



Southern Hospitality **Great Visits To South Georgia!**

By Gordon Owens

The magic of Rotary is alive and well in South Georgia.

Ashley and I spent 10 days during

February with a home base in Thomasville to visit clubs all along our southern boarder. We had great fellowship with club members, did tons of service, joined club meetings and generated some great ideas to grow Rotary in this area. I can't

thanks the clubs for making us feel right at home. We even crashed a Rotarian's Super Bowl/birthday party. Between

father daughter dances, senior valentines projects, food packing and peace pole planting, Rotarians are doing great work. Keep it up!

[more]

LEADERBOARD

Check out the full district scoreboard

Here are the clubs that are leading the way in our district for membership, annual fund and polio plus.

Category	NET	ANNUAL	POLIO
	MEMBERSHIP	FUND	PLUS

- I **Cordele**
- II **Moultrie**
- III **Carrollton**
- IV **Alpharetta**

Key Dates

- Thursday, July 9th, 2026 **North Atlanta Professional Alliance Governor Visit**
- Tuesday, July 14th, 2026 **Paulding County Governor Visit**
- Tuesday, July 28th, 2026 **Jackson-Butts County Governor Visit**
- Thursday, July 30th, 2026 **North Cobb County Governor Visit**
- Monday, August 3rd, 2026 **Marietta-Metro Governor Visit**
- Tuesday, August 4th, 2026 **North Columbus Governor Visit**
- Wednesday, August 5th, 2026 **Columbus Governor Visit**
- Thursday, August 6th, 2026 **Muscogee-Columbus Governor Visit**



GeorgiaUnitedDC.com
**Georgia Rotary
Night @ Atlanta
United**

By Gordon Owens
To get us ready for the first ever multi-district conference we got the three Georgia Rotary Districts together for the home opener of Atlanta United. It was a fun night cheering on the Five Stripes while making some new friends from across the state. We ended up with 130 tickets sold to the event and the best of all, the home team won. We look forward to seeing our new friends on Jekyll Island at the end of April for the Georgia United District Conference, we hope to see you there. Visit GeorgiaUnitedDC.com for registration, hotel rooms and the weekend agenda.
[more]



ROTARY DAY

SUNDAY, MARCH 30, 2025



vs.



GEORGIA STATE CONVOCATION CENTER | 3 PM ET

@ATLANTAVIBEVB | ATLANTAVIBE.COM

Sunday,
March 30 @
3pm

Let's Vibe in Atlanta!

By Gordon Owens
We had so much fun at the Atlanta United game, we are doing it again. Join us for our second multi-district event leading up to the Georgia United District Conference. The Atlanta Vibe, our professional women's volleyball team, has offered us 20% off tickets for their (404) night at the Georgia State Convocation Center. **Get your tickets today** and we will see you Saturday March 30th. [more]

Polio
PICK'EM



pick a winner yet?

