



The Okra Brothers  
**Right Back Where We Started**

By Gordon Owens  
During my official visits to the Columbus area, I was impressed by how the local clubs are working together to serve those in need. Food insecurity, proper medical care and working to reduce violence are just a few challenges Rotarians are tackling in their neighborhood. AG Cedric Hill and I were nicknamed the *Okra Brothers* because we saved a couple cases of okra from the compost pile at the Merci Med garden, but that's only half the story. While it may have been a bit past its prime size to sell, we were convinced it could be put to good use. Cedric made a call to a friend at another non-profit at a local school that teaches students how to grow their own food and how to build a business selling that produce. The director of that program said, "I was just asked if I had okra to use to teach families how to prepare fresh, seasonal produce." After dropping the okra off on the other side of town, it turns out, it will be used for a cooking demonstration in a neighborhood just a couple blocks from where it was harvested. As simple as a couple case of okra may seem to us, by these clubs working together to leverage every available resource, those in need in Columbus are experiencing 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	<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**



District Governor Nominee  
Designate

## **Congratulations to Buck Buchanan**

By Gordon Owens

It's official, Buck Buchanan from the Rotary Club of Marietta Metro is our District Governor Nominee Designate. Buck will serve our district as governor during the 2027-2028 Rotary year. The governor team and several past district governors were on hand to make the announcement to the Marietta Metro club. We look forward to working with Buck as he prepares to lead our district. Please join me in congratulating **Buck Buchanan** on this great honor.

[more]

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# SAVE the DATE

Georgia  
Rotary  
Districts



## Week of Service

January 6 - 11, 2025



Join us the week of Jan. 6-11 for a collaborative Family of Rotary volunteer week to support recovery work in Western Carolina and in the Augusta area. Find the day that works for you!

Small things bring  
big changes.

#gautd

Rotary  PEOPLE OF ACTION

January 6-11,  
2025

## Join Us For A Week Of Service

By Chris Brand  
Teams of volunteers from all three Rotary Districts in Georgia will be headed to the Augusta area or up to Western North Carolina to assist with disaster recovery the week of January 6 through January 11. We will clearing debris from yards or removing storm damaged contents from houses. There is plenty of work for all skill levels. Feel free to come for a day or stay for the whole week. **Fill out this quick form** to let us know when and where you can help. We will be in touch with more details about accommodations and travel to each area as we fill out the teams. Thank you for volunteering to help!  
[more]

Rotary  Membership  Plan

Next MAP Webinar

**YOUR MEMBERSHIP WISH LIST... DELIVERED!**

MONDAY | DECEMBER 9TH 5:30 PM EST

REGISTER ON DACDB



Small Clubs Issues

Member Types

Continuity Planning



Monday, December 9 @ 5:30PM

## Your Membership Wishlist

By Dave Schwickerath  
Santa is coming early to your club membership team.

Join the next Membership Action Plan (MAP) webinar for some great breakout sessions and take a deeper dive into:

- Issues Challenging Small Clubs
- Creating Membership Types
- Continuity In Club Leadership
- Energizing Existing Members
- Membership This & That

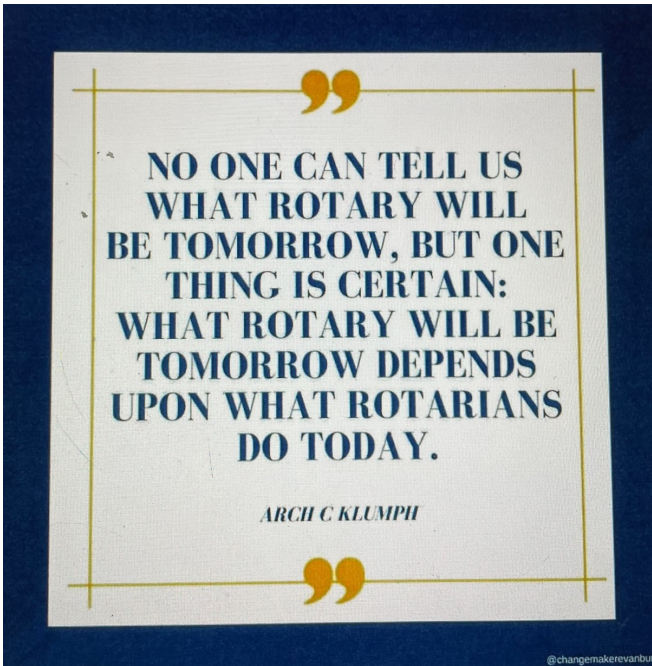
**Join this webinar** for great ideas to grow Rotary in the new year.  
[more]



