

February 5, 2026



## Club News

# Vinings Cumberland Cleans Up Community!



The **Rotary Club of Vinings Cumberland** recently came together for a hands-on community clean-up, and the results were immediate and meaningful. More than 50 bags of trash and bulky debris were collected, helping make local streets cleaner and safer for all who live and work in the area.

The effort was powered by more than 30 dedicated volunteers who generously gave their time and energy in the spirit of service above self.

We extend our sincere thanks to Chick-fil-A for providing lunch for our volunteers...and for helping us share that generosity by delivering extra meals to our local fire department, who were deeply appreciative. Partnerships like these make community service even more impactful.

## PHOTOS:







Posted by Thomas House  
January 26, 2026

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District Conference 2026

## Join Us at Lake Lanier Island - April 16-19, 2026



Join us for an unforgettable 2026 District Conference as we celebrate the incredible 2025-2026 Rotary Year under District Governor Steve! We're excited to announce that we're moving the conference to the beautiful Lake Lanier Islands Resort this year — offering a fresh, fun setting for fellowship, inspiration, and celebration. We can't wait to see everyone there! We have made special arrangements for some fun outings Friday morning. Get more information and sign up now on the [District 6900 website](#).

Posted by Lisa Carlisle  
January 14, 2026

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District 6900 Opportunity

## Showcasing Rotary International at the 2026 FIFA World Cup



Rotary District 6900 has an exciting opportunity to play a visible and meaningful role in one of the world's largest global events—the **2026 FIFA World Cup**, coming to North America from **June 11-July 19, 2026**.

Rotary International is exploring ways to strengthen **Host City Leadership** in key areas that align closely with Rotary's mission, including **hospitality, human trafficking prevention, housing support, event services, and public image**. This effort positions Rotary to demonstrate *Service Above Self* on a global stage.

At the **Rotary Zone Institute 33/34 in Jacksonville**, Rotary International President-Nominee **Larry Lunsford** met with Rotary leaders to learn more about the work of the **Rotary Action Group Against**



**Slavery (RAGAS)** and to discuss Rotary's potential involvement in addressing increased human-trafficking risks and broader community needs during the World Cup.

Following these discussions, Rotary International leadership connected project organizers with key members of the RI staff. Collaborative conversations are now underway to explore how Rotary can take a leadership role in:

- Human trafficking awareness and prevention
- Hospitality and visitor engagement
- Housing coordination and community support
- Event service initiatives
- Public image and media outreach

In coordination with **PDG Stephanie Meyer (Kansas City)**, a **one-page overview** has been developed outlining several **subcommittee leadership and service opportunities** for Rotarians across North America. The goal is to ensure that Rotary has a strong, coordinated presence in **every World Cup host city**, as well as to organize **Rotary-led events in host cities prior to the tournament**. These events will bring together Rotarians, community leaders, and anti-trafficking partners to raise awareness and coordinate local action.

For **Rotary District 6900**, this represents a unique opportunity for clubs and individual Rotarians to contribute leadership, expertise, and service—whether through advocacy, education, logistics, or public-facing initiatives. Your involvement can help shape how Rotary is seen and experienced during this historic event.

## **Get Involved**

Rotarians interested in learning more or serving on the **World Cup Host City Leadership Committee** are encouraged to complete the [\*\*World Cup Volunteer Google Form\*\*](#)

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact [\*\*Mary Lyn\*\*](#) or [\*\*Dave McCleary\*\*](#).

Together, Rotary District 6900 can help demonstrate Rotary's impact, values, and commitment to protecting vulnerable populations—while welcoming the world with service and integrity.