**IT'S
BRACKET
TIME**



POLIOPICKEM.COM

PolioPickem.com

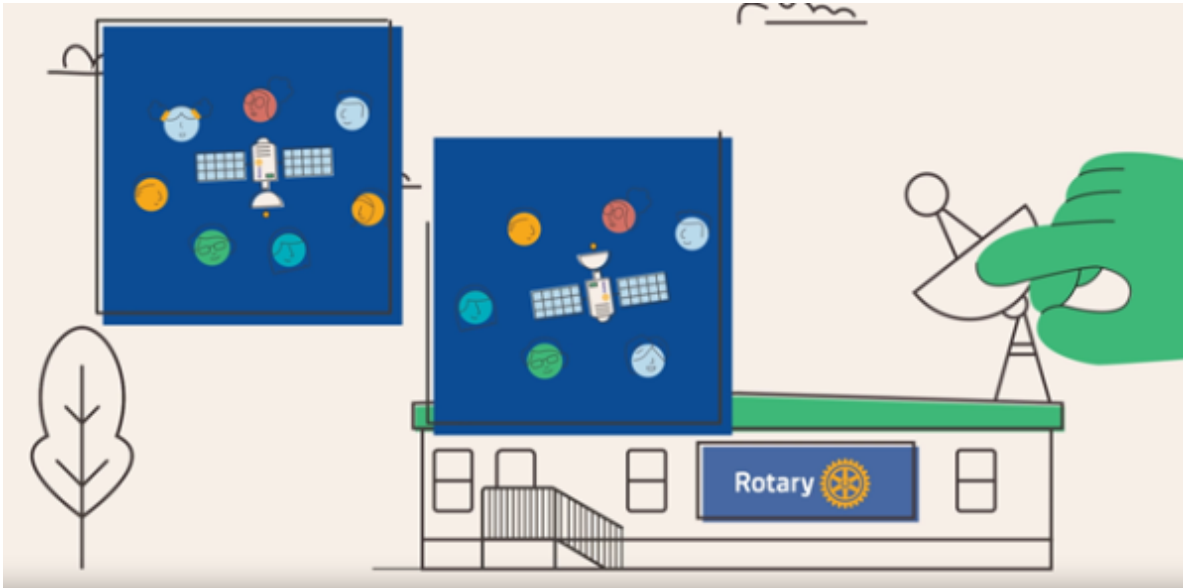
Enter Our March Madness Pools

By Gordon Owens
It's time for March Madness and we have both a men's & women's tournament bracket to play. Enter each pool for just \$20 and win half the pot, up to \$1000 per bracket. The best part is each \$20 entry fee provides 50 doses of the polio vaccine to children around the world. So even if you don't win the pool you help Rotary win the fight to eradicate polio. Visit PolioPickem.com to get started.
[more]



Peace & Conflict
Resolution
**Partnering
With
Emory For
Local
Peace
Initiatives**

By Gordon Owens
Laura McConatha
from Americus,
Cedric Hill from
Columbus, Ada
Wikina from
North Cobb and
Cynthia Dorsey
Edwards joined
DG Gordon for a
great lunch with
Paul Wolpe from
Emory University
to discuss how
Rotary can
partner with the
Center for
Peacebuilding
and Conflict
Transformation
(PACT) he has
been charged
with creating.
Each Rotarian at
the table has a
passion for
bringing peace
initiatives to our
communities and
this partnership
will amplify our
efforts. Together
we will create
lasting change in
our community.
Stay tuned for big
things to come
form this budding
partnership.
[more]



Grow Rotary
**Building
Membership
with
Satellite
Clubs**

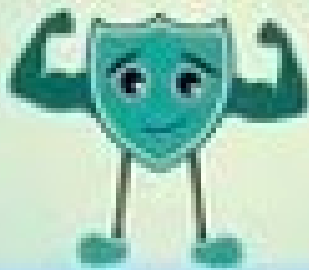
By Dave Schwickerath
Satellite clubs allow members and prospective members to create a new club experience while benefiting from the support of an established local club. This club type requires fewer members to get started and is a great way to offer people what they want, whether it's a different service focus, a different atmosphere, or just a different meeting time or place. **Learn more in this video about satellite clubs.**
[more]

LET'S FIGHT POLIO

What You Should Know About Polio



Polio mainly affects
children under 5



There's no cure for the
disease, but it can be
prevented by vaccination



Since 1988, polio cases in
the world **have reduced**
by **99.9%** thanks to the
work of everyone

