



**February  
13th, 2024**

**Club Officers**



R Lynette Laughter  
President



Michael S. Maret  
President-Elect



Margaret H. Venable  
President-Nominee



Frank M. Hogshead  
Secretary



Cherri L. Robertson  
Membership Chair



Abby T. Hefner  
Public Image Chair



Amy R. Hartline  
Club Admin Chair



John D. Richmond  
On-To Conference Chair



Brian C. Croft  
Community Service Chair



Archana Srivastava  
International Service Chair



Kelly McDonald Jones  
Rotary Foundation Chair



Ricky N. Robertson  
Youth Services Chair



Alex C. Brown  
iPast President

**This Week: The Thrive Regional Partnership**

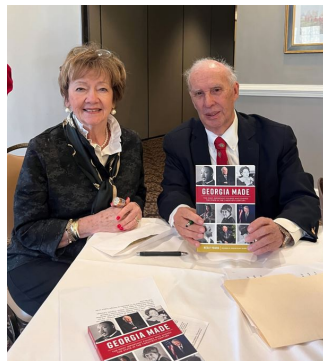
This week, we're looking at planning and growth in greater Dalton and beyond. Our speaker is Bridgett Massengill who serves as President & CEO of Thrive Regional Partnership, an independent nonprofit corporation dedicated to inspiring responsible growth across a 16-county, tri-state region. She has been with Thrive since its inception in 2012 as the inaugural regional planning process, then called Thrive 2055, and stewarded it through the creation of a standalone entity as the Founding CEO in 2016 where she remains.

Her 25+ year career spans from serving as executive director of a downtown development authority in northeast Tennessee, to establishing her own consulting business and partnering with the National Main Street Center, to supporting the Tennessee General Assembly as a legislative budget analysis specialist for both the House and the Senate. She holds a bachelor's degree in political science from University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, and a master's degree in public administration: planning & development from East TN State University. More recently, she is a proud Fellow of the Appalachian Leadership Institute, a leadership and economic development training program of the Appalachian Regional Commission, and holds a practitioners certificate in Strategic Doing from the Center for Learning and Professional Development at the University of North Alabama. She resides in Ooltewah, Tennessee with her husband Chris, twin daughters Madeline and Savannah, and their two rescue beagles, Gus and Garth.

**Meeting Recap: The Stories Of Influential Georgians**

Last week's speaker, Neely Young, is a journalist who has covered news around Georgia for his entire career. A proud graduate of the University of Georgia, Neely has held positions at newspapers across the State, including the Valdosta Daily Times and the Dalton Daily Citizen. Prior to retirement, Neely led Georgia Trend as publisher and editor-in-chief, a position that his son now holds.

Under Young's leadership, Georgia Trend grew to be a nationally recognized magazine and since 2000 has won numerous national and regional awards. Following his retirement, Neely underwent operations to correct a benign cancer condition, which left him with the inability to speak or write. Through the dedicated assistance from his therapists, Neely worked hard to regain his communication skills.



Assigned by his therapist, Neely was challenged to write about a subject of his choosing. Drawing inspiration from his time at Georgia Trend, he began to tell the stories of the most influential Georgians in the 20<sup>th</sup> century. This led Neely to writing "Georgia Made" which delves into the lives of pivotal figures such as former President, Jimmy Carter, Martha Berry, Martin Luther King Jr., Ted Turner, Eugene Talmadge, Margaret Mitchell, and Whitfield County native, Catherine Evans Whitener. These individuals, along with many others featured in the book, played a significant role in shaping not only Georgia's history, but the nation as well.

Rotarians had the opportunity to purchase a signed copy of "Georgia Made". As long-time supporters of the Salvation Army, proceeds from the books sales were donated to support the Salvation Army's mission. Neely continues to leave a lasting impact through his work as a columnist and now an author.

## February 13th Birthdays and Anniversaries

### Member Birthdays

Caperton, Robert William Jr. (ROBERT)

### Birthday

15-Feb

### Partner Birthdays

Henson, Jean

Denson, Andrea

Chambliss, Alex

### Member Name

Henson, Paul E. Jr.

Denson, Jason B

Chambliss, Darla P

### Birthday

14-Feb

16-Feb

18-Feb

### Member Anniversaries

No member anniversaries this period.

### Start Date

### Years

### Wedding Anniversaries

Arroqui, Sebastian A(SEBASTIAN)

### Partner's Name

Nathalie

### Anniversary

17-Feb

### Years

7

## The Four Way Test

