

CLUB SERVICE

4-Way Test—*this week* – Carla Cloud
4-Way Test—*next meeting* – Jason Rabun
Program— Jane Page Thompson
Jan. Invocation— Judy Chun
Jan. Greeters — Ahmed Samaha, John Girardeau
Jan. Students – Reid DeMass (AHS), Morgan Jones (SABCS), Avery Ofoje (SAHS)
Jan. Student Hosts – Ahmed Samaha, Rakesh Jasani, Jeremy O'Donnell

GUESTS

Morgan Jones	Student guest
Reid DeMass	Student guest
Avery Ofoje	Student guest
Gene Hart	guest of Jennifer Hart
Mattie Dillon	guest of Dr. Sean Alford
Steve Miano	guest of Ahmed Samaha
Jennie Cadden	guest of Bill Taylor
Donna Taylor	guest of Bill Taylor
Rob Novit	visiting Sunrise Rotary

MAKE-UPS

Richard Herring	R.C. of West Ottawa 1/4
Jeff Baumgartner	Rotary Reader 1/4

PROGRAM LAST WEEK (CONT.)

Medicaid expansion, elimination of the certificate of need program, judicial reform, protection of the 2nd amendment, eminent domain reform, environmental regulation reform, session shortening, and biennial budgeting are also action items for 2016. Rotarian Sen. Young's 2016 initiatives in the Senate include: Article V Convention of the States, freedom of information act, refugee absorptive act, and SC Farm Aid act. Representative Bill Taylor closed with emphasizing that the House and Senate have full agendas for 2016 and should prove to be a very busy year in the legislative arena.

YOUNG PROFESSIONALS AND ROTARY

One of our Club's goals this year is to increase Rotary awareness and membership with young professionals within our community. We have the opportunity to apply for a Rotary grant up to \$15,000.00 aimed at just that, and it is a great opportunity to partner with other clubs in our area as well. The grant is designed to bridge the generation gap and engage young professionals in new ways. Mallory Holley and Catie Rabun are taking the lead on this initiative along with assistance from several of our young professionals and would welcome any help from our membership. **If you have experience in writing grants, some good ideas, or just have interest in assisting with this grant application, please contact Mallory as soon as possible.** The deadline for submitting the grant is February 12, 2016.



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Monday, 12:30 PM
Newberry Hall
117 Newberry Street, SW
www.aikenrotary.org

R.I. President
K.R. "Ravi" Ravindran
District Governor
Terry Weaver
Club President
Joe Lewis
President Elect
Jason Stewart
Vice President
John McMichael
Past President
Barbara Morgan
Secretary/Treasurer
Stanley Smith
Sergeant-at-Arms
Brenda Stein
Assistant Governor
Dan Rickabaugh
Board of Directors
Collette Ball (2016)
Liz Neal (2016)
Will Williams (2016)
Paul Dusenbury (2017)
Beth Everitt (2017)
Grant Wiseman (2017)
John Lindsay (2018)
Rick McLeod (2018)
Catie Rabun (2018)

Sergeants-at-Arms
Chair: Brenda Stein
Robert Stack
Richard Herring
Richard Holley
John McMichael
Diana Riddick

THE GEAR

JANUARY 25, 2016



Rotary
Club of Aiken



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Photographer: Catie Rabun

PROGRAM LAST WEEK

By: Sarah Griffis



Rotarian Tim McClendon introduced fellow Rotarian, SC House Representative Bill Taylor. Rep. Taylor presented an annual legislative update for the state of SC. Bill shared the good news of expansion across the state with the recruitment of 19,020 jobs in 2014 and highlighted many other areas of growth in SC.

Rep. Taylor checked off a list of 2014 legislative items that have been approved by the house of representative, the Senate, and the governor. These items included: criminal domestic violence reform, law enforcement and body worn cameras, trespasser responsibility act, uber rider share legislation, public meeting agenda notice, powdered alcohol ban, veterans in state tuition, and human trafficking prosecution. Representative Taylor expressed that the 2015-1016 major priority for the house is improvement in SC roads. In Senator Tom Young's absence, Rotarian Taylor conveyed that this goal of road improvement is also a priority for the Senate. The ethics bill and the senate finance bill are both of concern for the Senate and Rotarian Tom Young is optimistic that the Comprehensive Ethics Bill will be passed in 2016. The look ahead for 2016 includes a full agenda of initiatives to include road funding, restructuring of the SCDOT, education transformation, flood aid relief, and actions taken to protect and secure SC's dams. Specifically the targeted items for the SC House of Representatives for 2016 are to complete the ethics, individual income tax, and retirement system reforms. (cont. on back of program).

PROGRAM TODAY

OWEN CLARY & ROBERT STACK HISTORIC AIKEN AWARDS

FUTURE PROGRAMS

- JAN 25 Mark Vanderslice: Pacer
Basketball
- FEB 1 Kathy Griffin; Tall Pines STEM
Academy
- FEB 8 Beth Klein; Human Trafficking

BIRTHDAYS

- 1/28 Joe Lewis
- 1/31 John Lindsay

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

- 1/8 Ross Culligan (2007)



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Owen Clary

Flipping back through the historical files of our Rotary Club, we find that near this date in January 1996 some twenty years ago, we had as our guest speaker, Susan French, who was at that time Director of the Habitat for Humanity project. She outlined the need for additional support for Habitat. We have been a great supporter of Habitat over the years and are happy at this time to have the current Director of Habitat, Richard Church, as a member of our Club. Recently we gave the organization a fair sum of money to assist in the construction of Habitat's 100th house here in the Aiken area. The construction of House 100 was quite an achievement for that most noteworthy group of people who make a difference in the lives of some of our citizens. Our Club's statements issued each quarter, reflect a small amount of \$20 as a club commitment to Habitat on our bills. We feel that such a commitment of our Club and of ourselves is indicative of our support for this worthy cause and reinforces our motto of "Service Above Self." So we say "a job well done" to Richard and his staff.

WHAT DID WE JOIN ROTARY TO DO?

by: Harvey Gilbert, Rotary Club of Morristown, NJ

submitted by: Jon Notestein

How many times have you heard someone reporting that he or she joined Rotary because they wanted to find a way to "give back"? What does that mean? Give what back? And to whom? Is someone missing something? And why is this so important, anyway?

In case you are one of those who joined Rotary in hopes of finding paradise in the networking opportunities that don't remain a primary focus, I must enlighten you. The idea of "giving back" is the glue holding most clubs together. Despite the difficulty of finding a good meeting time or place, the diminishing numbers of members, the aging of the population and the difficulty in competing with the "hectic work and life schedules imposed upon younger potential members, some clubs continue to hang in there. The "giving back" idea is a wonderful oasis in a desert of taking.

Through high school and college, many are surrounded with the competition of sports, grades, and social events. Many are encouraged to do the "best they can do". They are sent into the marketplace to show how to be creative and more attractive to employers, customers and potential spouses. Treasuring the mass market, the advertising catch, the franchise success, the boast and puff, they push the limit of ethics in order to achieve, develop, produce and acquire. The focus is narrowed so that the achiever could more efficiently "get there", "make it big", "knock 'em dead", "take our share", and "win".

Along the way, our churches complain that the seats are not filled as they used to be. Individuals in other civic groups, as well as our Rotary members, have had years of stumbling. Is it any surprise that many people are in search of a way to find meaning and satisfaction in the work of the day? We no longer often see the tree we cut used to build the roof that shelters us. We no longer often raise the corn or cow that becomes what fills our stomach. Most of us are separated from the satisfaction of seeing and feeling the stuff that we do as it is turned into the benefit we hoped would result.

This is where Rotary lives. This is where Rotary soars. This is where your potential good members are found. Find someone who wants to feel the satisfaction of "giving back" and they will find in Rotary the enjoyment which will be immediate and contagious. We have what they need. We show first hand and immediately what it is to be a part of a loving and caring neighborhood of friends who expand the definition of "home" to include all of us. We help those who need help. We do this. Giving back is what we do.