



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

 **THROBS**

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September 23, 2024

First Tee Middle Georgia

This Monday we welcome Elliott Ruus, Executive Director of First Tee Middle Georgia. First Tee is a national organization that empowers kids and teens through the game of golf. The Middle Georgia chapter holds classes at Bowden Golf Course and River North Country Club.



According to First Tee, the children don't just learn the game of golf, but also life lessons to develop leadership skills. Learn more at today's meeting!

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our September 16 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2ycz8bcm>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

September, 2024

23	First Tee of Middle Georgia
30	No meeting

Elliott Ruus, Exec. Director

October, 2024

- | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|
| 7 | River Edge | Cass Hatcher, CEO |
| 14 | No meeting | |
| 15 | <i>Board meeting</i> | |
| 19 | <i>Macon Beer Fest, sponsored by Downtown Rotary to promote prostate cancer awareness (volunteers needed)</i> | |
| 21 | Georgia Farm Bureau | |
| 28 | <i>Crimestoppers Luncheon at Centreplex, no regular meeting</i> | |

November, 2024

- | | | |
|----|---|------------------|
| 4 | Rotary Foundation – Birthday Tables Day | Elizabeth Harden |
| 11 | No meeting, Veterans Day | |
| 18 | Georgia Ports Authority, joint meeting with other two Macon clubs | |
| 19 | <i>Board meeting</i> | |
| 25 | No meeting - Thanksgiving | |

MEETING September 16, 2024

Attendance: 61.1% - 57 in person, 23 Zoom, plus 3 guests

CART \$23, Raffle \$19

Club Membership: 145

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Past President George Lee to lead the singing and pledge. George chose *America the Beautiful*, but said it has eight verses and most people know only the first. He said the lyrics, by Katherine Lee Bates, were first published July 4, 1895, and it was known as *Pike's Peak*. The music is by church organist Samuel Ward. George led us in singing the second and third verses, but thankfully provided the lyrics.

Caleb Slinkard offered the prayer. He said his identical twin brother is a pastor, but Caleb did a pretty good job for a journalist.

After thanking Jackie for the piano playing, Danny acknowledged our guests, which included frequent visitor Dubose Porter and Brendan O'Kane, guest of new member Emily Brown and President of Mt. de Sales Academy.

Four Rotarians celebrate birthdays this week on only two days! September 18 is Kathy McCollum and Kathryn Dennis' birthday, and September 21 is shared by Billy Fickling and Don Bailey. In club anniversaries, Asha Ellen has been a member for two years, Ivey Hall for seven, and David Frolich joined the club 13 years ago. Our Treasurer Howard Holleman has a full 30 years of service to this club.

It was then time for CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) brags, and President Danny said he would bring to the next meeting a thank-you letter our club received for its generous support of this worthwhile cause.



After his usual musings, President Danny called on Susan Welsh to introduce speaker Charles Hayslett. Susan said he has a long résumé but she is giving the highlights.

Charlie is a retired journalist and public relations executive who has spent the last several years researching and writing about the costs and consequences of Georgia's widening rural-urban divide. He was recently named Scholar in Residence at the new Center for Middle Georgia studies at Middle Georgia State University, which was established in 2023 thanks to a very generous \$1.2 million dollar grant from the Payton Anderson Foundation. Its purpose is to address such regional concerns as poverty, workforce demands, and healthcare, among other very critical issues.

Hayslett began his career as a newspaper reporter covering government and politics in Atlanta and Washington, DC. for *The Atlanta Journal* in the 1970's. He then moved into public relations, working with several major firms before establishing his own in 1994.

In 2010 he became convinced by research his firm conducted for a Georgia client, that the State's urban-rural divide was bigger and more problematic than the State's government and business leaders generally understood. He began gathering material for a book on the subject, and as part of that work set up a blog called *Trouble in God's Country*, kind of a parking place for his working draft material. Over time, the blog itself attracted a following, and it's since been credited by the original co-chairs of the Georgia House Rural Development Council with triggering the creation of that body in 2017. His work has been published or cited in publications from coast to coast, from the *Washington Post* to the *Sacramento Bee*. The *Atlanta Journal-Constitution's* daily, "Politically Georgia" column regularly references his research.

