

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA
ROTALIGHT

Celebrating 100 Years of "Service Above Self"



Program Today:
Christopher Bethel
PRESIDENT 2019 – 20

July 10, 2019 • Volume 83, Number 1

WHEN WE LAST MET

Minutes from the June 19 Meeting

Our much beloved, charmingly engaging and 'GQ-ishly' debonair President **Jesse Evans** gaveled the room to order for his last official meeting of the Rotary Year by striking the Rotary Club of Marietta bell in our customary ballroom meeting location at the Marietta Hilton Conference Center. President Jesse called on the scheduled Invocator to come forward to Invoke. In the absence of the slated prayerful petitioner, the "stand-in" incantational entreaty was offered by this Scribbler. Visiting Guests and Rotarians were then recognized by longtime outstanding Rotarian **Irv Smith**. Past President **Tucker Hobgood** then stood to introduce a special guest, Mr. Kyle Parrish, who is serving as a 'Summer Associate' with his firm.

Following the Invocation and introduction of our guests, President Jesse notified our Club of the procedural circulation of two proposed Rotary Club of Marietta new members: Chris Mitchell and Julie Omer. Club Members are to direct any inquiries about the proposed new members to Rotarian **Marla Blackstone**. Thereafter, a commendable, heart-felt solar expression 'sunshined' all members present as outgoing



GUEST SPEAKER MERIS LUTZ AND FRED BELOIN

district, and world for the greater Rotary good. President Jesse then reminded everyone to attend Presidents' Night on Thursday week next at the Marietta Country Club.



President Jesse offered his sincere gratitude for everyone's support for his year of Rotary service as Club President. His commendable considerate commentary indeed reinforced the exceptional collective efforts of President Jesse's Officers, Directors, and all Club members proficiently putting 'Service Above Self' thereby effectually impacting our community,

Past President **Fred Beloin** was then recognized and came forward to introduce our Guest Speaker for the day. However, prior to his introductory remarks, Past President Fred noted that he has been "a member of the Rotary Club of Marietta for a quarter of a century (walking 25 miles to Club Meetings in the snow as a child...(may be?)) and he has never known a Club President who, in the middle of prosecuting a murder case, recessed in order to come and preside over a Rotary Club meeting! Affirmative murmurs of admiration could be heard through the room after Fred's observation. Fred then offered glowing, merited accolades of President Jesse's year of notable service as our Club President prompting a well-deserved standing ovation in honor of President Jesse. Fred then rendered forth an eloquent, educative introduction of Meris Lutz, who covers Cobb County politics and community news for the Atlanta-Journal Constitution. Miss Lutz, a Fulbright Scholar, whose mother is from Atlanta, is from London, Connecticut, and came south to attend Emory University. Our speaker stated that she "never wanted to be a journalist" but while in Lebanon participating in the EU Study Abroad Program, the 'journalist bug' bit her. Miss Lutz noted that she was in Lebanon during the years of 2005 and 2006 and evacuated to Syria when war between Israel and Lebanon broke out. "The drama of human conflict was intense", she stated. Her forced retreat into Syria consigned her to the reality of the "extensive Syrian Intelligence Apparatus". Syria has a vast network of "conspiratorial informants" that systematically

ROTARIANS IN THE NEWS



Gov. Brian Kemp swore in Marietta Rotarian **Joyette Holmes** as the county's new district attorney Monday, July 1.

Holmes was formerly chief magistrate judge for the Cobb County Judicial Circuit. She replaces former DA Vic Reynolds, who Kemp tapped to lead the Georgia Bureau of Investigation at the start of the year.

The district attorney is the county's chief prosecutor. Holmes will decide which cases to prosecute and oversee the prosecution's cases. Holmes wiped her eyes as she thanked her family, court employees, and a long list of others for their support over the years, and she pledged to continue working on behalf of the public.

"We chose Cobb County because we know we'll be safe in Cobb County," she said. "Public safety means everything to all of us. ... It doesn't happen without all of us. There's a formula, and I understand there are groups that believe that the formula should be balanced one way or the other, but as long as we are working through that formula together, we are going to come up with the right answer ... We've got to keep it moving in the way it has moved."

She also thanked God for helping her get to where she is.

"I always talk about being specific in your prayers, but sometimes when you pray, you pray that God's will be done, and that if this is the place for me to continue to serve, let that be," she said, "and I thank God that that was his will, and that I'm able to stand before you today as Cobb County's next district attorney."

The ceremonial courtroom at Cobb Superior Court was packed for Holmes' swearing in, and two other rooms were set aside so others could watch the proceedings live on video.

