

Rotary



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Club Leaders



Brad Beisbier
President



Schelly Tennant Marlatt
Secretary



Joe Sorenson
President-Elect



Mike Fulton
Treasurer



Dave Collier
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

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: Elliott Brack - Let's Have Some Fun!! How Well Do You Know The County's Namesake, Button Gwinnett?



Our speaker and fellow Club Rotarian has been in Gwinnett since 1974. Elliott Brack is a native Georgian, born in Wilkinson County, and grew up in Macon. He and his wife, Barbara, live in Norcross.

Elliott first came to Gwinnett as vice president and general manager of the *Gwinnett Daily News*. He had previously published the *Wayne County Press* in Jesup. He finished his newspaper career as the associate publisher of the daily Gwinnett EXTRA of the *Atlanta Journal Constitution*.

Since retirement, Elliott has published Gwinnett Forum for 25 years on the internet. This is a moderated exchange of ideas seeking to stimulate thought and innovation about Gwinnett and the world. He has 62 years of perfect attendance in Rotary. He is past president of the Jesup Rotary Club.

He has also written an 850-page history of the county, entitled *Gwinnett: A Little Above Atlanta*, now in its third printing.

Elliott is a graduate of Mercer University, and holds a master's degree from the University of Iowa. He and his wife are members of Christ Episcopal Church in Norcross. The couple have two living children and two grandchildren.

Photo is at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C., with his late daughter, Catherine, and the late Rep. John Lewis.

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

July 8th - Lisa Marie Bristol, Solicitor General - Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office

July 15th - TBA



Bruce E. Carter
On-To
Conference
Chair



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

Peter Billups
July 2nd

Wayne T. Sikes
July 7th

Winford V. Lindsay Jr.
July 9th

Recap of last week

Program Recap

We enjoyed having former club Rotarian, Chairwoman Nicole Love Hendrickson as our featured speaker. She shared with us the great things taking place in Gwinnett - many of the same highlights that she shared in her State of the County Address back in March.

She emphasized "One Gwinnett", showcasing the county's unity, diversity, and sustained momentum across key pillars: public safety, affordable housing, and award-winning storytelling. She highlighted Gwinnett's standing in the 88th percentile for safety, safer than 88% of U.S. counties, achieved through innovative policing technology like Flock cameras (which aided in over 246 arrests and 76 stolen vehicles recovered) and the deployment of community service aides to bolster responsiveness. On housing, the \$7.7 million acquisition in Peachtree Corners is poised to deliver 73 affordable units, alongside a \$21 million housing fund backing over 650 units countywide. Additionally, Gwinnett earned back-to-back Southeast Emmy® Awards—first for *Upfront Gwinnett: Fighting Fentanyl* and this year for the three-part *Upfront Gwinnett: The Hidden Homeless*—highlighting the county's impactful storytelling in public affairs. She spoke about the SPLOST projects that are either finished or underway - the new Police HQ, Senior Services, Discovery Park and the expansion of adoption services. She was excited to share that the Hooper Renwick Library is now complete - a first of its kind with the redevelopment and historical preservation of a former school.

Thank you, Chairwoman for visiting us and sharing the great things taking place in Gwinnett!



Brad's Last Meeting As President

As President Brad closed out his Rotary year, he reflected on what made it truly *FANTASTIC!* He praised the club as a group of service-oriented individuals, always willing to show up and give back. The year was marked by heartfelt moments, including saying goodbye to longtime member Bob Rule. Brad celebrated the high quality

Wayne Ellison
July 11th
Lee Jordan
July 15th
Sherwin M. Levinson
July 24th
Andy Anderson
McClung
July 27th
Matthew Holtkamp
July 28th

of club programs throughout the year and gave special thanks to the Derby Committee for delivering a record-setting fundraising event. A meaningful addition this year was the creation of the Sage Award, recognizing the longevity and distinguished service of veteran members. He noted that he had never enjoyed being roasted more than he did at the end-of-year party. Reflecting on the Buddhist concept of "impermanence," Brad acknowledged the natural close of his term with gratitude and joy, saying that, above all, it was a truly fantastic year.

Kicks For Kidz:

Our first service project for the 2025-2026 Rotary year is on the calendar. The 2025 Kicks for Kidz shoe giveaway is Saturday, July 19th at Dick's Sporting Goods at the Mall of Georgia, from 8am-10am. Marlon Allen has shared that there is one volunteer time slot to help as a greeter or personal shopper with the goal of giving away 300 pairs of athletic shoes to kids in need for the upcoming school year. To make this event a success, we need your time and treasure! To donate, you must do so through [Kicks For Kidz Donation](#) (Rotary invoice billing is no longer an option).

To volunteer, register here: [Kicks For Kidz Volunteer Link](#)



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.



Stay Connected - Follow us on Social Media!



DG Bobby Hildreth's Final Message for June 2025



Listen in as DG Bobby shares his final thoughts and thank you message as we wrap up the Rotary year. [Watch Now>](#)

Gwinnett County
Meets at The 1818 Club

Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM