

May 8, 2008

Rotary Programs

This Week - Classification Talks
Rotarian of the Day - John Ferguson
Last Meeting - Organic Gardening
Extension Horticulturist from Statesboro
Rotarian of the Day - Bo Sibilsky III

**Last Meeting
May 1, 2008**

Horticulturist, UGA Agricultural Dept.



A horticulturist from the UGA Agricultural Dept. spoke to the club about organic gardening this past Thursday, May 1.

Visiting Rotarians

Rick FranklinCenterville-Dublin

Guests

Dan RyderClub
Tim VaculaFaye Gilbert
Jesse LyonsBrian Aycock
Troy JourniganGene Trammell
Matt McDonaldRick Franklin

Absentees - May 1

Anderson, Bell, Brandt, P. Brown, Cox,
Davidson, Eberhardt, Ferguson, Fuller,
Gandy, Gheesling, Grant, Gray, Jackson,
Jefferson, Kirkwood, McMillan, Miller, Neely,
Nichols, Perrin, Peters, Pope, Prezioso,
Reese, Saturley, Settle, Sibilsky III, Theus,
Whipple, Williams, Young, Zarkowsky

Makeups

None

 **Rich Bertoli Memorial CART Fund:**
\$22.00 - TOTAL: \$1254.77

50/50 Club - May 1, 2008

Scott Brown had the winning ticket.
He was unsuccessful in his draw.
30 Cards Left Pot: \$691.00



**Medical Equipment
Transport Service
(METS)**

METS began in late 2003 when founding Rotarian, Dr. Robert Ashley (Savannah Sunrise), collected surplus equipment and supplies, stored them in borrowed warehouse space, then shipped our first 40-foot container to Guatemala. By early 2004, Bob had garnered financial support and commitment from District 6920, assembled a Board of Directors composed of District leaders, incorporated METS as a 501(c)3 non-profit organization, leased warehouse space in Savannah and established a donor base to provide a steady flow of surplus supplies and equipment; Bob and Alan Usher (Pooler) have been the main-stays of the project.

To date, METS has shipped sixteen 40-ft. containers to 6 different countries – that’s approximately 250,000 lbs of medical equipment and supplies valued at over \$5 million. METS continues to be staffed entirely by volunteers.

The Rotary District 6920 Medical Equipment Transport Service is a volunteer service project of the Rotary World Community Service Committees of all 65 Rotary Clubs in District 6920.

If you can help please contact
Patti Victor, Administrator
E-mail:
pvictor@MedicalEquipmentTransport.org
Phone: (912) 713-4312
Fax: (912) 238-0599
Mailing address:
2025 Louisville Rd. Suite A
Savannah, GA 31415

More information and an online contact form are available on the Rotary District 6920 Web site, www.rotarydistrict6920.net

**SUPPORT THE ROTARY
FOUNDATION**

The mission of The Rotary Foundation is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

The Foundation is a not-for-profit corporation supported solely by voluntary contributions from Rotarians and friends of the Foundation who share its vision of a better world.

Visit rotary.org for more information.



**2008 Rotary International
Convention
Los Angeles, California
June 15-18, 2008**

See the Stars! at the 99th annual RI Convention. A Rotary convention is an event like no other – a time to connect with Rotarians you would not ordinarily have a chance to meet. Every Rotarian should experience at least one Rotary convention. RI President Wilfrid J. Wilkinson strongly encourages the importance of convention attendance and has reinstated district rebates under the LA2008 Worldwide Financial Incentive Plan whereby a Rotary district will earn a rebate for all Rotarian and adult registrations over 2 percent of district membership. Join your Rotary friends from June 15–18, 2008, for this international Rotary event.

On Monday, June 16, 2008, at 7:00 a.m., District 6920 will join Rotarians from Zones 33-34 at the Southland Breakfast. This annual Zone 33-34 breakfast gathering of Rotarians throughout Zones 33-34 will be held at the Wilshire Grand Hotel. Breakfast admission tickets can be obtained from District Governor Elect, Kenan Kern. Ticket prices are \$40 each. Online registration for the 2008 Rotary International Convention, including housing accommodations is available through www.rotary.org

**ROTARY
YOUTH LEADERSHIP
AWARDS CONFERENCE**

June 5-8, 2008

South Georgia College,
Douglas, Georgia – Chaired by
Charles W. Johnson, PhD

Definition of Rotary

Rotary is an organization of business and professional leaders united worldwide, who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world.

