



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

THROBS

Published Weekly Since 1914

January 13, 2025

Adon Clark, Aviation Program at MGA

Among the academic offerings at Middle Georgia State University is a program billed as “Your flight path to a Delta career.” The School of Aviation offers FAA-certified programs in flight (airplane and helicopter), air traffic management, aviation maintenance technology (AMT), and aircraft structural technology (AST). MGA is one of only nine schools in the US with three FAA-certified programs, and is the most affordable of them all.



Middle Georgia
State University

Learn more when Prof. Adon Clark addresses our club on January 13.

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our January 6 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/27eubqos>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

January, 2025

13	Aviation Program at MGA State University	Prof. Adon Clark
20	No Meeting – MLK Jr. Holiday	
21	Board Meeting	
27	Lessons in Leadership	Dr. Kirby Godsey

February, 2025

3	Rotary District Governor	Todd Freesman
10	Mercer Updates	President Bill Underwood
17	No Meeting – Presidents’ Day	
18	Board Meeting	
24	50 Years of GNTV	Rev. David Wood

March, 2025

3	No Meeting	
10	Goodwill	Jim Stiff (President, Goodwill Middle GA and Central Savannah River)
17	USDA	Nikki Thomas, Acting State Director
18	Board Meeting	
24	Unified Defense/Prince Service & Mfg.	Eric Williams, CEO
31	No Meeting	

April, 2025

7	Chancellor Perdue	Sonny Perdue
14	Georgia Supreme Court	Justice Verda Colvin
14	Board Meeting	
21	Cherokee Brick	Kate Sams Peavy, President
28	No Meeting	

“New” Member Approval

The Board has approved the membership application of Mike Ford, who was a member of our club from 2006 until 2016. Mike is well-known to most Maconites as a former hospital executive and head of NewTown Macon. Now retired, he wishes to rejoin the club.

Members have 10 days to make comments in writing to President Danny Gibson.

MEETING January 6, 2025

Attendance: 58.9% - 63 in person, 13 Zoom, plus 11 guests

CART \$19, Raffle \$134

Club Membership: 143, including today’s induction

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start our first meeting of 2025. He called on renowned vocalist and Past President Jonathan Alderman to lead the singing and pledge of allegiance. Jonathan chose the old standby *God Bless America*. Cynthia Knapp offered the prayer, and acknowledged that today is Epiphany.

Danny thanked Jackie Riley for her piano playing and then welcomed our guests, which included several prospective members, one GRSP student in addition to our own, and Area Governor Steve Bell with his wife Laura. Laura and Steve have been a host family for our GRSP student, João Vilela.

For the period January 1-12, Bowen Shoemaker, Marcus Tripp and Lee Laughter all celebrate birthdays. Ember Bentley celebrates four years in Rotary, and Jeffrey Monroe has served for five. Four members have 19 years of service: Henry Oliner, Amy Rawls, Sherrie Marshall, and Ty Ivey. Malcolm Burgess has been a member for 30 years. Sam Robinson has now been a member for 35 years. These eight members represent an incredible 150 years of Service Above Self!

Next came CART brags. Even though it had been a month and a half since our last meeting, there were only three brags. Be thinking of something to say next week, it all goes to a good cause!

President Danny then remembered former member and Past President Danny Bullington. Danny was born on August 8, 1945, and died December 30, 2024, unexpectedly at 79 years old. Danny said he didn't know until he read the obituary, but Danny Bullington was listed in *Ripley's Believe It or Not*. He was born on 8/8 at 8:00am, and weighed 8 pounds and 8 ounces.

Danny joined our club on November 1, 1983, and served as our president during the 2008-2009 Rotary year. "Danny was a unique guy. I enjoyed his company. He was a good cook and grill master."

There will be a celebration of his life January 11 at Lizella Methodist Church at 2 o'clock. Please remember Carolyn, Danny's wife and his children in your thoughts and prayers.

