

Thursday,
January 16,
2025

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Rotary

District 6920



District Newsletter

A Message from District Governor Todd Freeseemann



Happy New Year!!! I just got finished with some club visitswhich reminds me once again of the greatness of Rotary...great because of the incredible men and women who make up each and every Rotary club here in District 6920, and frankly throughout the world.

I truly believe that Rotary is the greatest service organization in the world. And we get to be a part of it. How lucky are we?!!

Which brings me to my point for the month: MEMBERSHIP. To continue the important work of Rotary, we need to grow our membership. Like it or not, membership in north America is slowly trending downward. And the only reason I can think of is that we don't promote ourselves to the outside world. We just do good work. We don't talk about it. We just are good people. We don't brag about it.

But we are, in the end, people of action. So please, let's take action. Invite a friend to a meeting or, better yet, invite a friend to a service project. Post about your Club's accomplishments. Hold a membership drive. If I haven't mentioned it before, invite a friend to a meeting. If everyone in your club invited just one person each, the numbers will surely rise. Because who could resist belonging to your Rotary Club....if they were only given the opportunity?

District News

Danny Broyles Selected as Rotary District 6920 Governor for 2027-2028

Valdosta North Rotarian Danny Broyles has been selected by the District Governor Nominating Committee to serve as District Governor for Rotary District 6920 during the 2027-2028 Rotary year.

Broyles, an active member of Rotary, brings extensive leadership experience to his new role. A former club president, he has served on numerous boards at both the club and district levels. Currently, Broyles holds the position of area governor. His dedication to Rotary is reflected in his achievements as a Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) graduate, District Emerging Leader, Paul Harris Fellow, and member of both the Paul Harris Society and Bequest Society.

Beyond his Rotary commitments, Broyles is a dedicated community leader, actively participating in various boards and committees.

As District Governor, Broyles will lead approximately 3,000 members across 73 clubs in Rotary District 6920, which spans central, south-central, southeast, and coastal Georgia. His focus will be on advancing Rotary's mission to foster community service, promote peace, and strengthen fellowship among members.



GRSP Student Spotlight



João Victor Verçosa Vilela, 21 from Brazil, says that Rotary International's ideals, with an emphasis on service projects, international goodwill and cultural understanding, resonate deeply with his personal and professional objectives. He is attending Mercer University and since his arrival, this future diplomat has embraced his time at Mercer by being invited to take part on a reading group about Benjamin Franklin, being part of the Model Arab League, sharing his country's culture with other students and most recently nominated to a conference in California. He is thankful his professors are helping him become the better version of himself. João is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Macon, Downtown Macon and Macon North.

João states that The Georgia Rotary Student Program has been a dream come true for him. He says, "Getting to know all the Rotarians is amazing and they are all so welcoming and excited to make me experience a bit of their world." He has also impacted his community through service opportunities such as making Boston Butts during Thanksgiving for families in

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need.



GRSP Student Spotlight

With 27,000 acres to roam in Rome, Francisca Bastias Arevalo, 24 from Chile, stated that Berry College is as beautiful as it seems in pictures, and there are always things to do besides studying in the largest campus of the world! Francisca is studying to become an Industrial Engineer and is attending Berry through the sponsorship of the Rotary Clubs of Rome and Rome-Seven Hills. She loves attending weekly Rotary meetings and how the clubs get together to help the community with different activities.

"My GRSP has been even more amazing than I thought it could be," she said. "I love how welcoming everyone is at Berry, in my clubs and of course, all the GRSP from this year!"



[Read More](#)

District 6920 Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast

We have been busy the last several weeks! Applications have been submitted, club & district level interviews have taken place and 2 students from District 6920 will be studying abroad for the 2025-2026 academic school year!

Meet our Outbounds: Rilyn sponsored by McRae Rotary and Eryn sponsored by Effingham County Rotary.

