



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>

This Week:

March 15

David Pennington
Mick Stein, Wescott
Center - Opioid Addiction

Upcoming Meetings:

March 22

NO MEETING

March 24

Rotary R&R
Dalton Convention Center
Social @ 6pm
Dinner @ 7pm

March 29

Larry Winter
The Opportunity School
District

Dalton/Whitfield Special Olympics

By: John Hutcheson



On behalf of the Dalton Police Department, a long-standing partner with the Dalton/Whitfield Special Olympics program, President Jason introduced Lisa and Tyler Hughey. Lisa, who is Therapeutic and Recreation Director for the Dalton Parks and Recreation Department, has been Coordinator of the Special Olympics for Whitfield County for the past fifteen years, and Tyler, her son, is a very active participant in many of the program's activities.

Lisa noted that her work with Special Olympics began as a volunteer while she was a student at Northwest Whitfield High School. There are now more than 25,000 Special Olympians in Georgia, of whom 400 are in Whitfield County, which also has 25 unified partners (individuals who train and compete alongside Special Olympics athletes) and eight certified coaches. During the fall the local program concentrates on bowling, followed by track and field in the spring. The roster of athletes includes persons from Murray as well as from Whitfield County. Dalton Police's strong support over the years has been much appreciated—this has helped greatly in enabling area athletes to compete at the state level in Alpine skiing, bowling, bocce ball, tennis, and softball, along with numerous other sports. At all times the athletes are treated as adults and given the greatest possible independence.

Introduced by his mother, Tyler warmly thanked the Club for the opportunity to speak about what Special Olympics has meant to him. He mentioned that the program was founded in 1958 by Eunice Kennedy Shriver, sister of President John F. Kennedy. Tyler has been involved with it for fourteen years in bowling, tennis (his favorite sport), and skiing, as well in as other activities. For him Special Olympics is very much a family affair, as his sister, both parents, and one of his grandfathers all take part in its operations. Competing with them and with new friends he's been able to make, he's come to regard the program itself as a second family, and through it he's traveled to many places around the U.S. he probably would not have visited otherwise. He looks forward to many years of continued competition.

Club Officers:

Jason Parker
President

Bruce Satterfield
President-Elect

Frank M. Hogshead
Secretary, Treasurer

David Aft
Immediate Past President

Teresa Carter
Club Administration Chair

John Hutcheson
Public Image Chair

Tray Brantley
Membership Chair

Janice Kiker
Community Service Chair

Scott Rhoden
Youth Service Chair

Kevin Brunson
Vocational Service Chair

Archana Srivastava
International Service
Chair

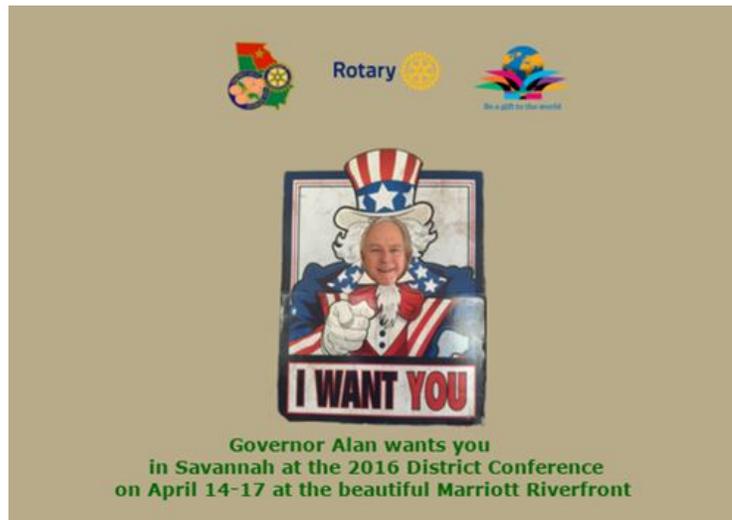
Greg Dent
Foundation Chair



Responding to questions, Lisa said that local Special Olympics events draw on help from about 150 volunteers. Competing athletes must be at least eight years old, but there is also a non-competitive Young Athletes program for children as young as kindergarten age. The statewide competition has been held three times in Dalton, which is highly regarded for its excellent facilities such as Heritage Park. Attendance on these occasions runs around 1,600 and generates significant revenue for local businesses. Upcoming events include the Law Enforcement Torch Run, scheduled for March 15, and the Cops on Doughnut Shops fund-raiser, to be held on March 26 in cooperation with Dalton Police and Krispy Kreme. Its goal is \$10,000, and the title is apparently to be taken literally—President Jason commented that he would in fact be found on Krispy Kreme’s roof on that date. We’ll see. . . .

District 6910 Conference in Savannah

Register Now for the District 6910 Conference in Savannah



Time is running out to register for the 2016 District 6910 Conference in Savannah. You can find more details for the conference and hotel, the District 6910 website: <http://www.rotarydistrict6910.org/>

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

Mathis, Ginger Minor (GINGER)
Richmond, John D. (JOHN)

Birthday

17-Mar
20-Mar

Partner Birthdays

Temples, Noel
Brantley, Valerie
Woodward, Betty

Member Name

Temples, Coy H
Brantley, Traylor M
Woodward, Philip F

Birthday

16-Mar
21-Mar
21-Mar

Member Anniversaries

No member anniversaries this period.

Start Date

Years

Wedding Anniversaries

Merritt, Gerald R (GERALD)

Partner's Name

Mickie

Anniversary

18-Mar

Years

60

