

DISTRICT 6900 NEWS FOR JUNE, 2021

✖	<p>From Our District Governor</p> <p><b>Enjoying the Fellowship of Rotary</b></p> <p>By Kirk Driskell</p> <p>Did you know that June is designated as Rotary Fellowship Month. I know that many of you are like me and have missed a lot of fellowship opportunities over the past year. The picture here was taken recently as the Rotary Club of Roswell was getting ready to celebrate its 70th anniversary - and I was able to enjoy an evening with Past RI Vice President Anne Matthews and Roswell Rotarians. As we look towards the end of this Rotary year, I am excited to be able to gather with you in Sandestin in August. If you were not able to secure one of the tickets for dinner Saturday night do not worry. You are still invited and we want you to come an join in all the weekend fun. Be on the look out for an email with more information and - we hope - the ability to be able to open up more tickets for Saturday night dinner. Go ahead a reserve a room so you can come an enjoy all the fellowship. <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p>In Memoriam</p> <p><b>Remembering Past District Governor Bill Mulkey</b></p> <p>By Jackie Cathbert</p> <p>It is with sadness that we share with all of you the passing of our dearest friend, PDG Bill Mulkey, after a long illness. Bill was a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody, and has served the District in many roles since his year as District Governor. He leaves a legacy of leadership that will long serve to inspire us all. We will ... <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p>RI Convention 2021</p> <p><b>Rotary Opens Opportunities - Still Time to Register for 2021 Virtual Convention</b></p> <p>By Mary Ligon</p> <p>Registration continues for the 2021 Virtual Convention: Rotary Opens Opportunities which will take place from 12 through 16 June 2021. ! Don't miss your chance to connect with Rotary members from around the world. Unless you registered before May 7, the registration fee is \$65. You can also join us early at a preconvention ... <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p>Club News</p> <p><b>Commemorating 100 Years of Service Above Self in Thomasville</b></p> <p>By Mike Bixler</p> <p>The <b>Rotary Club of Thomasville</b> was officially launched in the first week of May 1921. Exactly 100 years later, 82 members of the club gathered to commemorate the occasion; by far the club's largest turnout since the start of the pandemic. Among those who participated in the club's birthday celebration were two very special members: ... <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p>GRSP Update</p> <p><b>Columbus Speakers Transcend Time and Travel Limitations</b></p> <p>By Ian Bond</p> <p>Transcending time zones and travel limitations, the <b>Rotary Club of Columbus's</b> May 12 meeting featured several special guests, including DGE Mary Ligon, our GRSP Trustee Ken Townsend. For our program we welcomed back three of our club's GRSP alumni via Zoom: Zsanett Havasi from Hungary (2007-2008), Catriona Patterson from Scotland (2009-2010), and Anna Skoglund from Sweden (2011-2012). Each shared an update about their lives after their time as GRSP students at Columbus State University. <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p>Rotary Works Series</p> <p><b>Networking Ahead for Career Success</b></p> <p>By Claudia Mertl</p> <p>Everyone knows that networking is essential part of the job search process. In fact, studies continue to confirm that the lion share of professional positions and jobs are secured through networking, not job boards. But during the pandemic, job seekers have been limited in their ability to do in-person networking and interviewing. We've all had to learn new skills and to get more comfortable with virtual networking and interviewing. How can you leverage these new abilities in order to stand out and secure new work opportunities? In this special session of RotaryWorks you will hear tips and insights from two experts including a professional recruiter who interviews and hires people for a living, and an author and motivator who literally wrote the book on networking. Join the session by Zoom at <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83951672511?pwd=UUIUyZNOYSI3WlIRRExPeIVYbW5lUT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83951672511?pwd=UUIUyZNOYSI3WlIRRExPeIVYbW5lUT09</a> <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p>Our Rotary Foundation at Work</p> <p><b>Roswell Partners to Build Wells in Panama</b></p> <p>By Trummie Patrick</p> <p>While investment has been made by the government to construct potable water systems in the indigenous communities of Panamá Este and Darién over the last 30 years, most communities persist without functional systems to provide the quantity and quality of water required for their basic needs. The result is a tremendous burden on the economy, health, and development potential. The <b>Rotary Club of Roswell</b> is partnering with the Panama Nordeste Rotary Club, and the Alpharetta, Milton and Griffin Rotary Clubs on a TRF Global Grant to help fix that. The club joined indigenous community leadership to construct water and sanitation infrastructure in two communities for an approximated cost of \$64,162 - achieving cost-effective, sustainable WASH development in the region. <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p>Sheffield Gala</p> <p><b>Americus Honors 2019-20 Sheffield Award Winners</b></p> <p>By Angela Smith</p> <p>A large group of Rotarians from District 6900, including District leadership and Sheffield Leadership Award winners, gathered in downtown Americus, Georgia, to fellowship face-to-face and celebrate the six past presidents that made up the newest class of Sheffield winners. It was a lovely evening to be back together in person to honor deserving Rotary presidents who served from 2019-20. As pictured:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordon Owens (Roswell)</li> <li>• Joy Manbeck (North Fulton)</li> <li>• Ryan Swertfager (Carrollton Dawnbreakers)</li> <li>• Kim Walden (Thomasville)</li> <li>• Rene Smith (Americus)</li> <li>• David Schwickerath (North Cobb)</li> </ul> <a href="#">[more]</a>
✖	<p>Laws of Life</p> <p><b>Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest Announces Teachers of Distinction</b></p> <p>By Carol Gray Walker</p> <p>The Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest today recognized the Teacher of Distinction for the 2020-2021 contest. A total of 26 teachers received the honor in Georgia Rotary District 6900. They received an honorarium of \$100 for their efforts. More than 25,000 high school students across Georgia shared their personal values in their Law ... <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p><b>Join the Largest Rotary Meeting Ever ... July 21</b></p> <p>By Claudia Mertl</p> <p>Past Rotary International Director Stephanie Urchick is conducting the first ever "Largest Rotary Meeting Ever" event at 1 pm on July 21, and you're invited to be one of the 1000 people attending! Stephanie will be speaking at the meeting on the topic, "Rotary Responds: Surviving and Thriving During the Pandemic and Beyond" ... <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p>Club News</p> <p><b>Americus Recognizes Top Public Servants</b></p> <p>By Angela Smith</p> <p>It was a privilege for the <b>Rotary Club of Americus</b> to recognize four incredible servant leaders and award them the Rotary International "Service Above Self" National Medal of Honor. The club held a luncheon at Georgia Southwestern State University in the Private Dining Room of the Thomas O. Marshall Student Center on May 18 to honor the four ... <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
✖	<p>Club News</p> <p><b>Clubs Join Together to Distribute USDA Food Boxes</b></p> <p>By John Neill</p> <p>May 20 offers a great example of Rotarians from multiple clubs working together to "make good things happen in our communities." Many thanks to all the volunteers from the <b>Rotary Clubs of Sandy Springs, Dunwoody, Roswell and Alpharetta</b> for making this a successful joint service project. We had 20 Rotarians plus six volunteers ... <a href="#">[more]</a></p>

