

July 25, 2022

Meeting Minutes

President Faye Hargrove rang the bell and called the meeting to order.

David Hudson gave the pledge and invocation.

Brenda Durant gave the Sunshine Report today.

Club members introduced their guests in attendance today.

Announcements

Please continue to sign in each week so that we have a record of attendance.

The Public Image Committee, chaired by Alicia Sweat, will meet as soon as we adjourn today.

Next week we will have a presentation by the Augusta Players.

President Faye played a compelling video title “We are Rotary” showing the impact of Rotary around the world and encouraging young members to join us.

GRSP

The Committee will meet immediately following today’s club meeting. Our GRSP student, Simbainshe Mutoti from Zimbabwe, will arrive on Friday July 29th.

CART: President Faye 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. During the last Rotary year we donated \$17,262.55 to CART.

Paul Harris Fellows

Past President Kevin Wade will make a presentation at the next meeting.

SAVE THE DATES

August 18 will be Rotary Night at the Augusta Greenjackets Game. Tickets will be \$27 per person and flyers will be distributed at our next meeting.

Program

Sue Parr introduced our guest speaker, Senator Harold Jones, our representative from the 22nd District. Senator Jones holds several positions including Democratic Whip, Secretary of the Ethics Committee, and a member of the Rules Committee among others. He is also currently an Adjunct Professor at the University of Phoenix.

Senator Jones spent the majority of his time discussing SB 537, the Food Insecurity Eradication Act, which passed the Senate 51-0. The bill which garnered bi-partisan support targets food deserts and food insecurity. As Senator Jones described, areas of Georgia are not all designated food deserts because they have access to food, however, most of the food choices are either fast food or packaged items from places like Dollar General. Without healthy alternatives, food insecurity becomes a growing concern.

Senator Jones explained that the problem is not just an Augusta problem or just a Georgia problem, but is a nationwide problem facing communities everywhere. Not only is it widespread, but it is also very complex because you are dealing with local communities and both federal and state programs. Many times, regulatory requirements prevent access or create roadblocks to implementing solutions.