



Rotary Opens Opportunities



# THE ROTARY CLUB OF MACON THROBS

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March 22, 2021

## Macon Volunteer Clinic

\*\*\*\*\***ZOOM ONLY- NO IN PERSON**\*\*\*\*\*

Nancy White

### FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS approved by the Board of Directors

#### March

29 Georgia Ports Authority Lee Beckmann

#### April

5 Hearing Loss the Silent Epidemic Monique Hammond  
12 Guardian Centers of Georgia (Perry) Doug Lang  
19 Update from NewTown Macon Josh Rogers  
26 Blue Bird Felix Lin

#### May

3 Macon Music Club Performance  
10 US Energy Policy and National Security David Gattie  
17 GA Tech Smart Cities Debra Lam  
24 US Congressman Austin Scott Austin Scott  
31 No Meeting Memorial Day Holiday

# MEETING March 15, 2021

Attendance In Person and Zoom 70.6%

CART Collection \$21



President Jim Manley rang the bell to open the meeting, calling on Gary Abbott (online) to lead the Pledge and offer the Prayer. President Jim reviewed members birthdays and club anniversaries.



President Jim called on Stacy Moore to give members an update on the 2021 Cherry Blossom Festival. Stacy reported the official ribbon cutting to open the festival will be held Friday. Most of the events will be outdoors following safety precautions. Some of the events will be held virtual this year to protect the crowds. Stacy invited all members to attend this year and enjoy the festival.



CART Brags were slow this week, but the ones presented were great!



President Jim called on Macon Rotarian and board member, Mike Austin, to introduce today's speaker, Jeff Battcher. A Macon native, Jeff Battcher, organized the RBI sports program in Macon-Bibb to give the under privileged an opportunity to play sports and have a chance for a college sports scholarship. Mike reported Jeff is always working and is behind the scenes on many projects to make them happen. Jeff is the communication director of AIM Sports Reputation Management. Jeff is owner of Battcher Sports Marketing and has served as Vice President of worldwide communications for Bellsouth, Vice President of Global Communications at Delta, and consults with Fortune 500 companies.



Jeff began his presentation by telling Macon Rotary members how much many of our members had assisted him in the past. He thanked Ken Gerdes for giving him his career beginning when he finished at University of Utah and came back to Macon.

Jeff gave an overview of his beginning as a student in east Macon playing sports at Northeast High School. An opportunity for him arose and he was given a football scholarship to Stratford Academy. From Stratford he was looked at by colleges for sports scholarships and settled at University of Utah.

His Ocmulgee Little League Coach Vernon Sinclair was one of his most outstanding mentors who inspired him as a youth to achieve and succeed. His Little League Coach changed his life and he kept in contact with him until his death.

RBI, Revving Baseball Inner cities is a Major League initiative to which Kevin Brown donated \$1,000,000 for the startup. Now there are over 300 RBI's across the country to get kids playing in sports.

The program was started here in Macon-Bibb in 2015 with 12 kids. They were given the opportunity to fly to Cincinnati to tour the ballfield and play. The program is about building big league players from kids that might never have the opportunity to reach the big league. The program opens the opportunity for sports scholarships.

They are averaging 225 boys and 100 girls in the RBI Macon program. Jeff told members he had a vision for a youth development park in December 2017 and thanks to Macon-Bibb Board of Education an opportunity opened up at Hartley Elementary School and construction began on a nice sports field and equipment for the poor. Two fields were re-grassed complete with sprinklers and a new synthetic turf field was built. The ribbon cutting for the new sports field was held November 11, 2020. It was officially named The Vernon Sinclair Sr Field.

Jeff thanked the Macon Housing Authority for management of the project and reported the Boys and Girls Club will handle daily management. Mercer University is starting a lacrosse program for the kids on this state-of-the-art synthetic field.

Jeff ended his program thanking Danny Gibson's company for lighting the field and reminding members there is still much to do. Donations and information can be found on the United Way website. <https://www.unitedwaycq.org/maconrbi>



Questions and comments were good this week.

President Jim closed the meeting with members reciting the 4 Way Test.

## Donations 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 <http://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 or POLIO PLUS to donate, then just follow easy steps to make payment.

**CART FUND:** First you will need your club member database sign in for <http://dacdb.com/>, if you do not have this Cecil Coke can send to you. Your username and password are the same for DACdb or CART. Go to <https://mycartfund.org/Login.cfm> use your DACdb log in as a CURRENT USER. Menu on left MAKE CONTRIBUTION and follow steps.

## 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 Mike Austin.

## Dates to Remember

### March

16 Board Meeting 6pm Idle Hour Club

### April

24 Club Project Rebuilding Macon

## Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events

### Reminder - Makeups can only be used 2 weeks before or after a missed meeting

When requested	Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom	Request from Jim Manley or Steve Allen
Anytime	Rotary Project or Rotary Committee Meeting	
Anytime	Volunteer at Volunteer Clinic	
	Warming Center	
	Backpack Buddies	

## Club Membership Applications

Our club is using a new online (no paper) membership application. Contact Membership Chair Lynn Murphey <mailto:murphey@kf.org> or any board member or officer or the Club Administrator. All we need is the potential members name and email address to send an application to them for the potential member to complete and submit online.

All members of our club need to think about who would make good Rotarians. There are many classifications that could be filled. If you know of someone check with Kathryn Dennis, Classification Chair first to make sure there are no conflicts with other members. The process is easy and rewarding to bring in new members.

### [www.maconrotary.com](http://www.maconrotary.com)

#### Excused Absence

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 as indicated below.

## 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 required to maintain an attendance average of 60%.**

Missed meetings must be made up **14 days before or after the meeting you miss**, it is in our club's Constitution!

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.

When you make up at another club please send an email immediately afterwards to the Club Administrator, [cecilcoke210@gmail.com](mailto:cecilcoke210@gmail.com) so your makeup can be recorded. Do not expect the club where you make up to report to our club.