





June 1, 2026





## Leadership Changeover Month- Unite(d) for Good



DG Steve at District 6990 conference in Florida

May is a very business month! First, I want to thank all of our district mothers and thank you all for doing the incredibly important work that you do. I hope you all had a great **Mother's Day** and were indeed honored appropriately a few weeks ago.

Thank you all too for remembering those that made the ultimate sacrifice on behalf of our nation. I saw that several clubs had special events in remembrance of our brave armed forces on **Memorial Day**. Thank you all for your patriotism and efforts to honor these folks and their families.

This is likely my last newsletter as your governor before **DGE Cynthia Edwards officially becomes DG on 1 July**. It has been an honor serving you all. You all stepped up and carried out not only RI's message to Unite for Good but also served so well with respect to our district theme Honoring **Service Heroes**. I saw the impact in my 67 official club visits and at other special events and many service projects and fundraisers. The district did amazing work this year all around the world and in your local communities and it showed. We had a fantastic district conference, and it was so much fun to spend time with so many D6900 Rotarians. I truly enjoyed giving out awards to deserving clubs and individuals. I am so proud to see several new clubs (Rotary, Rotaract and companion) form up to make our district stronger. It's been my pleasure to have another visit with several clubs this month and to serve as a guest speaker at District 6990's District Conference in Florida, where I also participated in a polio event.

Thanks to all of our donors who played a key part in contributing \$1.131M in total funds to the annual fund and polio plus, far exceeding the \$1M goal. We have had a very active grant execution year and also made a lot of progress with opioid grants in our communities. You all have also continued moving our various youth and peace programs forward so I hope these amazing initiatives continue to grow and prosper. I cannot thank you enough for your generosity and commitment to our mission and service overall.

Special thanks to the PDG's and governor line who helped mentor and guide me, and all of our district leadership team including AG's and club presidents who led every day. Thanks too to our zone and RI leadership for providing overall guidance to our district. Thanks to each of you for doing what you do every day to make an impact and make the world a better place.

Please continue learning and using all the rapidly evolving tools out there for your Rotary endeavors. Keep using our public image tools to tell Rotary stories. Embrace AI and all the tools and skills that Rotary can help teach you. (Thanks to Nick Ramey and his PI team, I did 38 videos to help keep you all informed!)

I hope to see many of you at our RI president's visit upcoming and will send out one last goodbye at the end of June! Thank you again for allowing me to serve you all. Thank you for your continued dedication to Rotary and for all that you do to serve your communities and the world. Let's continue to Unite for Good and finish strong with membership, foundation giving, service projects and storytelling to wrap up the last month of an incredible Rotary year.

#### **PHOTOS:**



Buckhead



Marietta-Metro with DG Nominee Buck Buchanan



Alpharetta



Vinings Cumberland

Posted by Steve Ivory  
May 30, 2026

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From Our District Governor

# Exciting Events Happening in June!

Including D6900 Visit by RI President

**RI PRESIDENT  
FRANCESCO AREZZO**

**JUNE 22, 2026  
12 NOON**

PTC CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
500 KEDRON DRIVE  
PEACHTREE CITY, GA 30269

\$25 / PERSON  
\*LUNCH INCLUDED

**ROTARY**

<HTTPS://RIPRESIDENT.CBO.IO>

Buy Tickets

We still have one more month in this Rotary year and it's jam-packed with special events in addition to all the normal service and fellowship you are enjoying in your clubs and community.

- **RI International Convention- Taipei Taiwan** 16 Rotarians from D6900 are attending the International Convention in Taipei from June 13-17. This event is anticipated to be over 35K Rotarians from all over the world and promises to be fun, educational and exciting.
- **RYE Graduation-** June 5- Graduation ceremony for our outbound students.
- **RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards- June 6-10 in Americus at GSW University.** There are currently 105 students. Keep signing up your future leaders! Need chaperone assistance though so please contact the RYLA team if you can help at [RYLA6900@gmail.com](mailto:RYLA6900@gmail.com).
- **Sheffield Leadership Awards-**Americus, GA on June 6. [Sign up to register](#) to support this year's Sheffield Award Winners and see them get inducted into the Sheffield Society on this elegant evening.
- **RLI-** June 20- Take advantage of the opportunity to learn more about Rotary! [Read all about it](#) in the article that follows.

