



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

THROBS

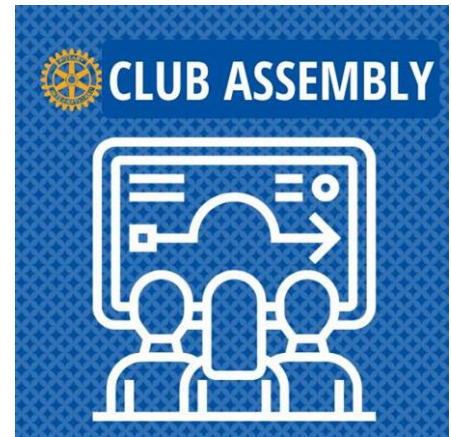
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March 17, 2025

Club Assembly

Our planned speaker had to reschedule, but this gives us the opportunity to hold a much-needed club assembly. Please make an effort to attend this meeting, since we'll be discussing several important club matters. Members will be asked if they are in favor of adding 2-4 additional meetings next year even if it means a dues increase. We will also be looking for suggestions to enhance our members' overall Rotary experience. President Danny also has some other matters to bring to our attention.

In addition, we will recognize member Milton Heard, who was recently honored as a Trustee Emeritus of the GRSP Foundation.



Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our March 10 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/2yjhk86l>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

March, 2025

18	Board Meeting	
24	Unified Defense/Prince Service & Mfg.	Eric Williams, CEO
31	No Meeting	

April, 2025

7	Chancellor Perdue	Sonny Perdue
14	Georgia Supreme Court	Justice Verda Colvin
15	Board Meeting	

April, 2025. continued

21	Cherokee Brick	Kate Sams Peavy, President
28	No Meeting	

May, 2025

5	Spring Picnic – no regular meeting	
12	GRSP Student	João Victor Verçosa Vilela
19	Performances by Morning Music Club's Maerz Award winners	
20	Board Meeting	
26	No Meeting	

June, 2025

2	No Meeting	
9	Mercer Medical School	Dean Jean Sumner
16	AI (Artificial Intelligence)	Brandon Haddock
17	Board Meeting	

New Member Approvals

Our club is growing! Thanks largely to Membership Chair Gene Dunwody, there is a constant flow of applications. At a special meeting March 10, the Board approved the following membership applications:

- James Fritze, President & CEO of NewTown Macon
- Brad Bello, VP of Operations, Impact Poultry Products (classification Agricultural Products)
- Don Cornett (former member and President), Senior Active

Members have 10 days to make comments in writing to President Danny Gibson.

MEETING March 10, 2025

Attendance: 58.1% - 61 in person, 14 Zoom, plus 11 guests

CART \$115, Raffle \$119

Club Membership: 151 (including today's inductions)

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting and called on Albert Reichert to lead the singing and pledge. As usual, Albert selected something out of the ordinary and it was *When the Saints Go Marching In*. While most everyone knows the chorus, he had to help us with the first verse. Jonathan Alderman then offered a prayer which referenced saints such as our speaker and those at Goodwill, and asked us to not be isolationists when it comes to the needs of people in the world around us.

Danny then remarked that today's cold and wet weather made him thankful of those who work outside performing services that are vital to us all. He also reflected on our club's 111-year history, founded on the concept of having the premiere civic club in Macon.

President Danny welcomed our guests, which consisted mostly of pending and potential members as well as our speaker and visiting STAR student. He then acknowledged members with birthdays or club anniversaries. Both Cameron Bishop and Sarah Harris celebrate birthdays March 11; Chris Howard

and Amy Rauls share March 13. Frank Wood and Ashley McDaniel have both been members of our club for two years.

Emily Brown, our member from Mt. de Sales Academy, then introduced their STAR student Evan Lin. She said he has been an integral part of the school, serving on the student council and as Cavalier Ambassador, where students represent the school in the community. He has run track and cross country. He has been in all sorts of clubs, including the Physics Club, the Math Club, and the High School Alliance of Future Physicians. Most recently Evan was named as our Bibb County STAR student, which means he earned the highest single sitting, SAT score in our county. “Then, just last week we were able to go with him to the region competition, where he also won there. So he will be advancing to the State level in April.” Evan said he will be attending MIT this fall semester to major in computer science. “Maybe a double major in computer engineering with a focus in artificial intelligence and decision making.”



CART brags, where we raise money for Alzheimer’s research, came next. As usual, we had some good ones and raised more than we do most meetings! Cameron Bishop shared that this Saturday Wesley Glen Ministries raised over \$500,000 to support people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. President Danny stepped up to brag on Maconite Russell Henley, who just won the Arnold Palmer Invitational for his fifth win on the PGA tour.



