



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

♥THROBS

Published Weekly Since 1914

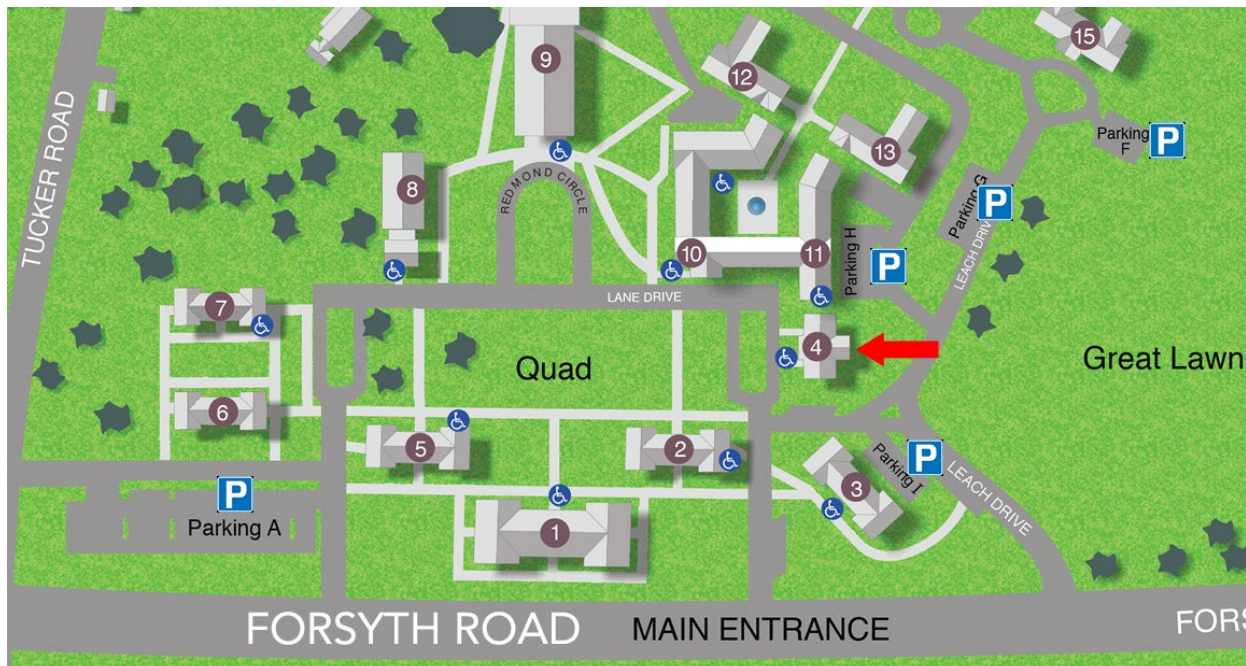
June 12, 2023

Wesleyan President Meaghan Blight

The June 12 meeting will be special in many ways. First, we will be meeting at Wesleyan College instead of our usual location. We will meet in Oval Hall -- this is a beautiful ballroom located on the upper level of the Candler Alumnae Building (#4 on map below), located on the main front quad. Wesleyan's newest President, Meaghan Blight, will be our speaker and will also be inducted as our newest member! Don't miss this one.

Parking: Members can park in any of the free spaces in Parking Lot F/G/H/I (closest to the Candler Alumnae Building, see blue "P" signs on map). Campus Police will be aware of the event and will be expecting members to park there. Kris Vaughn will put out some event parking signs the morning of the event.

Oval Hall is located in the Candler Alumnae Building designed by renowned architect Phillip Shutze and is an outstanding example of Georgian architecture. Originally Wesleyan's library, the building was renovated in 1971 as the Candler Alumnae Center and currently houses the offices of Alumnae Affairs and Institutional Advancement. Upstairs, the former library reading room was transformed into the ballroom now known as the Oval Hall. The site of inaugural balls and many formal events, Oval Hall boasts ornate moldings, parquet flooring, and enormous windows that fill the space with natural light.



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our June 5 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2pnjugad> Please note that there was a glitch that caused the first part of the meeting to be cut off and it begins with President Susan's explanation of dues allocation and minor changes being made next year.

