

# Rotary



## Club of The Classic City of Athens

### March 6, 2023: Rick Parker of Athens Housing Authority



An honors graduate of the University of Memphis, where he also obtained his MBA, Rick Parker has served as the CEO of the Athens Housing Authority since 1989. He came to Athens 34 years ago after having served as the director of the Housing Authority of Jackson TN.

Recent highlights during his tenure include the redevelopment of Jack R. Wells public housing into the national award-winning \$60 million Columbia Brookside neighborhood; the partnership with Athens-Clarke County Unified Government and Clarke County School District to transform a local historic gym into the Elizabeth G. King Boys & Girls Club; and the ongoing North Downtown Athens project to transform an old Section 8 project-

based apartment complex into a mixed-income, mixed-finance neighborhood in partnership with the Athens-Clarke County Government.

The Athens Housing Authority (AHA) has 1291 public housing units and is engaged in redevelopment, homebuyer lending, new in-fill housing construction, and tax-exempt bonds. The AHA completed the first, true private mortgage on a HUD property in America and more than \$400 million (~\$220 million in original financing and \$200 million in refinancing) in bond deals with the University of Georgia for student housing, dining, and parking. The AHA recently completed a \$60 million three-phase project transforming one of its old neighborhoods into a new, master-planned, mixed-income community. The AHA is currently engaged in a major downtown revitalization project in concert with its development partners and local government for North Downtown Athens.

### Vic Chesnutt Songwriter of the Year Award Nominations

#### Birthdays

Maureen Baker  
March 5th

#### Club Leaders



[Michelle Elizabeth Roberts](#)  
President  
Club Director



[Jeffrey Auerbach](#)  
President-Elect  
Club Director



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



[Tammy Tate Gilland](#)  
On-To Conference Chair  
Club Director  
Secretary



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



[Emily K. Escoe](#)  
Membership Chair



[Beverly Harper](#)  
Club Director  
Membership Chair



[Lawrence W Harris](#)  
Membership  
Retention Chair



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



[Tammy Dalton](#)  
Family of Rotary



## Songwriter of the Year Awards

 presented by Classic City Rotary

Nominations for the 2023 Award are currently open through March 20. Please let your friends and neighbors know that they can nominate their favorite local songwriter for any song publicly released during 2022. To learn more, go to [www.vicchesnuttward.com/nominations](http://www.vicchesnuttward.com/nominations).

Sponsorship opportunities are available from \$250 to \$5,000. Monies raised from this event are used to award the Winner and Finalists, and also go to fund the Classic City Rotary Service Projects and Outreach.

Save the date: 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Vic Chesnutt Songwriter of the Year Award Event. Thursday, May 4, 2023 at 7:00 p.m. at The 40 Watt Club.

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## District Conference

We are quickly approaching Gerry's conference in Chattanooga on April 27-30! While we hope that each of you attend, our goal to have at least 30 representatives (members and significant others) in attendance. Register here: <https://myrotaryconference.com/>

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## Service Committee

The Service Committee will meet via Zoom on Wed., March 8, at 2 pm. Interested members are invited to attend. Discussion items will include upcoming service projects during the next few months and projects we would like to be involved in for the next Rotary year. Join us on Zoom at Meeting ID: 899 1384 3699 Passcode: Service

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## Sustainability Committee

The Service Committee will meet via Zoom on Thursday, March 9th at 9 am. Interested members are invited to attend. Join us on Zoom at Meeting ID: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86837302198?pwd=TmF4Nk5iaklLVTdlVIZvK0tXbVREdz09>

??????? There will also be a presentation on March 15th at 7pm by Mark Farmer:

***Georgia's Transition to Clean Energy: How will that impact me?*** Join on Zoom:



[Richard J. Leffel](#)  
Training Officer



[Deanne Rosso](#)  
Club Director  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair



[Pamela Shropshire](#)  
Family of Rotary



[Marilyn Appleby](#)  
Club Director  
Club Service Chair



[Ellen Bryson](#)  
Club Director  
Club Fundraising  
Chair



[Blair Dorminey](#)  
Club Director  
iPast President



[Becky Engel](#)  
CCO-Club Comm.  
Offcr



[Robert A. Hawley](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Paul H. Matthews](#)  
Club Admin Chair  
Club Director



[James J. Milner](#)  
Past President  
Club Director  
Club Programs  
Chair

[Mary Lillie Watson](#)



<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZcqceGprD4rHtTfDJTt8gWuZ6FmAB2iwLe>

As the world navigates the transition away from an energy economy dominated by fossil fuels, it has raised questions about the required upscaling of carbon neutral energy sources and subsequent reduction in energy needs that will be required.

Georgia is a State that has no fossil fuel resources yet has abundant wind and solar potential. We are ideally positioned to meet this challenge. Furthermore, with the recent investment in plants to manufacture electric vehicles, Georgia stands ready to become an international leader in both clean energy production and energy efficient transportation.

This presentation will highlight some of the ongoing and future advancements in building a carbon-free energy economy and how these projects can benefit the people of Georgia.

[image.png](#)



[Food Waste Action Week](#) is a week-long event, typically held in the first week of March since 2021. This year, it will be held from March 6 to 12. Did you know, that if the food we waste were a country, it would have the third-largest carbon footprint after the U.S. and China? The good food we throw away impacts our environment and contributes to climate change. Not only do we waste food, but we also waste the valuable resources used to produce it — from the land, fertilizer, and water used to grow the food to the greenhouse gasses from production and transport.

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## Did you Know?

#DYK? What are your thoughts about the article "Confessions of an obsessive" in the March 2023 issue of Rotary?



Club Director  
Club Programs  
Chair



[Heather J. McElroy](#)  
Club Fundraising  
Chair



[Roy M. Legette](#)  
International  
Service Chair



[Milton Masciadri](#)  
International  
Service Chair

