



District 6920 Governor's Newsletter

June 2009

Kenan J. Kern, District Governor

Number 12

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Make Dreams Real



Let me say a special thank you to all our Rotary friends for your dedication and support to help **Make Dreams Real**, for not only Beth and me, but for the many individuals throughout our Rotary District and our international world during the 2008-2009 Rotary year. Our experiences as we served our Rotary District as well as Rotary International were more than we could have ever imagined. We had the great fortune to meet so many people who will remain in our lives as great friends for years to come. Thanks go to each of you who honored us in so many special ways with your warm hospitality and kind expressions of friendships. You truly helped **Make our Dreams Real**.

I want to thank my wife, Beth, for her amazing support to my year as District Governor for D-6920. She provided outstanding support to every Rotary club we visited, and I am confident that without her active support, the success of my year as District Governor would have been less noteworthy. I also want to thank my home Rotary club, the Rotary Club of Savannah South for their support as I was absent much of the year due to responsibilities in serving as the 2008-2009 District Governor for District 6920.

Most importantly, I want to thank each Rotarian in District 6920 for your dedication to Rotary and for providing **Service Above Self**. The heart of Rotary is found in the individual clubs and its members. It is the Rotary club that unites members who are dedicated in providing service to their local communities and communities abroad.

The 2008-2009 theme has been **Make Dreams Real**. President D.K. Lee previously asked each of us to focus on the most precious resource of every community: our children. As I visited each of our 65 Rotary clubs I spoke about our collective desire to join in supporting the annual theme. President D.K. Lee said, "When choosing our service projects, we do our best to work in ways that will have the most positive and most lasting impact. But to ensure a better world for many generations, we must begin by taking care of our youngest generation. Every day 30,000 children under the age of five die from preventable causes. We can save the lives of our children by taking advantage of our own resources, and those available to us through other clubs and our Rotary Foundation."

It is truly an honor and privilege to have served as your Governor in 2008-2009. We have a great Rotary District made up of great Rotarians. Thanks for your valued support in making this year one of the greatest experiences in my life.

Kenan

District Governor

2008-2009

District Directors:

Bill Booth

RC of Valdosta

Jim Drake

RC of Savannah South

Ron May

RC of Sandersville

Assistant Governors:

Les Arent

RC of Warner Robbins

Alfie Cofield

RC of Claxton

Paul Elliott

RC of Douglas

Charles Green

RC of Valdosta Sunrise

Paula Goodnow

RC of Kings Bay

Ben Harvill

RC of Eastman

Tommy Jefferson

RC of Milledgeville

Jeff Kublin

RC of Effingham County

Doug Lambert

RC of Downtown Statesboro

Ron Maulden

RC of Brunswick

Bruce Peyton

RC of Savannah South

Joan Puryear

RC of August South

Pat Storino

RC of St. Simons Island

Gary Smith

RC of Fitzgerald

Phil Thacker

RC of Dublin

Tommy Walker

RC of Sandersville

HEATHER RICHMOND NAMED ROTARY WORLD PEACE SCHOLAR

70 future leaders committed to peace



While the world hopes for peace, Rotary works to make it a reality. Heather Richmond of Savannah, GA has been named as one of 70 Rotary World Peace Scholars. She was selected from some 1,500 applicants worldwide to study peace and conflict resolution at the master's degree level. The program was created to develop future leaders skilled in peace studies.

Heather will attend International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan, one of seven Rotary Centers for International Studies in peace and conflict resolution. She will obtain a two-year master's-level degree in international relations, with a focus on the roots of conflict and successful solutions to the world's problems. She will participate in an annual Rotary Center seminar, and commit to a career devoted to national and international cooperation and cross-cultural understanding.

Rotary created the Peace Centers in 1999, as part of its ongoing efforts to achieve national and international peace. While war, famine, poverty and disease are rampant worldwide, Rotary Centers give scholars the knowledge and tools to combat these obstacles.