Disaster Relief  
Trailer

## **\$20,000 Disaster Grant From Zones 33/34**

By Chris Brand  
Our combined  
Rotary Zones 33  
& 34 have  
raised over  
\$1,000,000 to  
support Rotarian  
led relief efforts  
from the recent  
storms. Our  
Zone Director  
Patrick Eakes  
encouraged all  
the District  
Governors to  
apply for grants  
to help use this  
funding to assist  
areas in need of  
recovery in our  
zone. While our  
district was not  
hard hit this  
time around,  
several of our  
neighboring  
districts will  
need help for  
months or years  
to come. We  
applied for and  
were awarded a  
\$20,000 grant  
from Zones  
33/34 to  
purchase and  
equip  
a **Disaster  
Relief  
Trailer** that can  
be quickly  
mobilized to  
help those in  
need. The trailer  
will be ready in  
December and  
our first trip is  
planned for  
the **Rotary  
Week of  
Service in  
January.**  
[more]



Our Rotary  
Foundation  
**Consider  
the Rotary  
Foundation  
in Your  
Year-End  
Giving**

By Bob Hagan  
The quote you see to the left from founder Arch C Klumph is circa 1916. It is every bit as true today as it was when he first uttered it. It is also no more profound than it is at the end of the year. How we close out a year sets the stage for what we wish to accomplish in the ensuing year. December is the time of year when we consider what other tax benefits we hope to employ. Our first thought is always going to be about what positive impact we can have with our gifts this year on the world of today. However, we are also aware of the charitable tax deduction available to us for our outright gifts. There are a number of ways we can do so. Are you aware you can gift using your Individual Retirement Account (IRA)?  
[more]

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Zones 33/34

# Foundation Matters Monthly Webinar

Join Monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 6 PM EDT



Thursday,  
December 19 @  
6PM

## Foundation Matters Webinar

By Bob Hagan  
Mark your calendars for the third Thursday of the month at 6PM EDT and join us for the **“Foundation Matters”**

**Webinar.** We know you want to have an amazing year at your club, so we’re bringing you experienced leaders to share how to structure your Foundation Committee so you will create an exceptional year of foundation giving. Don’t miss this series! The “Foundation Matters” Webinar Series was developed especially for you- Club Presidents and Club Foundation Chairs. These monthly webinars will provide “bite-sized chunks” of valuable insights and actionable strategies that really work to increase club engagement in The Rotary Foundation.  
[more]

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Tuesday, December 17 @ 6PM

## Public Image Ask Me Anything

By Mandy Timmons  
Need help with all things public image? This webinar is for you. The zone's public image and communications team will be on hand to answer all of your questions. From getting the most engagement from social media or how to use canva to make your message pop, come prepare to ask them anything to help your club promote all the great work your club is doing to impact your community. Visit [ElevateRotary.org](https://ElevateRotary.org) to register.  
[more]

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Planning Your Year  
End Giving

## **Gifting Securities May Have Added Tax Benefits**

By Lee

Hollingsworth

As you plan your year-end giving, consider a gift of appreciated securities to The Rotary Foundation. This is an effective way to fulfill your giving goals and help maximize your tax savings. You may be able to: Deduct the fair market value of your gift; Avoid capital gains tax on the appreciated stock. You can donate appreciated securities through your broker or by mail. You can use our **stock transfer form** to make a gift today. To learn more, see our **Securities page**. If you are 70½ years or older, you may get extra tax benefits by giving through an **IRA charitable rollover gift**. Contact **Lee Hollingsworth** with any questions. Let's continue Doing Good in the World together. Your actions today will shape our Foundation's future. [more]

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**Doing Good in the World**

**Future-Proofing Rotary:**  
 Maximizing District Impact with the  
 2.025 by 2025 Endowment  
 5 December 2024 at 09:00 CT

