

August 7, 2023

Meeting Minutes

President Bill Keogh rang the bell and called the meeting to order.

Anna Reeves gave the pledge and invocation

Brad Means gave the Sunshine Report today.

Matt Barrett called on club members to introduce their guests in attendance today.

Announcements

- President Bill announced that our GRSP Student **Victoria Jorgenson** would be arriving soon.
- Our schedule of speakers/topics for the coming weeks include,
 - MAP International
 - Young Professionals of Augusta (YPA)
 - College Pick'em
- As a reminder, quarterly dues statements have been distributed. Please make every effort to pay dues on time as those funds are already committed to fund club expenses.
- President Bill invited **AK Golati** to come forward and help present a club flag to a special guest who is visiting from India along with his wife.
- He also reminded the club that on August 26 there will be the annual celebration of India's Independence. The celebration will include a parade, food, and a cultural program. For more information please reach out to AK.
- The **Arts in the Heart of Augusta Festival** will take place in September and anyone interested in participating should contact **Brenda Durant**.
- Everyone is encouraged to use the DACdb website and app. It is a great way to stay connected with fellow Rotarians.
- The HULL Fund is meeting today immediately following our club meeting.

CART: President Bill 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. Today's inside challenger is **Dave Brendza** and the outside challenger is **ADP**.

Guest Speaker/Program

Past President Dustin Young introduced our guest speaker **Mr. Lee Beckmann**, General Manager of Governmental Affairs with the Georgia Ports Authority. Mr. Beckmann reported on the growth of the Port of Savannah which provides 561,000 jobs and generates over \$3.8 billion in state and county revenues.

The port has been widened and deepened in recent years to accommodate larger ships that can now carry up to 16,000 boxes. Previously the largest ships carried 5,000 boxes. Mr. Beckmann shared the advantages Savannah has over other ports, the biggest of which is geography.

Savannah's location allows ships to get into port faster than other ports which translates into faster turnaround times. Currently, Savannah is the third busiest container port in the US, the number one exporter, and the 27th largest port in the entire world.

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