The seven host sites for the Rotary Centers for International Studies involve eight university partners:

- Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, North Carolina, USA (both universities jointly host one Rotary Center)
- International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan
- Sciences Po, Paris, France
- Universidad del Salvador, Buenos Aires, Argentina
- University of Bradford, West Yorkshire, England
- University of California- Berkeley, California, USA
- University of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

All Rotary World Peace Scholarships are for two academic years and include round-trip transportation, tuition and fees, room, board, and other limited expenses.

The Rotary Club of Savannah Sunrise nominated Savannahian Heather Richmond as a recipient for a Rotary Peace Scholar for years 2009-2011.



District 6920 was recently recognized as a **Peace Builder District** as a result from \$50,000 in D-6920's DDF Contributions to the Peace Scholar program. \$25,000 was contributed from District Designated Funds from the 2008-2009 year and \$25,000 from District Designated Funds from the 2009-2010 DDF available funds. District Designated Funds make up 50% of Annual Programs Funds contributed by Rotarians in previous years.

Links to Web pages

District 6920
www.rotarydistrict6920.net

Rotary International
www.rotary.org

Zone 33-34
www.rizones33-34.org

GRSP
www.grsp.org

CART
www.cartfund.org

Rotary Leadership
Institute
www.riltraining.org

Ferst Foundation
www.ferstfoundation.org

Contact Us

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Savannah, GA 31406



President Linda Williamson of the Rotary Club of Statesboro presents Governor Kenan Kern with a PolioPlus club contribution of \$1,000 toward the Bill and Melinda Gates Matching grant program for 2008-2009.



***Three Jolly
Governors
attend the
Southland
Breakfast at the
RI Convention
in Birmingham,
United Kingdom***

*(L-R) Governor 6020
Kenan Kern,
Governor 6900 Ted
Propes, and Governor
6940 Ron Richards,
enjoy their new head
covers.*

**ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION
BIRMINGHAM, UK**

Beth and I attended, along with over 75 Rotarians and partners from Georgia Rotary clubs, the Rotary International Annual Convention on June 20–24, 2009, in Birmingham, UK. Only by attending RI conventions can one really grasp the huge scale of Rotary, its internationality, and the sheer volume of great works that our 1.2 million members provide around the world. An outstanding Rotary Showcase of the House of Friendship filled the National Exhibition Center in Birmingham, UK. World class speakers like Mia Farrow, Jane Goodall, UN Secretary Ban Ki-moon, Rev. Desmond Tutu, Douglas Alexander and world class entertainment from Katherine Jenkins, the Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and the Treorchy Male Choir helped make this convention a fantastic event. The inauguration of Scotland's own John Kenny as RI President celebrated the beginning of the 2009-2010 theme, ***The Future of Rotary is in Your Hands.*** Members of the Rotary Club of Grangemouth, Scotland, were on stage to proudly receive the Presidential Banner honoring this club as the home club of the RI President.

Plans are already set in motion for the RI Convention to be held in Montréal, Canada next year. Dolly Parton has been invited to participate at this convention with her entertainment program as well as sharing her passion for literacy advancements through the partnership of her Imagination Library along with the Ferst Foundation and Rotary International.



Rotarians Ken Hart (L) and Club President Malcolm McMillan (R) of the Rotary Club of Portobello, Scotland, along with former 2007-2008 GRSP student Ruth Murphy of Portobello High School, greet Governor Kenan and Beth Kern to Edinburgh, Scotland.

Rotary International Celebrates 100th Annual Convention when East meets West



RI President D. K. Lee and Young Ja open the House of Friendship to begin the official start of the 100th International Convention.

Note the gentleman following RIP Lee with all the Rotary pins covering his blazer.

Mia Farrow Speaks to the assembled Rotarians about Rotary's PolioPlus campaign and how the Polio disease presented problems to her in her early life.