Club News

## Midtown Atlanta Rotary Takes Diversity, Equity & Inclusion to Heart

By James Yost

Just over one year ago, the **Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club (MARC)** began a "self-reflection" study to take the pulse of the Club in hopes of gaining insight into how we might collectively determine our strategic direction. Through an initial survey of members, it was determined that, among other attributes, MARC's diversity was highly appreciated. Shortly after the survey, George Floyd was killed, and our leadership asked the Self-Reflection Team to take DEI into consideration and recommend a course of action for MARC. This work was documented in the MARC Response on Bias and Racial Injustice, which included the establishment of a new MARC Board seat for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I). The recommendation was adopted, and the MARC DE&I Team was born. President Rocky Ford and the Board created two new Board positions to ensure a permanent focus on DE&I. [\[more\]](#)

✖	<p>Serving During the Pandemic</p> <p><b>Dunwoody Supports ROTEX India Drive to Buy Oxygen Concentrators</b></p> <p>By Mike Parks</p> <p>When ROTEX 3054 (Rotary Alumni of RYE Students) in India started a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for Oxygen concentrators, the <b>Rotary Club of Dunwoody</b> was quick to respond. Between funds from the Dunwoody Rotary Charitable Fund and contributions from club members, we were able to wire \$2,000 almost overnight. Thanks to contributions ... <a href="#">[more]</a></p>
---	---