Gov. Kemp said one of Holmes' best qualities is her love for Cobb County, and he said that will serve her well in her new role.

~from MDJ July 2, 2019

deny the free press. She made note of the beauty of Syria; the beautiful antiquities of past empires, Roman ruins, Aleppo, St. Annanias Chapel, and numerous notable ancient sites. After her stay in Syria, she then returned to Lebanon as a translator. Through a turn of "serendipitous events" she was hired by the Los Angeles Times as a Foreign News Correspondent covering the Mid-Eastern Region. During the "Arab Spring", which was a "series of pro-democracy uprisings that enveloped Tunisia, Morocco, Syria, Iran, Libya, Egypt and Bahrain" beginning in the spring of 2011, leading Miss Lutz and other journalist covering the uprising to "become jaded to the power of the press to readily affect the political and social impact of dictatorial regimes". This raised intense ethical and personal challenges for our Guest Speaker. Eventually Miss Lutz would return to the states. Her journalism career, notwithstanding her exceptional experiences in the Middle East, has been remarkable and has also taken her to Covington, Georgia, and then here to Marietta as a journalist for the MDJ and now, as noted, to her position with the AJC. Limited space here does not allow for additional remarks related to this EXCEPTIONAL Guest Speaker's journalistic career, harrowing experiences, insights, and captivating encounters. Questions for our TOP NOTCH Speaker were presented from the floor as usual. Then our Opportunity Drawing ensued and Lady Lucky smiled on a fortunate Rotarian Irv Smith who indeed drew the winning red marble!



ROTARIAN IRV SMITH DREW THE WINNING RED MARBLE

Lance Burchett was called upon to conclude our meeting with our customary Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag and recitation of our Rotary Four-Way Test. Thereafter President Jesse rang the bell for his last official Rotary Club of Marietta Weekly Meeting dismissal! No such gallant lad in recent memory has'er struck the bell with such authoritative dexterity and vociferous vivacity than our dear esteemed soon-to-be, come Thursday next, Past President Jesse Evans! Truly he has been the Rotary Four Way Test in the flesh!

*Respectfully Submitted – Mark Barbour, Scribbler
Photos – Dale W. Covington*

PRESIDENTS' NIGHT



PRESIDENTS' NIGHT



2019 - 2020 Rotary International President Mark Daniel Maloney



I love to travel! I even enjoy the mundane process of getting from here to there. But last year, my wife, Gay, and I had one of those experiences that would strain the optimism of even the most cheerful traveler. We found ourselves with six hours to wait, at an airport where we were not scheduled to be, on a day we had not planned still to be traveling, having woken up that morning at a hotel unknown to us the night before. It was one of those days.

As we waited at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York City, Gay and I took a walk to people watch. We went from one end of the terminal to the other and back, looking at every gate, every destination, every group of people waiting for their flights.

Each gate was its own island of humanity. When we walked down the center of the concourse, we were in New York, moving along with everyone in one river. But when you veered off into those seats, you left that current and landed on an island. You were already in Delhi or Paris or Tel Aviv.

As we started our walk, I thought: "All these different people, all these different countries, all in one place. This is like Rotary!" But as we walked past gate after gate, I realized something. It was not like Rotary at all. Because everyone in that river was heading for an island. And every island stayed an island. The people heading to Taipei might be talking to one another, but they were not talking to the people heading to Cairo or Lagos.

Contrast that with Rotary. Rotary allows us to connect with one another, in deep and meaningful ways, across our differences. It connects us with people we would never otherwise have met, who are more like us than we ever could have known. It connects us with our communities, to professional opportunities, and to the people who need our help.

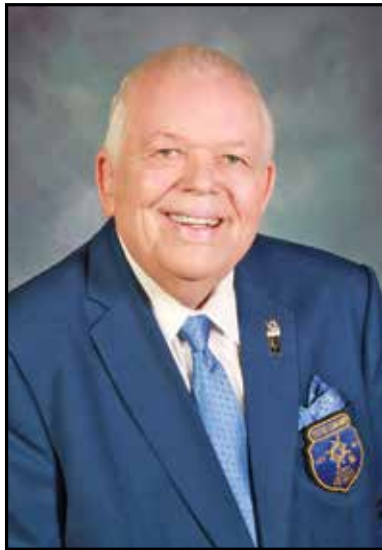
Connection is what makes the experience of Rotary so very different from walking along that concourse at JFK Airport. In Rotary, none of us is an island. All of us are in Rotary together, whoever we are, wherever we are from, whatever language we speak or traditions we follow. We are all connected to one another — part of our communities and members not only of our clubs, but also of the global community to which we all belong.