*With appreciation and Rotary fellowship,*

**Mary Lyn**

**Dave McCleary**

Posted by Dave McCleary  
January 6, 2026

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## **Why I Love RYLA**

by Jaclyn Donovan, District RYLA Co-Chair





If you know me, you know that RYLA is something that I am 110% passionate about. RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) is a summer camp that aims to give our District 6900 teenagers the opportunity to build their leadership skills. You can read more about it on [our RYLA page](#) or check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

RYLA is my jam. Here are just a few (of the many) things I love about RYLA:

1. **The Students** – so many different personalities and talents from all over! From the valedictorian to the kid who sits in the back of the class, from the team captain to the one who hardly ever speaks out loud... all leaders in their own special way. RYLA helps them discover themselves and how they can make contributions as leaders at school, at home, and in their communities.
2. **The Experience** – wide open high energy tempered with engaging conversations and deep thoughts... Team building activities, personal learning activities, group games, a talent show, a dance. RYLA keeps you moving all day, but it's so much fun you don't notice or mind. It's all building to positive impact that will last far beyond our 5 days together.
3. **The Growth** – RYLA is designed to challenge you, but it allows ample opportunity to rise to each challenge. The quiet student will find a voice. The timid student will find confidence. The "talker" will learn to listen. The "I'll do it myself" student will let others take a turn. The one who always "knows the right way" will accept advice. It's amazing to see each student evolve from Day 1 to Day 5.
4. **The Ah-Ha Moment** – the most rewarding moment at RYLA. When a student realizes that they CAN in a situation where they always thought they never stood a chance. Whether it be expressing a thought, offer the correct solution, trusting a teammate, accomplishing a task, or even just singing a song – RYLA is full of these little moments when you see a student smile a little bigger or stand a little taller because they did it. This is why we do RYLA.



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5. **The Family** – this applies to the students and the staff alike, and the bonds forged in just 5 short days are incredibly strong. The students – who 99% probably did Not want to be at RYLA to begin with – find themselves with 100 new best friends and they don't want to leave... Many of them stay in touch and find ways to meet up and hang out even after RYLA is finished. For the staff, RYLA is the only few days we'll get to be together each year so we try to squeeze the most fun and togetherness out of it as we can. We come from all walks of life, from different backgrounds and locations across the globe, but we have RYLA in common. My RYLA Family is the family I didn't know I needed but that I could never do without – I know that they back me up 100% for anything I may ever need, and I know I would do the same for them.

I love RYLA. I thank my lucky Rotary stars every day that I am part of this program. If you are intrigued and want to experience the RYLA phenomenon for yourself, I encourage you to reach out. If you have a heart for young leaders and you want to make a difference, RYLA is where it's at. We are always in need of help, and if you can give us just one day I promise we will make it worth your time.

If you and your club want to get in on all the great things that come along with sponsoring a student to RYLA, use one of the following routes to send in your RSVP:

1. Use this link to complete our RSVP online: <https://forms.gle/SsLFt1wFuW38UgPk8>
2. Visit our page to download the forms: [www.rotary6900.org/page/656](http://www.rotary6900.org/page/656)
3. Email us at [RYLA6900@gmail.com](mailto:RYLA6900@gmail.com)

\* If your club is already signed up, Student Registration Payments are Due March 1\*

Mail to: Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, c/o Susan Ruckman, P.O. Box 1547, Americus, GA 31709

Posted by Jaclyn Donovan  
January 25, 2026

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RLI

## Join the RLI Learning Opportunity: February 21 in Marietta



2026 has kicked off RLI with a bang! 37 members attended the RLI event in Thomasville on January 10. Great learning, sharing, and fun was had by all. They increased their knowledge of Rotary while also



increasing their leadership skills. Many thanks to Joe Tarver, Nate Tyler, and the other members of the **Rotary Club of Thomasville** for hosting the event, securing the venue, helping to set up the event, ordering the food and drinks, and turning out a large number of their members to attend. Special thanks to the RLI team, who lead the discussions to the members: Andre Marria, Anthony Slaughter, Audley Knight, Cheryl Greenway, and Tom Gooding from District 6920. Super Special thanks to Don Martin, from District 6910, who stepped in at the last minute, and drove from the GA/SC state line, to lead our Graduate class!

On **Saturday, February 21, 2026**, there will be an RLI event in Marietta, GA featuring Parts 1, 2, 3, and a Graduate class on Membership. ***The event will take place at Life University, 1269 Barclay Circle, Marietta, GA.*** The cost is \$100 per member, which includes breakfast, lunch, and Student Guides.

