

Augusta Rotary Minutes

March 17, 2025

President Surendra Gupta rang the bell and called the meeting to order.

Erick Montgomery gave the pledge and invocation.

Matt Barrett gave the Sunshine Report.

Dat Hoang introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians.

Announcements

District Conference will be held 4/24-4/27 in Jekyll Island again this year please make hotel reservations as soon as you can.

Rotary International Conference will take place in Ontario, Canada June 21-25. If interested in attending please reach out to President Surrendra.

President Surendra announced the top sellers for the Signature Fundraiser and presented gift cards to those in attendance.

Dustin Young – Top Seller
John Whitwell – 2nd place
Stacy Tallent – 3rd place
Pam Lightsey – 4th place

GRSP Update

A reminder that our GRSP student **Daniel Lopez Londono** will need a driver to and from the meetings for the rest of March and April. If anyone has an extra ticket to the Masters please reach out to Daniel.

New Members

No new members introduced this week.

Paul Harris Fellows

No new recognitions this week.

CART: **Steve Munn** was the inside challenger this week and **T.R. & N. Reddy Foundation** was the outside challenger. Please continue to contribute to the blue buckets on the table or online at mycartfund.org using the same login credentials you use with DACDB. Also, please complete our club's Google form to sign up to be a Cart Challenger.

Upcoming Speakers

March 24 – We will meet from noon to 2:00 at TopGolf. There will not be a regular meeting that day.

March 31 – Autism Awareness Day – Dr. Baris Often will speak.

April 7 & 14 – No meetings due to Masters Week and Masters Recovery.

Guest Speaker/Program

Past President, Ed Presnell, introduced our guest speaker, **Ms. Michelle Pippin**, CEO of the Augusta Sports Council. The ASC is a 501c3 founded in 1991 to create and develop programs and events that would benefit the local community and increase revenue from sports tourism.

Their funding is provided through grants, sponsorships, and registrations from the various events they host each year including the Augusta ½ Marathon, the Nike Peach Jam, the Gridiron, the Military World Softball tournament and the Ironman just to name a few. The Council only has 3-4 employees and rely heavily on over 2,000 volunteers to assist with all of the various events.

They are also the owner of the Ray Guy Award honoring the nation's best punter which is given away each year by ESPN. The ASC generated approximately \$27.6 million in economic impact from hosting 11,950 athletes who booked over 20,000 hotel room nights. This translates into approximately \$847 per household in reduced taxes for local taxpayers.

Funds raised are returned to the community in the form of scholarships to athletes and grants to help teams run their various leagues and programs.

President Surendra led us in reciting the four-way test and then adjourned the meeting.