From Our District Chaplain

## A Closing Thought ...

By Gregory Adams

The sun gives light during the day, the moon gives light in the darkness of night and the stars twinkle in the sky above. This is what Rotarians do for individuals that need a burst of sunlight when darkness is all around them. We become the sun and the moon and our service to others, puts a twinkle, in their eyes, like the stars in the sky. Thank ... [\[more\]](#)

## Upcoming Key Dates

Tuesday, June 15th, 2021	<b>Deadline: Club Goals in RCC and Strategic Plan in Rotary6900.org</b>
Tuesday, June 15th, 2021	<b>Dunwoody Rotary Means Business Fellowship</b>

From Our District Governor

## Enjoying the Fellowship of Rotary



Did you know that June is designated as Rotary Fellowship Month. I know that many of you are like me and have missed a lot of fellowship opportunities over the past year. The picture here was taken recently as the Rotary Club of Roswell was getting ready to celebrate its 70th anniversary - and I was able to enjoy an evening with Past RI Vice President Anne Matthews and Roswell Rotarians.

As we look towards the end of this Rotary year, I am excited to be able to gather with you in Sandestin in August. If you were not able to secure one of the tickets for dinner Saturday night do not worry. You are still invited and we want you to come and join in all the weekend fun. Be on the look out for an email with more information and - we hope - the ability to be able to open up more tickets for Saturday night dinner. Go ahead and reserve a room so you can come and enjoy all the fellowship.

In recognition of Rotary Fellowship month I wanted to share with you some information on Rotary Fellowships. Rotary Fellowships are international groups that share a common passion. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience. Rotary Fellowships began when Rotarians organized a group of boating enthusiasts, which became the Yachting Fellowship. This joining together to share common interests and activities gained attention and operated over the years under various names as World Fellowship Activities; International Vocational Contact Groups; Rotary Recreational and Vocational Fellowships; and finally Rotary Fellowships.

Fellowship activities are across a wide variety of interest, vocations, hobbies and special interest. Many are formed purely for social purposes while others use their fellowship to serve in their area they are passionate about. Rotary Fellowships are international, independently organized groups of Rotarians, Rotary partners, and Rotaractors who share a common interest. This month recognizes the opportunity to have fun, make new friends around the world and enhance the experience of Rotary that belonging to a Rotary Fellowship enables.

There are currently over 60 Rotary Fellowships. To find more information, go to:  
<https://www.rotary.org/en/our-programs/more-fellowships>

Posted by Kirk Driskell  
June 3, 2021

---

In Memoriam

## **Remembering Past District Governor Bill Mulkey**



It is with sadness that we share with all of you the passing of our dearest friend, PDG Bill Mulkey, after a long illness. Bill was a Charter Member of the Rotary Club of Dunwoody, and has served the District in many roles since his year as District Governor. He leaves a legacy of leadership that will long serve to inspire us all.

We will be posting a more complete tribute to Bill in a future newsletter, but wanted to let you know about the arrangements for remembering Bill. The visitation & funeral will take place this weekend at A.S. Turner & Sons, 2773 N Decatur Rd Decatur, GA

The visitation will be Saturday, June 5 from 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM, and the funeral will be held Sunday, June 6 at 1:00 PM. Please keep Bill's family, especially his wife Beverly, in your thoughts and prayers.

Posted by Jackie Cuthbert  
June 4, 2021

---

RI Convention 2021

## **Rotary Opens Opportunities - Still Time to Register for 2021 Virtual Convention**



Registration continues for the 2021 Virtual Convention: Rotary Opens Opportunities which will take place from 12 through 16 June 2021. ! Don't miss your chance to connect with Rotary members from around the world.

Unless you registered before May 7, the registration fee is \$65.

You can also join us early at a preconvention, 10-11 June, for Intercountry Committees, Rotaract, and Rotary Youth Exchange officers. Each pre-convention will cost an additional \$20. The 2021 Virtual Rotary Convention and pre-conventions are open to all Rotary members and participants and include access to the virtual House of Friendship.