**Perhaps most exciting is the Rotary International President's Visit to D6900:** RI President Francesco Arezzo has selected our district to visit immediately following the RI Convention in June in Taipei - and you can be a part of it. [Sign up registration](#) to see our RI president on **Monday June 22**, at the **Peachtree City Christian Church** 500 Kedron Drive, Peachtree City **at 11:30 AM**

Posted by Steve Ivory

May 30, 2026

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Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)

## Register Now for RLI - June 20 Sessions Open



As we head into June, our District has concluded PELS, the District Learning Assembly, and District Conference—indicating that the 2025–2026 RLI year is nearing completion. Clubs are encouraged to register newly inducted members, as well as newly elected board members and officers, for our final RLI event of the year. The **Rotary Club of Peachtree City** will host Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) on June 20, 2026, at Cooper Lighting, 1121 Hwy 74 S, Peachtree City, GA 30269. Parts 1, 2, and 3 will be offered, along with a new graduate course, *Strategic Planning*.

Please plan to join us for a day of professional development and fellowship. Participants will expand their knowledge of Rotary, strengthen leadership and communication skills, build connections with fellow Rotarians, and gain additional perspective on Rotary’s impact in our communities and around the world. Registration is available at the [RLI website](#). The \$100 registration fee includes breakfast, snacks, lunch, and course materials. Registration and breakfast begin at 7:00 AM, the program begins at 8:00 AM, and graduation begins at 3:00 PM, with adjournment by approximately 3:30 PM.

Should you have any questions regarding registration and/or the event, please contact Tracy Van Norman by email at [tracy.vannorman@gmail.com](mailto:tracy.vannorman@gmail.com) or phone at (706) 593-6628 .

Posted by Tracy Van Norman  
April 29, 2026

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Our Rotary Foundation

## Why We Do All This!

by Bob Hagan, District Foundation Chair



Two years ago, I was asked to take on the role of the District Foundation Chair. I must admit, I was a little hesitant to do so at the time as it had been a while since I had carried a title and the duties of this highly visible and very important position in the district. Truly, I was very honored to be asked to do so by then District Governor Gordon Owen. Now I find myself already two years into it and have just one year remaining to hold this esteemed position. I've been so incredibly blessed to have such wonderful people working with me such as Mike Mudd, who just won the "Meritorious Service Award," along with Kay Williamson who last year won the district "Meritorious Service Award." Can't find a better team than those two! The rewards for holding this position, I cannot begin to explain to you. However, what I can do is talk about why I do it and what we are striving to do.

I want to draw your attention to the PolioPlus Society photo that accompanies this month's article. Anyone who was around in the early 1960's will recognize the scene being played out. As the US began to roll out the vaccine to the American public this scene was played out across the land. I certainly remember going to take the vaccine at the time. My friend and fellow Roswell Rotarian Jonathan Crooks related to me his own personal experience at his elementary school in upstate New York when he went to take it. He said he remembered being told he had to go and get this and was frightened not by what he had to take, as he had no concept of what it was about as a five-year-old, but rather feared the needle he knew he was going to have to take. He HATED needles, they were big and they hurt. When he arrived, he found that not only did he not have to have a needle, but to his delight, it was a sugar cube, and it tasted just fine. What a relief it was for all of us at that time to get the sugar cube. But the picture in the photo really tells the rest of the story. You see very clearly the frightened look on the faces of the mothers as they hoped and prayed that their son or daughter would be fine and this would protect them. You observe the folded hands over the mother's chest and the handkerchief blotting the tears of fear. Even the fathers look rather trepid as they

quietly stand in line as well, wanting to be brave for their children as their own stomachs were churning. It was real fear for all our parents back in the day. A day now long in our past.

However, the battle continues all around the globe for mothers and fathers and children just as you see in the picture even yet today. Those of you who were at District Conference saw firsthand what it could do to children and its permanent effects.

Let's look at the cost to administer this vaccine today. Because of Rotary and all our wonderful partners, the cost is an average of \$3.00 to fully protect a child against polio according to my friend Kim Walden of the EPNC Social Media and Worldwide PolioPlus Society. She explained to me that the \$3.00 cost includes not only the vaccine, but also the activities required to deliver the vaccine including transportation costs, vaccinator stipends, vaccine carriers, the chalk required to mark the house after each visit and dye to paint the children's fingers purple to show they had been vaccinated. That is incredible to me to think that all that is accomplished for just \$3.00 per child. Even keeping in mind that a child requires several doses of the vaccine to be fully vaccinated, it still is a small price to pay to ensure the child is protected.

This is a battle that still must be waged year after year all around the world in order to achieve our Rotarian goal of full eradication. Even when we do reach that goal, we can never let up for a minute to ensure that no child born will ever again have to face the disease.

