area of Focus: Supporting Education
- **North Fulton:** \$5,000 award - Area of Focus: Supporting Education
- **Sandy Springs:** \$5,000 award - Area of Focus: Supporting Education

We look forward to seeing some amazing projects from all clubs!

**For All 2023-24 Community Grants (standard, collaborative and competitive), there are key timeframes and deadlines to be met during the coming Rotary year:**

|                       |                                                                                                                                                                |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Mid to late July 2023 | <b>Anticipated approval date and funds receipt from TRF</b><br><i>NO SPENDING allowed until official OK from THE ROTARY FOUNDATION!)</i>                       |
| Aug. 2023 – Feb. 2024 | Funded Projects – Implementation dates<br>If “Back To School” projects for July ‘23, please contact me to discuss                                              |
| March 31, 2024        | <b>Absolute last date to submit spending *documentation for 23/24 grants</b><br>Must be submitted within 30 days of spending or 3/31/24 – whichever is earlier |

Posted by Gillian Leggett  
June 14, 2023

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District Conference 2024

**Help Us Amplify Rotary at 2024 District Conference -**

# Registration Open



District Conference returns to Jekyll Island, Georgia March 21-24, 2024. Join us as we Amplify Rotary and feature the Lady with a Song, none other than our District Governor-Elect André Marria. The conference will be at the beautiful Jekyll Island Convention Center, and several hotels have room blocks reserved through February 21, 2024. Jekyll Island is booming, so you are encouraged to book your hotel room NOW! Once our room blocks are sold there is no guarantee that more room nights will be added.

When making your reservation, please be sure and reference Rotary District 6900. We have room blocks reserved with:

- The Westin Jekyll Island, which is within walking distance of the Convention Center
- The Courtyard by Marriott and The Residence Inn, which have a free island-wide shuttle
- Hampton Inn & Suites; Seafarer Inn & Suites; Holiday Inn Resort; and the Beachview Club Hotel.

There are other hotels on the island, as well as short-term rentals and camping opportunities, but as of right now only the hotels listed here are offering reduced rates for conference attendees. We will keep you posted if other hotels are added.

To register, login to [rotary6900.org](http://rotary6900.org) and click on "Register for the 2024 District Conference at Jekyll Island." The registration fee is \$275. There are also special rates for guests, students, and children under the age of 17. The registration fee will go up in September (\$295), so it pays to register early!

There is a new Cancellation Policy in place for the Registration Fee only. Hotel cancellations will be per the hotel policy. Any cancellation before November 1, 2023 will receive a full refund less \$25.

Cancellations between November 1, 2023 and January 1, 2024 will receive a 75% refund. Cancellations between January 2, 2024 and March 1, 2024 will receive a 50% refund. Cancellations between March 2, 2024 and March 15, 2024 will receive a 25% refund. There will be no refunds after March 15, 2024.

DGE André is a Lady with a Song, and this conference will be filled with music, laughter, fun, and fellowship. Let's celebrate all the ways our clubs make Rotary BIGGER, BETTER, AND LOUDER! Make your plans to attend District Conference March 21-24, 2024 at the Jekyll Island Convention Center in beautiful Jekyll Island, GEORGIA. We look forward to seeing you there!

Posted by Stephanie Windham  
June 14, 2023

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## GRSP Alumnus Joins Columbus Rotary



Georgia Rotary Student Program alumnus Sebastian Villa added Rotarian to his list of milestones earlier this month.

A member of the GRSP Class of 2015-2016 of Colombia, Sebastian is one of a few alumni who have returned to Georgia and joined Rotary. GRSP Vice Chair Ian Bond inducted him as a member of the **Rotary Club of Columbus**, the same club that sponsored him eight years ago as a GRSP scholar.

“It was like inducting one of my children to our club,” Bond said. “Our club is absolutely thrilled to have him as a member. He is a hard worker who will serve in various capacities. He is passionate about Rotary. It’s a great GRSP success story.”

Villa is the general manager of the Hampton Inn Fort Moore. He graduated from EIA University of Medellin and also holds an MBA from Georgia State University with an emphasis on hospitality and management. His wife Natalia, also from Colombia, holds an MBA from Columbus State University.

Posted by Katheryne Fields

June 14, 2023

## Celebrating the National Day of Prayer



President Harry S. Truman signed a proclamation in 1952 to declare The National Day of Prayer “a celebration of the promise and power of prayer in our daily lives that exists to invite people to pray for the nation”. The **Rotary Club of North Fulton** hosted their 21st Annual North Fulton Interfaith Prayer Breakfast on May 4 at St. David’s Episcopal Church in Roswell.

