

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA **ROTALIGHT**

*Putting "Service Above Self" in Marietta Since 1919*

## Marietta Rotary Serves Humanity **Marietta Reads!**



**Chair Brooke Stewart leads a volunteer group to set up Marietta Reads on the Marietta Square. More inside.....**



**ROTARY  
SERVING  
HUMANITY**



[mariettarotary.org](http://mariettarotary.org)

*November 16, 2016  
Volume 80, Number 18*

## Today's Speaker:



**Richard Woods**  
State School Superintendent

Richard Woods was born in Pensacola, Florida and while growing up in a military family, lived in California, Hawaii and Virginia before moving to Georgia. He graduated from Fitzgerald High School, and went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree from Kennesaw State University and a Master's Degree from Valdosta State University.

Woods has over 22 years of pre-k through 12th grade experience in public education. Woods was a high school teacher for 14 years, serving as department chair and teacher mentor. During his tenure, he was also selected as Teacher of the Year. For eight years Woods served in various administrative roles such as assistant principal, principal, curriculum director, testing coordinator, pre-k director, and alternative school director.

Woods also brings a business background to the superintendent's position, having been a purchasing agent for a national/multi-national laser company and a former small business owner.

He and his wife Lisha, a retired 30-year educator, are long-time residents of Tifton and have been married for 24 years.




**Rotary Club of Marietta**

# Fun

**JOHN BERRY**  
NOVEMBER 18  
*O' Sandy Ol' Santa Tour*  
Celebrating 50 Years of Christmas  
Marietta Performing Arts Center (MPAC)  
FOR TICKETS AND INFORMATION VISIT  
[MPAC.MARIETTA-CITY.ORG](http://MPAC.MARIETTA-CITY.ORG)  
ONE NIGHT ONLY  
NOV 18TH  
MARIETTA PERFORMING ARTS CENTER  
101 WHITLOCK AVENUE, MARIETTA, GA  
SHOWTIME 7:30 PM

**NOV. 18**  
**6PM: DINNER**  
**CHICKEN & THE EGG**  
**7:30PM**  
**JOHN BERRY CONCERT**

Order your tickets online from  
[MPAC.MARIETTA-CITY.ORG](http://MPAC.MARIETTA-CITY.ORG)  
FOR DINNER RESERVATION EMAIL US at  
[mariettarotarysvp@gmail.com](mailto:mariettarotarysvp@gmail.com)

  
**DEC 21: 5-7PM**  
**STOCKYARD BURGER**

**Santa Sendoff**

For More Information, email us at  
[mariettarotarysvp@gmail.com](mailto:mariettarotarysvp@gmail.com)

**REGISTER TODAY**  
& join

  
Joe, PDG Robert Hall, Norman

**2017 RI CONVENTION**  
ATLANTA  
JUNE 10-14

**Speakers:**  
Norman Aiken, Jeff Long, Maria Blackston, Dawn McEachern, Joe & Jo DeSantis, Becky Sawyer, Jim Fausett, Mike Straus, Reuben Green, Jim & Sue Trapnell, Doug Haynie



# Marietta Rotary Serves Humanity

# Marietta Reads!

Last week the second grade students of all seven Marietta City Elementary Schools welcomed Rotarians into their classroom as part of our Club's partnership with the Marietta City School System's Marietta Reads! Program. Every guest Rotarian read a book to one of the 39 second grade classrooms and talked to the students about the importance of reading. Rotary has partnered with Marietta City Schools and the Marietta Reads! Program for more than 10 years. The students are so enthusiastic and thrilled to share their classroom with us. They always have many questions that usually have nothing to do with the book you are reading. This partnership provides Rotarians not only an opportunity to get kids excited about reading but also shows the students, teachers, and faculty that their community cares about them and is invested in their education. Thank you to all the Rotarians who so generously gave up their time to come and share with these students. If you were not able to volunteer this time then rest assured you will have another opportunity in the spring!

