



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>



This Week:

October 3
District Governor Coop
Visit

Upcoming Meetings:

October 10
Sandy McKenzie -
Oncology Program at
Hamilton Medical Center

October 17
TBA

October 24
Dr. Steve Wrigley
Chancellor UGA System

October 31
Smitty Barnett
Rotary Foundation

Autism Awareness

by John Hutcheson

Community Service Chair Amy Messick introduced Dwayne Smith, manager of Workout 24/7 in Chatsworth, who miraculously survived a supposedly totally disabling accident to become a professional wrestler, businessman, and passionate advocate for victims of autism.



Dwayne Smith

Dwayne recounted that his accident was in the form of a stroke, after which he was told he would never walk or talk again. He recovered nevertheless and still wrestles occasionally, often to raise support for research into autism.

Using a brief video, Dwayne showed that autism is a neurological disorder of unknown origin. Each case is different, with its own manifestations, but common features include poor or absent communication skills and repetitive behaviors. It can strike in any age group, but it is most frequently associated with children. In the U.S. and Australia, one in 68 children is autistic, and the rate in Europe is 62 in 1,000. Autistic celebrities include the inventor of Pokemon and the performers Cher and Eminem. Research is promoted by an organization called Fighting for Autism, founded 3½ years ago in Australia and now comprising 80,000 members worldwide, while education about the disorder is furthered through Ambassadors for Autism. In Dalton/Whitfield, Dwayne is working to bring kick-boxing therapy from Memphis and to match a donation of \$3,000,000 from a local benefactor for construction of a 50,000 sq. ft. Autism Therapy Center, part of a larger goal to have at least one such center in each state.

In a moving conclusion to his presentation, Dwayne related that autism became centrally important to him when his son was diagnosed at age 3½. He had been non-verbal, but last year he told his mother on her birthday that he loved her, and he now has a vocabulary of about twenty words.

Announcements and Recognitions

President Kevin Brunson opened the meeting by congratulating Dalton State College on the celebration of its 50th anniversary. He reminded members about the ongoing drive to gather supplies for the Family Crisis Center, an undertaking in which the Club is also partnering with the Walmart Neighborhood Market. District Governor "Coop" Cooper will visit our Club on October 3 and will meet with the Board at 11:00 a.m. that day. On October 10 the Club will meet in the James Brown Auditorium at Hamilton Medical Center for a program about oncology and the new cancer treatment center.

The Community Service Committee is partnering with one of our newest Rotary members, William Venable, and employees from the Walmart Neighborhood Market to spend (4) four hours on October 7th volunteering at the Crisis Center. We will be pressure washing and doing some light landscape work from 8:00am to 12:00pm. If you would like to help us with this worthy cause, please let Chris Cooke or Amy Messick know so we can properly plan for equipment and volunteers.

Club Officers:

Kevin Brunson
President
Greg Dent
President-Elect
Frank M. Hogshead
Secretary, Treasurer
Bruce Satterfield
Immediate Past President
Vallarie Pratt
Club Administration Chair
John Hutcheson
Public Relations Chair
Cherri Robertson
Membership Chair
Amy Messick
Community Service Chair
Ricky Robertson
Youth Service Chair
Chris Cooke
Vocational Service Chair
Archana Srivastava
International Service
Chair
George "Smitty" Barnett
Foundation Chair

October 3rd Birthdays and Anniversaries

<u>Member Birthdays</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Willingham, Tommy G (TOMMY)	4-Oct
Farmer, Joseph (JOSEPH)	6-Oct
Tripp, Larry E. (LARRY)	7-Oct
Gilreath, Judy Ellen (JUDY)	9-Oct
Aft, David (DAVID)	9-Oct

<u>Partner Birthdays</u>	<u>Member Name</u>	<u>Birthday</u>
Sutherland, Phyllis	Sutherland, George W.	5-Oct
Griffin, Brenda	Griffin, Ronald L	8-Oct

<u>Member Anniversaries</u>	<u>Start Date</u>	<u>Years</u>
Barnett, George S. (SMITTY)	10/6/2015	2

<u>Wedding Anniversaries</u>	<u>Partner's Name</u>	<u>Anniversary</u>	<u>Years</u>
Peterfreund, Allen David (ALLEN)	Anna	4-Oct	14
Chute, Patricia M (PAT)	Bob	9-Oct	36

Four Way Test 2017