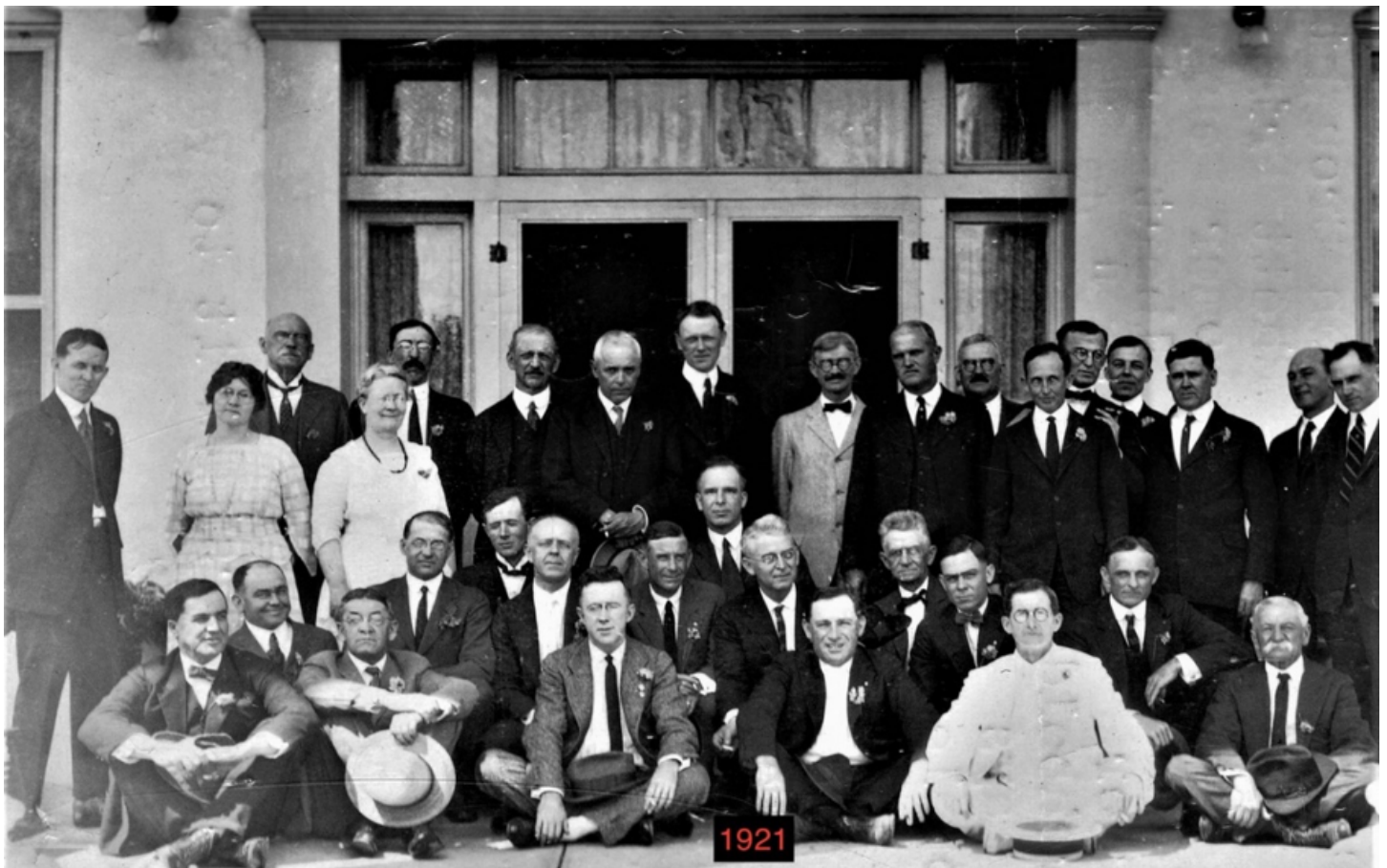
Don't forget to visit the convention event page on Facebook to connect with others and stay up-to-date on event news and program highlights! Visit the [RI Convention website](#) to register today and save!

Posted by Mary Ligon  
May 10, 2021

---

Club News

## **Commemorating 100 Years of Service Above Self in Thomasville**



The **Rotary Club of Thomasville** was officially launched in the first week of May 1921. Exactly 100 years

later, 82 members of the club gathered to commemorate the occasion; by far the club's largest turnout since the start of the pandemic. Among those who participated in the club's birthday celebration were two very special members: 66-year member, Oscar Mims and 50-year member, George Stephens. Shown here is a photo from the 1921 founding of the club, followed by a 2021 photo.

