



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

♥ **THROBS**

Published Weekly Since 1914

July 1, 2024

No Meeting – Independence Day

Happy Rotary New Year! While July 1 marks the beginning of our fiscal year, we won't meet that day due to the July 4 holiday. This important day celebrates freedom, unity, and patriotism among Americans nationwide. It honors the sacrifices of those who bravely fought for and continue to uphold the principles of the American Revolution.



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our June 24 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2fb3338d>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

July, 2024

1	No meeting – July 4 holiday	
8	Bragg Jam	Olivia Walker
15	Macon Water Authority	Gary Bechtel & Ron Shipman
16	Board meeting	
22	Macon Action Plan	Alex Morrison
29	No meeting (fifth week)	

MEETING June 24, 2024

Attendance: 62.4% - 62 in person, 14 Zoom, plus 9 guests

CART \$117, Raffle \$32

Club Membership: 145

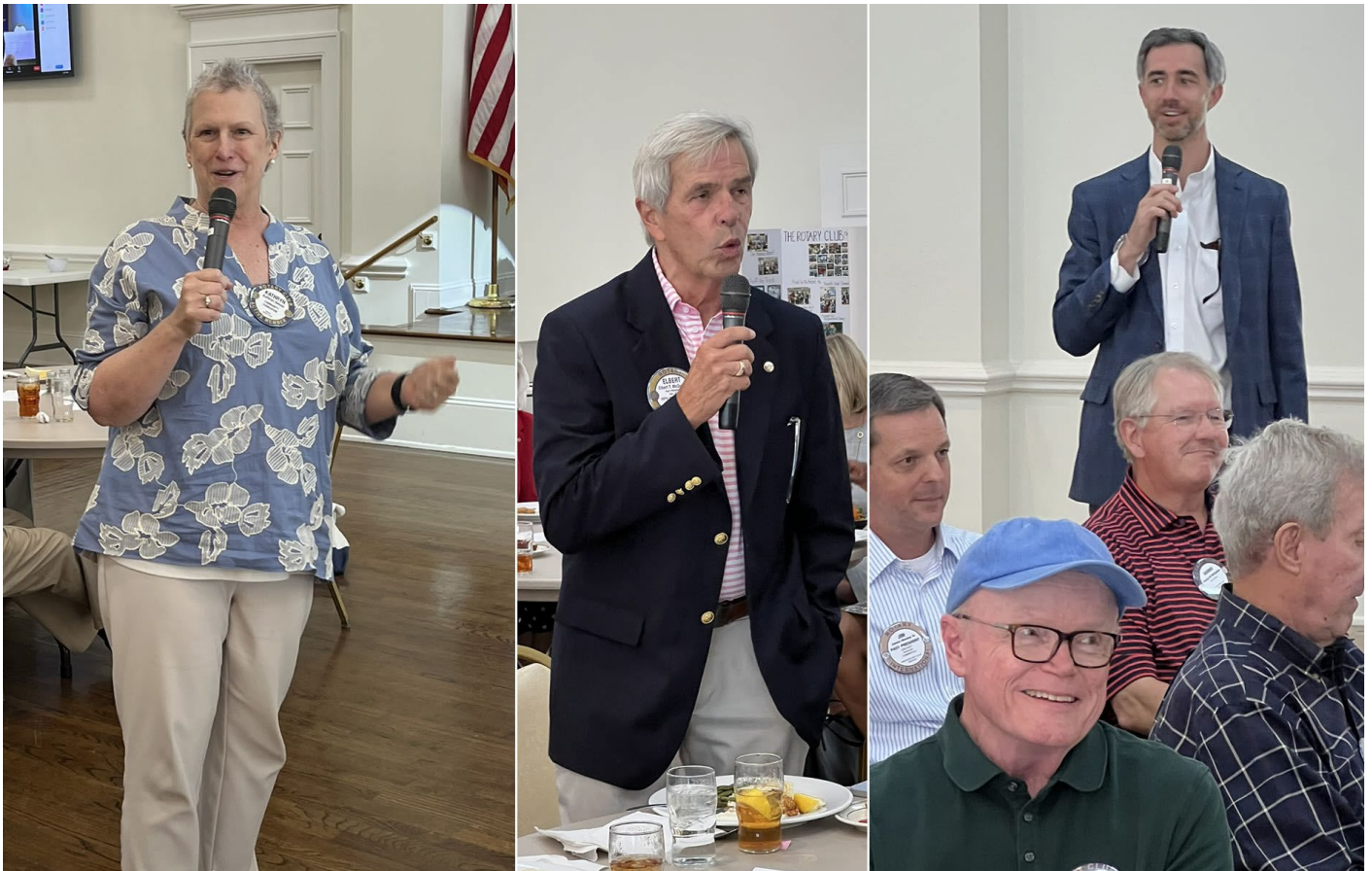
Stephanie Folsom rang the bell to start the final meeting of her term as President. After reminding us of our club's 110-year history of service, she thanked Jackie Riley for her piano playing. Jackie received a standing ovation.

