

Rotary



Club of Mattoon

10.09.24 and 10.16.24 Meeting Notes and More!



In photos: Left: Tyler Yoder, General Manager, Emerald Acres Sports Connection; Right: Kirk Swensen, Citizens to Advance Mattoon Prosperity Committee

Call to Order

The 10.09.24 meeting was called to order by President Noah Olson and the 10.16.24 meeting was called to order Immediate Past-President, Janet Grove. On both occasions, all in attendance recited the **Pledge of Allegiance** and shared an **Inspiration**.

Guests

Ester Bresson, Rotary Youth Exchange student, attended both the 10.09.24 and 10.16.24 meetings.

Sergeant at Arms

Happy and sad \$\$ were collected as follows:

10.9.24: Kim Edwards (Flightless Honor Flight, November 6, LifeSpan Center); Steve Kite (2 new requests for home access ramps; volunteers needed to help with build/install); Steve Kite (recommendation for travel to Colorado for autumn scenery); Tina Stovall/Janet Grove (district conference updates); Noah Olson (Peace Committee update; considering developing "sunshine club/committee").

10.16.24: Aaron Ifft (oldest daughter's basketball team off to a great start); Several members (Happy to welcome Rodney Morris to the meeting); Larry Niegowski (appreciation for ramp assistance); Rodney Morris (United Way Auction, October 24, MG&CC - Rodney will again serve as auctioneer).

Business & Announcements

October Board Meeting Update: President Noah shared that the Board will support the Food Drive Committee in investigating the return of breakfast for volunteers at the Food Drive; the Board also confirmed implementation of the \$100 assessment for Club members not participating in the Food Drive.

Volunteer for District 6490 Committee: D6490 is considering an increase in district dues and is seeking input from a district-wide committee of Rotarians. Larry Niegowski has volunteered to participate. Thank you, Larry!

Peace Meals - Week of October 21-25. Thanks to all who have volunteered!

Football Pool: 10.9.24 winners: #1 Malcolm O'Neill; #2 Dean Willaredt; 10.16.24 winners: #1 Kristin Smith; #2 Dean Willaredt.

Bob Clark Update: Bob will remain at Odd Fellow Rebekah for at least the next 9 weeks as additional surgery is scheduled.

10.9.24 Program: Kirk Swensen, Citizens to Advance Mattoon Prosperity Committee

Kirk Swensen shared an overview of the upcoming referendum for the city of Mattoon to adopt a managerial

Club Meeting

Mattoon
Meets at Mattoon Golf
& Country Club
6700 N Country Club
Rd
Mattoon, IL 61938-
8427
Time: Wednesday at
12:00 PM

Speakers

October 23, 2024
[Stacey Rios, Executive
Director, Big Brothers
Big Sisters](#)

October 30, 2024
[SC3F Wealth
Management Tours
and Refreshments!](#)

**November 06,
2024**
[ClassE Luncheon:
Recognize MHS
Students of the
Month](#)

**November 13,
2024**
[Eric Mieure, IDNR,
Coles County](#)

Birthdays

Mark Nelson
October 25th
Judy Baker
October 26th

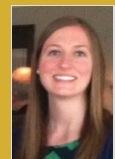
Club Leaders



Noah Olson
President



Doug
Jackson
President -
Elect



Laura
Reichart
Club
Executive
Secretary

Alyssa
Nichols
Treasurer

form of government. The referendum question will be included on the ballot for the November 5 election and members of the Citizens to Advance Mattoon Prosperity Committee are seeking opportunities to discuss the referendum and answer questions. The information Kirk shared included the following:

- Mattoon's current *commission form of government* (adopted in 1937) includes a city council composed of 4 commissioners and the mayor. All are re-elected every four years. Each commissioner and the mayor are assigned administrative responsibility for specific city departments and the city department managers report both to the assigned commissioner(s) and the city administrator. The city administrator has no authority to direct department managers without approval from the assigned commissioner or mayor. As elected four-year positions, the commissioners may/may not have expertise in the area for which they are assigned responsibility; all four elected commissioners could change in the same year. Approximately 3% of cities across the country (1% in Illinois) continue to use a commission form of government. No city has adopted this form of government for nearly 60 years.
- The November 5 ballot question seeks to adopt a *managerial form of government*. With this form of government, the city would continue to have an elected council of 4 members and the mayor. The council would continue to represent the citizens of Mattoon with a focus on policy issues and oversight of the city manager who would serve as the chief administrative officer for the city and assume responsibility for carrying out policies and supervising city departments. Qualifications for the city manager would follow industry standards. The managerial form of government is now the most popular form of city governance in the country.
- Kirk noted that as he has discussed the referendum in the community, many community members have expressed support for current council members and the mayor. The referendum is seeking to establish a more effective form of government to benefit the council, city leaders and the community.
- The referendum is legally binding and requires a simple majority to pass.

