

Augusta Rotary Minutes
March 3, 2025

Interact students rang the bell and called the meeting to order.

Charlotte Dickerson, a student at Davidson Fine Arts, gave the pledge and invocation.

David Ashade, a student at Aquinas High School, gave the invocation.

Students **Chloe Burdyck, Saylor Prince and Grace MacGilvray** gave the Sunshine Report.

New Members

No new members this week.

Paul Harris Fellows

No new recognitions this week.

Connor Shouse, a student at the Academy of Richmond County, introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians.

Guest Speaker/Program

Mickey Williford announced our guest speakers, the first and second place finishers in the 2025 Annual High School Speech Contest held February 27 at the Morris Museum of Art, and thanked the committee members and judges for their time working with the program. There were 67 entries this year. First place finisher, **Jamison Rookard**, a student at Aquinas High School; and second place finisher, **Coralyn Cairus**, a student at Lakeside High School, presented their winning speeches on the Magic of Rotary.

GRSP Update

GRSP student Daniel Lopez gave an update on the GRSP Student Conclaves Leadership Weekend in Atlanta. The 37 students from 22 countries who participated packed 10,000 meals for Rise Against Hunger. The students also participated in a game of Shark Tank, based on Rotary's seven areas of focus. Daniel also announced his group's Atlanta-based project, MOVE ATL, which stands for Making Obesity Very Extinct. The initiative helps educate students on healthy eating and the importance of exercise in an attempt to combat the alarmingly high rates of obesity in elementary students. Anyone interested in possibly helping Daniel with transportation to Atlanta while the project is in process can reach out to him at 706-941-7060 or DALOLO59@GMAIL.COM.

CART: Adam Cobb was the inside challenger this week and **Shanda Vaughan** 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.

Announcements

The Rotary and Horizon Foundation Signature Fundraiser officially concluded with our club selling all 500 tickets and a \$25,000 check being presented to GAP Ministries. Special recognition to Dustin Young for selling 65 tickets, John Whitwell for selling 37 and the many other Rotary members who sold well above their allotted three tickets. A \$25,000 check will also be presented to Dr. Mac Bowman's Horizon Foundation to help offset the cost of the truck, the fundraiser's grand prize. Get ready for next year!

In celebration of Read Across America, Rotarians are invited to be guest readers at W.S. Hornsby Middle School, 320 Kentucky Avenue, Augusta, Georgia 30901, on March 3-7 in 45-minute time slots from 9:15 a.m.-4:05 p.m. If you are interested in participating, contact HoltOl@BOE.richmond.k12.ga.us or 706-951-0037.

Augusta Rotary will have an outing at Top Golf on March 24 from noon-2 p.m. Let Peggie or Surendra know if you plan on attending.

Rotary Leadership Institute will be held Saturday March 8 in Augusta at the Augusta University Summerville Campus. Cost is \$100 per Rotarian. If you have questions, please contact PDG Fred Lee, District 6920 RLI Director, Felleed6920@gmail.com or 912-282-8494.

Rotarians are invited to come help "Sound the Alarm" on March 15 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Volunteers will assist the Richmond County Fire Department installing smoke alarms. If interested, register on the website <https://www.redcross.org/sound-the-alarm.html>

District Conference will be held April 24-27 in Jekyll Island again this year. Please make hotel reservations as soon as you can.

Rotary International Conference will take place in Ontario, Canada, June 21-25. If interested in attending, please reach out to President Surendra.

Upcoming Meetings

March 10, 2025 – Women Empowerment Day will be celebrated. **Angie Cox**, President and CEO of Augusta Chamber of Commerce, will speak about women's empowerment.

March 17, 2025 - Augusta native **Michelle Naval Pippin** has been part of the city's Sports Council for 12 years, starting as an intern. She's served as CEO since November 2021. She will speak on Sports Tourism.

Rotaract students led us in reciting the four-way test and then adjourned the meeting.