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## President reviews Rotary year; *Sports league accepts \$7,000 check*



**Outgoing Gilchrist County Rotary Club President Bob Clemons accepts a mounted gavel as a gift from incoming Gilchrist County Rotary Club President Aaron Haynes. Interestingly, President Clemons started his term as the president of the Rotary Club of Trenton, which this past year became the Rotary Club of Gilchrist County. The club even holds at least one of its weekly meetings each month in Bell.**

**Story, Photos and Video**

**By Jeff M. Hardison © June 25, 2018 at 11:48 p.m.**

**TRENTON --** The Rotary Year begins on July 1, and President Bob Clemons of the Rotary Club of Gilchrist County shared with members and guests the success of that club from the previous year.

**<https://youtu.be/oLuoPdK89Bg>**

**In this video, the officers for the year take their oath. This immediately followed President Aaron Haynes being sworn in by President Bob Clemons.**

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This homemade cake is seen moments before being cut into pieces for members and guests to enjoy.



Everett Eaton (left) accepts a \$7,000 check from the Gilchrist County Rotary Club, made out to the Gilchrist League. Club President Bob Clemons made the presentation.

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**Joanne Halter speaks about herself as a Rotarian in the Spotlight. She was the brave soul who volunteered when the president called for a person to come forward.**



**Officers for the upcoming year are President Aaron Haynes, Treasurer Charlie Smith (not pictured), Secretary Dr. John Frazier, Sergeant-at-Arms Damon Leggett, Club Administrator Jo Buckles, Rotary Foundation Pat Yates, Club Membership Todd Gray, Club Service Michael Faught, and Public Relations and Program Support Holly Creel.**

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**Holly Creel accepts her gift of a Rotary coin and a bank of sorts with the words “Be the change that you wish to see in the world.” This coin can be considered change, and The Four Way Test is on one side of it.**

Another great Rotarian and leader who is moving out of his post of honor on July 1 is Assistant District Governor Chris Cowart. Gilchrist, Levy and Dixie counties are in Florida Rotary Club District 6940.

Cowart said he is thankful to have been the assistant governor for this part of this district this past year, because these clubs are all excellent. His home club is the Rotary Club of Williston.

Also, during that meeting Monday afternoon (June 25) in the Trenton Woman's Club building, new club officers accepted their duties in the Rotary Club of Gilchrist County through affirmation, the Gilchrist League (of Youth Sports) accepted a \$7,000 check, Joanne Halter was the Rotarian in the Spotlight, and Rotarian Holly Creel was recognized for her efforts during the previous year.

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## **New Officers Installed**

President Clemons installed the new president and officers.

Officers for the upcoming year are President Aaron Haynes, Treasurer Charlie Smith, Secretary Dr. John Frazier, Sergeant-at-Arms Damon Leggett, Club Administrator Jo Buckles, Rotary Foundation Pat Yates, Club Membership Todd Gray, Club Service Michael Faught, and Public Relations and Program Support Holly Creel.

Gilchrist County Rotary Club President Haynes awarded Past President Clemons with a plaque and gavel, a Rotary President's pin and a Four Way Test pin.

President Clemons holds the distinct honor of being the president of the Rotary Club of Trenton at the start of the year and as president of the Rotary Club of Gilchrist County as the year progressed and the club changed its name, becoming more inclusive for everyone in the county.

As part of the whole program here, President Clemons told the people "Leadership is about making others better as a result of your presence and making sure that impact lasts in your absence."

With that, he mentioned there is no president-elect for the next Rotary year in Gilchrist County. He wants members of the club to consider accepting this office, because the president-elect needs to start becoming familiar with what he or she will be responsible to do in the next year.

In the past year, the annual theme was "Making A Difference."

Looking back at the year, the club met all of its goals and it made a difference. Success in Rotary Year 2017-2018

One sign of success from the previous year was brought to final fruition Monday afternoon when Everett Eaton accepted a \$7,000 check from the Gilchrist County Rotary Club, made out to the Gilchrist League.

The seven sports provided by the league are girls softball, boys and girls basketball, football, baseball, cheerleading and soccer. The Gilchrist County Board of County Commissioner contribute \$24,000 to the league, Eaton said, and the rest comes from private donors like the Gilchrist County Rotarians.

There are 450 to 475 children who participate, making 850 registrations in those seven sports, Eaton said, because some children participate in more than one sport.

Eaton provided an update on how the team fared in various state competitions, including three softball teams competing in a state tournament in a few weeks.

Other points of success and making a difference this year by this club, beyond the name change, included more publicity for The Four Way Test.

It was also a banner year for this club's participation in the Purple Pinkie campaign against polio worldwide. This club generated in excess of \$1,600, and the Gates Foundation matches Rotary Club's efforts \$2 for every \$1 – making the fight from this group against polio worldwide to be \$4,800.

This club also established Interact Clubs at Trenton and Bell high schools starting in the fall. And the club had a phenomenal first-ever poker paddle event.

The club was very active in the Quilt Festival in downtown Trenton and in the Christmas On Main Street event as well.

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In April, the Gilchrist County Rotarians partnered with their counterparts in Dixie and Levy counties to apply for a grant to implement a project promoting healthy oral care and habits among adults and children.

And there were more points where this club showed success during another year of service above self.

## Holly Creel Honored

Outgoing President Clemons shared the club's belief Holly Creel met her duties as the club's leader for that Public Relations and Program Support.

"Talk about making a difference!" Clemons exclaimed as he called the woman forward for recognition.

He presented her with a gift wrapped in Four Way Test gift-wrapping paper.

On top of the gift was a Rotary Coin that says "Service Above Self" on one side and on the other side it was The Four Way Test, which states:

"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?"

The gift appeared to be an acrylic, rectangular clear bank of sorts that notes "Be the change that you wish to see in the world."

That quote is attributed to Mahatma Gandhi (Oct. 2, 1869 – Jan. 30, 1948), whose non-violent acts of civil disobedience were among the actions that helped lead India to independence from Great Britain and inspired movements for civil rights and freedom across the globe.

Creel said this is among her favorite quotes.

## Joanne Halter – Spotlighted

President Clemons said he overlooked his choice for a member to be spotlighted during the meeting. He called for a volunteer.

Joanne Halter volunteered and she told the club about herself with no rehearsal.

She is a native of Gilchrist County and a third generation Floridian. Joanne has been married to Gary Halter for 53 years. They have two children and four grandchildren.

She recently was on the Suwannee River and saw a relatively large alligator. When she was a teenager, she would swim in Rock Bluff Springs, swim down the springs run and in the river.

She would not swim in the river now, however, given the alligators she has seen.

Nevertheless, she is a self-proclaimed "river rat."

**Chef's Table Bistro provided a special luncheon of watermelon and feta salad, thinly-sliced tender brisket beef, mashed potatoes and gravy with mushrooms, sautéed summer squash, garlic toast and tea. There was also a homemade chocolate and vanilla cake for dessert.**