We as Rotarians are committed to making this dream come true and it truly is a dream we will achieve, because it is what we do and we know why we do it. Just look at the picture again and remember your own time when you received the vaccine and you'll always know in your heart why you keep pushing to make the dream a reality.

If I can personally assist you in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out to me via cell or email. I'm here to help and together we will....Unite for good!

Posted by Bob Hagan  
May 27, 2026

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From Our District Governor

**Welcome New Rotary Clubs**



North Atlanta Professional Alliance

We are excited to welcome two new clubs to District 6900:

- The **North Atlanta Professional Alliance (NAPA)** recently held its new club celebration gala, hosted by club president Holly Geerdes, PE Collin Chung and Secretary Chris Chan. Amazing new club that was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Johns Creek North Fulton. So much fun and club doubling in size very quickly. As DG, I inducted 20 new members!
- **Trilith Companion Club**, sponsored by **RC of Peachtree City**. I inducted nine new members and was there to support Club Chair/ Past President Adam Glendye
- The new **Rotary Club of Johns Creek Central** has just received its charter from Rotary International.

**PHOTOS:**



Trilith Companion Club

Posted by Steve Ivory  
May 31, 2026

RYLA

## RYLA or Bust ...



By the time you read this, RYLA 2026 will be full speed ahead. THANK YOU for believing in this program and sending your students to us. We are so grateful for the opportunity to invest a little bit of ourselves in these young leaders. You wouldn't believe how much we can accomplish in just five short days - sometimes it is just WOW amazing. It is our hope that you will invite them to visit your clubs upon their return from camp so you can hear their stories and see the impact your support has made on their lives. You are helping us grow some pretty awesome young leaders, and your communities will be better for it! From all the RYLA Family, thank you!!

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
June 1, 2026

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GRSP Update

## **Four Georgia Students Head to Norway, Denmark**



The Georgia Rotary Student Program selected four outstanding Georgia college students the opportunity to participate in prestigious international academic programs in Norway and Denmark this summer. We are proud to support these exceptional students as they represent Georgia abroad and build lifelong connections across cultures in June and July. These programs bring together students from around the world for immersive academic study, cultural exchange, and the promotion of international goodwill.

Rotarians in Norway and Denmark make participation in these programs possible as a thank you to Georgia Rotary for what we do through GRSP.

Through this initiative, GRSP will send two students to attend the Oslo International Summer School in Oslo, Norway, and two students to study at Aarhus University in Aarhus, Denmark for the four-week session.

**Norway - Oslo International Summer School (University of Oslo):**

- Sean Collins from Davidson College, endorsed by Rotarian Arthur Holst, Rotary Club of Johns Creek, District 6910
- Laura Mauldin from Young Harris College, endorsed by Rotarian Jo Lashey, Rotary Club of Lake Chatuge, District 6910

**Denmark - Aarhus University International Summer School:**

- Alexander Lea from Georgia Southern University, endorsed by Rotarian Weikang “Ken” Wang, Rotary Club of Downtown Statesboro, District 6920
- Harrison Carmack from the University of Georgia, endorsed by Rotarian Clark Brown, Rotary Club of Athens, District 6910

These outstanding students will join peers from around the world for an unforgettable experience focused on academic achievement, cultural exchange, and international goodwill.

Posted by Katheryne Fields  
May 30, 2026

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End Human Trafficking

**Volunteer at July 17 Candlelight Vigil**



We invite you to join Rotary for a powerful and inspiring evening at a **Candlelight Vigil to Shine a Light on Human Trafficking**, co-hosted by Rotary, UPS, and the City of Atlanta. The event will take place at Piedmont Park in Atlanta on Sunday, July 19. It will feature remarks from distinguished leaders, including Mayor Andre Dickens, First Lady Marty Kemp, and Nikki Clifton, President of The UPS Foundation along with inspiring testimony from survivors and entertainment.

