



From Our  
District  
Governor

## Welcome to Our New Rotary Year!

By Cynthia  
Edwards

It is an honor to  
serve as your  
District  
Governor for  
2026-2027. I  
look forward to  
seeing the  
difference you  
continue to  
make in our  
communities  
and around the  
world, and to  
accomplishing  
even more  
together.

Rotary  
International  
President  
Olayinka  
(Yinka) Hakeem  
Babalola's  
message for  
this year  
is "**Create  
Lasting  
Impact.**" Our  
District theme  
is **Peace  
through  
Economics,  
Culture, and  
Education.** I  
also challenge  
every Rotarian  
to take **PRIDE**  
in all you do—  
**Personal  
Responsibility  
in Developing  
Excellence.**  
[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**

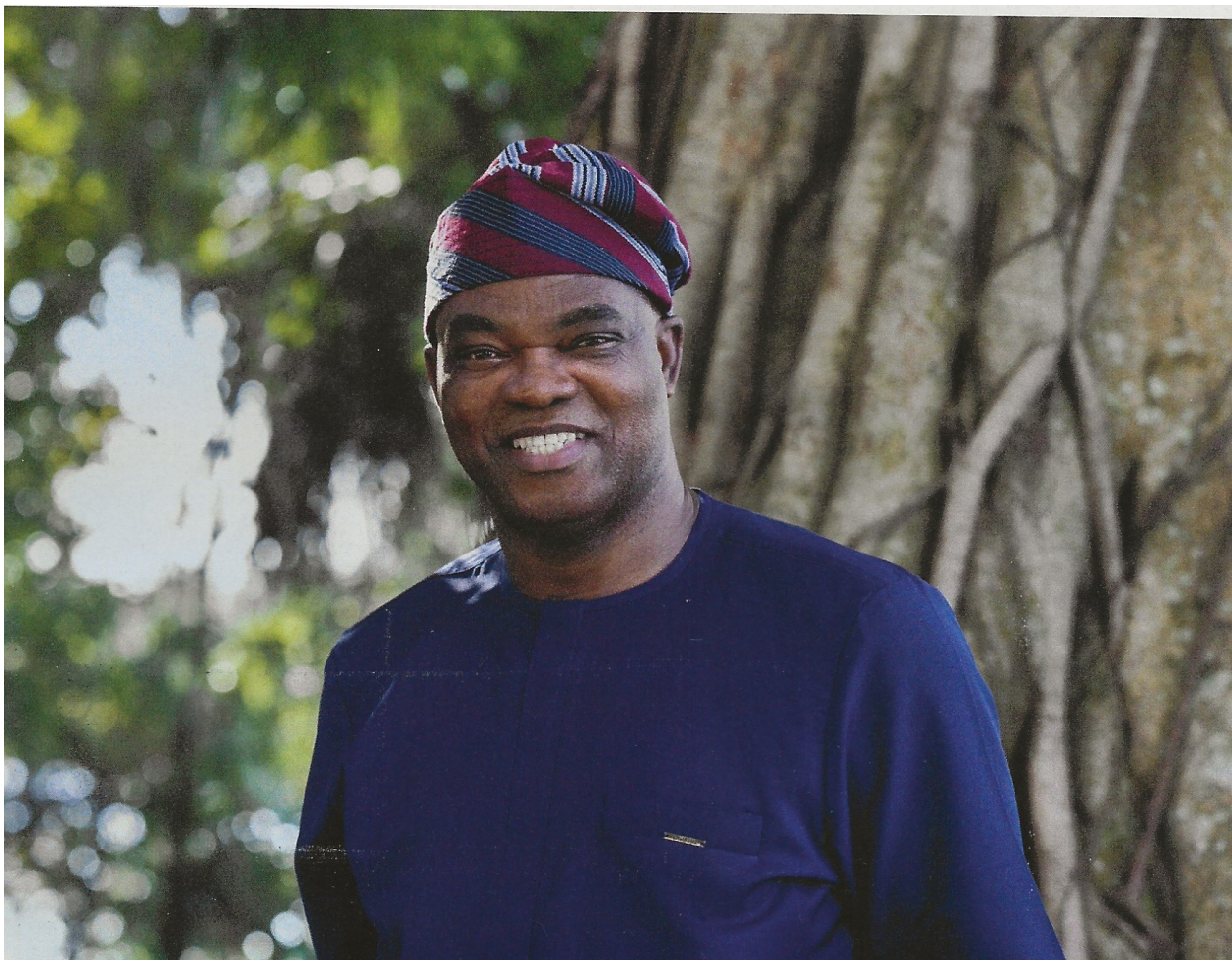
II

III

IV **Columbus**

### Key Dates

|                                 |                                                                       |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thursday,<br>July 9th,<br>2026  | <b>North Atlanta<br/>Professional<br/>Alliance Governor<br/>Visit</b> |
| Tuesday,<br>July 14th,<br>2026  | <b>Paulding County<br/>Governor Visit</b>                             |
| Tuesday,<br>July 28th,<br>2026  | <b>Jackson-Butts<br/>County Governor<br/>Visit</b>                    |
| Thursday,<br>July 30th,<br>2026 | <b>North Cobb<br/>County Governor<br/>Visit</b>                       |



From Our  
2026-27 RI  
President

## **Better Than Your Best**

By Cynthia Edwards  
Rotary has a way of surprising you. It surprises you when a stranger across the table becomes a lifelong friend. It surprises you when a small project in one neighborhood ripples outward in ways you never imagined. And it may surprise you when you realize that the person Rotary has changed most ... is you. That is why this year, we are called to harness the change within ourselves, to look to the future, and to **Create Lasting Impact.**  
[more]

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July 19, 2026 |  
Piedmont Park

## **Atlanta Is Making History — And We Need YOU There**

By Dave McCleary  
When the world gathers, Rotary shows up. As the FIFA World Cup closes out in Atlanta, District 6900 has a once-in-a-generation opportunity to stand on a global stage and declare: *human trafficking will not be tolerated in our city*. On **Sunday, July 19**, we are calling on every Rotarian in our district to roll up their sleeves, light a candle, and be part of something that will echo far beyond the final whistle.  
**Sign Up for the Day of Service**  
**Sign Up for the Candlelight Vigil**  
[more]

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**Rotary**  
