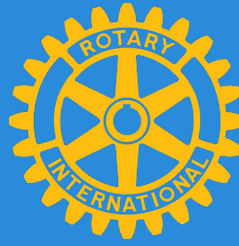


ROTARY REMINDER

Club 63, District 5870

Rotary
Club of Austin



Rotary Meeting Speaker - Gary Merritt

By Matthew Dargis on Sunday, May 11, 2025



Club Meetings/Speakers

May 13, 2025
Garry Merritt, CEO-Great Springs Project
www.GreatSpringsProject.org

May 20, 2025
Jeremy Brimhall, EdCE
Director - Austin Symphony Orchestra

May 27, 2025
Austin City Manager TC
Broadnax

June 03, 2025
Bob Farley, VP of Economic Development - Opportunity Austin

June 10, 2025
Dr. William Cunningham,
Former UT President & UT System Chancellor

Other Meetings/Events

May 13th
May-VP/Officer Meeting

May 14th
Downtown Breakfast Cluster

May 20th
RCA Board of Directors Meeting

May 27th
ARCF Board of Trustees Meeting (QUARTERLY)

May 29th
North Breakfast Cluster

June 8th
Meet the President-Elect
! Social hour hosted by Cindy Brummer

Club Officers

Darrick Wayne Eugene
President

Cynthia Brummer
President-Elect

Harold F. Ingersoll Jr.
Club Foundation (ARCF)
Chair
President-Nominee

Sylvia Holmes
iPast President

Charles Holleman
Club Treasurer

Naomi Val Bourgeois
Club Director

R. John Fox Jr.
Club Director

Mark D. Johnson
Club Director



GARRY MERRITT

Chief Executive Officer



Garry brings to Great Springs Project a unique combination of business development savvy, real estate law expertise, government service, and a longstanding commitment to conserving Texas' natural resources. A former Real County Judge, Real County Attorney, and corporate counsel, Garry's legal expertise includes real estate transactions, real estate finance, water rights, business development, and contract negotiations. He is board-certified in Farm and Ranch Real Estate Law, a Life Fellow of the Texas Bar Foundation, and holds degrees from Rice University and The University of Texas School of Law.

After a stint as a corporate and real estate attorney in Houston and Team Counsel for the Houston Rockets, Garry returned to the Texas Hill Country to practice law and engage in public service in his rural hometown of Leakey. Garry has served as Board Chairman of the Hill Country Alliance, the Middle Rio Grande Development Council, and the Southwest Area Regional Transit District. Before joining Great Springs Project, Garry served as General Counsel and Legislative Director of the Texas Association of Counties, which represents all 254 counties in Texas with over 2,500 elected officials. Garry is a river runner and mountain climber who cares deeply about Texas and conserving our natural resources for generations. The Texas Business Journals named Garry as one of the Texas 100- people who will make headlines in 2025. He has two children, Luke and Sarah.

