

Rotary



UNITE FOR GOOD

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[Lee Jordan](#)
Club Director



[DePriest Waddy](#)
CART Chair

[Katrina Lucisano](#)

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.

Francesco Arezzo of Italy has been selected as Rotary International President for 2025–26. The presidential theme, “Unite for Good,” remains unchanged and will continue to guide Rotary’s mission this year, which calls on Rotary members to be a force for unity in a world increasingly divided by politics, geography, and ideology. Through service projects, Rotary brings together people of every background — across races, religions, and professions — in a shared mission to do good in their communities.

Upcoming Programs

Upcoming Program: Lisamarie Bristol, Solicitor General - Gwinnett County Solicitor's Office



Lisamarie N. Bristol (Esq) took office on January 1, 2023 as the Gwinnett County Solicitor-General after a successful county-wide campaign. The term of office is 4 years long. The Solicitor-General is the elected prosecutor who prosecutes misdemeanor and traffic offenses as well as county ordinance violations. She is the first African American woman to hold the position. Lisamarie also serves as an Adjunct Professor at Georgia State University College of Law, where she teaches a Lawyering advocacy class to second year law students.

Lisamarie received her law degree from Georgia State University College of Law (Class of 2009), after earning her Bachelor of Science in Psychology with Specialized Honors from York University in Toronto, Ontario Canada. Lisamarie was admitted to the Georgia State Bar in 2009. Following law school, Lisamarie worked as a public defender for 4 years where she handled a diverse caseload representing people charged with felony and misdemeanor crimes. As a public defender, Lisamarie handled criminal cases in Traffic Court, State Court, Superior Court and the Court of Appeals.

Lisamarie transitioned into prosecution in 2014 where she joined the DeKalb Solicitor-General's office as an Assistant Solicitor-General. There, she was assigned to the Special Victims Unit handling cases involving more serious incidents of domestic violence, crimes against vulnerable victims, elder abuse cases, stalking cases and animal cruelty cases. Lisamarie joined the Gwinnett County District Attorney's Office in early 2018. As a Senior Assistant District Attorney, her caseload included all types of felony cases. In

2021, Lisamarie returned to DeKalb County. There, she was a Senior Assistant District Attorney in the Stone Mountain Judicial Circuit (DeKalb County) District Attorney's Office, where she was assigned to the Crime Strategies and Community Partnerships Unit (CSCPU), giving her a greater opportunity to work within the community, while still serving as a prosecutor.

In 2017, Lisamarie was invited to join a multi-disciplinary team consisting of prosecutors, Law enforcement officers, social workers and medical professionals from across the country who teach other prosecutors and law enforcement officers about prosecuting elder abuse cases. As a part of this team, Lisamarie has traveled across the country conducting trainings and teaching at conferences. She has also assisted in the revision of a nationally used curriculum, funded by the Department of Justice. While part of the local team, Lisamarie helped conduct training for hundreds of law enforcement officers in DeKalb County in recognizing and investigating elder abuse crimes in the community.

In 2018, Lisamarie was honored to be selected as part of the inaugural Top 40 under 40 Alumni from Georgia State University for her contributions to the community since her graduation from law school. Lisamarie continues to be involved in her community through her work with various committees, such as the Greater Atlanta Black Prosecutors Association, the Gwinnett chapter of the Georgia Association of Women Lawyers (GAWL); the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys (GABWA); the Gwinnett County Bar Association; and the Gate City Bar Association. She serves as a Board member for Partnership Against Domestic Violence (PADV). She recently completed a two-year term as the Chairperson of the local school council where her youngest child attends elementary school. Lisamarie is a proud member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and Junior League of Gwinnett and North Fulton. She is also a graduate of the Leadership Gwinnett Class of 2022.



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



Souleymane Ongoiba
Youth Services Chair



Brad Bejsbier
iPast President

Birthdays

Wayne T. Sikes
July 7th

Winford V. Lindsay Jr.
July 9th

Wayne Ellison
July 11th

Lee Jordan
July 15th

Sherwin M. Levinson
July 24th

Andy Anderson McClung
July 27th

Matthew Holtkamp
July 28th

Shameka Allen
August 1st

Lisamarie and her husband chose to make Gwinnett their home and are happy to be raising their 3 children in such a robust, diverse community. They attend Berean Christian Church Gwinnett, where she is an active member of the Music Ministry. In her brief moments of free time she enjoys reading.

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

July 15th - TBA

Recap of last week

Program Recap

Fellow club Rotarian, Elliott Brack was our featured speaker and his program was "How Much Do You Know About Our County Namesake, Button Gwinnett". Elliott gave us a "pop quiz" about Button and provided a lot of fun historical facts. For those who were not present, he shared the quiz questions below. Answers will be included in next week's bulletin. No cheating!

1. There are two reasons why old Button is famous. Simply put, what are they?
2. Where was Button Gwinnett born - Iceland, Scotland, Ireland, Great Britain, or Denmark?
3. What time period are we talking about when he was born? We'll give you a check mark if you can come up with the decade of his birth.
4. At one time, Button Gwinnett purchased an island in Georgia. What was the name of that island?
5. What was the highest political office that Button Gwinnett held?
6. Button fought a pistol duel. At how many paces did the two gentlemen want to fire from?
7. In what city was there erected an obelisk to the three signers of the Declaration of Independence from Georgia?
8. Where does the name "Button" come from?
9. How much did a recent Button Gwinnett signature sell for?
10. How many Button Gwinnett descendants are alive today?



Joe's First Meeting As President

Joe Sorenson kicked off the 2025-2026 Rotary year by recapping his trip to Canada for the Rotary International Convention. Held in Calgary, he realized how much of an impact Rotary clubs and Rotarians make across the world and looks forward to our club continuing to be part of that impact. He shared that the executive board will also be having a planning meeting next week to discuss goals for the upcoming year and looks forward to sharing that, along with the budget, etc. with the club soon.



New Member Induction

Last week, we inducted our first member of the new Rotary year. Sponsored by Scott Zanardo, Oudei Abouassaf was born in Syria and his family immigrated to the US when he was nine years old and lived in Chicago. While in Chicago, he met his wife, Ennas, and in 2019, he relocated his family to Georgia to work with his brother in the furniture industry.

The name of his company is Titanic and Oudei travels to Vietnam, Indonesia, and Jordan to have the furniture made and imports it. He then resells the furniture to companies like Big Lots, Ashley and Marshall's. They have 2 children and live in Suwanee. Welcome to the Rotary Family, Oudei - we look forward to serving alongside you!



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!



Gwinnett County
Meets at The 1818 Club

Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM