



The Rotary Club of Macon

❤️ **THROBS**

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February 5, 2024

Pedestrian Safety – Weston Stroud

Weston Stroud became Macon-Bibb's first Transportation Safety Manager on January 3, and he already has big plans to reduce Macon's notoriously high pedestrian accident and fatality rate. To do this, he is utilizing a Swedish-born strategy called Vision Zero with the aim of eliminating fatal crashes by 2040. It works in Sweden, will it work here? Learn more at our next meeting.



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our January 29 meeting: <http://tinyurl.com/ynojse8t>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

February, 2024

5	Pedestrian Safety	Weston Stroud
12	Loy's Farmers Market	Loy Young
19	No meeting	
20	Board meeting at Fountain of Juice	
26	Journalism: Past, Present and Future	Charles Richardson and Sherrie Marshall

March, 2024

4	No meeting
11	Pending

MEETING January 29, 2024

Attendance: 60.2% - 64 in person, 13 Zoom, plus 6 guests

CART \$10.14, Raffle \$31

Club Membership: 142 including today's induction

President Stephanie was back after an anniversary vacation. She rang the bell to start the meeting and reminded us of our club's 109 years of service. After thanking Jackie for her piano playing, she called on Ivey Hall to lead the song and pledge. Ivey chose perennial favorite *God Bless America*, and President Elect Rebecca Grist followed with a nice prayer.

Stephanie welcomed our guests, which included four students and one staff member from Middle Georgia State University who had come in support of our member and speaker, President Chris Blake.

She then offered birthday wishes to seven members celebrating January 23-31. There were two shared birthdays – George Jackson and Cater Thompson on January 25 and past President Jim Manley and Sarah Nicholls on January 31. There was just one club anniversary; Jeff Dudley now has 14 years of service.

It was then time for CART bags, in which we raise money to benefit Alzheimer's research. Only two came forward this time. President Stephanie led off by saying she just returned from a ski trip to Vail, Colorado, where she and her husband were married 17 years ago. They now go for each anniversary, and Stephanie was grateful that Past President Susan Welsh could fill in for her last week.



Stephanie then made two announcements on behalf of Matt Shoemaker. For those Rotarians with rising junior and senior high school students, The RYLA conference this year runs from Wednesday, June 12 through Saturday, June 15 and it offers an amazing and memorable time for the students who go. It consists of leadership seminars and programs offered by a wide spectrum of professionals. The cost is \$350 per student but our club will pay for up to four students. We have already put out the word to local schools, so if you know of a worthy student reach out to Matt Shoemaker (matt.shoemaker@jonescork.com) as soon as possible. The deadline is February 15.

Also, we now have a date for the Speech Contest, and it will be March 2. Matt will have more information for us soon.

January is Rotary Vocational Month, and Charles Olson came up to share what our members are doing in the community. Standing in for Gary Wheat, Charles said Dr. Chris Blake, our speaker, awarded Robert Hatcher, Senior for his contributions to Middle Georgia State with the Board of Regents Hall of Fame Alumni and Distinguished Friends award. Members Seth Clark and Gary Wheat were recently featured on 41NBC

for their presentation on the impact of the National Park Initiative. Dr. Dan Sims was highlighted for his State of the District presentation for Bibb County Schools. If you know of accomplishments that should be highlighted, please contact Gary Wheat, gwheat@visitmacon.org.

It was then time to induct our newest member, Charlotte Way. She is joining under the classification of Tax Attorney/Legal Counsel and is with the Mauldin & Jenkins CPA firm. Charlotte was introduced by President-Elect Rebecca Grist. Charlotte holds a B.S. in Accounting from the University of Louisiana and a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, as well as an LL.M. in taxation from New York University School of Law. She holds admission to the bar in the States of Georgia and Texas. She's also a CPA in Georgia and moved back to Macon about a year ago. Welcome, Charlotte!



