



The Rotary Club of Macon

♥ THROBS

Published Weekly Since 1914

August 14, 2023

History and Impact of Macon Pride

Note Change of Meeting Location

Our next club meeting will be held at Fall Line Brewing Company, [567 Plum Street](#) downtown. Thanks to member Kaitlyn Kressin for making her wonderful venue available for this meeting. We will welcome speaker Scott Mitchell, who will be speaking about Macon Pride. Scott is well-known in the downtown business community and is owner of the popular The Bohemian Den. Please note there will be NO ZOOM OPTION available for this meeting, so please try to come. If you have never visited Fall Line you really need to make the trip!



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our August 7 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/296qby8d> The camera was back up and running but we are still tweaking issues with audio.

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS approved by the Board of Directors:

August, 2023

- | | | |
|----|--------------------------|--|
| 21 | No meeting | |
| 28 | Affordable Housing Panel | Mike Austin, Wanzina Jackson, and Everett Verner |

September, 2023

- | | | |
|----|----------------------------|----------------|
| 4 | No Meeting | |
| 11 | Artificial Intelligence | Jimmy Plunkett |
| 18 | Future of the Car Industry | Marsh Butler |
| 25 | Central Georgia CASA | |

MEETING August 7, 2023

Attendance: 63.1% -43 in person, 24 Zoom, plus 1 guest
CART \$13.00, Raffle \$52.00
Club Membership 141

President Stephanie rang the bell and welcomed everyone back after having no meeting last week. She thanked Jackie for her piano playing and called on Katy Carr to lead the singing and pledge. Katy led us in *America the Beautiful*, then the prayer was offered by Sarah Harris.



Prior to the meeting, Jonathan Alderman sold tickets to the CART raffle, which has returned after an absence of several years. The membership responded well; the 43 members in attendance bought 52 tickets. Rules of the raffle were published in last week's Throbs.

Stephanie welcomed one guest, Jeff Wilhelm, who is a potential member. She then offered birthday wishes to the three members celebrating birthdays this week. There were five club anniversaries, including Marcus Tripp with 20 years, Charlie Jay with 32, and Gene Dunwody with 37. Apparently, they were all teenagers when they joined.

It was then time for CART brags, which raise money for Alzheimer's research. As usual, we had some good ones. None from men this time, though.



Stephanie offered a "Thank you" to Matt Shoemaker for his time this weekend to prepare and make sure everything was in order for our GRSP student, Vendela Danfors. Matt made sure her dorm room was ready and stocked with needed items and then he drove to Atlanta Airport late last night to pick up Vendela. They arrived at the dorm at midnight.

Rebecca Grist then came up to give a report on the GRSP Conclave, which takes place in Macon August 18-20. This church will be the location for all the meetings and one of the dinners. She went over the schedule of activities and said that host families are still needed for this weekend. Information is found later in this newsletter, please contact Rebecca if you are able to help.

Next, Gary Wheat came to the podium to resume what used to be a regular feature of our meetings, "Rotarians in the News." Today's highlights were:

- **Dr. Keisha Callins** received the inaugural Sandra Dunagan Deal Rural Service Fellow award, established in September 2022 by Mercer University School of Medicine (MUSM) to honor former first lady of Georgia Sandra Deal and her commitment to education, volunteerism and community involvement. This award recognizes a faculty member, community partner or volunteer who has made significant contributions to mentoring, inspiring and encouraging Mercer medical students to care for Georgians in rural, underserved areas.
- NewTown Macon – **Josh Rogers**: Exciting News! Last week, Cadence Bank committed a game-changing \$9 million contribution to NewTown Macon's loan program, bolstering their mission to revitalize the local community. As Central Georgia's first Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI), New Town Macon is dedicated to empowering local businesses and people.
- **Gene Dunwoody** was one of the speakers last week giving tribute to the former Greater Macon Chamber of Commerce Building as it was demolished following its service since 1974. Gene's speech was featured online as well as reference during news coverage from the local affiliates.

If you know of anyone Gary should highlight, see the "Shout Out" article later in this newsletter.

Ivey Hall then came forward to report on the club's social media. She said that the club now has an Instagram account to go along with our longstanding Facebook. She encouraged the members to follow our social media, and to send her any pictures that may be of interest. She concluded in an appropriate manner, by taking a selfie with all on stage.



David Aiello then came up to introduce speaker, Alex Morrison. As a member of our club, Alex is well-known to most. David says Alex possesses a combination of knowledge, expertise, and passion for our community and its development. He has served as Executive Director at the Macon-Bibb County Urban Development Authority since 2011. He graduated from Mercer University and received a Master of Public Administration from the University of Georgia.

Alex said when he was an undergrad, there wasn't a program to bring Macon-area projects together but we now have the Macon Action Plan and other paths to revitalize the area.

Back when it was first built, the Macon Mall was a vital regional retail center, situated in the center of both the

Macon area and the state of Georgia. Like many other malls across the country, Macon Mall entered a period of decline. The plan in place now can change all that. The centerpiece is the amphitheater, which will be the second largest in Georgia and uses a state-of-the-art design. Other amenities include a library and what could be the nation's largest pickleball court. The location is still good, with easy access to two interstate highways, and the amphitheater project will transform the area for years to come.

You can learn more about the amphitheater at <https://www.maconbibb.us/amphitheaterdesign/>. The image below was taken from that site. You can see Alex's complete presentation at <https://tinyurl.com/296qby8d>.



After many questions, it was time for the lottery drawing. Frank Wood had the winning ticket but drew the Two of Clubs. The pot will start over at our next meeting. The meeting ended with recitation of the Four Way Test.



We still need your help hosting 12 GRSP students for the upcoming Conclave in Macon. Help is needed just for the weekend the event takes place. Here are the details:

When? The nights of August 18 and August 19th and the morning of August 20th.

What is required? Room to host no fewer than two GRSP Students. If you have room for more, that is even better.

Host families will be responsible for picking up their students at First Presbyterian Church on Friday afternoon at 4:30. Transport the students to Fall Line Station for the Dinner and Program at 6:30. Pick them up at 9:30. Saturday Morning, have the students at First Presbyterian at 8:30 for the first session. Please provide them breakfast.

4:00 – Pick students up at First Presbyterian Church

6:00- have students back at FPC for the Dinner and Show. At 9:00, all of the students will move to the coffee shop at Hotel 45 for social time. Rotarians are invited to have social time in Hightales Bar and Hospitality Suites

11:00 Host families Pick up the students at the coffee shop.

Sunday Morning at 9:00 Host Families deliver students for pickup at Hart's Mortuary Parking Lot (765 Cherry Street)

Please email Rebecca Grist at rlgrist@gmail.com as soon as possible to let her know your availability.

If you would like to attend any of the dinners or events with your students, please use this link to register:

Here is the event link: <https://www.dacdb.com/index.html?EventID=77666486>

You may also view the event directly from the [GRSP website calendar](#).



Do you have a recent accomplishment? Have you or your organization won an award or otherwise been recognized? We want to know, and to recognize your achievement at a meeting. Please email Gary Wheat, our Vocational Service Chair, at gwheat@visitmacon.org

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 Gary Wheat, gwheat@visitmacon.org

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events

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

Anytime Meeting Rotary Project or Rotary Committee
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 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!

www.maconrotary.com