Jeffery Monroe, with his wonderful singing voice, led us in *God Bless America*. Past President Charlie Jay then offered the prayer, prefacing it with his signature line, "Whew! It's a great day to be alive!" He offered appreciation for the incoming and outgoing Rotary leaders and all who believe in serving others rather than standing on the sideline and waiting to be served.

Stephanie welcomed the many guests in attendance, which included spouses and family of members. Stephanie's family was well-represented by her husband, father, mother, stepson and daughter-in-law, and a dear friend.

Four Rotarians celebrated birthdays last week, and three more this week. Five members have club anniversaries, including Van Van De Water with 14 years.

It was then time for CART brags, and we had some notable ones. Most importantly, Kathryn Dennis was back for the first time in a while after undergoing treatments. She received a warm ovation from the members.



Stephanie then said this is not only her last day as serving as President but it is Cecil Coke's last day serving our club, which he has done since 1991. That is 33 years of service! Cecil was expected to join us today through Zoom, so she welcomed Cecil.

Stephanie continued, "It would not be right for us let today go by without saying **THANK YOU Cecil....** for the endless hours of service and dedication to the operations of this club.

"During his time with our club he was club secretary and held treasurer duties. He is a Major Donor and a Bequest Society member of the Rotary Foundation, a Paul Harris Fellow, and a GRSP Hue Thomas Fellow, Kendall Weisiger Fellow and Will Watt Fellow.

"Cecil transferred his membership to the St. Simons Island club in 2022, however he kept serving our club with treasurer duties, overseeing collection of dues, CART and writing checks for our club and I am sure there are many other things that I am not aware of that Cecil has been doing to help our operations.

I asked Howard Holleman as our Treasurer and Past Presidents Fred Morgan and Jim Manley to share some words about Cecil."

Howard Holleman:

Thank you for your many years of service to the Rotary Club. You have performed your duties with accuracy, professionalism and full adherence to the 4 Way Test.

Rotary presidents, directors and most of all the treasurer have been guided by you to ensure our jobs were performed the Rotary way.

I wish you well with your retirement and remember I have your phone number!

Fred Morgan:

What a vital, valuable part of the Macon Rotary Club you've been over the last 33 years! Thank you for all you've done to help keep our club strong and vibrant, on a correct course, particularly during your many years as club Executive Secretary. You helped our historic club maintain great traditions, but you also helped us transition to new technologies and approaches, in turn, making our club more accessible and remain relevant. You traveled hundreds of miles and sat through dozens of training sessions; you answered innumerable questions from members, either via email, or, in person, mostly while you were trying to count money right after a meeting adjourned.

And you've helped steer Macon Rotary Club through many a crisis. A recent one that comes to mind is COVID, a time when your guidance, confidence, and encouragement were invaluable in helping us quickly regroup and restart, and going forward with a focus on our giving resources, we helped others get through the hard times.

In short, Cecil, you've been a treasure and a blessing to the Macon Rotary Club, and you are much respected and much loved. May God bless you going forward.

