



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

THROBS

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September 16, 2024

Charles Hayslett: Trouble in God's Country

Charlie Hayslett is the scholar in residence at the Center for Middle Georgia Studies at Middle Georgia State University. Based in Watkinsville, the former political journalist with the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and public relations professional now studies major economic, political and health issues affecting rural Georgia.

He currently writes a column called "Trouble in God's Country," which examines the huge discrepancies between the affluent urban areas (mostly Atlanta) and impoverished rural counties. His column appears regularly in the new *Macon Melody* newspaper.



We welcome Charlie to our September 16 meeting!

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our September 9 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2ycsofnd>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

September, 2024

16	"Trouble in God's Country" (economics)	Charles Hayslett
17	<i>Board Meeting</i>	
23	First Tee of Middle Georgia	Elliott Ruus, Exec. Director
30	No meeting	

October, 2024

- 7 River Edge Cass Hatcher, CEO
- 14 No meeting
- 15 *Board meeting*
- 19 *Macon Beer Fest, sponsored by Downtown Rotary to promote prostate cancer awareness*
- 21 Georgia Farm Bureau
- 28 Crimestoppers Luncheon at Centreplex, no regular meeting

MEETING September 9, 2024

Attendance: 61.4% - 63 in person, 18 Zoom, plus 4 guests

CART \$60, Raffle \$17

Club Membership: 145 (including today's induction)

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Past President Bert Maxwell to lead the song and pledge. Bert chose the old favorite, *God Bless America*. Kathy McCollum offered the prayer. Kathy alluded to the tragic school shootings in Georgia and prayed to "save us from weak resignation."

After thanking Jackie for the piano playing, Danny acknowledged our guests, which included two pending members. He noted that the floral arrangements which the church shares with us this week were dedicated to Don Bradford, a former member of our club who would have had a birthday today.

Five living Rotarians celebrate birthdays this week, including Chip Miller whose birthday is today. To really put a cherry on top, Chip also celebrates 31 years as a member! Other club anniversaries include Jimmy Asbell, with 11 years; Wayne Gullatt and Alex Morrison with 13; and Past President Elbert McQueen with 27 years. That totals 95 years of Rotary service!

It was then time for CART brags, which in addition to providing members a time to brag on various people and things, raises money for Alzheimer's research.



President Danny then said that Beer Fest, begun by Assistant District Governor Steve Bell to promote prevention of prostate cancer, is October 19. Our club needs to provide at least six volunteers, and further information is available in the article below.

Read For The Record is coming up again, on October 24. This is always a fun event where we read to school children, and many Rotarians are needed for this. More information will be available soon, but you can sign up now at <https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/RSVP/Index.cfm?EventID=77785181>.

October 28 is the Crimestoppers luncheon at the Macon Centreplex, and there will be no regular meeting that day. Later, on November 18, we will host Lee Beckmann of the Georgia Ports Authority in a joint meeting with the other two Rotary clubs, here at our regular location. November 21 will be Stuff the Truck, and we'll be looking for volunteers soon.

Danny then mentioned an article by Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick that appeared in the most recent *Rotary* magazine. She brought up the concept of family, and what that means as a Rotarian. All members receive *Rotary* magazine and we encourage you to read it.

Speaking of family, Danny said it was time to welcome a new person into ours. Jim Crisp introduced new member Emily Brown. Emily is Upper School Head at Mt. de Sales Academy and will hold the classification of Private School, Religious. After graduating from the University of Georgia in 1998, she began teaching at Mt. de Sales in 2000, and later held the roles of college counselor, middle school theatre director, Director of Academic Resource Center, and others before assuming her current position in 2021.

Jim related his personal relationship with Emily that began when she was involved with Theatre Macon. In 1986 she played the role of Scout in *To Kill a Mockingbird*, and her mother portrayed the older Scout. Emily has been married for 26 years and has two daughters who both are in college at Young Harris. We welcome Emily to our club!

It was then time for our speaker Ed Grisamore, a long-time Macon journalist who is known to most of our members. Jimmy Asbell, who is also Ed's pastor, gave a brief introduction.