End Polio Now **Remember: #1 Issue is Eradicating Polio**

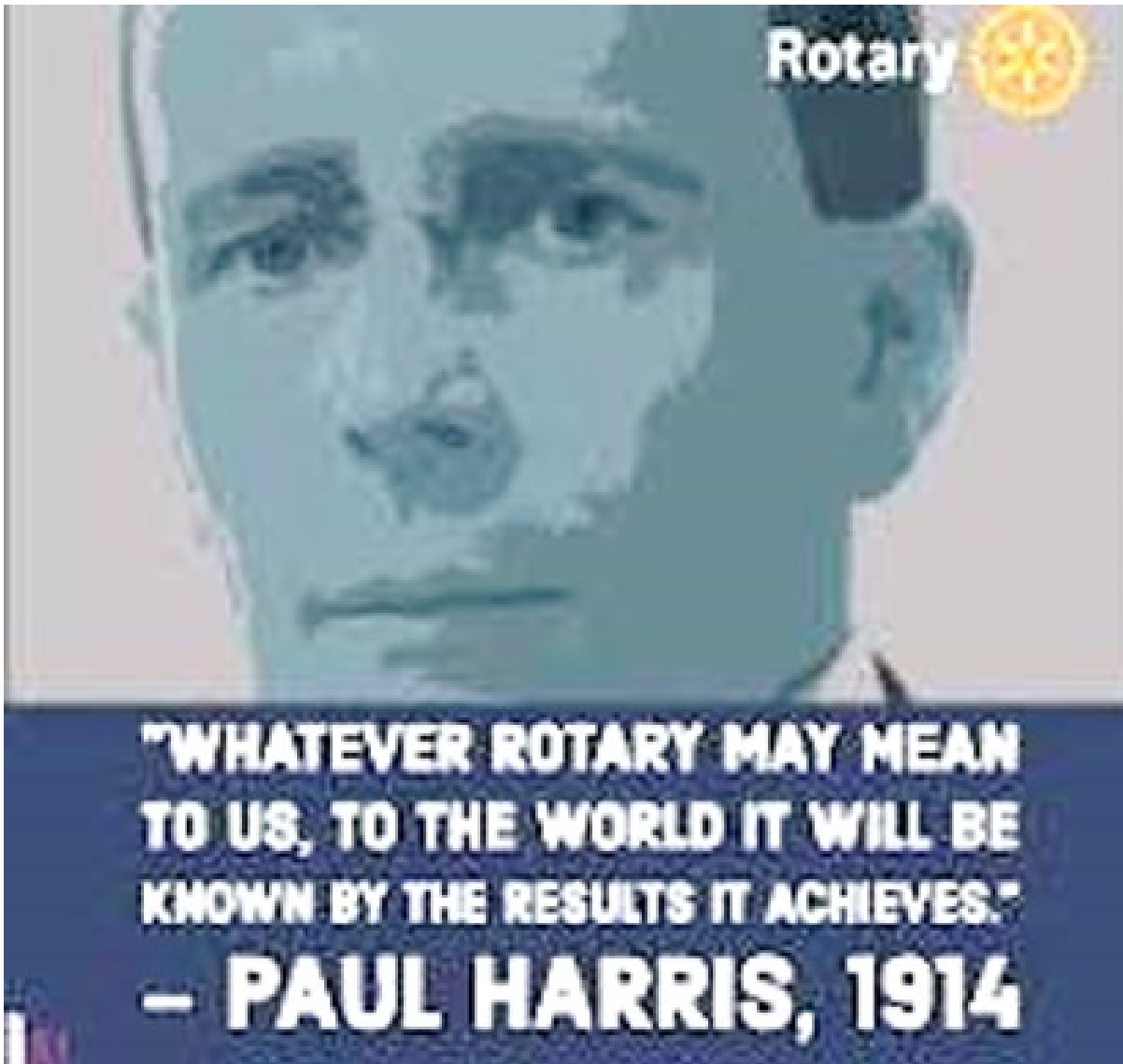
By Bob Hagan
The number one initiative of Rotary International is to eradicate Polio. The picture to the left provides the three main elements of information every Rotarian should know about Polio if ever asked by anyone outside of Rotary. It covers who it mainly affects, what can be done about it and where we are today in the fight against Polio. That might be enough for most people, but as Rotarians, knowing a bit more is never a bad thing, so let's cover a few extra points that may be considered, "nice to have", but they sure are important. Are you aware that Rotarians have donated billions of dollars in the global effort to rid the world of Polio? Additionally, we have donated countless hours dedicated to the fight against the disease, so numerous, it's hard to keep an accurate count. [more]



Listen To The Podcast

All Things Rotary

By Audley Knight
In this episode, co-hosts Nick Taylor and Michael DeGrandis sit down to chat with two different Rotaract Club Presidents! We are honored to have Kaylee Melessa from the Rotaract Club of Southern Utah University and Norman Giumelli from the Rotaract Club of Zurich International. Ever wonder what the difference is between a community based and university based Rotaract? Interested in learning more about Rotaract and how to join, charter or sponsor a club? Well, then this episode is for you! We hope that you enjoy this conversation! **LISTEN** [more]



Our Foundation at Work

Honoring the Start of It All

By Bob Hagan
February came and went this year with, in many ways, very little fanfare. It really shouldn't have. A date that most likely slipped past most of us, even those of us who consider ourselves very good Rotarians and done so with very good and viable reason, may well have missed February 23rd this year. It marked the 120th anniversary of Chicago attorney Paul Harris forming the Rotary Club of Chicago in 1905. The quote above is one most Rotarians are familiar with, uttered by Paul Harris in 1914. It sums up so well what we as Rotarians strive to achieve...Results!
[more]



Next MAP Webinar

WHAT'S OUR PTS (PROBLEM TO SOLVE)? DOING THE RIGHT THINGS, RIGHT NOW



MONDAY | MARCH 10TH



5:30 PM EST



March 10 | 5:30PM

What's our PTS?

