



THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA

Rotalight

Celebrating 105 Years of "Service Above Self"



Today's Program:
Bill White
Importance of
Estate Planning



January 8, 2025
Volume 88, Number 21

Marietta Hilton
12:00 P.M.

Today's Program: **Bill White**

William Woods White (Bill) works at William Woods White, P.C., in Marietta and has a general civil practice that encompasses estate planning and probate, trusts, estate litigation, will construction, and guardianships; Elder Law including Medicaid, choice of entity for business formations, entity formation, and ongoing representation of businesses, contracts with vendors and employees; civil litigation including personal injury, eminent domain, trade secrets, construction litigation including lien filings and foreclosures; surety bond claims; real estate agreements; closings and zoning matters; family law including prenuptial agreements and divorce; and tax law including preparation of complex returns. Bill served as a Special Assistant Attorney General for the State of Georgia and represented the State of Georgia Department of Transportation for over 20 years.

Bill is admitted to the Georgia Bar, the Georgia Court of Appeals; the Georgia Supreme Court, the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia and the Middle District of Georgia; and the U.S. Court of Appeals, Eleventh Circuit. He is a graduate of the University of Georgia (A.B., summa cum laude, 1979; Juris Doctor, cum laude, 1982); and is a member of Phi Beta Kappa; Phi Kappa Phi; and Phi Eta Sigma.

Bill is married to Ferne White and has two adult children, Kate White and Hannah White.

Looking Ahead

**Tomorrow - MUST Ministry
Cook and Serve**

**Next Wednesday's Program:
Marietta Police Department
Officer Paul Hill and Service Dog Barney**

Half Time Report

by Don Barbour

December 31st marked the halfway point of the current 2024 – 2025 Rotary year. I was asked to comment on our accomplishments so far and discuss what is coming up during the first half of 2025, or second half of the current Rotary year. During the first half of the year, we held 20 outstanding programs; had 3 socials; served 6 MUST lunches; served 5 Women's Extension dinners; and participated in these service projects: Dental Hygiene collection, Feminine Hygiene collection, Asheville Disaster Relief Drive, Public Safety Appreciation luncheon, Adaptive Games, Marietta Reads, Thanksgiving Canned Food Drive and our Franklin Gateway Children's Christmas Party. We also hosted the Joint Meeting with the Kiwanis Club of Marietta and enjoyed the Strand Theatre Performers treating us to portions of *A Christmas Tradition*. We added 4 new members during this time period, three of which provided member spotlights during our last meeting of the year. Over a 3-week period in December, we collected \$1,400 and blessed each Hilton server with a cash gift of \$200 during our last meeting of 2024. I probably missed something, but in my view the first half of the current Rotary year was very worthwhile and productive.

What can we expect in the second half of the year? More of the same: 17 programs; 2 socials; 6 MUST lunches; 6 Women's Extension dinners; participation in these service projects: Senior Valentine's Day project, Marietta Reads, Easter Sunrise Service, Joint Service project with Marietta Kiwanis and CHOA on May 6th, and the Memorial Day Service project. We will participate in the District Conference April 24th through 27th and hold our annual golf tournament and largest fundraiser on May 19th. I expect the second half of the year to be just as worthwhile and engaging as the first half. So, let's buckle-up and enjoy the ride! Please see the appropriate board officer or director if you need assistance with where to serve.

Happy New Year!

Remembering Reuben Green

President of Rotary Club of Marietta

2016–17



Reuben Green leaves an unsurpassed legacy to the state of Georgia, the city of Marietta, and to the Rotary Club of Marietta for his humanitarianism, his honesty, and his devotion to his family, his town, and his community. He will forever remain an unsurpassed example of “Service Above Self.”

He was the founder of the Cobb County Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court, working with honorably discharged veterans with service-connected issues that resulted in their becoming involved in the criminal justice system. That organization continues to flourish today, with many veteran graduates who have re-established, and rebuilt their lives and are making a contribution. Judge Green frequently invited many graduates to Rotary meetings, recognizing their efforts.