This connection is what lies at the heart of the Rotary experience. It is what brings us to Rotary. It is why we stay. Please join your fellow Rotarians on this journey as Rotary Connects the World.



2019 -20 ROTARY THEME

Greetings from the District Governor District 6900 – Jim Squire



Dear Fellows Rotarians of the Rotary Club of Marietta:

CONGRATULATIONS on beginning your 100th year of Rotary Service to Marietta, Cobb County, our District, Nation, and the World! Since October 23, 1919, the Rotary Club of Marietta has heeded the Rotary International call..."Together we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change - across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves."

I am honored, on behalf of our District and Rotary International, to extend well done for an exceptional 100 Years of "Service Above Self!"

Again, CONGRATULATIONS!

Jim

Jim

A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT CHRIS



My Fellow Rotarians,

It is an *honor* to be a Rotarian with each of you and to serve as your 100th President.

I have been a proud member of this historic Club for many years, and I cannot tell you how deeply appreciative I am that you have placed your trust and confidence in me to serve as your next President. I am truly humbled.

This is an historic year for our Club! The theme for our Club in light of our centennial birthday is “**Past, Present and Future.**” A *reflection* of our rich history over the past 100 years, a celebration of our Present Centennial Anniversary, and continued *service above self* to our community both locally and globally in the future.

There has been a significant amount of work and pre-planning on this momentous occasion and year. I am excited to share this information with each of you as we kick off the new year and as we lead up to our anniversary date of October 23, 1919.

The theme for Rotary International this year, set by R.I. President Mark Daniel Maloney is “**Rotary Connects the World**”. I want to commend President Jesse on the outstanding job he did yielding the podium, making Rotary fun and making “connections” to our fellow Rotary Clubs in Cobb County. I plan to continue those efforts. To paraphrase the RI President “*Connection*” in Rotary allow us to connect with one another, in deep and meaningful ways, and with people we would have never otherwise met. Our service “connects” us with our communities, professional opportunities and to people who need our help.

I am inspired by the spirit of service that the Rotary Club of Marietta consistently demonstrates year after year. It’s hard to comprehend the “connection” and far reaching **impact** our Club has had in people’s lives locally and globally over the past century. Immediately, I think of Marietta Reads (over 1,400 kids read to this past year alone), the new MUST Ministries Kitchen, The Extension, Reconnecting Roots Community Garden, Marietta High School College and Careers Academy, Cobb Thanks You for Your Service for our Veterans Court, Safe Path, Revved up our annual Children’s Holiday Party for kids who would not otherwise have presents, The Performance Learning Center, grants funded by our annual Rotary Golf Tournament (Safe Path, Live Safe Resources, Revved up Kids, Boys & Girls Club, First Readers), and internationally, Polio Plus, all the former G.R.S.P. international students we’ve hosted from around the world, Clean Drinking Water and one of my personal favorites, Crutches 4 Africa! And this is just a few of the many projects we have been engaged in.

Our District Governor, Jim Squire’s focus and theme for the year is on **Literacy**. We were recently awarded a District Grant in the amount of \$10,000.00 for our upcoming year. We were one of only four grant applicants awarded \$10k from over 30+ grant applications. We partnered with sister clubs, Smyrna and Atlanta Brazil to win this award. We plan to use these funds for an exciting literacy project for newborn babies and their parents at WellStar Kennestone Hospital. I am very excited that we plan this to be our signature 100th anniversary gift to the community. And there’s so much more to come!

Now, the tough question. How will you get involved and “connect”? In the coming year, I challenge each and every one of you to make a difference in and through this great Rotary Club. Connect. Volunteer. Lead. Serve.

With the help of an outstanding Board of Directors, Council of Prior Presidents, Presidential Advisor Reuben Green, Assistant District Governor Mark Barbour, and each and every one of you - together, we will ALL make this a Banner Year!

Marietta Rotary Club

HISTORIC 100TH PRESIDENTS' NIGHT

by Past President Mark Barbour

The moisture-saturated June evening air certainly presaged the commendable-saturation of Rotary camaraderie, goodwill, and magnanimous affirmation of all things Rotary at our annual Presidents' Night Celebration held again this year at the well-appointed Marietta Country Club. Affable laughter floated around the room during pre-dinner cocktail happiness until our distinguished and rightly revered President **Jesse Evans** struck the Bell at 6:10 pm to call the room to order and to extend a cordial welcome to all present and to initiate the night's festivities.

President Jesse offered a heartfelt thanks to incoming President **Chris Bethel** for his exceptional efforts in arranging, organizing, and implementing our Presidents' Night Celebration. Past President and Assistant District Governor **Mark Barbour** was then called on to offer our invocation. After the invocational entreaty dinner-time culinary consumption ensued until President Jesse returned to the podium to commence the evening's program with introductory remarks reflecting on Rotary International's theme for his year, "Be the Inspiration". President Jesse then offered gratitude to his Officers, Directors and to all Club members who made his vision of leadership development, education, literacy, and strengthening membership a reality during his year of service as Club President. He then noted various highlights of his year - POPP, grants, Veterans Day (Remember the Brave), Franklin Road/YELLS Christmas Party, Marietta Reads, The Extension, spotlight on Education - KSU, Dr. Morehead - UGA and Dr. McGaha; exceptional speakers related to medical topics - cardiology and cancer; Rotarian **Bill Dunaway's** Marietta reflections, Accountability Court, and Leadership Speaker - Kevin Scott (just to mention a few of our outstanding speakers this year). President Jesse concluded his remarks by stating, "I have been so honored to be able to serve you all so that this Club could continue to fulfil our mission of putting "Service Above Self" in this community; thank you for your trust, your encouragement, and your support throughout this wonderful 2018-2019 Rotary Year". A rigorous standing ovation followed President Jesse's candid, heart-felt comments.

At the outset of the Awards Program, President Jesse recognized all Past Presidents who were invited to join in the Presidents' Night gathering, requesting them to stand as they did to lively and enthusiastic applause. Club awards then followed offered by: Past President **Reuben Green**, who presented The Norman Shipley Award, "given to the individual exemplifying the ideal of service above self in the workplace and community", fittingly given to **Mary Ansley Southerland**; President Elect Chris Bethel presented the Jimmy T. Anderson Award, "given to an outstanding Rotarian for notable contributions to the Club who has been in the club less than 5 years", this Award was rightly presented to the stylishly bow-tied **Tyler Stephens**; Past President **Fred Beloin** was then called forward to present the Henry Hill Award. Prior to rendering the award to the very worthy recipient, Past President Fred shared an antidotal recollection of going to Chicago for Rotary International's 100th Year Celebration Conference. He confided to Club members present that he had enjoyed a "booze cruise" the day before intending to meet-up with Past President **Henry Hill** and his beloved wife for breakfast. Inferred in Fred's remarks was a humorous connection to the "booze cruise" and the meeting with Henry Hill and his wife for breakfast but the booze cruise inference "floated by" this Scribbler's cognitive capabilities to scribe herein said intended humorous expression. Nonetheless, the Henry Hill Award was appropriately presented to our dear "Sargent Stripes", **Marlys Williams**, for all of her diligent behind-the-scenes work supporting our Club.

President Jesse then presented the President's "Service Above Self Awards" to: **Deborah Marshall** and **Abbott Hall** and the *ROTALIGHT* Team for preparing and presenting our award winning *Rotalight* each week, conferring a novelty "scoop" keepsake to our wonderful *ROTALIGHT* Editor. **Jess Loper** was then recognized with a Service Above Self Award for her "youthful energy" in jumping in to ensure the success of Marietta Reads, our Christmas Party, and other service projects, she was accoladed by President Jesse with a "Bright Future" flashlight novelty; others receiving Service Above Self Awards/Novelties: **Mark Adams** (saved by the "bell"), **Harold Hobbs** ("golden spatula"), **Don Barbour** ("golden reader magnifying glass"), **Thomas Sherrer** ("golden golf balls"), **Holly Walquist** (golden golf balls), **Richard Cope** ("sliver crutch"), Mark Barbour (South American "personal area altering assistance cream" which was graciously passed along to Past President **Dawn McEachern**

who demanded out of dire necessity to receive said cream). Marlys Williams then was called upon to recognize a stalwart group of devoted gastronomic geniuses who plan, shop, cook, serve, and then clean-up for the MUST lunchtime meal venture – Rotarians **Doug Haynie**, Harold Hobbs, **John Knox**, **Lewis Lipsius**, and **Jim Trapnell** were all lauded for their meal-prep perseverance on behalf of our Club. Then, a special “Friend of the Club” Service Recognition Award was rightfully presented to Harold Hobb’s son, Adam Hobbs, for his praiseworthy regular assistance with the MUST meal service project. The recognition of our Club’s exceptional 2018-2019 Officers and Board of Directors then took place followed by the acknowledgement of outgoing President Jesse’s Presidential Advisor Past President Fred Beloin. Last but certainly not least, was President Jesse’s recognition of the “Rotarian of the Year Award” recipient. President Jesse noted that this individual spent countless hours contacting, recruiting, scheduling, and, in some cases, rescheduling our exceptional line-up of Guest Speakers for our past Rotary year. Her hard-work, patience, and endearing support of our Club and also of President Jesse made her selection as “Rotarian of the Year” well-merited; Rotarian of the Year for 2018-2019, outstanding Rotarian **Brooke Cohen**. President Jesse then presented a beautiful monogrammed silver keepsake tray to commend the notable recognition.

Past President Dawn Meachern was then called upon to administer the induction recitation for President Elect Chris Bethel... concluding the induction ceremony with the remark, “I now present our next President... President Chris Bethel”. A standing ovation followed! The recitation of the commitment oath of service by our incoming Club Officers for the new year then took place: incoming Officers are, Treasurer – **Brad Leskoven**, Co-Secretary – **Marla Blackstone**, Co-secretary – **Jeff Cooper**, MRFF Chair – **Walt Walker**; the induction oath was then administered to the incoming Board of Directors: Administration – **Joe Atkins**, Director of Membership – **Kelly Maxwell**, Director of Club Service – Tyler Stephens, Director of Public Relations – Thomas Sherrer, Director of Foundation – Brooke Cohen; with our President Elect being Mary Ansley Southerland, and President Chris’ Presidential Advisor, Past President Reuben Green.

The ceremonial “passing of the gavel” then occurred from outgoing President Jesse to incoming President Chris. President Chris then presented admirable personal remarks to initiate the Rotary Club of Marietta’s 100th year of Rotary International Service to our District, State, Country, and World:

“It is an honor to be a Rotarian with each of you and to serve as your 100th President. I have been a proud member of this historic Club for many years, and I cannot tell you how deeply appreciative I am that you have placed your trust and confidence in me to serve as your next President. I am truly humbled.

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Readers), and internationally, Polio Plus, all the former G.R.S.P. international students we've hosted from around the world, Clean Drinking Water and one of my personal favorites, Crutches 4 Africa! And this is just a few of the many projects we have been engaged in.

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A vigorous and richly deserved standing ovation followed President Chris's challenging, insightful, pointed comments.

The Pledge of Allegiance to the U. S. Flag was then led by Thomas Sherrer; and the Rotary Four Way Test was led by the always genial **Dan Kirk**. President Chris Bethel then struck our Club bell for his first official Club dismissal of his Rotary year.



The **ROTARY CLUB**
of **MARIETTA**

Celebrating
100 YEARS
of **SERVICE ABOVE SELF**

*Enjoy an evening with us as we launch the
100th year of the Rotary Club of Marietta*

SAVE THE DATE
SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019
FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW



**ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD**

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Co-club Secretary



Marla Blackstone

About Marla

Dr. Marla Blackstone was raised on a stock and grain farm near St. Louis. Marla earned a B.A. in Philosophy/English from Southern Illinois University, and after working at the Chicago Board of Trade, Clayton Brokerage and Cushman Wakefield in Atlanta, she earned a B.S. in Biology/Chemistry from Kennesaw State College, her DVM from UGA, and her JD from Georgia State University Law School.

Marla founded two Cobb County veterinary practices which she and her husband, Wayne, still own and operate. Marla served as President of the Cobb County Vet Med Association for 6 years and now performs a consulting/management role at the veterinary practices while practicing law. Marla and Wayne manage a real estate property management company they started in 2001 and Marla has been a partner at Skelton & Blackstone Attorneys, LLC since 2012. Marla's focus is probate law and landlord/tenant law.

Marla's favorite activities include any time spent with family and friends, whether boating Lake Allatoona during the lake's quiet times, riding horses in the Chattahoochee National Forest from the adjoining mountain property she and Wayne developed in Ellijay's Tickanetley area, biking or hiking any of Cobb County's many trails, doing barn chores, working with Wayne's goats/ rabbits/ chickens/ pig, or traveling the world to learn other cultures, customs and viewpoints.

Co-club Secretary



Jeff Cooper

About Jeff

A native of Atlanta, Jeff is a proud graduate of Georgia Tech where he was the President of the Rambling Wreck Club, a former Buzz, and cheerleader. He earned his Master's degree in Healthcare Administration and after a long career with Piedmont Healthcare he joined WellStar Kennestone Hospital in 2015 as the Vice President of Operations. Although new to the Marietta Rotary Club (2016), Jeff is a long time Rotarian from the Henry County Club where he served in a variety of roles including Club President. A former Rotarian of the Year, Jeff is a Paul Harris Fellow and has served Rotary as a GRSP Trustee and an Assistant Governor for District 6900. Jeff sings in the choir at St. Joseph's Catholic Church and is a co-founder of the Marietta Theatre Company. He and his wife, Tina, live in Marietta and enjoy being very close to the Square. They have two daughters and sons'-in-law (who both serve in the Army) and three grandchildren, Mac, Kennedy, and Cooper, all of whom now live close by!

