

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA  
**ROTALIGHT**

*Celebrating 100 Years of "Service Above Self"*

*October 30, 2019 • Volume 83, Number 15*



**TODAY'S HONORED SPEAKER**

**Grant Rivera**

**Superintendent**

**Marietta City Schools**

**Rotary**  
Club of Marietta



**ROTARY  
CONNECTS  
THE WORLD**



# TODAY'S SPEAKER: Grant Rivera

## Superintendent, Marietta City Schools



**Dr. Grant Rivera** is committed to serving every child and supporting every family. He believes great schools and communities are built on the combined strength of talented educators and an engaged community. He serves as the Superintendent of Marietta City Schools, the 13th superintendent since 1892, leading the district's 12 schools, approximately 8,900 students and 1,400 employees. Prior to leading Marietta City Schools, he served as the Chief of Staff for the Cobb County School District, which has 112 schools and over 111,000 students. He was a principal for nine years at three high schools: South Cobb High School in Austell (2005-2009), Campbell High School in Smyrna (2009-2011), and Westlake High School in South Fulton County (2011-2014). Prior to being appointed principal, Grant held positions as a high school assistant principal, special education teacher, and coach in the Cobb County School District.

Grant received his bachelor's degree in education and social policy from Northwestern University and a master's degree in special education from the University of Alabama. He holds a Doctorate of Education from the University of Alabama, with an emphasis in school law, and is a Pahara Fellow of the Pahara Institute, a national nonprofit organization that is reimagining public education. Grant has been associated with numerous professional development activities in the area of school law, school law enforcement officer research, and special education law.

He also served as adjunct professor of educational law at the University of West Georgia. Grant has worked with school districts around the country as a consultant and practitioner for school improvement and family engagement. He serves on the executive boards of Sheltering Arms, Cobb and Douglas Public Health, Junior Achievement; is a member of the Kennesaw State University President's Advisory Board, the Leadership Council of Learn4Life, and the Board of Directors for Georgia's Charter System Foundation; and is actively engaged in raising funds and awareness of pediatric cancer. Grant and his wife, Jenn, have two daughters, Lauren and Reese.



Rotary Members tour CDC: (L-R) Joe and Jo DeSantis, DG Jim Squire and his wife Donna, Pres. Chris and ADG Mark Barbour

# MARIETTA ROTARY PARTICIPANTS IN MARIETTA READS!

## A Message from the Chair Don Barbour

Twenty-six Rotarians from the Rotary Club of Marietta visited all seven elementary schools in the Marietta City School system last week to read a book to all 39 second-grade classes as part of our Club's partnership with the MCS *Marietta Reads!* program. Our Club has partnered with Marietta City Schools and *Marietta Reads!* for fourteen years by reading a book to all second-grade classes in both the Fall and Spring of the school year. This wonderful service project provides the opportunity for our members to serve as role models to the students they read books to and also supports Rotary International's commitment to basic education and literacy.

Special thanks to many members who read multiple times during the week at more than one school. With Halloween fast approaching, many of the books we read this week had the October 31st theme, such as *Creepy Carrots*, *The Hallo-Wiener*, and *The Little Pumpkin: Love and Compassion*. The students were eager listeners with boundless energy and always have many comments and questions when we read to them. It is also nice when the entire class gives you high fives and hugs all around!

Our Rotarians once again demonstrated why it is so important to participate in this project – to promote reading as part of a lifelong learning journey and to show that we care about our community and our children's education and future!

Thanks to all of our members who participated in *Marietta Reads!* this Fall.

### ***BY THE NUMBERS***

*Rotarians Reading: 26*

*Classes read to: 39*

*Second Graders' benefiting: 819*

## The READERS

### A.L. BURRUSS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Joe DeSantis  
Doug Haynie  
Don Barbour  
Dale Covington  
Tom Downs

### PARK STREET ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Tom Downs  
Jennifer Nelson  
Mark Barbour  
Chris Bethel  
Dale Covington

### WEST SIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Warren Gordon  
Don Barbour  
Abbott Hall  
Kelly Maxwell  
Julie O'Meara

### LOCKHEED ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Morgan Roberson  
Neera Bahl  
Deborah Marshall  
Tyler Stephens  
Dale Covington  
Harold Hobbs

### DUNLEITH ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Harold Hobbs  
Don Barbour  
Jim Speed  
Dale Covington  
Jennifer Nelson  
Mark Wright

### HICKORY HILLS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Chris Mitchell  
Holly Walquist  
Dan Kirk

### SAWYER ROAD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Phil Knight  
Becky Sawyer  
Lee Pence  
Julie O'Meara  
Mark Barbour  
Jesse Evans

# A. L. BURRUSS



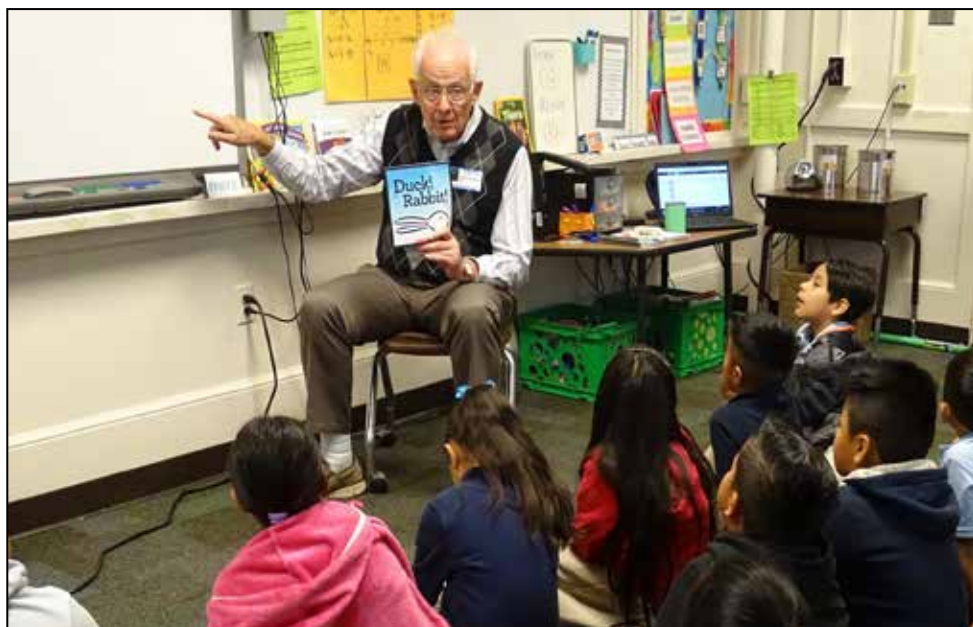
A. L. Burruss Readers: (L-R) Doug Haynie, Don Barbour, Joe DeSantis, Tom Downs and Dale Covington



# PARK STREET



Park Street Readers: (L-R) Dale Covington, President Chris, Jennifer Nelson, Mark Barbour, and Tom Downs



# HICKORY HILLS



Hickory Hills Readers: (L-R) Dan Kirk, Holly Walquist, and Chris Mitchall



# DUNLEITH



Dunleith Readers: (L-R) Harold Hobbs, Don Barbour, Mark Wright, Jim Speed and Jennifer Nelson



# WEST SIDE



West Side Readers: (L-R) Julie O'Meara, Warren Gordon, Abbott Hall, Kelly Maxwell, Don Barbour, Dr. Christina Wagoner, Principal





# SAWYER ROAD



Sawyer Road Readers: (L-R) Lee Pence, Mark Barbour, Julie O'Meara, Don Barbour, Jesse Evans and Becky Sawyer  
Phil Knight (not pictured)



# LOCKHEED



Lockheed Readers: (L-R) Morgan Robertson, Tyler Stephens, Neera Bahl, Deborah Marshall, and Harold Hobbs



# WHEN WE LAST MET

## Minutes from the October 24 Meeting

Today was a fine day for our Kiwanis/Rotary program, joining our Kiwanis brethren in fellowship and breaking bread. While we enjoy ribbing each other and the spirit of competition between the Rotary Club of Marietta and the Kiwanis Club of Marietta is fierce, on days like today we put down our rivalries to celebrate the spirit of serving others. RCoM President **Chris Bethel** wished everyone a Happy World Polio Day. Rotary International has partnered with the Gates Foundation, and ending polio is one of our signature programs. Nigeria is currently under certification for being three years Polio clean. That leaves two countries left. Hopefully during our lifetime Polio will be eradicated. President Chris also remarked about the 100th Anniversary of the chartering of the Rotary Club of Marietta and we celebrated in style last Saturday evening! We were fortunate to have Kiwanis President Debbie McCracken and her husband in attendance representing Kiwanis at our milestone event. President Chris said that he and President Debbie agreed that we should have more of these joint meetings during the year, hopefully a total of four (4) joint meetings. As a surprise, President Debbie presented President Chris with a check for \$250.00 to our Rotary Club Foundation in honor of our 100th Anniversary.

