

Augusta Rotary Minutes

December 2, 2024

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

Haskell Toporek gave the pledge and invocation.

Brad Means gave the Sunshine Report.

Ashley Whitaker introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians.

Announcements

President Gupta reminded the club that December is Rotary's Disease Prevention & Treatment Month and shared a brief video.

The Annual Signature Fund Raising Event will benefit Gap Ministries. Enter to win a 2025 Dodge Ram Truck. Contact **DeJeneiro Pierce**, **Dr. Mac Bowmen**, or **Dustin Young** for more information.

Anna Reeves and **Candice Hillman** reminded the club about the Holiday Book Drive, and they are collecting children's book donations today and on December 9.

The Rotary Club Holiday Party will be on Monday, December 16.

The Rotary District Conference will be held April 24-27, 2025, in Jekyll Island, GA.

GRSP Update

No report this week.

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS:

Heather Atkinson received PHF.

CART: **Amy Breitmann** was the inside challenger this week. There was no outside challenger this week. **President Surendra** asked everyone to 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

December 9 – Paul Aenchbacher - Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital

December 16 – No speaker – Holiday Party

December 23 – No meeting

December 30 – No meeting

College Pick'em

Billy Franke reminded the club about the weekly emails sent out to participate, and if you are not receiving them, please contact Ashlee Duren or Stacy Tallent using their contact info in DaCdb.

Week 13 was won by **Heather Atkinson**.

Week 14 was won by **David Hudson**.

Guest Speaker/Program

Henry Holt introduced our guest speaker, Dr. Lauren Bingham. Dr. Bingham is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior at the Medical College of Georgia at Augusta University. She is also the Director of the Psychosocial Oncology Service at the Georgia Cancer Center. As a licensed psychologist, she provides support and therapy for patients and families undergoing treatment at the Georgia Cancer Center. She spoke to the club about the state of mental health care services in Georgia and stressed the opportunity for improvement and how our club can help the community. She shared that Georgia is the seventh most stressed state in the U.S. due to factors related to financial concerns, family matters, and health-related stressors. She shared what to look out for in yourself and others and how to be an advocate for mental healthcare. She also provided resources to assist individuals or others during a crisis or to seek mental healthcare services through counselors, psychologists, and psychiatrists.

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