

Augusta Rotary Minutes

February 10, 2025

President Surendra Gupta rang the bell and called the meeting to order.

Billy Franke gave the pledge and invocation.

Faye Hargrove gave the Sunshine Report.

Bob Goodman introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians.

Announcements

Past President **Bill Keogh** reported that one of our longest serving members, **Mrs. Neita Mulherin**, has been admitted to hospice care and asked that we keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Rotary Leadership Institute will be held Saturday March 8 in Augusta at the Augusta University Summerville Campus. Cost is \$100 per Rotarian.

District Conference will be held in Jekyll Island again this year please make hotel reservations as soon as you can.

Dustin Young reminded the club to get tickets for the annual signature fundraiser. Each member is asked to sell 5 tickets this year.

Mickey Williford reminded the club of the upcoming Speech Contest being held 2/27/25 at the Morris Museum of Art. The deadline to participate is February 17. The contest is open to all high school students in Richmond and Columbia Counties including private and home school students.

President Surendra stated we will be working on a joint service project with the Augusta West Rotary Club and the Kiwanis Club. More details will be announced at our next meeting.

GRSP Update

No report this week.

New Members

No new members were introduced.

Paul Harris Fellows

Bill Keogh was recognized this week as a PHF+5 and **President Surendra** received his PHF+7 pin.

CART: **Tom Clark** was the inside challenger this week and **Surendra Gupta** was the outside challenger. Please continue to contribute to the blue buckets on the table or online at mycartfund.org using the same login credentials you use with DACDB. Also, please complete our club's Google form to sign up to be a Cart Challenger.

Upcoming Speakers

February 17 – No meeting in observance of Presidents Day

February 24 – Danny Broyles – Area Governor will speak about ShelterBox

Guest Speaker/Program

Area Governor Kelly Kittner introduced our guest speaker, **Mr. Todd Freesemann**, District Governor for District 6920. Mr. Freesemann has 21 years of service with Rotary following a distinguished 30 year career in the Army and Air Force. He also currently serves as a Deputy Sheriff in Chatham County and is a Will Watt Fellow and a Paul Harris Fellow +8.

Todd shared with the club that District 6920 includes 2700 Rotarians from 59 clubs across the eastern and southern parts of the state down to I-95 and up to Macon. We are part of a worldwide organization made up of 40,000 clubs and 1.4 million members.

His area of focus during his time as District Governor is for clubs to focus on peace building and conflict resolution. He asked that we all try to build peace within ourselves, that we take care of ourselves and that we try to de-escalate conflict within our club and our communities.

He says that membership is our number one priority as all clubs need to be focused on growing its numbers to replace members who retire or withdraw from the club.

President Surendra led us in reciting the four-way test and then adjourned the meeting.