Club Treasurer



Brad Leskoven

About Brad

Brad is a native Texan though he spent a majority of his youth in East Cobb County. He earned two degrees in accounting from Kennesaw State University and holds professional designations of Certified Public Accountant and Certified Financial Planner. Brad is a senior manager of the healthcare consulting and accounting firm Pershing, Yoakley & Associates. He has a passion for advising physician practices and closely-held businesses on tax related matters as well as providing estate and integrated financial planning services to individual clients. He joined the Rotary Club of Marietta in 2009 in order to connect with other business leaders and serve his local community. Brad currently resides in Buckhead with his wife, Jacquelyn, and their daughter, Finleigh.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Director of Public Relations



Thomas Sherrer

About Thomas

Thomas Sherrer is a proud product of Marietta, Georgia. Born at Kennestone Hospital, he attended K-12 in the Marietta City School System. After high school graduation he attended the University of Georgia, where he received a Bachelor's of Business Administration in Risk Management and Insurance. He furthered his studies by attending Mercer University College of Pharmacy in Atlanta, graduating with a Doctorate of Pharmacy in 2015. He returned to the place he has always called home to join his family's pharmacy, Poole's Pharmacy. Thomas is an advocate for his profession on both the state and national levels, but his community is most important. He is a member of the First United Methodist Church of Marietta and has a beautiful daughter, Blake.

Director of Club Membership



Kelly Maxwell

About Kelly

Kelly Maxwell was raised in Illinois and graduated from Illinois State University with a degree in Finance.

She moved to the Atlanta area in 1987 to work for Trust Company Bank, where she worked in the Loan Review Department and then the National Division, calling on Fortune 100 companies in the Mid-West. She came to work in Marietta in 1999 with Charter Bank/Bank of North Georgia, where she called on small to medium size businesses to help them with their depository and borrowing needs. Kelly is currently with Vinings Bank and enjoys helping clients grow their business through customizing banking solutions to meet their goals.

Kelly joined the Rotary Club of Marietta in 1999. She is a Paul Harris Fellow, and has chaired committees and has served on the Board. Kelly is a graduate of Leadership Cobb Class of 2002.

Kelly resides in Acworth with her husband Tip and son Jon. Jon is currently attending Kennesaw State University, with a major in Biology/Pre-Med. Kelly showed dogs, Brittanys, for 20 years but is no longer showing. She enjoys playing tennis and golf. She also enjoys going to sporting events with her son.

Director of Club Foundation



Brooke Cohen

About Brooke

Brooke Cohen was born and raised in Canton. She graduated from Cherokee High School and attended Emory University. While at Emory, she earned a bachelor's degree in Ancient Mediterranean Studies with a concentration in Arabic, was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, and graduated Magna Cum Laude.

Following Emory, Brooke enrolled at the Georgia State University School of Law. She graduated in 2013 with a Juris Doctorate. During her time at GSU, Brooke completed externships with the Cobb County District Attorney's Office and Legal Aid. She also participated in Moot Court.

Upon graduation from law school, Brooke accepted her current position as Staff Attorney to the Honorable J. Stephen Schuster, Judge of the Superior Court of Cobb.

Beyond law, Brooke is very passionate about yoga. She teaches hot power yoga classes regularly at Stellar Power Yoga in Vinings. In addition, she is an avid cyclist, and participates in the North Atlanta Riding Club. She has also ridden several times in the RAGBRAI (a bike ride across the State of Iowa). Brooke was recently married Marietta lawyer and Kiwanian, David Cohen in Turks and Caicos.

CLUB ADMINISTRATION

Director of Club Service



Tyler Stephens
About Tyler

Tyler Stephens is a proud native of Marietta, Georgia. He was born in Kennestone hospital and attended Harrison High School where he was a baseball and football letterman. After graduating high school, Tyler went on to The University of Georgia where he received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Marketing. Upon Graduation, Tyler entered the insurance industry and worked to start an insurance agency. He owned a Nationwide agency for 6 years and recently sold it to begin working as a commercial insurance broker. Tyler is currently the Assistant Vice President of Rhodes Risk Advisors in Atlanta and holds the designation of Commercial Lines Coverage Specialist.

