



The Rotalight

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Marietta



**Marietta Rotary Sponsors
2026 Marietta Adapted Games**



Rotary
Club of Marietta

*Celebrating 107 Years
of "Service Above Self"*

Today's Speaker:
NACEO DENNEY
Area Manager



October 14, 2026
Volume 90
Number 10

Marietta Rotary Sponsors Marietta Adapted Games



Servers: Mark Wright, Jeff Cooper, Patrick Stewart, Lori Edwards, Megan Scoggins, Chuck Barnes, Megan Walter, Andrew Walter, President Elizabeth Manning, Jill Case-Wirth, Alan Gibby, Jennifer Hogan

Last Wednesday morning, as I got out of my vehicle at Marietta High School, I thought it was a beautiful fall day. It was going to get better.

The Marietta Rotary Club sponsored the Adapted Games for the Marietta School System. 230 students from pre-kindergarten through Marietta High School attended. The Marietta Drumline played as buses pulled up with students from different schools. Rotary members and other volunteers lined up to welcome each school with cheers and applause.

Students split into grade-level groups and participated in games, including the 100 m dash, hurdles, soccer, bowling, and modified shot put, javelin, and discus.

Our club sponsored lunch for all students and teachers. **President Elizabeth** led the effort, with **Megan** and **Andrew Walter** organizing it. **Jeff Cooper** separated the Chick-fil-A meals by group with Georgia Tech precision. As each group finished their meal, Rotary members quickly cleared the tables for the next group.

The students were excited enjoying the day and the meal. The Rotary members enjoyed watching, meeting, and supporting the interacting with kids.

Projects like this, the MUST Ministries luncheon, the Extension Dinner, Marietta Reads, the Children's Christmas Party, and many other community projects are why Rotary matters.

At the end of the day, participating in the Adapted Games were: **Chuck Barnes, Jill Case-Wirth, Jeff Cooper, Jim Fausett, Alan Gibby, Abbott Hall, Doug Haynie, Jennifer Hogan, Dr. John Knox, Elizabeth Manning** and guest, Angela Lishman, **Megan Scoggins, Patrick Stewart, Andrew Walter, Megan Walter, and Mark Wright.**

~Abbott Hall



← Lunches by classroom ready to pickup by teachers

First group enjoy their lunches →



Today's Speaker:
NACEO DENNEY
Area Manager
Georgia Power



Naceo joined Georgia Power in 2001 and currently serves as Area Manager for Cobb County. Throughout his 25-year career with the company, he has held a range of leadership and technical positions across Power Delivery, Sales, and External Affairs. His experience as an Engineer, Team Lead Engineer, and Engineering Supervisor has provided him with a strong background in operations, customer service, strategic planning, and community engagement.

Before joining Georgia Power, Naceo worked as an engineer in the natural gas industry for a municipality and served six years in the United States Army Reserves. His combined professional and military experience has helped shape his collaborative leadership style and commitment to service.

Naceo is a graduate of Leadership Newton and Leadership Walton and is currently a member of Leadership Cobb Class of 2027. He has also completed the Georgia Certified Economic Developer Program and the Georgia Academy for Economic Development. Dedicated to community and workforce development, Naceo has served in several leadership and advisory roles, including on the Cherokee County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, the Greene County Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors as Vice Chairman, the Northeast Georgia Workforce Development Board, the Walton County Workforce Advisory Council Committee, and the Taliaferro CTAE Advisory Committee.

He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Mechanical Engineering from South Carolina State University. Naceo currently resides in Cobb County with his wife and daughter.



