

Monday, August
12, 2024

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Message from District Governor Todd Freeseemann



July was a busy and rewarding month as I began my club visits. It has been a pleasure to witness firsthand the amazing work Rotary clubs are doing. Visiting various clubs, I saw the incredible range of service projects in action, reinforcing my admiration for our organization.

One visit that stood out was to the Veterans Village in Brunswick, a project particularly close to my heart. The vision and dedication behind this initiative are truly inspiring.

I also observed the ongoing literacy projects, a key focus from last year that continues to make a significant impact.

As we move into August, we celebrate Membership and New Club Development Month. This is a time to recognize our members and their outstanding contributions to their communities. In 2020, Rotarians worldwide are finding innovative ways to open opportunities, showcasing their unwavering dedication to creating a better and safer world.

Membership Month is also an excellent time to explore new ways to engage with Rotary.

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2024-2025 Leadership Team

Todd A. Fresemann
District Governor

Rotary Operational Focus: Building Stronger Clubs

We are excited to introduce a new opportunity for all of our District 6920 members to stay connected and informed with our Monthly Zoom Meeting: **Rotary Operational Focus: Building Stronger Clubs through Foundation, Membership and Public Image!** Starting this September, weâ€™ll be gathering online every third Thursday of the month from 6:30 - 7:30 pm to discuss important updates and share insights.

What to Expect:

Each meeting will feature comprehensive updates from our Major District Programs, ensuring that youâ€™re in the loop on the latest developments:

Foundation: Learn about new projects, funding opportunities, and ways to contribute to our shared goals of service and community support.

Membership: Get insights on recruitment strategies, retention efforts, and how we can continue to grow and strengthen our Rotary family.

Public Image: Discover new tools and strategies to enhance our public presence, including branding initiatives, social media tactics, and community engagement.

These meetings will be an invaluable resource for staying up-to-date on district activities and finding new ways to get involved. Whether youâ€™re a longtime member or new to Rotary, your participation will help ensure our continued success.

Mark Your Calendar!

The first Rotary Operational Zoom Meeting will be held on **Thursday, September 19th, at 6:30 PM**. Donâ€™t miss out on this opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians, share your ideas, and stay informed about our districtâ€™s efforts.

We look forward to seeing you there!

GRSP Trio in Norway Experience Summer of Harmony, Personal Growth



The trio of Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) college students from Georgia returned from Norway in early August declaring the time spent abroad was a beautiful summer of harmony and personal growth.

[Read More](#)

Terry Adkins
District Governor
Elect

Beverly Traylor
District Governor
Nominee

Felix M Smith
iPast District
Governor

**Heather Ann
Kellen**
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

**Bruce
Montgomery**
District Co-
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

Double Your Donations for the Laws of Life Essay Contest

Double Your Club's Donation!

We are thrilled to announce a matching program from the John Templeton Foundation, available until October 1st. This means every dollar raised - up to \$60,000 will be doubled, making your club's sponsorship go twice as far in supporting the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest.

The contest has made a tremendous impact on the lives of over 840,000 Georgia teens. For twenty-five years your dedication to fostering strong character and ethical literacy in our youth is unparalleled. Now, more than ever, we need to stand together to continue this vital work.

Your sponsorship payment before September 15th is greatly appreciated.

Will you help us Meet Our Match?

There is a teacher and Rotarian Laws of Life workshop online on Friday, August 23, 2024 from 11:30-12:00 PM

[Register for the workshop here!](#)

Club News

Want to go to Italy?

As many of you saw who attended our May Rotary District Conference, we were the recipients of the Italy trip raffle, which is for 7 nightâ€™s accommodations for 4 people in Manciano, Italy. Sadly, due to medical issues immediately after District Conference, we are not able to redeem the offer, so we would like to present this opportunity to Rotary Club members to take this magnificent trip in our place. For more information on details and cost, please call Greg Hawkinson at 478-330-1321.

Rotary Club of Kings Bay Presents Club Flag to District Governor Todd



President Paula Goodnow presents District Governor Todd Freeseemann with the official flag of The Rotary Club of King's Bay during his club visit.

