



# Rotary



## The Rotary Club of Macon

♥ **THROBS**

*Published Weekly Since 1914*

**April 28, 2025**

*No Meeting*

In keeping with our “three meetings per month” policy, there will be no meeting April 28. There is also no regular meeting May 5, when we will have our annual Spring Social, which will be held this year at the new Otis Redding Center for the Arts. Mark your calendars, and see more information below.



### Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our April 21 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/26x65d9o>

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

#### **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 – Memorial Day  |                            |

#### **June, 2025**

- |    |                              |                  |
|----|------------------------------|------------------|
| 2  | No Meeting                   |                  |
| 9  | Mercer Medical School        | Dean Jean Sumner |
| 16 | AI (Artificial Intelligence) | Brandon Haddock  |
| 17 | Board Meeting                |                  |
| 23 | Changing of the Guard        |                  |
| 30 | No Meeting                   |                  |

### July, 2025

7	No Meeting	
14	Ending Hunger, American Heart Assoc.	Carla Howard, Kelly Mitchell & Bennett Smith
15	Board Meeting	
21	Accessible Playgrounds	Natalie Mackay
28	Georgia Power	Patrick Harris, Region Executive

### August, 2025

4	Big Brothers, Big Sisters	Betsy Fitzgerald
11	50 Years of GNTV	Rev. David Wood
18	Rescue Mission	Pat Chastain, CEO
19	Board Meeting	

## New Member Approvals

Your Board has approved the membership applications of Nathan Lott, who would hold the classification of Historic Preservation – Local, and Scott Chamlee, who would be Janitor Service.

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

## MEETING April 21, 2025

Attendance: 52.9% - 62 in person, 12 Zoom, plus 5 guests

Raffle \$170, CART \$8

Club Membership: 155, including today's inductions

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Jonathan Alderman to lead the singing and pledge. An accomplished singer, Jonathan chose the old reliable *God Bless America*. Andy Mealor offered the prayer.

Danny then mentioned that soon-to-be-inducted member Sue Marzano remarked how nice it is to have such great music before our meetings. The club gave Jackie Riley an ovation. He then welcomed our guests, which included a pending member and the Principal of Westside High School, who brought a student.

Member Dan Sims, our member and school superintendent, then introduced Principal Chip Horton. Chip said he brought graduating senior Kaila Lucas, who is class valedictorian. Kaila said she is a multi-sport athlete, president of the FBLA and vice president of the Beta Club. She plans to attend West Georgia College and major in speech language pathology, and her goal is to get a Doctorate in Audiology and be an audiologist for the school system.

It was then time for CART brags to raise money for Alzheimer's research. We had just three, but they were good ones, including the fact that Sarah Harris is now a grandmother twice over. Her daughter-in-law had a little girl March 18, and her daughter had a son April 9.



Ivey Hall asked everyone to keep the students of Florida state in mind as they go back to campus today. Her sister's neighbor was one of the men killed in the tragic incident last week, and many of us have family and friends who are students there. On a more positive note, Ivey said we now have the building permit for the Habitat house the club is sponsoring in memory of Josh Rogers.



President Danny then announced members celebrating birthdays or club anniversaries this week. Today, April 21, is Lauren Lanter's birthday. Macey Terrell follows on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, then Aubrey Newby on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Matt Heller and Wayne Gullatt share April 29 birthdays. Ethiel Garlington has been a club member 11 years, and John O'Shaughnessey celebrates 25 years of Rotary service.

Danny then said we have the privilege today of inducting three new members – Wimberly Treadwell, Sue Marzano and DeWayne Cuffie.

Kathryn Dennis began by introducing Wimberly Treadwell, who will hold the classification of Landscape Architecture. Wimberley is a Macon native, University of Georgia graduate, and licensed landscape architect. She has significantly impacted the Macon community through her business, WT Designs, leading countless civic projects like the Cherry Street Plaza, Bicentennial Park, and more. She was instrumental in relocating Confederate monuments peacefully and recently helped secure a \$1M grant for the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail. Kathryn described her as a tireless, quiet leader and devoted family member who is expected to be a valuable, active Rotarian.

