



# Rotary



## The Rotary Club of Macon

♥ **THROBS**

*Published Weekly Since 1914*

**April 21, 2025**

*Kate Sams Peavy, Cherokee Brick*

Cherokee Brick, one of Macon's oldest companies, was founded in 1877 as Stratton Brick Company. Their manufacturing plants in Macon and Mississippi now serve markets from Miami to Montreal, and out to Utah and New Mexico, with products that include stone as well as over 100 different varieties of brick.



### CHEROKEE BRICK

Est. 1877

Come learn more about this vital company from President Kate Sams Peavy when she addresses our club April 21.

### Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our April 14 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2y9kkrxz>

### FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

#### April, 2025

28 No Meeting

#### May, 2025

5 Spring Picnic at Otis Redding Center for the Arts – no regular meeting  
12 GRSP Student João Victor Verçosa Vilela  
19 Performances by Morning Music Club's Maerz Award winners  
20 Board Meeting  
26 No Meeting

#### June, 2025

2 No Meeting  
9 Mercer Medical School Dean Jean Sumner

## MEETING April 14, 2025

Attendance: 60.6% - 72 in person, 11 Zoom, plus 8 guests

Raffle \$180, CART \$147

Club Membership: 153

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Past President Albert Reichert to lead the singing and pledge. We can always count on Albert for a song selection that's out of the ordinary, and he chose *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot*. Most were able to sing along! Jeffery Monroe offered the prayer, thanking God for the opportunities given to us through Rotary.

President Danny said he would try to dispense with as much "Danny stuff" as he could. However, he had to make a remark about his tie, which had a lot of pink in it. Before the meeting, Joe Timberlake mentioned to him that the Cherry Blossom Festival is over and he didn't need to wear that anymore. Danny said he was trying to keep up with Past President Susan Welsh's precedent of wearing a different outfit to each meeting but the best he could do was to wear a different tie. He didn't like this particular tie, but didn't think he had worn it before. Tellingly, he promptly removed it.

Danny welcomed our guests, which were mostly pending members. He then called on fellow member John Patterson, who is Head of School for First Presbyterian Day School (FPD), to introduce two of his students.

John said that the younger generation may often get a bad rap, but he thinks the future is bright because of students like this. He gave a brief introduction of Ella Washburn and Lawson Andress and then invited them to introduce themselves. John said Ella had a 1470 on the SAT and is entering the school of her choice, but what he loves about Ella is her character. She is also the granddaughter of Dale Washburn, the State Representative. Ella said she is a big fan of her school, and is excited to be entering UGA in the fall since FPD has prepared her so well. She loves theater and will be majoring in that and world language education with the goal of being a Spanish teacher. She's also greatly involved in her church.

John said Lawson is going to the United States Military Academy at West Point, which is where he attended. Lawson will be playing golf at West Point. He reiterated that FPD had prepared him well for college.



It was then time for CART brags, and President Danny said he expected a lot of pent-up demand since we didn't do this last week. As expected, there were many good brags to raise money for CART. Gene Dunwody remarked that member Mayur Patel was married last week and Gene was amazed at the Indian-style ceremony that went on for three days and had 1,500 in attendance.



President Danny then offered the club announcements. He asked everyone to keep member Ty Ivey in their prayers following the loss of his wife, Cathy. Her funeral follows shortly after the meeting, at Vineville United Methodist Church.

Our Spring Picnic is May 5, from 6:00pm at the Otis Redding Center for the Arts, and there are sign-up sheets in the back of the room. The Habitat for Humanity house we are building in memory of Josh Rogers is coming along well with donations, and if anyone hasn't contributed yet they should get their money into the Community Foundation as soon as possible.

It was then time to celebrate members having birthdays and club anniversaries this week. Today is Chris Turner's birthday, and yesterday was Sam Hollis's. Coming up on the 17<sup>th</sup> is Club Administrator Steve Allen, followed by William Slocumb on the 20<sup>th</sup>. Chris Sims has nine years of service to the club, and Chris Blake has 11, which combined with his previous Rotary membership totals 21 years. Most notably, Past President Albert Reichert celebrates 59 years of service, having joined the club on April 11, 1966.

Jessica Walden then introduced our speaker, State Supreme Court Justice Verda Colvin. Jessica



began by saying “In April of 2016, Verda Colvin went viral with her unflinching, from-the-heart speech to a group of at-risk youth in her courtroom... this part of the ‘Consider the Consequences’ program caught national attention, not because she made those kids cry, but because she told them that she loved them.”

