

# Rotary



# Club of Oconee County

[www.oconeecountyrotary.org](http://www.oconeecountyrotary.org)

## Club Meeting

Oconee County  
Meets at Oconee Veterans Park  
Main Building  
3500A Hog Mountain Road  
Watkinsville, GA 30677  
Time: Tuesday at 07:00 AM

## Club Leaders



[Michael J. McCleary](#)  
President



[Robert Jahn](#)  
President - Elect



[Chad Day](#)  
Secretary



[Steven T. Strickland](#)  
President - Nominee  
Club Admin Chair



[John V. Quackenbush](#)  
Treasurer  
Club Executive  
Secretary



[Travis L. Garnto](#)  
Membership Chair



[Jesse Johnson](#)  
Membership Retention  
Chair



[Catherine T. Casto](#)  
Public Image Chair



[Rodney Patton](#)  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair



[Kirk Shook](#)  
Training Officer  
Vocational Service Chair

## Tuesday, March 11, 2025 - Dr. Branch, State of Oconee County Schools



Dr. Jason L. Branch began his first day with Oconee County Schools on June 1, 2012. He brings a variety of experiences to the superintendent's position. Dr. Branch has worked in five Georgia school systems as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, athletic director, and superintendent. In addition, he sits on the Georgia School Superintendents Association (GSSA) Board of Directors, is a 2017 graduate of the prestigious Leadership Georgia program, and was appointed to Board of Trustees for Teachers Retirement System of Georgia (TRS) by Governor Nathan Deal in 2018. He received the prestigious Bill Barr Leadership Award from the Georgia School Superintendents Association in 2019; and in 2020 was named Chair of the Governor's Superintendent Advisory Council, a group of fifteen superintendents from around Georgia that provide educational policy guidance to Governor Brian Kemp. Dr. Branch has presented at the state, local, and national levels in the areas of leadership development, technology, and curriculum. He holds a bachelor's degree and a master's degree, both in English education, from the University of Georgia, as well as specialist and doctoral degrees in educational leadership from the University of Southern Mississippi. Dr. Branch and his wife, Catherine, are the proud parents of two children, Abby and Jake.

## Vidalia Onion Fundraiser 2025

Our club is selling Vidalia Onions again this year. There is an online order form available [HERE](#). Payment can be made via Venmo (@oconee-rotary), via check payable to: Oconee Rotary, or via cash. **PLEASE put order details in Venmo payments.**

Prices are the same as last year:  
10 lb. bag is \$12  
25 lb. bag is \$30  
40 lb. bag is \$45

All orders need to be turned in by Tuesday, **April 29, 2025.**

Tentatively, delivery will be at the weekly meeting on Tuesday, May 13, 2025.

For questions, please contact Eddie Kinnard at [kinnardhe@gmail.com](mailto:kinnardhe@gmail.com) or 404-983-3911.

## RYLA - Rotary Youth Leadership Awards



Marcia Wilbur  
Family of Rotary



DeeDee Gaines  
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr



Matthew Kinnard  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Daniel NeSmith  
Co-Service Projects  
Chair



Will Crane Ross II  
Service Projects Chair



Richard Waller  
CART Chair



Joseph M. Wilson  
Club Director



Marion A. Butler  
Club Fundraising Chair



Giles Robin Moree  
Club Service Chair



Kailey Page Winn  
Club Learning  
Facilitator



Dean Bright  
Club Polio Plus Chair



Michael Eddy  
Interact Club Sponsor  
Youth Services Chair



Brock Toole  
Club Fellowship Chair



Jeffrey S. Hackleman  
RYLA Coordinator



Joseph Keith Carter  
iPast President

Act Now! RYLA 2025 Registration is Open – Limited Spots Available!

Exciting news—**RYLA 2025 is officially open for registration!** This is your opportunity to empower the next generation of leaders by sponsoring students for an unforgettable four-day leadership experience at **Tallulah Falls School from May 29 – June 1, 2025.**

With only **80 spots available**, now is the time to secure your students' participation before it's too late!

RYLA is more than a camp—it's a **transformational experience** that builds confidence, leadership skills, and lifelong friendships. Your support makes all the difference. Don't let your students miss out—**commit today!**

**Last year our club sponsored four students (two from OCHS and two from NOHS). Please contact Jeff Hackleman with any questions.**

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## CART - Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust



Please support our club and Alzheimer's research by donating to CART. Scan the club Venmo QR code to donate. Please see Rick Waller for more information.

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## Next Speakers

March 18th - RYLA Students

March 25th - Innovations in Precision Agriculture, Dr. Lorena Lacerda, UGA

April 1st - Executive Director, Oconee County Senior Center, Christine Bittle

April 8th - No Meeting (Spring Break)

April 15th - Students of the Semester

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## Ticket Sales

Participate in Ticket Sales by using the Venmo app. Get it on your phone and send money to @Oconee-Rotary.

**3/4 ticket sales - Cash: \$46 Venmo: \$25**

**Current Total: \$2,002**

**There are 32 cards left in the deck (no jokers!).**

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## Rotary Venmo QR Code



Scan this code to pay

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## A special thanks to our Bulletin Sponsors:

Evergreen Nursery, Bill and Will Ross  
LAD Truck Lines, Mack and Dutch Guest  
Oconee State Bank, Neil Stevens and Philip Bernardi  
Walton Gas, Cindy Haddon  
OCAF, Calbos, Marable & Quackenbush  
The Waller Agency, Rick Waller  
Hormone Free Grass Fed Beef, Fred Liebl  
AgriTrust of Georgia, Eddie Kinnard  
Southern Land Exchange, Jesse Johnson  
Avants Management Group, Inc., Gary Avants  
FRM Feeds, George Lee

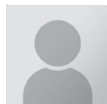
Interested in being a website or Bulletin Sponsor? Contact John Quackenbush [quack17@bellsouth.net](mailto:quack17@bellsouth.net)

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## Events

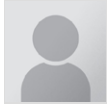
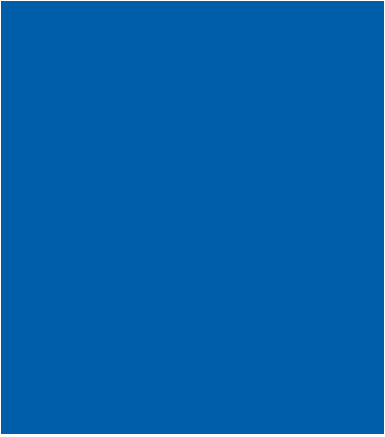
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## Birthdays



[Payton T. Neely](#)  
March 13th

[Coleman Benko](#)  
March 14th



[Reginald Wingfield](#)  
March 17th