Together, we will:

- Assemble **25,000 dignity bags** for survivors of human trafficking
- Host a **World Cup Final Watch Party**
- Showcase Rotary's global impact
- Experience inspiring messages, entertainment, and a shared message of hope

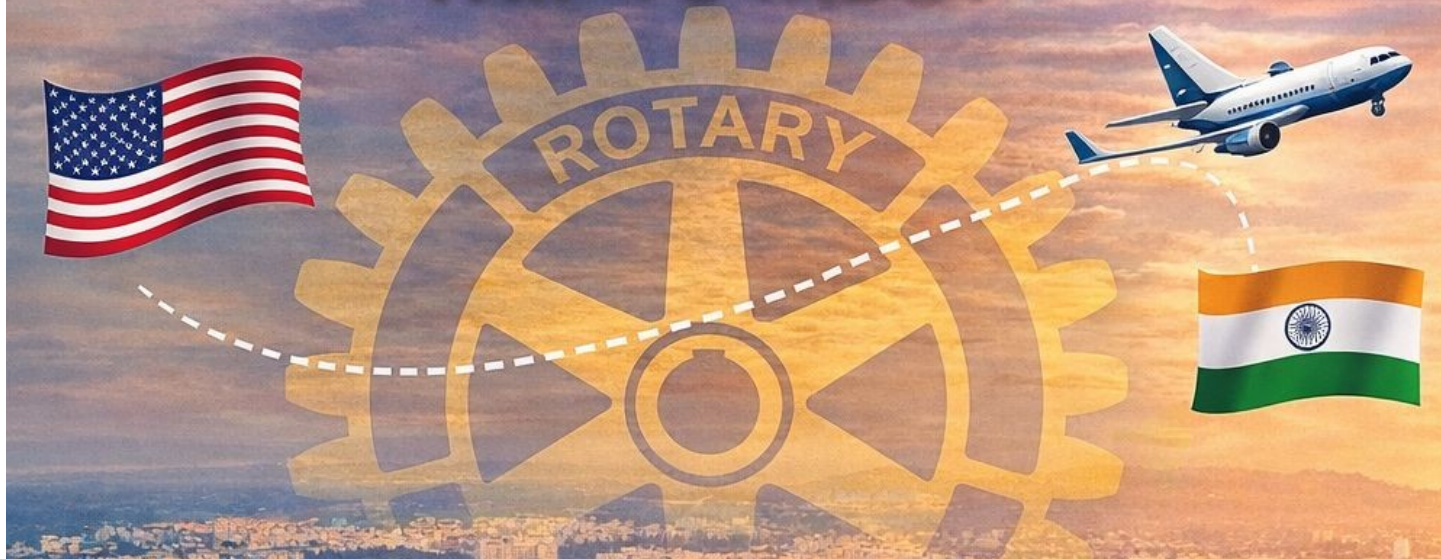
Rotary tents will be set up on-site, and volunteers like you will play a key role in making this event meaningful and impactful. You can **sign up to volunteer here: [Volunteer Sign up](#)**.

Posted by Dave McCleary  
May 27, 2006

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**Join Rotary Friendship Exchange to India - December 2026**

# JOIN US FOR A FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE TRIP TO INDIA



India calling!! India calling!! D6900 RFE trip to India is in its final stages of planning. This is a trip of a lifetime. Check India off your bucket list. **There are just two spots left** on this fantastic voyage. Experience the rich culture of India. Do not be told about it. See flyer for details and contact Ada Wikina at 404-421-5825 or by email at [awikina@hotmail.com](mailto:awikina@hotmail.com) if you have additional questions or want to join the group!

## PHOTOS:

**Rotary International**  
Partnership with

 **District 3182** |  **District 6900**

Leaving December 1st and returning **December 10th**

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 Ada Wikina **ph. 404-421-5825**  
 Ranjit Panigrahi **ph. 412-600-6388**  
 Lao Rimanelli **ph. 781-844-0667**

# TRIP ITINERARY – INDIA

## Rotary Friendship Exchange Program

### DAY 1: ARRIVAL (BENGALURU)

- ➔ Arrival at Bengaluru International Airport
- 👜 Transfer to host families & rest
- 🍽️ Evening Rotary Meeting *followed by* Dinner

### DAY 2: VOCATIONAL VISITS

- 👜 Visits: IT, Healthcare, Education
- 🍽️ Joint Rotary Meeting *followed by* Dinner



### DAY 3: TRAVEL TO HASSAN

- 🚗 Travel to Hassan
- 🏰 Visit Shravanabelagola
- 🍽️ Lunch on the way
- 🤝 Transfer to host families
- 🍽️ Rotary Meeting & Dinner



### DAY 4: HERITAGE TOUR

- 🏰 Visit Halebeeđu & Belur temples
- 🍽️ Lunch meeting in Belur
- 🏰 Visit Chikmagalur estate
- 🤝 Rotary Meeting *followed by* Dinner
- 🏠 Return to Hassan



### DAY 5: COFFEE EXPERIENCE

- 🌿 Visit Coffee Estate
- 🍽️ Lunch at estate
- 🤝 Rotary Meeting *followed by* Dinner
- 🏠 Return to Hassan



