



# The Rotary Club of Macon



*Published Weekly Since 1914*

**November 6, 2023**

*No Meeting at Church - Crimestoppers*

The Macon Regional Crimestoppers 2023 Fall Luncheon is scheduled for November 6, 2023, at the Wilson Convention Center of the Macon Centreplex. While this isn't a requirement, members are invited to attend the event. Lunch is served from 11:30 and the program begins at noon. It's always an interesting event where we get an update on crime and prevention efforts in the whole Middle Georgia area.



## Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our October 30 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/ysqggcsp>

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

### November, 2023

- |    |  |
|----|--|
| 6  | Crimestoppers – No meeting at church                                 |
| 13 | District Governor Felix Smith and Asst. District Governor Steve Bell |
| 20 | No Meeting   |
| 27 | Theatre Macon Holiday Show with Richard Frazier and cast             |

### December, 2023

There are no regular club meetings in December, but we have the following events:

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|----|---|
| 4  | Annual Christmas/Holiday Party, from 6:30pm at the Hay House. For more information, and to make a reservation, <a href="#">click here</a> . |
| 11 | Burdell Hunt Holiday event at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, noon   |
| 12 | Salvation Army Bell Ringing   |

## MEETING October 30, 2023

Attendance: 61.1% - 62 in person, 15 Zoom, plus 3 in-person and 2 Zoom guests

CART \$23.87, Raffle \$42

Club Membership: 142, including today's induction

Monday was a special day, with members seated at tables according to their birthday months. We do this once a year when we raise money for the Rotary Foundation, and it's also a good way to shuffle the room.

President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting and asked Past President George Lee to lead the singing and pledge. George selected *America the Beautiful* but chose the third verse, which apparently only he knew. Past President Jonathan Alderman followed with the prayer, but not before making sure everyone was seated at their birthday tables.

Stephanie then welcomed our three guests, including GRSP student Vendela Danfors, Sgt Austin Sturdivant of the Salvation Army, and Chris Turner, a visiting Rotarian from Cody, Wyoming. Also joining us on Zoom were Vendela's parents in Sweden, Anna and Niklas.

Birthday wishes followed – eight Rotarians had birthdays this week including David Aiello who was a Halloween baby. Three members had club anniversaries, including Josh Rogers with 13 years.

CART brags followed. There were only three to photograph, but President-Elect Danny Gibson cut a dashing figure in his golf outfit.



President Stephanie then went through a huge list of club and social events that will make up for us having but two more regular meetings this calendar year.

We had a successful and well-organized Read for the Record with Burdell-Hunt this past Thursday. A big thank you to Kathy McCollum for all her work to make this event an enjoyable one.

Prior to the meeting the club was treated to a PowerPoint of highlights from Burdell-Hunt, put together by Kathy.

November 16th is our second annual Stuff the Truck. It will be held at Walmart off Zebulon Road. Sign-up times are available starting at 6am to 8pm. If you were not able to volunteer for Read for the Record this event is an excellent and easy opportunity to serve your community. (To sign up, see link in article below)

The Rotary Club of Downtown Macon community service event for November is Feed 100+. It will take place

on November 18<sup>th</sup> You can participate by purchasing items on the Feed One Shopping List or by making donation. (See article below.)

On Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup> we will have our annual Salvation Bell Ringing. Past President George Lee is chairing this event and has been busy working to sign up Rotarians. If you have not yet signed up please consider doing so (again, see article below).

Turning to our Social Calendar, on Tuesday November 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:30 we will have our FIRST club social with the Wednesday and Thursday Clubs at Fall Line Brewery. This should be a fun event!

Monday, December 4<sup>th</sup> is our Holiday Party that will be held this year at the Hay House from 6:30. FOJ will be catering. You may RSVP on the website (see [this link](#)).

Finally, today starts our 2024-2025 election for your future President and Board. The nominations narrowed the list of candidates down and Rusty Bradford will be emailing you a ballot of names later this afternoon or early Tuesday morning. Voting closing on November 3<sup>rd</sup> at midnight

Stephanie then took a minute to acknowledge and give thanks to Rusty Bradford, who was in attendance today for his last meeting with our club before transferring to Rotary in St. Simons. Rusty has been a member of Macon Rotary for 28 years. A loss for us is a gain for the Saint Simons Rotary Club.

Rusty has faithfully served as Sergeant at Arms since 2009 and became involved in the election committee in 1998, becoming Co-Chairman in 2017 and Chairman in 2020. Rusty's leadership and organization has helped ensure smooth elections for years. The important office of Sergeant at Arms is responsible for the logistics for each meeting from our location to our food. Sergeant at Arms also serves as the club's expert for following the Club's bylaws and constitution.

Rusty has been working closely with Kris Vaughn for 18 months preparing her for the role of Chair of the Election Committee and then later began training Kris on the responsibilities and task involved for becoming our new Sergeant at Arms. Stephanie thanked both Rusty and Kris for their service.

Stephanie said The Macon Rotary Club is acknowledging Rusty's 28 years of service by making a donation in his name to the Rotary Foundation. The club rose to give Rusty a standing ovation, which he reluctantly acknowledged.

Past President Jonathan Alderman then came up to talk about today's Birthday Tables event and the Rotary Foundation. He began by asking the table captains (who were wearing captain's hats) to stand and offered a salute. He said that giving to the Rotary Foundation is the major way to "do good in the world," which is our motto.



Jonathan then asked if anyone knew which was older – our club or the Rotary Foundation. Actually, our club was founded in 1914 and the Foundation in 1917. It started with \$26.50 and has since given millions upon millions to worthy causes. Half of the money we give stays at the Foundation for three years while earning interest, and then comes back to our District in the form of local grants. That way, our donations support worldwide projects such as eradicating polio, providing clean water, and promoting peace, and also helps in our own community.

