



The Rotary Club of Macon

 **THROBS**

Published Weekly Since 1914

November 20, 2023

No Meeting



There will be no regular club meeting this Monday, but be sure to come November 27 for our last regular meeting of the calendar year. It should be a great way to start the season with special guests from Theatre Macon performing holiday favorites.

Link for Makeup

Click here for the recording of the November 13 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/ymgy24oz>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS approved by the Board of Directors:

November, 2023

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| 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, click here . |
| 11 | Burdell Hunt Holiday event at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, noon |
| 12 | Salvation Army Bell Ringing – see article below for signup information |



Prior to the November 13 meeting, Rotary officers and board members met with District Governor Felix Smith

MEETING November 13, 2023

Attendance: 59.4% - 60 in person, 16 Zoom, plus 3 guests

CART \$1,024 Raffle \$45

Club Membership 144 (including today's two inductions)

President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting. After thanking Jackie she welcomed District Governor Felix Smith. Jeffrey Monroe ably led the club in singing *God Bless America* and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Marcus Tripp, who has done this type of thing a few times before, offered the prayer.

Stephanie then welcomed Assistant District Governor Steve Bell and Charlotte Way, a guest of Rebecca Grist. She then offered birthday wishes to eight Rotarians who celebrate this week, including Jim Crisp and Jeff Wilhelm whose birthdays are today. Nine members have club anniversaries, including Dianne Brannen with 14 years, Richard Rader with 18, Whit Evan's with 23, Lanier Anderson with 29, and Buddy Marshall with 31 years of service.

It was then time for CART brags, and there were some notable ones:



President Stephanie then gave club updates and announcements, and our busy club has a lot:

1. On November 16th, this Wednesday is our second annual Stuff the Truck. It will be held at the Walmart on Zebulon Road, and sign-up times are available all day, from 6am to 8pm.
2. The Rotary Club of Downtown Macon community service event for November is Feed 100+, on the 18th. You can participate by purchasing items on the Feed 100 Shopping List or making a donation. The list is available in the back, or you can contact Blair Train at midgettrain@gmail.com
3. Our annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing dates are Tuesday, December 12 and Wednesday, December 13. If You've already signed up - - thanks! Please take note of your day and time and put it on your calendar. If a conflict should arise, please either find a substitute ringer and/or advise George Lee. This is especially important if you are to be the only Rotarian at a kettle.

IF YOU WANT TO SIGN UP - - Please look at the sheets and find a time you can ring!
Sign-ups can be made both before and after the remaining meetings of November.

4. As a reminder, please pay this quarter's dues if you have not already.

For our Social Calendar.....

5. On Tuesday, November 7 we had a successful Tri-Club Social at Fall Line Brewery. If you missed, don't worry - there will be two more next year for you to attend.
6. Monday December 4 is our Holiday Party that is going to be held at the Hay House at 6:30. FOJ will be catering. You may RSVP through the QR Code in the back of the room OR through [this link](#). Tickets are \$40 per person.

Finally, we are still seeking Christmas donations for our GRSP student Vendela Danfors. You can give these to either Stephanie or Matt Shoemaker.

Stephanie then asked for a drum roll before announcing...



Congratulations to Rebecca Grist, who will be our Club President for the 2025-26 Rotary Year. Officers for the 2024-25 year are as follows:

President	Danny Gibson
Treasurer	Howard Holleman
Secretary	Jim Crisp
Sergeant at Arms	Kris Vaughn
President-elect	Rebecca Grist
Past President	Stephanie Folsom
Board members:	
	Jimmy Asbell
	Gene Dunwody
	Andrew Eck
	Billy Fickling
	Lori Palmer
	Marcus Tripp
	Nancy White

Gary Wheat then came forward to bring us up to date on what our fellow Rotarians are doing in their work and community. Gary began by saying that Stephanie neglected to mention she is celebrating 13 years in Rotary. The Festival of Trees kicked off last week at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, which is led by Susan Welsh. Kathy McCollum and "Stuff the Truck" has been all over the news and we appreciate her dedication. Josh Rogers was recognized by Mercer University for his work in reshaping our community. The new issue of *Georgia Trend's* "500 Most Influential Leaders" is out, and several members are mentioned, including Alex Morrison, Josh Rogers, Karla Redding-Andrews, Chris Blake, and Harold Young. Alex Morrison has been interviewed in several media concerning pickleball and the new courts Macon is building. Alex and Karla Redding-Andrews were also given special recognition in awards presented by Visit Macon.



