

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA ROTALIGHT

*Putting "Service Above Self" in Marietta Since 1919*

## Marietta Rotary SUPPORTS LOCAL YOUTH ORGANIZATION

# YELLS

Youth Empowerment through  
Learning, Leading and Serving



**ROTARY  
SERVING  
HUMANITY**



[mariettarotary.org](http://mariettarotary.org)

*January 11, 2017  
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# Marietta Rotary 'Crutches For Africa' Project



## Crutches4Africa

Crutches4Africa is program that was started by David Talbot, a member of the Mountain Foothills Rotary Club in Colorado, who is a polio survivor.

Through his work in Africa in 2005, David was exposed to the incredible suffering and deprivation of disabled individuals who have no access to the mobility devices that Americans are sending to the landfills every day. He decided then to make it his life's work to rectify that situation by collecting these surplus crutches, canes, walkers and wheelchairs and shipping them to the countries where they are so sorely needed. We are very fortunate here in Atlanta to be able to serve as a collection and shipping point for these items as they move by truck to Savannah and then overseas.

*~ Richard Cope  
~Photos by Jim Fausett,  
James Eubanks*





# WHEN WE LAST MET

Minutes from the January 4 Meeting

It was a cool and windy day in Marietta.....attendance at the regular meeting of the club was moderate to good. The usual number of lawyers and clergy were present.

Past President **James Eubanks** was sporting his winter time beard.....which is coming in nicely.

12:15 PM – Judge/President **Reuben Green** called the meeting to order with the rap of his gavel. He welcomed everyone and said something funny. Everyone laughed.

The invocation was given by **Marla Blackstone**.....in addition to her numerous other professions, Marla could easily add “Preacher” to her list of skills and abilities. Well done.



LAURA KEEFE

The guests and visiting Rotarians were introduced by **Deborah Marshall**. She asked **Richard Cope** to come up to introduce his special guest which included a representative from the US embassy in Kenya. His other three guests were here from the town in Kenya that is the recipient of the crutches and wheelchairs collected and shipped by Richard and others in our club. It was noted that over 3000 people will have their lives changed as a result of this effort. Great work by Richard and those in the club who have assisted him.



The Speaker was introduced by our dashing President Elect, **Caitlyn Cooper**..... although brief, it was comprehensive.



The speaker was Laura Keefe.....a former student and teacher at Marietta High school. Laura told the club about a non-profit she runs called YELLS. She had a PowerPoint presentation as well. The goal of the organization is to help folks living on Franklin Gateway, f/k/a Franklin Road. The key aspects of the youth led program include: after school tutoring, mentoring, leadership training, and life



skills training. Laura was enthusiastic, and her stated record of success was very impressive.

There were two teenagers who participated in the program in attendance.....although I did not capture either of their last names, I did get their first names.....his name was Zakia and her name was Courtney....my apologies to them and the club for not getting their full names. They were both impressive and seemed to genuinely love the program. They explained how it benefited them personally and how it helps others. Well done.

A few club members asked questions.....and Laura answered them.

Judge Green thanked our speaker and then presented her with a check for \$10,000.....which she appreciated only slightly more than the caricature that she received for being our speaker.

Deborah Marshall was given triple duty as she was asked to lead the pledge and the four way test in addition to introducing the guests and visitors. She remembered all of her lines and will likely be asked to do this again given her demonstrated abilities.

The food was plentiful and generally good, but not worthy of any further discussion. It was noted that beer would be served at next week's meeting.....

A good time was had by all.

Sincerely,  
Mitch Rhoden, Scribe

~Photos by James Eubanks

# UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>Thursday, January 12, 2017</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>MUST Ministries Lunch Service</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 18, 2017</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>	<b>Luncheon Meeting - Ross Mason</b>
<b>Wednesday, January 25, 2017</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>	<b>Luncheon Meeting - Janice McKenzie-Crayton; Big Brothers/Big Sisters</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 1, 2017</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>	<b>Luncheon Meeting - TBA</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 8, 2017</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>	<b>Doc Schneider - King &amp; Spalding</b>
<b>Thursday, February 9, 2017</b>	<b>10:30 AM</b>	<b>MUST Ministries Lunch Service</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 15, 2017</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>	<b>Luncheon Meeting - Communities in Schools of Marietta/Cobb County</b>
<b>Wednesday, February 22, 2017</b>	<b>12:15 PM</b>	<b>Luncheon Meeting - Brett Bartlett An Overview of the Pending Wage &amp; Overtime Changes</b>

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**[mariettarotary.org](http://mariettarotary.org)**

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