

CLUB SERVICE

4-Way Test—this week – Bill Taylor

4-Way Test—next week — TBA

Program— Sandra Jordan

November Invocation— Liz Neal

November Greeter — Joe Spencer & Cindy Meares

GUEST

Bryan Stirling	speaker
Carson Brackett	student guest
Jared DeMass	student guest
Jenifer Granade	Keyatta Priestler
Katrina Kulik	guest of Jamie Mothkovich
Andrea Thomas	guest of Bill Tucker
Maria Pressley	guest of Bob Forest
Dr. Maria Glinski	guest of Bob Forest
Doria Patterson	guest of Bob Forest
Tatiana Palash	guest of Bob Forest
Dr. Shawn Foster	guest of Dr. Sandra Jordan

STUDENT GUEST FOR NOVEMBER

Rotarian Grant Wiseman hosted **Jared DeMass** from Aiken High. Jared is involved with the Beta Club, National Honor Society and Student Council. He is part of the Varsity Soccer and Cross Country teams. He is a volunteer at Golden Harvest Food Bank. Jared is ranked 2nd in his graduating class and would like to study engineering at either Clemson or Notre Dame. He enjoys reading, backpacking, playing piano and basketball.

Rotarian Chrissa Matthews hosted **Carson Brackett** from South Aiken. Carson is involved with Senior Executive Council and National Honor Society. She volunteers at NewSpring Church, Jackson Senior Citizens Center, Helping Hands, Relay for Life and Palmetto Health Children's Hospital. Carson scored a perfect SAT score in math and is ranked 5th in her graduating class. She would like to study chemical engineering at Clemson or USC Columbia. Carson also holds numerous pageant titles including 1st runner up to Teen Miss South Carolina 2016.

Rotarian Keyatta Priestler hosted **Tamia Kitchings** from Aiken Performing Arts. Tamia loves to dance and play softball. She is ranked 2nd in her graduating class and would like attend either the Art Institute in Charleston or Atlanta. Tamia is already diving into the Aiken workforce as an employee of Sonic. She gives back to her community by volunteering at a local nursing home with her church.



Rotary Club of Aiken
PO Box 685
Aiken, SC 29802
(803) 648-5676
Monday, 12:30 PM
Newberry Hall
117 Newberry Street, SW
www.aikenrotary.org

R.I. President
John Germ

District Governor
Lance Young

Club President
Jason Stewart

President Elect
John McMichael

Vice President
Will Williams

Past President
Joe Lewis

Secretary/Treasurer
Karen C. Guevara

Sergeant-at-Arms
Brenda Stein

Assistant Governor
Dan Rickabaugh

Board of Directors
Paul Dusenbury (2017)

Ellen Priest (2017)

Grant Wiseman (2017)

John Lindsay (2018)

Rick McLeod (2018)

Jennifer Hart (2018)

Chrissa Matthews (2019)

Betty Ryberg (2019)

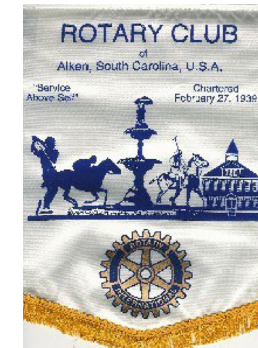
David Tavernier (2019)

Sergeants-at-Arms
Chair: Brenda Stein

Robert Stack
Rachel d' Entremont
Richard Herring
Richard Holley
John McMichael
Julia Walker
Josh Booth

THE GEAR

NOVEMBER 21, 2016



Rotary Club of Aiken



Chartered February 27, 1939

Club 6187—District 7750

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Editor: Tara Reeder - tara@howellprinting.net

PROGRAM LAST WEEK by Scott Hunter



Incarceration used to be a growth business in South Carolina.

Now our state has much to be proud of in both prisoner reduction, and the treatment of both prisoners and staff, according to Bryan Stirling, Director of the S.C. Department of Corrections.

South Carolina was projected to have 30,000 prisoners at this time, but the number has actually declined to 20,000. Partly responsible is the rate of recidivism, which has declined from 30 to 25 percent.

Stirling, who was recently honored by the Columbia Urban League with its Humanitarian Award, said a constant thought for the department is what type individual is being returned to society after being incarcerated. Eighty-five percent of prisoners return to society in five years.

"We want your community to be safer when prisoners get out," he said. He asked, "Do you not want them to have the resources and the education to do better?"

Stirling said the Department of Corrections has benefited from an increase in mental health specialists. He also said he wants staff to treat prisoners "the right way," but

also expects the people who work at the Department to be treated better.

"Officers deal with stresses inside and outside the prison," Stirling noted. He praised legislators for approving a pay raise for guards and said increases will be asked for again.