100 years later, the club has grown in size and diversity... and most importantly, it has also grown its impact in the community.

Posted by Michael Bixler  
June 4, 2021

---

GRSP Update

## Columbus Speakers Transcend Time and Travel Limitations



Transcending time zones and travel limitations, the **Rotary Club of Columbus's** May 12 meeting featured several special guests, including DGE Mary Ligon, our GRSP Trustee Ken Townsend. For our program we

welcomed back three of our club's GRSP alumni via Zoom: Zsanett Havasi from Hungary (2007-2008), Catriona Patterson from Scotland (2009-2010), and Anna Skoglund from Sweden (2011-2012). Each shared an update about their lives after their time as GRSP students at Columbus State University.

After her GRSP year Zsanett did a 6-month internship in Barcelona, Spain and later spent a year studying Chinese in Beijing. Since her return to Hungary five years ago she has been working at the airport in Budapest in various roles. She has earned a master's degree in tourism. She said that participating in GRSP, being part of the RC of Columbus, and experiencing American life and culture more generally, had enhanced her career in tourism.

Catriona still has her RC of Columbus button and her CSU sweatshirt, which she wore while she shared with us. She completed her degree in sustainable development at the University of St. Andrews (William and Kate are not the only great alumni of this school!) and now works for a nonprofit, Creative Carbon Scotland. CCS focuses on the connection between arts and culture and climate change. Catriona is currently the organization's program lead. She also volunteers with an organization that focuses on climate change and has started a small business featuring sustainable homewares. She lives in Edinburgh and credits the Rotary's motto of Service Before Self as influencing her desire to work in the nonprofit sector.

Anna worked for several years as an IT consultant in Sweden and Norway. In March 2020, just in time for the lockdown, she moved to Hamburg, Germany to expand her career in IT. She earned a degree in engineering. Asked what food she misses most from Georgia, without hesitation she said the Columbus Trade & Convention Center's legendary chocolate cake and southern sweet tea. Anna said that she appreciates the opportunities she gained from participating in GRSP and that she is looking for ways to pay it forward in thanks.

Our club members were so inspired by the alumni's program, that in the following week they donated an additional \$1,000 to the GRSP Foundation. Awesome! And something you might want to consider for your club.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Ian Bond  
June 3, 2021

---

Rotary Works Series

## **Networking Ahead for Career Success**

Wednesday, June 9, 2021 from 12:30pm-1:30pm EDT



## Speakers Kathy McAfee and Nancy Anton

Everyone knows that networking is essential part of the job search process. In fact, studies continue to confirm that the lion share of professional positions and jobs are secured through networking, not job boards. But during the pandemic, job seekers have been limited in their ability to do in-person networking and interviewing. We've all had to learn new skills and to get more comfortable with virtual networking and interviewing. How can you leverage these new abilities in order to stand out and secure new work opportunities?

In this special session of RotaryWorks you will hear tips and insights from two experts including a professional recruiter who interviews and hires people for a living, and an author and motivator who literally wrote the book on networking. Join the session by Zoom

at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83951672511?pwd=UUJUYzNOYSt3WlIRRExPeIVYbW5IUT09>

In this nuts-and-bolts session, you'll gain networking and interview tips and tricks to help you be more successful in your job search including:

1. How to communicate more clearly who you are and what you are seeking
2. How to expand your network by asking for warm introductions
3. How to be more fearless and intentional when your network
4. What to talk about in an informational interview
5. How to make a lasting impression while you are networking
6. What happens when you get referred for a job and move to the top of the pile
7. How to leverage your network to help you prepare for a job interview
8. And more!

BONUS: Everyone show attends the live program will be gifted a digital copy of the book, Networking

Ahead: Get where you want to go by making powerful, professional connections!

## About Our Guest Speakers

**Kathy McAfee** is known as America's Marketing Motivator. She works with organizations to help them build more robust, diverse leadership pipelines, and with individual professionals who want to be known as experts in their fields. She is the creator of The Fearless Leader program, and author of four books, including Networking Ahead and Defining YOU. Kathy is a champion of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion and marries her expertise with this personal mission. Over the coming decade, she will be focused on raising up "the hidden leaders"-- professionals with talent and potential, but who lack traditional access to resources and mentorship necessary for them to advance their careers and contributions to their organizations and communities. Kathy is originally from California and now resides in Greenville, South Carolina with her husband Byron. She is a member of the Greenville Rotary Club and serves on the program committee. You can learn more about Kathy at her website:

<https://www.americasmarketingmotivator.com/> and connect with Kathy on LinkedIn -

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathymcafee/>.

