



## July 29, 2024

### NEW MEMBERS

### Meeting Minutes

---

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

Haskell Toporek gave the pledge and invocation.

Heather Atkinson introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians.

Brenda Durant gave the Sunshine Report.

#### Announcements

- Georgia District Conference 2025 will be held April 24-27, 2025, in Jekyll Island
- Our GSRP student, Daniel Lopez Londono will be moving to the ELM Hall on the Medical Campus on August 9, 2024. Sheri Osborne is Daniel's host family.
- India Day 2024 will be held August 24, 2024, at the Columbia County Performing Arts Center.
- Congratulations to the Leadership of Augusta 2024-2025 club members: Jonathan Aceves, Lindsay Black, Dat Hoang, Ashley Whitacker.
- President Surendra thanked club members for their support of the Stuff the Bus 2024. United Way collected, counted, and delivered 27,711 school supplies valued at \$97,736 to local children across the CSRA.

#### New Members

Bill Keogh introduced our newest member, Kerry Bridges. Please welcome Kerry to the club.

#### Paul Harris Fellows

President Surendra recognized James Pierce as a PHF+2 donor and will present him with his PIN at our next meeting.

#### CART

Heather Atkinson was Inside Challenger this week and Outside Challenger was President Surendra with AAPNAS Properties, LLC. 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 Meetings

- August 5 – Kigwana Cherry, Rotary in UGANDA
- Augusta 12 – TBD
- Augusta 19 – Stacy Tallent, College PICK 'EM.

#### Guest Speaker/Program

Cliff Richards introduced our guest speaker, Russ Gambill, Vice Chair Augusta Canal Authority. Russ gave the club an overview of the Master plan for the new Whitewater Park project. He mentioned it would be the only one of its kind in the world. They settled on a location next to the first level of the canal on land now being used as a lot for county vehicles.

In many ways, the park would have features of an in-stream whitewater park that uses natural water flow and obstacles to create challenges. It would also share some qualities with so-called pumped parks that recirculate water in a more closed system.

The channel will be constructed, similar to a pumped park, but will be adjacent to the canal and able to be gravity run without pumps, similar to an in-stream park.

The project would be fed by water through sluice gates on level one of the canal systems. Flows would then wind their way through a concrete channel that would be the primary attraction for kayakers and rafters. This canal would discharge into the existing channel at the bottom pond.

The project comes in with a projected cost of over \$20,000,000. The Canal Authority will be looking to the Augusta Commission's SPLOST 9 budget and hope there are funds available.

President Surendra led us in reciting the Four-Way Test and adjourned the meeting.

#### Easy links to pages on our website

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

[Member Proposal Form](#)

[Online directory - Find a member or update your information](#)

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