~ Brooke Stewart



*"Thank You to the readers who  
gave of their time to make  
this project a success"*

~ Brooke Stewart, chair

#### **Hickory Hills**

Mark Barbour  
Fanette Adams  
Jeff Long  
Dan Kirk  
Charles Kilgore

#### **Lockheed**

Reuben Green  
Lee Foster  
Caitlyn Cooper  
Harold Hobbs

#### **Westside**

Jennifer Toussaint  
Thomas Sherrer  
Mike Straus  
Jim Burns  
Holly Walquist

#### **Sawyer Road**

Jim Peeler  
Fanette Adams  
David Cohen  
Brooke Stewart

#### **Dunleith**

Bill Allred  
Don Barbour  
Holly Walquist  
Russ Wood  
Kelly Maxwell

#### **Park Street**

Mark Barbour  
Joe Desantis  
Don Barbour  
Joe Atkins  
Chris Hynek

#### **A. L. Burruss**

Daniel White  
Randy Rice  
Russ Wood



*Number of Rotarians Reading: 26*

*Number of Classes read to: 39*

*Number of Second Graders' benefiting: 780*

# Marietta Reads! Setup



Holly Walquist and Kelly Maxwell directing the volunteers where to place tables



Don and Mark Barbour with Jill Sims, Marietta City Schools Executive Director of Curriculum, Instruction, & Assessment. Jill heads up the Marietta Reads! program.





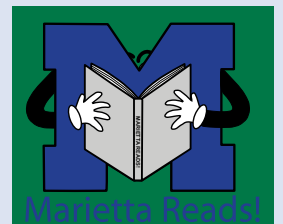
# Marietta Reads!



The Park Street team: Chris Hynek, Don Barbour, Joe Atkins, Joe DeSantis and Mark Barbour



Rotarian Joe Atkins prepares to read to his second grade class at Park Street Elementary School



# Marietta Reads!



The West Side Team:  
Mike Straus, Jim Burns, Holly Walquist, Fanette Adams and Thomas Sherrer



Mike Straus reads to a second grade class  
at West Side Elementary School



(Left) Mark Barbour preparing  
to read to his second grade  
class and brother Don (below)  
reads to his class





# Meet Jim Powell

## A “New” Member of Marietta Rotary

Abbott Hall and Joe Atkins recently joined “new” member Jim Powell for lunch at Canvas. Quotation marks are used with the word new because Jim is really not a new member. He is a former longtime club member and actually served as club president during 1990-1991. We debated whether to publish this new member article about Jim, but we came to realize that many of our truly new members were not involved in the club when Jim was president. Given Jim’s prodigious record of business, community, and Rotary accomplishments, we could all benefit from learning his story.

Jim is a native of Lake City, South Carolina. Lake City is located near Florence and is also the hometown on Ronald McNair, one of the astronauts who perished in the Challenger disaster. Jim graduated from Lake City High School and went on to complete his B.S. in mathematics at Presbyterian College where he was a Distinguished Military Graduate in the Army ROTC Program. Serving in the Adjutant General Corps of the Army, Jim spent time at Fort Benjamin Henry Harrison, Fort Hood, Fort Jackson, and at Terminal Command in Sattahip, Thailand during the Vietnam War. He also served as a defense counsel in special court martial proceedings at Fort Hood.

After completing his military service, Jim went to work for Trust Company Bank (today’s SunTrust) in Atlanta where he had many assignments including branch manager at Greenbriar Mall and managing the Credit and Commercial Training Department. Along the way, Jim obtained his MBA in Finance from Georgia State University. He eventually moved up the ranks at Trust Company and became the president of the Trust Company Bank of Cobb County and moved to West Cobb. Before completing his service at Trust Company, Jim worked with the CEO to develop a sixteen-branch network in Cobb County.

Next, Jim joined Northside Bank & Trust in Roswell where he became president and CEO. Later he served as president, CEO and vice chairman of United Community Bank Metro, in Marietta. Then after clearly establishing himself as a key leader in the banking industry, Jim organized, funded, and operated the Highland Commercial Bank and later sold it prior to retiring from banking. One of his proudest accomplishments was the moving, restoration, and repurposing of the Old Lost Mountain Store. You probably now know it as a bank. The logistics and work to accomplish this are worthy of an entire article.

