



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

♥ **THROBS**

Published Weekly Since 1914

November 25, 2024

No Meeting – Happy Thanksgiving!



We hope everyone enjoys a great Thanksgiving with family and friends. There will be no more regular Monday meetings until January, but we do have a number of events and service projects you can participate in. Please see details following the meeting summary.

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our November 18 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2xjw87cu>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

November, 2024

- | | | |
|----|---------------------------|---|
| 21 | Stuff the Truck | Club service project – see signup below |
| 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 | Museum of Arts & Sciences, lunch from noon with program to follow |
| 10,11 | Salvation Army bell ringing | Kroger, 4650 Forsyth Road |

MEETING November 18, 2024

Attendance: 57% - 60 in person, 13 Zoom, plus 5 guests

Rotarians from other clubs – Downtown Macon: 24, Macon North: 4, Jones County: 2

No CART or Raffle collected

Club Membership: 144

This was a joint meeting with the other two Macon clubs and Jones County, so we had a full house, with 95 people in attendance (not counting a TV cameraman). President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start our final regular meeting of the calendar year. Marcus Tripp led the singing and pledge, and helpfully went over the words to *America the Beautiful*. Jim Manley offered a very inclusive prayer.

Danny thanked Jackie Riley for her piano playing, and she received a round of applause. In order to preserve time for the speaker, Danny skipped the normal reading of all guest names but asked guests to stand. He then thanked Blair Train, President of the Downtown Macon Rotary Club, for arranging our speaker. Danny acknowledged Donna Ingram, President of the Jones County club, and noted that North Macon President Karen Hicks could not attend due to obligations out of town.



President Danny once again lifted up longtime member Malcolm Burgess and asked us to keep him in our thoughts and prayers as he recovers from his illness. He reminded our members of the annual Salvation Army bell ringing, which is always a lot of fun and also gratifying as we help raise money for a good cause. We still need four more members in order to have all pots manned each hour, and could really use 28 more to have two Rotarians at each pot. See later in this newsletter for information on signing up.

Thursday morning is Stuff the Truck, and once again information is given later in this newsletter.

President Danny then announced the results of annual officer elections for the Rotary 2025-26 year, which begins July, 2025. Our President-elect will be Dale Bunker. Serving under President Rebecca Grist, Cater Thompson returns as Sergeant at Arms, Jim Crisp as Secretary, and Howard Holleman as Treasurer. The new board directors are Cameron Bishop, Katy Carr, Sarah Harris, Chris Howard, George Jackson, Kaitlynn Kressin, and Bowen Shoemaker. Applause was given for the new officers. Danny thanked Kris Vaughn for organizing the elections.

Danny called on Blair Train to introduce the speaker, Lee Beckmann of the Georgia Ports Authority. Lee joined the Georgia Ports Authority team in 2003 as the General Manager of Community and Government Affairs. Lee's current responsibilities include managing governmental relations, statewide community outreach and the oversight of navigational priorities for the GPA.

Prior to joining the GPA, Lee served as Legislative Assistant to Congressman Jack Kingston, helping to secure funding for various projects, such as the harbor deepenings in Savannah and Brunswick.

Lee is a proud alumnus of Wake Forest University. He's a member of the Rotary Club of Metro Savannah, and a graduate of both Leadership Savannah and Leadership Southeast Georgia.

His other civic and community interests include serving as Chairman of the Effingham College and Career Academy. Lee also serves on the boards of the Georgia Forestry Foundation, the Educate Chatham Foundation, Ronald McDonald House and the Y.M.C.A. of Coastal Georgia. Blair asked to help in giving him a warm welcome.

Lee began by saying that since we were having a meeting of four Rotary clubs, he should get four makeup credits. He also noted that his sister and her husband live in Macon. Lee wanted to begin with some basic definitions. When you see trucks carrying containers on the interstates, they come in three basic sizes of 20-, 40- and 45-foot lengths. They are measured in 20-foot equivalent lengths, or TEU's, and this is how port handling capacity is described and how Georgia ports compare themselves to the competition. Lee showed a video with aerial and other views of the ports and facilities. The GPA has two facilities in Savannah, one of which is the Garden City terminal. That's the largest and busiest single container facility in the Western Hemisphere. You could fit all the ports of Charleston and Jacksonville inside it.