We then inducted two new members into the club, though neither is new to Rotary. Roscoe Sandlin has a distinguished academic background with degrees from Yale and Suffolk University and a varied career, including work with the CIA, real estate development, municipal financial management, and law. His classification could be several things, but we chose the very unique Retired CIA Roscoe’s community service spans multiple leadership roles in theater organizations and Rotary clubs. He enjoys golf, traveling in his renovated camper, and playing pool.

Al Baggary, a Macon native and Eagle Scout, built a 30-year banking career that took him across Georgia, holding executive positions in multiple financial institutions. He has been deeply involved in civic leadership, serving in Kiwanis, Rotary, and various chambers of commerce. Beyond finance, he has been an entrepreneur in real estate, insurance, and business ventures. His classification is Car Wash, but that's obviously just a small part of what he has done.

Both gentlemen bring a wealth of experience, leadership, and service to the club, and their induction is a valuable addition to our club.

It was then time for our speaker. Jimmy Asbell introduced Jim Stiff, the President of Goodwill Industries of Middle Georgia and the Central Savannah River area. Jim started working with Goodwill in Washington, DC. in 1988, after a decade of leading parish education programs in the archdiocese of Washington. Jim has been instrumental in expanding Goodwill's impact since moving to Macon in 1994, launching Helms College in 2007, and significantly increasing Goodwill's revenue and job placement efforts. He has a background in education and nonprofit leadership, with a strong commitment to workforce development.

Jim Stiff opened his speech with a personal reflection on his journey with Goodwill. He shared memories of his early days in Macon, highlighting individuals who welcomed him into the community when he moved there from Washington, D.C., over 30 years ago. "Jonathan Alderman was one of the five people that interviewed me. And I happened to wear a pink tie, and he said, 'That's good, you know a lot about our culture.' And so, I ended up getting the job 31 years ago, and one of the first people that welcomed me to town was Albert's wife, Bebe, who made me feel very welcome, and got me a place to stay for about four months, until the family moved down from DC. So a lot of good memories."



Jim then provided an overview of Goodwill's history, beginning with its founder, Edgar Helms, who established the organization in Boston in 1902. Originally a Methodist minister, Helms planned to be a missionary in India but since he was married was instead assigned to work with immigrants in South Boston. This assignment led to the birth of Goodwill, as he sought to provide people with the means to achieve self-sufficiency through work and skills training. Jim shared a touching anecdote about Helms' personal sacrifices, including the loss of his wife, Jean Preston, to tuberculosis, and how her sister, Grace, stepped in to help raise their children. Helms went on to marry Grace, and together they continued to expand Goodwill's reach worldwide.

Jim emphasized that Goodwill's core mission is not just about charity but about creating opportunities for individuals to work, learn, and achieve independence. He cited Helms' philosophy of providing a "hand up, not a handout," and shared the famous story of a boy rescuing starfish one by one, illustrating the idea that helping even one person at a time can make a significant impact.

Jim provided an in-depth look at how Goodwill has evolved. While it was once affiliated with the Methodist Church, today, it operates as a network of 153 autonomous nonprofit organizations across North America, as well as six international Goodwill operations. He explained how Goodwill generates revenue through retail stores, which fund job training programs, educational initiatives, and career placement services.

Goodwill Industries International



Steve Preston
President/ CEO
GII Member
Services Center



More than 3,500
Retail Stores

Goodwill is a network of more than
153 plus autonomous community based
organizations

In North America with active affiliate member
organizations
in 6 other countries.



Visit GII website at www.goodwill.org

Jim then shifted the focus to Goodwill of Middle Georgia and the Central Savannah River Area, highlighting its growth and impact. Since 1994, the local organization has expanded from serving 14

counties to covering 31 in Georgia and four in South Carolina. He discussed the launch of Helms College in 2007—the first licensed, accredited college in the Goodwill network. Helms College was founded to address the need for vocational education, particularly in hospitality, healthcare, and skilled trades. He noted the college’s emphasis on “classroom to laboratory to enterprise” learning, where students receive hands-on experience in real-world settings. The college is seen a continuation of the original vision of Edgar Helms.

One of the standout programs Jim mentioned was the HVAC training program, which has seen impressive success, with graduates earning competitive salaries. Jim also spoke about the School of Business, an online program designed to help Goodwill employees across the country gain expertise in retail operations. He shared aspirations to expand Helms College into a nationwide model, partnering with other Goodwill organizations.

