



Thank You For Your Leadership André!

### A Friend For Life...

By Gordon Owens

The role of District Governor doesn't start on July 1 each year. It starts the day after the nominating committee makes their selection two and half years earlier. From that day forward you join the g-line on weekly calls, attend Rotary conferences around the world and put in a ton of time making plans for the year that you will have the honor to lead the district. Our Immediate Past District Governor, André Marria has been there for me along every step of that journey. I certainly would not be as prepared to start the 2024-2025 without her guidance and more importantly her friendship. A benefit of spending so much time together, André and I have become more than friends, she calls me her little brother and we are most definitely family. We all were witness to the amazing job she did *Creating Hope In The World* during the 2023-2024 Rotary year as the *Lady With A Song*. What you didn't get to see is all the work she put in behind the scenes to make sure our district remains one of the top districts in our zone. The compassion she has for fellow Rotarians, constantly checking in with our family of Rotary to ask, "how are you, really?" The determination she displayed when things didn't go exactly as planned, to push through and make an impact. Her amazing ability to challenge people with difficult questions and get people to see another perspective.

To André, my friend for life, my sister, thank you for your leadership as our District Governor! I love you and most importantly, **"I SEE YOU!"** [more]



Thank you for allowing us to serve this "Awesome District"!

### Much Love from Walter & André

By André Marria

Thank you to each one of you for all your support this Rotary Year. Walter and I could not have done it without you! We did our best to lead by the 4-way test. I hope time will tell that we succeeded.

It has been a long journey, filled with many good, inspiring, and challenging experiences. Yet, we faced them with "true grit."

The road ahead leads us home to work in our own garden. It will be fun to be among those who have supported us at every turn. Again, thank you!

To my Thomasville Rotary Club of Thomasville, we want to say thank you for having our back, for supporting us at every turn, for calling, the gifts, and the encouragement you gave us along the way. Most appreciated and dear to us was the "Rose Pin" that was given to us at the beginning of our journey. I wear that Rose with pride and will continue to do so. I shared with you the belief that we needed to be intentional in all that we do, and the best way to engage is with genuine caring and authentic dialogue. Rotary will grow as we allow others to feel comfortable in the spaces Rotary provides.

We can create a new Culture when we embrace the collective traditions and values of those who come to us from every walk of life. They have the skills to grow us beyond the eighteen thousand (18,000) members we lost last year. Continue to *"Be The Inspiration as you Create Hope In The World"*, and you will embody *"The Magic of Rotary."* [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 MEMBERSHIP	ANNUAL FUND	POLIO PLUS
I	North Atlanta Professional Alliance	North Atlanta	Brookhaven
II	North Columbus	North Fulton	Vinings Cumberland
III	Marietta	Dunwoody	Carrollton-Dawn Breakers
IV	Roswell	Roswell	Peachtree City

### Key Dates

- Saturday, June 6th, 2026 **Americus RYLA - DISTRICT 6900**
- Saturday, June 6th, 2026 **Americus 2026 Rotary Sheffield Gala**
- Monday, June 22nd, 2026 **RI President Francesco Arezzo Visits D6900!**



Help Rotary Spread  
Peace Around The  
World

## **Plant A Peace Pole This Year**

By Gordon Owens  
We have been challenged by RI President Stephanie Urchick to help Rotary spread the idea of peace around the world by planting peace poles in our communities. There was even a peace park at the Rotary International Convention in Singapore to learn more about how to engage in peace building initiatives sponsored by the Rotary Action Group For Peace. Every member is encouraged to go through the Positive Peace Academy, a free training course to discover the strategies and tools that can help individuals, Rotarians like yourselves, cities and nations build and sustain peace. I hope your club will take on this challenge and plant a peace pole this year. When you do, make sure it gets added to the Global Peace Pole Map. [more]



MAJOR  
GIFTS  
MAJOR  
IMPACT

Leave A Lasting  
Legacy

**Help Us  
Endow  
\$1,000,000  
To Rotary**

By Lee Hollingsworth  
We are looking for **40** 39 Rotarians (DG Gordon is our 1st) in our district to commit to leaving a gift of \$25,000 or more to Rotary in their estate. That's right, no cash out of pocket today, just fill out a couple forms and decide how you want your gift to impact the world long after you are gone. With each gift of \$25,000 or more to the Endowment Fund, Rotarians can establish a named fund and direct where the proceeds go to do good in the world. Leave your gift to SHARE and some of those proceeds come back to our district for local & global grants; dedicate it to an area of focus to support projects, scholarships & vocational training you are passionate about; or leave it to the World Fund and let Rotary decide the best way this gift will create positive change in the world. Contact our District Major Gifts Chair, **Lee Hollingsworth**, for more information or to setup your legacy gift to the Endowment Fund. [more]