October Birthdays & Service Anniversaries



TO ROTARIANS:

Jim Fausett: October 25
 Emmanuel Fasan: October 25
 Chuck Barnes: October 31

Service Anniversaries

John Knox:	55 years October 1
Sandeep Kapoor:	8 years October 10
Kelly Maxwell:	1 years October 17
Mark Wright:	7 years October 19
Josh Kopsie:	4 years October 19
Marlys Williams	9 years October 20
Joseph Atkins:	12 years October 22
Louie Hunter:	1 year October 22
Michelle Miller:	13 years October 23
Jennifer Nelson:	14 years October 24
Alan Gibby:	5 years October 27
Daniel W. White:	19 years October 31

Serving Up Smiles Two Days in a Row

Marietta Rotary in Action - October 8, 2026



(L-R) Doug Haynie, Jim Fausett, John Knox, Adam Hobbs, Harold Hobbs, Jennifer Nelson, Alan Gibby and Marlys Williams.
(Not Pictured:) Hal Wilson, Chuck Barnes, Glenn Owens, John Roberson

Following back-to-back community service projects, “Service Above Self” Rotarians rallied the day after The Adapted Games at Marietta High School to prepare and serve lunch to homeless neighbors in need at the Fish & Loaves kitchen at MUST Ministries. Chef **Harold Hobbs** and Adam’s return was warmly welcomed after vacation and a visit to Asheville, NC.

Chef **Harold** fashioned another creative, mouth-watering recipe deemed Rice and Beef Kielbasa Casserole with spicy Rotel sauce. An abundant number of Rotarian volunteers materialized this second-Thursday of October to prepare a nourishing, healthy lunch for 85+ women, men, and children. Chef **Harold** and Adam Hobbs focused on the entrée with an assist from **Chuck Barnes, Jennifer Nelson, Marlys Williams**, and Dr. **Hal Wilson**, accompanied by **Glenn Owens** managing the griddle. **John Roberson** in his customary lightning-fast fashion, undertook washing slicing, chopping, and peeling innumerable pounds of fresh fruit - blueberries, strawberries, cantaloupes, pineapple and grapes, with Dr. **Hal** and **Chuck Barnes** lending a hand.

The serving team, comprised of **Jim Fausett, Alan Gibby, Doug Haynie, Jennifer Nelson**, and Dr. **John Knox** skillfully filled plates with entrées, mixed tossed salad with tomatoes, and homemade ranch dressing, accompanied by a fresh fruit salad, complemented by hot rolls and a dessert of mixed varieties of cookies. Lines-for-seconds was called, drawing another 20-25 second-helping diners.



JOHN ROBERSON



DR. HAL WILSON



GLENN OWENS



CHUCK BARNES

This month's recipe is **Rice & Beef Kielbasa Sausage Casserole** (feeds 100)

Ingredients:		Instructions: Heat Ovens to 350 Degrees	
8 packages beef kielbasa sausage (4 sausages per package)		Spray 6 pans heavily with PAM cooking spray.	
6 lbs. fresh onions peeled and diced		Cook rice in large pan on stove top. Set aside.	
18 mixed red & yellow peppers diced		Slice the beef kielbasa sausage in 1/4" slices. Place	
12 cans of Rotel (2 per pan)		on hot griddle and grill until browned & crispy.	
20 lbs. of long cook Jasmine Rice		Dice red and yellow peppers for cooking on griddle.	
2 jars of Mrs. Dash seasoning (3 oz.)		Dice and chop onions. Place onions and peppers on	
8 quarts of beef broth (after		griddle and grill for 15-20 minutes. Divide cooked	
cooking 15-20 min., check & add		rice among 6 pans. Add grilled sausage & then	
broth as needed to rice/meat		grilled peppers and onions. Add 2 cans Rotel per	
mixture if it is too dry).		pan. Season w Mrs. Dash. Add beef broth. Mix all.	
		Cover w foil & bake 15-20 minutes at 350 degrees.	
216 fresh rolls		Check. Add more beef broth if needed & return to	
3 boxes of cookies (80 per box)		oven for 15 minutes. Remove pans from oven, and	
		place in warmers until service.	

It was a great day to be a Rotarian! – And an even better day to share a great meal, lift spirits, and serve the community. A heartfelt thanks to all of the amazing Rotarians generously giving their time and energy to service projects two days in a row. Your dedication, commitment, and willingness to step up and serve truly embody the spirit of Rotary, and Rotary is stronger because of members like you.

