



# Rotary



# The Rotary Club of Macon

 **THROBS**

*Published Weekly Since 1914*

**January 20, 2025**

*No Meeting – MLK Holiday*

First signed into law in 1983 by President Ronald Reagan, Martin Luther King Jr. Day was officially observed for the first time on January 20, 1986. Although initially met with resistance, it has since grown into a national day of reflection, service, and action.

For Rotarians, the MLK Holiday resonates deeply with our organization’s commitment to service and fostering peace and understanding. It provides an opportunity to reflect on Rotary’s core values of equity and community building while engaging in projects that address local and global challenges. By celebrating this day, Rotarians reaffirm their dedication to Service Above Self, drawing inspiration from Dr. King’s timeless message of hope, courage, and the transformative power of collective action.



We’ll see you back January 27 for a very special program with Dr. Kirby Godsey.

## Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our January 13 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/28635z3y>

## **FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:**

### **January, 2025**

- |    |                              |                  |
|----|------------------------------|------------------|
| 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 Approvals

The Board has approved the membership application of James P. “Jim” Smith, who is known to many members and has recently retired as Chief Bankruptcy Judge for the U.S. District Court, Middle District of Georgia. He would hold the classification of Retired Bankruptcy Judge. Also approved is Al Baggarty, who would hold the classification of Car Wash (one of his many ventures!) Al was previously a member of the Downtown Macon (Wednesday) club.

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

## MEETING January 13, 2025

Attendance: 58.8% - 60 in person, 17 Zoom, plus 9 guests

CART \$8, Raffle \$140

Club Membership: 143

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting. He said that while he feels good, the members who were to lead the singing and offer the prayer were both unable to come. However, our club always has someone who can step up at the last minute, and Dianne Brannen led the singing and pledge. She chose our national anthem, *The Star-Spangled Banner*, which always tests the vocal cords of all who attempt it. Nancy White offered the prayer on behalf of Chris Blake, and did an excellent job even without a British accent.

Danny thanked Jackie Riley for her piano playing, saying every Rotary club in the world would be jealous of our wonderful music. He then welcomed our guests, which included several pending and potential members.

Principal Bernard Young of Southwest High School then took the microphone to introduce his student, Kalia Gosha. Principal Young has now visited the club four times with his students, all of which are

very impressive. He said the school has a law academy, but it had been in decline and didn't have much participation.

Kalia came in and turned it around. She's participated in the mock trial program for four years, and has been president of SkillsUSA, a workforce development organization for students. Kalia said the law academy helped her find her passion, which is politics and law. She's also a student advisor and Senior Ambassador as well as SGA President. (Just Google her name and you'll be impressed by what you find!)

Danny then announced that, for the period January 13-26, several Rotarians share birthdays. Carey Pickard, Mary Pinson, and Brendan O'Kane were all born January 21. Lima McGuire celebrates January 22, and Cater Thompson and George Jackson share January 25.

Austin Sturdivant has now been with our club for one year, Jeff Dudley for 15, and Katherine Walden for 16 years. President Danny Gibson has been a member for 24 years!

CART brags came next, and we had only two. As usual, they were impressive. Katy Carr said Stratford Academy has been chosen by the Georgia Musical Theatre Awards of Arts Bridge to represent Macon, and results will be known soon. Dell Bunker wanted to make sure that Kalia knew that Mercer's undergraduates participate in mock trials across the nation, and their law school is ranked number 15 in the nation by US News & World Report and number two by the American Bar Association. We need more brags each week, please be thinking of something, and remember that all money put in the blue buckets goes to fund Alzheimer's research.



Danny announced that he has about 150 dogwood tree seedlings and any member who wants one may have it. He said he researched the trees and they take 7-10 years to bloom, so planting one is an optimistic act.