PolioPickem.com  
**Win Up  
To \$1000**  
By Gordon  
Owens  
All year long we  
are playing  
games for Polio  
Plus. The winner  
gets half the  
pool up to  
\$1000 and the  
other half goes  
to our Rotary  
Foundation to  
support Polio  
Plus. Our first  
game is for the  
2024 Summer  
Olympics. Once  
you pay the \$20  
entry fee you  
will select  
several  
countries to  
make your  
team. If your  
team wins the  
most points (3  
for gold, 2 for  
silver, 1 for  
bronze) through  
medalling in  
events then you  
will win the Polio  
Pick'em 2024  
Summer  
Olympics. Let's  
have some fun  
raising money  
for a good  
cause!  
[more]

# ROTAVETTE



Rotavette.com

## Win A Corvette C8

By Will Daniel  
One lucky winner will drive away from Jekyll Island on April 27, 2025 with a Corvette C8 or \$50,000 in cash. We only have 3000 tickets available and they are going fast, just like the *Rotavette*. Purchase 1 entry for \$100 or get 6 entries for \$500. All the proceeds from the raffle go to our Rotary Foundation so it's a win-win. [more]



Jekyll Island | April 24-27, 2025

## **1st Ever Joint District Conference**

By Ryan Swertfager

For the 1st time ever, all three Rotary Districts in Georgia are joining forces to put on a conference like no other. We hope you will mark your calendars to join us in April 2025 for what is going to be a Rotary take over of Jekyll Island. We will have a beach party, friendly competitions, inspiring speakers, a massive Hall of Friendship and most importantly fellowship with Rotary friends new & old from around the state. Registration is open and room blocks are filling up fast.

Visit [GeorgiaUnitedDC.com](http://GeorgiaUnitedDC.com) and sign up today, you don't want to miss this!  
[more]

# MAP WEBINAR

MEMBERSHIP ACTION PLAN

KICKSTART  
YOUR YEAR



## DRIVING MEMBERSHIP GROWTH



Membership  
Action  
Plan

MONDAY | JULY 8 | 5:30 PM EDT  
Register on [DACdb](#)

Webinar - July 8 @  
5:30 PM

## Driving Membership Growth

By Dave Schwickerath  
The Membership Action Plan (MAP) Webinar series is designed for club leaders like you. Our viewers keep returning for strategies and ideas that truly work, and we are excited about our next session. Mark your calendars for July 8th and join us for **"Kickstart Your Year - Driving Membership Growth."** This webinar will provide you with actionable insights to help drive membership growth in your club, setting the stage for a successful year ahead. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from experienced leaders who will share information that can make a difference in your membership efforts. [more]



RLI

## **RLI is On Fire in District 6900**

By Tracy Van Norman

RLI had a great event on July 8 in Peachtree City, hosting Parts 1, 2, 3, and a graduate class in Public Speaking! We had over 45 attend a memorable day Hosted by the PTC Club and Cooper Lighting, beginning with a great breakfast and an even better lunch. Energy and enthusiasm abounded as participants increased their knowledge, skills, and abilities in Rotary. Be sure to catch the flame in one of the upcoming sessions: August 17, October 26 or November 16. Details follow ... [more]

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## 2024 GRSP Conclave Weekend

By Katherine Fields  
Rotarians and guests are invited to Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2024-25 in Columbus August 23-25, 2024.

Conclave is hosted this year by District 6900 and under the direction of the Rotary Club of Columbus, Muscogee-Columbus and North Columbus.

Registration is now open for Conclave, please **visit the GRSP Calendar** to sign up. [\[more\]](#)

# CONCLAVE 2024

*Columbus, Georgia*

**AUGUST  
23-25  
2024**



Rotary Youth Exchange  
Class of  
**2024-25**  
**Graduates!**

By Mike Parks  
The Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast final training and orientation session for the 2024 - 2025 Outbound Class of Rotary Youth Exchange students from Georgia and Florida was a great success! The students learned all about cultural adaptation and becoming truly bilingual and bicultural. They honed their skills in improving resiliency while on exchange, and participated in role plays and exercises to be a more effective ambassador for the USA and for Rotary while overseas. Parents, friends, family, and Rotarians from all over Georgia and Florida participated in the long-awaited graduation ceremony and the awarding of the prestigious Rotary Youth Exchange blue blazers. Congratulations to the 2024 - 2025 Outbound Rotary Youth Exchange students from Rotary Youth Exchange Southeast [more]



## A Look Back: RYLA 2024

By Jaclyn Donovan  
Summertime in District 6900 mean it's time for the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, better known as RYLA!! RYLA is designed for young adults with proven leadership ability and a commitment to community service. The District 6900 RYLA camp was hosted by the Rotary Club of Americus and held June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University and included 95 students sponsored by over 30 clubs. RYLA brings together these young people from different backgrounds - home, educational, religious, and lifestyle - for the opportunity to challenge themselves through small team activities, large group activities, and candid, round-table discussions. RYLA programming includes individual personality profiles, conflict resolution styles, and ropes course activities in a schedule designed to encourage each student's growth in the areas of teamwork, communication, and trust. So what did they do this year? [more]

ROTARY LEARNING CENTER

## Club President Basics

Looking for ways to help your club succeed? Get some advice on planning for your year, creating an engaging club experience, and working with your leadership team to help your club run smoothly.