**Mark Daniel Maloney**  
 Trustee Chair,  
 The Rotary Foundation

**Olayinka Hakeem Babalola**  
 Past Vice President,  
 Rotary International

**Dominiek Willemse**  
 Endowment/Major Gifts  
 Advisor,  
 The Rotary Foundation

**Maria Gina Africa Sy**  
 Assistant Regional Rotary  
 Foundation Coordinator,  
 The Rotary Foundation

*with Karena Bierman, Director of Planned and Principal Gifts*

December 5,  
 2024 - 10AM

## Future Proofing Rotary Webinar

By Lee Hollingsworth  
 Gifts to Rotary's Endowment play a vital role in providing districts with a reliable income stream to support projects and grants. **Join us this**

**December** to explore how Rotary's Endowment complements Annual Giving to enhance district sustainability and support impactful initiatives. Panelists will discuss how a well-funded Endowment contributes to membership growth and community engagement by funding scholarships, humanitarian grants, and district grants. Additionally, the session will cover strategies for engaging your district leaders and club members in raising awareness of the Endowment's importance. Discover how effective use of Rotary's Endowment can drive long-term success and amplify your district's impact. [more]



Thank You For  
Supporting  
Laws of Life

**We  
exceeded  
our Meet  
Our  
Match  
campaign  
goal!**

By Carol Gray  
Walker

We are  
delighted to  
announce that  
the Georgia  
Laws of Life  
Essay Contest  
has exceeded  
its Meet Our  
Match  
campaign goal,  
raising an  
incredible  
\$80,911—far  
surpassing our  
\$60,000 target!  
This success is  
a testament to  
the generosity  
and dedication  
of our donors,  
Rotary Club  
sponsors, and  
corporate  
partners who  
believe in the  
power of strong  
character  
values.

As Helen Keller  
wisely said,  
“Alone we can  
do so little;  
together we can  
do so much.”

Your support  
inspires  
students to  
embrace  
character  
values that lead  
to lifelong  
success.  
Together, we  
are making a  
difference—one  
essay, one  
student, and  
one life lesson  
at a time.

[more]

**North Cobb Rotary Club — Peace Summit Series** 



**Rotarians Promoting Peace**

**Friday, Dec 6, 2024**  
**2:00PM EST | 7:00PM WAT**

**Brenda Fischer**  
 Peace Chair, North Cobb  
 IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

**Via Zoom**  
 Meeting ID: **810 9789 3217**  
 Passcode: **PEACE**




**In partnership with-**  
 Rotary Cub of Umuahia, D9142

**Join in the Conversation**






**Robert C Masse**  
 PP, Port Au Prince

**PDG Grace C. Okaro**  
 Rotary Positive Peace Activator  
 IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

**PAG Jude C. Ohanele**  
 IEP Positive Peace Ambassador

Friday, December 6  
 @ 2PM

## North Cobb Peace Summit Series

By Ada Wikina  
 North Cobb Rotary  
 peace builder Club  
 invites you to the  
 second 'Rotarians  
 promoting Peace  
 Summit. This will  
 take place on the  
 6th of December  
 2024 via zoom. Use  
 Meeting ID **810  
 9789 3217** and  
 passcode **PEACE** to  
 join the summit.  
 Our conversation is  
 with the Rotary  
 Club of Umuahia,  
 district 9142 in  
 Nigeria ably  
 represented by  
 PDG Grace Okaro  
 who is also an IEP  
 peace ambassador  
 and PAG Jude  
 Ohanele, also an  
 IEP ambassador.  
 Details are in the  
 flyer below. We  
 hope you can join  
 the conversation.  
 [more]



**ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE'S BIG IMPACT AUCTION**

**Offering:**

- High-end & Unique Items
- Spectacular Vacation Stays
- One-of-a-kind Experiences and Adventures

**BIDDING STARTS**  
11/21 @ 12PM

**BIDDING ENDS**  
12/5 @ 7PM

Benefitting Rotary's Good Works in our Community: monthly free produce markets, vegetables/grow bags, events honoring first responders, National Guard unit, senior adults, and youth services programs.