ECONOMIC IMPACT TODAY



609,197
JOBS
Statewide



\$40
BILLION
in Income

\$171
BILLION
in Sales



\$5.3
BILLION
in State & Local
Taxes



Georgia ports have a tremendous impact on the Georgia economy, as shown in the above slide. Lee said, “As a state authority, our job is not to create a profit for a stakeholder. We are an owner operator facility, which means we own the terminal and operate the terminal. Our job as a state authority is to create jobs outside of the facility, create jobs for the State of Georgia, create revenue for the State of Georgia. So every 2 or 3 years we ask Terry College of Business to look at our economic impacts and assess what our value is to the state. Based on our fiscal year 2023 numbers (July to June), we generated over 600,000 jobs statewide.”

The Georgia Ports Authority is not in the state budget, but is completely self-sustaining. In addition to the two terminals in Savannah, there are three in Brunswick. The largest in Brunswick is Colonel’s Island, which is the largest and second-busiest automobile port in the nation, behind only Baltimore. Our largest importer there is Hyundai Kia, and Mercedes Benz is the largest exporter. In addition, there is an inland rail port in Chatsworth, which is near Dalton, the carpet capital of the world. About 40% of American flooring products come through Savannah on their way to that area.



There is also a facility in Bainbridge; a barge terminal that has not seen a barge in over 25 years. The Corps of Engineers is finishing work on some locks that will allow the return of barge traffic to that area. Currently, this is used as a truck on rail depot that supports the agricultural industry in Southwest Georgia.

The Blue Ridge Connector for truck traffic is in progress, and the West Central Georgia Inland Port is planned for the area that has a lot of automotive manufacturing.

Lee noted that Georgia is the “westernmost port of the East Coast,” which may take a while to process. That means we are closer to many large markets than are northeastern ports. Due to its high efficiency, the Port of Savannah can deliver goods to Chicago before they would have completed offloading in Los Angeles.

Lee offered a wide-ranging presentation that can’t be fully summarized here. There were also a great many questions following his presentation. If you missed it, or need to go back to review, the entire meeting is at <https://tinyurl.com/2xjw87cu>.

Our last meeting of the year concluded in the usual way, with recitation of the Four Way Test.



There isn’t much time remaining to sign up for the Middle Georgia Community Food Bank’s “Stuff the Truck!” event at the Macon Walmart on Zebulon Road. The event runs basically all day on Thursday, November 21 but there are multiple shifts. To sign up, go to <https://tinyurl.com/2aq5raq4>. If you don’t already have a GivePulse login, you can continue with Facebook or Google, or create an account with your email. Once you do that, click on the button to join and you’ll see the sign-in form. This process adds a couple of steps but enables the Food Bank to automate the process and send you information.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

About 30 members have signed up so far for a Salvation Army bell-ringing slot, but we need at least four more to fill all the slots, and many more in order to have two members for each pot.

The currently open slot priority times are 10-11am and 11-12 Noon on 12/11. Otherwise, one to three slots are available on both 12/10 and 12/11 for all times except for 5-6pm on 12/11.

Sign up easily by texting Past President George Lee at [478-955-3307](tel:478-955-3307) with your best slot choice.



Annual Holiday Party



It's time again! The Rotary Club of Macon will hold its annual Christmas/Holiday party on Monday, December 2 from 6:30pm.

This year's party will return to the Hay House, the "Palace of the South" at 934 Georgia Avenue. Catering will be provided by Fountain of Juice.

Tickets are the same price as in years past! That's \$40 single or \$80 for a couple. Click here to reserve and pay: [Couple \\$80](#), [Single \\$40](#). If you are unable to click on this, just go to our website at MaconRotary.com and follow link from the front page.

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. |

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!

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