



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

 **THROBS**

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October 28, 2024

No Regular Meeting – Crimestoppers Luncheon

Macon Regional Crimestoppers has one clear mission – to assist law enforcement in apprehending criminals. Crimestoppers partners with media organizations, police departments, and other law enforcement agencies in eight Middle Georgia counties to provide anonymous rewards for tips that lead to criminal arrests. For many years, our club has been a sponsor of Crimestoppers.



A highlight is the annual Crimestoppers luncheon, which will be held this year on Monday, October 28 from 11:30am at the Macon Centreplex. We won't have a regular club meeting that day but members may attend the luncheon free of charge and it does count as a meeting makeup if needed.

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our October 21 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/26m7hhvg>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

November, 2024

- | | | |
|----|--|------------------|
| 2 | <i>Pickleball Tournament</i> sponsored by Downtown Macon Rotary Club | |
| 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> | |

November, 2024, continued

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 21 | Stuff the Truck | Club service project |
| 25 | No meeting – Thanksgiving | |

December, 2024 (no regular meetings in December)

- | | | |
|---|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| 2 | Christmas/Holiday Party | From 6:00pm at the Hay House |
| 9 | Burdell-Hunt event | |

MEETING October 21, 2024

Attendance: 55.4% - 62 in person, 10 Zoom, plus 4 guests

CART \$93, Raffle \$27

Club Membership: 145

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Katy Carr to lead the singing and pledge. She led the members in *America the Beautiful*. Jeff Wilhelm offered the prayer.

President Danny then welcomed our four guests, which included one visiting Rotarian, a potential member, a member's son, and the speaker. Danny then informed the club that longtime member Malcolm Burgess had an issue on the golf course the previous Sunday, was taken to an Atlanta hospital and diagnosed with a brain tumor. The tumor was removed and he's currently recovering.

It was then time to recognize birthdays and club anniversaries through the end of October, since we won't have a regular meeting next week. Both Todd Suttles and Caleb Slinkard have birthdays October 23, followed by Ennis Willis on the 25th, Josh Rogers on the 29th, Gene Dunwody and Katherine McLeod on the 30th, and David Aiello on the 31st. Both Rachel Adams and Jeff Wilhelm have been club members for one year, Cater Thompson for seven years, Curt Brewer for nine, and Jim Netherton celebrates 12 year of Rotary service.

It was then time to raise money for CART with our brag session. As usual, we had a lot of good shout-outs for outstanding Macon events, including Saturday's Macon Beer Festival, but none to top Joe Timberlake's announcement that he's getting married between Christmas and New Year's.





Albert Reichert then gave a special presentation on World Polio Day, which is October 24. The eradication of polio has long been a principal goal of Rotary, and progress made to date is due in large part to our efforts.

Albert relayed his very personal experience with polio. As a boy, he remembers going to Lake Junaluska one summer to swim. When he got home, he learned that the lake was closed to swimming for the rest of the summer due to polio. Fortunately, even though he exhibited some symptoms, Albert didn't catch the virus. However, a young lady in Macon who lived two doors away had polio and was in an iron lung. Albert still vividly remembers visiting her and hearing the loud sounds made as the machine breathed for her.

Jonas Salk developed a vaccine in 1955, and in 1961 an oral version was made available. That led to the eradication of polio in the United States, but it still plagued much of the world. In 1979, there was a Rotary club in the Philippines that wanted to immunize local children and they received the first Rotary health, hunger, and humanity grant. After overcoming some governmental reluctance, some Rotarians from Tennessee traveled to the Philippines and were greatly appreciated by the villagers who had seen their children suffer and die from polio.

In 1982, Rotary adopted the Polio 2005 plan to immunize all the world's children against polio. That became the Polio Plus program, and \$247 million was raised in that initial effort. In our club, Oliver Bateman was in charge of fundraising and got every member to contribute.

Polio cases have been reduced by 99.9% worldwide since 1988, and today only two countries remain endemic. Members who contribute to Polio Plus will have their donations matched 2:1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. Our "birthday tables" day is November 4, and we will be asking for contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Checks you write go to the general fund but you can also specify "Polio Plus" on the check. All donations count towards Paul Harris status.



On a more local level, President Danny said our club plans to deliver \$5,000 worth of food and hygiene items to Vidalia, where they will be distributed to those who suffered the effects of Hurricane Helene. While the club is paying this from our reserves, donations are sought to replenish it.

Read for the Record is coming up this Thursday, the 24th, from 9:30am at Burdell-Hunt Elementary School. Danny thanked Andrew Eck for his efforts in organizing this.

Next Monday is the annual Crimestoppers Luncheon, and there won't be a regular club meeting. All members are encouraged to attend this event from 11:30am at the Wilson Convention Center.

President Danny then introduced our speaker. Jeffrey Harvey is the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) for the Georgia Farm Bureau (GFB) Companies. In this role, Jeffrey works with the Farm Bureau President and senior leadership to develop and implement the Company's strategic management plan. Harvey oversees the day-to-day functions of the Company.

