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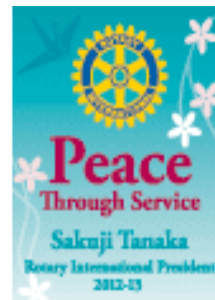
Area Rotary Clubs

Club	Venue	Day & Time
Brunswick	Brunswick Country Club	Thu. 12:45 PM
Glynn County	Brunswick Hospital	Wed. 7:30 AM
Jekyll Island	Jekyll Island Club Hotel	Wed. 7:30 AM
St. Simons Island	Sea Palms	Tue. 1:00 PM
SSI Marshes of Glynn	Epworth – Jinks Dining Room	Thu. 7:30 AM

On-Line Makeup • www.rotarydistrict6920.net
Financial Administrator: treasurer@ssirotary.org

Rotary Club of St. Simons • Founded in 1950 – www.ssirotary.org
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www.rotarydistrict6920.net • www.rotary.org for Rotary International

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Rotary Club of St. Simons Island

Georgia, USA

Rotary District 6920

Rotary Spray

Today's Program: October 9, 2012

Classification Talk, Pam Johndroe Introduction by Frank Cullen

Special Guest: Maria Trabanino, our GRSP Student

Maria is from the city of San Salvador, the capital city of El Salvador. She is now all settled in at Coastal College and enjoying her experiences as a college freshman. Maria will give us insights into her culture and her country.



A Picture from Last Week's Meeting

(L-R) Rotarian Martin Turbidy
Guest Speaker Alex Atwood
Club President John Matthews

The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

In Memoriam

Dr. Willard Alexander Snyder
July 8, 1927 - September 21, 2012

In Memoriam

Susan Crawford Burns Hardwick
August 7, 1935 - October 2, 2012

Guests-Hosts	
Tom Alexander—Martin Turbidy Carol Johnson—Craig Bolint Monica Jolley (PM)—John Matthews	
Attendance	
Members	80
Guests	3
Speaker	1
Total	84

Greeters	
10/9 John Turbidy Te Turner	10/16 Jim Wallner Bill Warren

Birthdays 10/2—10/15	
Bert Flexer	10/5
John Silva	10/9
John Hofmann	10/13



Rotobucks	\$34	Becky Stephenson
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Club News from the September 25, 2012 Meeting

Cart Buckets are on the tables. 100% goes to Alzheimer's research.

Quarterly Dues Statements are out now. Please pay now so we can continue to pay our bills. This is 60 days since initial bills were sent out. We have at least 24 people who have not paid their bills. President John will be contacting them about the responsibility.

Printed Club Directories are now available from Secretary Te Turner for \$5 each.

McGladrey Ball Cap Drawing: Bill Warren awarded the cap to Will Becker.

GSE Team Member from Turkey Elif Cevlik: Cathey Petkash announced that Elif has had her baby, a little boy.

October 16 Meeting: A reminder about the switch of location and times of our October 16th meeting. We will meet at the King and Prince at 5 pm and the meeting will be the Meet the Pros event. Yes you will need to buy tickets, but at a reduced price of \$45 each and you still get the complimentary any day pass to the McGladrey tournament. Come and support our biggest Rotary fund raiser. We need your help!

Come and Gone

Open House: Mary Beth Wester announced an open house Friday, September 28 at 9 am for the renovated spaces at Fort Frederica.

Fall Social: Jim Henderson reminded us of plans for the Fall Social, October 2.

Upcoming Program

October 16: 5pm King and Prince. Meet the Pros

Program: September 25, 2012

Alex Atwood

Georgia Congressman - District 179 - Glynn County

Introduced by fellow Rotarian Martin Turbidy, State House Representative Alex Atwood graced our lectern with a topic that resonates in the hearts of us all – *The United States Constitution*. It was apparent from the start that Congressman Atwood is a historian, beholding a particular reverence for this regal document. "What have I learned in my first year in the Georgia House of Representatives?" he asked as an opening statement.

"Working in the State House is like herding cats. I've learned the meaning of diplomacy, to keep my sense of humor, and not to take myself too seriously." Then he got to the good stuff – *The United States Constitution*. As it appeared, Mr. Atwood is a student of the Constitution. "Written 226 years ago, it has stood the test of time. Only five hand written pages and 4,400 words long, it is the oldest and shortest written constitution of any major government in the world. It contains just 7,591 words including the 27 amendments.

"To put it all into perspective," continued Atwood, "when the Constitution was signed, the United States' population was 4 million. It is now more than 309 million. Philadelphia (where it was signed) was the nation's largest city, with 40,000 inhabitants." Benjamin Franklin who was gravely ill and carried into the convention to sign the document, was 81 and the oldest delegate to sign. As Benjamin Franklin left the Pennsylvania State House after the final meeting of the Constitutional Convention on September 17, 1787, he was approached by the wife of the mayor of Philadelphia. She was curious as to what the new government would be. Franklin replied, "A republic, madam. If you can keep it." Curiously, the word "democracy" does not appear once in the Constitution.

He talked about George Washington, a humble man of amazing stature who was embarrassed when asked to serve as our nation's first President. Atwood reflected that Washington even apologized in advance on the day of his 1887 nomination for "the errors I might commit."

The Constitution document took 54 delegates 100 days to frame, with only one 10-day break, requiring its authors, debaters and supporters many sleepless days and nights in relentlessly stifling summer heat to finish. This miraculous effort has stood the test of time. As evidence of its continued flexibility, *The Constitution* has only been changed seventeen times since 1791. In Atwood's view, it is that flawless a document.

"The essence of *The Constitution* is that people respect it." reflected Atwood. "When we disregard its purpose and content, our Republic will fold."..."Many other constitutions of the world give more rights than ours, but those are empty words. Russia's Constitution is evidence of this."

"Thank God for our Constitution and thank God you respect it." he said in closing. "Our Constitution guarantees our right to OPPORTUNITY. A citizen cannot ask more than that from its government."

Thank you Congressmen Atwood, for your inspiring reflections and presentation.