Support  
Thomasville  
Rotary

# 1st Annual Big Impact Auction

By Mary Beth Donalson  
Rotarians,  
friends, and  
business  
associates  
donated a  
wonderfully  
eclectic mix of  
high-end items  
for our first  
annual BIG  
IMPACT  
AUCTION. We're  
asking friends  
and neighbors  
near and far--to  
place your  
bids. **Everyone  
is invited to  
participate!**  
Rotary Club of  
Thomasville  
does good work  
in the  
community and  
around the  
world. Auction  
proceeds will  
help fund those  
good works.  
Club projects  
range from  
monthly fresh  
produce market  
for those in  
need to  
honoring first  
responder  
heroes to  
celebrating  
those who serve  
in the National  
Guard and other  
branches of  
service to  
supporting  
senior adults.  
Youth projects,  
scholarships,  
and recognition  
programs also  
are a priority.  
Our aim is to  
make a big  
impact in as we  
work to make  
our community  
a better place  
for all. [more]



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GRSP Update

## Oslo Summer 2025 GRSP Scholarship Opens for Georgia College Students

By Katheryne Fields  
Norwegian Rotarians will partner with Georgia Rotary Student Program to sponsor two college students from Georgia to attend Oslo International Summer School. Dates will be June 28-July 15, 2025. Application is now open and closes Jan. 15, 2025. Applicants must have completed their first year of college by Spring 2025 and have the recommendation of Georgia Rotarian. For questions regarding requirements or obtaining the Rotarian endorsement, please email [grsp@grsp.org](mailto:grsp@grsp.org) for assistance. Please reference the **attached Oslo flyer** for more information, dates for the summer session and the January 15, 2025 application deadline. Visit GRSP website: [www.grsp.org](http://www.grsp.org) to apply. [more]

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Club News

## **Carrollton Dawnbreakers Honors Local Veterans**

By Sarah Powell

To honor local veterans this Veteran's Day, the Carrollton

Dawnbreakers Rotary Club recently collected clothing and hygiene items and delivered them to the Trink Davis Veterans Village. The village offers

primary care and specialty health services, including dentistry, treatment for lung disease, and more to US veterans. One of the most heartwarming

aspects of the event was the involvement of Rotary members' children, who played an active role in sorting and organizing supplies for the Veterans Village.

By engaging the next generation in hands-on service projects, the Carrollton

Dawnbreakers Rotary Club is fostering a sense of responsibility, compassion, and leadership in young people. [more]

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Club News

## **Clubs Collaborate to Promote Peace**

By Mandy  
Timmons

The Rotary Clubs  
of Peachtree City,  
Senoia, Tyrone,  
and

Fayetteville joined  
forces to celebrate  
a significant  
milestone at the  
Healing Bridge  
Clinic in Peachtree  
City. Together, we  
proudly  
dedicated *The  
Rotary Room*, a  
project made  
possible through  
grants and the  
collective service  
of our clubs.

The day's highlight  
was the unveiling  
of a Peace Pole,  
symbolizing  
Rotary's  
unwavering  
commitment to  
global peace and  
understanding.

Built and  
coordinated by DG  
Gordon Owens, the  
Peace Pole serves  
as a poignant  
reminder of our  
mission to foster  
peace locally and  
globally. DG  
Gordon shared his  
heartfelt thoughts,  
saying, "As  
Rotarians, we are  
out in our  
communities  
creating peace....  
Think about the  
people that are  
coming here for  
healing."  
[more]

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Club News  
**Roswell  
Puts DG  
Gordon  
to Work!**

By Kathryn Igou  
As the Roswell Rotary Club prepared for our own DG Gordon Owens visit in November, we knew that we couldn't just have lunch and a program. Gordon is a Rotarian of ACTION and nothing is better to honor him than a solid service project. So we took our club meeting "on the road" and met at the Chattahoochee Nature Center, bringing along our traditional fried chicken lunch. While there, we built ADA accessible picnic tables and installed a peace pole.  
[more]

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Club News  
**Dan Amos  
of Aflac  
Inspires at  
Rotary  
Club of  
Columbus  
Meeting**

By LeighAnn DiCesaris  
The Rotary Club of Columbus had the honor of hosting Dan Amos, CEO of Aflac, at their weekly meeting. Attendees were captivated by Mr. Amos's presentation, which detailed Aflac's incredible journey from its humble beginnings to becoming a globally recognized brand with a remarkable 90% name recognition rate. Mr. Amos highlighted Aflac's roots in Columbus, Georgia, where the company was founded in 1955 by three visionary brothers—John, Paul, and Bill Amos. What started as a small insurance business grew into a powerhouse in the industry, transforming lives with its innovative supplemental insurance policies. Despite its global success, Aflac has remained deeply connected to its hometown, continually investing in the community and exemplifying the spirit of giving back. [more]

