

# The Rotary Club of Macon



*Published Weekly Since 1914*

**September 25, 2023**

*Central Georgia CASA, Susanna Patterson*

CASA stands for Court Appointed Special Advocates (for Children). Central Georgia CASA's mission is to support and promote court-appointed volunteer advocacy so that every abused or neglected child can be safe, establish permanence and have the opportunity to thrive. Come learn more about this important group of volunteers at our September 25 meeting, where the speaker will be Executive Director Susanna Patterson.



## Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our September 18 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/238flgp2>. The audio problem is finally fixed!

## **FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS** approved by the Board of Directors:

### **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 September 18, 2023

Attendance: 63.1% -66 in person, 16 Zoom, plus 5 guests  
CART \$45.18, Raffle \$28.00  
Club Membership:141

President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting and reminded the club that we were founded March 1, 1914, which equates to 109 years of Service Above Self. She thanked Jackie Riley for entertaining us with her piano playing prior to the meeting. Our meeting space was more festive than usual due to many balloons left over from a church program.

Marcus Tripp led us in singing America the Beautiful and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. David Aiello offered the prayer.

Stephanie then welcomed the guests who were in attendance, including four in person and one on Zoom. Two potential new members were in that group. She then noted that today is the birthday of both Kathy McCollum and Past President Kathryn Dennis. Four members have club anniversaries this week, including Alex Morrison and Wayne Gullatt with six years each, and Past President Elbert McQueen with 26 years!

It was then time for CART brags. This is a serious effort to raise funds for Alzheimer's research, but have you noticed how much fun we have in doing this? Here's just a sampling:



Stephanie then reminded us that we will continue our tradition of Read for the Record at Burdell Hunt this coming October 26<sup>th</sup> (Thursday). Kathy McCollum will soon be sharing information on how we may participate.

She said she received a fun email from Ken Leatham, a member of the Rotary Club of Cambridge, New Zealand. It is a custom in their club for a different member to begin each weekly meeting with a toast to Rotary Clubs from other parts of the world. This is a way for them to get a better understanding of how clubs operate and integrate with their communities worldwide. So, Ken Leatham toasted the Rotary Club of Macon France, the Rotary Club of Macon Burgundy France, and the Rotary Club of Macon Georgia. He then shared information from each club's website.

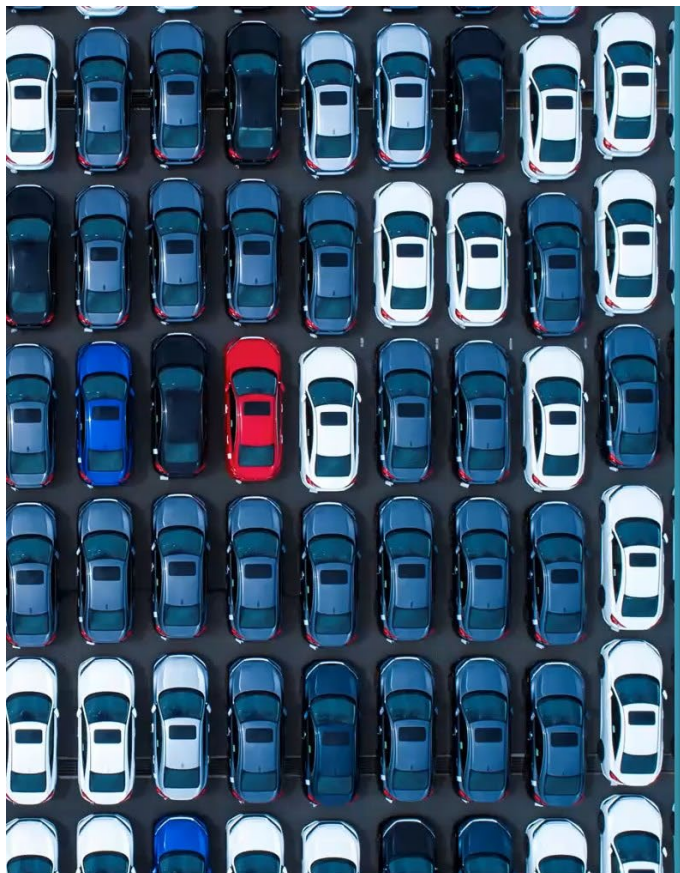
To reciprocate, President Stephanie offered a (non-alcoholic) toast to the Rotary Club of Cambridge, New Zealand. They are a 55-member club that meets weekly on Thursday evening.