By Mary Ligon
What's our PTS (Problem To Solve)? As Rotary leaders, we know that growth and engagement don't happen by accident—they happen by design. But are we focusing on the right things at the right time? Join us for our next **Membership Action Plan (MAP) Webinar** as we tackle this critical question: This interactive session will help you identify the key challenges facing your club's membership and provide actionable strategies to address them effectively. Don't miss this opportunity to learn, share, and strengthen your club's future. [\[more\]](#)

STORIES of PEACE

CENTERING COMMUNITY FOR
COLLECTIVE
TRANSFORMATION



22nd Annual Spring Conference
April 5, 2025
FedEx Global Education Center
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center **22nd Annual Peace Conference**

By Gordon Owens
This year's theme for the Conference is Stories of Peace: Centering Community for Collective Transformation. The graduating Class 22 Rotary Peace Fellows selected this theme and will present their research, exploring new ways of thinking about peacebuilding, international development, and conflict transformation. The conference will take place at the FedEx Global Education Center (UNC-Chapel Hill) on Saturday, April 5th, 2025 from 8:30am to 3:00pm. Doors will open at 8:00am, and attendees are encouraged to arrive early to check in and view an exhibition of research posters by Class 23 fellows, featuring work from the Peace Innovation Showcase at Duke University last December. **REGISTER** [more]



Rotary Fellowship for Empowering Women



USA CHAPTER

Announcing Rotary Fellowship for Empowering Women Event

By Cynthia Edwards

In April of 2024, Rotarians Synthia Padala, PAG Dr. Paddy Sharma, and DGND Cynthia Dorsey Edwards, initiated an event, with the support of then DG Andre' Marria, in which 33 women were recognized as Women of Impact for their achievements in a wide variety of fields.

Since then, a committee formed from this group of Rotarians and other leaders has been meeting to further goals of addressing key issues affecting women and girls. The first public activity of the USA chapter is to host a free webinar on Menopause which is open to Rotarians as well as non-Rotarians. The audience is not limited to women only. All attendees may learn and benefit from information on this critical, life-altering subject.

RSVP

Now! <https://app.getcontrast.io/register/beyond-pause-beyond-pause-menopause-matters> [more]

BEYOND PAUSE... MENOPAUSE MATTERS



HOST

Nita Sardana
CHIEF IMPACT OFFICER
INNOVA FOUNDATION



CO-HOST

Melissa Ashley
CO-FOUNDER
MENOPAUSE MANDATE



PANELIST

Dr. Tabia Akintobi
PH.D., M.P.H., PUBLIC
HEALTH, ASSOC. DEAN,
MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE (MSM)



PANELIST

Dr. Cheryl Franklin
M.D., M.P.H., FACOG
OBGYN FACULTY,
MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE (MSM)



PANELIST

Dr. Camille Davis-Williams
M.D., FACOG, OBGYN
GREATER ATLANTA
WOMEN'S HEALTHCARE

DATE: MARCH 22, 2025

DAY: SATURDAY

TIME: 1:00 - 3:00 PM EST

Webinar Sponsored by



REGISTER NOW

[HTTPS://APP.GETCONTRA
ST.IO/REGISTER/BEYOND-
PAUSE-BEYOND-PAUSE-
MENOPAUSE-MATTERS](https://app.getcontrast.io/register/beyond-pause-beyond-pause-menopause-matters)



WEBINAR TOPIC:

**BEYOND PAUSE
MENOPAUSE MATTERS**

- Breaking Myths Around Menopause
- Managing Symptoms & Staying Healthy
- Advocacy for Women in the Workplace
- Menopause 101 and Q&A

HOSTED BY:

Rotary Fellowship for Empowering Women USA Chapter

CO-HOSTED BY

CONTACT:

Andre' Marria
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- Cynthia Edwards
- Dr. Paddy Sharma
- Synthia Padala
- Nita Sardana
- Justice Verda Colvin
- Dr. Maxine Cain





DGE Steve & Anna Ivory, Rotary International President Elect Mario Cesar Martins de Carmargo & his wife, Denise

International Assembly
2025

Get Ready to Unite for Good!