Metro Savannah is working on hosting an Inbound student in the Savannah area. We are needing all hands on deck from the Savannah area clubs. If you can help, please call/email Aaron Miller 404-313-1773 / acmill99@yahoo.com or Dana Park 478-808-5029 / dpark@ryese.org.

We are still in need of placing another Inbound student. If you or your club is interested in hosting an Inbound Exchange Student, please reach out to Dana dpark@ryese.org / 478-808-5029.

Want to know more about Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast? Visit www.ryese.org.



MEET RYESE DISTRICT 6920 OUTBOUND STUDENT

RILYN RODGERS

- attends Vidalia Heritage Academy
- lives in Alamo, GA
- is the recipient of a Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast Scholarship valued at over \$24,000
- will travel to Spain to study abroad Aug. 2025-June 2026

sponsored by
McRae Rotary




MEET RYESE DISTRICT 6920 OUTBOUND STUDENT

ERYN DAY

- attends Effingham College and Career Academy
- lives in Springfield, GA
- is the recipient of a Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast Scholarship valued at over \$24,000
- will travel to Brazil to study abroad Aug. 2025-June 2026

sponsored by
Effingham County Rotary



Eryn is on her way to learn the Rotary values.

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[Todd A. Freese](#)
District Governor

[Terry Adkins](#)
District Governor Elect

[Beverly Trainor](#)
District Governor Nominee

[Felix M Smith](#)
iPast District Governor

[Fel Lee](#)

District 6920 Excels at CART Contributions



Can you believe we are now in the last quarter of the D6920 awards year?

Thank you to the 40 clubs that have contributed a total of almost \$48,000 so far this year. We would love to have each club contribute something to this worthy project.

Please send all CART donations before the end of March through the CART Portal found at mycartfund.org.

Ninety-two researchers have expressed interest in submitting proposals for CART research grants to be awarded this year. Our current Alzheimer's researchers are making amazing progress!

100% of CART funds go to cutting-edge Alzheimer's research.

Please contact me if you have questions, would like more information, or would like a program about CART.

Glenda Kessler D6920 CART Chair gkessler@tds.net

Important Information

Unlock Your Potential: Participate in the Rotary Leadership Institute

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) Sunshine Division is inviting Rotarians to enhance their skills and knowledge at the upcoming training session on Saturday, March 8th, at Augusta University's Summerville Campus. This event, designed to build a better Rotary through education, will provide tools and insights to help Rotarians become more effective leaders and contributors to their clubs and communities.

Participants can choose from various course offerings, including:

- **Part 1:** The Rotarian
- **Part 2:** The Rotary Club
- **Part 3:** The Rotary Journey
- **Graduate Course:** Public Speaking (available to Part 3 graduates)

The program will also cover essential topics such as Rotary opportunities, effective leadership strategies, service projects, grants, and the history of Rotary. Breakfast and registration begin at 7:00 AM, followed by classes from 8:00 AM to 3:30 PM. The \$100 registration fee includes course materials, meals, facility fees, and a certificate of completion.

Registration closes on **Saturday, March 1st**, and space is limited to ensure an engaging and interactive learning experience.

Two Easy Ways to Register:

1. Visit www.RLIsunshine.org, click "Course Information," then "Course Schedule," and scroll to March 8th to register.
2. Log into your Rotary account on DACdb, click "My Club," select "Calendar & Events," and follow the prompts to register for the RLI training event.

For additional information or registration assistance, contact District 6920 RLI Director, Fel Lee, at FelLeeD6920@gmail.com or call **912-282-8494**.

Don't miss this chance to network with fellow Rotarians, explore new perspectives, and strengthen your Rotary journey!

Supporting Communities in Crisis: The Rotary Zones 33/34 Disaster Recovery Fund

Paula K. Goodnow
District
Communications
Officer

In times of disaster, communities often face overwhelming challenges that demand immediate and effective support. Rotary Zones 33/34 has established the Disaster Recovery Fund to respond swiftly to such needs, offering critical financial assistance to those hardest hit by unexpected crises.