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS approved by the Board of Directors:

June, 2023

19 No Meeting – Juneteenth/Father's Day
26 Changing of the Guard

July, 2023

3 No Meeting – Independence Day Holiday
10 Program pending
17 Piedmont Health Update

Steve Daugherty, CEO of Piedmont Health

MEETING June 5, 2023

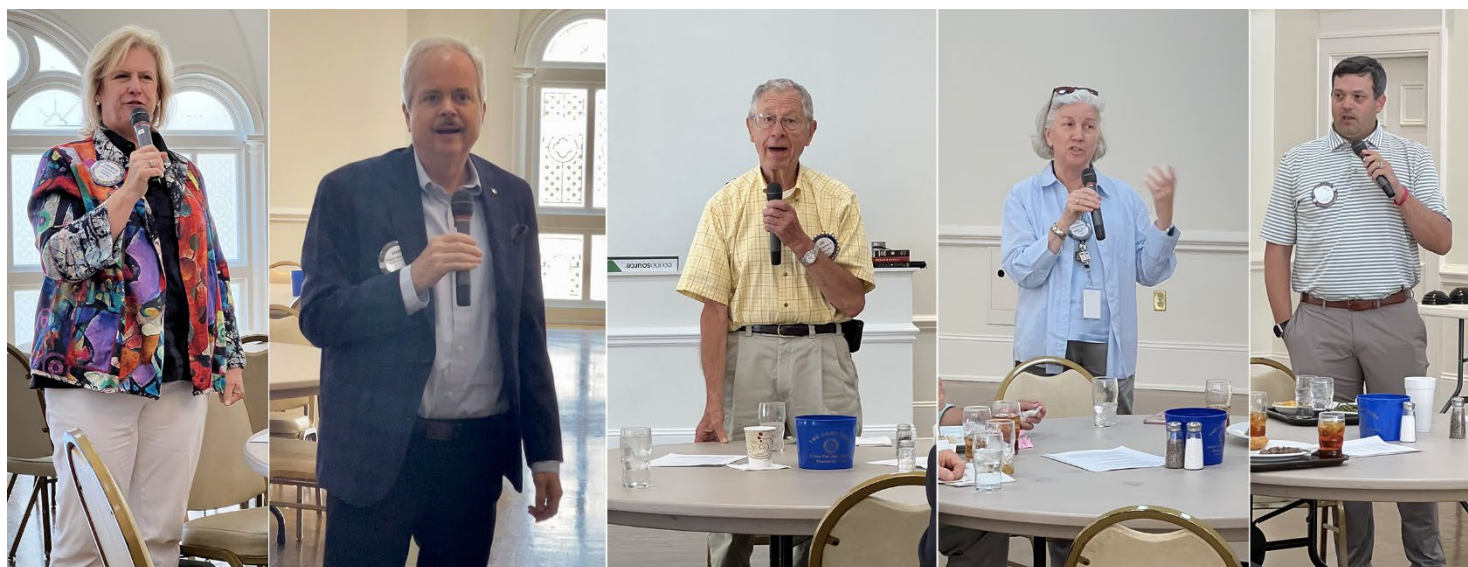
Attendance: 69
55.6% - 52 in person, 17 Zoom, plus 2 guests
CART \$15.00
Club Membership 143

President Susan rang the bell to start the meeting and welcomed our speaker, Jami Gaudet of the Macon Transit Authority. She hoped everyone had a wonderful Memorial Day and said she owes thanks to lots of members, especially PP George Lee for presiding over our special May 15th meeting while she was on jury duty, and Ethiel for leading our Club's Spring social event while she was in Denver. Those were two things she really hated to miss.

Kathy McCollum then came forward to lead our singing and Pledge of Allegiance, and she chose *This Land Is Your Land*. Danny Gibson followed with a wonderful prayer.

Susan offered birthday wishes to Cynthia Knapp and Andy Nations, who was celebrating today. Milton Heard celebrates a birthday this week and also 28 years with the club. Eight other members have club anniversaries, including Nancy White (18 years with our club and 26 total in Rotary), Marshall Butler with 29 years, and Joe Timberlake with an incredible 57 years of club service.

It was then time for brags to raise money for the CART Fund:



The Golden Isles Rotary Club has been working on a project to create the Golden Isles Veterans Village in Brunswick since 2018. With some financial help from all the clubs in our district, they've built a transitional community of 30 tiny homes to house homeless veterans and a community center – a wonderful community where veterans can reside, gather, and receive physical and mental health services, education, and job training. Our club – along with most clubs in the district – purchased a brick in support of the project that will be inscribed and made part of a main walkway. Each of you also may purchase a brick for the walkway, if you wish. The individual bricks are \$80, are 4"x8", and can have 3 lines of inscription text. We'll include more information in Throbs.

