



The Rotary Club of Macon

♥ **THROBS**

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February 19, 2024

No Meeting – Presidents' Day

President's Day is a national holiday celebrated on the third Monday of February. Originally established to commemorate George Washington's birthday, the holiday now recognizes all U.S. presidents, both past and present. President's Day provides an opportunity for reflection on the leadership and achievements of those who have shaped the nation's history. This holiday serves as a reminder of the enduring values that have guided the United States throughout its rich and diverse history.



Enjoy the day off, we'll see you back February 26 for a long-anticipated program on journalism.

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our February 12 meeting: <http://tinyurl.com/29pau79m>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

February, 2024

19	No meeting
20	Board meeting at Fountain of Juice
26	Journalism: Past. Present. Future?

Presidents' Day

Charles Richardson, Sherrie Marshall and
Caleb Slinkard

March, 2024

4	No meeting
11	Pending

MEETING February 12, 2024

Attendance: 59.4% - 48 in person, 28 Zoom, plus 3 guests

CART \$3, Raffle \$28

Club Membership: 143



It was a stormy Monday which resulted in fewer in-person but more Zoom attendees than usual. President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Dr. Dan Sims to lead the singing and pledge. In honor of Black History Month, Dan spoke on the history of *Lift Every Voice and Sing*, fresh from being sung prior to Super Bowl LVIII. Sometimes called the “Black National Anthem,” it was a poem written by NAACP leader James Weldon Johnson, and his brother John Rosamond Johnson later composed the music. It was first performed by a choir of 500 school children at the segregated Stanton School in Jacksonville, Florida, where James Weldon Johnson was principal, in celebration of President Lincoln's Birthday on February 12, 1900. Johnson's lyrics eloquently captured the solemn yet hopeful appeal for the liberty of black Americans set against the religious invocation of God and the promise of freedom. The song was later adopted by the NAACP as its official song, and was prominently used as a rallying cry during the civil rights movement of the 1950's and 60's.

Dan said the part he liked the most is that the school children of Jacksonville kept singing it, and took it to other schools. Some of them became teachers and taught it to other children. Within 20 years it was being sung all over the south and throughout the country. He then led the members in singing the first verse, followed by recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Andy Mealor then followed with a prayer of gratitude.

There were no guests to welcome other than the speaker, though the student and principal from Central were delayed by the rain and came later. While we had no birthdays to celebrate, five members celebrated club anniversaries, including Garrett Williams with 15 years of service.

It was then time for CART brags, and we had just two. Please remember that you don't have to offer a brag to put money in the blue buckets, and all money goes to Alzheimer's research.



Today's program was presented by Lewis "Loy" Young, a multigenerational farmer and founder of Loy's Farmers Market. He was introduced by Matt Shoemaker.

Matt began by saying that if you are here today, you either have to be here or must really love Rotary, because it's a nasty day out there. He then went on to say that it's an honor to have Loy Young in Macon-Bibb County doing the work he's doing. Loy actually came to Macon-Bibb as the result of being incarcerated. After he served his time, Loy decided to go back to his roots, which were in Montezuma and in agriculture. He returned to Macon-Bibb to set up farmers markets in locations that otherwise would be food deserts. Part of his motivation was the closing of Kroger on Pio Nono.

Matt said he found some quotes that were inspiring to him in an email Loy sent to Alex Morrison. Loy said when the Kroger closed, that was when he started to realize that his work was important and that people were depending on him. His vision is that if we can't afford to build grocery stores in every neighborhood, at least we can still find a way to tackle this problem together. Finally he said "I've to the realization that it's bigger than me. I'm thankful that the Lord gave me a second chance." His slogan is "Putting People First."

Loy Young then came up and said he arrived in Macon in 2013 and served 17 years in federal prison. He was released to a halfway house and got a job at Roly Poly. The city he saw in 2013 was just beginning to have positive changes and he knew the city was not going to be like that forever. After being released from the halfway house, the owners of Roly Poly told him he could always have a job there. He first moved to Hampton, Georgia but things didn't work out. He came back to Macon and called the owners of Roly Poly who gave him his job back. He didn't have a place to stay, so he slept in his truck next to the H&H Restaurant so he could be close to work.

He eventually saved money and moved into a loft apartment across from Washington Park. He met his future wife in Macon and started evaluating his life. He knew the job at Roly Poly didn't have much potential, but with his background it was hard to get another job. He decided to make a living for himself, so he went back to his hometown of Montezuma where he observed his uncle who had a roadside fruit and produce stand. He liked the interactions his uncle had with the community, so he came back to Macon and started selling produce from his truck. He quickly realized he needed a more permanent location and first set up a stand next to the ice machine on Pio Nono. The owners allowed him to stay there for a year, next to the closed Kroger that the neighborhood had depended on.

Loy later bought some properties listed for foreclosure on the Tax Assessors website. He bought one on Pio Nono and also has one at Third and Hazel streets. His business has come a long way and he still gives away much of his food. He especially enjoys the interactions with people and takes produce to several senior citizens' locations.



Currently, he is downtown at 1217 Third Street Wednesday through Friday and is at the Tatnall Square Market on Thursdays between 2:00 and 6:00. On weekends he's back at 2384 Pio Nono Avenue. Eventually he would like to be at the Third Street location fulltime.

Loy's talk was well-received by the members, who had many questions.

Since they were delayed by the weather, Central High School Principal Dr. Chandra Dupree and her STAR student, Rashelle Reyes were introduced after the program. Rashelle said she's a Senior who has had amazing opportunities at Central High School. She is currently in Beta Club, French Club and is DECA Vice President of Marketing. She's also manager of the school store, which has taught her many skills that can be used when she has a job. In addition, she has painted a mural on Riverside Drive downtown. Her mural mixes Van Gogh's *Starry Night* with scenes of Macon. (The picture below is captured from her phone screen, so it's a rather low quality rendition of her art.)



Rashelle has been accepted to Mercer on a scholarship. She plans to major in nursing before going to law school.

President Stephanie congratulated Rashelle and thanked Matt Shoemaker for putting together our STAR student visits.

She then reminded the members that we don't meet next Monday the 19th due to the Presidents' Day holiday but we will be back February 26 for a special program on the past, present and future of journalism.

Bert Maxwell had the winning ticket for the lottery drawing. He drew a Queen, but it was the Queen of Spades, not the winning Queen of Clubs. The pot rolls over!

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





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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