The Purpose of the Fund

The Disaster Recovery Fund provides an essential lifeline during the initial phase of disaster recovery. Cash donations allow for immediate action, enabling affected areas to receive the support they need to rebuild and recover. Operated by the Rotary Zones 33/34 Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, donations to the fund are tax-deductible for U.S. residents in compliance with IRS regulations.

Hamsa Thota
District
Foundation Chair

How It Works

A dedicated Disaster Recovery Committee, appointed by the Rotary International (RI) Director, evaluates grant applications to ensure that funds are distributed efficiently and effectively. This team prioritizes initiatives that leverage matching funds, partnerships, and collaborative efforts within the affected areas. The result is a coordinated response that amplifies the impact of Rotary's volunteer efforts.

Steve Williams
District
Membership
Chair

Applying for a Grant

Rotary Districts within Zones 33/34 can apply for disaster recovery grants, with preference given to applications demonstrating local participation, partnerships, and comprehensive recovery plans. The application process requires the Rotary District Governor's endorsement and includes ongoing stewardship commitments.

Erin Andrews
District Public
Image Chair

Stewardship and Accountability

Transparency and accountability are core principles of the Disaster Recovery Fund. Recipients must submit quarterly stewardship reports detailing how the funds are used, the volunteer efforts involved, and the impact on the community. These reports ensure that donations are used effectively and provide a platform to share project successes, inspiring further community and Rotarian engagement.

Elizabeth Hardin
District Treasurer

Join Us in Making a Difference

The Rotary Zones 33/34 Disaster Recovery Fund exemplifies the spirit of Rotary—uniting communities to support each other in times of need. Whether through donations, volunteering, or applying for grant funds, Rotarians and community members alike have an opportunity to make a meaningful impact.

Amy Heil Maley
District Co-
Treasurer
District Learning
Facilitator

Together, we can help communities recover, rebuild, and thrive. Learn more about the Disaster Recovery Fund and how you can get involved by visiting the Rotary Zones 33/34 website or contacting IPDG Felix Smith.

Lisa Birch
District Learning
Facilitator

Anne M. Cordeiro
District Simplified
Grants Chair

Club News

Heather Klemm
District Awards
Chair

Introducing Rotary Peacebuilders of Savannah, a Satellite Club of The Rotary Club of West Chatham

Brian M. Weese
RYLA Chair



Jill Cardenas Named Chairperson as Rotary Peacebuilders of Savannah, a new Satellite Club of The Rotary Club of West Chatham–Pooler, Launches in February – Learn More at Jan. 14 Info Session

(SAVANNAH, GA) – The Rotary Peacebuilders of Savannah, a satellite club of The Rotary Club of West Chatham–Pooler, is set to launch in February, coinciding with Rotary International's annual Peace Month. This innovative new club will be led by Jill Cardenas, Executive Director of the Mediation Center, as Chairperson, and it aims to connect individuals passionate about global peacebuilding and community service.

An informational Zoom session will take place on Tuesday, January 14, 2025, at noon to introduce the club, its mission, and opportunities for involvement. This session will provide potential members with details about the club's structure, goals, and the ways in which they can contribute to making a global impact.

Joe Leek
District
Webmaster

Shrad Amrit
District Polio
Plus Sub-
Committee Chair

Elizabeth Hardin
District
International
Service Chair
Paul Harris
Society
Coordinator

Zoom Details:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/>

82415026181

Meeting ID: 824 1502 6181

The Rotary Peacebuilders of Savannah will meet virtually twice a month, focusing on peace and conflict resolution as part of Rotary's Seven Areas of Focus. This flexible, virtual platform provides members with the chance to collaborate, participate in meaningful discussions, and contribute to impactful service projects locally and globally.

