

Rotary



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Club Leaders



[Brad Beisbier](#)
President



[Schelly Tennant Marlatt](#)
Secretary



[Joe Sorenson](#)
President - Elect



[Mike Fulton](#)
Treasurer



[Dave Collier](#)
Membership Chair



[Jeff Alexander](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Laura Nell Ballance](#)
Attendance Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms
[Jennifer K.](#)

About Rotary

Rotary International is an international service organization whose stated purpose is to bring together business and professional leaders in order to provide humanitarian service and to advance goodwill and peace around the world. Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, leaders, and problem-solvers who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

RI President Stephanie Urchick's theme for the 2024-2025 Rotary year is "*The Magic of Rotary*". She says members create that magic with every project completed, every dollar donated, and every new member of Rotary.

Upcoming Programs

Upcoming Program: The Water Tower Vocational Tour

The meeting location is 2500 Clean Water Court. However, you are encouraged to use this link for the best directions - [Directions - The Water Tower](#)



The Water Tower, officially launched in 2019, is comprised of two nonprofit organizations: The Water Tower at Gwinnett, a 501(c)4, which is responsible for the development and operations of the campus, and The Water Tower Institute, a 501c3, which is responsible for our solutions, instruction, and engagement programming.

Together, these entities are committed to *building a thriving ecosystem of innovation driven by water challenges, informed by research, and powered by people*. This is being accomplished by bringing together the academia and nonprofits, to tackle the

public and private sectors of the water industry, side by side with industry's greatest challenges.

Upcoming Programs - Be sure to visit the DACdb calendar to see all upcoming events.

April 8th: Cherish De la Cruz, Managing Partner, The Manely Firm - Estate Planning

April 15th: Ashley Hamilton, Sr. Tournament Director, Mitsubishi Electric Classic

Recap of last week

Program Recap

Charlotte J. Nash was our special guest and featured speaker last week. While she originally planned to discuss Gwinnett's 200-year history, she decided at the last minute that she would talk about Gwinnett: The Prequel. Before Gwinnett County was officially created in 1818, the land was primarily inhabited by the Creek and Cherokee Native American tribes. The area was rich in natural resources, with vast forests, rivers, and fertile land that supported indigenous communities for centuries. Many of the major highways that we travel in the present day were once the trails and paths that the Indians created. European-American settlers began encroaching on the territory in the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Following land cessions by Native American tribes—often through treaties that were unfair or forced - Georgia acquired the land that would become Gwinnett County. The land was part of a larger territory that included present-day parts of Walton, Hall, and Jackson counties.

Charlotte shared photos of historical sites such as the Elisha Winn House, which serves as a reminder of Gwinnett's early governance and development. She closed by sharing that the population growth back in the 1800's increased 190% between 1820 and 1830, stating that people flocked to Gwinnett back then just like they



Hendrickson
Family of
Rotary



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GRSP Chair



Bruce E. Carter
On-To
Conference
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Katrina
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Club District
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Sherwin M.
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AV & Stage
Manager
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Adam
Frangos
Club
Fellowship
Chair



Souleymane
Ongoiba
Youth
Services
Chair



Joe Godfrey
iPast
President

Birthdays

William F. McCargo

are today - some things don't change.

Thank you, Charlotte, for a great history lesson about our wonderful County. We look forward to hosting you again very soon!



March Madness - Final 4 Pairings

Congratulations to the four members who have teams in the Men's Final Four. They are:
Mike Sammond (Auburn) vs. Terry Swaim (Florida)
Adam Frangos (Houston) vs. Brad Beisbier (Duke)



Annual Oyster Roast At Wally's Party Shack

We hope you will join us on April 10th for a Rotary Means Business event at Wally's Party Shack. Hosted by the Rotary Club of Gwinnett County, we will once again gather from 5pm-7pm and celebrate Spring with our annual Oyster Roast. This year, the menu includes roasted oysters and fried catfish, sides, dessert, beer and wine and other non-alcoholic beverages. The cost is \$45 per person. Visit [Annual Oyster Roast](#) for additional menu details and to RSVP.

April 5th
Denise Townsend
April 8th
Mark Willis
April 12th
Brian D. Blough
April 17th
Emory L. Morsberger
April 17th
Derrick Bell
April 21st



Derby - Kicking It Into High Gear With A Call To Action!

Jennifer Hendrickson shared that we successfully obtained two \$5K sponsors during our club meeting last week, bringing the weekly total to \$57K. This is great progress, but we are still short of where we were this time last year. So far, a little more than 30 club members have contributed in some capacity and your help is crucial to the success of our event.

How you can help - make and/or secure a sponsorship or donation, purchase tickets, secure silent auction items either through your personal donation or securing them, etc. Spread the word about the Derby Down South with your friends, family, networks, etc.

The fundraiser will support this year's derby grant recipients, including Families 4 Families and Corners Outreach. Videos providing insight into these organizations can be accessed through the provided links - [Families 4 Families](#) and [Corners Outreach](#). Additionally, Jennifer and Mark have issued a call to action to encourage further participation and support. The more money we raise, the more money will go to these amazing and well-deserving charities that support our community!

