

Rotary



Club of The Classic City of Athens

July 31, 2023: Lemuel "Life" LaRoche

Lemuel "Life" LaRoche is the founder and executive director of Chess and Community, Inc., a nonprofit dedicated to developing young leaders and critical thinkers in Northeast Georgia. Known in the communities that he serves as **Life**, he fuses chess with conventional therapeutic methods to curb impulsive behavior amongst youth with delinquent pasts. With over two decades of experience in adolescent, family and community development, Life brings a fresh innovative approach to his work. Life was listed as one of Athens' exceptional community leaders in 2013 and his organization has been featured in Georgia Magazine. He is a 2015 recipient of the President's Fulfilling the Dream Award. Life has presented at TEDxUGA, an independently organized TEDTalks event, and his organization has been featured on Georgia Public Broadcasting's **On Second Thought**, **PBS NewsHour** and **CBS News**. He is the recipient of the 2016 Daily Points of Light Award, **Atlanta Braves Community Hero** and **2022 AT&T Black Future Makers**. Life is internationally renowned for his poetry, which he uses as a tool for empowerment, reconditioning, and community outreach. He is the author of two books, **Tree of Life: The Human Ascension** and **Hidden Ripples: Life's Unspoken Language**. He is an instructor in the School of Social Work at the **University of Georgia**. Life serves as director of Programming for YouthForce Innovation Hub, a program of the Boys & Girls Club of Athens that prepares youth for the current and emerging workforce. Life will discuss his innovative approach to youth development and community impact. Learn more about Lemuel LaRoche and his organization at www.chessandcommunity.org.



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Want to connect to the meeting via Zoom?

To join the meeting with one-click, [CLICK HERE](#).

Meeting ID: 848 1309 0687

Passcode: Classic

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84813090687#,,,,

*4448338# US (Chicago)

+16469313860,,84813090687#,,,, *4448338# US

Date Greeter

31-Jul Appleby, Marilyn

7-Aug Bryson, Ellen

Pledge

Streetman, Leigha

Hardell, Robert

Four Way Test

Dorminey, Blair

Collins, Kenneth Scott

Birthdays

Blair Dorminey
July 29th

Marissa Leigh
Chastain
August 13th

Roy M. Legette
August 18th

Club Leaders



[Jeffrey Auerbach](#)
President
Club Director



[Jordan Bowen](#)
President-Elect
Club Director



[Tammy Tate Gilland](#)
Club Director
Secretary



[Heather J. McElroy](#)
Club Director
President-Nominee



[Christine S. Waite-Morgan](#)
Club Director
Treasurer



[Marissa Leigh Chastain](#)
Club Director
Public Image Chair



[Deanne Rosso](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair
[Marilyn](#)

14-Aug Hawley, Robert A.	Dalton, Tammy	Filipova, Anjela K.
21-Aug Legette, Roy M.	Watson, Mary Lillie	Engel, Becky
28-Aug Gilland, Tammy Tate	Iyer, Laura	Harris, Lawrence W
4-Sep Kukanza, Tina	McElroy, Heather J.	Bowen, Jordan
11-Sep Kramer, Thomas J.	Scott, Jennifer	Field, Richard C.
18-Sep Chastain, Marissa Leigh	Lavender, Stephen Blake	Masciadri, Milton
25-Sep Craig, Bowen	Darden, Cindy	Johnson, Charles L.
2-Oct Green, Allen R.	Ellard, Melissa	Leffel, Richard J.
9-Oct Crew, Candace	Waite-Morgan, Christine S.	Watson, George Raymond
16-Oct Baker, Maureen	McKeller, Bobbie	Blankenship, Selena
23-Oct Everett, Daniel	Skinner, Paul	Jourolmon, Leon III
30-Oct Linares, Esau	Rojas Almeida, Jose Gregorio	

Service Committee News

Next Service Committee Meeting: Want to learn more about service projects this Rotary Year? Attend the next Service Committee meeting on Aug. 9 at 2 pm via Zoom. All members are invited to attend.

Join Zoom Meeting at <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83929021476?pwd=VTh4NUhwUnFHd3Q0eDJxVUITdGd3dz09>

Meeting ID: 839 2902 1476

Passcode: Service

Athens Area Diaper Bank: For the past few years, CCRC has made donations to The Athens Area Diaper Bank. This organization started small and has grown to service a number of families over the years. On Mon., Aug. 14th, we will provide this organization with our annual donation. Financial donations aid this organization with purchasing diapers in bulk at a less expensive price so they can provide more assistance to families. If you would like to contribute to this cause, please bring a check made payable to The Athens Area Diaper Bank, in the amount you choose to this meeting and it will be sent with the club check. You may also donate at <https://www.athensareadiaperbank.com>.

Our Daily Bread: We will be serving our first meal of the Rotary Year at Our Daily Bread on Fri., Aug. 18th. Our Daily Bread provides lunches to the homeless and underemployed in our community. We have both a food prep shift and a serving shift. The prep shift begins at 10:30 am and runs to 11:45 am. The serving shift is from 11:45 am – 1 pm. If you can give up a lunch hour to help this program, please let Candace Crew know at shirleycandace.ces@gmail.com or sign up at the next meeting. We need approximately six – seven people per shift.

JJ Harris: Volunteers are needed to help cook hotdogs and lead games for JJ Harris' Day in the Park. This event will take place on August 19th at Alice Walker Park.

Small Group Fellowship

An important part of the Rotary experience is working with others, building good will and better friendships. Our business meetings offer some, but not enough time and opportunities for this to happen. One exciting idea that came up in the Strategic Planning Meeting on July 18, 2023 was to offer the option of sharing time with other members and friends in small groups. Groups would get together once a month. Participation in small groups provides time for the fellowship and socializing that lead to building strong connections between members.

At this time, we are still working out the details of organizing the small group get-togethers. There will be a four-month trial period. Groups of eight people (four members with plus-ones)



Appleby
Club Director
Service
Projects
Chair



Ellen Bryson
Club Director
Club
Fundraising
Chair



Becky Engel
CCO-Club
Comm. Offcr



Robert A. Hawley
Sergeant-at-Arms



Richard J. Leffel
Club Admin
Chair
Club Director



Michelle Elizabeth Roberts
Club Director
iPast
President



Mary Lillie Watson
Club Director
Club
Programs
Chair

will meet for a meal once a month. The names of the Rotarians in each group will be drawn at random from interested members. (Couples who are both club members are kept together.) The first get-together of the trial period will be a pot-luck meal at a volunteer's home. The host provides the main dish and beverages; the others side dishes, salads, desserts, etc. Each group will plan for their next month's get-together.

If people enjoy small groups, the program will continue beyond the initial four months. New, randomly selected groups will form every four months to enable interacting with many other members (the point of this program).

Flexibility and fun are most important. Get-togethers will include food and may include activity, such as a game night. After the first meeting, a group may decide to meet somewhere other than homes.

2024 District Conference

Rotarians Need to Register by August 31st



Q & A Session via Zoom

Wednesday, August 2, 2023 at 4:00 pm

Registration for next year's District Conference is available now! Rotarians are asked to register for the conference by August 31st of THIS YEAR because it is a cruise on Royal Caribbean's Allure of the Seas. This is quite a different offering and process than in years past.

There will be a Q & A Session on Wednesday afternoon, August 2nd at 4pm to answer your questions so you can get on board. Conference Co-Chairs Jennifer Hendrickson and Mark Willis will provide details on everything from passports, room types, logistics & transportation, to excursions, amenities, and more! Register at <https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77683720>