District 6900



# District Governor Candidates Wanted

Seeking passionate leaders for Rotary 6900  
District Governor position for 2029-2030

*Provide Rotary Resume and Club  
Resolution by Saturday, October 31 to  
D6900ExecutiveSecretary@gmail.com*



## Nominations for 2029-2030 District 6900 District Governor Are Open

By Cynthia Edwards  
**Nominations for  
our 2029-2030  
District Governor  
are open.** We need  
your help in  
identifying qualified  
candidates and  
officially nominating  
them by resolution  
of your club. The  
certified club  
resolution form will  
be sent to club  
presidents along  
with Article 16 of the  
Rotary Manual of  
Procedure that  
outlines the role and  
responsibilities of a  
District Governor.  
Read on for more  
about the  
requirements,  
process and deadline  
for nominations.  
[more]





From Our (New) Past District Governor

## Thanks for a Year Well Done!

By Steve Ivory

In this month of **FIFA World Cup and Rotary Leadership Changeover**, I want to sincerely thank everyone for the honor and privilege of allowing me to serve you all as DG. We United for Good and had a very special and memorable year. You all continue to amaze me with all of your hard work, ideas, generosity and action to serve and help others so selflessly. I want to wish District Governor Cynthia Edwards and her leadership team the best as they work very hard to create lasting impact in the community and world. I want to thank the presidents for leading their clubs so effectively, the governor line and PDG Bob Hagan for mentoring me, the PDG's for selecting me, and the leadership team that always supported me and the district. It takes a village..... and June has been one of my most memorable months overall. It started off with ...  
[more]

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## RYLA 2026 - A Rave Review

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  
6-10 on the  
campus of  
Georgia  
Southwestern  
State  
University  
and included  
104 high  
school  
students  
sponsored by  
33 clubs.  
[more]





## Rotary International President Visits District 6900

By Steve Ivory  
RI President Francesco Arezzo selected our district to visit immediately following the RI Convention in June in Taipei. DGN Amy Benton volunteered to be his weekend aide and our RI President and his wife Anna Maria had a packed schedule - including a district meeting hosted by the Rotary Club of Peachtree City, the Little White House in Warm Springs, a visit to our Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) session, and a special peace pole ceremony at The King Center in Atlanta. [more]