On the podium with President Chris is PE **Mary Ansley Southerland** and our ADG, Reverend Dr. **Mark Barbour** who led us in the invocation. The announcements came next, and there were a lot of them as the season gets busier each day. In honor of World Polio Day there will



Rotary President Chris Bethel with a check for \$250 for the Marietta Rotary Foundation Fund that was presented by Kiwanis President Debbie McCracken



DEA Special Agent Chuvalo Trusdell

be a reception at the CDC tonight. Kicking off our 100th Anniversary Literacy Project, on Monday, November 4th we will hold an event called Gin and Phonics at Kouzina Christos from 5-7 PM. Because of the Brave will be held on Saturday November 9, 2019 at 7 PM at the Marietta Country Club. Bringing the Heat Chili Cook-Off will be held at the Jim R. Miller Pavilion on November 14th 4:30 – 9:00 PM. Fireside Chat Monday November 18, 2019, 6:30 – 8PM, 1590 Gilbert Rd. and last but not least, please sign up for Marietta Reads.

Kiwanis Past President Bobby Tharpe introduced our speaker Special Agent Chuvalo Trusdell of the DEA. He was an exceptional speaker and enlightened us on the current state of drug abuse in our country. Many attending were shocked to learn that Atlanta is the capital of the Mexican Cartel drug operations in the United States. We attained this dubious honor after law enforcement effectively shut down the Miami drug operations. Our speaker also told us that street drugs are cut with all kinds of materials, including fentanyl, which can be deadly if touched, ingested or inhaled. He also chimed in on the dangers of vaping, which is currently not under the watch of the DEA. You can go to [DEA.GOV](http://DEA.GOV) to double click on the hyperlink “Just Get Smart About Drugs” for some additional public training and knowledge. Public awareness and education is very important in combating illegal drugs. In closing, he offered to speak at events, meetings and schools to get the word out on how deadly and pervasive that drug abuse is in our country.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Chris Bethel. The bell was struck and that ended another successful joint meeting with our Kiwanis friends.

~ Scribe, *Deborah Marshall*  
~ Photos, *Dale Covington*

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, November 6, 2019	12:15 PM	Jennifer Brett, Senior Journalist AJC "Triumphs and Tragedies"
Wednesday, November 13, 2019	12:15 PM	Dr. Avril Beckford, Chief Pediatric Officer Wellstar Health System
Thursday, November 14, 2019	10:30 AM	<b>MUST Ministries - Cook &amp; Serve</b>
Wednesday, November 20, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – William J. de St. Aubin
Wednesday, November 27, 2019		No Meeting – Happy Thanksgiving
Wednesday, December 4, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Lt. Jose Valentin "Today's Salvation Army"
Wednesday, December 11, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – TBD
Thursday, December 12, 2019	10:30 AM	<b>MUST Ministries - Cook &amp; Serve</b> "Holiday Lunch"
Thursday, December 19, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Joint Meeting Kiwanis "Annual Christmas Meeting:"

## MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

### CLUB OFFICERS 2019-20 Christopher Bethel, *President*

Mary Ansley Southerland, *President Elect*  
Marla Blackstone, *Co-Secretary*  
[marla@skeltonblackstone.com](mailto:marla@skeltonblackstone.com)

Jeff Cooper, *Co-Secretary*  
Brad Leskoven, *Treasurer*  
Reuben Green, *Presidential Advisor*

#### DIRECTORS

Joseph Atkins, *Administration*  
Tyler Stephens, *Service*  
Kelly Maxwell, *Membership*  
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Brooke Cohen, *Foundation*

Meeting makeups may be emailed to:  
[jeff.cooper@wellstar.org](mailto:jeff.cooper@wellstar.org)

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



## THE ROTALIGHT FOUNDED AUGUST 25, 1937

*Published Weekly by*

The Rotary Club of Marietta  
Post Office Box 711, Marietta, Georgia 30061

#### ROTALIGHT STAFF

Deborah Marshall, *Editor*

Joseph Atkins  
Mark Barbour  
Marla Blackstone  
Chuck Boring  
Dale Covington

Warren Gordon  
Abbott Hall  
Jim Peeler  
Marlys Williams

*We welcome and encourage all contributions.  
Send articles, photographs and editorials to:*  
[Deborah.Marshall@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Deborah.Marshall@uss.salvationarmy.org)

## DISTRICT 6900

Jim Squire, *District Governor*  
Mark Barbour, *Assistant District Governor*  
[mmlbarbour@bellsouth.net](mailto:mmlbarbour@bellsouth.net)

[www.rotary6900.org](http://www.rotary6900.org)

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Mark Daniel Maloney  
*President*

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