Justice Verda Colvin currently serves on the Georgia Supreme Court, appointed by Governor Brian Kemp in July 2021. Before that, she served on the Georgia Court of Appeals, and as a Superior Court judge in the Macon Judicial Circuit. A proud Southwest Atlanta native, she earned her BA from Sweetbriar College and her JD from the University of Georgia School of Law.

Her career has spanned Federal, State, academic and private sectors from Assistant US Attorney to Assistant District Attorney and Assistant General Counsel at Clark Atlanta University. She's a devoted community leader, Downtown Rotarian and co-chair of the One Macon 2.0 initiative, serving on numerous nonprofit and educational boards. She's a 2010 Leadership Macon alumna and recipient of the Robert F. Hatcher distinguished Alumni Award, one of her many honors. She's also been a Sunday school teacher, Boy Scout leader, adjunct professor and mentor. She and her husband, Nathaniel Walker share four children.

Justice Colvin began by saying she would try to finish by 1:25 to allow time to get to the funeral. She then addressed the students from Mt. de Sales and added that as a member of the Mt. de Sales Academy steering committee she was proud to name Brendan O’Kane as the only person to be considered for President of the school. She encouraged Ella to continue theatre, and praised Lawson for entering West Point.

She then acknowledged that the many attorneys in the room may not need this explanation, but she wanted to present an overview of the judicial system in Georgia. She explained that the Georgia Supreme Court is the state’s highest court and final authority on Georgia law, unless overruled by the U.S. Supreme Court, which is rare.



★ Captiol felonies; constitutional issues; title to lands, will, equity, and divorce

## Georgia's Court System by the Numbers:

- There are 49 judicial circuits and 10 districts.
- Georgia has one of the most complex judicial systems in the U.S., second only to Texas.

## Supreme Court Operations:

- The court is composed of nine justices. Decisions are collective, requiring a majority vote, and often involve collaboration and revision.
- Known for the “two-term rule” in which cases must be decided within 6 to 8 months; a fast pace compared to other states.
- Opinions, while authored by one justice, are vetted and shaped by all nine.

Justice Colvin then reflected on her personal experience on the court. She emphasized the heavy workload, likening Supreme Court work to doing homework with eight random people and having to agree before publishing. She works long hours, typically including weekends, to keep up with caseloads. The justices also perform substantial administrative duties such as overseeing bar admissions, discipline, legal education, and mental health reform initiatives in the judiciary.

Justice Colvin emphasized the importance of judicial restraint, stating the court’s role is to interpret, not make, laws. Justices must follow the rule of law, regardless of personal views of whether they think the law is just or appropriate. She also highlighted the value of dissents and concurrences as a window into each justice’s individual thought process.

Georgia has an issue with having enough lawyers in “desert” areas. Seven counties have no attorneys at all, and over 70 counties have 25 or less. This often means that someone in a rural area who needs help with, for example, child custody, has to travel two counties away, has no public transit, and may not have a reliable car. Colvin equated this to the lack of doctors in many rural areas, and said we need to encourage attorneys to venture into these underserved areas.

In closing, the Justice said she takes pride in her service and representation of the Macon community on the state’s highest court. She acknowledged her predecessors and colleagues, especially Chief Justice Michael Boggs and current Chief Justice Nels Peterson.

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The lottery pot was up to \$2,178, with only eight cards remaining in the deck! President Danny questioned whether a judge can draw the winning ticket, but Justice Colvin graciously did the task. However, whoever bought the winning ticket left early, so the pot will roll over to next week! Be sure to buy tickets at the April 21 meeting.

## *Spring Social*

Our annual Spring Social will be May 5 (Cinco de Mayo!), from 6:00pm at the beautiful new Otis Redding Center for the Arts downtown. Hotel 45 is catering the event, and new member BJ Dunwody will be running the bar. Sign-up sheets will be available April 21, but since we don’t meet the 28<sup>th</sup> this is the last chance to sign up in person. If you are unable to be at the meeting but want to attend, please email Social Chair Gene Dunwody at [gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.com](mailto:gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.com). This event is free for Rotarians and one guest.



## Past Presidents Dinner

The annual Past Presidents Dinner was held at Idle Hour Club on April 10. Here's a group shot:



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## Donate to Rotary Foundation and CART

Club members can make donations to The Rotary Foundation or the CART Fund online 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.

## *Club Membership Applications*

*Our club continues to grow! 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. Applications are reviewed by the Board and then announced in *Throbs*, after which any member can express an objection.*

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