Jessica Walden introduced Sue Marzano. Sue recently moved to Macon from Canton, Ohio, after being encouraged by her son, Eric Williams, who now leads Prince Manufacturing/Unified Defense. Jessica remarked how pleased she was that Eric joined the Chamber at the highest level, and was thrilled to learn that Sue wishes to continue her Rotary membership with us. She was a member of the Rotary Club in Canton, where she was Rotarian of the Year and a Paul Harris Fellow. Sue was won Leadership Ohio's Ambassador Award, among others. With a career spanning energy advising, business development, and economic development, Sue has held many leadership roles and earned numerous awards. She's highly accomplished, enthusiastic about community involvement, and eager to build lasting friendships in Macon and Rotary. She holds the classification of Defense Contracting.

Gene Dunwody then introduced Dewayne Cuffie. Dewayne is Senior Vice President of Operations at



Goodwill of Middle Georgia CSRA, and Helms College, overseeing 800 employees and multiple business units. His leadership has brought transformation and mission-driven impact in various regions across the U.S. He holds a PhD in organizational leadership, an MBA, and is a former college football athlete. Gene said he looked him up on “Googler” and found his nickname growing up was Cup Dog. His Bachelor of Science in Sociology is from Jacksonville State, where he played football on a full athletic scholarship. A committed husband, father of three, and ordained minister, Dewayne embodies Rotary’s “Service Above Self” and is warmly welcomed for his values and vision. His classification is Job Training/Career Placement.



President Danny then reminded the members that 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. If you haven’t signed up yet but wish to attend, please email Social Chair Gene Dunwody at [gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.com](mailto:gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.com). We need to get a headcount by Thursday, April 24. This event is free for Rotarians and one guest.

Danny then called on Bowen Reichert to introduce the speaker, Kate Sams Peavy, who is President of Cherokee Brick. Bowen said it was a real pleasure to introduce her good friend with whom she shares many childhood memories. Kate is a Stratford Academy alumna and Mercer University graduate, where she earned a political science degree and played basketball. She later completed law school at Mercer and furthered her education at Harvard Business School.

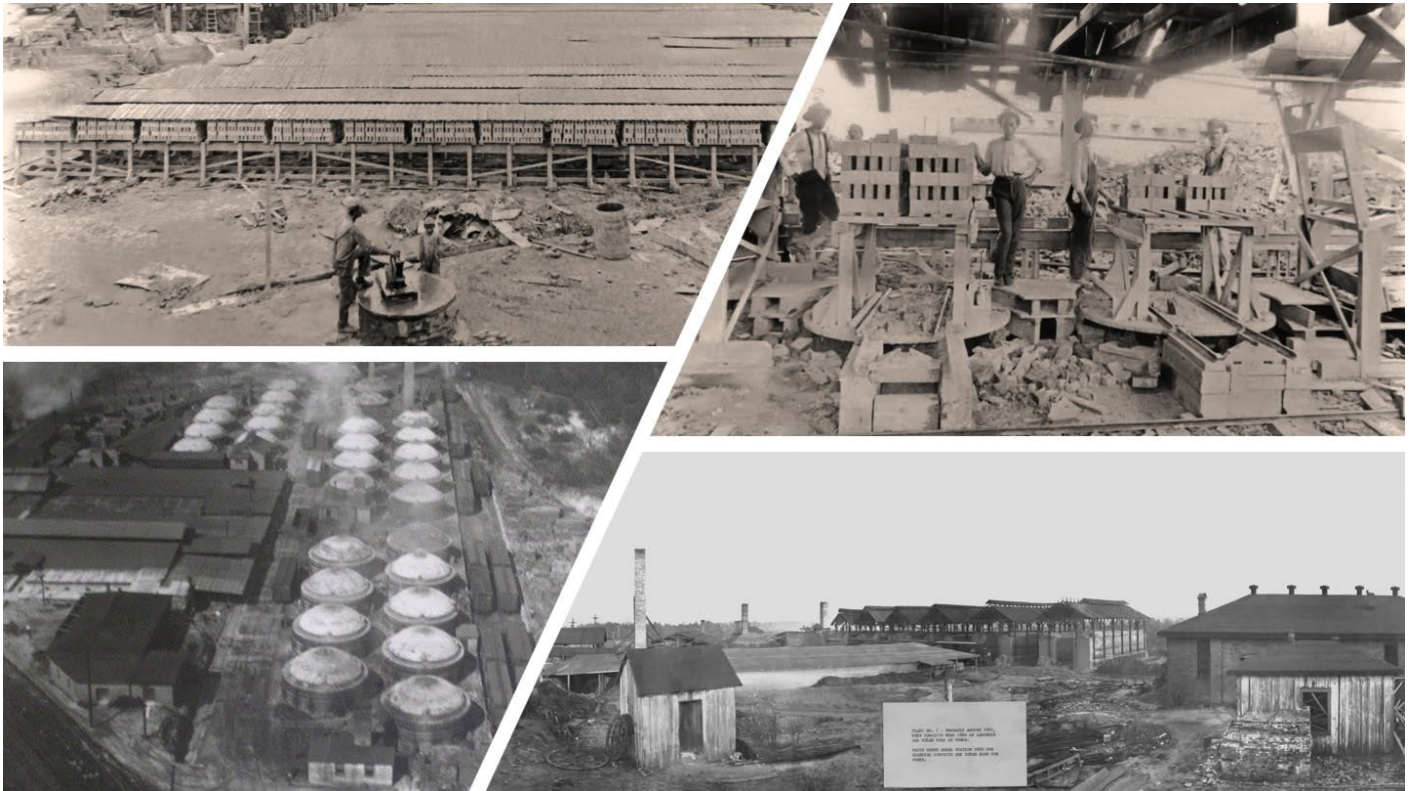
Professionally, Kate began her legal career at Jones Cork before joining her family’s business, Cherokee Brick, in 2011. She served as Vice President of Operations for about a decade, demonstrating both business acumen and a strong commitment to the company’s legacy of quality and integrity.