Maria Jennings
District
Membership
Attraction Chair

Key Club Details:

Chairperson: Jill Cardenas

Dues: \$240 annually (\$20/month)

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

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

Meetings: Virtual, on the first and third Tuesdays of each month (time to be finalized based on member input)
As a member of the Rotary Peacebuilders of Savannah, individuals will be connected to Rotary's global network of over 33,000 clubs and 1.4 million members. They will have the opportunity to participate in impactful service projects and work towards global peace and conflict resolution.

"We are excited to launch the Rotary Peacebuilders of Savannah as a new way for people to connect and collaborate on the important issues of peace, conflict resolution, and community service," said Jill Cardenas, Chairperson of the club. "This fellowship will offer individuals from all backgrounds the chance to be part of something meaningful and impactful."

The January 14 info session is the perfect opportunity for anyone interested in learning more about this exciting new initiative and how they can be a part of fostering peace globally.

For more information, please contact Marjorie Young, Public Image Chair with the Rotary Club of Savannah, at marjorie@carriagetradepr.com.

Rotarians Serve Up Smiles on Savannah Metro Monday

Our recurring monthly service project assists with the soup kitchen at Emmaus House on the 2nd Monday of each month. "Metro Monday's" has become a club favorite as we build relationships with each other, the staff, and the individuals we feed. Emmaus House is an unrestricted soup kitchen; no one is ever turned away, no questions asked. It is a place of respite from the outside elements for individuals experiencing homelessness and fosters the belief that everyone, regardless of their circumstance, has the right to a hot meal, clean clothing and a hot shower.



McRae Rotary Hosts Rep. Bethany Ballard: A Mission to Transform Early Literacy in Georgia



Improving childhood literacy is an urgent concern across America, not just in the Peach State. We were honored to have State Representative Bethany Ballard join us today to speak about her work in this area.

Bethany has proudly served House District 147 for the last two years. She is Chairman of the Education Curriculum Subcommittee, Vice President of Special Rules, and member of Defense and Veterans Affairs. As a former high school English teacher, Bethany is passionate about Georgia's public school system. Bethany sponsored the Georgia Early Literacy Act (House Bill 538), which was unanimously passed in 2023.

She asked us to imagine listening to a complicated piece of music for 1 hour a day, every day, for a month. Then imagine being asked to play that piece with no further instruction. That's what we've been asking our young people to do when learning to read.

The severity of our nation's literacy deficit wasn't uncovered until millions of American families were required to stay at home during the COVID-19 pandemic. Families across the country discovered that their child may have an A on their report card, but they couldn't read. A shocking 32% of 3rd-graders nationwide could read on grade level, meaning 68% could not. In Georgia, 38% of 3rd-graders were reading on grade level.

[Read More](#)

Valdosta North Rotary Supports CASA with Duffle Bags for Foster Children

The Valdosta North Rotary Club recently made a heartfelt contribution to CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) of Lowndes and Echols by presenting a collection of

Tifton

Danny Broyles
Valdosta-North

Kingman Herin
Vidalia

Dave Razo
Warner Robins

duffle bags for children in the foster care system.

For many foster children, the journey from one home to another often means carrying their belongings in a trash bag. These duffel bags aim to provide a sense of dignity and care, offering a brighter, more personal way for children to transport their items during a challenging time.

Additionally, the Valdosta Rotary Club extended their support to these children by providing Christmas gifts, spreading holiday joy and comfort to those who need it most.

The Rotary Clubs of Valdosta are deeply appreciative of CASA of Lowndes and Echols and the vital work they do to support vulnerable children in our community. Their efforts make a profound difference, and we are proud to partner with them in making a positive impact.

Together, we can continue to bring hope and support to those who need it most. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this meaningful initiative!

Pictured: Valdosta North Rotary Club President CeCe with CASA of Lowndes and Echols Director, Sonia Robinson.



