



Rotary



The Rotary Club of Macon

 **THROBS**

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March 24, 2025

Unified Defense/Prince Service & Manufacturing

Unified Defense and Prince Service & Manufacturing may not be household names, but these companies contribute significantly to the Middle Georgia economy. Since opening in 2016, Unified Defense has doubled its revenue each year and grown from five to over 220 employees. Eric Williams, owner and CEO, was named 2024 Small Business Person of the Year for Georgia by the U.S. Small Business Association.



Learn more about Eric and his companies when he addresses our club March 24.

Link for Zoom Recording

Click here to view the recording of our March 17 meeting: <https://tinyurl.com/258hanhc>

FUTURE MONDAY PROGRAMS AND CLUB EVENTS:

March, 2025

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 at Otis Redding Center for the Arts – 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

Your Board has approved the membership applications of Wimberly Treadwell, who would hold the classification of Landscape Architecture, and DeWayne Cuffie, who would be CFO/Goodwill.

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

MEETING March 17, 2025

Attendance: 55.5% - 62 in person, 14 Zoom, plus 5 guests

CART \$12, Raffle \$160

Club Membership: 151

President Danny Gibson rang the bell to start the meeting. Danny noted that today is St. Patrick's Day, and he asked how many members were sure they had Irish heritage. In keeping with the occasion, Jonathan Alderman led the members in singing *Danny Boy*, and provided an interesting historical background. The song was written by an English lawyer, Frederick Weatherly, and was later set to an old Irish folk tune known as "Londonderry Air" after being suggested by Weatherly's sister-in-law, who had migrated to the United States. The song was a big hit during WWI. (Jonathan's explanation included many other interesting tidbits, see the Zoom recording if you missed it.)

Jonathan also mentioned an Irish phrase, "a Danny boy," which refers to a warm, trustworthy person. He then led the members in the *Pledge of Allegiance*, and Kathryn Dennis offered the prayer.

After the song, pledge and prayer, President Danny thanked Jackie Riley for being to play whatever the members brought to her. He shared reflections on St. Patrick's life, emphasizing his journey from being kidnapped and enslaved to returning to Ireland as a missionary. He drew parallels between St. Patrick's influence and Rotary's global impact, which started in Chicago and has since spread worldwide.

Past President and District Governor Albert Reichert then came to the stage, along with Milton Heard, to acknowledge Milton's recent honor from GRSP, the Georgia Rotary Student Program. GRSP was founded in 1946 by past District Governor Will Watt in Thomasville, Georgia. It was right after World War II, and with the world trying to recover, he thought it would be good to do something to bring peace through understanding.

Albert detailed Milton's long-standing contributions, including serving as a trustee since 2011, hosting international students, and playing a crucial role in student selection and mentorship. Albert then read a special resolution from the GRSP, naming him a Trustee Emeritus for his exemplary service.

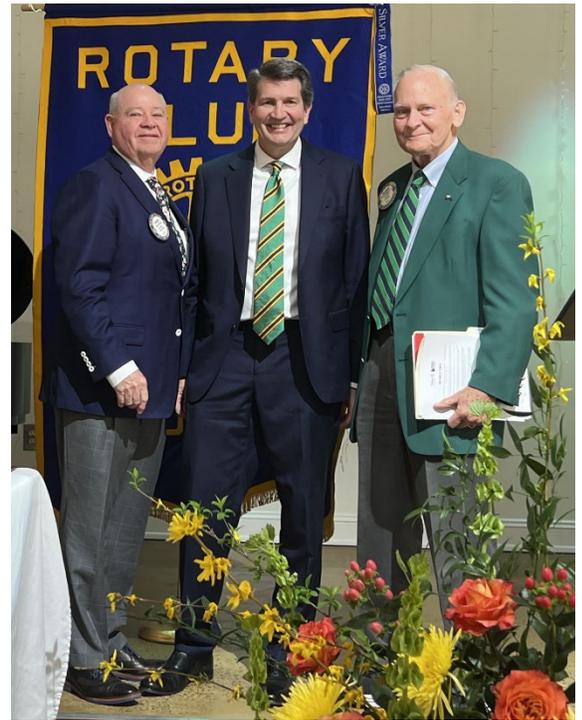
After acknowledging guests, President Danny called on Principal Tiffany Lewis of the VIP Academy to introduce her STAR student, Reginald Dixon. She said this is Reginald's second year attending VIP Academy, which is our virtual school for the district grades six through 12. "He has earned his barbering certificate through our dual enrollment program, all while working a full-time job at Kumo Tire. He also has his own business as a streetwear and designer, and has done all this while maintaining a high GPA."

Reginald said he plans to attend Kennesaw State University, majoring in Construction Management with a minor in Business, and aspires to reinvest in Macon's community through real estate and charitable initiatives. He acknowledged many people who had been instrumental; in his life, including his kindergarten teacher.

President Danny then acknowledged members with upcoming birthdays and club anniversaries. Lee Gerdes celebrates his birthday March 17, followed by Chris Blair on the 18th. Karla Redding-Andrews and Malcolm Burgess share a birthday on the 20th, Chris Edwards' is the 21st and Susannah Maddux's is the 22nd.

No members celebrate club anniversaries this week, but Danny said we will have a lot to recognize next week.

Club announcements followed. Danny asked us to keep Malcolm Burgess, Don Wood and Mac Minton in our thoughts and prayers as they confront health challenges. Malcolm is being honored by the Museum of Aviation on April 7, from 7:30am at Idle Hour Club. Also on April 7 is our joint meeting with the other clubs, and the speaker will be Chancellor and former Governor Sonny Purdue. Our Spring Picnic will be May 5, at the new Otis Redding Center for the Arts. Our Membership and Social Chair Gene Dunwody has been working hard to give us a Cinco de Mayo party to remember.



CART brags followed and we had some good ones, along with donations to benefit Alzheimer's research.

Club Assembly: President Danny then convened the Club Assembly and asked the members to have a conversation at their tables to consider two questions. First, would you be in favor of adding additional meetings next year even if it might lead to a small increase in dues? If so, how many meetings should be added?

Secondly, please provide one suggestion that would enhance the member Rotary experience, this could be something we could begin doing, or something we should stop.

The directors will meet tomorrow night and look forward to being able to take a look at what you come up with. Zoom participants should send their suggestions to danny.gibson@metropower.com.

The members had some lively discussions, and many stayed well past the usual ending time.



The raffle pot was up to \$1,828 with only 10 cards in the deck! Roscoe Sandlin, who was just inducted into the club last month, had the winning ticket but that's where his beginner's luck ended. Amazingly, the Queen of Clubs is still hiding in the deck! Next week the pot will be around \$2,000.

As usual, the meeting closed with the Four Way Test.

Your Club Administrator thanks Katy Carr for taking pictures in his absence.

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.

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