**Nancy Anton** has over 15 years of Corporate recruiting experience. She is currently a Senior Talent Acquisitions Partner for Corporate offices at GE General Electric. Her first-hand experience with the hiring process lends a valuable view for those in transition. Nancy has been a speaker and trainer on many topics from job search to hiring. Known as the Voice on Recruiting, Nancy has written many articles and have spoken to networking groups, job search classes and to university students. Nancy is originally from Connecticut and now resides in Taylors, South Carolina. She is a new member of the Greenville Rotary Club. You can learn more about Nancy at her LinkedIn profile -

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/nanton2007/>

Posted by Claudia Mertl

June 3, 2021

---

Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## Roswell Partners to Build Wells in Panama



While investment has been made by the government to construct potable water systems in the indigenous communities of Panamá Este and Darién over the last 30 years, most communities persist without functional systems to provide the quantity and quality of water required for their basic needs. The result is a tremendous burden on the economy, health, and development potential.

The **Rotary Club of Roswell** is partnering with the Panama Nordeste Rotary Club, and the **Alpharetta, Milton and Griffin Rotary Clubs** on a TRF Global Grant to help fix that, The club joined indigenous community leadership to construct water and sanitation infrastructure in two communities for an approximated cost of \$64,162 - achieving cost-effective, sustainable WASH development in the region.

Construction started in March and today, the first well is in place in the community of Nueva Esperanza. an indigenous Embera community of 300 people located on the Tupiza River. The community has never had a water project done in their community. They currently obtain water by walking to and from the nearby river to fill up buckets or other containers with river water.

Our second project is in Nazareth, also a community of 262 that has never had a water project. They currently obtain water by walking to and from the nearby river to fill up buckets or other containers with river water.

We anticipate construction to be completed in both areas by early 2022.

#### **PHOTOS:**



Posted by Trummie Patrick  
June 3, 2021

---

Sheffield Gala

**Americus Honors 2019-20 Sheffield Award Winners**



A large group of Rotarians from District 6900, including District leadership and Sheffield Leadership Award winners, gathered in downtown Americus, Georgia, to fellowship face-to-face and celebrate the six past presidents that made up the newest class of Sheffield winners.

It was a lovely evening to be back together in person to honor deserving Rotary presidents who served from 2019-20, As pictured:

- Gordon Owens (Roswell)
- Joy Manbeck (North Fulton)
- Ryan Swertfager (Carrollton Dawnbreakers)
- Kim Walden (Thomasville)
- Rene Smith (Americus)
- David Schwickerath (North Cobb)

The event which had to be cancelled in 2020 due to the pandemic was held at The Carnegie and featured a silent auction, catered dinner, music and more! PDG Jim Squire presided over the event honoring presidents from his year as governor.

Next year's gala is scheduled for Saturday, May 14, 2022, and will honor 2021 and 2022 Sheffield winners.

**PHOTOS:**







Posted by Angela Smith  
June 3, 2021

---

Laws of Life

## **Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest Announces Teachers of Distinction**

# **CONGRATULATIONS!**

## **2020-2021 Teachers of Distinction**

### **District 6900**

Bainbridge High School

Martha Ellen Stilwell

School of the Arts

Alpharetta High School

Atlanta Classical Academy

Bremen High School

Carrollton High School

Carver STEAM Academy

Central High School (Carroll)

