



January 30, 2026

## Monday's Meeting: Adam Chamberlain, President & CEO, Mercedes-Benz USA

[RSVP HERE](#)

Chamberlain began his career in 1996 with Volkswagen Group in the U.K., and expanded his experience to the U.S. market in 2016 when he joined MBUSA for the first time. From 2016 to 2021, Chamberlain served as MBUSA Vice President of Sales and Product Management, helping to lead the brand's retail and product strategy in the dynamic U.S. market.

Chamberlain's most recent post was Executive Vice President, Chief Operating Officer at Lithia and Driveaway. Under his leadership, he was responsible for driving customer-centric experiences and operational efficiency by implementing strategies, monitoring performance indicators and collaborating to enhance systems and processes. During his time at Lithia Motors, the company was the largest automotive retail group in the world, encompassing 460 retail stores and generating \$37B in revenue.

As a native of the U.K., Chamberlain holds a degree in International Business and German from Sheffield Hallam University. Need to join by Zoom, click the link below.

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87941219913?pwd=S15RlBjTE1Rk1NaDRNa3hTcmphUT09#success> Password: 485257

Invocation: Judge E. Gardner III

Sunshine: Daniela Bergamo

Rotary Club of Buckhead  
Maggiore's Little Italy  
3368 Peachtree Road  
Atlanta, GA 30326

January is Vocational Service Month



### Half Year Update: Message from the President

Over the past six months, My Rotary, My Way has truly come to life. Meeting three times a month, our club has leaned into flexibility, purpose, and fun, and the results speak for themselves.

#### 1. Service Above Self: Volunteer Impact

Service continues to be the heartbeat of our club. Our members showed up in meaningful ways through hands-on volunteer opportunities that fit different schedules and passions.

- LifeLine Animal Project: Dog for a Day, adoption event, collaboration with Open Hand meal delivery, and shelter activities. Thank you, Kari Kirkley, for your passion! Over 4 months of pet food delivery, we had more than 125 volunteer hours by Buckhead Rotarians and their guests for a total of 184 LifeLine orders and 64 Open Hand meal orders!

- Shepherd Center movie night and Christmas Eve Elf plushie delivery to patients

- Ansley School we delivered Elf pushies to bring joy to the 95 students during the holidays.

- Holiday Ham Haul, a Christmas Eve Buckhead Rotary tradition with 56 meals delivered by 43 Rotarians with 150 service hours, across 4 Rotary clubs.

Thank you to all the elves, especially Miriam Falaki and Denise Starling. Every hour volunteered reinforced how Buckhead Rotary is making an impact in the community.

#### 2. Building Fellowship

Our Thirsty Thirdsdays have become a signature gathering at member's homes strengthening friendships, welcoming guests, and reinforcing the importance of building fellowship in Buckhead Rotary. And of course the Bark-a-cue and holiday party with the incredible bacon. Thank you Cathy LaMon and the incredible social committee.

#### 3. Speakers That Inspire

This half year brought an incredible lineup of speakers representing leadership, creativity, and impact. Thank you to the team headed up by Miriam Falaki with Jeff Nicholson and Reeves Smith, CEOs of Porsche, the Peach Bowl, Lumistella and Rowen along with the one and only CEO of the North Pole, Santa Claus (Jim Coleman). We had an award-winning Chef, a serenade by Drew Amerson who was accompanied by Ty Tippet along with leaders from the Atlanta Federal Reserve, Atlanta Public Schools, and the General Manager of Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport. We took time to honor our veterans and raised awareness for Polio. These programs informed, inspired, and reminded us that Rotary connects us to the very best of our community.

#### 4. Growth, Momentum & Leadership

While many clubs are declining, we are growing and thriving. Thank you Allie Geisler with help and support from Jay Shirley and the rest of the membership committee.

- Record meeting attendance (thank you, Michael Stimpert, for tracking!)

- 11 new members joined our Rotary family

- Sustained upward membership growth for over three years

- A solid succession plan ensuring continued strength and leadership

This momentum is the result of building an intentional culture and our members welcoming energy.

#### 5. Stronger Communication & Connection

We've also made big strides in how we stay connected:

- A newsletter that keeps members informed and engaged. Emily Carter, you rock!

- An easy-to-navigate website with vibrant photos (thanks, Alec Smythe!)

- Growing social media presence, expanding our reach and visibility, helping us stay visible and spreading the word of all the good we do (thank you Mark Meltzer and the social media committee).