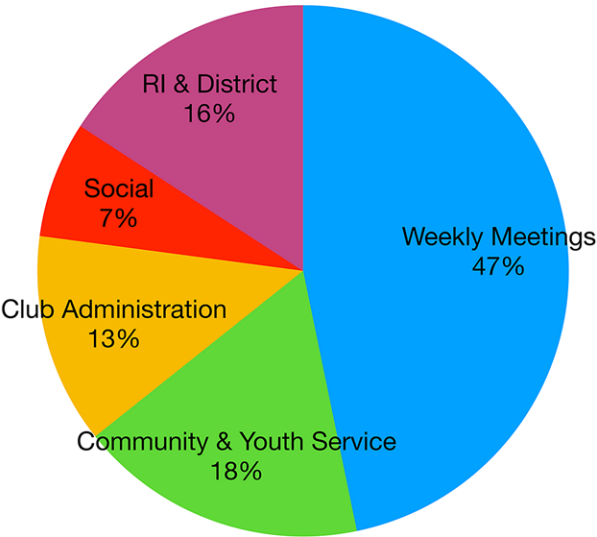
More info at: www.goldenislesveteransvillage.org
Or contact:
PDG Mike Muldowney
Mikemuld2@gmail.com
912 230-8964

Susan offered a reminder from Treasurer Howard Holloman that we have about a dozen or so members with outstanding quarterly dues balances. If you've recently received a past-due reminder from Cecil, please settle your accounts – this is especially important as we're approaching the end of the fiscal year.

On dues, members should have noticed the announcement in Throbs about our need to increase dues to \$260 per quarter. This will take effect July 1st. You might wonder: "where exactly do my dues go?"

Susan then showed the following graphic:

Allocation of Dues



Annual Expenses per Area:

- \$79,203 weekly meetings**
(food, programs, arrangements, badges);
- \$29,700 Community & Youth Service**
(5 Service Projects, GRSP, RYLA, Burdell-Hunt, Speech Contest, Crime Stoppers Luncheon);
- \$26,800 RI & District 6920**
(Dues plus required Trainings, Assemblies, Conferences);
- \$21,700 Club Administration**
(2 PT Staff, Board Mtgs, office supplies);
- \$12,000 Social Events**
(Spring, 70% of Holiday, PP, Tri-club)

As you'll notice from the pie chart, nearly half of our annual expenses are related to weekly club meetings (food, programs, arrangements here at the church).

Through surveys and assemblies this year, feedback across the board confirmed that we place an extremely high value on our weekly meetings and the

opportunities to interact with one another over lunch.

So, while we don't want to change what's working, we have re-engineered our weekly meeting schedule for next year to include fewer meetings – but with weekly meetings scheduled to coordinate well with community service projects and social events so that we also have Rotary fellowship in our week. Reducing meetings from 38 to 31 avoided a much larger increase in quarterly dues, with (hopefully) little impact to fellowship. If you have questions about our annual operating budget, future meeting schedules, or anything else, President Susan welcomes them.

Copies of the Strategic Plan approved by the Board were placed on all the tables and is also appended to the end of this newsletter. This is the result of a year's worth of work and was informed by input from all of you – through surveys, interviews, and 2 club assemblies. Four goals have been set with a number of strategic objectives designed to strengthen our club in future years and ensure that we remain one of the highest performing clubs in the state – with a membership of executive leaders representing diverse vocations.

Currently, about 23% of our members are 70-years-old or older. We're at risk of losing many of these members in

the next few years – which we absolutely don't want to do. As one strategy to retain these members – and perhaps a larger number of relocating executives and professionals in various stages of life – the Board is proposing that we consider offering a new membership category of Virtual Member.

The definition of this proposed new membership category appears on at the bottom of the Strategic Plan document. This will need to be approved by the membership at our June 26 meeting, and more details will be emailed to each member.