Marlys Williams

Four Rotarians Making a Difference and 25 Women Coming Together, Breaking Bread, Building Community at The Women's Extension

by Marlys Williams



Marietta Rotarians, **Abbott Hall**, **Paul Stewart**, **Marlys Williams**, and **Mark Wright** delivered and served dinner to 25 residents at the Women's Extension on Thursday, September 24, 2026. Residents in this Recovery Program are required to have full-time jobs. They return to the facility at 5:00 pm for group counseling sessions and a meal typically donated and served by a service club, non-profit or church group. Primarily, this is the solitary meal of the day for the ladies who have very busy schedules. There was news that several residents had been "discharged," this week, thus losing, perhaps, their last chance for recovery and sobriety. Drug testing is administered regularly, and residents are "discharged" immediately if test results prove positive. Nonetheless, the majority of residents successfully graduate from the program, remain clean for life, become independent, and move on to successful careers upon completion of this superlative program.

The meal was Chinese dinner from Panda Express, certainly one of the most popular choices. **Marlys Williams** prepared homemade desserts comprised of Pumpkin Tres Leche Cake and Apple Pie Cheesecake Bars with Streusel topping and Caramel Sauce. **Abbott Hall** provided beverages. **Paul Stewart** picked up meals, and **Mark Wright** ensured the serving line operated smoothly. Residents, taking turns, have cleanup duties, with Rotarians departing after dessert. The ladies are eager to share their stories with Rotarians. This community service project directly benefits those in the community in a recovery program, and provides insight into the lives of those battling addiction. The Rotary Club of Marietta purchased a van for the Women's Extension recently, and many residents expressed thanks and gratitude for the Club's generosity. The next dinner is scheduled Thursday, October 22, at 6:30 pm. Mark your calendars and plan to volunteer. Your involvement would be welcomed, and your unique skills would be a great asset to this initiative, in addition to directly benefitting your community.



SEPTEMBER 16 - MEETING MINUTES

by Marlys Williams

Pres. **Elizabeth Manning**, opened the meeting, gonging the Rotary bell, welcoming all, and proceeding with announcements:

- The 5th Wednesday Social will be **September 30 at 5:00 pm** at Deep Roots Wine Cellar, 107 Church St., Marietta, GA. Please note, there will be **NO** lunch meeting at the Hilton Conference Center on Wednesday, September 30.
- **Wednesday, October 7**, the Adaptive Games will be held at Marietta High School from 8:00 am – 12:45 pm. There will be **NO** lunch meeting at the Hilton Conference Center on Wednesday, October 7. Please arrive early to pick up your shirt from President Elizabeth.
- October launches the Feminine Hygiene project. Bring items to the meeting **Wednesday, October 14** and throughout October or donate, utilizing the envelope at check-in desk. Girl's Inc. will be recipient of this project.
- **Thursday, October 8**, is the MUST Lunch Service. Both cooks and servers are urgently needed. Please contact **Harold Hobbs** or **Marlys Williams** if you can lend a hand. Ten to twelve volunteers are needed to prepare and serve lunch for 100 diners.
- Marietta Reads is **Monday, October 19 – Thursday, October 22**. Sign-up sheets were emailed. Please sign up and return to **Alan Gibby** at awgibby@gmail.com. See Page 8 of Rotalight for list of schools, dates, time and addresses. Due to short lead time, please respond to Alan's email in advance of October 14.
- **Thursday, October 22** is the Women's Extension Dinner at 6:30 pm. Please advise **Paul Stewart** if you can volunteer.
- The next live meeting is **Wednesday, October 14** at the Hilton Conference Center.

Rob Garcia provided the invocation recalling the 25th Anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, which occurred September 11, 2001. He recalls this momentous occasion as he was a third grade student at the time. He sends up praise for leadership and the awesome chance to be servants in the community, while praying for continued assistance and guidance in serving the community.



ROB GARCIA

Jennifer Nelson announced guests and visitors. Ben Worley of Worley, Schillings & Randall Insurance, (several of his forebears were well known Marietta Rotary members) visits as guest of **Rob Garcia**. **Kit Cummings** is visiting from North Cobb Rotary. Joining Kit from North Cobb Rotary is ever faithful Rotarian, and frequent contributor to the MDJ, **Dan Kirk**.