- Their President is David Partis
- They have a Cambridge Garden Festival each year
- They do a recycling project called Urban Miners
- They provide marshals at local marathons and parades
- They host a huge book sale each year called Bookarama with sale proceeds going to community projects
- And, like us they have a speech contest each December

Gary Wheat came up to share the latest “Rotarians in the Spotlight” which is recognition our members are getting for their good work. He cited several members, including Alex Morrison who was featured in *Georgia Trend* magazine. Bowen Reichert Shoemaker made *Macon Magazine*’s “Five Under Forty” list. Asha Ellen was recognized by Keep America Beautiful for the work she does in Macon-Bibb and awarded a \$10,000 grant for tree planting. Charles Olson was selected last week for the Knight Foundation’s Board of Trustees. Julie Wilkerson and the Macon Arts Alliance received numerous recognitions for organizing the Macon Mural Festival. Gary then bragged on the city for the Otis Redding celebration and Seth Clark for his efforts in organizing the Ocmulgee Celebration this past weekend. Leadership Albany held a meeting here and lauded Macon for its partnerships and collaboration and the passion shown by its citizens.

Stephanie then called on Jeff Dudley to introduce speaker Marsh Butler. Marsh and his brother, Morris are co-presidents of the Butler Automotive Group which opened its first car dealership in Macon in 1970 and now includes 14 dealerships in Macon, Atlanta, Jacksonville and Beaufort, South Carolina. He has served on the Georgia Automotive Dealers Association board of directors as well as others. Butler Automotive is also very supportive of the communities in which they have dealerships and have been a big part of Macon area charities for a long time. Marsh is the 2023 recipient of the Stratford Alumnus award and is a graduate of the University of Georgia.

Marsh began by saying praising his father and said the company has always been a family business. He said that sales of new cars are up this year, while used sales are down. The used inventory has declined 13%, or 330,000 from last year. He said his talk on the industry’s future would focus on the following eight points:



- EVs
- Over the Air Updates
- Mobile Service
- Autonomous
- Artificial Intelligence
- Digital Retail/Carvana
- One Price
- Dealer/Direct/ Agency Model

The majority of his talk focused on EV’s, or electric vehicles. EV’s went from 0.7% of the market in 2018 to 6.7% today, and EPA mandates mean that EV sales will surpass that of internal combustion engine (ICE) vehicles in less than 10 years. Tesla dominates the market with a 60% share but competition is becoming intense. 130 new EV’s will be coming in the next three years. The cost gap between EV and ICE vehicles is shrinking.



An ICE vehicle has about 2,000 moving parts versus 20 for an EV. This means less frequent service. However, would-be buyers still have concerns over range, charging speed and charger availability. Chargers are not keeping up with the growth of EV sales. Marsh cited the advantages of hybrid vehicles, which can help with carbon reduction even more than pure EV's.

Marsh then turned to over-the-air updates which can provide enhancements and bug fixes without taking the car to be serviced. This has also led to some manufacturers going to a subscription model that requires payment for certain features.

Marsh's talk was wide-ranging, and was followed by many questions. If you missed it, or would just like to see it again, the entire meeting recording is available at <https://tinyurl.com/238flgp2>.



The raffle pot was up to \$218. William Slocumb drew the winning ticket but the Queen of Hearts is still hiding, so the pot will roll over to next meeting. As always, the meeting ended with recitation of the Four Way Test.



Do you have a recent accomplishment? Have your 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](mailto: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](mailto: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 <i>Throbs</i> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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 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](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://www.maconrotary.com)**

---