



# ROTARYGRAM

The Weekly Newsletter for the  
Rotary Club of Birmingham

THE FUTURE OF ROTARY IS IN  
YOUR HANDS

Club No. 56  
Birmingham, Alabama  
Volume 98 Number 38  
4 Pages

Dwight M. Beeson Banquet Hall  
The Harbert Center

Lunch - 11:45  
Bell - 12:20  
Adjournment - 1:15

WEDNESDAY  
MARCH 24, 2010

Today

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT GOVERNOR - 6860 GEORGIA MEDORI

District Governor Georgia Medori has been a Rotarian since 1992 when she joined the Eastwood Rotary Club. Due to job relocation, she transferred to the Vestavia Hills Rotary Club in 1995 where she has maintained perfect attendance for 14 years. She has served her club in several capacities: Committee Chair, Annual Roast Chairman, Director, Treasurer, Secretary, Vice President (2001-2002), President (2002-03). During her year as Vice President, the President was sent overseas shortly after 9/11 and she took over his duties for the rest of his term. While President during her official term, her club earned Club of the Year Award, Club of Distinction, as well as awards for Vocational Service, Community Service, Attendance, Public Relations and Foundation Per Capita Annual Giving. Her District service includes Assistant District Governor - Group J 2004-07; Administration/Membership Coordinator; District Annual Giving Committee; District RI Convention Committee; and Executive Committee for MidSouth PETS.

Her professional career has been centered around service, including 7 years with Delta Air Lines and 30 years in bank management. Georgia is currently employed by BBVA Compass Bank. She has one son, Joe, who lives in Birmingham. Georgia is a Multiple Paul Harris Fellow, a Bequest Society Member and Paul Harris Society Charter Member.

RCB Welcomes Indian GSE  
Delegation to America

RCB Welcomes  
President VJ Graffeo  
Rotaract Club of  
Birmingham

### FUTURE PROGRAMS AND EVENTS

Mar 31 Warren Stephens  
Stephens, Inc.

Apr 7 Mayor William Bell  
State of the City

Apr 14 Ola Kaellenius  
Mercedes

Apr 21 Jeffrey Bayer  
Bayer Properties



## ADDRESSES OF RECENT SPEAKERS

**Juan Williams**  
400 N Capital Street NW  
Washington, DC 20001

**Aaron Beam**  
16848 Black Devine Road  
Loxley, AL 36551

**Bob Rathburn**  
Sloss Furnace Museum  
20 32<sup>nd</sup> Street North  
Birmingham, AL 35222

**Wendy Jackson**  
Box 549071  
Birmingham-Southern College  
900 Arkadelphia Road  
Birmingham, AL 35254

**\*\*Meetings are recorded. Tapes are available for \$3.50 each, which may be added to Rotary invoices.**

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### MEETING DAY:

Every Wednesday, 12:15 p.m.  
TELEPHONE: (205)251-1995  
FAX: (205)226-8825

[RTRMTRY@BELLSOUTH.NET](mailto:RTRMTRY@BELLSOUTH.NET)

[WWW.BHMROTARY.ORG](http://WWW.BHMROTARY.ORG)

### OFFICERS & DIRECTORS 2009-10

*President:* Hatton C.V. Smith  
*Chairman of the Board:*  
Charles W. "Bill" Jones  
*President-Elect:*  
Charles D. "Charlie" Perry, Jr.  
*Secretary:* Henry Panion, III  
*Treasurer:* Edmund C. Doss  
*Sergeant-at-Arms:* Carl Duncan Hulseay  
*VP, Club Service:*  
Charles A. "Charlie" Collat, Jr.  
*VP, Communications:*  
Richard B. Yielding  
*VP, Community Service:*  
Elzabeth Broughton  
*VP, International Service:*  
Edgar B. Marx  
*VP, Programs:*  
Whitney "Whit" DeBardeleben  
*VP, Vocational Service:* Brenda M. Hackney  
*Executive Director:* Susan Jackson

### DIRECTORS:

Hubert W. Goings, Jr., 2007-2010  
W.T. Goodloe Rutland, 2007-2010  
David W. "Dave" Wood, 2007-2010  
James T. McManus, 2009-2011  
Alan Rogers, 2009-2011  
Sergio Stagno, 2009-2011

Membership: 578  
Honorary Members: 21

## TODAY - GSE TEAM FROM INDIA

Rotary District 6860 and the Birmingham Rotary Club are pleased to announce the arrival of several notable guests who will travel around the state as delegates of Rotary's Group Study Exchange initiative. Here are highlights that Rotarians and guests will want to note:

Rotary International's program The Group Study Exchange (GSE) will offer the unique cultural and vocational exchange between Alabama natives and the sub-continent of India. Young business and professional men and women between the ages of 25 and 40 from the state of Maharashtra, India will be visiting Birmingham from March 20-26, 2010.

Maharashtra is the richest as well as the third-largest state in India, its capital being Mumbai (formerly Bombay). Hindus account for 80%, Muslims for 10.6%, Buddhists for 6%, Jains for 1.3%, and Christians for 1%. Maharashtra has the largest Jain, Zoroastrian and Jewish populations in India. Team members that the city of Birmingham will be welcoming from Maharashtra, the business epicenter of India, are as follows:

Team Leader, Dr. Vyankatesh Metan	-	Orthopedic surgeon
Team member, Dr. Mahesh Sonar	-	Pediatrician
Team member, Dr. Anil Sakhare	-	Gynecologist
Team member, Mr. Sandip Sutar	-	Chartered Accountant
Team member, Dr. Prachi Waychal	-	Dentist

A Rotary Foundation travel grant for this Indian delegation will allow these young professionals the opportunity to exchange visits between Alabama and Maharashtra, India for four to six weeks. The Indian delegation will study Alabama's way of life, observe their respective vocations as practiced in Birmingham, develop personal and professional relationships with members of our District 6860, and exchange ideas to better serve their communities.

