

# Rotary



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President



[Schelly Tennant Marlatt](#)  
Secretary



[Joe Sorenson](#)  
President-Elect



[Mike Fulton](#)  
Treasurer



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Membership Chair



[Jeff Alexander](#)  
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Laura Nell Ballance](#)  
Attendance Secretary  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Jennifer K. Hendrickson](#)  
Family of Rotary



[John Petrillo](#)  
GRSP Chair

[Bruce E. Carter](#)  
On-To Conference Chair

## About Rotary

Rotary International is an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

RI President Stephanie Urchick's theme for the 2024-2025 Rotary year is "***The Magic of Rotary***". She says members create that magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member of Rotary.

## Upcoming Programs

### Upcoming Program: Seth Hopkins, Director of Booth Western Art Museum of Cartersville



Seth Hopkins has served as Executive Director of the Booth Western Art Museum in Cartersville, Georgia, since 2000. This Smithsonian Affiliated museum is the largest permanent exhibition space for Western art in the world. In 2020, the Booth was named the #1 Art Museum in America by the USA Today 10Best Readers' Choice program, and again in 2021 and 2022. From 2003 until 2019, Hopkins also served as the Executive Director of Georgia Museums, Inc., the parent organization for the Booth Museum, Bartow History Museum, Tellus - Northwest Georgia Science Museum and the new Savoy

Automobile Museum.

Prior to entering the museum world Hopkins worked in journalism, public relations, and telecommunications management. Hopkins holds an undergraduate degree in journalism from Syracuse University. He received a Master's in Liberal Studies from the University of Oklahoma, in 2005. While at OU he completed his Master's Thesis: ***Andy Warhol Played Cowboys and Indians?***

Among the over 100 exhibitions Hopkins has curated or co-curated are ***Ansel Adams: Before and After, Blazing the Trail: 50 Years of the Cowboy Artists of America***, and ***Selling the Sizzle: The Art of Movie Posters***. Hopkins has had articles published in all the major western art magazines. ***Cowboys & Indians*** magazine recently named Hopkins a New Hero of the West, along with Dolly Parton and Red Steagall.

Hopkins is a native of Dexter, Maine and currently resides in Cartersville, Georgia with his wife Joyce. Together they have four children, Hadley, Alex, Ansley and Stephen, for whom they named the HAAS Educational Access Fund to raise monies to cover the cost of school bringing students to the Booth Museum. To date, nearly \$300,000 has been raised and over 40,000 students, who might not otherwise have been able to visit, have come to the Booth Museum.

### Upcoming Programs - Be sure to visit the DACdb calendar to see all upcoming events.

May 6th: Michael Thurmond, Author, Attorney and Politician

May 13th: Lee Haney, 8-Time Mr. Olympia - American Former Bodybuilder



Lee Jordan  
Club Director



DePriest Waddy  
CART Chair



Katrina Lucisano  
Club Service Chair



Terry Swaim  
Club Programs Chair



Winford V. Lindsay Jr.  
International Service Chair



David Thomas  
Upchurch  
Club Polio Plus Chair



Rodney T. Brundidge  
Club District Grant Chair



Sherwin M. Levinson  
AV & Stage Manager Chair



Adam Frangos  
Club Fellowship Chair



Souleymane Ongoiba  
Youth Services Chair



Joe Godfrey  
iPast President

## Birthdays

Slade W. Lail  
May 1st  
Mike Fulton  
May 10th  
Robert S Blatecky  
May 14th  
Alyssa S Davis  
May 15th  
Mike Sammond  
May 19th  
Jonathan Stephens Tonge  
May 28th

## Recap of last week

### Program Recap

Division Director of Gwinnett County's Housing and Community Development, Matt Elder, was last week's featured speaker. He began by thanking our club, as when he worked for Home First, they were a recipient of our Derby Down South fundraising efforts. He shared that because of our generosity, Home First was able to address homelessness and housing insecurity throughout the County.

Over the past five years, Gwinnett County's housing market has shifted from a fast-paced seller's market to a more balanced one. The reason for the shift is supply and demand. In 2020, the median home price was about \$280,000, rising steadily to around \$578,000 by early 2025. Rapid price growth in 2020–2021 slowed after 2022 as higher interest rates impacted affordability. Inventory, once very tight, has increased significantly, giving buyers more options. Homes now take longer to sell — from about 14 days in 2020 to an average of 40 days in 2025. Sale prices are closer to list prices, with more sellers reducing prices to attract buyers. Overall, Gwinnett's market has stabilized, offering more balance between buyers and sellers.

Matt shared a lot of data, including that one in four is house burdened, with seventy percent affecting renters. The average rent is \$1,713 versus \$1,946 mortgage. He debunked the theory that there has been a huge influx of multifamily construction. As of today, seventy-one percent of housing in Gwinnett is single-family detached homes, where multi-family has eighteen percent of the overall share.

Thank you, Matt, for the insight regarding the current housing situation in Gwinnett!



### Derby Is This Week - In Final Stretch!!!

Rotary Family, we are in the final stretch for our **7th Annual Derby Down South Fundraiser**, and we need your full support to bring it across the finish line! As of last week, the total raised is \$84K, and we need all hands on deck to finish strong!

There's still time to purchase tickets and become a sponsor, but availability is limited. Don't miss this chance to enjoy an evening of Southern charm, great food and drinks, a little gambling and community celebration - all while helping us make a meaningful difference.

Let's show up strong and make this year's event our best yet!