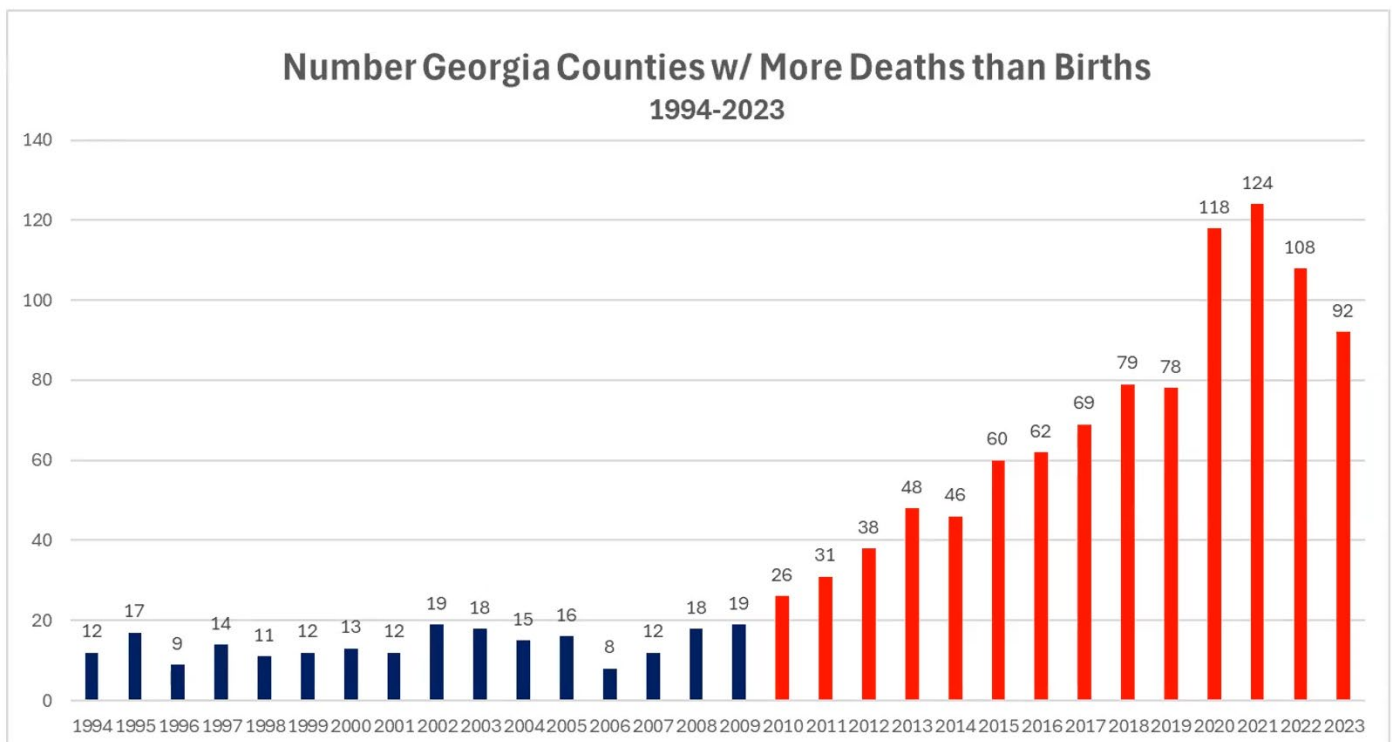
Charlie began by saying that he's given about 75 presentations of his work over the years and often gets a question that asks, in essence, why he is doing this research. So, he thought that would be a good way to begin his presentation. It grew out of some research his public relations firm did on a project starting around 2009 or 2010 that was aimed at reinvigorating and rebuilding the State's public health system, not the healthcare system that most people think about, but the public health agency, which was really in a state of disrepair. They settled on a messaging strategy that was aimed at demonstrating the relationship between population health and economic vitality at a very local level,

and began pulling together a lot of data to make that case. Charlie said he thought he knew generally what to expect, since he's familiar with the social determinants of health and things like that.

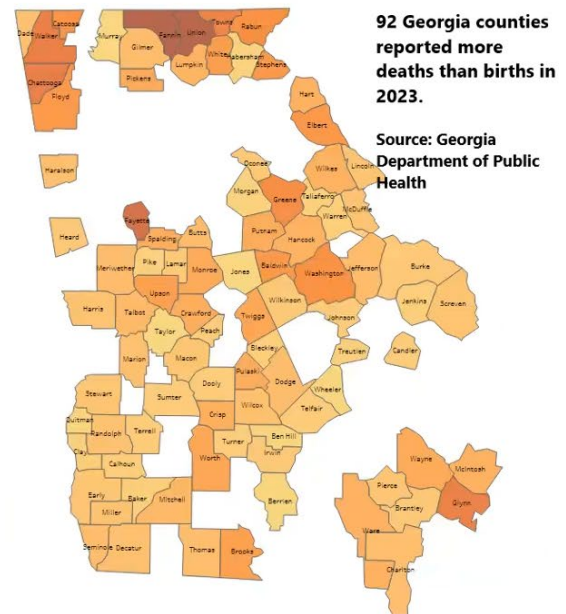
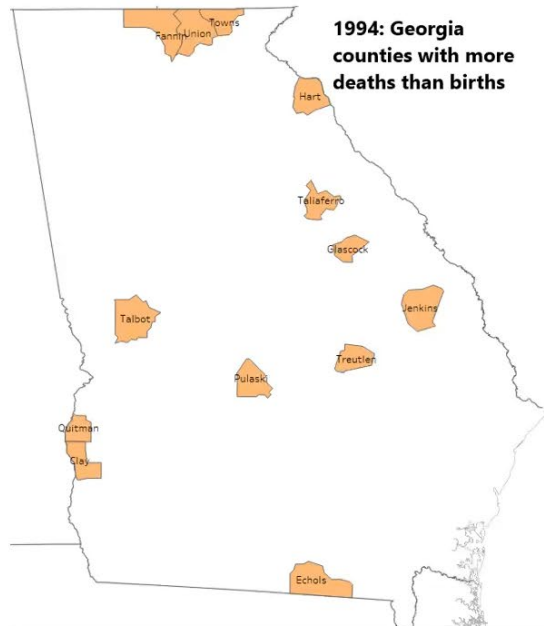
"But I was frankly blown away by the results that we found. And that's when I began to think this is a bigger deal than most people realize and started talking to people I know, in fairly senior positions in the Georgia business community and the in the political world, and was met with a bunch of blank stares. Frankly, as one guy put it, he said, 'Yeah, Charlie, it's a problem. It's just not my problem.' And I thought, well, sooner or later it's gonna get to be your problem."