Judge Green and his wife were advocates of the Foster Children’s system, disclosing that being foster parents taught them that all children are beautiful and with a safe and supportive environment they can all be happy, healthy children. They felt they got more out of the experience with the children than they gave back. Over the years they fostered 15 children.

Funeral arrangements are in progress and have not yet been announced. Please extend your condolences to Reuben’s wife Heidi and family.

It is with great sadness to announce that former Cobb County Superior Court Judge Reuben Green (born January 31, 1971) and Past President of the Rotary Club of Marietta from 2016-2017 passed away Thursday, January 2, 2025, while in hospice care. Judge Green had been diagnosed with cancer.

Reuben began his career in private practice at the Atlanta law firm of King & Spalding, in Washington, DC. The events of 9/11 pushed Green to return to Cobb County Georgia to serve his country again. He became Assistant District Attorney in the Cobb Judicial Circuit and then Special Assistant United States Attorney in the Northern District of Georgia. Green quickly transitioned to Assistant District Attorney in the Cobb County District Attorney’s Office, and in the DeKalb County Solicitor General’s Office. He served as State and Federal Prosecutor in the Cobb County District Attorney’s Office until Governor Sonny Perdue (R-GA) appointed him to the Cobb Superior Court in 2010.



**REUBEN WITH HIS WIFE HEIDI AT INSTALLATION NIGHT
ON JULY 13, 2016**

WHEN WE LAST MET

MINUTES FROM THE DECEMBER 18 MEETING

No doubt, *“Santa Clause Is Coming To Town”*, as The Rotary Club of Marietta Rotarians and Guests gathered for final meeting of 2024, this December Wednesday the 18th! And “Santa’s Bestest Helpers” will find no lumpy coal in their stockings this year after our exceptional, meaningful 11th annual *“Holidays Around The World’s Children’s Christmas Party”* sponsored by our Club held at Franklin Gateway most recently! This commendable Service Project is lovingly and laudably lead by Santa’s ‘TOP NOTCH ELVES’, **Holly Walquist** and **Marlys Williams!** Under the capable leadership of these two renowned Rotarians, our Club touched the lives of some great kids and their families again this year!

Our favorite, felicitous, festive Club President **Don Barbour**, with voice all a-clatter, called our Mid-week Rotary Club Meeting to order this December 18th, 2024, with purpose that matters! Yes, President Don, all spry and so quick, reminded us all of good ole’ Saint Nick and likewise in his opening remarks, eloquently noted the real meaning of Christmastime! Said he, “I would offer that Christmas is a time when we celebrate the birth of Jesus. It is a time when we are reminded that Jesus came into this world to bring hope and to spread peace on earth and goodwill to all of us. As we reflect on the year that is about to pass and approach 2025, let us think about what we can do as a Club to continue to make a difference in our community. Let us remind ourselves once again why Jesus came into this world and pray more than ever ‘let there be peace on earth and let it begin with me.’”

Thereafter President Don called on Rotarian **Mark Wright** to offer our invocation. Prior to invoking the Almighty, Club Treasurer Mark noted the need for continued prayers for the Helene victims in North Carolina. Following our opening prayer came then our customary Club Announcements.

President Don then called forth two very special guests from The GA National Guard, Lt. Colonel James Clay and Lt. Colonel Pervis Brown, the designated Chief Officers in charge of the Military Family Support Branch of The Georgia Army National Guard, serving Active Duty Army Guard Service Men/Women and their families. Our President made mention that our Club for the past several years has made a \$2K donation to the GA Guard Family Support Foundation to contribute to the assistance of and for over 200 military children. With donations like ours, active duty Soldiers and their families will now be able to have food, gifts, and toys during this Holiday Season.

“On behalf of the Club”, said President Don, calling the Lieutenant Colonels forward, “it is our Club’s high honor and pleasure to support this worthy cause again this year.” A presentation of a ceremonial check was made to Lt. Colonel Clay and Lt. Colonel Brown and both offered gratitudinous remarks to all Rotarians and Guests gathered.

