Roswell Rotary Club

Rotascope

JANUARY 7, 2026

President's Message



Happy New Year Roswell Rotary! I hope you all had a great NYE and ready to begin 2026! It's been 3 weeks since we have last met, and I am looking forward to a new year, new opportunities and a new attitude towards what we can be in 2026!

"I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am." — C.S. Lewis

There may be no better way to step into a new year than with that kind of honest reflection. Acknowledging where we fall short, recognizing where we hope to go, and giving thanks for how far we've already come. That tension—between who we were, who we are, and who we are becoming—is exactly what makes a new year so powerful.

As we turn the page to 2026, we are given something rare and valuable: a clean slate. Whether 2025 was one of the best years of your life or a year you're ready to leave behind, the calendar gives us permission to begin again. New goals. New habits. New perspective. New purpose. A fresh opportunity to become more of the person we were meant to be.

Rotary fits beautifully into that idea of renewal. Service Above Self is not just a motto—it's a way of shaping character. When we choose to serve others, we inevitably change ourselves. We become more aware, more compassionate, more grounded, and more purposeful. In that sense, Rotary is not just something we do on Thursdays; it's something that quietly molds who we are every other day of the week.

MEETINGS

January is Vocational Service Month

1/8	Secretary of State Brad Raffensberger
1/15	Andy Christensen - "How to Find Purpose in Anything in Under a Minute"
1/22	Kit Cummings - Author, Teacher, Storyteller
1/29	Shaun Chapas - Fmr UGA and NFL player and Skipper Hoke Awards
2/5	Colleen Craig - Atlanta Vibe Volleyball
2/12	Horst Schulze - A No Nonsense Guide to Becoming the Best in a World of Compromise
2/19	Leadership 2020 - Col. Dwight Schmidt
2/26	DEA Outreach Taskforce Officer - Wanda Wiggins

EVENTS

2/11	"Pint for a Pint" blood drive for the American Red Cross
2/19	Leadership 20/20
3/2	Read Across America Day
3/4	Women of Rotary Spring Social
3/14	Roswell Rotary 75th Anniversary Party
3/21	16th Annual Sweep the Hooch
3/21	Roswell Relays
4/18	Walk w a Doc featuring Phy Therapist Dr Kim Richards

LEADERSHIP

President	Trummie Patrick, III
President-Elect	Leslie Bassett
Immediate PP	Nancy Alterman
Treasurer	Mike Agurkis
Secretary	Katie Anderson

The beginning of this coming year carries special meaning for me personally. On January 7, it will mark one year since my father passed away. The last year has been one of grief, reflection and maybe a little growth. Loss has a way of clarifying what truly matters. It has challenged me to be more present, more intentional, and more committed to living a life that honors the legacy he left behind.

In 2026, my goal is simple but demanding: to be better. A better man. A better husband and father. A better friend. And a better Rotarian. If I can do those things—if I can live in a way that reflects his values—then his legacy continues, not just in memory, but in action. One lesson my dad never tired of repeating was that attitude is everything. He believed—deeply—that attitude could make or break a person, a career, a marriage, or an organization. Circumstances matter, yes. But attitude determines how we meet those circumstances.

Charles Swindoll said it best: "The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life. Attitude, to me, is more important than facts… more important than circumstances, failures, successes… It is more important than what other people think or say or do. The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day." That choice shows up in how we view our work, our service, and our role in Rotary.

As I had my 2026 planning meeting with my State Farm team, I shared with them a very old story that I have heard many times. It's an old Chinese parable of the farmer: One day, this old farmer's horse ran away. When villagers told him it was terrible, he simply replied, "Maybe." When the horse returned with seven other new horses, the villagers called it a blessing. Again, he said, "Maybe." When his son later broke his leg training one of the horses, the villagers called it tragic. The farmer replied, "Maybe." And when the army came through the village and did not take his son to war with them, the meaning of those events shifted once again.

The lesson isn't that events don't matter—it's that we rarely understand their full meaning in the moment. What matters most is patience, perspective, and attitude.

There's another simple story that illustrates this perfectly. Two identical bricklayers were working side by side. A passerby asked the first man, "What are you doing? He replied, "I'm laying bricks. It's hot. It's hard. And it's just a job." The passerby then turned to the second brick layer and asked him the same question. The second bricklayer smiled and said, "I'm building the greatest cathedral in the world." Same bricks. Same heat. Same work. Completely different meaning. To me,……That's Rotary!

As we move into 2026, we can look at Rotary as a weekly meeting, a meal, or another obligation on a busy calendar. Or we can recognize that we are building something far greater—stronger communities, changed lives, and a legacy of service that will outlast us. Perspective transforms effort into purpose. As Rotarians stepping into a new year, we don't have to fully understand every challenge or outcome ahead of us. We simply need to commit to showing up with the right attitude, a servant's heart, and a belief that what we are building together matters.