We celebrated the power of prayer with several Rotary clubs in attendance including tables purchased by **Alpharetta, Johns Creek, Roswell, and Sandy Springs** (thanks for your support). And we hosted many special Rotary guests – PDG Bob Hagar, Past RI Director Robert Hall, PDG Alec Smythe, and PDG Jim Squire.

The program included several different religious leaders speaking on the meaning and importance of prayer, and there were two performances by amazing musical guests from St. David's Episcopal Church.

We thank our keynote speaker Ron Frieson, COO of Children's Healthcare of Atlanta, who inspired the nearly 250 attendees by sharing the key tenets he follows in his life and how he keeps faith as an integral component of his business life. It was a very inspiring morning and we look forward to seeing you at our 22nd Annual North Fulton Prayer Breakfast on May 2, 2024 - the first Thursday in May!

Posted by Steve Siders

June 14, 2023

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Club News

## **East Cobb Supports Lunches for Learning**



Each year, **East Cobb Rotary** supports an international charity called “Lunches For Learning.” This charity provides food for lunches for underserved children in Honduras. This year, the club put on a raffle to raise money. The raffle was a huge success and East Cobb Rotary was able to raise \$29,097.46.

The money was presented to Phil Dodson, the Executive Director of Lunches for Learning on May 10, 2023. During the 2022-2023 Rotary Year, East Cobb Rotary has raised over \$120,000.00 for local and international charities.

Posted by Aaron Strimban  
June 14, 2023

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Club News

## **Rotary Brazil: The Next Generation!**



What does an Interact Club do to top its recent Zone 34 award? It plans an international service trip, of course!

**Alpharetta Rotary's Innovation Academy Interact Club** departed on Saturday, June 3 for Pelotas, R.S., Brazil to continue District 6900's partnership with six clubs in District 4680. The two districts, along with clubs in New England D7780, have been partnering since 2021 to support a Down Syndrome training and service program slated to launch later this year. Pelotas-based APADPEL, the Association of Parents of Down Syndrome in Pelotas, is excited to host the service team. In addition to the groundbreaking teaching/training model, funds have also been raised for a service building. The Interact team, led by

Alpharetta Rotarian Josh Jarvis, will meet and enjoy service time with the 40+ members of Interact Pelotas. Together, they plan to paint and assist with landscaping around the new building in addition to other adventures. The trip will be highlighted by a Friday evening celebration with the Rotary Club of Pelotas-Oeste.

“These Interact clubs may go on to partner with other projects”, says Jarvis, “but this year they’ve decided to raise funds and continue the good work that’s been accomplished with APADPEL”.

This visit follows two previous service trips to Pelotas by the Rotary Club of Alpharetta in 2022 and 2021. The story and more photos to follow when the team returns!

Posted by Bob Koncerak  
June 14, 2023

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Club News

## Americus Honors Public Service Personnel with Rotary National Medal of Honor



In Rotary's ideals of Vocational Service, our Law Enforcement, Fire Safety, First Responders, and other public safety personnel serve above self within their profession each day. They ask for a fair wage and the opportunity to serve, yet their level of service has the potential to far exceed normal expectations of "Service Above Self." In 2021, Rotary International developed a method for Rotary Clubs to honor those community heroes who share our creed of "Service Above Self" within their professions and the club reached out to leaders in law enforcement and public safety for nominations.

In this third year of awarding the Rotary National Medal of Honor, the **Rotary Club of Americus** wishes to recognize four public service personnel for providing exemplary service to the citizens of the Americus and Sumter County community. We are honored to award these individuals who share a core value of the 1.4 million Rotary International members, worldwide, which is "Service Above Self."

On a week when we recognize the National Peace Officers Memorial Day and National Police Week, we are thrilled to honor our law enforcement officers as well as first responders with the Rotary "Service Above Self" National Medal of Honor. The Americus Rotary Club presented the Deputy of the Year to Sgt. John Harty of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office, Police Officer of the Year to Lt. Al Ross of the Americus Police Department, and Firefighters of the Year to Richard Coleman of the Sumter County Fire Department and Jared Ward, Fire Marshal with the Americus Fire Department.

Pictured: Richard Coleman, Firefighter of the Year; Lt. Al Ross, Police Officer of the Year; Kathryn Moore, President of the Americus Rotary Club; and Sgt. John Harty, Deputy of the Year. Not pictured: Jared Ward, Firefighter of the Year.

Posted by Angela Smith  
June 14, 2023

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Program Possibility for Your Club

## Hear the Georgia Ports Authority Story



At Georgia Ports Authority, deepwater terminals in Savannah and Brunswick ensure the continuous flow of goods to and from global destinations. These vital gateways move retail shipments, refrigerated cargo, cars and machinery, bulk, and breakbulk cargo.