Additional information is available online at voteyesformattoon.com or on Facebook at Vote Yes For Mattoon.

10.16.24 Program: Tyler Yoder, General Manager, Emerald Acres Sports Connection

Tyler Yoder shared background information for his new role as general manager for Emerald Acres including earning a Bachelor's in Sports Administration from Ball State University and a Master's in Public Administration from University of North Georgia. Originally from Champaign, Illinois, Tyler previously served as Director for Facilities and Event Management at Tulane University Athletics. Tyler is employed by Sports Facilities Companies, a company managing more than 65 sports facilities across the country. Tyler noted that Emerald Acres is strategically located and that the Sports Facilities network will help drive competition/tournaments to this area. The Emerald Acres staff is expected to include 35 full-time employees plus additional part-time. Phase 1 (indoor facility) is expected to be completed soon with the Coles County Community Leaders Breakfast on December 12 as the first event. Phase 2 (outdoor facility) construction is set to begin Spring 2025. Tyler shared that in addition to the specific sports facilities, the complex will include 18 RV lots, lots of parking, and EV charging stations. As noted on the playemeraldacres.com website, the sports facilities are part of the construction of the larger "mixed-use development centered around sports which will feature premium sports, walkable retail and restaurants and best-in-class program-driven experiences". Together, they will have a significant positive impact on the local community. Some of the new retail stores are now open with much more excitement coming our way! For more details, visit playemeraldacres.com or sportsfacilities.com.

Triple Treat

The 10.9.24 winner of \$19 was Luci Englum. The 10.16.24 winner of \$21 was Kim Denton. The larger pot continued to roll over to the next week.

Each meeting closed with members reciting **The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do.**

Upcoming Club Meetings

- October 23:* Stacey Rios, Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters
- October 30:* No noon meeting. Fifth Wednesday Social. See details below.
- November 6:* ClassE Luncheon; Recognize MHS Students of the Month
- November 13:* Eric Mieure, IDNR, Coles County
- November 20:* Peace Pole Dedication, Lake Land College, 12:00 pm
- November 27:* No meeting. Happy Thanksgiving!
- December 4:* Emily Hayden & Alex Swango, YMCA Directors, Recognize MHS Students of the Month
- December 7:* Rotary Community Food Drive
- December 11:* No noon meeting. Club Christmas Party, MG&CC. Details coming soon!
- December 18:* Program TBA
- December 25, January 1:* No meetings; Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Upcoming Special Events

- October 30:* Fifth Wednesday Social at *SC3F Wealth Management Group*. 4:30-6:30 pm. Tours and refreshments!
 - November 14:* Rotary and Kiwanis American Red Cross Blood Drive, 1-5 pm, Burgess Osborne Auditorium - Contact Tina to volunteer to help with the drive. Come donate blood!
 - December 7:* Rotary Food Drive - Each member participates or donates \$100
- Check the Club website at mattoonrotary.org or DACdb for more programs and events!

Program Committees

- October:* Chair: Dale Righter, Kim Edwards, Mark Nelson, Larry Niegowski
- November:* Chair: Aaron Ifft, Josh Bullock, Tami Knight, Dean Willaredt
- December:* Chair: Alex Hagen, Judy Baker, Dick Diedrich, Kristin Smith
- January:* Billie Constant, Scott Eggleston, Gayla McDaniel, Mark McDaniel



Rick Hall
Club
Director



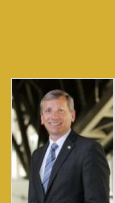
Mike Martin
Club
Director



Tina Stovall
Past
President
Club Admin
Chair
Public
Relations
Chair



Gary L.
Swearingen
Club
Director



Judy Baker
Membership
Chair



Kim
Edwards
Sergeant-
at-Arms



Scott L
Eggleston
Service
Projects
Chair



Janet Grove
Rotary
Foundation
Chair
iPast
President



Mark A.
McDaniel
Youth
Services
Chair

Reminder: Community Events (*Represent Rotary; send us a selfie in your Rotary t-shirt; earn a make-up!*)

Rotary Recognizes Students of the Month!



CONGRATULATIONS, Chloe Dodd and Will Pullen, Rotary Students of the Month, October 2024!

Each month throughout the school year, Rotary recognizes two outstanding Mattoon High School seniors who are nominated by their teachers and selected as Students of the Month based on their academic achievements and citizenship. The students, and their special guests, visit a Rotary Club meeting and Rotarians have the opportunity to meet them and learn about their high school activities, achievements and future plans following graduation. We love getting to meet the students each month - what an inspiring group of current and future leaders!

In photo: Will Pullen and Chloe Dodd with parents, special guests, and Deanna Dalby, Guidance Counselor, who introduced the students at the meeting.