Jim Manley:

Serving on the Board multiple times and ultimately serving as Club President afforded me the opportunity to work closely with Cecil, a man I admire on both a personal and professional level. Beyond his obvious strengths of business acumen and technological proficiency – which



benefitted the Club for decades – Cecil was also vigilant in protecting the Club’s future by demanding we respect its past and always uphold Rotary ideals and values. On a personal level this was embodied most through his generosity, which reached major donor and leadership levels with the foundation and most other Rotary areas of focus for giving and in doing so set a great example for everyone.

I am happy that he and Lisa are settled nicely in retirement in the Golden Isles, and I tip my cap to him for remaining a Rotarian there, having joined the St. Simons Club in 2022. Once a Rotarian, always a Rotarian where he is concerned for sure. Few members in our Club, which has a distinguished history, have had a more profound and lasting impact than Cecil Coke and I am forever grateful for his contributions and service. He will be missed!

Stephanie concluded by saying that “as a small token of gratitude and appreciation all you have done for the Macon Rotary Club, we will be making a donation to the Rotary Foundation in your name. From the bottom of our hearts thank you and we wish you the very best as you enjoy your retirement days with the St. Simons Island Rotary Club.”

It was then time for a Paul Harris Fellow presentation to Dr. Chris Blake. President Stephanie reminded the club that Paul Harris recognition was established in 1957 to show appreciation for substantial contribution to the Rotary Foundation. The gifts to our foundation represent more opportunities to do more good here at home and around the world. The Foundation raises over \$70 million annually and 80% of those funds come from Paul Harris fellow contributions

Today there are over 1.5 million Paul Harris Fellows. Many notable figures have been named Paul Harris Fellows including President Jimmy Carter, US Astronaut Jim Lovell, and Polio Vaccine developer Jonas Salk.

Stephanie then came back to the podium to say some final words as President. Below is the text of Stephanie’s “Farewell Address:”



WOW...have 30 meetings come and gone already...yes they have....and today is the day that I say THANK YOU.... and step down as your President.

First, I want to say thank you to the membership for asking me to represent you as your President this year. It has been an absolute honor to lead and represent this prestigious club. I took this role on with passion and commitment to lead with no regrets and I can say that I have fulfilled this commitment to myself. The role as President challenged me as a person on many levels and I can say with confidence that I am leaving this role as a better person.

I want thank so many of you for taking the time to share kind words of support throughout the year. You will never know how much it helped. Bob and Robbo, I enjoyed counting down the meetings with you and Amy Rauls. Thank you for giving me the idea that this was an excellent opportunity to invest in my wardrobe. Guilt-free shopping was fabulous; however I was disappointed when my CPA said clothing is not a business expense!

To my family... Miki, Mom, Dad, Chad, and Fatima ...You have been there for me with open ears of interest, beginning on my induction day to my last day as President. Thank you for your support and encouragement throughout the year. I am truly blessed to have such a supportive family.

My deepest thanks go to the Board, Cecil, Howard, Steve, Jim Crisp, Merrily, Katie, Marcus and Jackie - the dream team that made this year such a success.

A Club, a business, a university, or a city's success is based not on one person but MANY who bring unity and value in the service they do. Our club is a true testament of our members love and dedication to see that we NOT only say the Four Way Test but we show it thru actions of service, donations, kind words and support of others to ensure that our mission of service over self is felt by many.

Your Board this year were absolute Rock Stars. Their collaboration and drive for success in EACH of their duties resulted in your club achieving the highest level of recognition from Rotary with a GOLD Status. This is an accomplishment I know we are all proud of. At this time I want to acknowledge each Board Member for their contributions.

First, I would like to acknowledge and say thank you to Past President Susan Welsh, my teacher and guide throughout the year Thank you Susan for filling in for me in January and always being there when I had a question. Also a Big Thank you to you for overseeing the annual Burdell Hunt Holiday Program in December, hosted at the Museum of Arts and Sciences. And finally I look forward to joining you as Past President after this meeting!