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 Chair

**Maj. William
Phelps**
District Youth
Protection Chair

William Von Alt
District Youth
Chair

Glenda Kessler
District CART
Chair

Rob Kellener
District GRSP
Chair

**2024-2025
AREA
GOVERNORS**

Kelly Knitter
Augusta-West

Jim Seifert
Blackshear

District Governor Todd Freeseaman Visits Golden Isles Rotary

On August 1, District Governor Todd Freeseaman, his wife Penny, and Area Governor and DGN Bev Trainor joined a few Golden Isles Rotary members for a tour of the Golden Isles Veterans Village. Rotarian and GVV President Lorene Reid led the tour and explained the layout of the tiny



houses and Community Center at the Veterans Village. As usual, Rotarian John Bartosh was found working at the VV, and joined in providing information on the tour. Pictured at right are GI Rotarians Lorene Reid, Margie Mathieu (Club President), Jay Torbert, John Bartosh and Lucy Loehle; DG Todd Freeseaman; and AG/DGN Bev Trainor.

Valdosta North Rotary Club Completes Touching Service Project for Hospice of South Georgia



The Valdosta North Rotary is pleased to announce the successful completion of its first service project of the new Rotary year. On July 30th, 2024, Rotary members came together to create and deliver "Bereavement Boxes" to Hospice of South Georgia, providing much-needed support to families experiencing the profound loss of a child. [Read More](#)

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

Jekyll Island Rotary Club Hosts Coastal Pines Technical College



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Stephanie Roberts, the Executive Director of College Advancement for the Coastal Pines Technical College. Their main campus is in Waycross, but they operate 7 campuses in the area and have 3000-4000 students enrolled during the school year. The College bases their curriculum on community needs and includes an adult education program. Their apprenticeship program serves high demand employers as needed. They also participate in dual enrollment with area high schools. Pictured from left are Roberts, Rotarian Tom Stark and Club President Alan Price.

Jekyll Island Rotary Hosts Mayor



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Brad Brown, the former mayor of Brunswick. Recently, Mr. Brown connected with the people of a small town in France, where his grandfather crash landed in a field during WW2. He, along with some family members were able to fly over and participate in a memorial service and unveiling of a monument to his grandfather, the pilot. Pictured from left are Club Secretary Al Tate, Brown and Rotarian Randy Prunty.

Jekyll Rotary Club Donates 192 Backpacks to Local Students



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently made its annual donation of backpacks/book bags to Burroughs Mollette Elementary School in Brunswick for the upcoming school year. This has been an annual program for the club and has grown in volume and scope for many years. This year, the Jekyll Club donated 192 backpacks to the school for the students to carry their school supplies and books to their classes that otherwise they would not have access to. Pictured from left are Rotarian and immediate Past President Joe Gore, Lisa Fauth from Instructional Support, Club President Alan Price, Assistant Principal Dr. Priscilla Bell, Club Secretary and President Elect Al Tate, and School Principal Mavis Jaudon.

Rotary Club of Augusta Supports United Way School Supply Drive



Many Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Augusta donated school supplies to the United Way Drive on July 19, 2024. United Way collected, counted, organized, and delivered **27,711** school supplies valued at over **\$94,736** to local children in need across the CSRA! These supplies were distributed to Richmond, Columbia, and Burke Counties.

Vidalia Rotary Participates in Back to School Bash



Vidalia Rotary Club members participated in the Vidalia Back to School Bash. Rotarians handed out over 700 backpacks to students in their community.

Rotary Club of Tifton Participates in Back to School Bash



The Rotary Club of Tifton participated in a local Back to School Bash. Club members Abby and Heather handed out supplies to students in their community. School spirit meets giving in the goal of making this year one for the books!

Former GRSP Student Shines in Canton County Rotary

Francisco Lozano models Rotary International's motto Service Above Self in many ways. He has surrounded himself with mentors and now serves as one to the program that brought him to the United States.