Our Rotary  
Foundation  
**The Ides of  
June ...  
2026!**

By Bob Hagan  
While the Ides of March have an ominous ring in ancient history - marking the March 15 assassination of Julius Caesar, it also marks the middle of a month - a time to look back at what we've accomplished and ahead to our goals for the future. This June, the 15th marked the end of the Rotary International Convention in the beautiful city of Taipei, Taiwan - with more than 37,000 Rotary friends. Rotary Foundation Chair Holger Knaack inspired us with all The Rotary Foundation has accomplished and can be - based on the support of all of us. I want to share some of this with you ... along with my favorite photo from the convention.  
[more]



GRSP Update

## **GRSP Conclave Slated Aug. 21-23 in Savannah, Georgia!**

By Katheryne Fields

Rotarians and guests are warmly invited to a very special Conclave to welcome the Georgia Rotary Student Program Class of 2026-2027 and celebrate a historic milestone—our 80th Anniversary! This commemorative kickoff event will take place August 21-23, 2026, at The DeSoto Hotel in historic Savannah, Georgia. Learn more by reading the rest of this article, then **register at:** <https://www.grsp.org/conclave2026/> [more]



**Rotary**  
District 6900



**Join us for District Conference!**  
**Thursday, April 22 – Sunday, April 23, 2027**

District Conference  
2027

**Join Us in  
Asheville  
for the  
2027  
District  
6900  
District  
Conference**

By Cynthia  
Edwards

It's never too early to add District 6900's 2027 Conference to your calendar. Next year, we're headed to Asheville, NC from Thursday, April 22 to Sunday, April 25. The host hotels are the Embassy Suites and the Doubletree, located in downtown Asheville, both in the Hilton family of hotels. Asheville is a beautiful city nestled in the Blue Ridge Mountains - known for its creative spirit, deep roots, and steady mountain rhythms. And we'll have lots of fun and inspirational activities planned for you to enjoy! Learn more about conference reservations and booking your rooms. Then mark your calendar!  
[more]



Rotary Youth  
Exchange  
**D6900**  
**Rotary**  
**Youth**  
**Exchange**  
**Students**  
**Ready**  
**for a**  
**Year**  
**Abroad**

By Kelly Caudle  
After many hours of training and preparation, including new language learning, our outbound Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) students officially “graduated.” These high school students will spend the 2026-2027 school year in Brazil, France, Germany, Italy, Slovakia, and Sweden. The **Rotary Clubs of Columbus, Decatur, Marietta Metro, Newnan, and Roswell** are sponsoring this year’s outbound students. [\[more\]](#)

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*actual students benefiting from the “mBots Robots for Primary Schools” project, funded by the Foundation, Districts in Serbia, US, USAID*

Our Rotary  
Foundation  
**Why  
Rotary  
Foundation  
Giving  
Matters**

By Lee Hollingsworth  
Look at these faces. Children and a teacher, at a desk absorbed in a laptop, a big a small thing. It is the beginning of everything we say we care about. Education is the one of the quietest and most powerful tool The Rotary Foundation funds. It's a new Rotary year and a great time to join the fellowship of Foundation donors. [more]



## Laws of Life Registration Open for the Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon

By Carol Gray  
Walker

Registration is now open for the annual character education and partnership luncheon on Friday, August 21, from 11:30 AM-1:15 PM at the Emory Conference Center Hotel in Atlanta. The Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon is the Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest's annual gathering for inspiration, professional learning, and connection. Educators, Rotarians, volunteers, and community partners come together to explore the impact of character education and reflective writing, hear powerful student and alumni stories, and strengthen partnerships that help students thrive. Register for the Teacher & Rotarian Workshop Luncheon [here](#).  
[more]





Rotary  
Leadership  
Institute (RLI)  
**Welcome  
Our New  
RLI  
Directors**

By Walter  
Marria, Jr.  
We are  
honored and  
excited to  
introduce  
Walter Marria  
Jr. and PDG  
Andre Marria  
as the new Co-  
Directors of the  
Rotary  
Leadership  
Institute (RLI)  
Sunshine  
Division for  
District 6900.  
[more]