President Danny then announced that next Monday, January the 13th we plan to recognize 12 of our members for either becoming Paul Harris Fellows or reaching another level of Paul Harris. We ask all of our members to come, if you can, to help us recognize and pay tribute to our Paul Harris Fellows.

Danny then asked if anyone knew what started in 1916, the year Woodrow Wilson was President. It is *Throbs*, the publication you are now reading that has been published every week for almost 109 years. Not many newspapers have been around that long! Danny encouraged all members to read it each week to keep up with what our club is doing. Of course, you are already doing that!

Danny then said that January is Vocational Service Month. Vocational service is a fundamental part of Rotary. It gives us an opportunity to empower others, using our skills and expertise to help the community, help others learn, discover new professional interests and opportunities, promote ethical standards, and recognize the value of all occupations.

It was then time to induct our newest member, Brendan O'Kane of Mt. de Sales Academy. Brendan was introduced by our other Mt. de Sales member, Emily Brown. Emily said he is an individual whose commitment to service, leadership and education truly exemplifies the Rotary Club's motto of Service Above Self.

Brendan serves as the president of Mount de Sales Academy, a role he assumed in July. Brendan began his career as an AmeriCorps volunteer middle school teacher



and went on to earn master's degrees in educational leadership and theological studies. In addition to becoming a trained spiritual director, all through his alma mater, Loyola University, Maryland. Brendan dedicated 17 years to Jesuit schools in Baltimore, serving in leadership positions within campus ministry and student services. Outside of work, he's an avid runner and enjoys spending time with his wife, Anita Maina, a licensed clinical social worker and vice principal at St. Peter Claver Catholic School. Later this month they will welcome their first child.

Danny then announced that today we have a very special program. GRSP, the Georgia Rotary Student Program, was founded in 1946, and our club has participated for many years. The Rotary Club of Macon works jointly with the Downtown Rotary Club and the North Macon Rotary Club to sponsor a GRSP student each year, and the process for selecting is big deal, with perhaps 400 applicants. Of those, João Vilela of Brazil was especially impressive. Danny read a few excerpts from his application.

“My mother's influence has been instrumental in shaping my values and dreams. She diligently nurtured my education by assisting me with assignments after my school hours. Her dedication instilled in me a strong work ethic and lifelong commitment to learning. Moreover, her love for reading, often complemented by my sister's storytelling, ignited my profound passion for literature, which has also driven me to express my thoughts and emotions through poetry.

“I find boundless joy in creating verses that mirror the beauty I find in the world...my major strength lies in my adept communication and interpersonal skills.”

João aspires to pursue a career in diplomacy, with a commitment to nurturing global harmony. “My most profound passion lies in the rich tapestry of Brazilian culture. I dream of becoming an ambassador of Brazilian culture, elevating it to even greater heights on the world stage through diplomacy.”

João began by thanking Danny for the introduction, saying he almost cried when Danny was speaking of his mother. When he got his books for Mercer, there were 12 books to read this semester. He sent his mother a picture of him with the books, which made her very proud. He also thanked the club for sponsoring him and the other GRSP students.



“I would like to start my presentation with one of the most ancient questions of humanity. Who am I?” he began in his perfect, British-accented English. He said his name is João Victor Verçosa Vilela and he is 22 years old. “And don't you all think that it's a bit weird that when we're talking about ourselves we say our names or our age? But I am much more than just a confluence of numbers that make my age, or just some letters that will form my name. And I often question myself. Who am I? Then, when I think, all that comes into my mind is love. Love for nature, love for my friends, for my family, for my culture, for books, for everything that makes me human. And I think that's what we need to remind ourselves every day that we are humans. And we're made of love.”

João showed pictures of his family, friends and life in Brazil. He has deep roots in Rotary, since his grandfather was a Rotary club president.

His hometown is Maceió, which is on the coast and has a very tropical climate. Tourism is very big there. João said that in putting together this presentation he was reminded of how lucky he was to be born in such a place.