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## The After- Smiles from Mimosa Kids



Our Rotary  
Foundation at  
Work

## **Roswell Grant Helps Keep Children Warm**

By Kathryn Igou  
Grants from the  
Rotary  
Foundation have  
enabled **Roswell  
Rotary Club** to  
take on  
significant  
projects this  
year, including  
providing warm  
winter gear for  
children in Star  
House. This  
month we have  
continued to  
highlight the  
incredible impact  
of the Rotary  
International  
Foundation and  
how, with  
generous  
contributions  
from Rotarians,  
we can fund  
meaningful  
service projects  
in our  
community and  
beyond. Thanks  
to grant support,  
Roswell Rotary  
received the  
maximum grants  
this year: a  
\$2,000  
community grant  
and a \$5,000  
competitive  
grant. [more]

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## Join Us for Rotary Means Business in January

By Carter  
Stout

Rotary Means  
Business will  
not meet in  
December, but  
watch for  
more about  
when and  
where we are  
meeting in  
January 2025.  
It's a great  
opportunity to  
network! In  
the meantime,  
enjoy your  
holidays!

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Club News

## **RCC**

### **Supports our Furry Friends for Christmas; Donates to the Rotary Foundation**

By Mandy  
Timmons

The Peachtree City Rotary Community Corps, made up of enthusiastic and caring young adults with special needs, just completed a heartwarming service project! They packed stockings full of treats and toys for dogs and cats in local shelters, bringing joy to our furry friends this holiday season. On top of that, they made a generous donation to our Rotary Foundation, with fellow Rotarians matching their gift to bring the total to \$1,000! We're so proud of this group and their dedication to service. Thank you to these amazing young adults for their kindness, spirit, and community support! [\[more\]](#)

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Club News

## **Dunwoody Supports Family Food Needs for Thanksgiving**

By Jackie Cuthbert  
The Rotary Club of Dunwoody continued its holiday tradition of helping fill food baskets for local Kingsley Elementary families in need. Led by Honorary Member Anita Augello and her daughter Claudia, our efforts included the purchase of 89 turkeys (in a Publix visit we've come to know as the Turkey Trot), pick up of a massive quantity of food at Costco, assistance with packing the boxes AND with loading very heavy boxes into recipients' carts. The baskets contain a full Thanksgiving dinner and more. Rotary is one of the community groups who come together to deliver these baskets. All Kingsley students will also receive a brand new book this holiday season - as part of another Dunwoody tradition that's been around for nearly 30 years.  
[more]

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Club News

## **Marietta Serves Record 153 Meals at MUST Ministries**

By Jacob Southerland  
Professional Chefs Emma and Ean McShane were welcomed again by MUST Ministries - volunteering for the monthly lunch service provided by the Rotary Club of Marietta at MUST and whipping up a five-star lunch for 153+ residents and the homeless. They organized and trained willing-but-not-highly-skilled Rotarian cooks (with the exception of father, Harold). Have you witnessed ten pounds of potatoes peeled in less than ten minutes and on the stove cooking? Working together, [Rotarians take note, this teamwork stuff really works]; Chefs Emma and Ean utilized only the freshest ingredients - no canned soup, canned vegetables, canned meat, or fruit cocktail for these two. [more]

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Club News

## Douglas County Hears from RYLA Students

By Nell Boggs

Members of the Rotary Club of Douglas County enjoyed hearing from the two students the club sponsored for RYLA! Aaliyah Mason and Amiah Jackson are both members of the Interact Club at New Manchester High School. The girls enjoyed forming friendships and participating in team-building and leadership activities with students from around the state. The program took place June 8-12 on the campus of Georgia Southwestern State University. The Rotary Club of Douglas County paid all expenses for the two students to attend the camp, including bus transportation from Atlanta to Americus.