Colquitt County High School

Deerfield-Windsor School

Forest Park High School

Greenville High School

Haralson County High School

Hardaway High

Independence High

Jackson High School

Lovejoy High School

McIntosh High School

North Cobb High School

North Springs High School

Northside High School

Shaw High School

Thomas County Central

High School

Thomasville High School

Thomson High School

Woodland High School

Heidi Chambers \*

Pamela White \*

Brigitte Washington \*

Kimberly Green

Asha Kapelina-Thomas

Jessica Allen

Stephanie Trumble

Marie Ojofeitimi

Megan Wooten

Susan Passmore \*

Irmgard Schopen-Davis

Shellie Taylor-Rogers

Patissia Childs

Carol Fasick

Laura Clack

Linda Legros

Christa K R Miller

Ashea Goldson \*

Scharlotte Bowles

Kathy Ezzell

Andrew Boehnlein

Sonya Trepp-Fuller

Parise Bailey

Kensey D'Souza

Rebecca Ramsey \*

Sarah Berdon

Jim Oliver

The Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest today recognized the Teacher of Distinction for the 2020-2021 contest. A total of 26 teachers received the honor in Georgia Rotary District 6900. They received an honorarium of \$100 for their efforts. More than 25,000 high school students across Georgia shared their personal values in their Law of Life essay for this year's contest. Seven statewide winners were announced in April.

Special recognition goes to the teachers whose students won statewide honors. Heidi Chambers from Bainbridge High School whose student, Corbin Austin, was named the State Winner in the contest. Pamela White of Martha Ellen Stilwell School of the Arts was also recognized as teacher of Jamea Harris, the winner of the George A. Stewart Jr. Character In Action Award.

Rotary clubs across Georgia conduct the Laws of Life Essay Contest in partnership with local high schools through the nonprofit Georgia Rotary Districts Character Education Program, Inc (GRDCEP). Rotarians volunteer to read and judge essays, serve on the contest's Board of Directors, and volunteer their professional expertise to help build positive character traits and strong social and emotional competency among students. The essay contest aligns with Rotary's emphasis on education, high ethical standards and service above self.

Educators from partnering high schools value the experience for their students. "Due to remote learning, this year was more difficult than normal to get to know each of our students. Having them write a personal narrative helped a little to bridge that gap." expressed Kensey D'Souza of Thomas County Central High School.

For the 2020-21 contest, a total of 25,112 students wrote essays, and 54 participating Rotary clubs in Georgia will award over \$17,000 in cash prizes. Throughout the spring, winning students will share their essays with enthusiastic audiences at local and district-wide Rotary Club meetings and at regional Rotary conferences. Videos of students reading their essays can also be found on GLL social media channels. On YouTube, here are videos Corbin Austin (<https://youtu.be/HotDlsufhRM>) and Jamea Harris (<https://youtu.be/pBZYMRL3o0E>) reading their essays.

Since 1999, the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest has impacted over 750,000 students. Inspired by the power of simple, memorable quotes, or Laws of Life, Sir John Templeton established the writing competition in 1987 to encourage young people to embrace the wisdom of these sayings and live their best lives. In their essays, students use a law to reflect on values that mean the most to them - values such as generosity, courage, perseverance, honesty, integrity, and compassion.

Posted by Carol Gray Walker  
June 3, 2021

---

Club News

## **Americus Recognizes Top Public Servants**



It was a privilege for the **Rotary Club of Americus** to recognize four incredible servant leaders and award them the Rotary International "Service Above Self" National Medal of Honor. The club held a luncheon at Georgia Southwestern State University in the Private Dining Room of the Thomas O. Marshall Student Center on May 18 to honor the four recipients.

Congratulations to Sgt. Chad Ciani of the Sumter County Sheriff's Office (Deputy of the Year), Sgt. John Brown of the Americus Police Department (Police Officer of the Year), Engineer Billy Jones of the Americus Fire Department (Firefighter of the Year), and Battalion Chief/Fire Marshal Richard "Rick" Bell of the Sumter County Fire Department (Firefighter of the Year). The Rotary Club of Americus was honored to award these men who have collectively served 52 years and who believe that Service Above Self matters.

Posted by Angela Smith  
June 3, 2021

---

Club News

## **Clubs Join Together to Distribute USDA Food Boxes**



May 20 offers a great example of Rotarians from multiple clubs working together to "make good things happen in our communities." Many thanks to all the volunteers from the **Rotary Clubs of Sandy Springs, Dunwoody, Roswell and Alpharetta** for making this a successful joint service project.

We had 20 Rotarians plus six volunteers from the food pantries at the Solidarity Sandy Springs loading dock from 7 - 10:30 am. Together we loaded 1,100 20 lb.+ boxes (more than 20,000 pounds of food in total) into about ten vehicles (large and small trucks, SUVs and trailers). The unloading process happened at several places in Fulton and DeKalb Counties. Just loading up represents about 70 Rotarian volunteer hours and those probably doubled as club members put in additional hours later in the day at distribution events.