RI President D. K. Lee of South Korea turns over the responsibilities of International President of Rotary International to John Kenny of Scotland



Portobello Rotary Club GRSP Celebration

Thursday, July 02, 2009

The Rotary Club of Portobello, Scotland hosted District Governor Kenan and Beth Kern to a dinner gala on Thursday 2nd July 2009 following their visit to the RI Convention. Governor Kenan has been an active supporter of the Georgia Rotary Student Program (GRSP) all his Rotary life. It is through the Rotary Club of Portobello's participation in the GRSP program that a solid relationship has been established. Governor Kenan visited the Rotary Club of Portobello recently and recognized their support of the GRSP. The Rotary Club of Portobello acknowledged Governor Kenan's visit by hosting a dinner gala in his honor to which all past GRSP scholars and their parents, all current GRSP scholars who have just returned from Georgia Universities & Colleges and their parents, and all students who will go later this year to Georgia along with their parents and other family members.

One of the highlights of the evening was when GRSP Chair, Jim Drake, spoke to the group via Governor Kenan's mobile telephone amplified over the dining room to over 100 Rotarians and guests attending the dinner gala.

Portobello Club President Malcolm McMillan honored Governor Kenan by presenting an engraved Edinburgh Crystal marking his support to the Rotary Club of Portobello's participation with the Georgia Rotary Student Program. Following this presentation, Governor Kenan recognized Portobello High School's administrative staff member, Stephen Reid, who has been an active supporter to the Georgia Rotary Student Program for a number of years. Governor Kenan then recognized Portobello Rotarian Ken Hart, Portobello's Youth Opportunities Chair, by honoring him as a Will Watt Fellow. Rotary International President John Kenny, a member of the Rotary Club of Grangemouth, Scotland, is the only other Scotsman to have received the honor of becoming a WWF.



Past, current, and future GRSP students from Edinburgh, Scotland area welcome Governor Kenan and Beth Kern to a grand dinner gala in Portobello, Scotland. Club Youth Opportunities Chairman, Ken Hart is standing next to Beth Kern. Congratulations to Ken as a new Will Watt Fellow for his dedication and support to GRSP.

Annual District Foundation, Membership, and Literacy Seminar August 15, 2009

*On Saturday, August 15, 2009, at 9:00 AM, District 6920 will present the **Annual Foundation, Membership, and Literacy Seminar** for our 65 Rotary clubs throughout District 6920. The Seminar begins at 9:30 a.m. with a break for lunch at 12:00 noon. The Seminar will be held at Southeastern Technical College, 3001 E 1st Street, Vidalia, GA.*

*This annual seminar provides the most valuable information related to **The Rotary Foundation's** programs, goals, and activities. Specific presentations will be offered to assist club presidents, club officers, and Foundation and PolioPlus committee members in their planning for the 2009-2010 Rotary year.*

*The **Blankenship Cup** will be awarded during the seminar to the Rotary club that has achieved the highest giving per capita to the Annual Programs Fund over the three previous Rotary years.*

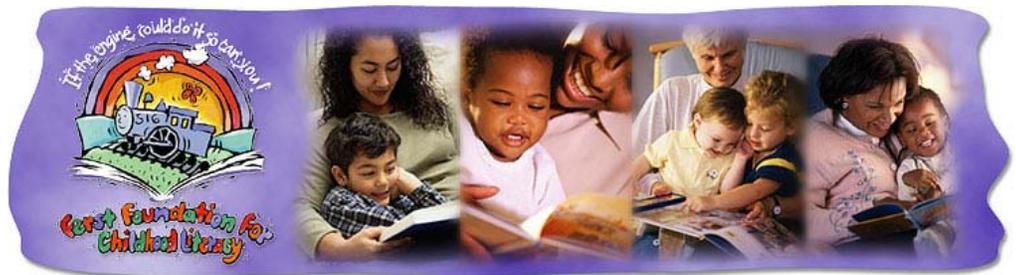
President John Kenny has set forth goals this year to make a difference in the future for Rotary International. Plans to achieve an overall increase in Rotary membership worldwide have the support of every District Governor throughout Rotary International. District 6920's 65 club presidents have joined with our District's plans for a net gain of at least one new member per club for the 2009-2010 Rotary year. The membership session will provide the latest membership statistics along with individual club goals for the coming year. Please bring your membership committee club members to this important opportunity for learning how we can achieve greatness and support President John Kenny's membership goals.

