



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

THROBS

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July 15, 2024

Macon Water Authority

NOTE CHANGE OF MEETING LOCATION

Due to Vacation Bible School, the church will not be available for the July 15 meeting. Instead, we will meet at Fall Line Brewing Company on 567 Plum Street. This will be a regular meeting.

We are happy to welcome Ron Shipman, President and Executive Director of MWA, and Gary Bechtel, Board Chairman. Both are former club members! Ron was a member of our club from 2016 until 2021 when he was SW Region Vice-President of the Georgia Power Company. He now serves as President and Executive Director of the Macon Water Authority, which has received numerous state and national awards for the quality of its water. While our water system is excellent, Macon faces the same problems as most cities with aging infrastructure. Come learn more at Monday's meeting!



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our July 8 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/26joe6h>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

July, 2024

- | | | |
|----|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| 15 | Macon Water Authority | Ron Shipman & Gary Bechtel |
| 16 | Board meeting | |
| 22 | Macon Action Plan | Alex Morrison |
| 29 | No meeting (fifth week) | |

More programs are coming soon!

MEETING June 8, 2024

Attendance: 62.9% - 58 in person, 25 Zoom, plus 2 guests

CART \$3, Raffle \$63

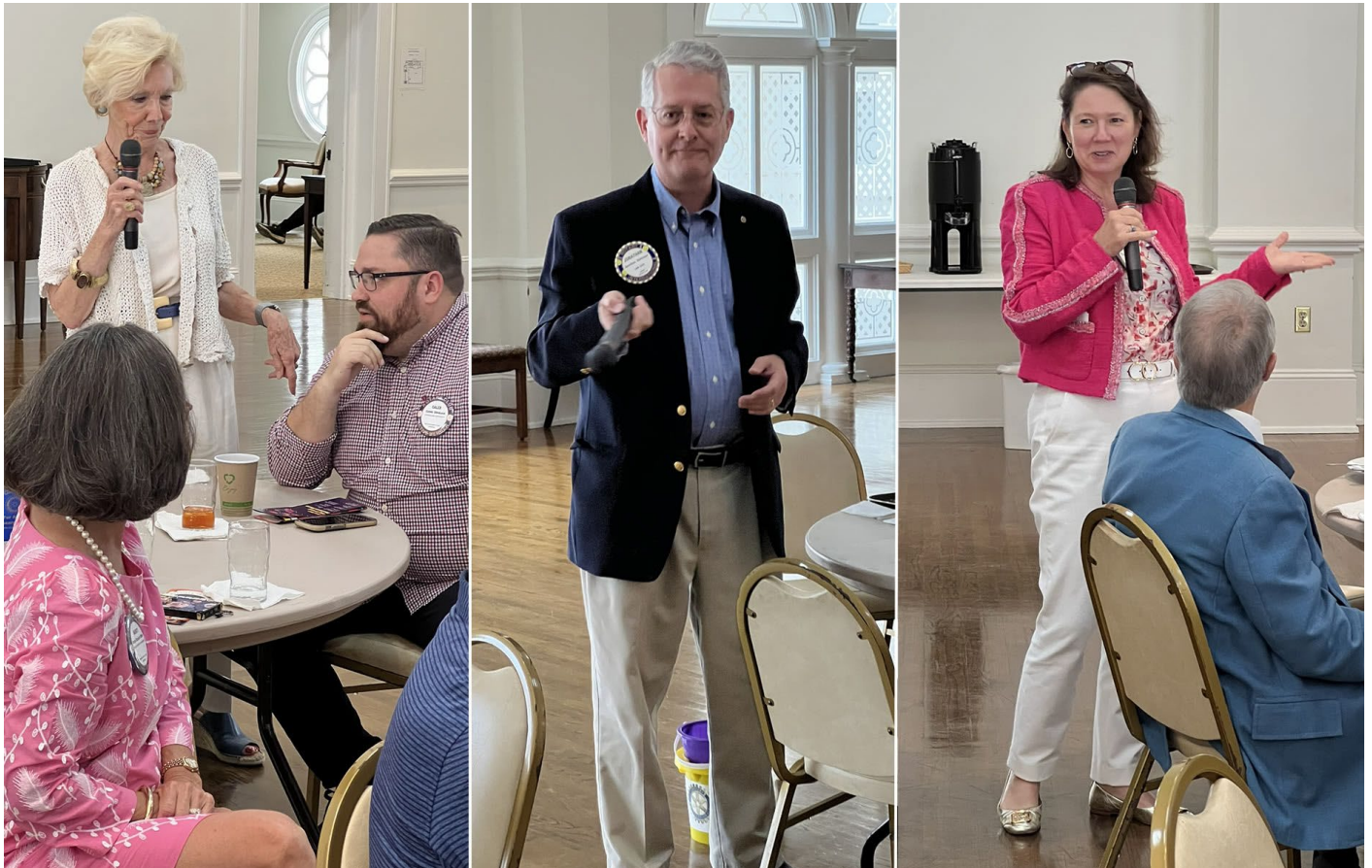
Club Membership: 145

President Danny Gibson rang the bell and welcomed the members and guests to the first meeting of the new Rotary year, and his first as President. He said it was appropriate to call on Past President George Lee to lead the song and pledge and for President-Elect Rebecca Grist to offer the prayer.

George led us in singing *The Star-Spangled Banner*, which seemed to be in a little higher key than usual but the members sang with enthusiasm. Rebecca said she sensed a theme here, and that we were off last week for a very good reason. With that in mind, she offered a prayer giving thanks for our nation, constitution, and rule of law which have served us well for almost 250 years.

Danny said he had been reflecting on how past presidents started their meetings. He then asked those present if they remembered their first time. He quickly added that his question was innocent, and he was thinking about the first time he drove a car, rode a bicycle or horse, or piloted a plane solo.