Golden Isles Explores Cybersecurity



Dr Susan Ibanez, Chief Information Officer for the Southeast Georgia Health System, was a recent speaker at the Golden Isles Rotary Club. Dr. Ibanez spoke on Cybersecurity and some of the IT innovations that are taking place at the hospital. Pictured are, from left, Rotarian Rick Grooms, Dr. Susan Ibanez, and Golden Isles Rotary Club President Marjorie Mathieu.

Jekyll Island Screens Upcoming Documentary

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club recently hosted Historical Video Producer Lance Toland. He previewed for the club his production of "The Golden Isles at War". The film details the Isle's response and involvement leading up to and during World War II. Pictured from left are Rotarian John Neidhardt, Toland and Alan Price, Club President.



Rotary Leaders Bring Holiday Cheer Through Caroling



The day before Christmas Eve, District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) Danny Broyles and Valdosta North Rotary Club President Cecelia Koon set out to spread holiday cheer in a heartfelt and personal way.

The duo visited fellow Rotarians who have been facing health challenges, bringing the joy of the season directly to their doorsteps through caroling. Their thoughtful gesture brought smiles, warmth, and a touch of Christmas magic to those who needed it most.

“This time of year is about connection and kindness,” said President Cecelia Koon. “We wanted to let our Rotarian family know they’re in our thoughts and hearts, especially during

challenging times.”

Their efforts embody the Rotary spirit of care and fellowship, ensuring no one feels forgotten during the holiday season.

Golden Isles Rotarians Celebrate Christmas

The Golden Isle Rotary held their Christmas Party on December 3 at the Nunnally House in Brunswick. The food was great, the conversation was lively, and the wacky gift exchange was great fun.



Chili Checks Support Community Change Courtesy of Golden Isles Rotary Club

Our meeting on December 11 was a special one as we distributed Chili Checks from the 2023 Chili Cook-off to the leaders and representatives of our selected charities. Following are snippets gleaned from the brief comments of the recipients.

-Skylark

Skylark teaches new parents how to be moms and dads and be leaders for their children. They also have checkpoints and activities where these parents can earn points toward necessities such as diapers.

-Golden Isles Youth Orchestra



GIYO has grown to serving 800 kids at various levels from beginning instrument instruction through performance in the orchestra itself.

-Grace House

This long-term treatment program for women fighting addiction has been in existence for 15 years.

-Grandparent Connection

GC serves grandparents who are raising their grandchildren. They offer assistance in learning to deal with a new baby or child, tutoring, and mental health counselling.

-Golden Isles Veterans Village

VV will open its doors in January. The VV plans a three-pronged approach to returning homeless vets to work and a normal life: Build a village; provide services; and keep in touch after the vet leaves VV.

-Golden Isles Live!

This year's schedule features 5 concerts for general public, and 2 free concerts for students.

-Saved by Grace

SBG will close on a new building soon, where they will conduct their work program for homeless men. They also provide rental assistance for those paying to live in local motels.

--Honor Flight

This year HF will make its ninth flight to Washington DC, taking veterans to see their war monuments there.

--Hope 1312 Collective

The Collective is made up of 17 local churches who stand in the gap when the state does not meet the needs of foster families. Those needs include help with meals, tutoring and laundry.

--Social Opportunities and Active Recreation (SOAR)

SOAR provides youths and adults with developmental disabilities with social outlets, such as bowling, picnics, arts and crafts, and fishing. They have a health and wellness program, as well as a Swim Camp.

--Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)

CASA represents kids in foster care, only 1 out of 10 of whom are ever reunited with their parents. CASA has a training class for new advocates starting soon.

--Sparrow's Nest

This food pantry serves 850 families each month, and assists with emergency needs such as power and water bills.

--Coastal Outreach Soccer

So much more than just a soccer program, COS focuses on academics, STEM, and preparing kids with life skills. It has been serving the youth of the area for 20 years.

--Fellowship of Christian Athletes unfortunately was unable to attend, but will receive its check by other means.