Charlie relied on a PowerPoint that illustrated many statistics that demonstrate the growing disparity between what he calls "Atlanna" and "Notlanna," defined as the 12-county Atlanta metro area and the 147 other counties.



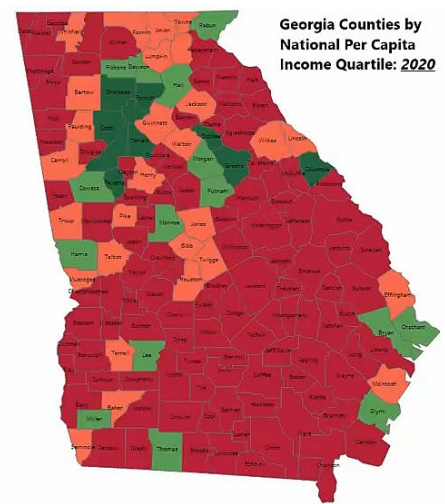
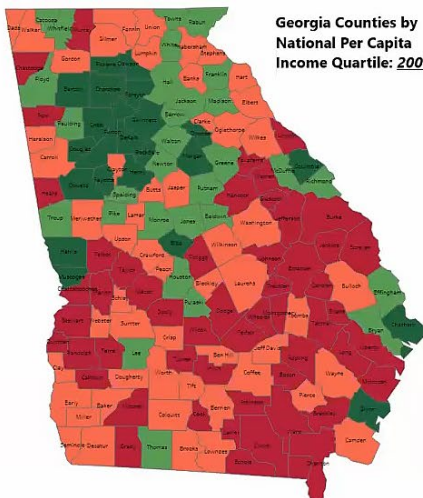
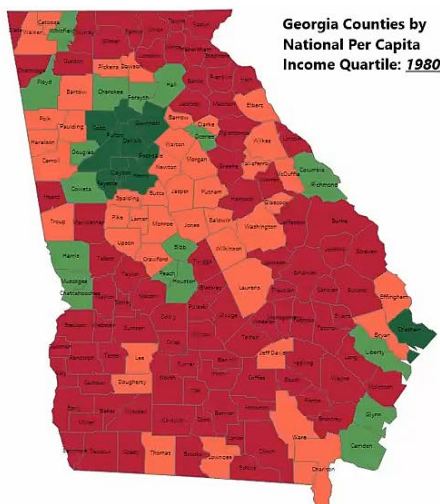
One notable trend he spotted was that, beginning in 2010, the number of counties reporting more deaths than births began to rise markedly. Looking more closely, metro Atlanta is notably absent from the list of counties with more deaths than births.



--Georgia Department of Public Health OASIS System

Other alarming statistics he cited include the high discrepancy in educational attainment between metro Atlanta and the other counties. If metro Atlanta were a state, it would rank second in the nation in the Educational Attainment Index. If the rest of Georgia was a state, it would rank next to last, just above West Virginia and below Mississippi.

Of course, this is also reflected in per capita income, with most of South Georgia in the bottom quartile. This map shows the change from 1980 through 2020.



Legend: Dark Green = Top Quartile; Light Green = 2nd Quartile; Salmon = 3rd Quartile; Dark Red = Bottom Quartile.
Source: USDA Economic Research Service aggregation of data from the U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis and the U.S. Census Bureau

Charlie Hayslett's presentation was filled with statistics and information. Even if you attended in person, you may want to review the recording at <https://tinyurl.com/2ycz8bcm>.

The raffle pot was up to \$749, but once again the winning card could not be pulled. Come back next week and buy some tickets for an even bigger prize! As a reminder, half of the winnings go to the person who pulled the Queen of Clubs and the other half is donated to CART.

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



Read for the Record

Read for The Record is coming up again, on Thursday, October 24. Once again, we will be reading at Burdell Hunt Elementary School. This is always a fun event where we read to school children, and many Rotarians are needed for this. This year's book is *Piper Chen Sings* by Grammy Award-Winning *Hamilton* star Phillipa Soo and Maris Pasquale Doran.

Exact times are still being decided, but sign up now at <https://www.ismyrotaryclub.org/RSVP/Index.cfm?EventID=77785181>.

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://www.eventeny.com/events/volunteer/application/?id=7669> 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 (such as Read for the Record or Macon Beer Fest) 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!

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