

## Augusta Rotary Minutes

September 9, 2024

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

**Anna Reeves** gave the pledge and invocation.

**Brenda Durant** gave the Sunshine Report.

**Sheri Osborn** introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians.

### Announcements

September is Basic Education and Literacy Month. **Candice Hillman and Anna Reeves** reported on the efforts of the Literacy Committee. The club will be reading to pre-k through grade 5 students at Immaculate Conception on September 27<sup>th</sup>. Also, there will be opportunities to volunteer to read at the Richmond County Library this month. Anyone interested in volunteering for either of these events should reach out to Candice or Anna.

October 24 has been designated **World Polio Day** and we will recognize the life changing work Rotary has done to eradicate polio.

Past President, **Bob Evans**, serves as the 2025 Panel Chair for the Community Foundation of the CSRA. Rotarian volunteers are needed to serve on the Panel and assist in reviewing the grant applications received by the Community Foundation. Anyone interested should contact Bob at [jrevans563@gmail.com](mailto:jrevans563@gmail.com).

### GRSP Update

Our student, Daniel Lopez, gave a brief report on his participation in the GRSP Conclave in Columbus, Georgia. The 40 students in GRSP met to get to know each other and create a cultural experience by sharing skits and dance performances from their native countries. Daniel had a great time and represented our club very well.

### New Members

Brendan England and Becky Dearden were welcomed into the club as our newest members.

### Paul Harris Fellows

President Surendra presented **Robert Osborne** with their PHF +2 pin.

**CART:** **Matt Barrett** was the inside challenger this week and the outside challenger was **Surendra Gupta**. **President Surendra** asked everyone to please continue to contribute to the blue buckets on the table or online at [mycartfund.org](http://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**

September 16 – Dr. Jorge Cortes, Executive Director of the Georgia Cancer Center

September 30 – Katie Berube with an update of the Bell Auditorium and James Brown Arena

October 7 – Glenn Fink will speak on ChatGPT and Generative AI

## **College Pick'em**

Commissioner Stacy Tallent reminded the club that the weekly email was sent out just prior to the meeting and if you did not receive it, please contact Ashlee Duren or Stacy Tallent using their contact info in DaCdb.

We are off to a great start with over 50 players participating each of the first two weeks. However, we are not really good at picking winners as the weekly average has been just under 50% so far. The week 1 winner was Dat Hoang with 8 wins and the week 2 winner was Connie Melear with 7 wins. Both winners edged out others in the tiebreaker by having the closest number of total points scored in the tiebreaker game.

## **Guest Speaker/Program**

Brenda Durant introduced our guest speaker, Maestro Dirk Meyer, the Music Director of the Augusta Symphony.

Maestro Dirk reviewed the upcoming schedule for the Pops Series, the Symphony Series, and the Family Concerts in Columbia County. He also shared that this is the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Augusta Symphony which had its first performance in 1954.

Dirk shared with the club the thought process and criteria for selecting programs. As always, he entertained the Club with excerpts from various performances to give us a taste of what to expect this upcoming season.

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