The recipients are pictured along with Club President Marjorie Mathieu (sixth from right). The Golden Isles Rotary is proud to assist these agencies. We are also proud that two of our members are very involved in these organizations: James Vivencio of Honor Flight (far right, standing), and Lorene Reid of Golden Isles Veterans Village (seventh from right).

Glennville Rotary Club hosts Last Man Standing Raffle at Christmas Luncheon

The Glennville Rotary Club completed its fall scholarship fundraisers, ending with their Last Man Standing Raffle on December 18, 2024, at their Christmas luncheon.

Charter member Dr. Troy Rahn won the top prize of a shotgun valued at \$700. This

makes Rahn's fifth time winning the top prize, which is always a gun. Also, since the club was formed in 1984, Rahn has had perfect attendance.

"He has extremely good luck in our raffles, but he always is a consistent contributor to our fundraisers in the tickets he purchases," said Glennville Rotarian and Secretary Donald Fountain.

The Last Man Standing Raffle tickets are \$50 each and are limited to 100 tickets. The top prize is a gun, the second prize is a freestanding patio heater (\$190 value), and third prize is a Ronaldo bracelet (\$150 value). All Last Man Standing items are donated.

In addition, a gift card raffle was held with six winners, and prize packages ranging from \$132 in gift cards for the sixth place prize to \$425 for the first place prize were drawn, and most of the gift cards were donated.

In addition, the main scholarship fundraiser is the online auction held in October, which brought in approximately \$32,000 this year; with the other two raffles, the total raised for scholarships and other education related projects total over \$40,000.

pictured:

Dr. Troy Rahn, holding winning ticket for the gun in the Last Man Standing Raffle, with Glennville Rotary Club President Lisa Barry.



Macon Rotarians Lend a Hand with the Macon Food Project



Macon Rotarians recently rolled up their sleeves to make a difference in the fight against hunger by participating in the Macon Food Project. This vital initiative focuses on providing nutritious food to families and individuals in need throughout the community.

Rotarians assisted with sorting, packing, and distributing food supplies, ensuring that those facing food insecurity could enjoy meals during the holiday season and beyond. Their dedication and teamwork exemplify Rotary's commitment to service above self.

"We're proud to support the Macon Food Project and help strengthen our community," said a club representative. "Together, we can ensure that no one goes hungry."

The Macon Rotarians' efforts are a reminder of the power of collective action and compassion in building a stronger, more caring community.



Festive Cheer at Valdosta North Rotary's Christmas Luncheon

The holiday spirit was in full swing at the Valdosta North Rotary Club's annual Christmas Luncheon! Rotarians gathered to celebrate the season, share in the joy of giving, and enjoy a delightful program filled with holiday magic.

Santa himself made a special appearance, spreading cheer and posing for photos with attendees. Adding to the festive atmosphere, the talented Hahira Elementary School Chorus entertained everyone with a beautiful selection of Christmas songs, filling the room with the joyful sounds of the season.

In keeping with the Rotary spirit of service, members collected gift wrap, tape, and bows to benefit charities in the Valdosta community. These supplies will help bring a little extra Christmas magic to families in need. Rotarian Susan Nebel of Greater Valdosta United Way spearheaded this meaningful project, ensuring the donated items reached those who could use them most.

The Christmas Luncheon was a wonderful reminder of the power of community, generosity, and fellowship during the holiday season. Thank you to everyone who participated and contributed to making this event such a memorable and impactful celebration!



Saints Simons Island Rotarians Hear from President of Baku International Rotary Club

Rotarian Bahram Atabeyli, president of Baku International Rotary Club spoke to Rotary Club of St. Simons Island about efforts to achieve sustainable peace in the Caucasus region; and Rotary's efforts to build peace with Rotary friendships and humanitarian service projects with support from the Rotary Foundation.