Other key factors in improving prison statistics include a decline in recidivism for youthful offenders with the help of a mentoring program, expanding family visits, state agencies working together and with businesses and industry to match outgoing prisoners with jobs, and starting a dorm for veterans and enlisting the support of local veterans.

Director since 2013, Stirling also gave details of "In A Mother's Voice," a new program that he and two Aiken educators helped develop at the Riley Diversity Leadership Conference. Working with Stirling were Rotarian and USC Aiken Chancellor Dr. Sandra Jordan and Dr. Shawn Foster, Aiken County Public Schools' Chief Officer of Operations and Student Services.

The program's goal is re-connecting women prisoners with their children.

Improving literacy is a key factor, and the group developed a recordable book. Women prisoners were recorded reading the book so that their children could be read to even while their parent is absent.

Stirling said the Department is hopeful of expanding the program.

The books cost \$30. Donations can be sent to the S.C. Department of Corrections, 4444 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC, 29210.

PROGRAM TODAY

Dr. Harris Pastides,
President of USC System

FUTURE PROGRAMS

NOVEMBER Monthly Theme:
Rotary Foundation Month

November 28 Shell Knox Berry
Community Foundation for the
CSRA

BIRTHDAYS

11/21	Phil Richardson
11/23	Chrissa Matthews
11/24	Tommy Wessinger
11/26	Tim Simmons
11/26	Liz Neal
11/26	Jason Stewart

CLUB ANNIVERSARIES

11/24 Al Sorensen (2008)



HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Owen Clary

FROM "THE GEAR" NOVEMBER 2006

We have had some very good programs and presenters to our Club in recent weeks. Thanks to Jennifer Hart, as program Chair, we have had some "awake" programs. Looking back over programs throughout the last 40 or so years, we can remember some highlights such as the confrontation between George Dickie and Representative Butler Derrick back in the '70s.

One other memorable program recalled was one ten years ago in November 2006 when the presenter was our own newscaster, Bill Tucker (nee Taylor sometimes). He gave a program on the Whitney Trust which controls the Whitney Polo Field, Palmetto Golf Course, and the tennis court building. At the conclusion of the short presentation, Bill Tucker surprised us and invited the entire Club over to view the court tennis building just across the street. That brick structure houses one of the ten courts in the US. It was concluded at the end of the visit, which included a demonstration of court tennis, that most of us had never seen inside that imposing building and the unusual clubhouse adjacent and we were duly impressed.. Quite a memorable and interesting program!

Margarita Make-up Night.

The 2016-2017 dates for Margarita Make-ups are:

*11/30, 1/25, 2/22, 3/29, 4/26,
5/31 & 6/28/2017*

at The Willcox

5:15 pm - 6:30 pm

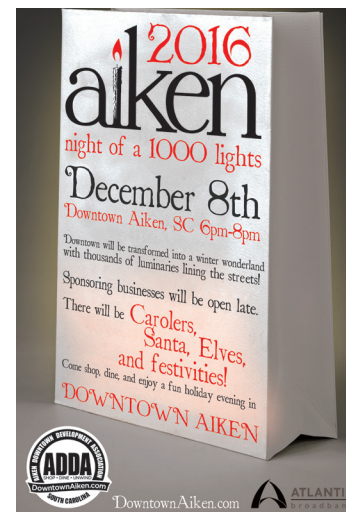
*Remember to turn-in your Make-up to
the Sergeant-at-Arms*

Remember you don't need a make-up!!

Just come spend time with fellow

Rotarians

SAVE THE DATE



World Polio Day celebrated in new way by Aiken club; raises \$3,500



Aiken Rotarian Fred Andrea, a minister, blesses the silent auction table at the club's polio fundraiser!

(The following article is courtesy of the November District Newsletter)

For World Polio Day 2016, the Aiken Rotary Club decided to do something it had never done before: It held a Silent Auction to raise funds for PolioPlus.

Club members donated special events like a 9-course meal, historic tours and various baskets of goodies. Bidding began a half hour before the normal meeting start time and concluded 15 minutes after the speaker finished. Despite the short time-frame, Rotarians were fast with their pens raising bids on a golf foursome and Model A Ford country drive. Other bidders were pooling resources to buy the Cocktails and History tour and a breakfast at the Racetrack. In the end even those members who were out bid donated to the cause. In just an hour and 45 minutes the seven items offered raised more than \$3,500 for PolioPlus. Thanks to the Melinda and Bill Gates Foundation those funds will be matched. Rotarians and their commitment to this Polio eradication effort will be well served by the efforts of every Rotary Club worldwide that participated in World Polio Day.