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District Governor

[Terry Adkins](#)
District Governor Elect

[Beverly Trainor](#)



District Newsletter

A Message from DG Todd Freeseemann



Growing Membership—One Invitation at a Time

Membership is the heartbeat of our Rotary clubs, and growing that membership is something we must focus on every day. Think about the service-minded individuals you know—friends, colleagues, or neighbors who share our passion for making a difference. The reality is that many potential members never join simply because they were never asked. A personal invitation can be the key that opens the door to a lifetime of service and fellowship. Take a moment today to reach out to someone who would make a great Rotarian. You never know the impact a simple invitation could have on their life—and on the lives they will touch through Rotary.

As we continue to grow, let's also come together to celebrate and strengthen our connections. Mark your calendar for Georgia United—our first-ever joint District Conference on April 25-27 at Jekyll Island! All three Georgia Rotary Districts will gather for an unforgettable weekend of fellowship, learning, and fun. With a sports theme, tailgate parties, and beach attire as the dress code, this is a conference you won't want to miss.

There's still time to sign up—join us and be part of this historic event!

District News

Georgia Rotary Student Updates

From the food to the forest fields and the new friends made in between going from Pelham High School, [Pebble Hill Plantation](#), [Gentian Creek Preserve](#), [Hays LTI](#) agricultural equipment, the Mitchell County Tennis Center to the Mitchell County Ag Center, the 59th Annual Larry Frosteg Pelham International Weekend made memories for a lifetime. Our Georgia Rotary Student Program scholars were welcomed by amazing hosts from the [Rotary Club of Pelham](#), [Camilla Rotary Club](#) and [Rotary Club of Thomasville](#) as they spent time touring the nearby South Georgia counties while visiting with one another. Thomasville native Will Watt III, grandson of GRSP Founder William A. Watt, shared his family legacy with the group as well. The last day started with a pair of service projects, including installing a peace pole and a pergola with the help of [Rotary District 6900](#) Governor Gordon Owens and his wife Ashley, relaxing at the Eubanks farm and ended with the Pelham Club honoring Kathy Frosteg and President Vince with a dedication to GRSP Trustee Emeritus Larry Frosteg as well as a variety show featuring the talented young adults. [Read More](#)



Georgia Laws of Life School Winners Announced

Georgia Laws of Life School Winners Announced

We are thrilled to announce the school-level winners of the Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest!

Each year, high school students across Georgia develop valuable self-awareness, communication skills, and strong character by participating in this life-changing program. The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest is a proven character education initiative encouraging students to explore the values and principles that shape their lives, fostering ethical literacy, personal reflection, and critical writing skills essential for future leaders.

This year, more than 30,000 students from 65 schools shared their personal stories and life lessons. Their courage, insight, and reflection are a powerful reminder of the importance of character and resilience in shaping our communities.

Special thanks to the 136 volunteer Essay Judges who generously dedicated their time to reviewing over 1,400 submissions. Through their careful evaluation, essays were recognized as exceptional examples of self-reflection and storytelling, including 141 Grade Winners and 49 School Winners.

[Read More](#)

District Governor
Nominee

Felix M Smith
iPast District Governor

Fel Lee
Zone 33/34
District RLI Chair

Paula K. Goodnow
District Communications
Officer

Hamsa Thota
District Foundation Chair

Steve Williams
District Membership
Chair

Erin Andrews
District Public Image
Chair

Elizabeth Hardin
District Treasurer

Amy Heil Maley
District Co-Treasurer
District Learning
Facilitator

Lisa Birch
District Learning
Facilitator

Anne M. Cordeiro
District Simplified Grants
Chair

Heather Klemm
District Awards Chair

Brian M. Weese
RYLA Chair

Joe Leek
District Webmaster

Shrad Amrit
District Polio Plus Sub-
Committee Chair

Elizabeth Hardin
District International
Service Chair
Paul Harris Society
Coordinator

Maria Jennings
District Membership
Attraction Chair

Stephen D. Acuff
District Conference Chair

Pryce May
District Rotaract Chair

Jan Hordan
District Interact Chair

Dana Park
District Youth Exchange



Important Information

District Assembly is Coming Soon

After the upcoming District Conference is over, our attention shifts to the upcoming District Learning Assembly on Saturday, June 28th, 9 am to 3 pm in Dublin, GA. This action-packed event helps the upcoming officers and directors learn all the tips and tricks that will make their year easier, better, and more fun. Don't miss out! Registration launches soon!