Team members from India will be living with host families throughout District 6860 during the stay, will spend several days at our District conference, explore numerous cultural points of interest while visiting our District, spend several full days in the small businesses, community organizations, medical and educational facilities, government offices, and nonprofit agencies that make up our great city.

### **About Rotary International's Group Study Exchange from Maharashtra, India to Alabama's District 6860**

The GSE 2010 agenda begins on March 20, 2010 in Birmingham and ends Mobile, AL on April 18, 2010. Members will travel throughout the city of Birmingham, spending 2 days in a business setting similar to their own as well as experiencing the many sights and sounds of the city of Birmingham through our rich history and cultural entertainment.

Throughout the duration of the stay, members will be traveling to Rotary Clubs in Alexander City, Pell City, Anniston, Talladega, Arab, Decatur, Huntsville, Florence/Sheffield, and Tuscaloosa. Upon receiving a warm welcome from these Rotary Clubs, the GSE team from Maharashtra will make a presentation on their home to these Rotary Clubs. Lastly, the Group Study Exchange team from Maharashtra, India will travel to District 6860's District Conference, whose program begins as they port from the city of Mobile.

## TODAY - ROTARACT CLUB OF BIRMINGHAM

As President Hatton says, what gives the Rotary Club of Birmingham cache is the Rotaract Club of Birmingham. The Rotaractors are an exceptional group of rising leaders who have brought energy, creativity, leadership and a huge heart for service into the Birmingham community AND into the Birmingham Rotary club. They have already made this a better place but continue to seek new avenues to serve. President VJ Graffeo will take his turn in today's three part program on Rotary to tell club members and guests about what to expect from The Rotaract Club of Birmingham.

<b>7,838</b> Number of Rotaract clubs worldwide as of 30 September	<b>1968</b> Year that the first Rotaract club was chartered
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## ROTARACT HOCKEY TEAM SCORES A GOAL FOR POLIO

By Ryan Hyland  
 Rotary International News -- 11 March 2010

A junior hockey team made up of U.S. Rotaractors scored a goal for polio eradication by raising thousands of dollars for Rotary's US\$200 Million Challenge.

The [Twin Cities Northern Lights](#) hockey team, a nonprofit organization based in Minnesota, traveled to British Columbia, Canada, to play five exhibition games against Canadian hockey teams before February's Winter Olympics in Vancouver.

The team comprises members of the [Rotaract Club of the Athlete Village, Minneapolis-St. Paul](#). Half of the admissions proceeds from the exhibition games supported Rotary's challenge, and the other half benefited the local Canadian Rotary clubs that sponsored the exhibitions, which were played in different communities in British Columbia. The team also raised money through the sale of hockey jerseys, temporary tattoos for fans, and special events during the games.

Some of the fans had their pinkies dyed purple to raise awareness of polio eradication. Purple dye is used to mark the fingers of children who have been immunized during National Immunization Days.

The Rotaractors also promoted literacy and health education among schoolchildren in the communities where they played. In addition, during a stay in Vancouver, the team and coaches participated in events associated with the Olympic torch relay and took part in volunteer activities for the Winter Games.

### Sports and service

Team owner and trip coordinator Stephanie Smith, a member of the Rotary Club of Bloomington-Daymakers, founded the Rotaract club with the goal of bridging sports and community service.

"Our team's mission, not only during the Olympic trip but throughout the whole year, is to foster goodwill and to help build better communities using sports," says Smith, who was an athletic trainer at the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City, Utah. "We're demonstrating a model for mobilizing sports teams to accomplish the worthy causes led by Rotary clubs worldwide."

"We're about hockey first. We enjoyed the international competition," says Rotaractor and team captain Garrett Windle. "But we're about service too. The trip was packed with service opportunities, and Rotary helped open those doors. I'm glad we could help bring awareness about polio and the good Rotary is doing."

Smith's mother, who is a polio survivor, joined the trip and visited clubs to share her story.

"She gave a personal voice to what we are trying to accomplish," says Smith. "It was important for her to remind Rotarians of the urgency of completing Rotary's goal of ending polio."

Rotaract club president Steve Dus says the trip was an eye-opener for everyone.

"Although we've heard many times about polio, meeting Stephanie's mom and hearing about the challenges she faced strengthened our resolve to do our part to help eradicate this crippling disease," he says.

The hockey team aims to raise \$30,000 this year for polio eradication.

## THANK YOU NOTES

President Hatton, Richard Yeilding, Susan Jackson and others have received many notes and other expressions of appreciation for the Large Club Conference. As the conference was a group effort and all these thank you's are extended to all who volunteered, some of these notes will be reprinted in this and following RotaryGrams. The note below is from the Executive Director and President Elect of the Rochester Rotary Club and is primarily intended for **Goodloe Rutland** who went above and beyond the call of being a great host. Almost all other notes are for the general membership. We thank you, too, Goodloe.

Dear Goodloe,

I wanted to take the opportunity to thank you for being a wonderful host while the Large Clubs visited Birmingham. Both Andre and myself enjoyed your company. I have mailed you a symbol of hospitality that our current President is presenting to people who make a difference in Rotary. The pineapple is a symbol of hospitality and we wanted you to always remember the fun we shared in Birmingham. Thank you, for making our stay so enjoyable. Tracey & Andre