He thanked Jackie for her particularly stirring piano music today, then welcomed our guests. He said he wanted to make some announcements and talk a bit about his goals as President, but first it was time for CART brags. After a bit of prodding, three members joined in. Katherine Walden said she just told Caleb Slinkard that she had binged this weekend on the first two issues of the new *Macon Melody* newspaper, of which he is Managing Editor. Rebecca Grist bragged on Past President Stephanie Folsom, and said she looked like the weight of the world had just come off her shoulders.



Danny then came back up to name members who celebrated birthdays this week. Eight members had birthdays July 1-8, including Yankee Doodle Dandy George Lee, born on the Fourth of July.

George was also mentioned as having a club anniversary, with 36 years of service. Alfred Sams has an amazing 50 years as a Rotarian.

Danny then announced that the church will not be available for us to meet next week, so the meeting will be held at the Fall Line Brewing Company, at 567 Plum Street. This is a wonderful facility established by our member Kaitlynn Kressin and her husband. This will be a regular meeting, and the speakers will be Ron Shipman and Gary Bechtel of the Macon Water Authority.

Danny said he has some goals for this year, and one of the important ones is to increase in-person attendance. He said that he's thankful we have the Zoom option, but that should be used only in cases when a member can't attend the meeting. Rotary fellowship and the meeting experience are very important part of being a Rotarian.

He then pointed to the new banner adorning the podium, with this year's theme "The Magic of Rotary." Danny said that at first, he didn't understand the meaning of Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick's theme, but came to realize that the magic is with the members. Every time we donate our time or money to a worthy service project, or induct a new member, we are ensuring that the magic continues.



President Danny then asked how many members had seen the 1941 movie *Sergeant York*, starring Gary Cooper. Many hands went up. He next asked if anyone knew the connection of the real Alvin York and Rotary. Caleb indicated he did, but Danny asked him to save the answer for the next meeting.