### DAY 6: ECO & PLANTATIONS

- 🌿 Vocational visits (eco projects & plantations)
- 🍽️ Rotary Meeting & Dinner
- 🤝 Return to Hassan



### DAY 7: RETURN

- 🍽️ Breakfast Meeting
- 👋 Farewell Program
- 🍽️ Lunch & Departure
- ➔ Transfer to Bengaluru Airport



Laws of Life

## Registration Open for the 2026-2027 Contest Year



Registration is now open for the 2026-2027 Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest! We invite Rotary Clubs across Georgia to reconnect with existing school partners and begin building relationships with new schools interested in participating.

Over the past two decades, nearly 900,000 student essays have been written through the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest, giving students across Georgia the opportunity to reflect on the values and principles that guide their lives through character-building and reflective writing.

The contest is offered free of charge to all Georgia public and private high schools and participation is accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Schools are encouraged to register by September 1, with student essay submissions due in February.

Each year, the contest reaches more than 30,000 students through reflective writing that strengthens character development, literacy, and communication skills. At an average cost of just \$5 per student or \$2,500 per school, Rotary partnerships continue to play a vital role in ensuring the program remains accessible to schools and students statewide.

Now is a good time for clubs to:

- Reconnect with current school partners and confirm participation
- Introduce the program to new schools in your community
- Confirm club sponsorship and complete the 2026-2027 sponsorship form
- Access school recruitment and partnership resources

Rotary Clubs can complete the sponsorship form and access recruitment materials at:

<https://georgialawsoflife.org/why-rotary/>

### **Save the Date: Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon**

The Georgia Laws of Life Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon will be held on Friday, August 21, from 11:30 AM-1:15 PM at the Emory Conference Center Hotel in Atlanta.

This special annual luncheon brings together educators, Rotary Club members, volunteers, and supporters from across Georgia to prepare for the upcoming contest cycle and celebrate the impact of student voice through the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest.

One of the most meaningful parts of the luncheon is hearing directly from students as they share their award-winning essays and personal stories. This year, we are excited to welcome a very special guest speaker whose story powerfully reflects the lasting impact of Georgia Laws of Life. More details coming soon!

All participating schools and sponsoring Rotary Clubs receive two complimentary tickets. Educators attending the luncheon are eligible for continuing education credits and substitute reimbursements.

The luncheon provides an excellent opportunity for Rotary Clubs to invite school leaders, strengthen partnerships, and connect with others supporting character education across Georgia.

Follow Georgia Laws of Life on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#) for luncheon updates.

We look forward to another impactful year of helping students reflect on their values, find their voice, and share their stories.

### **PHOTOS:**



# EMPOWER

Student Expression

Character Education  
through personal  
narrative writing

Posted by Carol Gray Walker  
May 23, 2026

## Atlanta Southern Crescent Hosts Women in Rotary



Ladies from Rotary clubs across Metro Atlanta gathered on May 28 for an evening of fellowship, networking, leadership conversations, and community connection during the Women in Rotary Social hosted by the Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent at B'Mari Events & Art Studio in Historic Downtown Jonesboro.

The event welcomed Rotarians from across the district and provided an opportunity to celebrate the contributions of women in Rotary while fostering new relationships and strengthening existing connections. Hosted at the beautifully appointed B'Mari Events & Art Studio, guests enjoyed an atmosphere that reflected both elegance and community spirit. Special thanks were extended to venue owner, host, and fellow Rotarian, Tammary Scott, whose hospitality helped create a warm and welcoming environment for all in attendance.

A highlight of the evening was an engaging panel discussion featuring three distinguished Rotary leaders:

- **Claudia Tucker Mertl**, Past District Governor, Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent
- **Cynthia Dorsey Edwards**, District Governor Elect, Rotary Club of Stone Mountain
- **Amy Benton**, District Governor Nominee Designate, Rotary Club of Peachtree City

The panelists shared insights on leadership, service, personal growth, and the evolving role of women within Rotary. Their perspectives encouraged meaningful discussion and provided valuable takeaways for both longtime Rotarians and newer members alike.

Guests also enjoyed a delicious menu by Chef Brian Butler, featuring pulled pork sliders, chicken salad croissants, salmon croquettes with cornbread dressing, charcuterie selections, fresh vegetables, pasta

salad, and an assortment of desserts. The food complemented the evening's fellowship and provided another opportunity for attendees to connect and build relationships.