The Georgia Ports Authority is coming off a two-year period of record container volumes. In 2022, the Port of Savannah handled nearly 5.9 million twenty-foot equivalent container units and achieved four of its top five months for container volume. To add capacity for new business, GPA has instituted an ambitious plan to expand its berths, container yards and auto processing facilities.

The statewide economic impact of Georgia's deepwater ports includes \$140 billion in annual sales by industries that rely on the ports, as well as \$33 billion in personal income each year. The Georgia Ports Authority directly employs more than 1,800 people, however port activity supports 560,000 full- and part-time jobs statewide.

The Georgia Ports Authority has a dynamic message of growth, statewide impact and plans for the future to share with community leaders across Georgia. If your club is interested in learning more about how the growth at Georgia's deepwater ports affects you, please go to <https://gaports.com/speaker-request-form/> to schedule a program.

Posted by George Granade  
June 14, 2023

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## Club News

### Douglas County Honors Top 8th Graders



**The Rotary Club of Douglas County** capped off its year by presenting awards to the top 8th grade students in the four core subject areas at all nine middle schools in the county. The students received a certificate and \$50 for their outstanding academic achievement.

The club also supports education in the community by paying for bus transportation for elementary school field trips, sponsoring Interact Clubs, and hosting a luncheon for the high school STAR Students and Teachers. Our hope is that the 8th grade awards will inspire the winning students and others to work hard in high school so that they have many great options upon graduation.

Next project that will benefit our students and community? Douglas County is thrilled to send three students to RYLA in June.

## PHOTOS:





Posted by Nell Boggs

June 14, 2023

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Club News

## Clubs Honor New Mayor of Jonesboro



The **Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent** and the **Rotary Club of Lake Spivey/Clayton County** held a reception for the newly elected Mayor of Jonesboro, Dr. Donya Sartor. The mayor is a member of the Atlanta Southern Crescent club and we congratulate her for this great achievement. The reception was held at the beautiful home of Dr. Manjeet and Mrs. Lata Chinnan.

**PHOTOS:**





Posted by Claudia Mertl  
June 14, 2023

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Club News

## Thomasville Stands in Support of GRSP



The **Rotary Club of Thomasville** continues to support the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) at the highest per capita level in District 6900. For the 13th year in a row, the club was honored with the Jake Cheatham Award at District Conference, recognizing the club as the number one club in per capita giving for clubs of its membership size. GRSP was founded by Thomasville Rotarian William A. Watt in 1947. Watt served in the military in Europe during World War II and saw the destruction war causes. He founded GRSP to help promote world peace by bringing college age students to Georgia to study in Georgia colleges and universities for one year.

Each year the club's Board of Directors sets the amount of GRSP funds; for 2022-23, club members met and exceeded the goal - raising a total of \$27,471. This brings our total GRSP giving since the 1987-1988 Rotary year to \$612,946.

This Rotary year, a total of 27 Club members and one honoree were recognized for reaching new or first levels for their giving to GRSP. Ten members were recognized in October and 18 more in May as follows: Teri White was recognized as a Hart Joiner Fellow, the first in the Club, and the first person in GRSP to receive the Hart Joiner Fellow recognition since fellow awards began to be presented. Rankin M. Smith, Jr. was recognized as a new Jake Cheatham Fellow. John A. Brown, Mary Beth Donalson, and Richard S. Vann were recognized as new Kendall Weisiger Fellows. Receiving Hue Thomas Fellow recognitions were Danny Braddy and Terry Rouse. Retta Rouse received the Hue Thomas Fellow recognition honoring her deceased husband, Terry Rouse.

Members Anna Lee and Charlene Parrish and GRSP host parent, Suzanne Dixon all received Will Watt Fellow recognitions. Charles and Suzanne Dixon served as host parents for the year for Thomasville Rotary Club's GRSP student scholar Julie Larson from Denmark. The Past President's Club honored Charles and Suzanne Dixon by making Suzanne a new Will Watt Fellow.

Receiving Governor's Associate recognition were Hinson Arwood, John A. Blackmon, Philip Leabo, and Joseph Tarver. The newest Sustaining donors are Lindsay Clay, Darcy Craven, Jimmy Hone, and Rich Massa.

Pictured with awards and participants in the ceremony were: **Seated first row** are Charlene Parrish, Mary Beth Donalson, Julie Larson, Suzanne Dixon, and Retta Rouse; **Standing second row** are John A. Blackmon, Teri White, Anna Lee, Katheryne Fields (GRSP Program Director), and Debbie Goodman (GRSP Committee Co-chairman); and **Standing back row** are Danny Braddy (Club President), Richard Vann, Will Watt III, Joseph Tarver, and Charles Dixon.

Posted by Debbie Goodman  
June 14, 2023

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