

Augusta Rotary Minutes
March 10, 2025

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

Bill Keough gave the pledge and invocation.

Connie Melear gave the Sunshine Report.

Dat Hoang introduced the guests.

New Members

No new members this week.

Paul Harris Fellows

Steve Hobbs, PHF +7

Dejeniro “D” Pierce, PHF +3

Guest Speaker/Program

In recognition of International Women’s Day March 8, **President Surendra** listed traits of successful women and shared the five traits that all powerful female leaders have in common. He said they are quick to empower other women in the workplace; emotionally intelligent; fueled by a strong vision and sense of purpose; risk-takers and extraordinarily resilient.

President Surendra introduced guest speaker **Angie Cox**, President and CEO of Augusta Metro Chamber of Commerce, to share her thoughts on empowering women. Angie shared that her middle school basketball coach, Coach Strickland, made a lasting impression on her by putting Angie in the team’s starting lineup and refusing to let her quit the team, despite Angie being frustrated that she struggled with basic basketball skills. Angie ultimately stood her ground against a very aggressive opponent, which gave her confidence, and a technical foul! Angie said Coach Strickland’s encouragement taught her to be resilient and comfortable in her own skin. Through her experiences then and since as a female leader, she said that you may not always be the best in what you endeavor, but you will grow from, “showing up, stepping up and volunteering to go where others have not gone before.”

GRSP Update

Thanks to all Rotarians for all you have done for our student, Daniel Lopez Londono, this year. We are coming down to the end of Daniels' stay in the GRSP Program. There are several upcoming opportunities we need help with:

1. Driver to and from the meetings for March and April
2. Anyone with Masters Tickets that Daniel can use for the morning or afternoon?
3. A ride to Macon for the student weekends on March 20-23
4. Any fun spring activities you or your family may be doing? Please invite Daniel.

CART: **Sheri Coleman** was the inside challenger this week and **Heather Seigler with Morgan Stanley** 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

Thank you to the Rotarians who participated in Read Across America at W.S. Hornsby Middle School. The students and teachers were very appreciative. Please try to participate in upcoming events.

Instead of the regular meeting, 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 or respond to the email and include whether or not you will be playing golf if you are attending.

Thank you to all Club Members for your support of the 2025 Preston Johnson Youth Speech Contest. If anyone has photos or videos of the 1st and 2nd place winners from the March 3 meeting, please send them to mickey.williford@gmail.com. If they are too large to email, she can provide a Google Drive link where they can be uploaded.

Rotarians from District 6900 and 6910 are visiting Camp Tanglewood to remove debris, etc. on March 11-13. Please come and participate if you are able. Our club will serve the lunch box on March 12. You are welcome to attend and visit with other Rotarians.

Rotary Leadership Institute was March 8 at Augusta University Summerville Campus.

- Thanks to Brenda and Zach for initiating and persuading the District to have RLI Training in Augusta.
- 21 Rotarians from South GA participated.
- District DGE, DGEN, Past DG, Past Presidents also attended the training.
- Brenda, Zach and Dat from our club attended the training.
- Surendra was invited to observe the presentations of the trainers.

There will be a celebration of life service for Bill and Sue Kemp March 15 at Christ Church Presbyterian, 4201 Southern Pine Drive, Evans, GA. The visitation is at 10 a.m., with service to follow at 11 a.m.

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 Surrendra.

Upcoming Meetings

March 17, 2025 –Michelle Pippin, CEO, Augusta Sports Council.

March 24, 2025 – Top Golf Outing. No meeting at Fat Man’s Restaurant. Join us at Top Golf. Autism Awareness Day – Dr. Baris Often will speak on autism.

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