Jeff Cooper managed Sunshine. **Tom Downs** shared that today's visitor, Ben Worley, is the third generation of Worleys in the Rotary Club of Marietta and warmly welcomes him. Tom's daughter, Annie, a recognized author, has a new book to be released shortly entitled "*Don't Let That Stop You*." **Jeff Cooper** shares there will be a press release shortly announcing his theater group will be performing at the Jenny T. Anderson

Theater next year, and his expectation is full Rotary attendance. Rev. Dr. **Mark Barbour** requested everyone's assistance in celebrating the birthday of long-time Rotarian and Sargent of Arms, **Irv Smith** on September 7, commencing with a raucous rendition of the "birthday song," and accompanied by a gigantic birthday cake, as well as many well-wishers. Happy 80th Birthday, **Irv**.

Kay Peninger introduced today's speaker, Allison Nyarko, from Cobb Collaborative where she serves as the Director of Early Childhood Programs with Youth Literacy being a key issue. Allison began her career as a Teacher for America Corps in South Carolina, earning her undergrad degree in Early Childhood Education from Ohio University and her Master's Degree in Educational Leadership and Global Studies from the University of Illinois. Outside of work, she loves reading, being outdoors, and keeping up with an energetic toddler.

Who Cobb Collaborative is:

Cobb Collaborative is a membership of nonprofit organizations, local government, businesses, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, professional organizations, associations, and citizens who share ideas expertise and resources to meet the needs of Cobb County.

- Cobb Collaborative engages all stakeholders in a community-wide reading initiative that unites families, educators and community partners to improve literacy in children.

Why Healthy Mental Health Matters: 1) One in five U.S. adults experience mental illness—and 1 out of 20 is serious, 2) Only 51% of those with a mental health condition receive treatment, 3) One in six youth (ages 6-17) experience a mental health disorder.

Students who have not mastered reading by 3rd grade are four times more likely to drop out of high school

- Only 45% of children are read to more than 4 days a week.
- 90% of brain growth happens before kindergarten.
- 52.3% of children are not achieving proficient learner on milestones English Language Arts in Cobb County

3. Count, Group, and Compare - Help your child make sense of numbers and categories all around them.
4. Explore Through Movement and Play - Encourage curiosity, discovery, and a healthy body.
5. Read and Discuss Stories - Build your child's knowledge, reasoning, and early literacy skills.

The Cobb Collaborative Initiatives and Strategy:

The Basics is a community-level public health strategy, working within and across organizations to embed The Basics Principles. The following events are rooted in five evidence-based practices for promoting early childhood development into routine family engagement efforts:

1. Maximize Love, Manage Stress - Staying emotionally present for your child increases their happiness, strengthens their emotional health, and builds self-control skills.
2. Talk, Sing and Point - Boost your child's language skills and knowledge of the world.

The Opportunity Drawing was coordinated by **Justin Rutland**. **Tom Downs** drew the first number, and extracted an unwanted black ball. The next number was drawn by **Jeff Cooper**, who fared no better. **Will Allen** led the Pledge and 4-Way Test. Pres. **Elizabeth**, gonging the Rotary Bell, closed the meeting and dismissed all. October is packed with volunteer opportunities. Your perspective and involvement would be welcomed. The next meeting will be Wednesday, October 21, with Lisa Cupid, Chair, Cobb Country Board of Commissioners as speaker.

Marietta Reads: A Rotary Tradition

Some service projects happen once. Others become part of who you are.

For the Rotary Club of Marietta, Marietta Reads is one of those traditions.

For years, our members have worked alongside Marietta City Schools in support of literacy and young readers in our community. It is a partnership that reflects something Rotary believes deeply: meaningful change often begins close to home.

For our members, Marietta Reads is about more than books. It's about investing in children, supporting educators and strengthening the community we all share.

Generations of Marietta Rotarians have helped carry that commitment forward—and we are proud that literacy continues to hold such an important place in our club's service.

That is what lasting impact looks like: people showing up, year after year, for something that matters.