CRAB RACES & LIVE AUCTION



Join Us for a Crabby Good Time – All for a Great Cause! Hosted by the Rotary Club of Savannah South

Get ready for an exciting evening of fun and fundraising at our **Crab Races & Live Auction**! This unique event will support several impactful local organizations and initiatives.

Proceeds will benefit:

- ?? **P.A.C.K. of Savannah** – A dedicated, all-volunteer nonprofit that packs and delivers 16,000 bags of food each month to children in 37 local schools, community centers, and emergency shelters.
- ?? **Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)** – Help us sponsor local high school students to attend this intensive leadership development experience.
- ?? **Additional local charities and Savannah South Rotary community projects.**

For a \$100 donation, you'll receive:

- ? Entry to race a crab
- ? A commemorative event T-shirt
- ? Delicious food from Coach's Corner

Raffle Tickets:

??? 1 for \$10 | ?? 3 for \$20

Come out, cheer on your crustacean, and make a difference in our community!

- Chair
- Maj. William Phelps**
District Youth Protection
Chair
- William Von Alt**
District Youth Chair
- Glenda Kessler**
District CART Chair
- Rob Kellner**
District GRSP Chair
- 2024-2025 AREA GOVERNORS**
- Kelly Knitter**
Augusta-West
- Jim Seifert**
Blackshear
- Steve Bell**
Downtown Macon
- Ashlee Torpy**
Dublin
- Abby Smith**
Effingham County
- Pam Waters**
Glennville
- Jessica Pedigo**
Metropolitan Savannah
- Shana Brinson**
Millen
- Michael O'Neal**
Savannah West
- Beverly Trainor**
St. Simons Island
- Taylor Everett**
Tennille
- Bonnie Sayles**
Tifton
- Danny Broyles**
Valdosta-North
- Kingman Herin**
Vidalia
- Dave Razo**
Warner Robins

Club News

Valdosta Rotary Puts Literacy in the Spotlight with Special Visit from Former Governor



Literacy took center stage in Valdosta as former Georgia **Governor Nathan Deal** visited the **Rotary Club of Valdosta** to share his new children's book, *Veto, the Governor's Cat*. During his visit, Gov. Deal stopped by J.L. Lomax Elementary School, where every third-grade student received a copy of the book, thanks to the generosity of the Valdosta Rotary Club.

In addition to the special visit, Rotary IMPACT members donated more than 200 Scholastic books to the WOW (Wildcats on Wheels) mobile literacy bus, further supporting young readers in the community. The club also presented a \$1,000 donation to the school's media center to help expand its collection and keep the love for reading growing.



Houston County High School Students Shine in Rotary Speech Contest

The Perry Rotary Club hosted the annual Rotary Speech Contest for Houston County high school students today. This year's theme, "The Magic of Rotary," inspired contestants to explore the organization's values and principles. Students also had the option to focus on the Rotary "4-Way Test" in their speeches.

The contest aimed to educate students about the Rotary organization while helping them develop essential public speaking skills. As students prepared for their speeches, they researched and learned about Rotary's mission and values. Parents, teachers, and audience members also benefited from the information shared by Rotarian speakers during the contest.

After impressive presentations from all participants, the judges announced the winners:

- 1st Place: Luz Maria Lemus Alcantar, Senior, Mount De Sales Academy
- 2nd Place: Claire Jefferson, Junior, Houston County High School
- 3rd Place: Maddox Davies, Westfield High School
- 4th Place: Chloe Oglesby, 9th Grade, Perry High School

Congratulations to the other participants:

- Harlen Morris, 12th Grade, Veterans High School
- Sar Paw, 11th Grade, Warner Robins HS
- Rabun Perdue, 11th Grade, Veterans HS



The Perry Rotary Club thanks all participants, parents, counselors, and Rotarians for making this event a huge success.

Longtime Blackshear Rotarian Receives Honorary Membership



Longtime Rotarian Frank Tanner was recently recognized as an honorary member of the Blackshear Georgia Rotary Club after 44 years as an active member of the Club. Thank you Frank for your dedication and commitment to our Club and to this community! Frank is pictured with fellow Rotarian Cheryl Williams.

Homeless Alliance Chairman Speaks to Rotary

Ken Taft, chairperson for the Okefenokee Alliance for the Homeless (OATH) was the guest speaker at last week's Rotary Club meeting. OATH serves the homeless in Pierce, Ware and Brantley counties out of an office in Waycross at 115 Albany Ave. In 2024, OATH served 379 clients – 92 children, 236 adult and 59 seniors (60+ years old). They helped place 16 client in housing and saved 10 clients from eviction.