Tyler has always had a passion for serving the community from Beta Club President in high school, serving as a representative of the HERO organization at UGA, involved with philanthropic events through his fraternity, Phi Gamma Delta, and currently serves the community through Rotary. He is a second-generation Rotarian, a Paul Harris fellow and is very excited to serve on the board this year. He has been married to his lovely wife Brittney for 4 years and has two children, Davis and Emerson

Director of Club Administration



Joseph Atkins
About Joe

Joseph B. Atkins, Sr. was born in Chattanooga, Tennessee in 1961. He grew up on a farm in the Chickamauga, Georgia and graduated from the McCallie School. Joe then received both his B.A. and J.D. from the University of Georgia. He started his law practice in Atlanta with Long, Weinberg, Ansley & Wheeler where he represented Fortune 500 corporations such as Ford Motor Company, Texaco, and United Technologies. After serving as a partner with Brinson, Askew, Berry, Seigler, Richardson & Davis, LLP in Rome, Joe returned to metro Atlanta where he led the development and infrastructure team of the Cobb County Attorney's Office and also served as an interim county attorney until he joined the Marietta law firm of Downey and Cleveland, LLP. He maintains a busy trial practice across Georgia with an emphasis upon local government and zoning law, wireless telecommunications, personal injury, ADA, and insurance litigation.

Joe previously served on the board of directors of Rome-Seven Hills Rotary and joined Marietta Rotary in 2014 where he was editor of the Rotalight for two years and served on the board of directors. Formerly a scoutmaster at Boy Scout Troop 713 at St. Catherine's Episcopal Church, Joe still serves on the Troop Committee and also is chair of the Cobb County Board of Ethics. Joe enjoys camping, kayaking, and working on the farm.

Joe and Marybeth met in law school and have been married for over thirty years. She was a Rotary International Fellow in New Zealand and teaches A.P. U.S. Government and Comparative Government at Johns Creek High School. They have two children, both Walton High School graduates: Mary Sutherland, a rising third year law student at the University of Kentucky, and Joseph, Jr, a University of Georgia graduate who is currently a Military Intelligence Second Lieutenant in the United States Army. The Atkins family attends Peachtree Road United Methodist Church.

President Elect



Mary Ansley Southerland
About Mary Ansley

Mary Ansley was born, raised, and has lived in Downtown Marietta her whole life. A graduate of Kennesaw State with degrees in Economics and Finance, she moved into the home loan business as had four previous generations of her family. She is President and owner of W. D. Little Mortgage Corp. and has consistently been one of the top producing mortgage professionals in the region. She and James celebrate 32 years of marriage this year and have 2 children; Georgia, who attends Mercer University School of Nursing and Rosser, who will soon graduate from Kennesaw State and has taken a position with WDLMC as well as enjoying a free-lance and consulting position with political and business news specialists Insider Advantage and James Magazine. Mary Ansley is passionate about community support and civic responsibilities. She has been widely recognized as one of the most active and impactful philanthropists in our area and has been recognized as Cobb Life Magazine's Volunteer of the Year for Cobb County. Mary Ansley has been a member of Rotary Club of Marietta for five years and enjoys the special relationships bonded through Rotary and is excited to be part of the 100th anniversary year of our club.

Presidential Advisor



Reuben Green

About Reuben

Rotarian Reuben Green is a past president of the Marietta Rotary Club and a County Superior Court Judge and currently leads the Cobb County Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court.

Reuben served on active duty in the United States Marine Corps from 1989 to 1993. While serving as a Marine, he received the Good Conduct and National Defense Service Medals. After four years of active duty, he was Honorably Discharged then attended Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon, where he received a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science. Reuben then pursued his Juris Doctorate at Emory University School of Law and graduated with Honors.

Reuben began his career in private practice at the Atlanta law firm of King & Spalding, in Washington, DC. The 9/11 events pushed Green to return to Cobb County 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 quickly transitioned to Assistant District Attorney in the Cobb County District Attorney's Office, and the DeKalb County Solicitor General's Office. Reuben served as State and Federal Prosecutor in the Cobb County District Attorney's Office until Governor Sonny Perdue appointed him to the Cobb Superior Court in 2010.

Judge Green started the Cobb County Veterans Accountability and Treatment Court. The Veterans Court works with honorably discharged veterans who have service-connected issues that have led them, in part, to be involved in the criminal justice system.

Marietta Rotary Foundation Fund

The Marietta Rotary Foundation Fund, Inc. (affectionately referred to as MRFF) is the vehicle through which the Marietta Rotary Club funds its charitable activities. Formed and incorporated in 1963, MRFF is a 501c(3) charitable organization under the Internal Revenue Code. Simply put, this determination means that contributions to MRFF are deductible for the donor.