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

We then had inductions of two new members, and it was fortunate to have District Governor Felix Smith present to officiate. Andrew Eck introduced Bradley Lenz, who holds the classification of Appraisal and Antiquities. He has an impressive academic background, with a Ph.D. specializing in History of Textual Technologies and Intellectual History. His professional publications have concentrated on varying aspects of aesthetics and print culture in the early American Republic. Andrew now appraises books and advises on the orderly liquidation of book collections.

President Stephanie then introduced Sarah Nicholls, who holds the classification of Clinical Labs and Analytics. With a background in biology, molecular genetics and biochemistry, she opened the first cannabis testing lab in the State of Georgia in 2020. Her clients include law enforcement authorities and hemp farms and the lab is the first and only lab registered to test medical cannabis in Georgia. She is passionate about fighting alcoholism and addiction and is a court certified expert in cannabis. Her lab is one of just three women-owned cannabis labs in the country.

Both Bradley and Sarah are pictured below, standing next to President Stephanie.



Stephanie then asked Katherine McLeod to come up and receive the Paul Harris +1 recognition. Once again, we were fortunate to have the District Governor make the presentation. Felix explained that the Paul Harris Award was established in 1957 to show appreciation of significant support to the Rotary Foundation.

Assistant District Governor and Downtown Macon Rotary member Steve Bell then introduced District Governor Felix Smith. Steve began by thanking our club for their leadership and support. We assisted with the Macon Beer Fest, which Steve originated, and this year's festival set a record for the number of men tested for prostate cancer at a single-day event.

District Governor Felix Smith holds a Doctorate in Veterinary Science from UGA and owned and operated a veterinarian clinic in Perry for 40 years. He holds many leadership positions in Rotary, is a member of the Perry club, and is also an avid fitness enthusiast who plays pickleball and runs triathlons.



Felix took the wireless microphone so he wouldn't be tethered to the podium. He began by saying his first question when visiting clubs is what can be done to increase membership. Three things are needed; a great venue, a good meal, and good speakers. He said our club excels in all three, though he excluded himself from the speaker category.

Rotary currently has 46,000 clubs worldwide, with 1.4 million members. Our District, which is all east of I-75, stretches from the South Carolina line down to the South Georgia coast, then back to Macon. He noted that our club is recognized for its generosity and has given to date over \$900,000 to the Rotary Foundation.

Rotary does many great projects worldwide, including water projects, agricultural projects, health initiatives, and help in war-torn areas. Of course, Rotary's signature achievement is in the eradication of polio. When Rotary began these efforts in 1985 there were over 335,000 polio cases in over 100 countries, and there are now only nine in two countries. We may totally eradicate polio in the next two years.

Felix then brought up his passion for increasing literacy here in Georgia. Reading proficiency at the end of the third grade is a leading indicator for graduation, and is even used by law enforcement to plan for how many prison beds will be needed in the next ten to 15 years. Just 37% of Georgia third-graders are proficient, which means 63% are not. In Macon-Bibb the numbers are even worse. Some local schools are as low as 5%. However, we are fortunate to have the United Way's Read United program here. This type of program doesn't



exist in many other parts of Georgia. Our local Read United coordinator is Sherri Flagg, and members are encouraged to contact her at 478-745-4732 ext. 206, or sflagg@unitedwaycq.com. Felix related his experience in tutoring third graders and believes he has made a difference in their lives with just an hour or so per week.

Felix touched on many other things Rotary does both worldwide and at home. Our club donates \$10-12,000 each year to the CART fund which supports Alzheimer's research. He recommended tuning into the weekly Zoom call called "A la CART" which the CART fund presents.

District Governor Felix also encouraged members to attend the All Clubs Conference which will be held April 26-28, 2024 at Jekyll Island. He concluded by saying that you have to help build the society you want to live in. Our members were impressed with Felix's enthusiasm for Rotary.

Jonathan Alderman announced that the CART raffle pot was up to \$429. Once again, a winning ticket was drawn but the Queen of Clubs is still in hiding.

The meeting concluded with recitation of the Four Way Test.



Rotary Holiday Party

Monday, December 4th is our annual Holiday Party. It will be extra special this year since it takes place at the Hay House. Please come from 6:30. Includes drinks and heavy hors d'oeuvres from FOJ. You may RSVP on the website (see [this link](#)).

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 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 (ghlengineering@gmail.com) or text (478-955-3307) to reserve your spot.

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

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 15th 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 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 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