**Get your tickets or sponsorship today:**

**Rotary Derby Down South website:**

[7th Annual Derby Down South Event](#) | [ClickBid Mobile Bidding](#)

**For Sponsorships:**

[DDS Sponsor Booklet.pdf](#) - [Google Drive](#)

**For Tickets:**

[7th Annual Derby Down South Event](#) | [Secure Ticket Page](#) | [Provided by ClickBid Mobile Bidding Mobile Bidding](#)

The fundraiser will support this year's derby grant recipients, including Families 4 Families and Corners Outreach. Videos providing insight into these organizations can be accessed through the provided links - [Families 4 Families](#) and [Corners Outreach](#). Additionally, Jennifer and Mark have issued a call to action to encourage further participation and support. The more money we raise, the more money will go to these amazing and well-deserving charities that support our community!

As a reminder, the event will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 4:00-8:00pm at Formetco, 2963 Pleasant Hill Rd., Duluth, GA. The Kentucky Derby main event will be shown on the largest screen found in Gwinnett County! You can belly up to the "Pour Pony" horse trailer bar, try your luck at the casino tables, or snag a few of the horsey bids. The silent action will return along with the promotion of our charities: Corners Outreach, Families 4 Families and the End Polio Now campaign.



If you or your family would like to volunteer for the party, please let us know. There is plenty to do the day of the event, as well as the day prior. Sharon Catter has created a Signup Genius to volunteer - [Derby Volunteer Schedule](#).

Thank you again for your commitment to making our annual signature event a huge success!

Jennifer Hendrickson, Co-Chair  
678-592-2599  
[rotaryhendrickson@gmail.com](mailto:rotaryhendrickson@gmail.com)

Mark Willis, Co-Chair  
404-518-1894  
[mwillis@gsba.com](mailto:mwillis@gsba.com)

#### **Host Sponsor - Formetco**

**Presenting Sponsor - \$10,000**  
Weinstein & Black Attorneys at Law

**Triple Crown Sponsor - \$7,500**  
Collaboration Software Partners, LLC

**Derby Down South Dinner Sponsor - \$5,000**  
Holtkamp HVAC & Plumbing  
Smith+Howard

**Mint Julep Sponsor - \$2,500**  
Andersen, Tate & Carr  
Capital City Bank  
D&L Contracting Services  
First Citizens Bank  
Global Partnership for Telehealth  
Oconee StateBank  
Primerica

#### **Rotary Member - Ambassador Sponsor - \$1,500**

Bruce and Betty Carter  
John and Pam Gibb  
Terry and Heather Swaim  
Tom and Joyce Upchurch  
Scott and Marian Zanardo  
Behavioral Health of GA

RESJ, P.C.

**Derby Hat Sponsors - \$500**

Alexander's of Atlanta  
Bright Path Counseling and Consulting  
Community Foundation for Northeast Georgia  
Jennifer and Curtis Hendrickson  
Jennifer and Mace Hibbard  
JavaTap Coffee  
Maison 6405 Event Center  
Bill and Kathy McCargo  
Andy and Stephanie McClung  
Silverton Mortgage  
Frank and Caryl Rinker  
Storey Custom Homes  
United Way  
Wanda and Michael Weegar  
Mark and Wendy Willis

**Trophy Sponsor**

Holtkamp Heating & Air

**Photography & Videography Sponsor**

Joe Sorenson

**Enzo Update**

Enzo, our GRSP student, has been busy, participating in a variety of new experiences recently. He is a member of GGC's Hispanic Committee and took a group tour to Floor & Decor's headquarters, sharing that he had no idea the company was that large, and he learned a lot. He also made a trip to Fernbank and said that seeing the dinosaurs was a really cool experience. Enzo plans to attend Rotary's District Conference but shared that, in addition, he was selected by GGC's Hispanic Committee to attend their district conference in Washington, D.C. He looks forward to sharing an update soon!

**Cell Phone-Friendly Reminder**

As a courtesy to our speaker, members, and guests, please silence your cell phone before the meeting begins. If you must take a call, we kindly ask that you step outside. Thank you for your cooperation. To maintain a respectful and undisturbed environment, any disruptions caused by ringing phones may result in a request from President Brad Beisbier to contribute a generous donation to Sunshine, the Happy Pig.

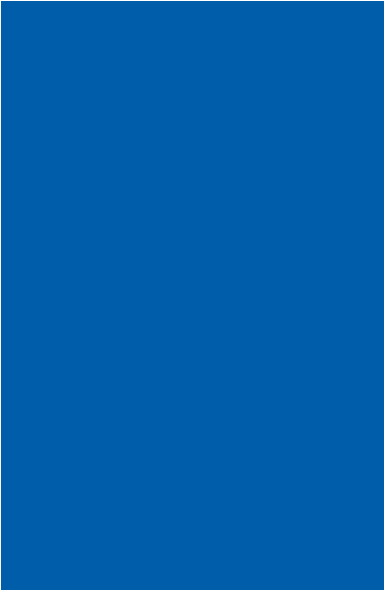
**Rotary IGNITE Mobile App**

During our meeting, members were introduced to an innovative tool that our club will use: the IGNITE Mobile App. The IGNITE Mobile App connects to DACdb and serves as a powerful platform designed to facilitate interaction, collaboration, and impact within our club. Developed with the principles of Rotary's service at its core, IGNITE empowers us to connect with community members, organize events, and mobilize resources more efficiently than ever before. In addition, we are working on setting up the ability to pay club invoices through the app!

As members of the Rotary Club of Gwinnett, you now have access to this app. You are encouraged to download the IGNITE Mobile App and explore its features firsthand. Log-in with your DACdb username and password. Keep in mind, if you have not logged into DACdb within the last 12 months, you will not be able to access IGNITE and will need to get a new password.

If you have any questions, reach out to Jennifer Hibbard - [jennifer.hibbard@vphealth.org](mailto:jennifer.hibbard@vphealth.org).





Stay Connected - Follow us on Social Media!



Gwinnett County  
Meets at The 1818 Club

Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM