



THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA

Rotalight

Celebrating 105 Years of "Service Above Self"



Today's Program - Don Barbour
Marietta Rotary Club President 2024 - 25



THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY



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Marietta Hilton
12:00 P.M.

PRESIDENTS' NIGHT 2024

by Mark Barbour

On this moisture saturated, sultry, sweltering summertime Marietta, Georgia Thursday evening in the month of June, in the year of our Lord, two-thousand-twenty-four, sixty-two members, guests, and visitors of the longest-serving civic organization in Cobb County made their way across the ever so crowded Marietta Square in avid anticipation of participating in a cheerful, celebrational gathering planned in honor of **Jeff Cooper's** phenomenal year as President of The Rotary Club of Marietta. What a commendable stellar Rotary Year this has been!

Again, as noted last year, our meeting place, the upstairs room of Mac's Chop House accommodating our President's Night jovial jollification is in fact the former locality of the Marietta YWCA. In this very beautiful, bright room overlooking the historic Marietta Square, the Rotary Club of Marietta held lunchtime meetings for many, many years! What a serendipitous experience! Gathering this night where our yesteryear Rotary Brothers and Sisters once met, led by Marietta's finest, leading citizenry! Being in this 'Upper Room' certainly makes this celebration evocatively reflective! Recalling those Rotary Club of Marietta Servant-Leaders who have gone before us, who were once in this room lunching and planning and selflessly serving our community is a powerful reminiscence!

Our happy cocktail hour reception, with tasty hors d'oeuvres, beginning at 5:30 pm, ended with our effusive, extraordinary President's 'Call To Order and Welcome' at approximately fifteen minutes past the six o'clock hour.

Thereafter, following the ingesting of our bountiful taste-bud-culinary-comestibles, President Jeff initiated our President's Night festivities and formalities with the recognition of all Rotary Club of Marietta Past Presidents. All previous Club Presidents were called out and called on to stand and thusly standing, received a rousing ovation of appreciative applause. Then President Jeff, 'stage left', straightway got down to business presenting our Club Awards and Recognitions interspersed with heartfelt insights and reflections regarding our "Family of Rotary" cooperation and commitment that made his exceptional year as President memorable and successful.

Complimenting his accoladinal affirmations of our Club's cohesive competent consignment to Rotary's precepts and overall Club Membership's devotion to making this a stellar year, President Jeff rightfully made gratitudinal comments directed toward his dear family, who, of course, were in attendance to enjoy the night's festivities and show their love and support for their patriarch and for his year of exceptional leadership and service as our Club President. Attending were Jeff's beautiful wife, Tina, Jeff's daughter



PRESIDENT JEFF COOPER, OPENS THE MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB'S PRESIDENTS' NIGHT AT MAC'S CHOP HOUSE

Courtney – married to Marietta Rotarian **Josh Kopsie**, Jeff's son-in-law Seth, and Jeff's handsome, winsome grandson, Matt (who assisted his grandpa in distributing our yearly Club Awards).

Our Club Awards portion of President's Night 2024-25, began with the recognition of Club Members who have attained and maintained "Perfect Attendance." Recipients were: **John Knox** (52 years), **Jim Fausett** (52 years), **Lance Burchett** (32 years), **Mark Barbour** (12 years) **Don Barbour** (10 years), **Jeff Cooper** (8 years), **Marlys Williams** (7 years), **Teresa Jones** (4 years), **Jennifer Nelson** (3 years), **Mark Wright** (2 years), **Rosser Southerland** (2 years), **Irv Smith** (1 year), **Abbott Hall** (1 year), and **Joe Atkins** (1 year)

"Avenues of Service Awards" were presented to: **Teresa Hunter Jones**, **Deborah Marshall**, and **Sandeep Kapoor**. "Service Above Self Award" Recipients were: **Harold Hobbs**, **Irv Smith**, **Holly Walquist** and **Marlys Williams**. "Family of Rotary Award" members were: **Tina Cooper**, **Adam Hobbs**, and **Cissy Wilson**

"The Norman Shipley Award" was presented to **Abbott Hall**. "The Jimmy T. Anderson Award" recognition went to **Jacob Southerland**. Receiving "The Henry Hill Award" was **Will Allen**. "The Lamar Franklin Award" recipient was **Jennifer Nelson**. Then our Club's most prestigious, prominent acknowledgement, "The Rotarian of The Year Award", was presented to Jeff's President's Advisor, namely, yours truly, **Mark Barbour**! Needless to say, this Scribbler was humbly 'kerfluffed' by this recognition! To be "Rotarian of The Year" for 2024-25 is/was/will always be a tremendous high honor!

Then came forth our Club's "Theatrical Awards Team", Past President **Jennifer Nelson**, Club Executive Secretary **Marlys Williams**, and Club Officer, Treasurer **Mark Wright**, to recognize President Jeff's Oscar worthy work in the "Rotary District Theater" with replica Oscars presented to Jeff for "Best Rotarian Actor of The Year" and to Jeff's supportive wonderful wife Tina, who hands-down earned "The Best Rotary President's Wife Supporting Actor" Oscar! Thereafter, Mark Wright announced that anonymous Paul Harris Fellowship gifts had been given in honor of President Jeff's outstanding year which elevated our outgoing President to the Paul Harris "Ruby Level" Fellowship of Donors; and graciously our 2023-24 President assigned one of the gifted Paul Harris recognitions to his son-in-law, Josh Kopsie. A grand, gracious gesture indeed!

After our Club Awards were presented, a surprising "theatrical moment" occurred that made our President's Night all the more enjoyable and memorable. President Jeff, being the TOP-NOTCH Thespian noted far and wide for his theatrical accomplishments, sang a personalized version of Frank Sinatra's "My Way!" To be sure, a harmoniously vocalized marvelous touching rendition of brilliant creativity that captured the spirit of Jeff's innovative, inspirational acuity and love of our good and great Rotary Club!

The passing of the "Club Gavel", from soon-to-be Past President Jeff Cooper then took place with ceremonial chortling betwixt the "out-goer" and the "in-comer" with soon-to-be President **Don Barbour** detaining President Jeff to "pin" Jeff with the coveted diamond adorned "Past Club President's Rotary Cog emblem, and likewise then giving Jeff well-deserved Club gifts and commemorative plaques and other items to mark Jeff's excellent year of noteworthy accomplishment and achievement. . . particularly earning the District's "Runner-Up Club of The Year" recognition for our category! Thereafter, Jeff's 'adopted' Club father-figure/President's Advisor rendered forth recollections of advising and "raising" such a [stubborn] rowdy "son" to be "all he could be" as Club President... a good and glorious father-son duo!

Acclamations and appreciations were then offered by President Jeff to his 2023-2024 Officers and Board of Directors. Club Officers: Secretary **Michelle Miller**; Treasurer, **Mark Wright**; Asst Treasurer, **Teresa Jones**; Executive Secretary, **Marlys Williams**; R.I. Foundation, **Jennifer Nelson**; Public Image, **Darien Southerland**; Administration, **Joe Atkins**; Board of Directors: Membership, **Jenn Hogan**; Club Service, **Elizabeth Manning**; **Will Allen**, Golf Chair; President's Advisor, **Mark Barbour**

Further insightful, intuitive, appreciative personal remarks were given by President Jeff for the devotion and service of each Club Director and Board Officer during this past

Club year. Following the aforementioned well-deserving commendations, each Officer and Director were presented with a gift of appreciation, and an artist-created caricature.

Subsequently, President Jeff called Past President, and District 6900, Sheffield Award winner, Adele Grubbs to the podium along with incoming President Elect Don Barbour and all incoming, 2024-25 Officers and Board of Directors. After all the incoming Officers and Board of Directors were standing fast up front; with earnest, sincere solemnity, Past President Grubbs inducted our NEW CLUB PRESIDENT Don Barbour and his Officers and Board of Directors.

The new slate of 2024-25 Club Servant-Leaders are as follows: Director of Golf Tournament - **Will Allen**; President Elect - **Marla Blackstone**; President - **Don Barbour**; Presidential Advisor - **Mark Barbour**, Public Image Director - **Kim Carroll**; Past President - **Jeff Cooper**; Director of Administration - **Cliff Kelker**; Membership Director - **Josh Kopsie**; Director of Service - **Elizabeth Manning**; Assistant Treasurer - **Teresa Hunter Jones**; Secretary - **Michelle Miller**; Chairman MRFF - **Walt Walker**; Foundation Director - **Holly Walquist**; Executive Secretary - **Marlys Williams**; and Treasurer - **Mark Wright**.

Now duly sworn President Don, along with his incoming Officers and Board Members, graced the front of the Mac's Chop House's "Upper Room". A very fine cadre of committed Rotarians ready to lead the way in 2024-25, to become District 6900's CLUB OF THE YEAR under the capable leadership of President Don!

Our new Club President Don shared a few aspirational, inspirational remarks and then called on incoming Board Director **Cliff Kelker** to lead our customary recitation of our Rotary International "Four-Way Test of The Things we Think, Say, And Do" along with recitation of "The Pledge of Allegiance" to the Flag of our Nation. Thereafter and forthwith, Club President Don announced our 2023-24 President's Night gathering... ADJOURNED! Exciting days ahead for The Rotary Club of Marietta!

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 104th* ROTARY CLUB PRESIDENT (Brother) DON! Godspeed as we journey together into yet another remarkable Rotary Year! OUR 105th Year of "Service Above Self!"

"It's A Great Day To Be A Rotarian!"

Humbly Scribed by Scribbler Mark Barbour

Photographs by - Abbott Hall & Marlys Williams

*(remembering Past President Joe DeSantis' two-year Presidential Service)

Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick



Rotary Theme 2024-25:
**THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY**

There's magic as people unite to create sustainable change. Those actions have global, community, and personal impact. We've seen progress toward this vision since its adoption. We must continue to support our vision with strategies and goals reflecting what we've learned over the past few years.

Together, in 2024-2025, let's add 100,000 more members to our organization. Recruit new members and engage our current members with meaningful club experiences. Expand our North America innovative club advocate program globally for additional impact.

Together, let's help each other become more adept at digital innovation by inviting clubs to virtual 'chats' with Senior leaders and 7-minute virtual networking sessions. Relevant information is shared and members see how readily one can engage and 'connect' with Rotary leaders and each other. It also shows how adaptive our organization has become. Let's create a Rotary App. There's no better way to spread the word about Rotary and its causes and to allow members to engage with Rotary and support it by donating to The Rotary Foundation.

Together, let's encourage members to serve others through their vocations, education, and skillsets by establishing a mentoring and coaching program for Rotarians and Rotaractors.

Together, let's finally eradicate polio. The world relied on expertise in our Polio program to assist medical experts to reach isolated areas when COVID hit. Now let's get COVID experts on board to help individuals understand the relationship between vaccine and disease prevention, and to assist with the eradication final drive.

Together, let's extend continuity with our participants on programs that have proven results, including empowering girls, world leader meetings, and public-facing events. Success breeds success, and while members must embrace transformation in order to grow, building on accomplishments is a great motivator. Our power is our people.

Rotary District 6900 Governor Gordon Owens



On behalf of RI President Stephanie Urchick, Zone Director Patrick Eakes and our entire District 6900 leadership team, we wish you a happy new year! We look forward to helping your clubs create The Magic of Rotary with every project completed, every new member inducted and every dollar donated to support our foundation. As we move into the new year, remember the words of Paul Harris, "This is a changing world; we must be prepared to change with it. The story of Rotary will have to be written again and again." Today, along with our 1.2 million fellow Rotarians around the world, we begin to write the next chapter of our Rotary story. We can't wait to see the lasting impact you create in your communities and are proud to serve along side you this year.

Assistant District Governor Buck Buchanan



Buck Buchanan spent forty years in corporate America. Today he is an author, speaker, and a business consultant. He is also an active Rotarian. He joined the Rotary Club of Marietta Metro in 2017 and rose quickly through the ranks. During the 2022 to 2023 Rotary year, he served as the club's president and collected a number of District Awards including Club of the Year.

Buck lives in Marietta, GA. In his personal life, Buck has served as a deacon and elder in the First Presbyterian Church. He enjoys sports and traveling. Buck is married to his high school sweetheart, and they have three children and five grandchildren.

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT DON BARBOUR



My Fellow Rotarians:

It is my distinct honor and privilege to serve as our 104th Club President for the year July 2024 to June 2025. I pledge to you to lead our club with integrity and passion. Working with each of you, we will have a tremendous positive impact on our community.

Our new Rotary International theme for 2024-2025 is "The Magic of Rotary." This theme encapsulates the unique and transformative power of Rotary to create lasting change in our communities and around the world.

At the heart of our mission is the Rotary motto, "Service Above Self." This guiding principle challenges each of us to put the needs of others before our own and to serve our communities with compassion and dedication. It is this spirit of selflessness that enables us to make a meaningful impact and show the world the true Magic of Rotary.

Working with our District and Club leadership, we have established a set of priorities and goals for the new year that fall into four categories, as follows:

- Enhance member engagement through service project and leadership development participation.
- Increase our impact through RI Foundation and Polio Plus contributions.
- Expand our reach by attracting and engaging new members.
- Increase our ability to adapt by telling our story and effectively using social media.

We will discuss our priorities and goals in more detail during our upcoming Club meetings. I encourage each member to find your passion in Rotary. I found mine initially through our wonderful Literacy project, Marietta Reads. We will have many opportunities for service, volunteerism and giving back.

Let us remember that the magic of Rotary lies in our shared commitment to "Service Above Self" and our adherence to the 4-Way Test. I am looking forward to a great year!

Thank you!

Don Barbour

PRESIDENTS' NIGHT 2024-25

Presidents' Night June 27, 2024 Mac's Chop House on the Square

The Rotary Club of Marietta and the family of Rotary convened in the upstairs' dining space of Mac's Chop House, which was formerly the YWCA and Schillings Hardware, and the prior meeting venue for Marietta Rotary meetings, to celebrate Presidents' Night honoring past and current presidents of the club, commemorate current members for service, and to celebrate the club's accomplishments this year, then kicking off this 105th year from 2024 – 2025 of the Rotary Club of Marietta.

Led by the leadership and boundless energy of President Jeff Cooper this year, the 104th year, in 2023 -2024, the club proudly returned from District Conference with numerous awards, not the least of which was Runner-Up Club of the Year for District 6900. Don Barbour will assume the reins for the 105th year from 2024 – 2025, and has established all-embracing goals, formulated plans, developed strategies, and tactics to progress the club from Runner-Up Club to The Club of the Year for District 6900 in 2024 - 2025.

A record number of members, families, and friends were in attendance in the jam packed room, totaling 62. There were a variety of options for the meal, service was excellent, and the entire meal was served on crisp, white tablecloths – a superb dining experience for one and all.



PRESIDENTS' NIGHT 2024-25



AWARD PRESENTATIONS



AWARD PRESENTATIONS

PERFECT ATTENDANCE 2023-24



- Jim Fausett – 52 Years**
- John Knox – 52 Years**
- Lance Burchett – 32 Years**
- Mark Barbour – 12 Years**
- Don Barbour – 10 Years**
- Jeff Cooper – 8 Years**
- Marlys Williams – 7 Years**
- Teresa Jones – 4 Years**
- Jennifer Nelson – 3 Years**
- Mark Wright – 2 Years**
- Rosser Southerland – 2 Years**
- Irv Smith – 1 Year**
- Abbott Hall – 1 Year**
- Joe Atkins – 1 Year**



AWARD PRESENTATIONS



Avenues of Service

Deborah Marshall

Teresa Jones

Sandeep Kapoor

Service Above Self

Marlys Williams

Harold Hobbs

Irv Smith

Holly Walquist



Family of Rotary

Adam Hobbs

Tina Cooper

Cissy Wilson

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Henry Hill Award

Given to the Rotary member who really steps in to save the day at the last minute.



Given to the Rotarian who really steps in to save the day at the last minute and demonstrates absolute dedication to the club.

Will continues to provide valuable leadership to our club after recently serving as club president. He willingly agreed to be our golf chair again and led our club to have the most successful tournament in recent years.

**Awarded to
Will Allen**

The Lamar Franklin Award

To be awarded to past Club Presidents, Board members and/or Officers for their continued exemplary commitment and service



To be awarded to past Club Presidents, Board members, and/or Officers for their continued exemplary commitment and service.

Jennifer exemplifies the true spirit of Rotary through her continued service to our club. As immediate past president, she volunteered to serve as Foundation Chair and was a tremendous support to me throughout the year!

**Awarded to
Jennifer Nelson**

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Norman Shipley Award

Given to the individual exemplifying the ideal of service above self in the workplace and the community.



Given to the individual exemplifying the ideal of Service above Self in the workplace and in the community

Abbott works tirelessly behind the scenes to ensure our club has a best-in-class newsletter. He works almost every weekend to produce the Rotalight, exemplifying service above self, and eagerly supported every request I had for his support during the year!

**Awarded to
Abbott Hall**

Jimmy T. Anderson Award

Given to an outstanding Rotarian who has been in the club less than five years



Given to an outstanding Rotarian who has been in the club less than five years and shows great leadership potential

Jacob has been an excellent addition to our club and a great example of the importance of Family of Rotary and Future Generations. He participates regularly, actively recruits new members, and showed incredible leadership during our Amplifying Rotary video project.

**Awarded to
Jacob Southerland**

ROTARIAN OF THE YEAR 2024

Mark Barbour



I've said to the club, in jest, "to be careful what you ask for" when talking about selecting Mark as my President's Advisor. Well, let me tell you that I got everything I asked for and a whole lot more. Not only did he advise me and guide me, but he followed me, worked beside me, and gave tirelessly in our quest to Amplify Rotary to our community. Mark is passionate about Rotary and was one of my biggest supporters throughout the year!

~Jeff Cooper, President 2023-24

See next Week's Rotalight for more about Rotarian of the Year Mark Barbour



THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA

Officers and Directors 2023 - 24



WHEN WE LAST MET

MINUTES FROM THE JUNE 19 MEETING

For the last gathering of his Presidency of the Rotary Club of Marietta, **Jeff Cooper** emphatically gaveled the bell, calling the meeting to order, greeting those gathered with a resounding hello, and receiving a vigorous much-louder-than-normal response from the room in return.

He calls upon Rev. Dr. **Mark Barbour** to deliver today's invocation. Reverend Mark expresses gratitude for this meeting and praises President Jeff for his hard work and leadership resulting in a very rewarding year, lifting the Rotary Club of Marietta up to Runner-Up "Club of the Year" and bringing home several honors and awards from District 6900. It has been many years since RCoM has been in this winner's circle from Rotary International and District 6900.

Jeff opens by announcing today is Juneteenth commemorating the end of slavery in the United States. The name "Juneteenth" references the date of the holiday, combining the words "June" and "nineteenth." On June 30 several Rotarians observe anniversaries. They are **Don Barbour** (17), **Bill Dunaway** (60), **Chief Dan Flynn** (17), **Irv Smith** (18), and **Holly Walquist** (17). Jeff reminds everyone to please RSVP to Presidents' Night being held at Mac's Chop House on the square, utilizing the link in his email for Sign-Up Genius. On Tuesday, June 25, there is an event at Girls, Inc. from 7:30 am – 9:30 am at Hunt House. Please communicate with Jeff or PE **Don Barbour** if you are able to attend. Additionally Jeff proclaimed **Jim Smith** as "Rotarian in the Spotlight" this week with an article featured on another page in the Rotalight. Jeff invites **Elizabeth Manning** to introduce guests and visitors.

On behalf of the club Elizabeth welcomes the mayor of Marietta, Steve "Thunder" Tumlin, in the audience today, as a guest of **Lee Pence**. North Cobb Rotarian, Dan Kirk, is always a welcome addition to any Rotary meeting. Kay Peninger from Kennesaw State University is joining us today at the suggestion of **Jim Fausett** and **Lance Burchett** and is a potential member, who has relocated to Marietta, and formerly was a member of the Gastonia, NC and Charlotte, NC Rotary Clubs. Abbie Alexander, CPA from Nichols, Cauley CPAs is a guest of **Tom Downs**. Christian Zeigler is welcomed as a returning guest and prospective member.

Jill Case-Wirth opened the floor for Sunshine. **Mark Wright** stands to read his grandfather's favorite poem, "The Bridge Builder." Confidence and hard work are the major themes of this beautiful literary piece. The poem gives the message of unselfishness and generosity and is written by Will Allen Dromgoole. He comments there is lots to be said for a "bridge builder" with good parents. **Irv Smith** proudly announces his youngest daughter, Bianca Smith, is now the Assistant Basketball Coach at the



GUEST SPEAKER DR. ROGER TUTTEROW

University of Colorado. Jill expressed thanks and gratitude for the gift of Jeff's leadership this year. **Ralph Knight** is celebrating 53 years of marriage to wife, Kathy. **Mark Barbour** announced he is forming a Jeff Cooper Fan Club. Jeff has one more weekend as President and has earned a well-deserved break and vacation; however, will continue serving on the Board as Past President assisting the new President.

PE **Don Barbour** reminded Board Members there is a meeting for the new Board on Friday, June 21 at Dave Poe's BBQ at 11:30 am. There have been requests for "Corporate Memberships"; therefore, an application is being drafted and presented to the Board for approval.

Megan McNeel Walter has achieved "Blue Badge" status, and Jeff presents her with a shiny, permanent blue badge, trading in the "red" one. She is officially a multi-generational Marietta Rotarian.

Joe Atkins rises to introduce today's renowned speaker, Dr. Roger Tutterow, Kennesaw State Professor of Economics where he holds the Henssler Financial Endowed Chair. A Georgia native, he holds a B.S. in Decision Science from Berry College, a Master's Degree and PhD in Economics from Georgia State University. He has served on the Council of Economic Advisors under three governors, additionally serving on many boards. He was selected by Georgia Trend Magazine as a "Notable Georgian." He has held faculty and administrative appointments at West Virginia University, Georgia State University and Mercer University, also serving as a visiting professor at the University of the West Indies in Trinidad, and at the Institute for Industrial Policy Studies in Seoul, South Korea. He is here today to provide an update on a variety of current affairs.

Dr. Tutterow announces he celebrates Juneteenth today, and is happy to be here with the mayor in attendance. Subsequently, he thanks Tom Downs and visitor, Abbie Alexander, for his tax returns. He declares that in 2023 there was no tax recession. GDP data is weaker this year. There is a weakness in the economy. Consumer spending got hit. In 2022 it was lower than ever and a source of concern. Consumer spending is down. There is 4% unemployment. The working people are responding to inflation. There is a tight labor market with rising prices taking strength out of the economy. If you back out inflation, performance is weak. During the pandemic there was a surge in savings of \$2.2 Trillion dollars. That is being drained down. Strong labor markets shore up income. Labor markets got hit. 7.7 million jobs were shed. It requires years to recover.



JEFF'S LAST MEETING AS PRESIDENT

Two million workers are currently looking for jobs. The Federal Reserve is thinking of cutting rates. There were two years when federal funds were at 0%. Prime rate is now 8 1/2%. When the rates are raised, it affects the economy. A soft landing to a 2% target is needed. Dr. Tutterow cautions all to pay no attention to the national media. There might be a rate reduction in September. Americans don't have long memories and became spoiled by low interest rates. Smart bankers worry about the 3% loans from 2022. Now these companies face 8 1/2% prime rate. Banks are having trouble continuing to service high interest rates. Bankers are having to pay more for deposits. Residential real estate is under supplied. To add to that, single family homes were not constructed creating an affordability issue. Mortgage rates went from 3% to 7%. Monthly house payments are up 110%. Governor Kemp is making an intensive effort to bring business here to Georgia, but workers won't come if they cannot afford housing.

The hotel business is back. Now people can travel for business. Office construction has not collapsed. There will be an office change due to work change which now allows many employees to work remotely from home. Shoppers now do the major portion of shopping online. There are administrative, managerial and IT jobs that can be done remotely, but many cannot, e.g., service, construction, transportation, and production jobs.

For a brief political prognostication, the primary battle will be in Congress, and it will be close. Margins are thin. The Speaker of the House has the lowest job security in America. In the Senate there are numerous Democrats up for re-election. There is a very good chance for the Republicans to regain control of the Senate. Dr. Tutterow closes and opens the floor for Q&A.

Q & A:

Irv Smith poses a question about the cause of inflation. Dr. Tutterow replies the Democrat's monetary policy is the direct cause of inflation in the economy. Chief **Dan**

Flynn asks how the national debt affects the economy. The cost required to serve the national debt is key and close to the tipping point currently. The basic dilemma is should more bonds need to be issued to serve the debt. Both parties are to blame for this debt. Politicians unfortunately imagined that taxes could be cut and the national debt not raised – refer to Economics 101. **Sandeep Kapoor** raises the question of skilled and unskilled workers. The workforce is shrinking. Sandeep is a product of "Legal Immigration." Today, no one wants to do unskilled labor work. The answer is immigration is socio-economic. Even Caesar Chavez was totally against undocumented workers. There is an urgent need to enforce "legal" immigration with a balance for security, which is fact based.

Dr. Tutterow closed his fact-filled, informative session by pointing out the world would be a better place if everyone lived by the Rotary 4-Way test.

Jacob Crowe proficiently managed the Opportunity Drawing. First number drawn was visiting guest of **Tom Downs**, Abbie Alexander, but no success on the first attempt. Abbie, miraculously, also held the second ticket number, and became the joyful winner of the pot for the week, displaying the red marble for all to see. **Lee Pence** closed with the Pledge and 4-Way Test.



ABBIE ALEXANDER, ON HER SECOND DRAW FINDS THE RED MARBLE. A HAPPY WINNER!

Jeff concluded his final club meeting as President, reminding everyone to attend Presidents' Night at Mac's Chop House on Thursday, June 27 from 5:30 pm – 8:30 pm. **Don Barbour** will preside over the next meeting occurring Wednesday, July 10, at the Hilton Conference Center as the new President of The Rotary Club of Marietta for 2024-2025.

*Scribe, Marlys Williams
Photos, Mark Barbour*

PICTURES FROM OUR LAST MEETING



JOE ATKINS, DR. TUTTEROW, MAYOR TUMLIN AND PRES. JEFF



MEGAN WALTER RECEIVES HER BLUE BADGE FROM PRES. JEFF



JOE ATKINS WITH GUEST KAY PENINGER

Member Spotlight Jim Smith



Jim Smith has been a mortgage originator for 22 years and is VP of Mortgage Lending at Certainty Home Lending serving Kennesaw, GA and Marietta, GA. He has assisted clients with over 3,000 mortgages, and is a graduate of Georgia Tech. He and Jeff Cooper became friends in high school and once again in college. He grew up in Atlanta and East Point. As a co-op student at Tech, his co-op job was with General Motors in Indianapolis, IN. After graduating, he worked in manufacturing management for 12 years; however, this was not his passion. He then moved to First Union Bank, and happened to bump into Jeff one day in the bank.

Jim is a relatively new Rotarian and formally became a member January 17, 2024. He remarks he is very glad for the career changes he made. He met his wife in Tampa, Florida, and they have 3 college-age children, one at KSU and one at Berry. His wife teaches 4-year olds at their church, and he feels very blessed for the past 22 years. He believes business success comes down to personal service for clients and thoroughly enjoys leading clients through the mortgage lending process.

Before Jim's Rotary application was filled out, submitted, or approved, Jim was actively volunteering for Rotary projects including the Children's Christmas party at Franklin Gateway, shopping for gifts at Walmart, preparing lunch with the MUST team at MUST Ministries, and volunteering for many other club projects prior to his formal induction into the club. He is a superb example of a service-above-self Rotarian and a welcome addition to The Rotary Club of Marietta.

Soft on Crime Policies Hurt Everyone

By Chief Dan Flynn (ret.)

Tuesday, June 11, 2024, was an extraordinarily dangerous day in Atlanta as two horrific violent incidents severely endangered the law-abiding public. In the first incident, a man, later learned to have an extensive history of committing violent crimes, entered the food court at Peachtree Center and shot three people. The shootings began when the suspect had a minor altercation with his first victim, then proceeded to shoot other victims with utter disregard for any passersby in the busy Peachtree Center. The violence only stopped when the shooter himself was shot by a courageous Atlanta police officer.