ROTARY LEARNING CENTER

## Club President Intermediate

Now that you know the basics of your role, learn strategies for making your club vibrant, attracting and engaging members, promoting your club, and more.

ROTARY LEARNING CENTER

## Club Secretary Basics

Learn about your role as club secretary, how to work with club leaders, and how to manage your club's membership and administrative data.

ROTARY LEARNING CENTER

## Club Treasurer Basics

Learn more about your role in managing your club's finances and ensuring good financial stewardship. Find out what best practices you can apply to track your club's incoming and outgoing funds and manage your club's budget.

My.Rotary.org

## Learn Your New Role Online

By Mary Ligon

It's a new Rotary year and you may be kicking off a new leadership role for your club. Even if you have an awesome mentor helping you learn the responsibilities that come with the role, remember, just because "it's the way we've always done it" doesn't mean it's the way it should be done. The Learning Center on more]



# OPEN WORLD PROGRAM

Congressional  
Office For  
International  
Leadership

## Open World Program

By Gordon  
Owens  
The Open  
World  
program offers  
clubs and  
districts in  
Rotary a way  
to enjoy  
meaningful  
international  
exchanges  
while giving  
professionals  
from Eurasian  
countries  
personal  
experiences  
with U.S.  
democracy.  
This program,  
funded by a  
U.S.  
government  
agency,  
focuses on  
developing an  
international  
network that  
allows leaders  
with common  
interests to  
consult and  
cooperate with  
each other on  
issues that  
affect their  
communities.  
[more]



Due: September 1,  
2024

## **Nominations Are Open For RI Director**

By Gordon Owens  
Past RI Director,  
Robert Hall was the  
last Director to serve  
Zone 34 from District  
6900. There are  
several qualifications  
any candidate must  
meet, so be sure to  
read through those  
before making a  
nomination. If your  
club wishes to  
submit a qualified  
Rotarian for  
consideration by the  
Nominating  
Committee for  
Director in your  
zone, the club must  
follow these  
guidelines: [more]



*Representatives from all the winning organizations gather with Grant Chair Kelly Caudle (left) and President Tozzi (right)*

Club News  
**Decatur  
Club  
Gives  
Back!**

By Dudley Larus  
Decatur Rotary was very pleased to welcome seven leaders of outstanding Dekalb County Non-Profit organizations to the Historic Dekalb Courthouse. All these organizations support causes that we hold dear: Literacy and Youth-At-Risk. Each organization was able to tell its story and explain the specific project that the Rotary grant supports. [more]



Club News

## **Vinings Cumberland Rotary Sponsors New Junior Book Club at the Vinings Library**

By Brenda Borden

The Junior Book Club for 3 to 5 year-old children is a weekly, early literacy-based program at the Vinings Library. It is designed to help young library patrons, who attend with their parents or caregivers, to develop language and literacy skills. A Vinings Cumberland Rotary Club Local Service Grant funds the program, and Rotary Club members are encouraged to become volunteers at the library to read to the preschoolers and to help with book-based discussions afterward. The Rotary grant makes it possible to give books away to the Junior Book Club members and to entertain them with professional puppet shows put on by the Atlanta Center for Puppetry Arts.  
[more]



Club News  
**Rotary Club  
of North  
Fulton  
Initiates  
Innovative  
Emergency  
Management  
Coordinator  
Meeting**

By Lisa Gelber  
Rotary Club of North Fulton President Lisa Gelber recently invited FOX Weather Journalist Robert Ray, and local resident, to present to the Club at their regular bi-monthly meeting. Ray began with a video on situations in which national media, first responders, and emergency management find themselves in and how they historically collaborated. Many times, things don't go to plan, and confusion takes hold in the aftermath of natural and man-made disasters. Ray went on to explain how the media assists in managing disasters by educating the public about disasters, warning of hazards, gathering and transmitting information about affected areas, and alerting government officials, relief organizations, and the public to specific needs.  
[more]

# Annual Sheffield Gala

July 27, 2024

The Whealley Building  
Georgia Southwestern State University

Social & Silent Auction: 6:00 pm  
Dinner & Program to follow

*Recognizing Sheffield Leadership Award Winners  
and Honoring the Class of 2024*

Tickets are \$100 per person and include  
Open Bar, Catered Surf & Turf Dinner, and Live Music  
(Registration: <https://rotaryamericus.org/event/update/7768>)

The Americus Trolley will provide round-trip transportation from Windsor Hotel and silent auction and fellowship begins at 6 pm in the Rotunda.

Join us for Sunday Brunch from 9-11 am at 105 Morningside Drive  
Block of rooms reserved under "Sheffield Gala" at the historic Windsor Hotel  
(229-924-1555) through June 27, 2024.