By Mandy Timmons
District Governor-Elect
(DGE) Steve Ivory and
his wife, Anna, recently
attended Rotary's
International Assembly,
where they joined over
300 district governors
from around the world
in a powerful gathering
of leaders dedicated to
service and positive
change. This annual
event is an incredible
opportunity for future
Rotary leaders to
connect, learn, and
prepare for the year
ahead.

A key highlight of the
assembly was the
unveiling of the
2025-2026 Rotary
theme by Rotary
International President-
elect Mário César
Martins de Camargo of
Brazil—"Unite for
Good." This theme is a
call to action for
Rotarians everywhere
to come together in
service, collaboration,
and impact, reinforcing
our shared mission of
making the world a
better place. [more]



RYLA Update **LUCKY to have RYLA**

By Jaclyn Donovan
It's getting closer to RYLA time! With all the talk this month about "lucky" things and "being lucky" we thought we'd share why we think anyone who goes to RYLA is the luckiest of all for the many positives they gain from the experience:

1. Personal Development
 2. Meeting Other Like-Minded People
 3. Learning from Others
 4. Confidence Boost
 5. Teamwork and Collaboration
 6. Looks good on Applications and Resumes
 7. Inspiration to Reach Future Goals
 8. Opportunities to Challenge Yourself
 9. Grow Your Impact and Positive Influence on Others
- If you and your club want to get in on all the great things that come along with sponsoring a student to RYLA, there is still time to commit to sponsoring a student or two or ten! Read on for the rest of the story and registration/payment instructions. [more]



Club News
**Rotary Club
of
Alpharetta
Raises
\$280,000
for Non-
profits**

By Clark Savage
February 1st started chilly for the Seventh Annual Polar Bear Plunge, with the water languishing in the low 30s. But by 10:00 AM, over 200 jumpers had gathered, costumed as everything from macaroni & cheese to superheroes, and were ready for feats of aerial acrobatics into the pool. The teams, comprised of volunteers of all ages, attacked their jump tasks with the enthusiasm of polar bears on the prowl. High-flying flips, belly flops, and organized, sequential diving delighted the crowd gathered around fire pits.

The first Polar Bear Plunge generated \$32,000 for non-profit organizations. This year, we collected a steaming \$280,000 for our Jump Teams. The formula is simple. Non-profits (including other Rotary Clubs) form teams and raise money for their cause. Rotary Club of Alpharetta manages and markets the event, keeping 10% of all proceeds. The Club sees no end in sight for growth. [more]



Barbara M and Donald M. Thomas Peace Award Recipients

2024-2025

GRSP Update

Two Students Honored with Barbara M and Donald L Thomas Peace Awards

By Katheryne Fields
The Georgia Rotary Student Program celebrates two scholars who promote peace and understanding among their peers and nations. Rotary International marks February 23 to celebrate its 120th anniversary and World Understanding and Peace Day as it is also the anniversary of the first Rotary meeting in 1905. Two GRSP scholars were honored in their respective host Rotary Club meetings recently by Committee Chair John Carruth representing the Roswell Rotary Club and presenting the Barbara M. and Donald L. Thomas Peace Award to Shifa Maherali Jiwani of India and Jordan Laurent Noueku of Cameroon. The pair will also be recognized at the Georgia United District Conference in April. Each received an award of \$2,500. [more]



Club News
**GRSP
Leadership
Weekend
Celebrates
Silver
Anniversary**

By Jackie Cuthbert
The GRSP Class of 2024-25 gathered in Dunwoody this Presidents' Day Weekend for the "silver anniversary" of the GRSP Leadership Weekend. While we haven't hosted quite 25 weekends (a snowstorm and COVID each interfered), this weekend carried on the tradition of developing future leaders and Service Above Self that started on MLK weekend in 2000. The Rotary Club of Dunwoody took the lead with support from the Rotary Clubs of Buckhead and Atlanta Metro, the Rotaract Club of Atlanta, and the Georgia Rotary Student Program - thank you for being a big part of the weekend. Highlights: 10,000 meals packed for Rise Against Hunger, leadership bootcamp on Saturday afternoon, Shark Tank for Service Projects on Sunday - with amazing projects submitted by student teams! [more]

Rotary Means Business

Join RMB on March 25

By Carter Stout

Paul Harris said, "Each Rotarian is a connecting link between the idealism of Rotary and their trade or profession."