The Alliance served 6,100 hot meals to clients last year. OATH helps their clients acquire documents necessary to apply for housing and connects them with assistance programs they qualify for. They provide tents, toiletries and other supplies as needed. OATH also hosts 'All Recovery' meetings twice a week in partnership with Unison Behavioral Health and the Southeast Health District.

Last year, OATH hosted 50 recovery meetings with 150 in attendance and distributed 281 overdose prevention kits. OATH currently employs a HOPE Coordinator, Healthcare Navigator and an administrative assistant. The local nonprofit receives no federal or state funding and relies primarily on local partnerships and sponsors to fund their operating budget.

For more information on ways to partner with OATH, visit www.oathnsega.org or call 912-816-4399. Pictured (l-r): Ken Taft and Rotarian Sarah Gove.



Rotary Club of Valdosta Honors Local Law Enforcement Officers



The Rotary Club of Valdosta proudly recognized three Officers of the Year at its 18th annual Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner (LEAD) on February 19, 2025.

The LEAD event honors the dedication and service of local law enforcement officers. Proceeds from the event go toward the Rotary Law Enforcement Fund, which offers financial assistance to officers and their families during natural disasters, medical emergencies, and other urgent needs.

More than 300 business, law enforcement, and community leaders attended this year's event, made possible through the generous support of presenting sponsors Georgia Power, Guardian Bank, and South Georgia Pecan. Additionally, more than 50 businesses and individuals sponsored tables, purchased tickets, and contributed to the LEAD fund, ensuring its sustained impact in supporting law enforcement officers and their families.

During the event, the Rotary Club of Valdosta presented Officers of the Year from the Georgia State Patrol (GSP), Valdosta Police Department (VPD), and Lowndes County Sheriff's Office (LCSO) with a plaque and monetary reward in recognition of their dedicated service to the community.

The LEAD committee also presented the Judge H. Arthur "Mac" McLane scholarship to Sabrina Maine, a senior in the Criminal Justice Program at Valdosta

State University.

Pictured above is: Lowndes County Sheriff Ashley Paulk, left, Investigator William Neel, Georgia State Patrol Sgt. Jeremy Swain, Georgia State Patrol Sgt. First Class Myles Cooper, Valdosta Police Department Patrol Officer Dilan Boutwell, and Valdosta Police Chief Leslie Manahan at the 18th annual Rotary of Valdosta Law Enforcement Appreciation Dinner (LEAD) event on February 19, 2025, at the Rainwater Conference Center. Georgia State Patrol TFC3 Stephen Pritchett was unable to attend due to assignment conflicts.



Pictured above is: LEAD Chair Bubba Highsmith presented the 2025 Judge H. Arthur "Mac" McLane scholarship to Sabrina Maine, a senior in the Criminal Justice Program at Valdosta State University.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace, OUR MISSION IS NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

One of the most humanitarian projects that any club can promote is one that serves children. One of these is a goal that NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN. This is a goal that the Hinesville Rotary Club has adopted, and former club president and current Area Governor (of District 6920) Terry Cook shared this project and the Hinesville club's current involvement with Glennville Rotarians last week at their club meeting on March 5, 2025.

According to Cook, each year the club makes Christmas brighter for children by partnering with My Journey Home. My Journey Home collects a "wish list" from the children and shares those with the Hinesville Rotary Club. "One year, we saw that several children had wished for a bed, not a bicycle or a toy. The children had wished for a bed. Yes, a bed; they slept on the floor and had never slept in a bed. This touched us deeply that we had children in our own community who did not have a bed to sleep in every night," said Cook.

Two years later, the club delayed no longer and began to discuss how they could make a difference in the lives of their community. This need for a bed was driven home to the club members when Roger Hutchinson, a club member who works in pest control, told how he and his team would encounter homes with children sleeping on the floor, on piles of clothing, or in a chair.

"That evening in July of 2023, the GA-Hinesville Chapter of Sleep in Heavenly Peace was started," said Cook. "According to ongoing research and data gathered from 2018 to year to date, roughly three percent of the total population represent children sleeping on the floor, couches, or in uncomfortable situations," he said. "The Hinesville chapter has built and delivered 40 beds during our first year. This year, we have delivered 20 beds already, and we are on track to deliver over 100 beds before the end of 2025. We currently have 119 kids in Liberty County who need a bed. Those children range in age from 3 to 17," said Cook. Sleep in Heavenly Peace began with its first chapter in 2012, and at the end of 2024, approximately 300 chapters are answering the need for children to have a bed in which to sleep every night.