Ed has been a journalist in our community for 45 years, with *The Telegraph*, the *Monroe Reporter*, and now with the new *Macon Melody*. He has authored nine books, and recently retired as a teacher of journalism at Stratford Academy. He was awarded the 2010 Will Rogers Humanitarian Award by the National Society of Newspaper Columnists, was inducted into the Macon Sports Hall of Fame for his sports reporting, and has won many other awards. One of these was a Grammy nomination for his audio book.

Ed began by saying it was an honor to be introduced by his preacher and good friend. In his career, Ed did a lot of public speaking to civic clubs, church groups, book clubs and others. He related the story of Jimmy's father calling him a few years back to address the Golden Kiwanis Club, which is comprised of older members. Ed checked his calendar and saw he had already addressed that group just a few months ago. Dr. Asbell said that was okay, since they wouldn't remember it anyway.



Ed's father was a Rotarian when they lived in LaGrange, so Rotary has a special place in his heart. He then said he wanted to give a little life update. He began teaching at Stratford nine years ago and wondered at first if he would fit in. He drove a 1992 Ford pickup truck which he was sure was the oldest in the parking lot. When he checked, Ed found it was 17 years older than the next oldest vehicle.

Still, Ed had a great experience at Stratford, and one of his former students is now a writer for the *Macon Melody*. While at the school, Ed started doing a daily television broadcast using an anchor desk inherited from WMAZ.

Ed noted that his current boss, Caleb Slinkard, is a member of the club, and two of his former bosses are, too. When Caleb first approached Ed about writing for the new paper, he went into great detail about what the news outlet would be doing but didn't divulge the name. When Ed finally heard it was the *Macon Melody*, he was a bit startled. On closer examination, however, it fits our community and the name sets it apart from the older naming conventions. Hardly anyone today is familiar with a telegraph, herald or courier!

The Telegraph is the oldest business in Macon, releasing its first issue on November 1, 1826, which makes it almost 200 years old. Ed was a writer for them for 36 years, so this is a fresh experience. He said the true love of his life is storytelling, and he gave several examples of the stories he has written so far for the *Melody*.

One of the recent stories he related began when he was watching his oldest granddaughter play softball at Freedom Park.

A man came up and addressed him as "Coach," and was someone that Ed had coached when the now 37-year-old was just nine. That man grew up in project housing near Freedom Park and had a difficult childhood. He then related how he had lost everything, including his baseball trophy, in a house fire while living with his grandmother. Ed had a new one made for him at Rutherford Trophy.

That's the type of local story Ed Grisamore loves to relate. He offered a lot of humorous and touching vignettes in his talk that can't easily be summarized here (for example, the one about a sign posted on Ridge Avenue that said "Lost Python" and led him to investigate). If you missed it, or just want to hear Ed again, the meeting is available at <https://tinyurl.com/2ycsofnd>.

The raffle pot was up to \$730 but will be even bigger next week because the Queen of Clubs is still in hiding! As always, the meeting concluded with recitation of the Four Way Test.





Volunteers Needed – Free Beer Included

This year's Macon Beer Fest takes place Saturday, October 19 in downtown Macon. Recognized as one of the Top Ten Georgia craft beer events, most people may not realize it's a "health fair disguised as a beer fest." It began in 2010 as "Pints for Prostates" and is the brainchild of our Rotary Assistant Governor Steve Bell, in response to his personal experience with prostate cancer. The festival is organized by the Downtown Macon Rotary Club but our club has six volunteer positions assigned (out of a total of 168 volunteers needed).

In addition to offering over 100 varieties of craft beer and wine to sample, the festival offers free prostate cancer screenings. While you should volunteer in the spirit of "Service Above Self," you will also enjoy access to free beer and pizza as an incentive. Volunteers are needed to work from 1:15 until 7:15, but if we can get more than six members we may be able to split this into smaller time slots. We do need at least six! To sign up, go to <https://tinyurl.com/28ntj5gx> and choose the box marked "Macon (Monday) Rotary." Oh, and it can also count as a meeting makeup if you missed a meeting within two weeks of the event.

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
Anytime	Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past <i>Throbs</i> link
Oct. 19	Macon Beer Fest

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 the Membership Chair 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!*