Jim’s life has exemplified community service both inside and outside of Rotary. He has been active in the American Cancer Society, the American Red Cross (Chair-



man of Cobb-Douglas Chapter and Director of Atlanta Chapter), Leadership Georgia, Girls Club, Inc., Downtown Development Authority of Powder Spring, Powder Springs Business Association, Cobb County Transit Advisory Board, Cobb Chamber of Commerce (Director, Vice President of Government Affairs), Presbyterian Homes (Executive Committee), Tommy Nobis Center (Director and Chairman), Wellstar Health System (Director and Chair of numerous committees), and Kennesaw State University Foundation (Chairman and Member of Board of Trustees). Jim also recently completed fifteen years of service on the Board of Trustees of Presbyterian College in Clinton, South Carolina. His Rotary service is outstanding and includes Roswell Rotary, Rotary Club of West Cobb (Organizing Chair and President), and Rotary Club of Marietta (President). He is a Paul Harris Fellow as well as a Will Watt Fellow.

Jim enjoys book collecting, travel, and teaching banking to today’s bankers. He is married to Laura (also a Paul Harris Fellow) and they have grown children: Rusty, Kelly, and Ginny, as well as several grandchildren. The Powells live in Hardage Farm and are members of Marietta First Presbyterian Church.

Welcome Back Jim!



# WHEN WE LAST MET

## Minutes from the November 9 Meeting

President **Reuben Green** opened our meeting with a hearty welcome to all in attendance.

He recognized **Jim Kellogg** who was presented the Verizon Leadership Award in appreciation for setting the standard for leadership in the YWCA of Northwest Georgia's efforts to achieve the goal of a community free of domestic violence and sexual assault.

**Dawn McEachern** asked everyone to sign on our club's website to review the information on file for each member. We will soon start on-line billing for dues.

We were also reminded that John Berry's 20th Annual Christmas Show kicks off in Marietta on November 18th at the Marietta Performing Arts Center. Tickets are on sale for \$30 for General Admission and \$35 for Premium Admission.



**Clint Austin**

In honor of Veterans Day we had very special visitors – both veteran mentors and veteran participants - from the Cobb County Veterans Court who were introduced by **Clint Austin**. We also played the service song of each branch of service and asked each veteran to stand and be recognized during their service song. Clint also introduced our guests and visiting Rotarians. President Reuben then called **Marla Blackstone** and **Abbott Hall** to the front of the meeting room to help him present a medal and certificate to each club member who had served in the military.

Our very special speaker today was Master Sergeant Mike Reynolds.

Retired Master Sgt. Mike Reynolds began his career as an EMT fresh out of high school and soon after enlisted in the Army to become a medic. But in October of 2009 six months into his last deployment his vehicle was struck by enemy fire and he suffered a severe blow to the head. He tried to push through his injuries to continue doing the job he loved but struggled. He then returned to Georgia but continued to suffer from physical and emotional pain. He was re-evaluated at Fort Benning and properly diagnosed with a traumatic brain injury. Reynolds spent time in the hospital before being moved into the Wounded Warrior Battalion. During his recovery, the Chief of the Fort Benning Fire Department took him in and gave the Master Sgt. a place to be with people with whom he was familiar. He found a place to fit in again. After nearly 18 years of military service, Mike was medically retired in July 2011. He tried to get into the VA hospital but struggled to obtain appointments. Reynolds feels the VA is not a bad system but is grossly overwhelmed. During the time without medical



**Master Sgt. Mike Reynolds**

attention, Reynolds began to again have terrible headaches and noticed that his sleep, speech and vision had again become disturbed. His wife began asking for help and was informed of the Shepherd Center. The Shepherd Center is ranked among the nation's top rehabilitation hospitals for spinal cord and brain injuries. SHARE is a rehabilitation program that focuses on assessment and treatment for service members who have sustained a mild to moderate traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress disorder from the Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts. Mike has overcome many of his physical injuries, but continues to struggle with the loss of his memory and his inability to organize his thoughts. The former Medic explains how hard it is to go from a life of adrenaline and excitement, rushing to emergency scenes, to save lives, to a life in which he can no longer experience the same rush.

Mike is no longer able to impact the community in the same way that he used to but now gives a "leadership class", in which he talks about toxic work relationships and being aware of and concerned with the fact that the decisions you make affect others. He asks his audience to be more aware of the way they treat everyone from their employees to their spouses and children.

In Honor of Mike and the SHARE rehabilitation program our club collected \$647 from our members and a \$500 matching donation from the club's funds totaling to \$1147 given to the Shepard Center.

