



## Message from the President: A Call to Action

Buckhead Rotarians, welcome to a new Rotary year. It is my privilege to introduce our newest signature project for 2026-27: Horizons Atlanta ([horizonsatlanta.org](http://horizonsatlanta.org)), joining our ongoing commitment to Lifeline Animal Project and Shepherd Center Pathways. Horizons Atlanta transforms the lives of under-resourced students through high-quality summer learning, mentorship, and the confidence that carries them forward—embodying our Rotary ideal of Service Above Self.

There is no better way to begin than on Monday, July 13, and I am delighted to welcome Ann Marie Bedtke, Executive Director of Horizons Atlanta, as our speaker. Ann Marie will share the mission behind this exceptional organization and the many ways we can serve alongside them this year.

This meeting is more than a program—it is a call to action. Together we will complete a hands-on service project, stuffing Buckhead Rotary backpacks with school supplies to send Horizons Atlanta scholars into the new year ready to succeed. ***To launch this partnership, we will also present Horizons Atlanta with a check for \$50,000.***

I know you want to share this incredible moment of service above self with your circle.

- **RSVP here and bring a friend**
- **Like, Comment, and Share on LinkedIn**

Please join us. Bring a friend, bring your energy, and come prepared to serve. Let's begin the 2026-27 year the Buckhead way—rolling up our sleeves and making a difference together.

## MEETINGS

July is Maternal and Child Health Month

- 7/13 Ann Marie Bedtke, Executive Director, Horizons Atlanta
- 7/27 William Pate, President and CEO, Atlanta Convention & Visitors Bureau
- 8/3 Lee Cuthbert, Director of Operations, Georgia Film Office
- 8/3 Lee Cuthbert, Director of Operations, Georgia Film Office, Georgia Department of Economic Development
- 8/4 Lee Cuthbert,
- 8/4 Lee Cuthbert,
- 8/10 Sonny Perdue, Chancellor, The University System of Georgia
- 8/17 No Meeting

## EVENTS

- 7/13 Board of Directors Meeting
- 7/20 No Meeting: Register for Thirsty ThirdsDay
- 7/23 Thirsty ThirdsDay
- 8/17 Board of Director's Meeting
- 9/21 Board of Director's Meeting
- 9/28 Governor Visit
- 10/19 Board of Director's Meeting
- 12/14 Board of Director's Meeting

## BIRTHDAYS

- 7/13 Shelley Hammell
- 7/17 Elizabeth Martin
- 7/21 Kevin Andrews
- 7/23 Jared Guyer
- 7/24 Peter Jensen



## July Thirsty ThirdsDay

*Hosted this month by Karla Arriola Kalmes*

Looking for a fantastic way to unwind and connect with your fellow Rotarians? Mark your calendars for Thirsty ThirdsDay at the home of Karla Kalmes!

Held on the third Thursday of the month after the workday ends, these gatherings trade the traditional meeting hall for the warm, intimate setting of a member's private home. It is the perfect opportunity to enjoy casual conversations over drinks and snacks in a completely relaxed, welcoming environment.

[RSVP Here](#)

## 2026 Award Winners

*Honoring dedicated members for exceptional leadership and commitment*

|      |                 |
|------|-----------------|
| 7/26 | Jimmy Cook      |
| 7/30 | Dave Peterson   |
| 7/31 | Benjamin Vayens |
| 8/1  | Collette Brown  |
| 8/5  | Richard Higgins |
| 8/6  | Blake Beyer     |
| 8/6  | Ken Clary       |

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

|      |                   |
|------|-------------------|
| 7/12 | Jim Floyd (57)    |
| 8/3  | Kari Kirkley (24) |

### ROTARY ONLINE

<https://buckheadrotary.org>  
<https://rotary6900.org/>  
<https://rotary.org/>

### LEADERSHIP

|                  |                 |
|------------------|-----------------|
| President        | Jeff Clark, Jr. |
| Vice President   | Radu Zernoveanu |
| Treasurer        | Rosa McHugh     |
| Secretary        | Marilyn Morgan  |
| Public Image     | Andrew Amerson  |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Scott Thompson  |



## Buckhead Rotary: Celebrating Our 2026 Award Winners

Honoring dedicated members for exceptional leadership and commitment during the 2025-26 Rotary year, supporting President Shelley and celebrating "Service Above Self"

### Premier Service Spotlights



#### **Kari Kirkley: Rotarian of the Year**

Coordinated over 1,000 service hours for the Lifeline Animal Project.



#### **Michael Stimpert: President's Award**

Honored for 12 years of service as Club Secretary handling all administrative functions.



#### **Rosa McHugh: Service Above Self Award**

Embodying the Rotary motto through selfless, dedicated community service.



#### **Molly Guenther: New Rotarian of the Year**

Recognized for her dedication to making an immediate impact on the club.

### 2026 Distinguished Honorees

|                                          |                                  |                                          |                                |
|------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| • <b>David Bockel Jr.</b>                | District Governor's Award        | • <b>Ryan Neff &amp; J. Ford Donohue</b> | Special Service Award          |
| • <b>Jim Coleman</b>                     | Community Service Award          | • <b>Marilyn Morgan</b>                  | Lem Bell Club Service Award    |
| • <b>Alec Smythe</b>                     | John Dykes Award                 | • <b>Collette Brown</b>                  | New Generation Award           |
| • <b>Jimmy Paulk &amp; Miriam Falaki</b> | Vocational Service Award         | • <b>Allison Geisler</b>                 | Geoff Gill Membership Award    |
| • <b>Jeff Clark</b>                      | Board of Directors Service Award | • <b>Maddie Puh</b>                      | New Member Participation Award |

These remarkable Rotarians exemplify dedication, compassion, and leadership, making a lasting impact in our community. Their commitment inspires us all, and we are honored to have such amazing individuals in our club.

## Celebrating Jeff Clark, our new Buckhead Rotary Club President!

### ***Comment, Like, and Share on LinkedIn***

Let's celebrate a new year and our new president on LinkedIn. Click [here](#) to like, comment, and share!

Buckhead  
COMMUNITY



Welcome  
Jeff!

Buckhead  
Rotary  
Club



New Club President

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## 75th Anniversary: Looking Back to the Beginning

### ***Do you know why we're called Rotary?***

As we celebrate our 75th anniversary, we'll look back on documents, newsletters, photos and much more to learn and remember together.

The original Rotary Club grew out of the loneliness of a young lawyer in Chicago who yearned to recapture the small-town camaraderie once enjoyed by the local doctor and lawyer, butcher, baker, and candlestick maker. In February of 1905, Paul P. Harris invited a group of men, each representing a different business or profession, to form a club which met socially at each member's place of business in rotation: hence the name ROTARY. As new members were invited, however, the group became too large to continue this practice, and soon they instituted the custom, still followed today, of gathering at a restaurant for lunch once each week.