



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

 **THROBS**

Published Weekly Since 1914

September 30, 2024

No Meeting

In keeping with our policy of three meetings per month, there will be no meeting September 30. Is it a holiday? Well, it's October Eve!

Please join us next Monday, October 7 for an informative program on River Edge with CEO Cass Hatcher.



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our September 23 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/25trh5yw>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

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 | Jeffery Harvey, CAO |
| 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 | |

November, 2024, continued

- 18 Georgia Ports Authority, joint meeting with other two Macon clubs
- 19 *Board meeting*
- 25 No meeting – Thanksgiving

New Member Approvals

We have two new member applications! The Board has approved the membership application of Aubrey Newby, Director of the Hay House who would hold the classification of House Museum. Brendan O’Kane is President of Mt. de Sales Academy and would hold the classification of Private School/Religious.

Members have 10 days to make comments in writing to President Danny Gibson.

MEETING September 23, 2024

Attendance: 62% - 57 in person, 23 Zoom, plus 5 guests

CART \$59.04, Raffle \$34

Club Membership: 144

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and said he normally begins by saying he can’t think of a better place to be on Mondays than at the Rotary meeting, but the topic of today’s talk got him to thinking about St. Andrews and Pebble Beach. He said, however, he couldn’t think of a better place in Georgia. Danny called on Katy Carr to lead the singing and pledge, and she led us in *America the Beautiful*. Chris Turner then offered the prayer.

President Danny then said how fortunate we are to have such talent in the club, from capable singers and speakers to our pianist Jackie Riley. He then acknowledged our guests, which included Assistant District Governor Steve Bell; proposed member Aubrey Newby; and Bryan Persons and Dr. Frank Arnold of First Tee.

After thanking the church for lending us the flowers from yesterday’s service, Danny noted that Eddie, the person who normally does most of our room setup, is in the hospital for COVID and is on a ventilator. Danny asked us to keep him in our prayers.

Before announcing club birthdays, Danny noted that December is a very festive month, with lots of holiday fun and exciting parties. It’s also nine months before September, which usually has a lot of birthdays. Today is Dell Bunker’s birthday. Gary Abbott, Dianne Brannen and Ty Ivey all share September 26 birthdays. Other members who celebrate this week are Jessica Walden, Jack Poole and Past President Fred Morgan. Five members have club anniversaries, including both Susan Johansen and Susannah Maddux with 11 years, David Frolich with 13, and Lee Laughter with 25 years of service.

It was then time for CART (Coins for Alzheimer’s Research Trust) brags, and we had even more than usual. It required two composite pictures this time, and that still didn’t get them all!



For club announcements, Danny began by handing the mic to Steve Bell, who is our Assistant District Governor and also founder of Macon Beer Fest. He thanked the members who have already signed up to volunteer for this event which is a lot of fun and also raises awareness of prostate cancer. Information is at themaconbeerfest.org and you can sign up at the following link: <https://www.eventeny.com/events/volunteer/application/?id=7669> Be sure to indicate you are with the Macon (Monday) Club group.

President Danny continued with club announcements. Read for the Record is October 24 and we're going to need a lot of volunteers for that (see article below). October the 28th is our Crimestoppers luncheon. We won't meet at the church but encourage you to attend the event at the Centreplex, which we help sponsor. On November second the Downtown club is going to have a pickleball tournament, and you'll hear more about that later. And it seems to be way out right now,



but November the 21st will come soon and it's Stuff the Truck. We'll need a lot of volunteers for that day. It is a lot of fun.

Danny then asked our guests to plug their ears while he reminded members to make sure they are up to date with quarterly dues. We do have a few members who are behind.

Jim Manley then took to the podium to introduce our speaker, Elliott Ruus, who is Executive Director of First Tee Middle Georgia. Jim welcomed guests Dr. Frank Arnold, who is Chairman of the organization, and Brian Persons, who serves as President. Jim noted the good work First Tee is doing but noted it isn't designed to replace anything but to supplement the many good programs we have in Middle Georgia.

Elliott is an Atlanta native but his wife is from Macon and was a member of First Presbyterian Church. Elliott earned a degree in Professional Golf Management in Bluffton, SC before beginning his career with American Golf Corporation in Atlanta. There he was a manager for the city golf courses and a certified US Kids golf instructor. As an active member and volunteer coach for the First Tee of Charleston, Elliott served on the Young Ambassador's Council, a network committed to supporting First Tee programs through fundraising and volunteer efforts.

Elliott began by saying it felt like the first tee of a tournament, and he isn't the best public speaker. If that's true, he hid it very well! He said he represents First Tee of Middle Georgia, and many people who aren't in the golf community may not know what that is.

"But what we are is a youth development program whose mission is to impact the lives of young people by providing educational programs and to build character and instill life-enhancing values through the game of golf. We teach a golf skills program as well as a life skills program, and we seamlessly integrate those two to help the youth.



"Our purpose is to enable kids to build the strength of character that empowers them through a lifetime of challenges. Kids today are facing challenges that we never did as youth."

First Tee began in 1997 as a partnership among the LPGA, the Masters Tournament, PGA of America, PGA TOUR and USGA to make golf affordable and accessible for all kids. There are approximately 150 First Tee chapters in the U.S. and six international locations. They operate as individual nonprofits with their own governing boards through licensing agreements with First Tee.

First Tee's tagline is "Building Game Changers" and when each kid comes into the program they ask that young person to commit to being a game changer.

Welcome to First Tee

As a network, we reach 2 million kids and teens each year!

First Tee Program
on Golf Courses

Participants engage with trained, caring adult coaches and mentors, and interact with a curriculum that is both **developmentally and age-appropriate** to meet participants where they are and address their ever-changing needs.

First Tee School Program
in K-8 PE classrooms

Many students are teeing off for the first time in **elementary and middle school physical education classes**. Through safe, fun activities, kids are learning the basic skills and inherent values of golf.

First Tee Community Program
at Youth-Serving Organizations

Specifically designed for youth-serving organizations, like the Y and the Boys & Girls Club, this program gives kids the chance to learn about golf and develop character through **fun golf games**.

There are three legs of the program, beginning with the First Tee Program on the golf courses. That's where coaches that come out and teach life skills and golf skills. They are currently at Bowden Golf Course and River North Country Club. This is a 6-week class where many of the children are on the golf course for the first time.

The second is the First Tee school program that gets equipment for the schools. Elliott said they are currently in Bibb county elementary schools and middle schools. They also ask that the physical education teachers implement the First Tee program in their curriculum, which is a modified version of what they teach.

And finally there is the First Tee community program. "This has been really great for us so far, we're partnered with several different community after-school programs like Campus Clubs. We supply the equipment for them, and they get a modified version of our program which helps introduce kids to the game of golf as well as life skills and helps them come into our on-course program."

Elliott said they believe every kid has deserves the chance to build inner strength because they are facing new challenges. Nationally, one in seven won't graduate high school. 11 million kids don't have a safe space to go between the hours of 3 and 6 pm. One in three don't have a trusted adult outside the family. "That's where we hope that our coaches can kind of fill in that spot."

More than half of teens say bullying is a major problem, and nearly one in three teens is experiencing anxiety. "And so what we hope to do at First Tee is really give students and participants a safe fun environment to come and enjoy and learn how to play golf."

The program costs just \$50, but no student is turned away because they can't pay. In closing, the members had a lot of questions and greatly appreciated hearing about this program.

The raffle pot was up to \$783, 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>.

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!*