One of the most memorable moments of the evening was the induction of Debra Coleman as the newest member of the Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent. Surrounded by fellow Rotarians, club leaders, family, and friends, Debra was officially welcomed into the Rotary family during a special ceremony that highlighted Rotary's commitment to service, leadership, and community engagement. The induction added an additional layer of celebration to an already memorable event.

The Women in Rotary Social demonstrated the power of bringing together women leaders from across the Rotary network to share experiences, encourage one another, and strengthen the bonds that make Rotary service so effective. Through fellowship, leadership development, and a shared commitment to service above self, the evening reflected the very best of Rotary.

As attendees departed, they carried with them new connections, renewed inspiration for service projects, and a reminder that when Rotary leaders come together, they create opportunities for collaboration that extend far beyond a single event.

The Rotary Club of Atlanta Southern Crescent continues to serve as a catalyst for community engagement, leadership development, and service throughout the Southern Crescent region, creating opportunities for members to make a lasting difference both locally and around the world.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Trina Kolawole  
May 30, 2026

Club News

# Moultrie Honors Students Headed to Military Service



The **Rotary Club of Moultrie** recently hosted its sixth annual "Salute to Service" program honoring the local high school seniors who have committed to military service after graduation. This year the club recognized 10 students enlisting with the United States Army and the United States Marine Corps, along with one student who be entering service after attending the United States Merchant Marine Academy. Six club members who are armed forces veterans shared words of wisdom for the students as they prepare to enter basic training. To commemorate their embodiment of Rotary's "Service Above Self" motto, the students were presented with a challenge coin struck just for the occasion.

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
May 19, 2026

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Club News

## **Griffin Presents \$5,000 J. Henry Walker III Scholarship**



The **Rotary Club of Griffin** is proud to announce Jon Walker Blalock, a senior at Spalding High School, as the recipient of the 2026 J. Henry Walker III Scholarship, a \$5,000 scholarship awarded annually to a deserving Spalding County student. Established on behalf of the J. Henry Walker family and administered by the Rotary Club of Griffin, the scholarship honors the life and legacy of J. Henry Walker III, a distinguished Griffin businessman, athlete, civic leader, and longtime Rotarian whose life exemplified leadership, service, excellence, and integrity. The scholarship selection criteria reflect the qualities that defined Walker's life, including scholastic achievement, athletic accomplishment, extracurricular involvement, good citizenship, and personal integrity.

Blalock was selected from a competitive pool of applicants representing local high schools across Spalding County. According to the scholarship committee, his accomplishments stood out across academics, leadership, athletics, and community engagement. He maintains a weighted GPA of 4.45 and ranks second in his graduating class while earning recognition through the National Honor Society, National Beta Club, AP Scholar Award, Georgia Certificate of Merit, and honors in Advanced Placement coursework and regional science competitions.

Beyond academics, Blalock has excelled as a student-athlete, earning varsity letters in cross country, swimming, and tennis, serving as tennis team captain and cross-country co-captain, and competing in state-level athletic events. His leadership extends across numerous organizations, including serving as president of the Spalding High School Key Club, Peer Court, and Civic Engagement Club, as well as secretary for Rotary Interact and Jags United. He has also demonstrated a commitment to service and responsibility through his work as a lifeguard at the Spalding County Aquatic Center.

Blalock plans to attend the University of Georgia, where he will pursue financial planning on a pre-law track.

"Jon Walker Blalock embodies the spirit of the J. Henry Walker III Scholarship through his commitment to academic excellence, leadership, service, and personal integrity," said representatives of the Rotary Club of Griffin. "We are proud to recognize his accomplishments and excited to see the impact he will continue to make in the future."

J. Henry Walker III was a lifelong Griffinite whose remarkable achievements included success as a collegiate athlete, business leader, community servant, and dedicated Rotarian for more than five decades, including service as Rotary Club president from 1969-1970. The scholarship continues his enduring legacy by supporting future generations of student leaders in Spalding County.

Posted by Antoinette Hammond  
May 20, 2026

## Columbus Celebrates Laws of Life



There was something powerful in the room as students from Shaw High School and Chattahoochee County High School stood to share the personal values that guide their lives through the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest at the **Rotary Club of Columbus**. More than just an essay competition, the program gives young people the opportunity to reflect on the truths, lessons, and voices that shape who they are becoming.

A “Law of Life” is a personal motto or principle that influences decisions and character. For some students, those lessons came from parents or grandparents. For others, they were shaped through hardship, perseverance, faith, or the encouragement of someone who believed in them. Through their writing, students reminded everyone in attendance just how much wisdom, resilience, and hope exists within the next generation.