Jim discussed future plans, including the Hand Up Campaign, which aims to raise \$20 million to support initiatives such as:

- The Excel Center: An adult high school in Macon that will help individuals over 21 earn their diplomas and transition into higher education or job training programs.
- Expansion of the School of Trades: Additional programs in fields such as electrical work and plumbing to meet workforce demands.
- A healthcare training center: Plans to establish a School of Health Services in Macon, including a clinic for hands-on medical training.
- An agritourism campus at Lake Oconee: A facility where students will receive training in agriculture, horticulture, and culinary arts.

Jim concluded by highlighting the broader economic and social impact of Goodwill, including the placement of 35,000 people into jobs over the last decade and the organization’s contributions to the local economy. He expressed optimism for the future, underscoring the importance of community support and partnerships in helping individuals achieve self-sufficiency. The members had good questions.

The raffle pot was up to \$1,678. Albert Reichert had the winning ticket, but the shy Queen of Clubs is still hiding in the deck! Next week the pot will be even higher.

President Danny reminded the board members of a short called meeting immediately following, then closed the meeting with the Four Way Test.

Rotary Speech Contest

The annual Rotary Speech Contest, sponsored by the three Macon Rotary clubs, was held March 8 at Middle Georgia State University. Seven students had registered for the competition, and four competed for two scholarships. The winners are:

First Place: Asa Scott, Tattnall Square Academy

Second Place: Tannya Sah, Westside High School

Third Place: Elijah ‘Eli’ Basa Jr., Homeschool



Donate to Rotary Foundation and CART

Club members can make donations to The Rotary Foundation or the CART Fund online line using credit cards or EFT. These can be made in memory of, honor of, or personal donations. They can be setup as recurring or one-time. These online donations qualify as a tax deduction (but ask your accountant). Follow these easy steps:

The Rotary Foundation: Go to <https://rotary.org/> If you have never signed in you will need to register so it credits your Paul Harris Fellow account and our club. You may need our District number 6920 and club number 4202. Once registered you can SIGN IN to MY ROTARY then click DONATE button in upper right. Check the area ANNUAL FUND, DISASTER RELIEF FUND, or POLIO PLUS to donate, then just follow easy steps to make payment.

CART FUND: <https://mycartfund.org/Login.cfm> follow the online instructions. You will need our **Club number 4202** and **District number 6920**. (This link requires logging in to DACdb. If you have trouble with that, use <https://mycartfund.org/NewUser.cfm> instead.) All donations to CART go to support cutting-edge research on Alzheimer's.

Approved Makeups-Family of Rotary Events:

**Reminder - Makeups can only be used two weeks before or after a missed meeting
(There are no meetings in December)**

Anytime	Rotary Project or Rotary Committee meeting
Anytime	Volunteer at Macon Volunteer Clinic
Anytime	Viewing of Monday meeting recorded on Zoom - See current or past <i>Throbs</i> link.

HOW TO MAKE UP MISSED MEETINGS

Please make up missed meetings to help our club's attendance percentage rank with District 6920 and Rotary International. **Members are encouraged to maintain an attendance average of 60%.**

Missed meetings must be made up **14 days before or after the meeting you miss.**

See list above of approved makeups. You can make up from the comfort of your home or office online at <http://rotaryclubone.org/>. They will email a notice of the makeup to the Club Administrator and you will be credited. Also, attendance at another Rotary Club is a great option when you are traveling!

When you make up using the **Zoom link** of our meetings listed in meeting summary above or makeup in person at another club please send an email immediately afterwards to the Club Administrator, steve@eggmedia.com so your makeup can be recorded. Do not expect the club you visit to report to our club.

Excused Absences

Members have the opportunity to receive a board approved Excused Absence during a long-term family, health, or business crisis. When a member realizes they have a situation that will keep them from attending Monday meetings for an extended period they can contact the Club Administrator or President with the reason. This contact needs to be immediate and not after the crisis. The board can approve a beginning and ending date and attendance is excused on club and district level. Short term absences are best made up online.

Club Membership Applications

Our club continues to grow! To sponsor a prospective candidate to join our membership, contact Membership Chair Gene Dunwody gdunwodyjr@dunwodybeeland.com or any member of the Board of Directors to ensure a vocational classification is available for your candidate. Once the Classification Committee approves the classification, invite your new member candidate to a weekly meeting. If the candidate expresses interest in joining our club, then ask the Membership Chair to send the candidate an invitation to apply online. Applications are reviewed by the Board and then announced in Throbs, after which any member can express an objection.

Rotary Club of Macon
PO Box 4521, Macon, GA 31208
maconrotary.com
Steve Allen, Club Administrator
steve@maconrotary.com