



July 22, 2024

NEW MEMBERS

Meeting Minutes

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

Jimmy Richards gave the pledge and invocation.

Gould Hagler gave the Sunshine Report.

Heather Atkinson introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians.

President Surendra kicked off the meeting by sharing a video highlighting the 7 areas of focus for Rotary;

- Promoting Peace
- Preventing Disease
- Access to Clean Water and Sanitation
- Maternal and Child Health
- Basic Education
- Growing the Local Economy
- Saving Our Environment

Announcements

- July is Mothers and Babies Month and President Surendra shared a video provided by the Rotary Foundation.
- District Conference 2025 will be held April 24-27, 2025 in Jekyll Island.
- Rotary's International Convention will be held June 2025 in Calgary.
- Stuff the Bus 2024 will be conducting a school supply drive for area students in the coming weeks, watch for more information and please share on all of your social media links.
- Our GRSP student, Daniel Lopez Londono will be participating in the 2024 GRSP Conclave.
- President Surendra congratulated the Leadership Augusta 2024-2025 class which included club members Jonathan Aceves, Lindsay Black, and Dat Hoang.

Paul Harris Fellows

President Surendra presented Matt Barrett with his PHF+2 pin. He also recognized James Pierce as a PHF+2 donor and will present him with the pin at a future meeting.

CART: Erin Armstrong was the inside challenger this week and the outside challenger was Steve Munn with MAI. 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

- July 29 – Russ Gambill, Vice Chair Augusta Canal Authority
- August 5 - Kigwana “Kigg” Cherry, local construction engineer and project manager

Guest Speaker/Program

Dat Hoang introduced our guest speakers, Tiffany Heitzman, Executive Officer of the Home Builders of Greater Aiken Augusta, and Stacey Atkins, CEO of the Realtors Association of Augusta.

Both speakers talked about trends in the local market which include a severe shortage of inventory and a drastic increase in average home prices. The “normal” inventory is a six to twelve-month supply of homes for sale, but currently we only have a three to four-month supply in our area.

The inventory shortage is compounded by new government regulations which are driving up the cost of production. New energy codes which are slated to go into effect soon will add approximately \$30,000 in cost per home but will take an estimated 90 years to get any return on that investment. It is estimated that 25% of the costs of a home is because of federal, state, and local regulations.

Both speakers addressed questions from the audience at the end of their remarks.

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

Easy links to pages on our website

[Rotary schedule of meeting dates and speakers](#)

[Member Proposal Form](#)

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[Bulletins - Weekly bulletins from 2014-current](#)

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