Then our Christmas Party Planner Extraordinaire and Club Foundation Director Holly Walquist was called forth and came forth as summoned to provide a notable recap of the Children’s Christmas. President Don beckoned then to the front of our Club Meeting, our profoundly punctuously persevering longtime Rotarian and superlative Sargent At Arms, Irv Smith, to receive our “Rotarian Of The Month” for December 2024! Well-chosen, well-done, and well-deserved!

Forthwith followed an absolutely most joyful, happy-holiday-hiatus from our usual invited community Guest Speakers, with the introduction of “New Member Rotary Spotlight” notables: **Julia Fedoryuk**, **Marietta Monaghan**, and **Yanick Hicks**. How very blessed is our Club to have in our ranks these Newest Rotary Club of Marietta Members!

Our Club President then shared Holiday Cheer for those who regularly render-forth commendable year-long-year-round noteworthy culinary food service to our Club; presentations of beneficious Christmastime cash gifts were given to Hilton Marietta Hotel employees who indeed care for us so well each week at our Club Meetings: Franklin Glen, Carmen Sanchez, Maria Acevedo, Maria Avila, Joseph Johnson, Denicia Fisher, Olivia and Pierce were called forward. A most appropriate gracious standing ovational applause then ensued when all the Hilton Staff gathered before our Club to receive their well-merited gratuities!

So, inspired are we all after today’s last meeting of the year! Our Club has a grand and glorious future ahead with these well-spoken newest community servant-leader additions to our Rotary International Family! And so shall I cease with this written “Christmastime chatter” commending to all that charitable Rotary Goodwill is really all that matters!

“It’s A Great Day To Be Rotarian Christmas Elves!”

Humbly Scribed by Scribbler Mark Barbour
Members' Spotlights by Marlys Williams
Photos by Abbott Hall



**MARIETTA MONOGHAN, PRESIDENT DON,
YANICK HICKS, AND JULIA FEDORYUK**

Member In Spotlight Julia Fedoryuk

Julia Fedoryuk became a Marietta Rotarian October 16, 2024 with Julia Sebastian as her sponsor. She possesses the distinction of being the youngest Marietta Rotarian at the age of 23 and her first “big-girl” job is as an Executive with the Boy Scouts of America, Atlanta Council. She is recently engaged and in the midst of wedding planning.

Julia was born in Portland, Oregon, with her parents emigrating from the Ukraine. Having a very large family, she has 49 first cousins. Her proposed wedding guest list currently exceeds 450. She attended a Christian College and has a degree in Biblical Studies. She loved volunteering in Guatemala, Mexico, at church and the Southern School of Ministry. Her college was extremely structured, and she had to be up at 6:00 am daily, completing her internship work at a church. She loves working with teenagers, and worked in New York for a short period of time, forming many friendships. Before receiving her Rotary Blue Badge, she could be seen volunteering regularly at MUST Ministries, and jumped right in to lend a hand with the Club’s community projects.

In her free time Julia likes to nap, hang out with her dog, bake, clean and cook and is essentially a homebody. She met her fiancé on a dating app, and has a long-distance relationship in the Ukraine. The Wedding is expected to occur in March.

Member In Spotlight Yanick Hicks

Yanick Hicks is a Rotarian transfer, joining Marietta Rotary August 26, 2024, having previously been a member of a Rotary Club in Arizona.

Yanick was born in Cameroon, Africa and grew up with his grandfather, a retired nurse who treated people from his home in Cameroon. He credits his grandfather for serving

as an example in his younger years. His grandfather, having very high standards, taught him to wake up at 4:00 am to read, and taught him the value of excellence by example. Yanick grew up Catholic at an all-boys school. His grandfather encouraged him to become a priest, which was not part of Yanick’s plans. In 2004 he moved to Georgia, having one brother and two sisters. He attended and graduated from McEachern High School in Powder Springs which was quite unlike his life in Cameroon. He remarks that before college he discovered girls, liquor and clubbing which deterred his career path projection for a time.

After attending a party he received a DUI, and made the decision to change his life. Following this turning point, he applied to Pharmacy School at the University of Georgia, was accepted and graduated with a Pharmacy Ph.D. Subsequently, he fell in love with the principles of John Maxwell, one of the world’s most famous leadership experts, and became part of Maxwell’s leadership team. Yanick’s grandfather passed away twenty years ago but served as his life-long motivation and is very serious about this legacy. He is present today as a result of his grandfather’s influence, desiring to possess his grandfather’s traits, but not by becoming a priest.

As Executive Director with Maxwell Leadership Certified Team, Yanick is well versed in leadership and professional development programs. His expertise includes: Leadership, Personal, and Professional Development, Speaking and Communicating, Coaching, and Selling. Contact him at Coach@yanickhicks.com.

Additionally, Yanick is engaged to be married, but no confirmed wedding date as yet. You will find Yanick volunteering frequently at numerous community events.

Member In Spotlight Marietta Monaghan

The Rotary Club of Marietta welcomed Marietta Monaghan as a Rotarian March 13, 2024, sponsored by Kay Peninger. Born and raised in Mountain Brook, Alabama, Dr. Monaghan serves as Senior Lecturer in the College of Architecture and Construction Management at Kennesaw State University, and has had a wide-ranging career pathway. In former jobs, she was a professional horseback rider and trainer and worked for her father’s company briefly, noting that her forename is the same as the town in which she dwells, pointing out that is entirely coincidental.

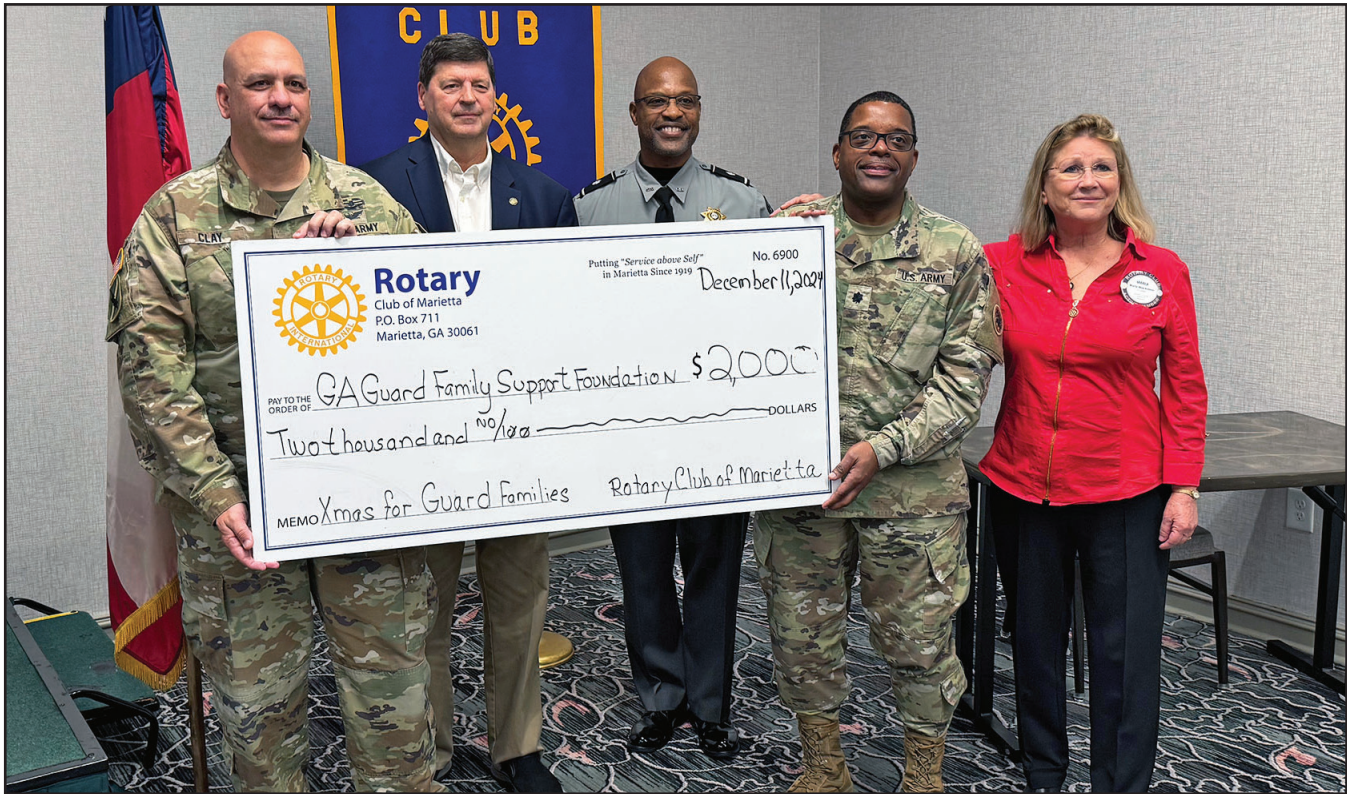
Determined to pursue a college career path, she earned degrees from 3 universities: Ph.D. in Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, MS in Architecture, Georgia Institute of Technology, MA in Art History, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Birmingham, AL. BFA in Art and Art History, College of Art and Art History, University of Georgia, Athens, GA. She has been a much-loved teacher at KSU educating architecture students at KSU for 20 years.

Marietta loves gardening, having purchased her home in Marietta 17 years ago and spends time busily designing and overseeing numerous remodeling projects. Frequently traveling abroad, she has a grant from the University of Norway for an exchange program and plans to travel to Norway in May and June, and to Mexico City in March.

PICTURES FROM LAST MEETING



Merry Christmas from Rotary Club of Marietta to seven loyal servers and staff of the Hilton Conference Center who received \$200 cash holiday gifts from Club members.



Lt. Col. James Clay, President Don Barbour, PN Cliff Kelker, Lt. Col. Pervus Brown, and PE Marla Blackstone

PICTURES FROM LAST MEETING



IRV SMITH IS AWARDED THE ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH



FOUNDATION DIRECTOR HOLLY WALQUIST



JULIA FEDORYUK RECEIVED HER BLUE BADGE FROM PRES. DON



YANICK HICKS



JUDGE ADELE GRUBBS WINS THE OPPORTUNITY DRAWING



TREASURER MARK WRIGHT

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, January 9, 2025	9 & 11:30	MUST Luncheon - Cook and Serve
Wednesday, January 15, 2025	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Marietta Police Department Officer Paul Hill and K9 Service Dog Barney
Wednesday, January 22, 2025	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Michael P. Shannon, President, University of North Georgia
Wednesday, January 29, 2025	5-7 PM	Fifth Wednesday Celebration Red Hare Brewery on the Square
Wednesday, February 5, 2025	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Lisa Cupid, Cobb County Board of Commission Chair
Wednesday, February 12, 2025	12 Noon	<u>Off-site Meeting</u> Seniors' Valentine's Day Project
Thursday, February 13, 2025	9 & 11:30	MUST Luncheon - Cook and Serve
Wednesday, February 19, 2025	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Brittney Gray, Marietta Visitors Bureau Executive Director

MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

www.mariettarotary.org

CLUB OFFICERS 2024-25

Don Barbour, President

Marla Blackstone, *President-Elect*

Jeff Cooper, *Past President*

Marlys Williams, *Executive Secretary*

Michelle Miller, *Secretary*

Mark Wright, *Treasurer*

Teresa Jones, *Assistant Treasurer*

Mark Barbour, *Presidential Advisor*

DIRECTORS

Cliff Kelker, *Administration*

Elizabeth Manning, *Service*

Josh Kopsie, *Membership*

Jacob Southerland, *Public Image*

Holly Walquist, *Foundation*

Meeting makeups may be emailed to:

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