Rotary Serving Weekly Update

Kristoffer Sterling Lands
Club Director

Paul Roger Williamson
Club Director

Ann Marie Ellis PhD
Global Service Avenue VP
Club Foundation (ARCF)
Trustee

Teresa Finney
Club Service Avenue VP

PDG Scott Rainey
Membership Service Avenue
VP

Mary L. Reynolds
Community Service Avenue
VP

Andrew Swanson
Club Foundation (ARCF)
Trustee
Vocational Service Avenue
VP

Mary Bird Bowman
Club Foundation (ARCF)
Treasurer

Dale Lowe
Club Foundation (ARCF)
Trustee
Club Foundation(ARCF) Vice
Chair

Vlad Bahrencu
Club Foundation (ARCF)
Trustee

Amy M. Jackson
Club Foundation (ARCF)
Trustee

Peter R. Meeker
Club Foundation (ARCF)
Trustee

Jaime Phillips
Club Foundation (ARCF)
Trustee

W. Gaines Bagby
Rotary Foundation (TRF)
Liaison

**John Anderson Barclay
IV**
Sergeant-at-Arms

Michael Abelson
Club Programs Chair

Jennifer Olsen
Club Executive Secretary
Executive Director

Birthdays

Peter R. Meeker
May 11th

Harvey L. Ford III
May 15th

Oliver W Borg
May 16th

Blake Seydel
May 16th

Ann Marie Ellis PhD
May 18th

William (Mart) Martin
Hoffman III
May 19th

Flo Ann Randle
May 28th

Greg Cavitt
June 3rd

Amy M. Jackson
June 6th



Wayside REAL Academy had their last eafk knighting ceremony for the trait of kindness. The honorees received a medallion from Lady Amber and shared the honors with their parents. This character program is sponsored by the Rotary Clubs of Austin. Mary Hoffman, one of our Rotarians, came to cheer on the students. Thanks Rotary.



Pecan Springs held their last eafk knighting ceremony for the trait of perseverance. Each honoree received a medallion from Lady Amber and was joined by their families. This character-building program is sponsored by the Rotary Club University Area and Austin.

Club Meeting Details: Join us in-person or on Zoom!

This week's meeting will be held in-person at Ben Hur Shrine Temple (7811 Rockwood Lane, Austin, Texas) and also live-streamed on Zoom!! **Note: A link to last week's Zoom meeting recording is included below.**

For those of you who can't join us in-person, you're invited to LIVE-STREAM our Weekly Lunch Program!

When: Every Tuesday (almost) Noon to 1 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

For our Zoom guests, please clear your caches and bookmarked Zoom meeting links and check your time zone settings.

QuickLink:

<https://rotary-austin-org.zoom.us/j/85690378301?pwd=bXMxcDBqK1drNmNqZW1ZV3JlZ2FFdz09>

IMPORTANT STEPS TO CONNECT TO OUR WEEKLY MEETING, USING THE FOLLOWING MEETING ID & PASSWORD TO LOGIN:

When the Rotary year begins on July 1st, we have a new meeting link. You should always be able to connect by **typing in the Meeting ID and password** as shown here.

- 1) Go to zoom.us/join
- 2) Enter the meeting ID in this box and passcode if prompted
(Meeting ID: **856 9037 8301** Passcode: **361851**)

IMPORTANT: *We'll have complimentary cookies, coffee, tea or water available at the meeting. If you'd like a full meal, however, please bring your own lunch with you, or you can order from Jack Allen's Kitchen on Anderson Lane and have it delivered. Click [HERE](#) for instructions on ordering.*

Join Meeting

Meeting ID or Personal Link Name

Join

Did you miss last week's meeting or want to view the presentation? Here is the Zoom recording of [Guerry Harris, Rotary Means Business - Fellowships: New Networking Group for Rotarians](#)

Next Week's Speaker/Program Preview - Jeremy Brimhall

By Matthew Dargis on Sunday, May 11, 2025



Jeremy Brimhall describes himself as "a passionate advocate for arts education and a tireless supporter of the search for new ways to engage young audiences through classic art." Prior to serving as Director of Education and Community Engagement for

the Austin Symphony, Jeremy held similar posts for over a decade with the San Antonio Symphony and San Antonio Philharmonic, and previously performed as a musician of the State of Mexico Symphony Orchestra in Toluca, Mexico, where he resided for six years. Having married into a Mexican family and being in the process of raising two bilingual boys in Central Texas, Brimhall has a keen interest in the layered social dynamics that intersect Mexican, Mexican-American, other Hispanic and non-Hispanic groups in the Southwest, and how music can bring everyone together.

Prospective Member(s) 10-Day Notice(s)

Per the request of the Board of Directors, all prospective/transferring members will now be posted in the *Rotary Reminder* (newsletter) for an open review period by all members. We've received the following Proposed Member Application(s) for consideration:

Sofia Moreno (sponsored by Scott Rainey)

Matthew Peterson (sponsored by Scott Rainey)

Ryan Saunders (sponsored by Ronney Reynolds)

Please notify **Jennifer Olsen**, RCA's Executive Director, if you have anything you'd like to share about **Sofia, Matthew or Ryan**.