[Read More](#)



Megabowl 2025 Vidalia Rotary



Wow, what a night for Vidalia Rotary Club! Our club's fundraiser, Megabowl 2025, had 22 bowling teams compete for the annual winner's belt! Everyone had SO much fun!! Rotary's Balls of Fury won with the highest score and Living on a Spare won best dressed!!! Congrats to the top 4 bowling teams from Rotary, Oxford, The Forge, and Mercy Clinic!!! Of course, the big winners are Alzheimer's research and local high school student scholarships because approximately \$6,000 in proceeds go to fund these two causes. Thank you to all the players, sponsors, participants, Sweet Onion Social, and our own Rotarians for the hard work! It was a GREAT night!!!! [Read More](#)

Jekyll Rotary Hosts MorningStar Children and Family Services

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Beth Vanderbeck from MorningStar children and family services. MorningStar is a sanctuary where transformative teaching and healing affirms our children through real relationships. Located in Brunswick, they provide care for Georgia's foster boys. They have 55 beds, serving developmentally delayed youths from ages 12-21. MorningStar has not only a Workforce Development Program, but an Autism and Complex Care Program as well. Picture are Rotarian Justin Wilbur from left, Vanderbeck and Club President Alan Price.



Valdosta Rotary Club Brings Hope to LAMP with Hurricane Helene Relief Efforts

In response to Hurricane Helene's devastation, the Valdosta Rotary Club supported the community by donating food and hygiene supplies to LAMP (Lowndes Associated Ministries to People) for Hurricane Helene relief efforts.

The supplies included sandwich meat, peanut butter, jelly, bread, fresh fruit, snack bars, chips, household staples like toilet paper, paper towels, cleaning supplies, and laundry detergent. These items were assembled into relief kits that Rotarians distributed to the individuals and families served by LAMP.

In addition to donations, Rotary members served lunch to the homeless and others in need, creating moments of connection and compassion during a challenging time.

"LAMP has experienced a significant increase in people needing help, especially in the wake of Hurricane Helene," said Valdosta Rotary Club President Mark Manchester. "As Rotarians, living our motto of 'Service Above Self,' we were proud to provide desperately needed supplies and help make a meaningful impact during this critical time."

Tom Gooding, who chaired the Valdosta Rotary Club's efforts, said, "LAMP works tirelessly serving the homeless, destitute, and others in need. Being part of this initiative allowed us to make a meaningful impact and strengthen our community in a time of great need."

The Valdosta Rotary Club's donation to LAMP was funded by a \$2,500 Rotary District 6920 Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Grant, plus \$350 donated by the Moultrie Rotary Club. The Rotary International Foundation provided Rotary District 6920 with a \$25,000 Hurricane Helene Disaster Relief Grant, divided among ten Rotary Clubs in communities significantly impacted by Hurricane Helene's destruction.



Valdosta Rotary Club members Richard Stalvey, Mark Manchester, and Miguel Vicente served lunch at LAMP as part of the Valdosta Rotary Club's disaster relief service project.

Jekyll Rotary Club Updates

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Keith Schroeder, the owner and operator of the new Jekyll and Tide Restaurant on Jekyll. He also owns and operates two restaurants in Brunswick. He detailed his background and experience in the industry and his vision for the future. Pictured are Rotarian Susan Middleton, Schroeder and Club President Alan Price.



Rotary Club of Camden County Welcomes New Members

The Rotary Club of Camden County is growing! Last month, the club proudly inducted four new members into the Rotary family:

- Beverly Blake
- Chris Fair
- Christen Landrum
- Marjorie Sellers

Each brings unique experience and enthusiasm to the club, reinforcing our shared commitment to Service Above Self. These new members were welcomed by their sponsors and the club with meaningful conversation about Rotary's mission and the power of fellowship through service.

Follow our club's activities and service projects on Facebook at facebook.com/RotaryClubCamdenCounty or visit us online at www.camdencountyrotary.org.



TCHS student Scarlet Evans wins Zone Rotary Speech Contest



Scarlet Evans, a Tattnall County High School (TCHS) junior, was the winner of the Rotary Club Eastern Zone Preston Johnson Speech Contest this past Saturday, March 29, 2025, on St. Simons Island. She competed against seven other students who had placed first in a Rotary Club's speech contest. She competed representing the Glennville Rotary Club, and Scarlet won the Glennville club's speech contest on February 26, 2025, receiving a monetary award of \$300 from the Glennville Rotary Club. Scarlett is the daughter of Paul and Megan Evans of Glennville. With her win at the Zone level, she will receive a \$1000 scholarship award along with presenting her speech at the Rotary District Conference on Jekyll Island on Saturday, April 26, 2025.