This year, students from Shaw High School and Chattahoochee County High School submitted more than 550 essays combined as part of the statewide program, which included over 24,000 student essays across Georgia. The Rotary Club of Columbus recognized school winners Wan Sian Long and Shylah Luna, along with numerous honorable mention recipients whose words reflected courage, compassion, determination,

and purpose on April 29th.

As selected essays were read aloud during the meeting, the audience was moved not only by the talent of the students, but by the depth of character they already possess. Their stories served as a reminder that young people carry incredible potential inside of them when given the opportunity to reflect, grow, and share their voices.

Special recognition was also given to educators Molly McVay, Jasmine Mathis, and Tanya Jones for helping bring the Laws of Life program into their schools and investing in the growth and leadership of their students.

The Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest continues to inspire character, ethical leadership, and meaningful conversations while building stronger connections between Rotary and the future leaders of our communities.

Posted by LeighAnn DiCesaris  
May 27, 2026

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Club News

## **Clubs Collaborate to Pack 1700 Weeks of Meals**



On Saturday, May 16, members from the **Vinings Cumberland, Smyrna, and Atlanta Brasilia Rotary Clubs** came together for a joint service project at the Marietta warehouse of Rise Against Hunger, demonstrating the power of collaboration in action.

Together, volunteers packed more than **1,700 weeks of meals**, helping support Rise Against Hunger's global mission to fight food insecurity. Once packed, meals were boxed, palletized, and staged for international distribution. Several pallets already prepared for shipment were awaiting transport to communities in Africa.

The event was filled with energy and fellowship, with music playing, assembly lines moving, and volunteers celebrating packing milestones by ringing the signature "gong" ...adding a fun and memorable touch to the day. The family-friendly atmosphere also welcomed spouses, children, and grandparents, making it a true multi-generational service opportunity.

Rise Against Hunger also offers special meal-packing events and group volunteer opportunities around Thanksgiving, providing additional ways for clubs and families to serve together. The event was hosted by **Keri**, a Rotarian and member of the Rise Against Hunger staff team, who helped make the day a success.

This project was a wonderful example of how leveraging teamwork across clubs can create a meaningful impact, proving once again that when Rotarians work together, big things happen.

Information about Rise Against Hunger can be found at <https://riseagainsthunger.org/>

**PHOTOS:**





Posted by Thomas House  
May 25, 2026

## Smoke on the Lake Benefits Charities Far and Wide



The **Rotary Club of North Cobb's** Smoke on the Lake BBQ Festival is an annual tradition enjoyed each Mother's Day Weekend at [Logan Farm Park](#) in Acworth, Georgia. Thousands attend to enjoy BBQ cooked by competitive backyard cook teams. The club hosts this charity fundraiser event with 90% of net proceeds benefiting local charities and 10% benefiting charities outside of the United States.

Cook Teams are subject to public judging of Chicken Wings Friday night and Pork on Saturday. Be sure to purchase Tasters Tickets to vote for your favorites. Friday night features a [live music concert under the stars](#).

Thank you [City of Acworth, Georgia](#) for your partnership, to [JRM Event Management](#) for a smooth weekend, the [Georgia Barbecue Association \(GBA\)](#) for the judging and to all of the smoking teams!

**PHOTOS:**









Posted by Jose Gonzalez  
May 25, 2026

Club News

# Brookhaven Grants Support Local Community



At a recent club meeting, **Brookhaven Rotary Club** President Jennifer Yanulavich announced the club's Community Grants. The club awarded grants to worthy organizations who are making a difference for Brookhaven residents of all ages.

- Future Physicians - \$1000 awarded to this student-led group which helps guide students toward their goals in the field of medicine
- Lift Up Atlanta - \$1000 awarded to this 15-year-old organization which provides support to families with basic needs such as food, clothing, shelter, food supplies, educational services, warm wear, etc.
- Presencia - \$1000 award to this grassroots, neighborhood-based nonprofit which creates and cultivates mentor, peer and community relationships through after school programs.
- Suthers Center for Christian Outreach - \$1000 to help with the implementation of a volunteer management system in support of the food pantry operation.
- We Love Buford Highway - \$5000 to support the continued expansion of their Little Bodega and Feeding Families initiatives which provides culturally sensitive aid among immigrant and working-class families living in and around Brookhaven.

The Brookhaven Rotary Club looks forward to building strong partnerships with each of these groups who provide heartfelt support for folks throughout Brookhaven.

