

Augusta Rotary Minutes

December 9, 2024

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.

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 information about the Rotarian Action Groups (RAG) focusing on various diseases.

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. **Dustin Young** spoke to the club and encouraged everyone's participation in the fundraiser.

Candice Hillman reminded the club about the Holiday Book Drive, and they are collecting children's book donations today. After today's meeting, books can also be dropped off at Augusta Partnership for Children. She informed the club that the books will be presented to the Ronald McDonald House on Friday, December 13, 2024.

Jerry Woods spoke to the club about the Membership Development Committee's work in recent months and encouraged the club to continue considering nominations for membership. He encouraged the club to assist with onboarding and orienting new members when they join the club.

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: **Bennish Brown** was the inside challenger this week. **Bill Keough** was the 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 16 – No speaker – Holiday Party

December 23 – No meeting

December 30 – No meeting

January 6 – Retired Major General Perry Smith

College Pick'em

Stacy Tallent notified the club to look out for an email to participate in the next round for the bowl and playoff games. The structure of those brackets is still being developed. If you do not receive the email, please contact Ashlee Duren or Stacy Tallent using their contact info in DaCdb.

Week 15 was won by **Leland Malchow**.

The overall winners for the 15 weeks of play were:

1. **Steve Chalker**
2. **Bill Keough**
3. **Paul Dainer**

Guest Speaker/Program

Lindsay Black introduced our guest speaker, Paul Aenchbacher, RN. Paul is a staff member in the Joseph M. Still Burn Center at Doctors Hospital in Augusta. He shared information with the club about the burn center and its services. The Still Burn Center is the largest in the United States and the world's third-largest. It has over 100 beds, 38 of which are in the Burn ICU. There are also dedicated operating rooms for the burn center at the hospital. The burn center specializes in pediatric burns and is the only hospital in the southeast certified by the American Burn Association. The burn center also has hyperbaric chambers that are often used after dive incidents and provide services for wounds and associated care. Patients are routinely referred to the center and arrive through air flight. The center sees patients from all around the southeastern United States and even has partnerships with countries in the Caribbean and South America.

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