MRFF is separately incorporated from the Club. While having a common membership, MRFF has its own five member Board consisting of the Club's Past President, current President and President-Elect, an elected Treasurer and, since the mid 1980's, a long-term Chairman. The first long-term Chairman, Phil Malonson, was one of the original incorporators. The Chair since 1998 has been Walt Walker.

Funding for MRFF comes from member dues, member donations, donations at large, fund raisers, our weekly raffle and investment income. Until 1998, MRFF operations were essentially cash in, cash out. Under the leadership of Phil Malonson and Joe DeSantis, an Endowment was established in 1998 with the hopes that income from the Endowment would expand our charitable presence and decrease our reliance on member dues.

The MRFF Board determines a budget each year and provides a discretionary amount for the Club Board to direct. The Foundation typically funds Marietta Reads, Must Ministries, a children's Christmas party and a variety of other charitable projects. In addition, MRFF acts as the Administrator for the Karl and Paula Reinhard Trust, a trust established by a former member to provide an annual scholarship for a Cobb County resident to do post graduate study abroad.

MRFF has an investment committee of two professionals consisting of Jim Kellogg and Kelly Maxwell. The assets are actively managed in an account at the investment firm of Raymond James with a target income and growth of 3 to 5 percent. Raymond James charges MRFF a minimal fee of .3% for management, including all commissions.

Walt Walker, Foundation Chair

About Walt



Walt is an attorney and a CPA and practices law with Fred Beloin. He has been a Rotarian since 1979 and, at the request of Phil Malonson, began preparing the tax returns for MRFF and the Club in 1980. Walt succeeded Phil as the MRFF chairman in 1998 and counts his opportunity to work with the various boards as a wonderful experience.

Walt graduated from Davidson College, UNC-Chapel Hill and Woodrow Wilson College of Law. His wife, Nancy, recently retired as a teacher at Park Street Elementary. They have two children and three grandchildren. They enjoy tennis, their annual scuba diving trip to Cozumel and rides on his Honda Valkyrie.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

The Lamar Franklin Rotarian of the Year Award *Awarded to Brooke Cohen*



The 'Rotarian of the Year' award is given to a member who exhibits "Service Above Self" in their daily activities and who promotes Rotary by their actions and involvements.

AWARD PRESENTATIONS

Norman Shipley Award

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

Awarded to Mary Ansley Southerland



The Norman Shipley Award was presented by Reuben Green.

Jimmy T. Anderson Award

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

Awarded to Tyler Stephens



The Jimmy T. Anderson Award was presented by Chris Bethel

Henry Hill Award

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

Awarded to Marlys Williams



The Henry Hill Award was presented by Fred Beloin

Service Above Self Awards

For the Rotarian who goes above and beyond the call of duty



Mark Adams



Don Barbour



Mark Barbour



Fred Beloin



Chris Bethel



Richard Cope



Abbott Hall



Harold Hobbs



Jess Loper



Deborah Marshall



Thomas Sherrer



Holly Walquist

ROTARIANS ASSIST THE NON-PROFIT LIVE SAFE RESOURCES



After the June 19th meeting of the Rotary Club of Marietta, several Rotarians including **Kelly Maxwell, Holly Walquist, Marlys Williams, Jennifer Hogan, Dale Covington** and others gathered at liveSafe Resources, formerly the YWCA of Northwest GA, to pack 200 toiletry bags for local victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse. Thanks to these Rotarians' experience in assisting with the annual Christmas party for underprivileged youngsters on Franklin Road each December, all the toiletry bags were efficiently filled in less than 40-minutes!

BIRTHDAYS IN JULY

Clem Doxey - July 2

Lee Pence - July 2

Mary Ansley Southerland - July 4

Jim Kellogg - July 5

Marlys Williams - July 11

Thomas Sherrer - July 22

Norm Aiken - July 24

Buck Northcutt - July 24

George Dozier - July 27

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA JULY 4TH



UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, July 11, 2019	10:30 AM	MUST Ministries - Cook & Serve
Wednesday, July 17, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Sam Newton; "Clean up of Three Mile Island"
Wednesday, July 24, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – TBA
Wednesday, July 31, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – TBA
Wednesday, August 7, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Evan Mercer
Thursday, August 8, 2019	10:30 AM	MUST Ministries - Cook & Serve

MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

CLUB OFFICERS 2019-20 Christopher Bethel, *President*

Mary Ansley Southerland, *President Elect*
Marla Blackstone, *Co-Secretary*
marla@skeltonblackstone.com

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

DIRECTORS

Joseph Atkins, *Administration*
Tyler Stephens, *Service*
Kelly Maxwell, *Membership*
Thomas Sherrer, *Public Relations*
Brooke Cohen, *Foundation*

Meeting makeups may be emailed to:

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