Cheers to 2026! A new start. A renewed purpose. And a year where we choose—every day—"to build the cathedral."

Membership Courtney Lott

ROTARY CLUB OF ROSWELL

Thursdays, 12:15 pm
Roswell Area Park
Bill Johnson Community Activity Building
10495 Woodstock Road
Roswell, GA 30075

ROTARY ONLINE

https://roswellrotary.club
https://rotary6900.org/
https://rotary.org/

BIRTHDAYS

1/7	Jeff Hamling
1/11	Darrell Beaudoin
1/14	Chris Webb
1/17	Jackie Jordan
1/17	Alicia Hughes
1/20	Evan Coyle
1/21	Gary Garrett
1/23	Kurt Hilbert
1/24	Dr. Kay Howell
1/24	William Noethling
1/25	David Bourne
1/26	Courtney Lott
1/28	Priya Crumpton
1/30	William May
1/31	Blake Turner
1/31	John Reddick
2/3	Chris Patterson

YEARS OF SERVICE

1/12	Jere Wood (8) 28 years in Rotary
1/13	Deborah Perkins (1)
1/13	Peter Saddler (1)
1/18	Alexandria Shuval Weiner (2)
1/19	Susan Rumble (15)

Sic Vos Non Vobis

Trummie Lee Patrick III

1/23	Jack Stephens (40)
1/24	Andy Williams (7) 14 years in Rotary
1/30	Mindy Jones (29)
1/31	Allen Dalton (41)
2/1	David Bourne (53)
2/2	Lee Dodson (12) 48 years in Rotary

January 8, 2026 Program: Georgia Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger



Our club is honored to welcome **Brad Raffensperger**, Georgia's 29th Secretary of State, as our guest speaker at the January 8, 2026 meeting.

Secretary Raffensperger was first elected Secretary of State in 2018 and overwhelmingly re-elected in 2022. A Georgian for over 30 years and conservative Republican, he has built a career rooted in engineering, entrepreneurship, and public service. Before entering statewide office, he served on the Johns Creek City Council and later represented District 50 in the Georgia House of Representatives.

A licensed Professional Engineer, Structural Engineer, and General Contractor,

Raffensperger founded Tendon Systems, a high-strength steel provider that grew into the Southeast's largest post-tensioning specialist under his leadership, employing approximately 150 people and completing projects in more than 40 states. He also founded Trillium Structures, a structural design consulting firm with commercial mid-rise and high-rise projects throughout the region.

As Secretary of State, Raffensperger has focused on secure and accessible elections. His tenure includes the largest rollout of voting machines in U.S. history, completed on time and on budget, and the introduction of Georgia's first auditable paper ballot system. He has championed photo ID requirements for all forms of voting, expanded polling locations to reduce wait times, and initiated audits of the state's voter rolls.Raffensperger's work drew national attention following the 2020 presidential election, during which he publicly defended the integrity of Georgia's election results. He was re-elected in 2022 after winning both the Republican primary and the general election. In September 2025, he announced his candidacy for Governor of Georgia in the 2026 election.

Beyond public service, Brad and his wife Tricia, high school sweethearts, have been married for more than forty-five years. They raised three sons and enjoy time with their three grandchildren. Brad is a current board member of the Ed Isakson YMCA. He is also a member of North Point Community Church, where he mentored 25 middle school students. As a volunteer in a ministry focused at a Gwinnett youth detention center, Brad worked with other volunteers to help mentor, minister and support incarcerated youth. He holds a Bachelor of Engineering Science in Civil Engineering from Western University and an MBA from Georgia State University. We look forward to hearing Secretary Raffensperger share insights from his career in business, engineering, and state leadership, as well as his perspective on election administration and public service in Georgia.

Date: Thursday, January 8
Time: 12:15
Location: Roswell Area Park
Bill Johnson Community Activity Building
10495 Woodstock Road
Roswell, GA 30075

Gratitude Wal: Members Helping Members



This is a new section of the Rotoscope- highlighting a few of the many acts of service our members give to each other:

From **Michael Curling** :

I just wanted to take a second to recognize **David White** . We ended up somewhat last minute needing a Civil Engineer for a permit with the City of Roswell and David and his firm **Civilogistix** , despite their busy schedule, took time over the Holidays to step up and assist us. The power of Rotary!

If you would like to share the extraordinary actions of a fellow Roswell Rotarian on the Gratitude Wall, please contact Alicia Hughes **ahughes@wsnielsen.com** or Kathy Igou **kligou@gmail.com**