Here's a little about Sofia (from her member application): Sofia is a University of Texas graduate with a history of nonprofit service. She serves as the Member and Donor Relation Manager for the LBJ Foundation, working on strengthening community involvement and promoting the LBJ legacy through public programming aimed at addressing the issues of our times. She previously served as a Program and Association Partnership Coordinator for Strategic Association Management (SAM), where she provided comprehensive support to multiple nonprofits and associations.

Here's a little about Matthew (from his member application): My name is Matthew Peterson. I was born in North Carolina. My father was in the military, so I grew up in various locations in the United States and overseas. I graduated from high school in Georgia and immediately joined the military myself. After four years on active duty, I was honorably discharged and enrolled in college at New Mexico State University where I earned degrees in Government and Philosophy. Upon graduation, I returned to the military and earned a commission. For the next 17 years, I received assignments to various locations throughout the United States and overseas until I retired in 2019. While on active duty, I earned a Master of Arts in Organizational Leadership from Gonzaga University, and a Master of Science in Political Science from Liberty University.

After leaving the military, my first job was as the director of a ranch northwest of Austin. Next, I taught high school at a charter school in Austin. Working as a cowboy and as a teacher were childhood interests of mine, and I was grateful for the chance to experience those professions, but I knew neither would be my second career.

In July of 2021 I accepted an opportunity to work on behalf of veterans and seniors when I was confirmed as the Commandant of the Iowa Veterans Home and the Interim Executive Director of the Iowa Department of Veterans Affairs. The Iowa Veterans Home is a continuing care retirement community. It is the fifth largest veterans home in the country and is home to over 400 residents. After a little more than a year there, I knew I wanted to return to Texas and that I had found my second career. After returning to Texas in September of 2022, I found an opportunity as the executive director of a memory care community in Temple, Texas where I served until reporting to Brookdale North Austin in March of 2025.

Here's a little about Ryan (from his member application):

How long have you lived in Austin? 7 years (previous locations include: Greensboro, NC, New York, New York, Charleston, SC, Winston-Salem, NC)

I enjoy movies, art, studying cities and urban planning, biking, hiking, recently getting into sailing and wanted to try windsurfing (once I heal from my shoulder injury).

I have been in Austin, Texas for 7 years now and want to be more engaged and connected to the community. I have always been involved with supporting non-profits and serving as a mentor. I have been involved with YMBL and volunteering for Austin Sunshine Camps for 2 years now. I have also expanded my role civically in my neighborhood, which has opened up my exposure to new challenges that our city faces. After getting to know Ronney, and learning about some of the projects and focus areas of this Rotary Club, it feels like a good outlet to dedicate time and energy.

What will be your contributions to the Rotary Club of Austin? The existing projects that I feel most aligned with are: Early Act First Knight, Literacy, Camp Enterprise and any providing an opportunity to serve as a mentor, especially with regard to promoting career paths/opportunities.

I am from a rural area and would like to engage in providing opportunities for those populations. I am entrepreneurial and creative and have a viewpoint with regard to solving issues such as housing and affordability. So I will bring a new voice/project ideas to the group.

I am a very civically engaged individual. I have led citywide engagement efforts in both Greensboro, NC and here in Austin (i.e. advocacy for pedestrian improvements such as a crosswalk at Lynn St and E Cesar Chavez St, new pickleball courts at Rosewood Park, alley revitalization and art projects in my neighborhood, etc.).

I also serve on the ECC Neighborhood contact team as a board member. In the past, I have worked on citywide initiatives involving public transit and public art, organized large fundraisers (one example is creating a HORSE basketball tournament fundraiser for an adult literacy organization in North Carolina called Reading Connections). I also served as a mentor at an entrepreneurship center in Greensboro, North Carolina for multiple years.

Most recently, I have been heavily involved in the Young Men's Business League (YMBL) serving two years on the organizational committee for the Austin Under 40 Awards, serving as the Sponsorship Chair for 2025. I am also the co-chair of the YMBL Speaker Series for 2025 and moderated our first event featuring renowned local architect and past AU40 winner, Juan Miro.

Congratulations to our Newly Elected ARCF Board of Trustees!!!