There are approximately 1.2 million Rotarians, members of 31,936 Rotary clubs in 166 countries.

Rotary is not a political organization, but all Rotarians are vitally concerned with everything pertaining to good citizenship and the election of good men and women to public office.

Rotary is not a charitable organization, yet its activities exemplify the charity and the sacrifices that one should expect from people who believe that they have a responsibility to help others.

Rotary is not a religious organization, but it is built on those eternal principles that have served as the moral compass for people throughout the ages.

Object of Rotary

The object of Rotary is to encourage and foster the ideal of service as a basis of worthy enterprise through the development of acquaintance as the opportunity for service, the promotion of high ethical standards in business and professions, through service in one's personal, business, and community life, and the advancement of international understanding, goodwill, and peace.

RI Mission Statement

The mission of Rotary International is to support its member clubs in fulfilling the Object of Rotary by:

- Fostering unity among member clubs;
- Strengthening and expanding Rotary around the world;
- Communicating worldwide the work of Rotary; and
- Providing a system of international administration.

ONGOING MAKE-UP OPPORTUNITIES

- (1) Earn a make-up for sponsoring a new member.
- (2) Earn a make-up by volunteering at a local school.
- (3) Earn a make-up for visiting another Rotary Club.
- (4) Earn one make-up per quarter by visiting the e-club at www.rotaryclubone.org and taking the "test." Print the receipt and give it to the Club Secretary (Halsey Leavitt).

International News

Pursuing a better vision of eye health in India

The Rotary Club of Coimbatore Central, Tamil Nadu, India, is at the center of an international effort that has helped prevent avoidable blindness throughout the country for nearly 20 years.

According to the Blind Foundation for India, about 80 percent of the approximately 15 million cases of blindness among Indians are curable or preventable. Cataracts, corneal disease, and diabetic retinopathy are among the conditions that account for the scourge.

Concerned about this situation, the Coimbatore Central club partnered in 1990 with the Sankara Eye Foundation, an organization that is dedicated to preventing avoidable blindness and has several facilities throughout India. The club coordinated a US\$167,000 Health, Hunger and Humanity Grant from The Rotary Foundation with support from Indian and U.S. districts that served a population of 1.85 million and funded nearly 10,000 eye surgeries over five years at the Sankara Eye Centre in Coimbatore.

Since then, the work of the Coimbatore Central Rotarians has only gained momentum. The club has headed up six Matching Grant projects, including an effort in 2007 that involved six districts from India and U.S. joining forces with a group of international charities to support a program that screens rural citizens over age 40 for diabetic retinopathy using state-of-the-art mobile equipment. Through 5,613 screening events, this Gift of Vision outreach program served a five-state area with more than 32 million people and provided over 362,000 free eye surgeries.

Clubs from several other countries have also worked with the Coimbatore Central club through district-level service projects not funded by the Foundation. A collaboration with the Rotary Club of Bremen-Hansa, Germany, for example, led to a multidistrict project that paid for about 1,500 curative eye surgeries. When Rotaractors in the Netherlands heard about the Sankara Eye Centre effort, they collected \$23,000 to help operation rooms.



Photo courtesy of Rotary News/Rotary Samachar

The Rotary Club of Coimbatore Central, Tamil Nadu, India, has sponsored numerous projects to prevent blindness among thousands of Indians.

Adapted from a story by Varsha Makhija in the February 2008 issue of Rotary News/Rotary Samachar, the regional magazine serving districts in Bangladesh, India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

**CA Rotary sponsors
disaster response DVD**

Residents of Ojai, California, USA, revel in their little slice of paradise. But members of the Rotary Club of Ojai West know that the idyllic locale – nestled in a valley known for its laid-back vibe and pink sunsets – is hardly immune to the risks that come with California living, so they enrolled in a disaster preparedness course.

Stephanie Midgett, the club's past secretary, thought the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) class was so good that it should be shared, so she tapped the resources of Rotary and Ojai's own Tinseltown talent.

The club spent US\$10,000 to sponsor "People Like You", a 77-minute DVD showcasing the course's key pointers on how to survive – and help others – in the event of an earthquake, fire, or other catastrophe. The DVD, which sells for \$20, is available at a reduced rate to Rotary clubs, which can offer community screenings and sell the video as a fundraiser.

ROTARY WEBSITES

Rotary International: www.rotary.org
District 6920: www.rotarydistrict6920.net
Milledgeville Club: www.milledgeville Rotary.org