Our speaker was our member, Dr. Chris Blake, President of Middle Georgia State University. He was introduced by Rebecca Grist, who noted that he has led the university through significant growth since being named its first permanent President in 2014. It has expanded from a bachelor's granting institution to one offering many master's degrees and two doctoral degrees as well. Originally from Wimbledon, England, Dr. Blake holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Theology from the University of Oxford, Keble College, a postgraduate certificate in education from Westminster College (Oxford), and a Ph.D. in Education from King's College of the University of London. Beginning in the classroom, he served in progressive positions within American higher education before joining Middle Georgia State.

He is also author of two books that explore aspects of World War I history, and was among the 2022 Georgia Writers Association's nominees for Author of the Year for his second book, *Reckless Misfortune: The Century We Inherited from the First World War*. He's also an enthusiastic fan of professional football (soccer), supporting Tottenham Hotspur of the English Premiere League.

Chris began by saying he was thrilled to be speaking here again, having addressed the club before on a number of topics, including Ukraine. He recognized the students in the audience, including two tennis players who came from Argentina and Germany. He said he's surrounded by amazing colleagues, and has recently welcomed Nancy White as Vice President of Advancement.

Middle Georgia State University (MGSU) now has 8,000 students from 144 of Georgia's 159 counties, 40 states and 73 countries. Eighty percent of graduates live and work within 100 miles of Macon. That means they are in our businesses and hospitals, and working with airlines in Atlanta and with Contour here in Macon.

MGSU is the most affordable public university in Georgia and four neighboring states, with a tuition rate of just \$150 per credit. They offer Georgia's flagship school of aviation, with a presence in Eastman and the Macon Downtown Airport. The nursing school is in Dublin. The first set of IT doctorates received their degrees last year. There are over 43,000 alumni worldwide.

The university now has approval to transition its athletes to NCAA Division II. In their philanthropy and foundation office the school has quietly raised \$9.2 million plus \$26 million of State money for capital projects. Every single day the institution receives \$12,000 in gifts. A \$500 gift can be the difference in graduating or not for a student.

Chris then told of the Center for Middle Georgia Studies. Starting with a \$1.2 million grant from the Peyton Anderson Foundation and \$1.1 million from the Carolyn Smalley estate the center plans to address real-life issues in Middle Georgia. On a smaller scale, this will be like the Fanning Institute or the Carl Vinson Institute offering strategic planning, budget analysis, and long-term projections of revenues and taxation for both local governments and institutions.

Metrics – 2022-2023



\$290M
ECONOMIC IMPACT
in our communities

7% higher
than
previous
year



**INCREASE IN BACHELOR'S
& MASTER'S/DOCTORAL
DEGREES AWARDED**

In Five Years (FY19-FY23):
Bachelor's UP 27%
Master's/Doctoral UP 142%



**10,463
TOTAL
DEGREES
AWARDED**

since MGA became a
State University

There is a new strategic plan called Middle Georgia's path to Excellence 2023-2028. Dr. Blake then highlighted some other programs of MGSU, which is on track to have over 8,700 students in the next five years. While Chris said he's been an itinerant around the world, this is now his home, and out home, and we will succeed. His talk solicited many questions from the members.



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



The 4-Way Test

of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



Construction Notice

First Presbyterian Church, where we hold our regular meetings, is undergoing some renovations. As a result, the Mulberry Street courtyard entrance will be blocked off for a while. During that time, members need to enter the building from First Street.



Rotary District 6920's District Conference will be held at the Jekyll Island Convention Center April 26-28. Early registration and hotel discount deadline is March 22, 2024. Complete information can be found at <https://www.rotarydistrict6920.org/dc-2024/>



Do you have a recent accomplishment? Have you or your organization won an award or otherwise been recognized? We want to know, and to recognize your achievement at a meeting. Please email Gary Wheat, our Vocational Service Chair, at gwheat@visitmacon.org

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. 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**.

Vocational Spotlight

See <http://maconrotary.com/vocational-spotlight.php> to read more information on Rotarians featured monthly on our website <http://maconrotary.com> If you would like to be included in a Vocational Spotlight, please contact Gary Wheat, gwheat@visitmacon.org

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events:

Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting

Anytime Rotary Project or Rotary Committee meeting
Anytime Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past *Throbs* 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. Our attendance is reported each month to the district and is required to be reported before the 15th of the following month. **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 Charles Olson EOlson200@msn.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 Membership Chair Charles 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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