It was then time for some very special presentations of Paul Harris Awards. A member reaches Paul Harris Fellow status by donating a cumulative total of \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation, and additional awards are given for subsequent \$1,000 donations. The money we send supports Global Grants to fight disease through vaccination, water and sanitation programs, to promote world peace, and to encourage self-sufficiency in underserved areas. While much of this money is granted overseas, our club and district also get half of the money back for local projects. Macon Rotarians receiving Paul Harris pins today were:

Paul Harris: Jimmy Asbell

Plus 2: Katherine McLeod, Jeff Dudley, Steve Allen

Plus 3: Bert Maxwell, Marcus Tripp

Plus 5: Jim Netherton

Plus 6: Ed Olson

Plus 8: Danny Gibson

President Danny was reluctant to mention his own award, though it was the highest of the group, so the presentation was made by our Foundation Chair, Marcus Tripp. Three members were not awarded today but will be at a future meeting: Carey Pickard (+1), Rebecca Grist (+2), and Kathy McCollum (+3).



Nancy White then introduced our speaker, Adon Clark, who is Dean of the School of Aviation at Middle Georgia State University. He oversees academic and operational activities there, as well as course, schedule planning, faculty evaluation, curriculum development, and FAA compliance.

Adon's distinguished military career in the US Air Force included multiple assignments internationally and stateside, including Desert Shield and Desert Storm. The pinnacle of his military career was serving as a member of the US Air Force demonstration squadron Thunderbirds.

His aviation career spans over 40 years. He's an FAA-rated pilot, an airframe and power plant technician with inspection authorization.

Along with his Air Force career he has worked in agricultural aviation, corporate aviation, general aviation and commercial airline aviation.

Adon's a graduate of Mercer University, with a BS In Science and Social Science Education, and he has an MBA From Georgia College and State University.

He and his wife, Christy and two children live in Ocilla.

Prof. Clark brought along a PowerPoint packed with information on MGA's aerospace program. He began with the surprising revelation that Georgia's number one export is not cotton, peanuts, pecans, or peaches, but aerospace products amounting to \$10.8 billion per year. There are over aerospace companies providing 108,000 jobs in Georgia. The aerospace industry has a \$60.3 billion annual impact on the Georgia economy, and the MGA school contributes to that.

The School of Aviation and Aerospace is in Eastman, and began as the Eastman Center of the Heart of Georgia Technical College in 1996. The FAA approved Aircraft Maintenance Technology and Flight Technology programs in March of that year. In 2001 the Eastman Center became the standalone Georgia Aviation

Technical College. It consolidated with Middle Georgia College in 2007, and in 2012 Middle Georgia College and Macon State College consolidated to form Middle Georgia State College. Finally, in July of 2015 Middle Georgia State College became Middle Georgia State University.



Adon said they are Georgia's only 4-year public aviation institution, and one of only nine universities in the country that offer the "three pillars of aviation."

## Three Pillars of Aviation Education



Maintenance  
*FAA Part 147*



Flight, with a 4-year degree  
*FAA Part 141*



Air Traffic Control  
*FAA CTI-ATC*

Programs include Flight (fixed wing and helicopter), Management, Air Traffic Control, Aircraft Maintenance Technology, Aircraft Structural Technology, Unmanned Aerial Systems, and BAS Technical Management.

Of the nine US institutions offering baccalaureate degrees in aviation and three FAA-certified programs, MGA is the most affordable. MGA is one of only six such schools with an accreditation from the Aviation Accreditation Board International.

The school has 57 airplanes, four helicopters, and state-of-the art simulators.

“We're one of only two university-owned air traffic control towers. The Eastman airport where we operate is the third-busiest airport in the State of Georgia” and it sometimes surpasses number two PDK. Enrollment has grown from 320 students in 2014 to about 1,600 today. Attracting students is not a problem, since all graduates are guaranteed a well-paying job in an industry where demand is increasing. They partner with Delta and United airlines as well as several smaller airlines.



## CRJ 700 Simulator



Prof. Clark presented many more interesting facts about a program that many people, even in this area, know little of. You can see it in its entirety at <https://tinyurl.com/28635z3y>. The members, as usual, had many questions for the speaker.

The raffle pot was up to \$1,149.00, with only 19 cards left in the deck. Cameron Bishop had the winning ticket, but didn't pull the winning Queen of Clubs. So, once again the pot will roll over and be even larger at our next meeting of January 27.

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

## 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](mailto: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.

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## *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](mailto: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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