The meeting was concluded with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Air Force veteran **Glenn Owens** and the Four Way Test led by Marine Veteran **Dan Kirk**.

*~ Text by Mark Chesney*

*~ Photos by Tom Wilson*



# Meet Rich Marr

## A New Member of Marietta Rotary

New member Rich Marr joined Abbott Hall and Joe Atkins on a recent Friday for lunch at the West Cobb Diner. Rich is a partner at Inflection Point Law, Inc. His firm operates as a virtual law firm and includes his partner based in Baltimore. As a member of a virtual firm, Rich is able to work almost anywhere and meet clients at locations convenient to them. His practice consists of two main areas: (1) representation of software and technology companies as general counsel, including corporate governance and financing; and (2) corporate mergers and acquisitions. Rich is licensed in both California and Georgia.

Rich lived in a variety of cities growing up, but spent most of his time in Columbia, South Carolina. Both his father and mother were active in politics. His father is still involved in real estate development. His mother is a Presbyterian pastor. After graduating from high school in Boston, Rich attended Georgia Tech and obtained a degree in industrial engineering in 1993. Rich then worked in the information technology field for about ten years until he decided to go to law school. He received his J.D. from U.C.L.A. in 2005, and he was admitted to the California bar. Rich practiced with Rutan & Tucker, a large California law firm based in Orange County. He then relocated to Georgia and was admitted to the State Bar of Georgia.

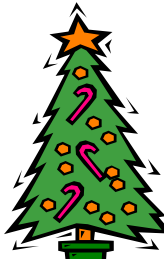
When he attended Georgia Tech, Rich met his future wife, Betina. She is a native of Tallapoosa, Georgia and works with AON Insurance in information technology in the Medicare supplemental insurance group. Betina and Rich have two children. Their daughter is a graduate of Harrison High School and is now a first year student at the University of Georgia, planning to major in genetics. Rich and Betina also have a fifteen year old son attending Harrison. Golf, reading, camping, gardening, and traveling are Rich's leisure pursuits. Rich and Betina have traveled to such places as Iceland, Switzerland, Alaska, and Canada in search of the world's most beautiful waterfalls.



Rich was previously active as a volunteer on the Alzheimer's Association board. Upon moving back to Georgia, Rich wanted to further his civic involvement and was encouraged by a friend who is a member of Sandy Springs Rotary to get active in Marietta Rotary. After investigating our club and that other well-known Marietta civic club, Rich chose Marietta Rotary at the urging of Marla Blackstone. Rich has wasted no time getting active, and has already worked on several service projects.

Welcome Rich!





# Rotary Club of Marietta 10<sup>th</sup> Annual 'Holidays Around the World' Children's Party

Franklin Rd. Marietta Police Athletic League: 200-250 Kids

**DATE:** Friday, December 9, 2016 from 6-8pm

**LOCATION:**

Located in the YELLS Community Action Café, 779 Franklin Rd.(Gateway), Marietta, GA.

## *Dear Rotarians:*

Every year we ask each member of our club to participate in some way for our annual Children's Christmas Party. This year, similar to last year, we will be working with the Franklin Road Community Association, the Marietta City Police Department Police Athletic League (PAL) & a variety of other local organizations & businesses. We will be purchasing 2 - \$10 children's gifts for over 200 underprivileged children of all ages. We are providing toys/gifts, pizza & drinks, toiletry bags, a craft table and entertainment. *Below are all the many ways you and your family can help, as many hearts & hands are needed to accomplish this community event.*

*1. The easiest thing for you to do is to please consider donating a check for up to \$75.* Your check must be collected on or before the November 30<sup>th</sup> Rotary Meeting. We will collect these at meetings each week.

- Please make your check out to: **MRFF** or ask us to add it to your quarterly bill.
- Please indicate in the memo: **Christmas Party**

*2. Sign up to Adopt specific age groups of children & purchase unwrapped children's gifts* (value up to \$10) spending up to \$75 worth of Christmas toys/gifts. All gifts must be received by December 7<sup>th</sup> Rotary meeting, and must be unwrapped.

*3. Please attend the event* & help with the Rotary craft or refreshment tables, handing out gifts/toiletry bags/pizza or be a Santa's helper. We'll find the perfect thing for you to do.

*4. Attend the Rotary Family Shopping Day or consider being an elf & help with the shopping event on* Sunday, Dec. 4th from 1-3pm at Walmart on Cobb Parkway.