Bowen shared how reconnecting with Kate through board service at Stratford reignited her admiration for Kate's passion and wisdom.

Kate began by saying that many people in the audience may actually know the history of Cherokee Brick better than she does, but she wanted to take a look back at the company's nearly 150-year legacy and its continued innovation and commitment to the community.

Founded in 1877 by C.C. Stratton as Stratton Brick Company, Cherokee was established in Macon due to its rich clay deposits and proximity to rail lines. The company changed hands in the early 1900s and has been operated by five generations of the Dunwoody family ever since. Peavy, who joined in 2011 as an in-house attorney, quickly fell in love with the business, immersing herself in every aspect from maintenance to production, eventually taking on the leadership mantle.

Peavy recounted pivotal moments in Cherokee's history, including surviving the Great Depression, during which over 30% of U.S. brick manufacturers closed. The company also weathered challenges like the 1904 flood, World War II, the fuel crisis of the 1970s, the 1994 flood, and the 2007–08 recession, which she described as the industry's modern depression. Each obstacle was met with adaptability, by expanding product lines, acquiring new reserves, or embracing new technologies.



Cherokee Brick has long embraced innovation. The company transitioned from beehive kilns to state-of-the-art facilities and was surprisingly the first in Georgia to adopt forklifts. Post-WWII, Cherokee built a modern plant in 1947 that's still in operation today. More recently, in-house teams have engineered specialized equipment to meet new environmental regulations and production needs, such as designing and installing their own dry injection fabric filters (DIFFs) to control kiln emissions.

Today, Cherokee Brick operates two major production facilities in Macon and Jackson, Mississippi, producing over 220 million bricks annually. Despite industry consolidation, the company maintains a strong position, especially in Georgia and the Southeast. Notable projects include Mercer University,



FSU's football stadium (the largest continuous brick structure in the U.S.), and various HGTV-featured homes.

Kate emphasized Cherokee's family-oriented culture, both in its leadership and its workforce. The company is proud to be a second-chance employer, promoting from within and valuing hard work over background. Sustainability is another key value. Cherokee operates a zero-waste manufacturing process, and former mining lands are reclaimed into wetlands habitats, now home to diverse wildlife and visited regularly by organizations like the Audubon Society.

Looking ahead, Cherokee Brick is expanding with new ventures like Stratton Stone, paying homage to its founder while continuing to grow thoughtfully and responsibly. Kate closed her presentation with enthusiasm for the future and deep pride in the people who make Cherokee what it is today, a legacy company built on innovation, resilience, and heart.



The members had quite a few questions for Kate, including whether they have enough clay reserves (they do), and her favorite type of brick. She said that's the tumble line, which looks like old reclaimed brick and even has splotches of paint.

The lottery pot was up to \$2,348, with only eight cards in the deck. Amazingly, the Queen of Clubs remains elusive, so the pot will be even larger, with the cards down to seven, for our next regular meeting May 12.

The meeting concluded with recitation of the Four Way Test.

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## 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.

## *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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