



The Rotary Club of Macon

♥ THROBS

Published Weekly Since 1914

September 4, 2023

Labor Day Holiday - No Meeting



The very first Labor Day in the country was celebrated in 1882, and it became an official federal holiday in 1894. The holiday falls on the first Monday of September and has marked the unofficial end of summer for a long time. No matter how you celebrate it, we wish you a Happy Labor Day!

And please join us next Monday, September 11 when we resume regular meetings with a program about artificial intelligence.

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our August 28 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2dlte238>. We continue to have equipment problems that affect the audio.

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS approved by the Board of Directors:

September, 2023

11	Artificial Intelligence	Jimmy Puckett
18	Future of the Car Industry	Marsh Butler
25	Central Georgia CASA	Susanna Patterson

October, 2023

2	NewTown Loans	Lauren Marshall
9	No Meeting	
16	Macon Mental Health Matters	Andrea Cooke
23	No Meeting	
30	GRSP/Club Assembly	

November, 2023

6	Crimestoppers – No Meeting at church	
13	District Governor Felix Smith and Asst. District Governor Steve Bell	
20	No Meeting	

MEETING August 28, 2023

Attendance: 63.8% -62 in person, 19 Zoom, plus 6 guests
CART \$45.00, Raffle \$65.00
Club Membership:141

President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting, welcomed everyone and thanked Jackie for the piano music. Katy Carr led us in singing *God Bless America* followed by the Pledge of Allegiance, and Jim Manley offered the prayer.

Stephanie then welcomed our speakers and guests, including two prospective members. She then offered birthday wishes to the five members who celebrate this week. There are four club anniversaries, including Don Bailey's 10th and George Jackson's 16th.

It was then time for CART brags and as usual we had some good ones:



Stephanie then reported on last weekend's GRSP Conclave, which she said was a HUGE success. We had 42 scholars from 24 countries and local Rotarians enjoyed getting to know them. A group picture of all the students was displayed on the video screens while she talked. She then called on Rebecca Grist to come up, and presented her with flowers as a thanks for all her hard work. Rebecca and Milton Heard coordinated everything for our club. Rebecca then read off the list of all who helped by providing rides, a place to stay, or other things that made the weekend so special for the students.



It was then time for a vocational talk. Gary Wheat introduced Andrew Eck, who is founder of Georgia Artisan Furnishings. Gary noted that, even though Andrew is a relatively new member he has already recommended two other people for membership, both of whom were present.



Andrew graduated from Mercer University with a degree in electrical and electronics engineering and quickly became an entrepreneur after college. While helping to demolish blighted houses around Macon, he realized how much of the materials, especially wood, could be repurposed. What began as a hobby is now Georgia Artisan Furnishings, which has outfitted many Macon businesses and homes with handcrafted furniture built primarily from reclaimed wood. Look for more on our website soon!

Stephanie then called on Alex Morrison to introduce our program on Affordable Housing. Alex served as moderator for three panelists with diverse experience in housing. Mike Austin, who is well known to our club, is Executive Director of the Macon Housing Authority. Wanzina Jackson is Manager of the Economic and Community Development Department for Macon-Bibb County, and Everett Verner is Executive Director of the Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority.

Alex began by saying that in every economic study of Georgia he's seen in the last decade, affordable housing has been cited as a major concern. Mike Austin tried to dispel some myths about affordable housing, saying that only a small percentage of housing is Section 8, which is a federal program that provides rental assistance to private landlords. Also, if you see a run-down property it is probably not Section 8. The Macon Housing Authority has won awards for its innovative projects and there is a long waiting list for their apartments.

The Economic and Community Development (ECD) Department's mission is to stimulate economic vitality by strengthening neighborhoods, building partnerships, and fostering public and private investments in the community. To successfully revitalize a community, three key components must be in place: the hardware (the physical development that enhances a community), the software (the social programs, rules and regulations that keep order), and links to other resources (outside programs and capital that can be leveraged). One component of ECD programming offers mechanisms to build affordable housing, start businesses, purchase a home and revitalize neighborhoods. Another component of ECD programming offers methods and or solutions to community problems by fostering efforts to deal with neighborhood nuisances, and supporting neighborhood groups and community service organizations.

Macon-Bibb County Land Bank Authority is a governmental authority under the laws of the State of Georgia for the public purpose of returning non-tax generating properties to a productive use. The Land Bank Authority works in a collaborative effort with Macon-Bibb County in the implementation of community and economic development; specifically providing land to be used in the production of housing and creation of jobs for low to moderate income citizens through residential, commercial and industrial development. The Land Bank Authority is a strategic tool that supports growth and investment in neighborhoods throughout the city.

What followed was a wide-ranging discussion about the challenges to create and sustain affordable housing. It was noted that, while a renter may get a discount on their housing, when a repair is needed the building owner doesn't get a discount on the repair.

The members showed a lot of interest and there wasn't time for all the questions during the meeting period. President Stephanie announced that the club will be making a donation to Habitat for Humanity in honor of the speakers.

The winning raffle ticket was held by Katie Carr but she didn't draw the Queen of Hearts. The meeting concluded with a recitation of the Four Way Test.





Maui Relief Fund

Hawaii Rotary District 5000 has launched the Maui Fire Relief Fund and encourages others to support the efforts of the local Rotary District in providing relief. You can make a donation here:

<https://rotaryd5000.org/stories/creating-hope-for-maui-rotary-district-5000-launches-maui-fires-relief-fund>



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/](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