Pictured along with Aaliyah and Amiah are Rotary Club President John Baker and New Manchester High School Counselor Pamela Cummings. [more]



Club News

## Wreaths Spread Cheer and Support Good Works

By Debby

Daniel-Bryant

The Rotary

Club of Griffin

Daybreak is

spreading

Christmas

cheer and

raising money

for all it does

in the

community

with its annual

wreath

sale. Debby

Daniels-Bryant

and Jackie

Wilson helped

get the truck

loaded at

Georgia

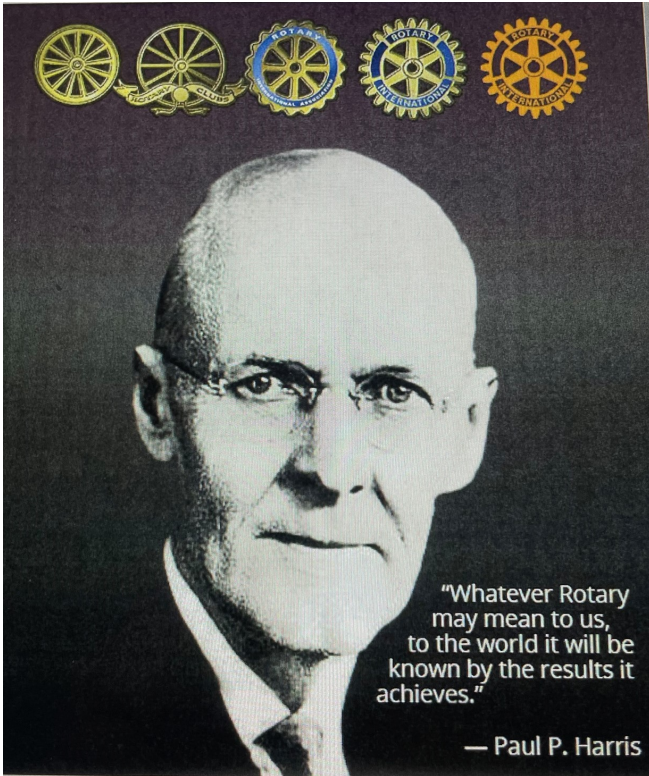
Farmers

Market with

wreaths to

deliver.

[more]



## End Polio Now **Give the Gift of Polio Eradication**

By Bob Hagan  
The Paul Harris quote to the left is certainly well known as it leads us into our Rotary International History page. It hits the reader squarely between the eyes with the fact that no matter what we might think about the things we do, the world will judge us by what they see us do and how it affects the world. Truly a huge responsibility does each of us have as Rotarians. It is up to us to live up to the words of Paul Harris and the ever-critical eyes who keep watch over us.

It has been a tougher year in many ways in that area of the world we are most concentrated on as we fight to end Polio on a worldwide basis. Civil unrest compounded by cultural mores make our task ever the harder climb to success, but success is what we still achieved this year, even in the war-torn areas of our very personal fight against the spread of Polio. [more]

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Club News  
**Peachtree  
City RCC  
and DG  
Gordon  
Visit Fire  
Station**

By Mandy  
Timmons  
The Rotary  
Community  
Corps of  
Peachtree  
City had an  
incredible  
experience at  
Fire Station 81!  
They learned  
about the  
intense 16-week  
training required  
to become a  
firefighter and  
got up close with  
some of the  
essential tools  
used on the job.  
One of the  
firemen even  
suited up in  
under one  
minute,  
demonstrating  
just how quickly  
they need to  
respond to  
emergencies!  
[more]

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## **Peachtree City Rotarians Honored**

By Mandy Timmons

Two Sparrows Village, Inc. (located at Christian City) is a dedicated organization that supports adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities by providing safe, inclusive housing and supportive services to help residents lead independent, fulfilling lives. At the 2024 Bird Bash, two Peachtree City Rotarians received top honors for their dedication to this impactful mission: Steven Newton earned the Wayne Damron Community Champion Award for his community involvement, and George Martin received the Terry Chapman Humanitarian Award for his compassionate commitment to service. [more]

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Club News

## **Roswell Hosts Multi-Generational Fishing Derby**

By Kathryn Igou

In October, Roswell Recreation & Parks collaborated with Roswell Rotary to host a Multigenerational Fishing Derby. Bamboo fishing rods being made to the left while catch/release fishing was going on to the right. This first-year event encouraged teams comprised of a youth, a parent-aged person and a grandparent-aged person to work together to build a bamboo fishing rod and then use in the pond at the back of the Roswell Area Park on Woodstock Road. It was a beautiful morning for about 100 folks from all over Roswell to come together to learn how to tie knots, hold a fishing pole and laugh. [more]

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