



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

 **THROBS**

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August 12, 2024

Macon-Bibb Mayor Lester Miller

A lot has changed in Macon-Bibb since Lester Miller took office in January of 2021 as only the second mayor of the consolidated government. Come hear about what has been accomplished, and what’s ahead for our city when the Mayor addresses our club.

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our August 5 meeting:

<https://tinyurl.com/2aojld49>



FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

August, 2024

- | | | |
|----|---|---------------|
| 12 | Macon-Bibb Mayor | Lester Miller |
| 19 | No Meeting – Tu B’av (Jewish holiday of love) | |
| 20 | Board meeting | |
| 26 | RYLA (Rotary Youth Leadership Awards) | |

September, 2024

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------------------|
| 2 | No meeting | |
| 9 | Journalism, Humor, and <i>Macon Melody</i> | Ed Grisamore |
| 16 | “Trouble in God’s Country” (economics) | Charles Hayslett |
| 17 | Board Meeting | |
| 23 | First Tee of Middle Georgia | Elliott Ruus, Exec. Director |
| 30 | No meeting | |

MEETING August 5, 2024

Attendance: 53.4% - 55 in person, 15 Zoom, plus 7 guests

CART \$214, Raffle \$26

Club Membership: 144

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Jeffery Monroe to lead the singing and pledge. It's always a treat to hear Jeffery, and he led us in singing *My Country 'Tis of Thee*.

Keisha Callins then came up to offer the prayer. She began by sharing a quote she saw recently while walking around the fountain in Tattnell Square Park. This one is from former chancellor Kirby Godsey and it says: "We are here to give people hope, to bear light amidst the shadows, to live out grace." She asked us to keep that in mind while she offered a wonderful prayer giving thanks for the things we accomplish together in the Rotary club.

After thanking Jackie Riley for her piano playing, Danny mentioned that past President Susan Welsh tried to wear a different outfit at every meeting. Danny said he can't do that, but will try to wear a different tie.

President Danny then asked the club to take a few moments to remember former member Charles McCullough, who passed away July 18. Charlie was a member of our club for 29 years until he had to leave for health reasons in 2016.

Danny then welcomed our seven guests and had them stand. Members Jimmy Walker, David Thompson, and Howard Holleman have upcoming birthdays. Seven members have club anniversaries, including Gene Dunwody with 38 years and Charlie Jay with 33. These seven represent 94 years of Rotary service.

It was then time for CART brags to raise money for Alzheimer's research. Keisha Callins introduced her guest, Melanie Cooper, who is a new medical student at Mercer. Keisha said we have a medical workforce shortage in Georgia but Melanie is part of that solution, along with Mercer's 180 medical students in Macon, Columbus and Savannah. In honor of these students, Keisha said she was giving \$180 to CART, plus another \$20 to honor her son and daughter who are now college sophomores.



Keisha received applause from the members for her generosity. Joe Timberlake said that on July 1 he celebrated either 34 or 35 years of perfect attendance (!)

Danny then called on Caleb Slinkard to answer a question about Sergeant York's connection to Rotary, something that Danny had posed at our last meeting. Sgt. Alvin Cullum York is one of the best-known heroes of WWI and was portrayed by Gary Cooper in the movie *Sergeant York*. York was a poor farmer from Tennessee who refused offers to cash in on his fame but the Nashville Rotary Club bought a 400-acre farm for him and his wife in 1922. When he passed away, his widow donated the farm to the State of Tennessee (editor's note: the story is a bit more complicated, as you will see if you look it up).

Danny then said that next week is the 55th anniversary of the Woodstock Festival. The first band to sign on would later be known as Credence Clearwater Revival. Danny challenged us for the next meeting to come up with names of fellow Rotarians who are likely candidates to have been at Woodstock.

President Danny said he will be in Atlanta Thursday evening to pick up our GRSP student, who is a young man from Brazil with the difficult to pronounce (for Americans) name of João Victor Verçosa Vilela.

Nancy White then came up to introduce our speaker, Dr. Kristie Roberts-Lewis. Nancy said she is an accomplished higher education administrator, with an exceptional record of leading transformational change and increasing institutional effectiveness and student success in graduate education. She has over two decades of experience in higher educational leadership.

Dr. Roberts-Lewis has prepared students for careers in public service at institutions including Jackson State University, Clark Atlanta University, Troy University, Point University, Southern University, and now Middle Georgia State University, where she's the inaugural Executive Director for the Center for Middle Georgia Studies. She's a native of Atlanta with a Ph.D. in Public Policy and Administration from Jackson State, a Master of Divinity from Emory's Candler School of Theology, and many other academic achievements including a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at Syracuse, graduate studies at Beijing Union and Oxford Universities, and a Fulbright Hayes Fellowship in Ghana.



Dr. Roberts-Lewis began by sharing the vision and mission of the center, aided by a PowerPoint presentation. The vision of the Center for Middle Georgia Studies is to be a nationally recognized hub for community-engaged scholarship that positively impacts middle Georgia.

She said they liken themselves in some ways to the Carl Vinson Institute of Government at the University of Georgia, not similar in terms of size and the scope of the services, but in terms of their ability to connect the community, identify problems and challenges within the community and to have collaborative-based solutions to address them.

“So our mission is that we believe in harnessing the combined power and the expertise that exists within Middle Georgia State University, and with our faculty. And really, I serve as a conduit between that expertise and the needs of the community. Our hope is that we will be able to address some of the most pressing problems and challenges that currently play middle Georgia and this region.”

Dr. Roberts-Lewis has been in this role for just three months and has been canvassing the community to find synergies with agencies already in place. One project under consideration is providing opportunities for our aging population, and utilizing technology in practical ways.

The scope of services is in three main areas. The first is research and analysis, including economic analysis to find starting points to address issues. The second is training and educational programs, including professional development training, public symposiums, forums and conferences, financial literacy, and more. The third area is community partnerships and outreach, to be a repository of all the nonprofits and other organizations in Macon.



The Faculty Fellows program will be critically important to their work. For example, the Center has a scholar in residence who is working and focused on addressing issues of the shortage of medical specialists in rural middle Georgia. We know that there are some medical deserts and pharmacy deserts in places.

Dr. Roberts-Lewis' presentation was very detailed and the above summary touched on just some of the points. You can view the entire program at <https://tinyurl.com/2aojld49>

The CART raffle pot was up to \$642. Club Administrator Steve Allen had the winning ticket but couldn't pull the King of Clubs, so it rolls over to our next meeting. As always, we concluded with 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. **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!

Rotary Club of Macon | PO Box 4521, Macon, GA 31208 | maconrotary.com
Steve Allen, Club Administrator | steve@maconrotary.com