Francisco joined the Georgia Rotary Student Program GRSP family from Mazatlan, Mexico. He was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Canton from 2002-2003 and attended Reinhardt University. He was hosted by Jim and Kay Gilmore and Bob and Denise Robinson. He became an honorary club member in 2005 and a member in 2019 of the Rotary Club of Canton, Georgia.
[Read More](#)



Jekyll Island Rotary hosts Port Authority Executive



The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Forrest Strickland, the Manager of Operations for the Georgia Ports. The Ports Authority includes the Mayors Point Terminal which is a general cargo terminal, Colonels Island Terminal which is a dedicated Roll On/Roll Off (RoRo) terminal and the East River Terminal which is a bulk material terminal. Colonels Island Terminal, the largest of the three in FY2024 handled 585 Vessel Calls and 876,000 total units moved (97.5% vehicles and 2.5% heavy machinery). Pictured from left are Rotarian Bill Hill, Strickland and Club Secretary Al Tate.

Rotary Club of Augusta Installs New President



The Rotary Club of Augusta announced that Surendra Gupta has been officially installed as president for the 2024-2025 term. Surendra Gupta was officially installed on June 24 by Bill Keogh, the outgoing president. His term is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025.

Rotary Club of Augusta Welcomes GRSP Student



The Rotary Club of August welcomed Daniel Lopez and his parents from Columbia, South America to the USA. Daniel is so excited about his acceptance into the GRSP program at Augusta University and his time in the United States.

Golden Isles Rotary Club Participates in Trash Pickup

What a turnout of Trash



Specialists for the summer quarter! Eight members showed up to pick up road trash and made short work of it. Picking up bags and gloves for cleaning our stretch of highway are Jenn Agnew, Lucy Loehle, Bill Austin, Jim Turner, Annabelle Beasley, Mike Cherne, and Phil Thacker. Behind the camera: Club President Margie Mathieu.

By the way, have you seen our Keep Golden Isles Beautiful sign recognizing Golden Isles Rotary for this project? Check it out, just south of the roundabout on Demere and East Beach Causeway, St. Simons Island.

Rotary Club of Camden County hosts Collaborative Meeting with Kiwanis Club



Camden County, GA â€“ July 19, 2024

At our recent meeting, the Rotary Club of Camden County was honored to host Dale Law, President of the St. Mary's Kiwanis Club. Dale provided valuable insights into the history, structure, and purpose of Kiwanis.

Dale emphasized the importance of community service and the impactful projects that Kiwanis commits to every year. He highlighted the annual July 4th Festival in St Mary's as their flagship project.

"We are grateful for all you do, Dale," said Hunt Thornhill. "Let's find ways to team up on our service projects and continue our shared mission of community improvement."

The Rotary Club looks forward to future collaborations with the Kiwanis Club to enhance our collective efforts in serving the Camden County community.

0812 Camden County Hosts GRSP Executive Director

Camden County, GA â€“ July 26th, 2024

The Rotary Club of Camden County welcomed Katheryne Fields, Executive Director of the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP), as the guest speaker at our recent meeting. Katheryne shared the history and impact of GRSP, which was founded 78 years ago by Georgia Rotarian Will Watt of Thomasville. Since its inception, GRSP has supported 3,017 students, promoting world peace through scholarships for international students to study at Georgia colleges and universities.



"This year's class includes 40 students," said Katheryne. "GRSP is our local investment in a better world."

During the meeting, Rotarian Bert Guy was honored with the Hart Joiner Fellowship for his \$20k cumulative donation to the GRSP Foundation. Bert has been a dedicated supporter and active participant in GRSP since joining the Rotary Club of Camden.

"GRSP originally started in response to the Second World War to build peace through understanding." Explained Bert. "The idea is that we bring people from all over the world to learn about us, we learn about them, and they become an ambassador for us" The Rotary Club of Camden County proudly supports GRSP and its mission to foster international goodwill and understanding.

Important Information

2024-2025 IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO AND LINKS

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Paula Goodnow, District Chief of Staff

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Erin Andrews, District Public Image Chair

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Cece Koon, Newsletter Editor

386-590-3457 | cece@shonnawilsonagency.net

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Rotary International Website: www.rotary.org/en

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

My Rotary: my.rotary.org/en/