Charles Olson served as your Membership Chair. Charles, you closed our year with 145 members. We added 12 new members. Thank you for your help with the Holiday/Christmas Party at the Hay House Congratulations on successful year and thank you for your service.

Past President Jonathan Alderman served as your Foundation Chair. Jonathan educated us about the Rotary Foundation, Polio Plus Society Membership, and headed up the annual Birthday Table fundraiser. This year we brought back the raffle to help raise money for CART and Jonathan had fun taking your money before meetings. The raffle so far has raised \$572 with one winner Debra Rollins winning \$321 dollars earlier in the year. Jonathan, thank you for your dry sense of humor, your knowledge of Rotary, and your continued desire and willingness to serve the club.

Matt Shoemaker served as your Youth Service Chair Matt was in charge of organizing and overseeing our Star Student visits, the high school speech contest, RYLA Youth Leadership Conference, and finally Matt and Bowen were a co-host family to our GRSP student Vendela Danfors. They so graciously opened their home to Vendela where she stayed during many of the holidays, they hosted a Rotary dinner for Vendela when her parents visited so that her parents could meet key Rotarians from all of the clubs that had played a part of Vendela's experience. Matt picked up Vendela from the airport and took her to the airport when she flew home.

On a funny note, Matt, Bowen and I have had a laugh about Matt going home to Bowen after our initial meeting of what his duties would be this year as Youth Service Chair and telling Bowen that his duty this year was to bring home beautiful Swedish girl for the year!

Kathy McCollum served as your Community Service Chair. Kathy was in charge of Read for the Record, Stuff the Truck, ShelterBox, and recruiting members to serve and help with Keep Macon-Bibb Beautiful and Rebuilding Macon. Not only did Kathy promote and recruit members for these projects, Kathy had to write grants for Read



for the Record and Stuff the Truck. And you know what is absolutely amazing about Kathy? As a first-time board member not ever using DACdb, Kathy figured out the entire process without asking one question. Kathy also reported our volunteer hours and service projects on Rotary Club Central. Kathy accomplished her mission with perfection, grace and absolute poise.

Gary Wheat served as your Vocational Chair. Gary was an absolute pleasure to serve with. He shared with you what our Rotarians are doing within our community as well as organizing vocational talks by members of the club. Knowing more about our Rotarians through vocational talks and highlighting Rotarian accomplishments allows us to get to know each other a little better which is important as a club. Thank you, Gary, for your leadership and time to this position this year.

Alex Morrison served as your Program Chair. Talk about an important job! When I asked Alex about taking on this position for the second time he said he would be happy to with no hesitation. I told him he was my new best friend. In my opinion this job sets the mood, drives attendance, educates us on subjects that may be familiar or foreign to us. Alex always does an amazing job.... he booked an interesting, relevant and diverse group of speakers who educated us all on many subjects. Alex, it was an absolute pleasure to work and serve with you this year.

Ivey Hall served as your Public Relations Chair. Public Relations Chair's job is to share and tell our story and Ivey has done a tremendous job. She always made sure pictures were taken, at meetings, community service projects, and social events. She created a Macon Rotary Instagram Page, and made regular Rotary-themed posts to both Instagram and Facebook. She handled press releases, involved the media in club events and submitted quarterly articles to be published in the District Newsletter.

In fact Ivey did such a fantastic job, she individually received a GOLD Status for her work as Public Chair. Ivey also handled new member orientations. Anytime I needed help Ivey would smile and say yes.

My last ask of Ivey's was a special one and a big one...and she said "Yes I can do that." My ask was for her to put a slide show together of recapturing this year's events. Enjoy and thank you, Ivey.

The club then watched a slideshow that highlighted our events, projects, and meetings throughout the year. If you didn't see this great show, go back and watch it at <https://tinyurl.com/2fb3338d>.

Stephanie said it was time for her to introduce you to a man you all know - Danny Gibson your incoming President.