Join us on Tuesday, March 25, from 6-8pm at Politan Row, Ashford Lane in Dunwoody. It's the perfect opportunity to network with fellow Rotarians, Rotaractors, and professionals from all over the Atlanta area. Come mingle, share ideas, and grow your network in a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere! [more]



8am, March 29
| Columbus, GA

Join Us for District Training Assembly

By Stephanie Windham
As you embark on your journey as leaders of your Rotary Club, we are excited to invite you to attend District Training Assembly on March 29 in Columbus, Georgia. This vital event is designed to equip your club leadership with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration needed to lead your club effectively and make a meaningful impact in the communities we serve.

**Registration
Is Open.**

[more]



Club News
Columbus Clubs Host Human Trafficking Training

By Mandy Timmons
 Thanks to the Rotary Clubs of Columbus, North Columbus and Muscogee-Columbus for an awesome job hosting local police, sheriffs, GBI, Army CID and FBI along with victim advocates and supporting agencies for three days of human trafficking training. A special thanks to Marty Kemp, the Mayor, the Attorney General's office and Piedmont Midtown for your support. [more]



Douglas County Honors STAR Students

By Nell Boggs
 The Rotary Club of Douglas County had a wonderful day celebrating STAR Students and Teachers in early February! It was an honor to host these exceptional educators along with our future doctors, engineers, architects, and cybersecurity professionals. The speeches were heartfelt and inspiring. Our future is in good hands. [more]



Support Our Rotary Foundation
**Foundation
Contributions Help
Local Mothers and
Children**

By Lee Hollingsworth
Often it's contributions by our District 6900 clubs that make the difference to children and mothers around the world. In this case, however, Argentine Club President Cesar Ferrari (behind his daughter) stands behind the \$10,000 RI Foundation funded Matching Grant that his club sponsored for a project in District 6900. Inspired by the projects District 6900 had sponsored in their homeland, this grant provided desperately needed equipment and supplies for single moms and children in North Fulton County. Increased Foundation donations of only \$2500 were quadrupled. Friendships deepened, those in need were helped, and we saw "service" put above "self."
Find out how modest gifts can have monumental impact. Email Rotarian lee@leehollingsworth.com [more]



1st row, teacher Chris Peace and student Banks Bell; 2nd row from left, parents Todd and Angela Bell, counselor Linda Warren, Supt. of Schools Dr. Jennifer Brown and Chamber chair-elect DeWana Fields.

Club News
**Blakely
Continues to
Honor County's
Top Students**

By Charles Gordon
Early County High School senior Banks Bell and Southwest Georgia Academy senior Grant Fletcher were announced as the county's STAR STUDENT award winners at a **Blakely Rotary Club** meeting in December. The STAR STUDENT and STAR TEACHER project is sponsored by the Blakely-Early County Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Rotary Club. Chamber Chairwoman-elect DeWana Fields presented the checks to the winners.

As the systemwide county winner, Bell will compete further in statewide competition. He named Early County High School teacher Chris Peace as his STAR TEACHER. Fletcher named SGA teacher and head football coach Kerry Morris as his STAR TEACHER honoree. The Rotary Club awarded the student winners \$500 each and Bell received a bonus of \$250 for being systemwide winner. Each STAR TEACHER took home a \$100 gift certificate to be used in local businesses. [more]



Club News
**Cairo
Hosts
Daddy
Daughter
Dance**

By Jeff Lovett
The Rotary Club of Cairo worked for months to organize and promote their Father-Daughter dance which draws a huge crowd from this Georgia town. Thanks to all their members who were there early this morning and late into the evening to make this special event happen. [more]



Club News
LaGrange Celebrates Milestone Birthday at a New Venue!