Marietta Reads – Schedule for October 19 – 22, 2026

The book to be read is *Andy and Elmer's Appling Dumpling Adventure*. See sign up sheets provided by Alan Gibby to sign up or email Alan: awgibby@gmail.com

Date	Time	School	Address	Number Readers Needed
Mon., Oct.19	8:30 am	West Side	344 Polk St. NW, Marietta	5
Tues., Oct. 20	8:45 am	Hickory Hills	500 Redwood Dr., Marietta	4
Tues., Oct. 20	10:00 am	Park Street	105 Park Street SE, Marietta	5
Wed., Oct.21	9:00 am	Dunleith	120 Saine Drive, Marietta	5
Wed., Oct. 21	9:00 am	Sawyer Rd.	840 Sawyer Rd., Marietta	5
Thurs. Oct. 22	8:30 am	AL Burruss	325 Manning Rd., Marietta	3
Thurs. Oct. 22	10:00 am	Lockheed	1205 Merritt Rd., Marietta	6

PICTURES FROM LAST MEETING

September 16, 2026



KAY PENINGER, ALLISON NYARKO, AND PRES. ELIZABETH



DON BARBOUR, JOHN ROBERSON, JEFF COOPER, BEN WORLEY AND ROB GARCIA



JOE ATKINS, KAY PENINGER, AND PRESIDENT ELIZABETH



JIM PEELER AND DOUG HAYNIE



JENNIFER NELSON, WILL ALLEN AND SANDEEP KAPOOR



PATRICK STEWART, MICHELLE MILLER AND TERESA JONES

Cheers, Connections, & Fellowship

Marietta Rotarians Gather for 5th Wednesday Social

by Marlys Williams

Laughter, conversation, and a welcoming spirit filled Deep Roots Wine Market & Tasting Room on Church Street as Marietta Rotarians and guests came together for the Club's 5th Wednesday Social on September 30, 2026 at 5:00 pm. Organized by President **Elizabeth Manning**, the gathering offered members a chance to relax, reconnect, and strengthen the friendships that make Rotary such a vibrant community.

Guests enjoyed a variety of self-dispensed wines from the wine wall, available by the glass or bottle, along with an assortment of delicious appetizers. The relaxed and casual setting provided the perfect opportunity for Rotarians and visitors to catch up with friends and acquaintances, and simply enjoy one another's company.

With numerous community service projects on the calendar for October, everyone welcomed the opportunity to pause, unwind, and enjoy an evening of fellowship. The gathering brought plenty of smiles, laughter, and good cheer to the group.

Witnessed enjoying the occasion were: **Jill Case-Wirth, Jeff and Tina Cooper, Jim Fausett, Alan Gibby, Abbott Hall, Doug and Susan Haynie, Teresa and Keith Jones, Venus Justice, Ralph and Cathy Knight, Dr. John Knox, Elizabeth Manning** and Kathy Lishman, **Kay Peninger, Megan Scoggins** and Andrew Cooper, **Julia** and Russell **Sebastian, Paul** and Marta **Stewart**, and **Marlys Williams**.

The next 5th Wednesday Social will not be until **March 31, 2027** – so mark your calendars now and plan to join for another evening of fellowship and fun!





UPCOMING EVENTS

October 19 - 23 Marietta READS!

See Page 8

Wednesday, October 21, 2026 12 Noon

Luncheon Meeting - Lisa Cupid, Chair
Cobb County Board of Commissioners

Thursday, October 22, 2026 6:30 PM

Serving Dinner at the Women's Extension

Wednesday, October 28, 2026 12 Noon

Luncheon Meeting -Robert Garcia III, CEO of the
College and Career Academy at Marietta High

Wednesday, November 4, 2026 12 Noon

Luncheon Meeting - TBD

Wednesday, November 11, 2026 12 Noon

Luncheon Meeting -Brigadier General
Jason W. Fryman, U. S Army

Thursday, November 12, 2026 9 & 11:30 AM

Cook and Serve at MUST Ministries

MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

www.mariettarotary.org

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Julie Sebastian, *President-Elect*

Cliff Kelker, *Past President*

Megan Scoggins, *Executive Secretary*

Michelle Miller, *Secretary*

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Kay Peninger, *Administration*

Megan Walter, *Service*

John Roberson, *Membership*

Jenn Hogan, *Public Image*

Christal McNair, *Foundation*

Meeting makeups may be emailed to:
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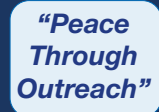
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