

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](https://www.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