Before being appointed as CAO, Harvey managed the state and national lobbying effort, worked with GFB's 20 Commodity Advisory Committees, and the state's commodity commissions.

He graduated with a General Finance degree from Georgia Southern University and later received his MBA in Business Management from Georgia Southwestern State University. In 2001, he joined GFB as a Legislative Specialist and later served as Director of the organization's Public Policy Department.

Jeffrey grew up on the family farm in Wilcox County. His family farmed peanuts, cotton, tobacco, watermelon, and raised livestock. Jeffrey lives in Macon with his wife, Tiffany and 11-year old son Hudson.

Jeffrey began by saying he titled his presentation "Cows, Plows & Sows," which is kind of a joke at the Farm Bureau. Everybody thinks the GFB is just about cows, plows and sows but the issues they work on are much more than that. During his years at the Capitol working on legislative issues, GFB has worked on many tax issues, natural resource issues related to water rights and property rights and at the Federal level the Clean Water Act and the Federal Farm Bill disaster programs.

He then showed a slide with the Georgia Farm Bureau's mission statement, which says "As the voice of Georgia farmers, we will enhance the quality of life for producers and consumers by being the champion of agriculture." He pointed out that everyone in the room wears clothes made of cotton, eats food every day, and lives in houses made with wood.

GPB was founded in 1937 to be the voice of farmers and to serve as a consolidated voice for agriculture in the legislative arena. "Now we have grown so much in those 87 years, and developed a



lot of other programs and things that we do. I know Kenny Burgamy is no stranger to the Macon, Georgia, and many of you in this audience. Today, he's the head of our Public Relations Department, does a great job with his team and helping get out the voice and the message of the farmers on our television show, the *Georgia Farm Monitor*."

The Voice of Georgia Farmers

Serving Agriculture Since 1937

- **Founded in 1937** to serve as **a united voice** in the legislative arena, promote farm markets, and provide leadership to Georgia's agricultural community
- **Info & Public Relations:** Radio, Television, Print, Social Media, and Marketing
- **Field Services:** Ag in the Classroom, Young Farmers Program, CFM, "Boots on the Ground"
- **Public Policy:** 20 Commodity Advisory Committees, Policy Development, Lobbying Efforts
- **Member Services:** Savings Plus, Travel Discounts, Family Entertainment, Health & Wellness



Many know of GFB as an insurance company. The insurance arm was founded 87 years ago in 1937, has members in every legislative district of the state, and employs 1,200. This allows funding of operations to support farmers, and much of this involves lobbying. Jeffrey said he defines politics as "who gets what, when, where and how."

He then showed a slide of how a lobbyist is often seen. He said his friends think he spends time wining and dining, his mother thinks he talks with the governor and other high officials every day, the opposition thinks he clubs baby seals, and society thinks he hands out money to legislators. He sees his job as climbing stairs most of the day, and actually spends the majority of his time sitting in hours-long, packed committee meetings. The other joke about lobbyists is they are basically the people you pay to protect you from the people you elect.

Agriculture is the largest industry in the state, supplying over \$83 billion of Georgia's total \$1.4 trillion economic output.

There are challenges, though. Georgia has over 40,000 farmers, but the median age is getting higher and many young people who grew up on farms choose another profession. The USDA estimates that in the last five years the country has lost over

- Georgia's #1 Industry:
 - In 2023, food and fiber production represented **\$83.6B** in output to Georgia's **\$1.4T** economy
 - 323k+ jobs – **1 out of every 7 Georgians**
- Top Commodities:
 - **Poultry** (1st), **Peanuts** (1st), **Pinetrees** (1st), **Pecans** (1st), **Cotton** –(2nd 1.2M Acres)
 - **A-Z:** apples to zucchinis
 - **42,439:** number of farms in Georgia
 - Land in Farms: approximately **10 million acres**
- World population will increase to approximately **9.8 billion** by **2050** – food production must increase **60%**
 - Struggling Farm Economy, Weather, Regulations

141,000 farms. That's equivalent to 20 million acres, or the size of Maine.

Weather, of course, is a constant challenge, and this was emphasized very recently with hurricanes Helene and Milton. Major destruction was done to many pecan trees, and they take seven years to begin producing after being planted.

Farmers are very resilient, and by nature are optimists. However, in a survey conducted by Mercer Medical School, 29% of farmers in Georgia report having suicidal thoughts. GFB serves as the voice for Georgia's farmers, but has to compete against a thousand other groups fighting for the same resources.

After showing several images of major hurricane damage, Jeffrey shared a QR code for donations to a hurricane relief fund:



As usual, the we had many questions for Jeffrey, and he spent a long time after the meeting talking with members.

The raffle pot was up to \$843, but with the Queen of Clubs still in hiding it once again rolls over to our next meeting. That will be November 4, when we have our annual birthday tables day (more about this in the next *Throbs*.)

The meeting concluded with the Four Way Test.

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. 24	Read for the Record
Oct. 28	Crimestoppers luncheon

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!

Rotary Club of Macon
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