End Polio Now  
**Polio at  
the  
Start of  
the  
Second  
Quarter  
of the  
21st  
Century!**

By Bob Hagan  
Let the title of  
this month's  
Polio article sit  
with you for a  
moment. Can  
you believe  
that we have  
already  
traveled one  
quarter of the  
way through  
the 21<sup>st</sup>  
century? It  
seems like  
just yesterday  
the world was  
petrified about  
the potential  
effects of Y2K  
and now we  
have already  
moved 25  
years past it.  
[more]





Rotary Action Group  
Against Slavery



Awareness, Education, & Prevention

# Rotary Human Trafficking Summit

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Monday, July 27,  
2026

## Hear Tim Tebow Speak at The Rotary Human Trafficking Summit

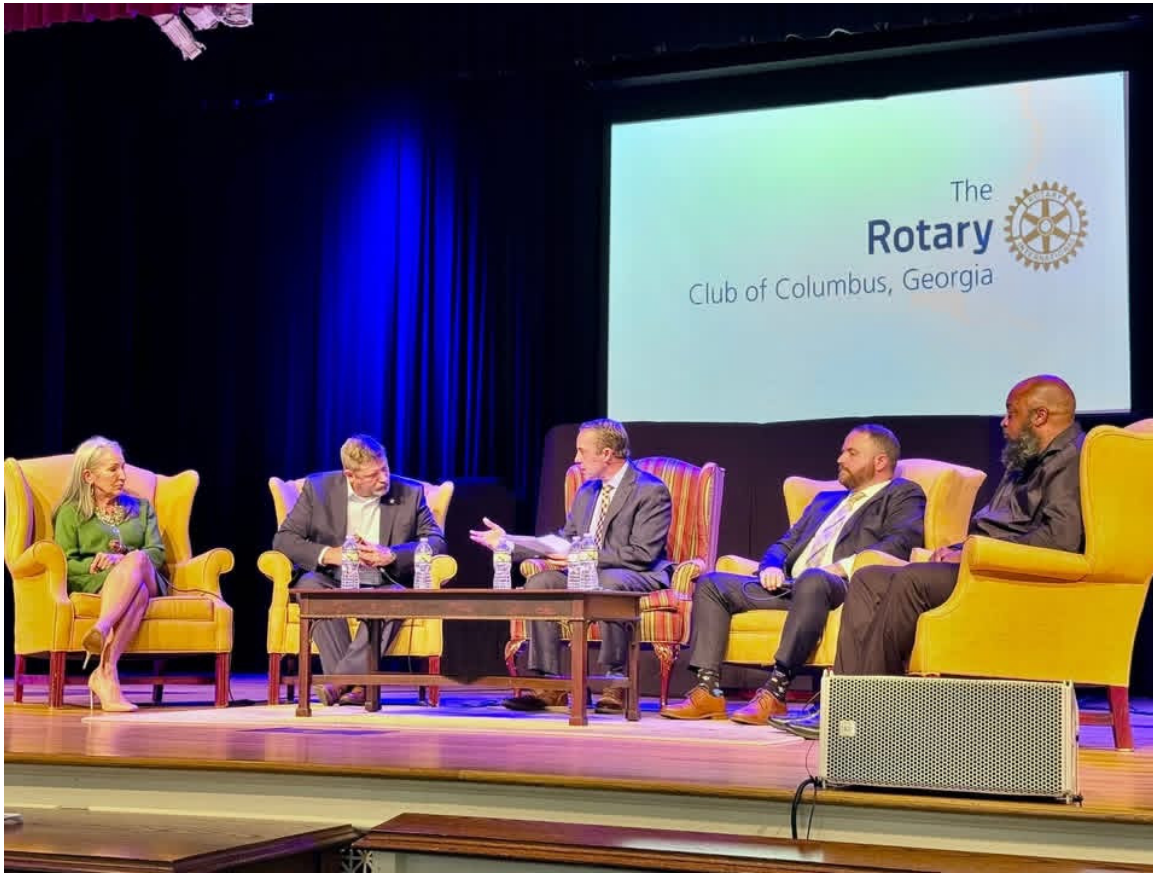
By Dave McCleary  
Rotary District 6900 members are encouraged to join fellow Rotarians from across the region at the **Rotary Human Trafficking Summit** — a powerful, one-day event dedicated to awareness, education, and prevention of human trafficking. The summit will be held on **Monday, July 27, 2026, from 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM** at the **Marriott Meadowview Resort & Convention Center, 1901 Meadowview Pkwy, Kingsport, TN 37660**. [\[more\]](#)



