



# Rotary



## The Rotary Club of Macon

❤️ **THROBS**

*Published Weekly Since 1914*

**May 26, 2025**

*No Meeting – Memorial Day*

In observance of Memorial Day, our club will not meet on Monday, May 26. Considered the unofficial start of summer, this national holiday is a time for all Americans to pause and honor the men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces who made the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Originally known as Decoration Day, it began after the Civil War as a time to decorate the graves of fallen soldiers.

As Rotarians committed to service and community, we take this opportunity to reflect on the courage, dedication, and sacrifice of our nation's heroes. We encourage everyone to honor Memorial Day in a way that is meaningful to you, whether by attending a local ceremony, visiting a memorial, or simply taking a quiet moment of gratitude.



Please note that we also don't meet June 2, so please join us at our next regular meeting June 9 when we'll hear from Dean Jean Sumner about the exciting things happening at Mercer Medical School

### Zoom Link

Click here for the recording of our May 19 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/ykkkz8zo>

## FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

### June, 2025

2	No Meeting	
9	Mercer Medical School	Dean Jean Sumner
16	AI (Artificial Intelligence)	Brandon Haddock
17	Joint Board Meeting	
23	Changing of the Guard – <b>Meeting to be held at The Overlook on First, 484 First Street (in the old Armory building, next to Macon Arts)</b>	
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	

## MEETING May 19, 2025

Attendance: 49.6% - 53 in person, 14 Zoom, plus 7 guests

Raffle \$215, CART \$35

Club Membership: 158

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to begin the meeting and, referencing the pianist in today's program, said his wife is always saying "*piano, piano*" to him. He then invited Jonathan to lead the singing and pledge. Instead of the usual *God Bless America*, Jonathan tested our vocal chords with the *National Anthem*. He had the range to sing it, even if all the members didn't.

John Patterson offered the prayer. He began with Psalm 19, which celebrates God's glory revealed through the natural world and God's perfect law. After the prayer, President Danny remarked that this is John's last day with us at the club, since he's accepted a new position in Brentwood, Tennessee. Originally from Springfield, Illinois, John was a standout high school basketball player who went on to graduate from West Point and serve as an officer in the Army. He moved to Macon in 2020 to become FPD's Head of School, and immediately joined our club.

President Danny then welcomed our guests, which included Corinne Hayes, a visiting Rotarian from Cortland, New York. She brought a club banner and Danny exchanged it for one of ours. Other guests included two pending members, and several people from the Morning Music Club.



Danny noted that the flowers on stage today were donated in memory of Mr. and Mrs. G. Paul Jones and family. Paul was a member of our club from 1959 until his death in 2005.

Since we won't meet again until June, Danny recognized members celebrating birthdays and club anniversaries from now until the end of the month. Lori Palmer and Wimberly Treadwell share birthdays May 20, followed by Kris Vaughn on the 21<sup>st</sup>, Jeff Ruggieri on the 22<sup>nd</sup>, Ron Freeman on the 28<sup>th</sup>, and Seth Clark on the 29<sup>th</sup>. Lima McGuire has served in the club eight years, Past President Jim Manley for 18, and Past President Fred Morgan 24 years.

It was then bragging time, which raises money for the CART fund. We had more than usual, with many Rotarians sharing good news in their lives. John Patterson introduced Matt Kitchell, who has been at First Presbyterian Day School for 20 years and will be following John as both Head of School and member of our club.



President Danny followed up with announcements. There is a joint meeting of the current and incoming boards tomorrow night at 6:00. The annual "Changing of the Guard" program is June 23, and our regular meeting location won't be available. Member Kaitlynn Kressin has graciously allowed us to use The Overlook on First, which is at 484 First Street (in the old Armory building, next to Macon Arts). There is an elevator, and we have secured free parking right across Poplar Street. It should be closer than the present walk to parking, and there will be attendants on hand to direct us. While parking is free, it's suggested to tip the attendants.

Construction is underway on the Habitat for Humanity House we're sponsoring in honor of Josh Rogers. Danny thanked all those who have donated, and said that volunteer opportunities still exist to



help build the house.

On a more somber note, President Danny reported that member Todd Suttles underwent a lengthy surgery to remove cancer from his liver. Danny spoke with him this morning and said he is in good spirits and the prognosis is good. He'll be temporarily living in Atlanta while undergoing chemo treatments. Todd also contributed flooring for the Habitat house we are constructing.

Our member Kris Vaughn is scheduled to have breast cancer surgery May 29. Danny asked us all to keep Todd, Kris and their families in our prayers.

Danny then called on Past President George Lee to introduce the program. George said that, as previously reported in *Throbs*, our club has had the privilege for around six years to hear performances by winners of the Morning Music Club's Maerz Award. He called on Reese McCurry to tell more about the club and the young pianist who was performing for us. Reese McCurry is a past president and active member of the Morning Music Club, who also serves as Children's Minister at Vineville United Methodist Church and is involved in numerous community initiatives.

Reese shared an overview of the Morning Music Club's mission, which has supported music education in Macon since 1912. Like Rotary, the Morning Music Club seeks to encourage and support the youth of our community. She highlighted their two main youth programs: Partners in Education (PIE) and the Joseph M. Maerz Scholarship Competition.

PIE is a new initiative providing private music lessons, instruments, and pianos to Bibb County high school students in partnership with local colleges and foundations. PI has placed three grand pianos on three Bibb County high school auditorium stages and made lessons available to 46 promising students.

The Joseph M. Merz Scholarship Competition is a longstanding program for high school seniors planning to study music in college. This year, 17 students entered the competition, and eight advanced to the finals.

The 2025 Maerz Award winner was French horn player Caleb Pope, and the second-place Peggy Timberlake Award went to Ka Esi "Bonnie" Hui, the day's featured pianist.

Bonnie then introduced herself, saying she was honored and pleased to be invited to play for us. She's been studying and playing piano for 14 years, and loves performing and collaborating with other people. She's been keyboardist for Stratford Academy's marching and symphonic bands, and continues her current role as pianist for First Baptist Church in Forsyth.

In the coming school year, Bonnie will attend Georgia Tech, majoring in neuroscience with a minor in music technology. "I love helping out in theater productions at school, and I love playing in jazz combo." She thanked her parents and her teacher, Dr. Ian Altman, for their support. "He has been



helping me with college auditions, and he taught me some of the most challenging pieces I've ever learned, and I loved it so much.”

Bonnie enthralled the members with her powerful performances of Bach’s *Prelude in B-flat Major* and Chopin’s *Ballade in G minor*. If you missed it, it was captured rather well in the Zoom recording at <https://tinyurl.com/ykkkz8zo>.



After a rousing ovation, President Danny called on Marcus Tripp for the CART raffle. The pot was up to \$2,888, with only six cards left in the deck. Katy Carr had the winning ticket, but amazingly the Queen of Clubs is still hiding! This means we’re down to five cards for our next meeting, so be sure to buy tickets!

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?

# 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 (such as the Habitat house) 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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