- **Population:** Approximately 1.05 million inhabitants (IBGE, 2023)
- **Economy:** Strongly tied to tourism, services, and commerce
- **Climate:** Tropical, with average annual temperatures ranging from 77° to 86°
- **Tourism:** Famous for its stunning beaches as well as its natural pools and vibrant local culture with traditional festivals and cuisine.

João's presentation was too wide-ranging to summarize here, but the entire meeting can be viewed at <https://tinyurl.com/27eubqos>. The members greatly appreciated getting to know him better.

The raffle pot was up to \$1,009.00, with only 18 cards left in the deck. There will be just 17 next week because, while the Ace is a good card it isn't the winning Queen of Clubs. The pot should be much higher!

As always, the meeting concluded with recitation of the Four Way Test.

Final word on Salvation Army Bellingring: Thanks to everyone who volunteered this year. Our contact was quite appreciative and excited to report that the donation total of those two days was \$631. Thanks also to George Lee for organizing this service project.

Donate to Rotary Foundation and CART

Club members can make donations to The Rotary Foundation or the CART Fund online line using credit cards or EFT. These can be made in memory of, honor of, or personal donations. They can be setup as recurring or one-time. These online donations qualify as a tax deduction (but ask your accountant). Follow these easy steps:

The Rotary Foundation: Go to <https://rotary.org/> If you have never signed in you will need to register so it credits your Paul Harris Fellow account and our club. You may need our District number 6920 and club number 4202. Once registered you can SIGN IN to MY ROTARY then click DONATE button in upper right. Check the area ANNUAL FUND, DISASTER RELIEF FUND, or POLIO PLUS to donate, then just follow easy steps to make payment.

CART FUND: <https://mycartfund.org/Login.cfm> follow the online instructions. You will need our **Club number 4202** and **District number 6920**. (This link requires logging in to DACdb. If you have trouble with that, use <https://mycartfund.org/NewUser.cfm> instead.) All donations to CART go to support cutting-edge research on Alzheimer's.

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events:

**Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting
(There are no meetings in December)**

Anytime	Rotary Project or Rotary Committee meeting
Anytime	Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
Anytime	Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past <i>Throbs</i> link.

HOW TO MAKE UP MISSED MEETINGS

Please make up missed meetings to help our club's attendance percentage rank with District 6920 and Rotary International. **Members are encouraged to maintain an attendance average of 60%.**

Missed meetings must be made up **14 days before or after the meeting you miss.**

See list above of approved makeups. You can make up from the comfort of your home or office online at <http://rotaryclubone.org/> They will email a notice of the makeup to the Club Administrator and you will be credited. Also, attendance at another Rotary Club is a great option when you are traveling!

When you make up using the **Zoom link** of our meetings listed in meeting summary above or makeup in person at another club please send an email immediately afterwards to the Club Administrator, steve@eggmedia.com so your makeup can be recorded. Do not expect the club you visit to report to our club.

Excused Absences

Members have the opportunity to receive a board approved Excused Absence during a long-term family, health, or business crisis. When a member realizes they have a situation that will keep them from attending Monday meetings for an extended period they can contact the Club Administrator or President with the reason. This contact needs to be immediate and not after the crisis. The board can approve a beginning and ending date and attendance is excused on club and district level. Short term absences are best made up online.

Club Membership Applications

We are purpose-driven leaders of influence and action. To sponsor a prospective candidate to join our membership, contact Membership Chair Gene Dunwody gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.com or any member of the Board of Directors to ensure a vocational classification is available for your candidate. Once the Classification Committee approves the classification, invite your new member candidate to a weekly meeting. If the candidate expresses interest in joining our club, then ask the Membership Chair to send the candidate an invitation to apply online. Once the new member candidate completes the application, Board members review the application. Then, new member candidates are presented for formal approval at the monthly Board meeting. Once approved by the Board, new member candidates are announced in Throbs. Unless there is objection by any existing member, the new member is scheduled for orientation and formal induction. All members of our club need to think about who would make good Rotarians!

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