Jonathan explained the various ways to give, including making annual donations and including the Foundation in your will. Further information is on the [Rotary website](#).

President Stephanie then said that today is our Club Assembly. Club Assembly is when a portion of the meeting is used to get feedback from YOU the MEMBER on how to improve and strengthen the club.

Stephanie said that on each table was a page of questions that the Board and she would like members to take



time to answer. Members were asked to leave the questionnaires on the table for the Board and her to collect after the meeting. This year's Board and next year's President Danny Gibson and his Board will use this information to strengthen our Club.

Our member Seth Clark, who serves as Executive Director of the Ocmulgee National Park and Preserve Initiative, came to the podium to explain the status of expanding the current site of the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park into Georgia's first National Park and Preserve.

Seth said he wanted to bring us up to date on where the legislation is, and also what the local government and community are doing to prepare for having a National Park. The best news is that we have Congress in session again. The dysfunction has slowed the progress but all of Georgia's delegation, both Republicans and Democrats, are behind the effort and should be applauded for their efforts.

If passed, the Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park and the Bond Swamp National Wildlife Refuge would be combined into one managed unit and extending past the buffer area of Robins Air Force base. Seth says he expects to see legislation in the current 118<sup>th</sup> Congress. Locally, the Knight Foundation has awarded a \$1 million grant to help plan for the park. The County has purchased over 100 acres around the park entrance to create a more welcoming impression on visitors coming from the interstate. The park could result in a \$230 million annual economic impact on our local economy.



It was then time to induct our newest member, Rachel Adams. Katy Carr introduced her.

Rachel is Head of School for Stratford Academy. A native of Central Florida, her last position before Stratford was at Montverde Academy in Orlando. She received her Doctorate of Education and also a Master of Science in Exercise Science from the University of Central Florida. She came to Macon in 2021 to be Stratford's Head of Middle School and later assumed the role of Head of School. The Rotary Club of Macon welcomes Rachel Adams!



(l-r: Rachel Adams, Katy Carr, President Stephanie Folsom)

For the grand finale of this special meeting, we heard from Vendela Danfors, our GRSP student. Vendela is from a suburb of Stockholm, Sweden, and is currently studying art at Wesleyan College. She treated the club to a well-produced PowerPoint slideshow to illustrate her talk.

Vendela touched on her family, life and studies back home, an overview of Sweden, and her year so far as a GRSP student living in Macon. In high school, she studied economics and was recognized by the Swedish Government for her entrepreneurship in establishing a company called the Art Integration Academy. She organized art camps for children from Ukraine and Sweden in order to increase integration between newcomers and Swedish children. She has a great love of travel and wants to eventually have a job promoting art exchange among countries.

Her family consists of her father, mother, and sister. Her father was greatly affected by his experience as a youth with a Rotary exchange program in Canada. Her family is very interested in cooking and her grandmother wrote an English-language cookbook of Swedish dishes.

After giving an overview of her home country, Vendela shared her experience as a GRSP student at Wesleyan. At Wesleyan, she is involved in equestrian sports, cross country and pickleball. She was impressed by Southern hospitality. She remarked at how 42 strangers from 24 different countries came together as GRSP students and became friends.





Vendela's presentation, as well as the rest of this very special meeting, is difficult to summarize briefly. If you missed it, or just want to watch again, please go to <https://tinyurl.com/ysqggcsp> for the complete recording.

In closing, President Stephanie reminded the club that we don't meet next week, but members are encouraged to attend the Crimestoppers luncheon at the Wilson Convention Center. The meal will be served at 11:30, with the program beginning at noon. Our next meeting on November 13 will be a visit from our District Governor Felix Smith, accompanied by Assistant District Governor Steve Bell.

It was then time for the raffle, and the pot was up to \$695. Once again, the Queen of Clubs remained in the deck and the pot will roll over to the next meeting. We concluded with recitation of the Four Way Test.

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One of our club's major service projects this year is "Stuff the Truck," the annual food drive of the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank. Volunteers are needed for one-hour slots Thursday, November 16 at the Walmart on Zebulon Road. Shifts begin at 6:00am and continue until 7:00pm. To sign up, [just click here](#) and be sure to put "Macon Rotary Club" in the comments box. For questions, contact Kathy McCollum at [kmccollum@mgcfb.org](mailto:kmccollum@mgcfb.org) or [478-257-6426](tel:478-257-6426) (office).



## Salvation Army Bell Ringing

December 12th (Tuesday) and 13th (Wednesday) are this year's dates for our annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing. Thanks to Past President George Lee for chairing the event this year. We have one-hour slots from 10am to 6pm and four volunteers are needed for each hour. This event is held at the Kroger Shopping Center on Forsyth Road. There will be a sign-up sheet at each meeting through November. You can also contact George Lee via email ([gghengineering@gmail.com](mailto:gghengineering@gmail.com)) or text (478-955-3307) to reserve your spot.

## Feed 100

Since 2005, the Rotary Club of Downtown Macon (the "Wednesday" club) has sponsored Thanksgiving meal boxes or more than 100 families. Local schools and nonprofits identify families who will benefit from the Thanksgiving meal. Rotarians shop for food items to round out a delicious Thanksgiving meal.

They are asking our help in shopping for items, or you may make a monetary donation. For a list of items, or for donation information, please contact Blair Train at [midgettrain@gmail.com](mailto:midgettrain@gmail.com)



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 Rotary Project (such as Stuff the Truck!) or Rotary Committee meeting  
Anytime Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic  
Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past *Throbs* 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 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](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.

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### *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)**