Most importantly, thank you to every one of you, our members. Whether you volunteered, invited a guest, led a project, showed up to a meeting, or just brought great energy, this momentum happens because of you!

And the best part? We're only halfway through the year. There's more service to do, more speakers to wow us, more friendships to build, and probably a few more calendar activities that you will wait to the last minute to sign up for.

### Paper Roll Drive: Just Roll with It!

Please save the inner cardboard rolls from toilet paper and paper towels so we can use these to make paw-some toys for our upcoming volunteer project at The Boyse Ansley School. And if you are already thinking about spring cleaning, take a moment to paws and reflect; clean towels and blankets you no longer use are greatly needed too!

A collection bin will be available at the Sergeant at Arms table, for your donations.

### Volunteers Needed: February 6

We bring together the purr-fect collaboration with The Boyse Ansley School and LifeLine Animal Project, two of our signature projects. On February 6th, we will help grades K - 6 create pet toys and Valentine's for the adoptable cats and dogs in the shelters. This project leverages the district community grant we received to help bring joy, education, and fun to these two organizations while doing good for all. This project is guaranteed to relieve stress for Rotarians, children, and the pets we are serving.

We need a few Buckhead Rotarians who are interested in fellowship with the kids, grades K - 12, and a couple of adorable foster dogs. Please sign up on the calendar and join us from 12:30 - 2:30 pm on February 6th at 120 Ralph McGill Blvd NE Bldg. 3 Ste. 1, Atlanta, GA. No creative skills needed! The projects are super simple, and LifeLine will have detailed instructions for Rotarians to help the kids gain the most fun and education from this activity. And we will be serving Valentine's cookies and milk for the 95 children. Please join us for this fun and rewarding volunteer opportunity that brings together these two important organizations. **Please reach out to Anne Stuhler or Jimmy Paulk with any questions.**

[Click Here to RSVP](#)

### February Opportunities to Connect

Polar Bear Plunge, February 7, 2026 10:00 am - 2:00 pm: [RSVP Here](#)

SHARE Pizza Night, February 11, 5:30 pm-6:30 pm: [RSVP Here](#)

Thirsty ThirdsDay, February 19, 2026 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm: [RSVP Here](#)

Pawstivity Partnership with Buckhead Rotarians Delivering Pet Food with OpenHand, February 21, 2026 10:00 am - 1:00 pm: [RSVP Here](#)



## Meetings

January is Vocational Service Month

- 2/2 Adam Chamberlain.  
President & CEO, Mercedes-Benz USA
- 2/9 Robert Ross Johnson  
Humanitarian Award Luncheon
- 2/16 No Meeting President's Day
- 2/23 Shepherd Center Service  
Dog Program (on site at Shepherd)
- 3/2 Hands-On Volunteer Activity  
Benefiting Girl Scouts and Inspiration from their  
Community Projects
- 3/9 No Meeting: Volunteer for  
Shepherd Center Tuesday  
Dinner Service
- 3/16 No Meeting: Register for  
Thirsty ThirdsDay
- 3/23 Speaker to be Announced

## Events

- 1/30 Buckhead Rotary Night at  
the Atlanta Symphony  
Orchestra
- 2/6 Pre Valentine's Day at  
Boyse Ansley School to  
Benefit LifeLine
- 2/7 Polar Bear Plunge
- 2/9 Board of Directors Meeting
- 2/11 SHARE Pizza Night
- 2/19 Thirsty ThirdsDay
- 2/21 Pawsitivity Partnership with  
Buckhead Rotarians  
Delivering Pet Food with  
OpenHand
- 3/7 Dog for a Day (or a Few  
Hours) at the lush and  
scenic Chastain Park

## Our Rotary Family

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## BIRTHDAYS

1/8 Bernie Santa Maria  
1/9 Nell Benn  
1/14 Sara Beth Prendeville  
1/14 Bernard Van Der Lande  
1/20 LeeHester Rhodes  
1/31 Mitchell Nordstrom

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

1/6 Reeves Smith (1)

## Rotary Online

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



## LEADERSHIP

|                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|
| President        | Shelley Hammell  |
| President-Elect  | Jeff Clark, Jr.  |
| Immediate PP     | Denise Starling  |
| Vice President   | Jeff Clark, Jr.  |
| Treasurer        | Radu Zernoveanu  |
| Secretary        | Michael Stimpert |
| Public Image     | Mark Meltzer     |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Garth Peters     |



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