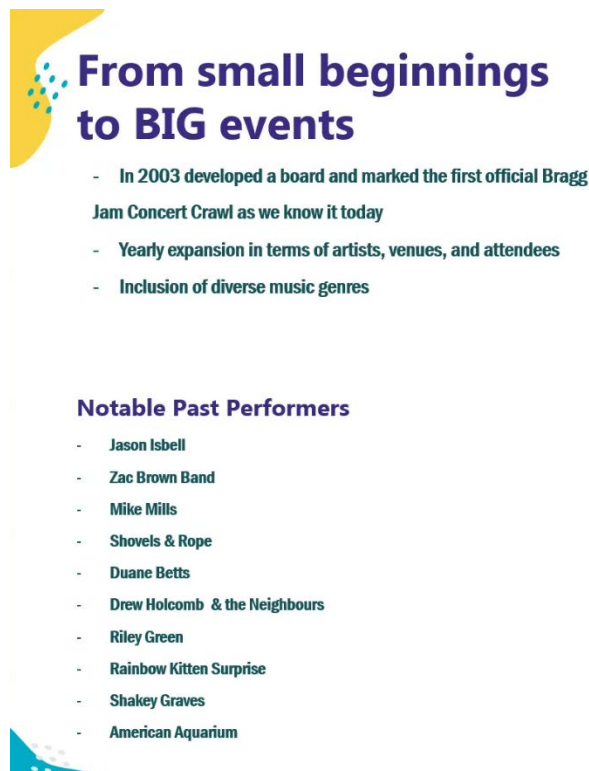
Alex Morrison then came up to introduce our speaker, Olivia Walter. Alex first asked for three cheers for our new President. He then said that Olivia has recently become part of the Mayor's office team, where she produces all the videos. Olivia grew up in Fairview, Tennessee, which is just outside of Nashville. He said her classmates included Taylor Swift and Miley Cyrus. She is a member of the Fairview Sports Hall of Fame as a soccer player. She later played soccer with Butler University, where she majored in sports information. She came to Macon as part of the Atlantic Sun Conference, where she began as an intern and worked her way up to associate commissioner. She was recruited to be part of the Bragg Jam board in 2019 and became President this year.

Olivia began by saying that Bragg Jam’s mission is to create, curate, support, and promote live music experiences in Macon, Georgia. Over the course of more than two decades, the volunteers behind Bragg Jam have produced more than 1,000 unique live shows through their Concert Crawls, Second Sunday Concerts, and other productions. Bragg Jam has contributed nearly a million dollars in artist fees for paid performances and tens of thousands in charitable support for community projects like the Ocmulgee Heritage Trail and Amerson River Park.

Olivia used slides and videos to illustrate the birth and significance of Bragg Jam. This year’s Concert Crawl is July 27 and is preceded by Bragg Fam, which is a kid-friendly event.

Bragg Jam grew out of the tragic deaths of Brax and Tate Bragg. During the summer of 1999, Macon singer/songwriter Brax Bragg was on the brink of something big. He had just recorded a CD with his new band the Buckleys, and they were scheduled to set out on tour. But before hitting the highway with his band, Brax took his baby brother Tate, an accomplished classical guitarist, on a cross-country road trip. While traveling through Texas on July 3, the brothers’ lives were cut short by a car accident.

Back in Macon, Russell Walker, a friend of the family and fellow musician, organized an impromptu jam session of local musicians to celebrate and honor the Bragg brothers’ talented lives. The healing power of music began to perpetuate, and a year later, the jam session resumed. “Bragg Jam” had officially been born. By 2003, it was expanded into a city-wide music festival. Two years later, it was incorporated as a non-profit with a board of directors. Today, Bragg Jam has evolved into a full-scaled community arts festival and Macon’s premier music event.



From small beginnings to BIG events

- In 2003 developed a board and marked the first official Bragg Jam Concert Crawl as we know it today
- Yearly expansion in terms of artists, venues, and attendees
- Inclusion of diverse music genres

Notable Past Performers

- Jason Isbell
- Zac Brown Band
- Mike Mills
- Shovels & Rope
- Duane Betts
- Drew Holcomb & the Neighbours
- Riley Green
- Rainbow Kitten Surprise
- Shakey Graves
- American Aquarium



Olivia said they are an all-volunteer board, paid only in warm fuzzies and knowing they’ve done good things for Macon and its people. Bragg Jam has partnered with a number of community organizations, including NewTown Macon, Visit Macon, and Macon Magazine. They are always looking for sponsors and most appreciate people supporting the event by purchasing tickets to attend. She distributed flyers outlining the various concerts and events taking place this year. Over a hundred musicians will

be performing at the six event venues, and tickets are \$40, or \$125 for a VIP ticket that gets you into an air-conditioned lounge with lots of fun extras.

After the well-received presentation, it was time for the CART raffle. The jackpot was up to \$578 but the Queen of clubs is still in hiding, so it will roll over.

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

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 *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 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 Gene Dunwody 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 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!

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