By Jeff Wright
The Rotary Club of LaGrange had a great time at a brand new venue in downtown LaGrange, including a celebration for Bill Bowling's 90th birthday, complete with cake! We were also treated to live piano music as both Bill Bowling and Ken Miles entertained us with their skills on the two baby grand pianos at the venue. BINGO! was heard many time during the evening and all the winners took home prizes donated courtesy of Rotary Club of LaGrange members. Thanks to LaGrange Rotarian Sandy Lee for planning this excellent event for everyone to gather together and have a fun evening. Also thanks to President Connie Hensler, Michelle Bedingfield and Kerri Vice, who worked to make sure drinks and ice were out and that everyone got a piece of birthday cake.
[more]

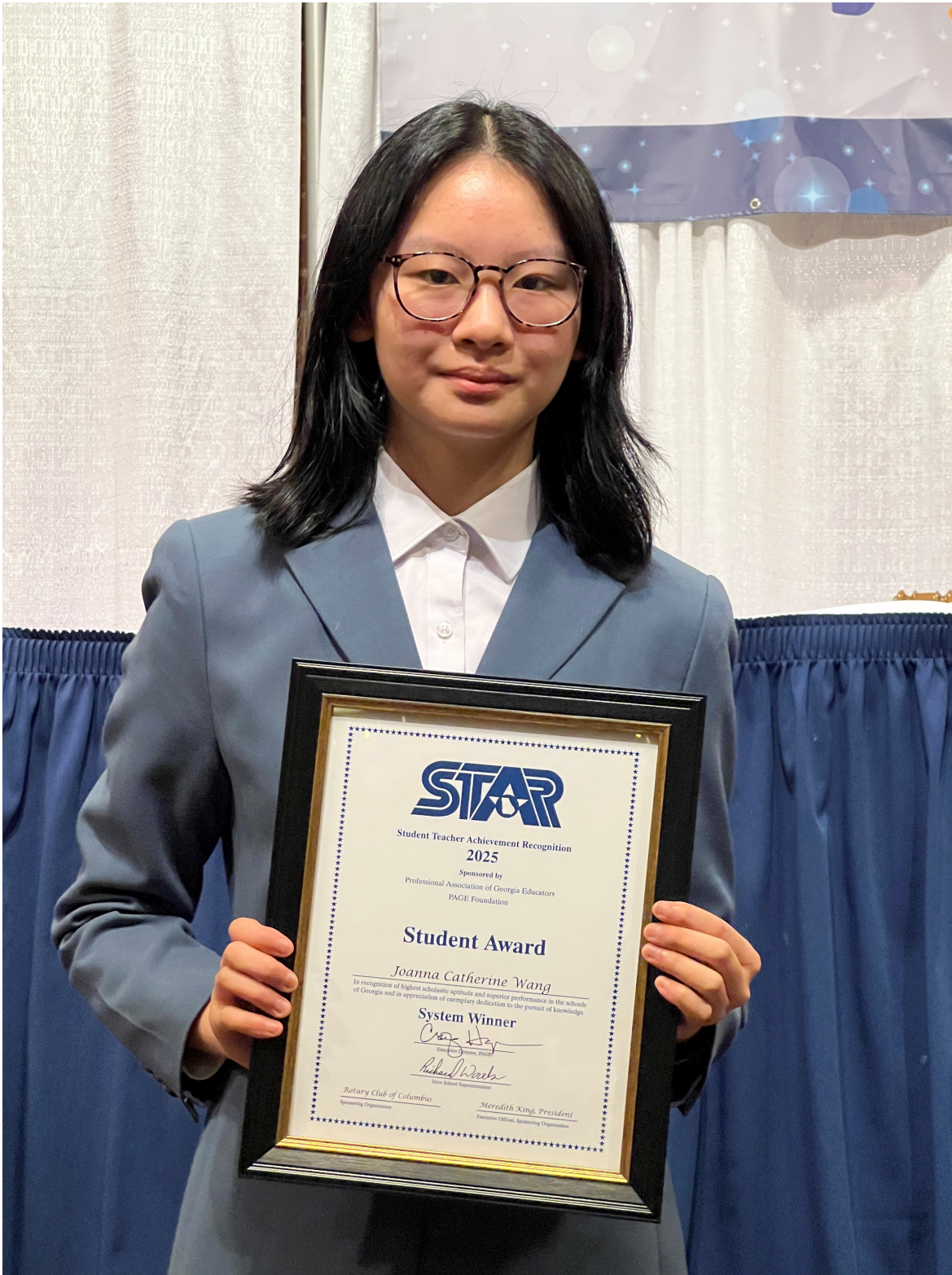


Club News
District Staff Provides Small Group Training
By Cynthia Edwards
Assistant Governor/District Governor Nominee
Cynthia Dorsey Edwards holds monthly Zoom meetings with the Presidents of the clubs she supports to provide assistance and guidance in helping them to achieve their goals and to make sustaining impacts on the communities they service. During these meetings, several District staff members have joined to provide additional information and/or training to the presidents. Guests have included Dave Schwickerath, Membership; Mandy Timmons, Public Image; PDG Alec Smythe, Rotary 6900 Website; Jackie Cuthbert, District Newsletter; and Kay Williamson, District/Community Grants. In February, Olga Narvaez, Global Grants Chair was guest speaker. [more]



Thomasville Celebrates Valentine's Day with Seniors

By David Sofferin
The Rotary Club of Thomasville had the honor of celebrating Valentine's Day with the senior citizens at the Scott Senior Center in Thomasville. Everyone enjoyed fun games, heartfelt conversations, and Rotarians showered our senior citizens with thoughtful gifts and delicious food to make the event extra special. A special thanks to Rotary District Governor Gordon Owens, who joined the festivities and added to the joy of the occasion. We are so grateful for the opportunity to spread happiness with our senior community. Let's continue to spread kindness and make every day as special as Valentine's Day!
[more]



Columbus Honors STAR Students and Teachers

By LeighAnn DiCesaris