## Peace Pole At The King Center

By Gordon Owens  
On Saturday, June 20, Rotary District 6900 made history in one of the most meaningful locations in America — planting a permanent Peace Pole at the entrance to the Peace & Meditation Garden at The King Center in Atlanta, just steps from the tomb of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Eternal Flame that bears his legacy. The dedication ceremony was led by Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo, who joined district members, representatives from the City of Atlanta, and The King Center for the unveiling. The gathering was a testament to what Rotary looks like when it operates at its best — local commitment backed by global leadership, united around a single, powerful message. [more]





Club News

## **District Investment Helps Transform Law Enforcement's Fight Against Human Trafficking**

By LeighAnn DiCesaris  
The **Rotary Club of Columbus** welcomed an important and timely program last week focused on the ongoing fight against human trafficking and the role specialized law enforcement training plays in protecting vulnerable individuals. The club heard from a panel of local law enforcement individuals who benefited from special training offered through a \$15,000 grant available through the District's End Human Trafficking Committee. The Rotary Club of Columbus partnered in the effort by providing the venue and hospitality for the training event. [\[more\]](#)



Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## **Update on Global Grant to End Spina Bifida**

By Jon Yaeger  
The **Rotary Club of North Atlanta (RCNA)** and their partners are in the third year of a planned five-year global grant project to reduce severe birth defects in Ethiopia, supported by District 6900 and The Rotary Foundation. Collaborators include Emory University, two other U.S. Rotary clubs, the Rotary Club of Addis Ababa Central Mella and the ReachAnother Foundation. The preliminary results are encouraging. [more]





Club News  
**Doggone  
Good  
Time  
Had By  
All!**

By Shelley  
Hammell  
40 volunteers,  
25 minutes  
and 500  
pounds of dog  
food.

**Buckhead  
Rotary**  
headed on the  
road to the  
Fulton County  
Animal Shelter  
for their  
Monday lunch  
and a short  
volunteer  
activity where  
we helped  
break up 40-  
pound bags of  
dog food into  
smaller bags  
to be  
distributed to  
foster families.  
This was a  
huge need and  
with the  
number of  
Buckhead  
Rotarian  
volunteers, we  
were able to  
accomplish  
what would  
have taken the  
staff two  
weeks to do.  
[more]





Club News

## **Roswell Rotary Continues Tradition of Leadership and Fellowship**

By Trummie  
Patrick, III

In June, the **Roswell Rotary Club** proudly continued one of its longest-standing traditions by hosting its annual Past Presidents' Dinner — a gathering that has brought together club leadership for more than 30 years. The evening serves as an opportunity for past presidents and the current Board of Directors to come together for fellowship, reflection, and leadership transition as the club prepares for a new Rotary year. More importantly, it provides an opportunity for incoming leadership to receive wisdom, encouragement, and perspective from those who have previously served in the role of club president. Amazingly, of the 29 living past Presidents of Roswell Rotary, 25 of them were in attendance! [more]





Club News

## Emory Druid Hills Celebrates Club Leadership

By Rani Singh  
The **Rotary Club of Emory Druid Hills** recently celebrated its annual installation of officers - where District Governor Steve Ivory and incoming District Governor Cynthia Edwards led the installation of officers. Ramo Singh was installed as President, and outgoing President Bhairavi Nadgonde reflected on all the club accomplished during the 2025-26 Rotary year. [\[more\]](#)



Club News

## North Cobb Helps Feed and Refresh the Community

By Jose Gonzalez  
Among all its projects, **North Cobb**

**Rotarians** help friends at KSU CARE Services supporting Fast Start Academy who help advance children's education and provide them with free food to send home with the kids struggling with food insecurity, and partner with iLoveKare to deliver refreshing drinks to the Acworth Police Department during this summer's expected heatwaves. [more]