Shortly after the incident at Peachtree Center, there was an unrelated shooting in which a lone suspect allegedly shot and killed another man on an occupied bus. The suspect then pointed his gun at the bus driver and other passengers while he forced the driver at gunpoint to flee from the police. What followed was a wild chase through Metro-Atlanta. With a terrified driver and passengers aboard, the bus crashed into several other vehicles injuring an undisclosed number of victims and kept going until eventually police stopped it and took the suspect into custody.

As the dead and injured were being attended to by first responders, a news report revealed the dangerous shooter/hijacker had a criminal history including 19 prior arrests. With reckless disregard for the public, he never stopped to see if the victims he hurt were black or white, young or old, male or female, Democrat or Republican. His rage was directed at the general public. He had killed one person with a gun and injured numerous others with the speeding hijacked bus. It is noteworthy, he didn't spare anyone in his path. Violent career criminals just don't care.

Should it be a surprise that suspects with numerous prior arrests for violent crimes including one who was arrested 19 times, committed an outrageous series of crimes with reckless disregard for the lives of innocent bystanders. Not these days. Even if either shooting suspect was conceivably not guilty of some percentage of the crimes for which they were previously arrested, their repetitiveness and common sense tells us they were, by definition, violent career criminals. They were summarily released over and over by a criminal justice system with soft-on-crime policies as well as rouge district attorneys and judges who cared more about politics and ideology than public safety.

For both of Tuesday's horrific incidents, the public should mourn not only the innocent victims, but also the police officer who will be emotionally scarred for life because he had to neutralize a mad shooter who should not

have been out of jail in the first place. In both cases the police did their job by again apprehending the same dangerous suspects they had apprehended many times before.

Mayor Dickens did his job by calling for "proper sentencing in court" for the surviving suspect. Nevertheless, years of soft-on-crime policies in Atlanta and rogue or incompetent prosecutors and

Judges had set the stage for both mass incidents without a thought to the peril they were unleashing on the public. If something is predictable, it is preventable, and something like this was undoubtedly predictable.

In the aftermath, both the Mayor and Police Chief made fair assumptions that the shooters were suffering from some sort of mental illnesses, but there is nothing either of them can do about that. The real culpability lies with the chains of local elected officials, prosecutors and judges who could have prevented both incidents by doing their jobs honorably, placing their sworn duty of protecting the public first and foremost. They could have collectively prevented the repeated careless release of violent career criminal offenders and others like them back on to Atlanta's streets. Moreover, they should understand the public's life-safety needs are predominant over the offenders' social needs.

If we ever hope to return to a safe Atlanta where people can live, work and enjoy sports and entertainment, we need to stop demonizing the police, abandon identity politics and start electing responsible people to important positions in the criminal justice system. Voters should select candidates based on truthful public service achievements, competence and merit. Of course, candidates should be people who have a history of showing fairness, balance and respect everyone's constitutional rights. Nonetheless, they should be held to a standard of having a history of protecting the public while seeking justice for people of all races, creeds, colors and economic situations without fear or favor.

Mental health treatment, accountability courts and even compassion for deserving offenders are all important, but the criminal justice system must also have the capacity and ability to ferret out repeat violent offenders and put them behind bars for as long as the law will allow. They can't hurt innocent people if they are behind bars. Common sense and caring should apply.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 11, 2024	9 & 11:30	MUST Luncheon - Cook and Serve
Wednesday, July 17, 2024	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Craig Owens, Sheriff of Cobb County
Wednesday, July 24, 2024	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Sally Macaulay, Marietta-Cobb Museum of Art
Wednesday, July 31, 2024		No Luncheon Meeting. Fifth Wednesday Social 5 to 7 PM at the Glover Park Brewery, 65 Atlanta St SE, Marietta, GA 30060
Wednesday, August 7, 2024	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Suzanne Tucker, Georgia Symphony Orchestra
Thursday, August 8, 2024	9 & 11:30	MUST Luncheon - Cook and Serve
Wednesday, August 14, 2024	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Dr. Marvin Crumbs, Marietta High School Principal

MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

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