



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]

**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	<b>Fayetteville</b>	<b>North Atlanta</b>	<b>Brookhaven</b>
II	<b>North Columbus</b>	<b>North Fulton</b>	<b>Vinings Cumberland</b>
III	<b>Marietta</b>	<b>Dunwoody</b>	<b>Carrollton-Dawn Breakers</b>
IV	<b>Roswell</b>	<b>Roswell</b>	<b>Peachtree City</b>

**Key Dates**

- Saturday, June 6th, 2026 **Americus RYLA - DISTRICT 6900**
- Saturday, June 6th, 2026 **Americus 2026 Rotary Sheffield Gala**



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]



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]

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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]

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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]

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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

MONDAY | JULY 8 | 5:30 PM EDT  
Register on DACdb

Membership  
Action  
Plan

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]

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## 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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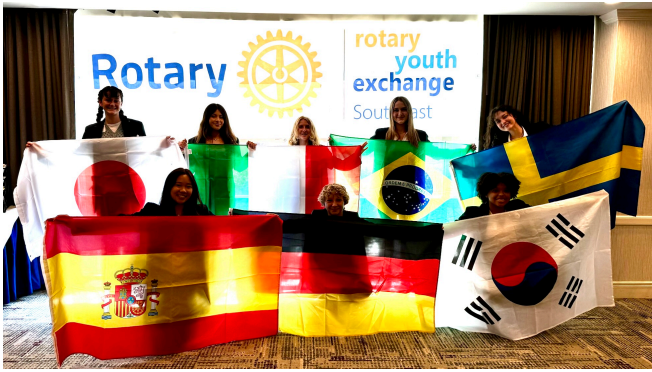
# CONCLAVE 2024

*Columbus, Georgia*



## 2024 GRSP Conclave Weekend

By Katheryne 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. [\[more\]](#)



## 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]

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## A Look Back: RYLA 2024

By Jaclyn Donovan  
Summertime in District 6900 means 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]

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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]

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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]

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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]

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# *Annual Sheffield Gala*

*July 27, 2024*

*The Wheatley 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.