Please join us in **CONGRATULATING** Michael Abelson, Jack Nash and Andy Swanson as our newly elected members on the ARCF Board of Trustees (serving 3-year terms from 7/1/25-6/30/28)!

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE NEWLY ELECTED MEMBERS OF OUR ARCF BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Serving 3-year terms (7/1/25-6/30/28)



MICHAEL ABELSON



JACK NASH



ANDY SWANSON

SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING CANDIDATES FOR ALSO AGREEING TO RUN:

MARK JOHNSON
RON MULLEN
ROY SPRINGER

DON'T FORGET -- We have a NEW Member Incentive Plan for 2025-2026!!!

DON'T FORGET ABOUT OUR EXCITING NEW Membership Incentive Plan that provides you with an easy way to earn back a refund of almost 100% of your 2025-2026 RCA Member Dues!

NEW MEMBER RECRUITMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM



- Beginning NOW – until June 30, 2026
- Bring in 2 new members - Get a rebate of ½ of your **2025-2026 local dues** –
- Local dues are \$698.50
 - Rebate is \$349.25 for 2 members
 - \$698.50 for 4 new members

If you'd like to learn more, just click the "Read More" link below... [Read More](#)

RCA Sounding Board – Chat with President-Elect Cindy!



Have thoughts, ideas, or questions about our club? I'm here to listen! Whether you have suggestions for the future of RCA or just want to connect, I'd love to hear from you. [Read More](#)

Meet and Greet w/ President Elect Cindy

Who is the incoming president of the Rotary Club of Austin? Now's your chance to get to know President Elect Cindy Brummer and find out more about her vision and plans for the new year. These informal, small group, in-person sessions are hosted on various Wednesday and Thursday evenings from April 1-June 7 and are intended for groups of up to 10. [Read More](#)



Promote your business, support our Club!



- * Advertising space costs only \$250 for 6 months of promotion (\$500/yr)!
- * ALL PROCEEDS go toward helping CLUB OPERATIONS!
- * Contact the Rotary Office for details.

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ROTARY CARES HOW YOU'RE DOING!!!

HOW ARE THINGS IN YOUR LIFE?!?

Is there anything that your Rotary Club of Austin "family" can support you with (i.e. family changes, death of a loved one, illness or other health concerns, lost a job, other professional needs, etc.) or do you know of another Rotarian who may need help?

Click [here](#) to let us know
(or you can send an e-mail to
office@rotary-austin.org)

ROTARY CARES



Ordering Your Tuesday Lunch For Delivery From Jack Allen's Kitchen

YES, THE RUMORS ARE TRUE...LUNCHES HAVE RETURNED TO THE ROTARY CLUB OF AUSTIN!



If you're planning to attend one of our regularly scheduled Tuesday Rotary meetings and would like to enjoy a meal, you can pre-order one from Jack Allen's Kitchen on Anderson Lane and have it delivered directly to Ben Hur! Or, if you're not hungry, you can skip lunch and grab a complimentary cookie and/or coffee, tea or water instead.

It's easy, and you can order from your PC or even your smartphone! ***If you've ordered before and remember what to enter for delivery, just click the Jack Allen's Kitchen icon (or go to www.jackallenskitchen.com).***

IMPORTANT NOTE: Lunch orders are only accepted on Tuesday mornings for same-day delivery and must be placed no later than 10:30 am!

If you've never ordered before, or if you've forgotten how, here are the instructions (*including HOW and WHAT to specify that your order is for delivery*) --> **Steps to Order Rotary Lunch**

All meals will be "made-to-order" from Jack Allen's Kitchen on Anderson Lane (across the street from Ben Hur) and will be delivered by them, too. Each will be individually packaged and labeled with your name.

One Austin icon serving another Austin icon...Don't you just love this town?!?

Club Meeting Place and Time

Austin
Meets at Ben Hur Shrine Temple
7811 Rockwood Lane
Austin, TX 78757
Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM

RCA Vision Statement: To build a diverse fellowship of Austin-area business and community leaders transforming lives throughout the world.