"This outstanding achievement showcases Scarlet's exceptional speaking skills and hard work in preparing and delivering her three-minute speech. She is commended for her success and dedication," said Teresa Thompson, TCHS English teacher and coordinator of the Glennville Rotary Club's speech competition and who coached Scarlet on her presentation. Her speech centered on the many projects of Rotary International around the world, education, and the emphasis on literacy. She related that education is empowerment, and the Glennville Rotary Club begins this with third graders with the distribution of dictionaries and other emphases supporting education. These include reading to South Tattnall Elementary School (STES) students every other Friday during the school year and presenting several

graduating seniors with scholarships, in addition to other support as requested.

Jekyll Rotary Welcomes Lifetime Member

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently welcomed Paul Klink as an Honorary Member of their club. Honorary membership is used to recognize people who have distinguished themselves by meritorious service and embody Rotary ideals, or those considered friends of Rotary for their support of Rotary causes. Pictured are Klink from left, Rotarian Joe Gore and Club President Alan Price.



St Simons Island Rotary Club Has Stellar Spring



Rotary District 6920 Area 5 Presidents-Elect attend Training Seminar
St Simons Rotary Club President-Elect, Debbie Britt, Esq., and other Presidents-Elect from Rotary District 6920, Area 5, recently attended the President-Elect Training Seminar (PETS) at the Renaissance Atlanta Airport Gateway Hotel. Fellow incoming Presidents, Al Tate (Jekyll Island), Paula Goodnow (Kings Bay), Jenn Agnew (Golden Isles), Mitch Byler (Camden), and Jason Hagen (Brunswick), were joined by Area Governor, Glenn Cook, as they learned and prepared together to grow and serve their community.

Pictured left to right: Glenn Cook, Mitch Byler, Jenn Agnew, Debbie Britt, Al Tate, Paula Goodnow and Jason Hagen

Glynn County Schools Superintendent presents to SSI Rotary Club

Dr. Scott Spence, current Glynn County Schools Superintendent, and Mike Blackerby, incoming superintendent, were both speakers at a recent St Simons Rotary Club meeting. Dr. Spence spoke about how Glynn County Schools kept up their test scores by having only a short break for Covid. He answered numerous questions ranging from their Alternative School programs to respect for staff. Mr. Blackerby discussed the changing clientele at GCS with more Hispanic students that do not speak English. Both discussed the challenges of hiring teachers.

Pictured left to right: Kern Baker President of St Simons Rotary Club, Donna Davis St Simons Rotary Club member, Dr. Spence GCS Superintendent, Mike Blackerby incoming GCS Superintendent.



CEO of Brunswick & Glynn County Development Authority presents to SSI Rotary Club

Ryan Moore, President and CEO Brunswick & Glynn County Development Authority, attended the weekly St Simons Island Rotary Club meeting recently to discuss new and continuing development in Glynn County. Ryan's presentation included the roll on and roll off business at the Port of Brunswick which is now the biggest facility for RoRo. He also spoke about new businesses that are coming to Glynn County such as Buc-ee's, an unnamed delivery company, and Wallenius Wilhelmsen. Pictured left to right: Kern Baker President of St Simons Rotary Club and Ryan Moore, CEO Brunswick & Glynn County Development Authority.



New Member of SSI Rotary Club Welcomed

Dr Stephen Pappas was recently welcomed as an official member of St Simons Rotary Club at a recent meeting when he was presented with his Red Badge.

Pictured Left to right: New member sponsor Hamsa Thota, Dr. Stephen Pappas and Kern Baker SSI Rotary Club President.



Jekyll Rotary Meets with Executive Director of Keep Golden Isles Beautiful

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Lea King-Badyna, the Executive Director of Keep Golden Isles Beautiful. KGIB's five emphasis areas include a wide array of projects, initiatives and activities designed to empower individuals and join public, private and governmental sectors in working towards community betterment. These five areas include Litter Prevention, Waste Reduction & Recycling, Community Greening, Water Resource Awareness and Education. Pictured are Rotarian Mike Thompson from left, King-Badyna and Club President Alan Price.



2024-2025 IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO AND LINKS

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District Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/Rotary6920

Rotary International Website: www.rotary.org/en

Rotary International Foundation: www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation

My Rotary: my.rotary.org/en/