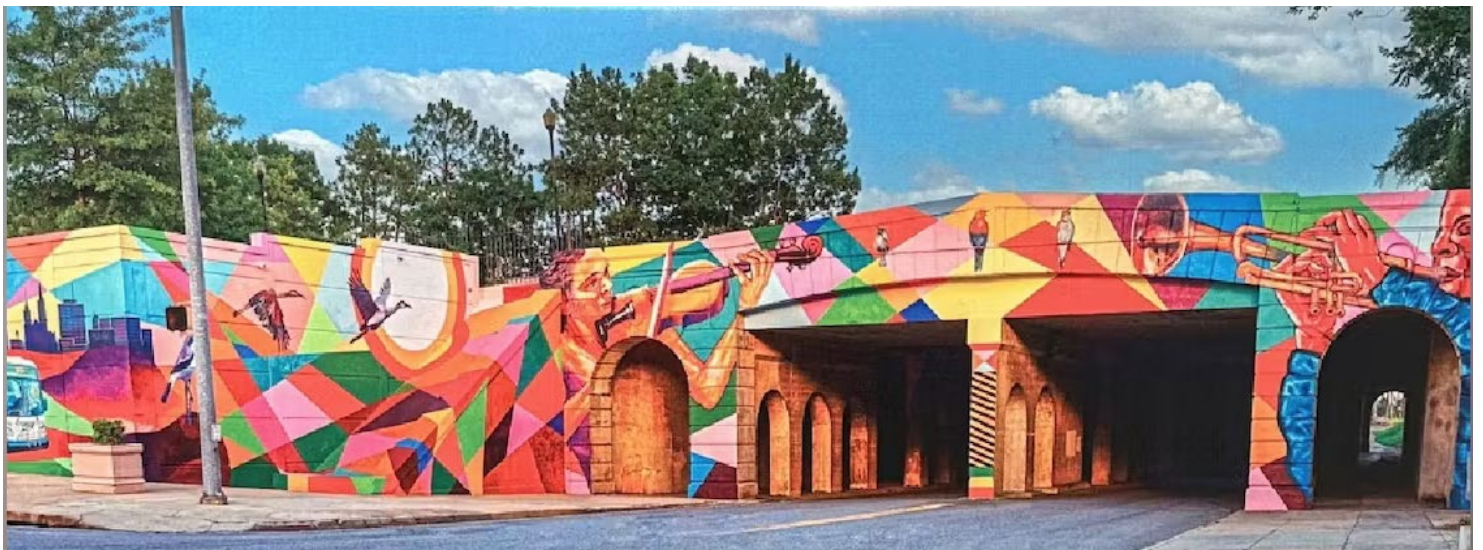
After this unusually long but necessary explanation by President Susan, Nancy White came up to introduce our speaker.

Nancy said she wanted to introduce Jami Gaudet because, not only was she aware of Jami's many contributions to the Macon community, but they became walking companions during the pandemic. Jami has an extensive background as a journalist and public affairs specialist. Educated at Tulane and the University of Miami, she holds many "firsts". She was the *Macon Telegraph's* first female editorial writer, the first female radio host in Macon, the first public information officer for the Sheriff's department, and the first public information officer for the Macon Transit Authority, among others. In addition, her father was a founding member of a Rotary Club in the Catskills.



Jami began by saying that transit can both transport and transform. When former Mayor Robert Reichert appointed her to the Transit Authority board, she noticed an unfinished mural outside the transit station at the Terminal Station. She sought and won a Downtown Challenge Grant to enliven this dreary corner with a bold and inspiring mural. Abraham Abebe, an artist and graphic arts professor at Georgia College and state University, was brought in to tackle the task.

Jami detailed the difficult conditions under which the work was accomplished, and Abebe worked tirelessly through all kinds of inclement weather to complete the mural. The first step was to complete the mural in front of the transit station, and phase two was to transform the adjacent tunnel that funneled two lanes of traffic. At first, the tunnel was pressure-washed and then the arduous task of painting began. The painting reflects the importance of music and its significant impact on the Macon community.



Jami devoted the rest of her presentation to the story of electrifying Macon's buses, beginning with a 2017 grant. Macon was the only transit authority in Georgia, and only one of seven in the U.S. to win the top award. She showed pictures of the five current electric buses, including Melody, Sparky, Volt, Alfred, and the two Mercer buses. Melody has murals depicting most of Macon's significant musical artists. The names Sparky and Volt are obvious, and Alfred is named for Alfred T. Fellheimer, who was the architect of the Terminal Station as well as many others including Grand Central in New York.

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

A New Rotary Year is Coming!



The Rotary year ends June 30, and will bring changes to leadership on all levels, from Rotary International to Macon, where Stephanie Folsom and her new board assume stewardship of our club. The 2023-24 Rotary theme will be "Create Hope in the World."

It's also VERY IMPORTANT to make sure your dues have been paid before we close the books and the new quarter begins July 1.

Notice of Dues Increase

Meal costs for our weekly club meetings have more than doubled since before the pandemic, and this is the largest cost we incur each week. In order to maintain the quality meetings that we all enjoy, the Board voted to increase dues from \$245 to \$260 per quarter, beginning July 1. While this still results in an annual deficit for the club, it should be a manageable amount. We appreciate your understanding.

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 Cater Thompson cater.thompson@jonescork.com.

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events

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

May 8, 2023	Malcolm Burgess Golf Classic, The Brickyard
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 required 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 good 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 Ethiel Garlington egarlington@historicmacon.org 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 Ethiel 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!

www.maconrotary.com