Posted by Jennifer Yanulavich

## Dunwoody Supports Special Olympics



In a month loaded with service opportunities, **Dunwoody Rotarians** took time out to do something extra special - volunteering at the Special Olympics State swimming competition! This event was part of the State Special Olympics - which Dunwoody supported with volunteers and a \$5,000 donation.

Watching these incredible athletes compete with such heart and determination is a reminder of why we serve. There are very few volunteer experiences that leave you feeling more grateful and inspired than this one.

That said, it was just part of a busy May for the Rotary Club of Dunwoody! We also worked hard at the Dunwoody Arts Festival - providing support for artist check-in, set-up and clean up starting Friday night and running through Sunday afternoon of Mother's Day weekend - and telling Rotary's story at our RCD festival booth. And we raised \$50,000 in our fifth annual FORE! the Memories golf tournament, and still found time to take care of Bounds Gardens, our traffic island in the midst of the city.

**PHOTOS:**





Posted by Jackie Cuthbert  
May 27, 2026

Club News

# Roswell Celebrates Our Veterans



The 27th award winning Roswell Remembers Memorial Day Ceremony was held on Memorial Day 2026 with the presentation of the colors at Roswell City Hall by representatives from all military branches.

**Roswell Rotary** sees this public service event as a great opportunity not only to serve, but also to remind and highlight those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for the freedoms we enjoy.

The moving program featured Retired Army Lt. Colonel Cary S King. with special music by Massie McKinley who sang "Proud to be an American" ending with a Firing Detail by the Roswell Fire & Police Departments then TAPS played by Jon Andersen to a crowd of approximately 3,500 in attendance.

Thank you to long-time supporter, Slopes BBQ, for selling lunches on-site following the ceremony for folks to stay, visit and share stories.

Significant appreciation to Roswell Rotary Club Past Presidents Dave Young, Committee Chair, and Lynne Lindsay for their incredible commitment to the largest known Memorial Day Ceremony in Georgia. For more information: [nfultonpt@juno.com](mailto:nfultonpt@juno.com)

**PHOTOS:**



Club News

## North Fulton Hosts 24th Annual Prayer Breakfast



The **North Fulton Rotary Club** held its 24th Interfaith Prayer Breakfast last month at St. David's Episcopal Church in Roswell. In contrast to the heavy rain outside, the room was filled with open hearts and minds as we gathered to hear inspiring messages of hope, generosity, and love.

We are deeply thankful to our friends at St. David's Episcopal Church for sharing their beautiful fellowship hall for this meaningful event. Rector Remington Slone shared a heartfelt message, infused with his signature humor. Soumaya Khalifa of the Islamic Speakers Bureau of Atlanta encouraged us to live with "radical amazement." Cantor Nancy Kassel of Temple Beth Tikvah moved attendees with a beautiful song, and Siva Velv, Hindu Spiritual Guide of the Chinmaya Mission, taught us, or at least attempted to teach us, a Sanskrit chant.

Our keynote speaker, Kirk Driskell, founder of Vision Warriors, shared a deeply personal story that shaped his philosophy of giving away what you have, even something as small as a kind interaction with a stranger, because it may change a life.

We were honored to welcome Alpharetta Mayor Jim Gilvin, Roswell Mayor Mary Robichaux, and other elected officials from across the North Fulton community.

We are also grateful for the support of our neighboring Rotarian clubs who attended and the District Governor line — DG Steve Ivory, DGE Cynthia Edwards, DGN Buck Buchanan, and DGEN Amy Benton — as well as several Past District Governors, including Bob Hagan, Jim Squire, Gordon Owens, and our keynote speaker, Kirk Driskell.

This annual Interfaith Prayer Breakfast reminds us to count our blessings, share those blessings with others, and recognize that we are far more alike than we are different.

**PHOTOS:**









Posted by Lisa Gelber  
May 31, 2026

Club News

# North Cobb Runs for Hope; Cooks End of School Dinner



**North Cobb Rotarians** supported the first annual Run for Hope 5k race hosted by the Mountain Top Boys Home and Mountain Top Homes Foster Care. This event supports the programming of the hosts to support youth to complete the program with little to no cost for them.

In addition, the club provided labor and smiles for BBQ with the Blue, when the Kennesaw PD and Walton Apartments at Ridenour joined up to provide an End of School dinner. The PD and Walton provide food and Rotarians cook it! Officer and Rotarian Mike O'Brian lends his food truck to cook hot dogs.

**PHOTOS:**



Posted by Jose Gonzalez  
May 25, 2026