A new feature this year will add Literacy in support of RI President John Kenny's goal to continue Literacy as one of his world-wide goals. The Literacy presentations will serve as a valuable benefit to clubs that are looking for assistance in the continuing development of literacy programs for their community. Programs and materials for youth and



adult literacy development will be presented at the seminar that will help continue the overall District's participation through our partnership with First Foundation, Dolly Parton and Rotary International.

Dolly Parton signs a book for a young participant at the recent RI literacy partnership announcement in Atlanta.



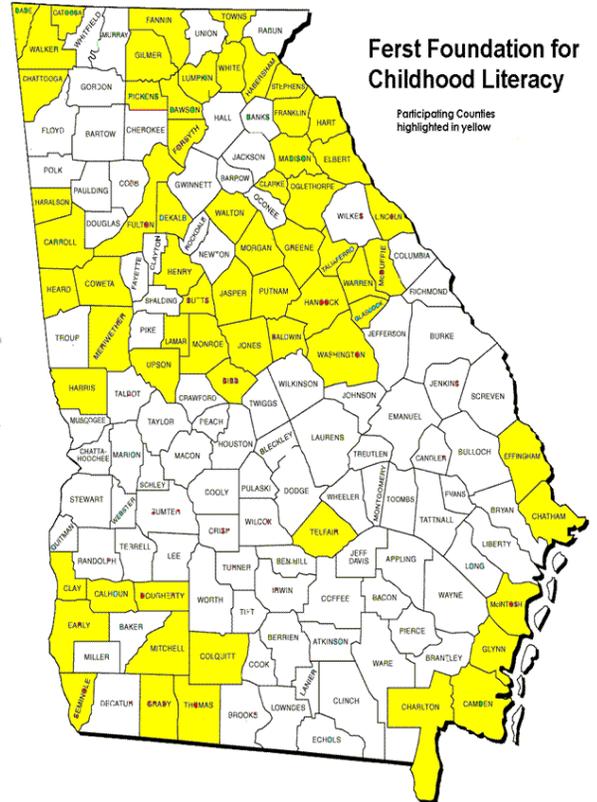
The ferst foundation

"Imagine the Possibilities" if every child in our community enters Kindergarten having been read to regularly by the most important teacher they will ever have - their parents.

A New Book Every Mont

In participating Georgia counties, each month, until age 5, a new book will be mailed directly to the registered child's home address. We are currently in

Baldwin, Bibb, Brooks, Butts, Calhoun, Camden, Carroll, Catoosa, Charlton, Chatham, Chattooga, Clarke, Clay, Colquitt, Coweta, Dade, Dawson, Dougherty, Effingham, Elbert, Fannin, Floyd, Forsyth, Franklin, Gilmer, Glascock, Glynn, Grady, Greene, Hancock, Haralson, Hart, Harris, Heard, Henry, Houston, Jasper, Jones, Lamar, Lincoln, Lumpkin, Madison, McDuffie, McIntosh, Meriwether, Mitchell, Monroe, Morgan, Oglethorpe, Pickens, Putnam, Seminole, Stephens, Taliaferro, Telfair, Thomas, Towns, Upson, Walker, Walton, Warren, Washington and White counties and we have 3 urban pilot programs functioning: College Heights Early Childhood Learning Center in Decatur; Kennedy Head Start Center in Atlanta; and Antioch AME Church in Stone Mountain.



District 6920 has several counties noted above in red advancing to bring the Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy to eligible children in their communities. As you review the above map of Georgia counties that are currently participating in Ferst Foundation for Childhood Literacy, you will note that District 6920 has many counties with opportunities to add this valued literacy program to their communities. All Rotary clubs throughout our District are encouraged to join this great Literacy program.