



The Rotary Club of Macon

 **THROBS**

Published Weekly Since 1914

December 4, 2023

No Meeting – Holiday Party



The Club takes a break from regular Monday meetings in December but there are still some special events and club projects. December 4 will be our annual Holiday Party and it starts at 6:30pm. For the first time, the party will be held at the historic Hay House, which will be decked out for the season. Don't miss it! If you haven't responded, the deadline is this Thursday, November 30. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our November 27 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/yq4x2jc2> Please note that musical programs don't work as well as speech with our Zoom setup.

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

December, 2023

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

- 4 Annual Christmas/Holiday Party, from 6:30pm at the Hay House.
- 11 Burdell Hunt Holiday event at the Museum of Arts and Sciences, noon
- 12 Salvation Army Bell Ringing – see article below for signup information

January, 2024

- 1 No Meeting – New Year's Day
- 8 Roberts Academy at Mercer Univ. Thomas Kaballa and Joy Wood
- 15 No Meeting - MLK

MEETING November 27, 2023

Attendance: 64.3% - 63 in person, 20 Zoom, plus 14 guests

CART \$10.86, Raffle \$51

Club Membership: 144

Before the meeting began, members were treated to a slideshow of highlights from the Stuff the Truck event. President Stephanie rang the bell to start the meeting and thanked Jackie, who played 1940's music prior to the meeting. Stephanie then thanked Katy Carr for arranging to have the Wesleyannes of Wesleyan College sing for us. Six members of the group then sang three holiday songs. Two were familiar standards, *Walking in a Winter Wonderland* and *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*. The final selection was *The Twelve Days After Christmas*, a humorous spoof that addresses the use and disposal of those twelve famous gifts. Jeffrey Hagy offered the prayer.



Stephanie then welcomed our many guests which included The Wesleyannes, five people from Theatre Macon, and one potential member. Four club members celebrated birthdays November 14 through 29. Seven members had club anniversaries, including Karen Lambert with 13 years, Al Rogers with 18, and Tripp Yarbrough with 22 years of service.

It was then time for CART brags, and we had some good ones (see above).

Kathy McCollum then brought us up to date on service projects. She had distributed on the tables some of the thank-you notes we received from Burdell-Hunt elementary students after the "Read for the Record" event. Our club's participation was large enough to rank in the Top 25 Read for the Record events in the nation! "Stuff the Truck" was also a great success that our members helped with. Enough food was collected to provide 51,000 meals and our club donated 1,320 jars of peanut butter.

Stephanie then read a note from District Governor Felix Smith sent after his visit to the club last week. He expressed his appreciation for the warm welcome and hospitality, and was impressed with our members' dedication and enthusiasm and our impact on Macon and Bibb County.

Stephanie then thanked Ivey Hall for her dedication and time invested to tell our club's story through social media. She encouraged all members to follow our Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/TheMaconRotaryClub>) and Instagram (<https://www.instagram.com/maconrotary1914/>) pages.

Finally, Stephanie reminded the club that our Holiday party will be held next Monday, December 4 from 6:30pm at the Hay House. The deadline for RSVP's is Thursday, November 30 and the sign-up link is https://websites.dacdb.com/Macon_1487_v6/2023-holiday-party.php

We then had a special recognition for four members earning Paul Harris recognition. Jim Crisp received his Paul Harris pin and certificate, Jim Netherton was PHF+4, Amy Rauls with PHF+5, and President-Elect Danny Gibson PHF+6.

The Paul Harris recognition was established in 1957 to show appreciation for substantial contributions to the Rotary Foundation. Paul Harris Fellows are recognized by the Foundation for contributing \$1,000 or more. The gifts to our foundations represent more opportunities to do good here at home and around the world. The Foundation raises over \$70 million annually and 80% of those funds come from Paul Harris fellow contributions.

Today there are over 1.5 million Paul Harris Fellows.

Many notable figures have been named Paul Harris Fellows including Jimmy Carter, US Astronaut Jim Lovell, and Polio Vaccine developer Jonas Salk.

It was then time for a very special program to close out the year. Richard Frazier, Artistic Director of Theater Macon was our special guest, along with Music Director Jim Penndorf. They were joined by two young singers Abigail Watson and Ashley Stephens.

Club member and founding Artistic Director Jim Crisp introduced Richard Frazier. He first recognized Jim Penndorf, who served as Music Director for about 14 seasons while Jim Crisp was Artistic Director.

Richard Frazier was the theatre and dance teacher at Northside High School before working with Theatre Macon as a choreographer and eventually being chosen as just the second Artistic Director since its founding. He has also been a contract director and choreographer for iTheatrics in New York City, a company that adapts Broadway musicals for middle school students. He directed and choreographed three musicals in New York, including *Beetlejuice Junior*, which premiered with Theatre Macon's Youth Artists Company this past



September. In 2025 he will become the first black President of the Educational Theatre Association Board of Directors. Richard works with various schools and organizations in the U.S.

Richard emphasized the importance of purposeful storytelling. While he assumed his position at Theatre Macon six years ago, it was interrupted by COVID. Ticket sales were around 2,900 in 2019 prior to COVID, dropped to 1,982 in 2020 but are now just over 3,000.

Richard then brought up Abigail Watson to sing a selection from *Beetlejuice Junior* and Ashley Stephens followed with a wonderful rendition of *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.



In closing, President Stephanie announced that a donation would be made to Theatre Macon. She then reminded the club that there will be no regular Monday meetings in December but the holiday party is December 4 and Burdell-Hunt event is December 11 at the Museum of Arts and Sciences.

The raffle pot was up to \$490. President-Elect Danny Gibson had the winning ticket but couldn't draw the Queen of Clubs for the win. The meeting concluded with recitation of the Four Way Test.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

December 12th (Tuesday) and 13th (Wednesday) are this year's dates for our annual Salvation Army Bell Ringing. If you've already signed up, thank you! If not, we still have a few slots and it's important to have them all filled. 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. Contact George Lee via email (ghlengineering@gmail.com) or text (478-955-3307) to reserve your spot.



Our club participated in "Read for the Record" at Burdell-Hunt Magnet School on October 26. Many of our members were on hand to read this year's book, *With Lots of Love*, to the elementary students. Now, Macon Rotary has been recognized as one of the Top 25 Readers in the entire nation! Actually, we came in as #25 but that's still an honor considering the other winners spanned the country from California to New Jersey. Thanks again to all our readers.



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 gwwheat@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

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
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