*5. Or help December 5, 6, or 7 from 10am-12noon* sorting toys & setting up for the event at the above location on Franklin Rd. (see Holly for more details)

Questions contact: Holly Walquist 770-424-4664 ([holly@hollyenterprises.com](mailto:holly@hollyenterprises.com)) or via cell 404-518-4664.



# Volunteer

Help Welcome the World to Atlanta

As a District 6900 Rotarian – or a family member – you can help us welcome the world to Atlanta next June. Volunteers will be the Atlanta face to our visitors, helping introduce True Southern Hospitality to our guests and ensure convention visitors have a safe, welcome and enjoyable time in Atlanta.

The opportunity to volunteer is open to any Rotarian or Rotaractor or guest of a Rotarian or Rotaractor who is registered for the convention and at least 19 years old.

Volunteers will be positioned at sites around the Atlanta area to help our guests find their way to and from various locations in Atlanta. They will be positioned at the airport, the train station, all hotels, and all major HOC events.

Assignments will start on the Thursday, June 8, before the Convention and continue through June 14 when the Convention ends. The early start will be mainly at the airport as we will be greeting early arrivals for the Convention and the Youth Program.

Typical assignments will be from two to four hours on a given day. Anyone who wants to work longer shifts or multiple days will be happily accepted. The variation in hours is dependent on the number of volunteers we get signed up. We are looking for 1,200 volunteers for the duration of the convention.

Training seminars for all volunteers will begin in February. You can sign up by completing a form on the HOC website ([rotaryconvention2017.org/volunteer](http://rotaryconvention2017.org/volunteer)). Through this form, you will provide basic contact information and can indicate whether you would be willing to be a site coordinator (responsible for other volunteers at your site).

~ Norman Aiken



The International Fellowship of Rotarian Musicians needs YOU to add your voice to the Rotary World Choir at the Atlanta 2017 Convention. Our goal is 100 singers at the Interfaith Service on Sunday, June 11, 2017.

You do not need to be a member. Anyone can join, no requirement to be a Rotarian or IFRM member. However, you do need to be fully registered for the convention. All you need is a love of music and the desire to try something new, exciting and fun.

To join the Rotary World Choir and to register to participate go the web site: <http://ifrm.org/ifrm/convention.php>. Deadline for registration is December 31, 2016.

For more information, please contact Barry Oxford: [barry@turbodata.net](mailto:barry@turbodata.net)



Mitzi Smith - November 3  
Harold Hobbs - November 5  
Tucker Hobgood - November 7  
Brad Leskoven - November 14  
Don Barbour - November 16  
Morgan Robertson - November 24

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Friday, November 18	6:00 PM	John Berry Concert/Dinner
Wednesday, November 23	12:15 PM	No Meeting - Enjoy Thanksgiving!
Tuesday, November 29	6:00 PM	Serve Dinner at the Extension
Wednesday, November 30	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - Brian Robinson
Thursday, December 8	10:30 AM	MUST Ministries Lunch Service And Serve Dinner at the Extension
Friday, December 9	6:00 PM	PAL Children's Holiday Party Project
Wednesday, December 14	12:00 PM	Joint Holiday meeting with Kiwanis
Wednesday, December 21	5:00 PM	3rd Annual Santa Send-Off The Stockyard off the Marietta Square
Wednesday, December 21		NO MEETING – Happy Holidays
Wednesday, December 28		NO MEETING – Happy Holidays
Wednesday, January 11, 2017	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - Red Hare Brewery
Thursday, January 12, 2017	10:30 AM	MUST Ministries Lunch Service

## MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

### CLUB OFFICERS 2016 -17

Reuben Green, *President*

Caitlyn Cooper, *President Elect*

Becky Sawyer, *Secretary*

Brad Leskoven, *Treasurer*

### DIRECTORS

Gayle Jones, *Service*

Marla Blackstone, *Administration*

Mary Ansley Southerland, *Public Relations*

Daniel White, *Foundation*

Morgan McNeel, *Membership*

[mariettarotary.org](http://mariettarotary.org)

Meeting makeups may be emailed to:  
[beckysawyer@mariettafumc.org](mailto:beckysawyer@mariettafumc.org)

## THE ROTALIGHT

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