Join us to enhance your facilitation skills, connect with peers, and enjoy a full day of learning and networking. Register now [here](#) or at [RLIsunshine.org/course-information/course-schedule/](https://RLIsunshine.org/course-information/course-schedule/) to secure your spot!

Posted by Tracy Van Norman  
January 26, 2026

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Club News

## **North Cobb Rotarian Serves City of Acworth**





The **North Cobb Rotary** year kicked off with an inspiring celebration of service as North Cobb Rotarian Judge Jaret Usher proudly swore in fellow Rotarian Kimberly Haase to the office of Alderwoman for the City of Acworth. Judge Usher, whose decade-long commitment to the Cobb Superior Court exemplifies the very spirit of “Service Above Self” helped mark a historic moment on January 2nd in the heart of Acworth, GA. This milestone not only highlights the leadership rising within our clubs, but also showcases how Rotarians continue to shape our communities with integrity, dedication, and purpose. Cheers to a year of impact, fellowship, and bold new beginnings!

Posted by Kimberly Haase  
January 5, 2026

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Our Rotary Foundation at Work

## **R.I. President Arezzo to visit North Atlanta’s Global Grant Project in Ethiopia**



*“When spiders unite, they can tie up a lion” – Ethiopian Proverb*

When Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo and wife Anna Maria visit Rotary Ethiopia this month, they will see the **Rotary Club of North Atlanta’s** (RCNA) global grant project first-hand – the sole project chosen for their visit.

Joined by two Rotary clubs in the United States and two in Addis Ababa, the RCNA is beginning the third year of a five-year initiative to prevent serious birth defects such as *spina bifida*, which are associated with a lack of an inexpensive vitamin (B9, or *folic acid*) in maternal diets.

Spina bifida occurs when part of the spinal cord lies outside of the vertebrae. It belongs to a group of related conditions called *neural tube defects* or *NTDs*. Children born with an NTD often die at birth. Even if initially saved by prompt and essential neurosurgery, they may still face a difficult, shortened life with disability.

To prevent this problem, women need sufficient folic acid in their diets **before** they become pregnant and during the first trimester. Those who have already given birth to a child with an NTD face a *10X risk of having another child with these disabilities*, and Ethiopia has one of the highest NTD rates in the world. The tragedy is that some 75% of these birth defects can be prevented by preconception consumption of the vitamin.

The purpose of the global grant project is to provide women who have already had a child with an NTD with supplemental high-dose folic acid tablets initially purchased from a firm in India. The high-risk cohort was identified from the records of local hospitals in Addis Ababa. The program follows these mothers to



determine the effect and impact of the intervention during the program's five-year duration.

The Rotary Club of North Atlanta, RC Addis Ababa Central Mella, and RC Addis Ababa West are distributing over 1.8 million high-dose folic acid supplements, benefiting thousands of women and families in Ethiopia. In the third year, the program will expand to two more hospitals in the Tigray region, totaling six hospitals, with one hospital already having a waiting list of over 780 mothers. So far 2500 women have participated.

The project recently won the "Anna Award" for "Most Impressive Project" at the 2025 District 9212 Conference. Momentum is gaining towards sustainability: folic acid tablets are now being manufactured in Ethiopia, and the country has approved folic acid fortification of wheat and plans to introduce double-fortified salt with iodine and folic acid.

RCNA's hope is that the R.I. president's visit will highlight the need and viability of the project to the world of Rotary - and beyond.

### **PHOTOS:**



Posted by Jon Yaeger  
January 19, 2026

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Club News

## **North Fulton Serves Schools on MLK Day of Service**



On January 19, MLK Day of Service, members of **Rotary Club of North Fulton** cleaned and sanitized classrooms at Children's Development Academy. During this severe flu season, it is more important than ever to do what we can to keep children safe and healthy. When children become ill, their parents often must miss work, placing additional strain on already tight household budgets. We are grateful for the opportunity to make a small but meaningful impact in our community!

**PHOTOS:**









Posted by Lisa Gelber  
January 20, 2026

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