As a reminder, the event will take place on Saturday, May 3, 2025 from 4:00-8:00pm at Formetco, 2963 Pleasant Hill Rd., Duluth, GA. There will be great food, fellowship and, of course, the Kentucky Derby main event will be shown on the largest screen found in Gwinnett County! You can belly up to the "Pour Pony" horse trailer bar, try your luck at the casino tables, or snag a few of the horsey bids. The silent action will return along with the promotion of our charities: Corners Outreach, Families 4 Families and the End Polio Now campaign.



Individual Links:

Rotary Derby Down South website:

[7th Annual Derby Down South Event | ClickBid Mobile Bidding](#)

For Sponsorships:

[DDS Sponsor Booklet.pdf - Google Drive](#)

For Tickets:

[7th Annual Derby Down South Event | Secure Ticket Page | Provided by ClickBid Mobile Bidding Mobile Bidding](#)

If you or your family would like to volunteer for the party, please let us know. There is plenty to do the day of the event, as well as the day prior. Sharon Catter will be creating a Signup Genius to volunteer. That link is coming soon!

Thank you again for your commitment to making our annual signature event a huge success!

Jennifer Hendrickson, Co-Chair

678-592-2599

rotaryhendrickson@gmail.com

Mark Willis, Co-Chair

404-518-1894

mwillis@gsba.com

Presenting Sponsor - \$10,000

Formetco

Derby Down South Dinner Sponsor - \$5,000

Smith+Howard

Mint Julep Sponsor - \$2,500

Capital City Bank

First Citizens Bank

Global Partnership for Telehealth

Oconee StateBank

Rotary Member - Ambassador Sponsor - \$1,500

Terry and Heather Swaim

Scott and Marian Zanardo

Derby Hat Sponsors - \$500

Alexander's of Atlanta

Jennifer and Curtis Hendrickson

Mark and Wendy Willis

Trophy Sponsor

Holtkamp Heating & Air

Photography & Videography Sponsor

Joe Sorenson

District Assembly

Join us at the Rotary District 6910 District Assembly on Saturday, May 17th! This year's assembly will be held at Georgia Highlands College (GHC) in Cartersville. This is a great learning and fellowship event for your board members and club members who want to learn more about what they can do to support their club and district.

Sessions will include Membership, The Rotary Foundation, Youth Services and Serving Beyond Your Club. We are also excited to have featured speaker Dr. DeReeta Rhodes, Chief Culture Officer, Atlanta Braves join us for the morning session. The first 100 Rotarians who sign up will be given an autographed copy of her book "Courage of Voice."

We are partnering with the GHC Rotaractor Club, as they will be providing our Sgt. at Arms and additional support for the event. We are also asking for donations to the GHC food pantry.

Registration is open! Visit [District Assembly Flyer and Registration Link](#) for details.

For questions, feel free to reach out to your District Learning Co-Facilitators:

Jennifer Hendrickson
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678-592-2599

Jennifer Hibbard
Jennifer.Hibbard@vphealth.org
678-360-5200

Cell Phone-Friendly Reminder

As a courtesy to our speaker, members, and guests, please silence your cell phone before the meeting begins. If you must take a call, we kindly ask that you step outside. Thank you for your cooperation. To maintain a respectful and undisturbed environment, any disruptions caused by ringing phones may result in a request from President Brad Beisbier to contribute a generous donation to Sunshine, the Happy Pig.

Rotary IGNITE Mobile App

During our meeting, members were introduced to an innovative tool that our club will use: the IGNITE Mobile App. The IGNITE Mobile App connects to DACdb and serves as a powerful platform designed to facilitate interaction, collaboration, and impact within our club. Developed with the principles of Rotary's service at its core, IGNITE empowers us to connect with community members, organize events, and mobilize resources more efficiently than ever before. In addition, we are working on setting up the ability to pay club invoices through the app!

As members of the Rotary Club of Gwinnett, you now have access to this app. You are encouraged to download the IGNITE Mobile App and explore its features firsthand. Log-in with your DACdb username and password. Keep in mind, if you have not logged into DACdb within the last 12 months, you will not be able to access IGNITE and will need to get a new password.

If you have any questions, reach out to Jennifer Hibbard - jennifer.hibbard@vphealth.org.



[Read More](#)

Stay Connected - Follow us on Social Media!



Georgia United District Conference 2025: Get The Four-Day Playbook and Plan Your Game!

By Carol M. Colón

For the first time, Rotary Districts 6900, 6910, and 6920 are joining forces for an unforgettable Georgia United District Conference, April 24-27, 2025, on Jekyll Island! Enjoy engaging speakers, service opportunities, and exciting entertainment like the Anderson Brothers Dueling Pianos. Don't miss this chance to connect, learn, and celebrate Rotary in a stunning coastal setting! Check out more about the game plan for conference and **Register now** at GeorgiaUnitedDC.com!

[Read More](#)

Announcing Your 2024-25 Georgia Laws of Life Essay Contest School Winners



Exciting News! Help us celebrate the 2025 school-level winners of the Georgia Rotary Clubs Laws of Life Essay Contest! More than 30,000 students shared their inspiring stories—watch our announcement video and join us in honoring their achievements. Follow us for event highlights! [Read More](#)

Gwinnett County
Meets at The 1818 Club

Time: Tuesday at 12:00 PM