During his years in Azerbaijan, Bahram has been involved in different national and international strategic projects and observed the clear will of the top Azerbaijan government to proceed as EU has done. He discussed both the Azerbaijan's concept for a sustainable peace development in the region and the Baku Rotary Concept for Promoting Peace. The core concept to promote peace is to build stability and prevent future conflicts in the Caucasus region by integrating and reinforcing business cooperation between countries. This was the idea behind the European Union (EU) after World War II which works quite well. Caucasus region includes Azerbaijan, Armenia, and Georgia. People living in the region are called "Caucasians".

Rotary Clubs of St. Simons Island and Baku International are working together on a Rotary global grant project to improve computer education of internally displaced people (IDPs) in Beylagan district, Azerbaijan. Azerbaijan has million IDPs and refugees, as a result of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Bahram was confident that our Global Grant project supported by the Rotary Foundation will provide a platform to advance Rotary International and Rotary Foundation's plans to build membership and develop new Rotary Clubs in the Caucasus region.

Valdosta North Rotarians Ring in the Spirit of Giving



Valdosta North Rotary Club members brought festive cheer and generosity to the community during their recent annual Salvation Army bell-ringing event. Donning Santa hats, reindeer antlers, holiday lights, and plenty of holiday spirit, Rotarians volunteered their time to ring the iconic bell and raise funds for the Salvation Army.

In a show of extraordinary generosity, three club members matched the amount donated to the kettle during their shifts. Thanks to their contributions and the generosity of the community, the grand total raised that day reached an impressive \$2,586.92.

"This is what Rotary is all about—giving back and making a difference," said club President Cecelia Koon. "We're grateful to everyone who donated and to our members who went above and beyond to support the Salvation Army's mission."

The funds raised will go toward providing essential services and support for individuals and families in

need throughout the community. The Valdosta North Rotary Club is proud to play a part in spreading hope and joy during the holiday season.

Thank you to everyone who joined in making this effort a success. Together, we're ringing in the holidays with kindness and compassion!



Macon Rotary Club Reads to Local Students

On October 24, Macon Rotary Club once again participated in Read for the Record, a nationwide program whereby thousands of organizations, libraries and communities come together to celebrate early literacy by reading the same book to elementary students. This year's selection was Piper Chen Sings by Grammy Award-Winning Hamilton star Phillipa Soo and Maris Pasquale Doran. Twenty-four Club members volunteered to read at Burdell-Hunt Elementary School and a great time was had by both our club members and the children!



Golden Isles Rotary has Eventful December



Golden Isles Rotary was busy the last couple of weeks of 2024. On Saturday, December 14, we took on the task of manning the Salvation Army bucket at the Brunswick Sam's Club for the day. Despite the rainy, windy weather, Rotarians assured that the bell kept ringing. Pictured are Rotarians Mike Cherney, Hugh Adams, Lucy Loehle and Marjorie Mathieu (Club President).

[Read More](#)

Jekyll Rotary Welcomes New Rotarian

The Jekyll Island Rotary Club welcomed Ted Rogers, their newest member to the club. Pictured are Rotarian Thorny Parker, Roger's and Alan Price club president.



Macon Rotary Club Sponsors Special Field Trip



Once again, our club sponsored a special field trip for the 5th grade students from Burdell-Hunt Magnet School. This year's date the event was held on Monday, December 9th at the Museum of Arts & Sciences. The students had educational programming with the museum's education team from 10am to noon. At noon, Rotarians were invited to join for lunch catered by Nu-Way.

2024-2025 IMPORTANT CONTACT INFO AND LINKS

Todd Freeseemann, District Governor

912-433-4555 | tfree16@comcast.net

Paula Goodnow, District Chief of Staff

paulagoodnow@hotmail.com

Erin Andrews, District Public Image Chair

478-363-3372 | Erin@marketinggeorgia.com

Cece Koon, Newsletter Editor

386-590-3457 | cece@shonnawilsonagency.net

SUBMIT NEWSLETTER ARTICLES TO: district6920.news@gmail.com

DACdb: <http://www.dacdb.com>

District Website: www.rotarydistrict6920.org

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

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