Danny spent 47 years in the contracting business and helped the company grow from a relatively small electrical contracting company into one that now provides a career for over 2,800 craftworkers performing construction and service in the electrical, mechanical, HVAC, plumbing and automation. Danny recently retired as President of MetroPower, Inc. As he retains his share of ownership, he keeps his finger on the pulse of the company. As Danny says "EYES IN – NOSE OUT"

During his career Danny has served on numerous boards, on both a local, state and national level. He has spoken at a national level on subjects such as attracting, acquiring, and retaining talent,



apprenticeship, Industry safety, and understanding human behavior as it aligns with a career.

He currently serves on the Navicent Foundation Board where he chairs the Major Gift committee, as well as the United Way of Central Georgia Board. In addition, he assists in securing funding for: The Museum of Aviation, Me Over PD (which is a local foundation assisting Parkinson's patients and their caregivers), and Glad Rags. Married to his wife Terri for 44 years. they have two children, Betsy and DeKalb, both of whom are married, and three of the cutest, and smartest grandchildren - Walter, Dorothy, and Harris.

District Governor Felix Smith then came up to formally swear Danny in as the 110th President of the Rotary Club of Macon. After he was sworn in, Stephanie announced they would do a "passing of the gavel" ceremony, where all the former presidents in the room would come up, line up in chronological order, and hand the gavel to Danny. In addition to Stephanie, 13 former presidents participated, along with District Governor Felix Smith.



Danny then invited up all the incoming board and officers so that DG Smith could swear them in, too. The incoming members are:

- Howard Holleman, Treasurer
- Jim Crisp, Secretary
- Cater Thompson, Sergeant at Arms
- Stephanie Folsom, Past President
- Rebecca Grist, President-Elect
- Steve Allen, Club Administrator/Executive Secretary
- Andrew Eck, Grants and Community Service Chair
- Jimmy Asbell, Programs Chair

- Gene Dunwody, Membership and Social Chair
- Marcus Tripp, Rotary Foundation Chair
- Lori Palmer, Public Image Chair
- Billy Fickling, Vocational Services Chair
- Nancy White, Youth Services Chair



New President Danny then came to the podium. He said that as everyone today has given accolades to Stephanie and the Board, it made him think about his two children. Both are extremely intelligent, with almost perfect SAT scores. His daughter was valedictorian of her High School class and finished third in her class at Tulane His son, who two and a half years younger, when he started to go to college he told his Dad they needed to have a meeting. When Danny asked what was on his mind, he said, "Dad, I just need to tell you that Betsy has set the bar higher than I plan to achieve." Danny said the bar was, indeed, high, but that he would strive to reach it.

Danny credited his wife, Terry for much of his success. He thanked Susan Welch, saying that when you are elected president of the Rotary Club of Macon, you begin a three-year stint, and you start that really 3-6 months before you start your three-year stint. So it's a 3-and-a-half-year process, beginning



with President-elect, then President, and finally past President. Danny also thanked the 2023-24 board, and said that starting with first President John W. Hancock to Stephanie Folsom, with 107 individuals between them, they all carried out their duties in a well-fashioned manner. And not to take anything away from the others, but Stephanie has done a magnificent job, with extraordinary organizational skills coupled with a leadership quality which is rare.

Danny then asked Stephanie's husband, Miki to come up and pin on Stephanie the "coveted" Past President's pin. She was also presented with an appreciation gift.

Danny said we all should take pride in the great foundation of our club, laid down by those members that served before us. "Over the past 6 months I've been privileged to attend several educational and training events, programs, and seminars to prepare me for this presidential role. During these sessions I met many individuals and learned information about other clubs in District 6920. These, too, helped reinforce my appreciation for our club. The organizational structure, the operating procedures, and the processes that we have in place are extraordinary."

He asked all the members to stand together to make the 2024-25 Rotary year exciting and productive.

After reminding the members that we have no meeting next Monday, Danny asked Katherine McLeod to come up and conduct the lottery drawing. District Governor Felix selected the ticket, which was held by George Lee. George drew the Queen of Hearts, which would have been a winner in past lotteries but this time the Queen of Clubs is needed! The \$515 jackpot rolls over to the next meeting.

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

Anytime	Rotary Project or Rotary Committee meeting
Anytime	Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
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. 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!