Posted by John Neill  
June 3, 2021

---

## Club News

# Midtown Atlanta Rotary Takes Diversity, Equity & Inclusion to Heart

by William Parker & Renée Weese Co-chairs, MARC DE&I Team

Just over one year ago, the **Midtown Atlanta Rotary Club (MARC)** began a "self-reflection" study to take the pulse of the Club in hopes of gaining insight into how we might collectively determine our strategic direction. Through an initial survey of members, it was determined that, among other attributes, MARC's diversity was highly appreciated. Shortly after the survey, George Floyd was killed, and our

leadership asked the Self-Reflection Team to take DEI into consideration and recommend a course of action for MARC. This work was documented in the MARC Response on Bias and Racial Injustice, which included the establishment of a new MARC Board seat for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (DE&I). The recommendation was adopted, and the MARC DE&I Team was born. President Rocky Ford and the Board created two new Board positions to ensure a permanent focus on DE&I.

Led by new Board members William Parker and Renee Weese, our DE&I Team has met almost weekly to discern and effect what DE&I can mean to Rotary, to our Club and most importantly to our members and the Community we serve. We have begun implementing our strategic plan for DE&I to provide opportunities for exploration, both as individual members and as a Club. Members Peter Chatel and Sophie Mason have stepped up to lead meaningful book discussions which have provided enlightened perspectives for many. Other central tenets of our work have included following the Rotary 4-Way Test and the DE&I mission of Rotary International, as presented on [rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org).

It's a huge task which feels overwhelming at times. But from sharing our stories with each other, the one thing we landed on quickly is that in order to effect positive, lasting change, we must get to know one another's stories...our truths. From that realization came our monthly speaker series, "The Truth Be Told". On May 26th we hosted a virtual diversity workshop *The Truth Be Told: Through Others' Eyes*. Our consultant, Tim White, was the facilitator.

MARC's goal is to create a culture within our Club that seeks to understand the diversities in our community, cultivates relationships and provides an inviting experience, so that our Club membership becomes a reflection of the diverse community we serve. To that end, we hope to leverage our ideals as Rotarians, along with the ideas, skills and passions of our members to befriend, recruit and engage our Community to create lasting change for DE&I.

In the words of Bryan Stevenson, founder of the Equal Justice Initiative, author of *Just Mercy*, and subject of the Emmy winning HBO documentary, *True Justice*: *"We cannot create justice without getting close to places where injustices prevail. We have to get proximate... It's important to understand the ugly details so we can one day claim something really beautiful."*

Posted by James Yost  
June 4, 2021

---

Serving During the Pandemic

## **Dunwoody Supports ROTEX India Drive to Buy Oxygen Concentrators**

# ROTEX OXYGEN BANK

An initiative by

Rotary  
Alumni Association



ROTEX  
District 3054



Ahmedabad  
9638943975

Gandhinagar  
8866290430

Palanpur  
9099910091

Jaipur  
7300298142

When ROTEX 3054 (Rotary Alumni of RYE Students) in India started a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for Oxygen concentrators, the **Rotary Club of Dunwoody** was quick to respond. Between funds from the Dunwoody Rotary Charitable Fund and contributions from club members, we were able to wire \$2,000 almost overnight.

Thanks to contributions from Dunwoody and other Rotary clubs, districts and Rotarians, the ROTEX OXYGEN Bank is running in full swing with 20 machines already in bank and more to be added based on the need and COVID-19 situation. The ROTEX team even went beyond its own Rotary district to serve and has send some machine for use in Coimbatore, down south as the situation in that part of the country is not so good. This is a tribute to the difference we are able to make in the lives of the young people we host through the Rotary Youth Exchange Program.

Posted by Mike Parks  
June 4, 2021

From Our District Chaplain

## **A Closing Thought ...**

The sun gives light during the day, the moon gives light in the darkness of night and the stars twinkle in the sky above. This is what Rotarians do for individuals that need a burst of sunlight when darkness is all around them. We become the sun and the moon and our service to others, puts a twinkle, in their eyes, like the stars in the sky. Thank you Rotary.

Posted by Gregory Adams  
June 3, 2021

---