The **Rotary Club of Columbus** celebrated outstanding academic achievement with its annual STAR Student presentation - recognizing students and their STAR Teachers from 11 local schools. The meeting culminated with the announcement of the system-wide STAR Student winner: Joanna Wang from Brookstone School. Joanna's exceptional academic performance and dedication to both the arts and sciences set her apart, making her a distinguished representative of Columbus-area students. The Rotary Club is honored to recognize these bright minds and their dedicated educators, reinforcing the organization's commitment to supporting education and the future leaders of our community. [more]



Club News
**Camilla
... Polio
Plus and
Casino
Night**

By Gary Rice
The Camilla Rotary Club recently donated \$1,500 to the End Polio Now campaign. With the Gates Foundation 2 to 1 match, this donation will provide 7,500 doses of polio vaccine. And that's not all - last Saturday night, the club hosted a Casino night, with proceeds to support the Mitchell-Baker Service Center, a day program that serves over 95 adults with developmental disabilities.
[more]



Club News
**Moultrie
Creates
Valentines
for
Seniors**

By Ralph Taylor,
III
The Rotary Club
of
Moultrie created
special
Valentines for
seniors in its
meeting with DG
Gordon Owens,
and showed
support for a
local resident by
building a much
needed ramp -
with help from
Holman Supply
Company and a
Rotary
Foundation
Community
Grant. [more]



Club News
**Atlanta
Southern
Crescent
Visits
Seniors**

By Claudia Mertl
The Rotary Club of Atlanta
Southern
Crescent provided each resident with a bag of treats and spent some time with them at Jonesboro Assisted Living Facility. The "Rotary Has Heart for Seniors" program was started by Past District Governor Bob Hagan in 2015-2016. We have carried on the tradition since then. [more]



Dawn Hill Woodard, Jo Phillips, Cynthia Sanford Kilby, Assistant District Governor Chunk Newman, and Melissa Cody Trujillo.

Club News
**Meriwether
County
Recognizes
8 New
PHFs**

By Kay Williamson
In February, the **Meriwether County Rotary Club** honored eight Rotarians were honored as Paul Harris Fellows (PHFs), recognizing their significant contributions to the Rotary Foundation and its humanitarian and educational programs. The award is named after Rotary's founder, a Chicago lawyer who established the organization with three business associates in 1905. [more]



Club News
**Griffin
Daybreak
Hears
from
Local
Charities**

By Debby Daniel-Bryant
Rotarian George McCanless spoke to Daybreak Rotary recently about United Way. He is working with an "Issue Focused" approach, that looks at key needs in a community and comes up with initiatives to improve a situation. Dan Wulf, of Dan Wulf Games, talked to Daybreak Rotary about his plans for a table game fundraiser called Homes 4 ... [more]