

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA **ROTALIGHT**

*Putting "Service Above Self" in Marietta Since 1919*  
*June 5, 2019 • Volume 82, Number 38*

*Today's Guest Speaker*

**Phil Smith**

National Field Director for  
The Concord Coalition



**Rotary**  
Club of Marietta



## Today's Speaker: Phil Smith

Phil Smith is the National Field Director for The Concord Coalition. Founded in 1992, the coalition's nonpartisan mission is to encourage fiscal responsibility and help educate the public about the federal budget and the need to protect our children and future generations from excessive government debt. Over the years the organization has been led by former US Senators Paul Tongas (D-MA), Warren Rudman (R-NH), Sam Nunn (D-GA), Jack Danforth (R-MO), and Bob Kerrey (D-NE).

With more than two decades of experience at The Concord Coalition, Phil has helped conduct countless seminars, Congressional and White House town hall meetings, and numerous public policy initiatives. He has traveled to all 50 states and often delivers speeches to a range of political and civic organizations, colleges, universities, and financial planning groups. He works extensively with the media including appearances on most major television and radio networks such as CNN, FOX, PBS, NPR, CNBC, C-span, the BBC and CTV (Canadian Television).

In addition to his career at the Concord Coalition, Phil served as the Chief Operating Officer for two state government agencies in Georgia: The Department of Community Affairs and the Technical College System of Georgia. He also served on the Washington staff of the late US Representative Doug Barnard, and the state capitol staff of several state representatives and senators in Atlanta.

Phil is a Past President of the Atlanta Kiwanis Club. He is a 2011 graduate of Leadership Atlanta where he currently serves as the Alumni Membership Chairman. Phil is a 2006 graduate of Leadership Georgia and has received gubernatorial appointments to the boards of directors of the Georgia Humanities Council and the Georgia Children and Youth Coordinating Council. In 2005, Phil was chosen as one of the top "40 Under 40" by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.

Phil was raised primarily in Athens, Georgia, home of the University of Georgia where he earned a bachelor's degree in Political Science. He also studied Mexican Politics and Spanish at the University of the Americas near Puebla, Mexico and was awarded a visiting fellowship to Ming Chaun University in Taipei, Taiwan.



## MARIETTA ROTARY MEMBERS IN THE NEWS

### Joe Atkins and Carlos Rodriguez appointed to the new Cobb County Board of Ethics



JOE ATKINS



CARLOS RODRIGUEZ

Last Thursday the ethics board elected Joe as chair and Carlos as vice chair.

### Neera Bahl appointed to Cobb Board of Elections



NEERA BAHL

Cobb Republican Party Chairman Jason Shepherd has appointed Marietta attorney Neera Bahl to the Cobb County Board of Elections.

"Neera brings with her not only a vast amount of experience in the law, but a zeal for growing the Republican base in Cobb County," Shepherd said in a news release. "I want to thank Joe Pettit for his service on the board, but given what I expect will be a contentious 2020 election, I felt we need someone with the experience and legal skills (that) Neera Bahl will bring to this position."

**DON'T MISS  
Presidents' Night  
Thursday, June 27, 2019  
RSVP today at  
mariettarotary.org**

# WHEN WE LAST MET

## Minutes from the May 15 Meeting

The joint meeting of Rotary Club of Marietta and Marietta Kiwanis Club transpired May 15, 2019 at The Hilton Conference Center Hotel, presided over by **Chris Bethel**, President Elect of Rotary Club of Marietta and Jim Mallard, President of Marietta Kiwanis Club. Customary Rotary announcements and happenings did not occur during this meeting, e.g., Sunshine, Opportunity Drawing, 4-Way Test etc. Regular activities will be resumed at the subsequent Rotary meetings.

**Mark Barbour** delivered the Invocation for both groups, praying for their efforts singularly and jointly to be successful globally.

Visiting today were potential members, Chris Mitchell, and Doug Shaw, guests of **Marla Blackstone**. Also visiting was Luke Wood, guest of **Lance Burchette**. Visiting Rotarians were Bill Borden from Wasilla, Alaska Rotary Club, David McGinnis and Narayan Sengupta from Smyrna, GA Rotary Club, and Debi Smith, President Jesup, GA Rotary Club – a pleasing turnout today.

Today's speaker was introduced by Kiwanis member, Oliver Haley, a Vietnam veteran and ex-FBI agent. As part of Oliver's duties in the FBI he was assigned to track down KGB agents and other spies in the U.S. He expended many years in an attempt to ferret out Jack Barsky, a Russian spy, hiding and operating in the United States. Subsequently, in later years the two have become good friends. Jack Barsky, our speaker, was originally born in East Germany, became a chemistry professor, then was recruited by the KGB, and spent ten years in the U.S. spying for the Russians. Afterwards, he became a United States citizen and information technology executive and author. He was interviewed by 60 Minutes in May of 2015, and has appeared on many U.S. cable stations. His book, "Deep Under Cover" is for sale, on a table outside the dining room. His book has been optioned to produce a TV series, under the working title "An American Citizen." Jack resides with his wife and daughter in Atlanta, GA.

Jack began his presentation by providing a comprehensive history of Russia and her different political heads. He then provided insight into how a Russian child grows up to become an undercover agent and offered several character insights and qualities required to become a successful spy. A key element of his life was his commitment to the Communist ideology. He had no exposure to other options in his formative years. He arrived in the U.S. with a forged Canadian passport, a falsified birth certificate, a short wave radio, and \$10,000 cash. When he was being investigated, the FBI purchased a house next to him. He appeared on the cover of the National Enquirer and reported as captured as a spy.



**JACK BARSKY**

During his tenure in the U.S. he would profile and target people for recruitment for the Russians. One regret he had was that he was unable to make higher-up contacts so that the Russian influence could be imparted more widely. Jack reminds us that Russia is still spying today. He left the podium with many insights to ponder. Jack Barsky is one of the most interesting speakers /characters to address the club to date. For further details and a comprehensive story, his book, "Deep Undercover," can be purchased outside the dining room.



Chris Bethel then presented a book to be donated to a Marietta elementary school library as a thank you for speaking. An additional book was presented from the Marietta Kiwanis Club as well. A Kiwanis member led the Pledge of Allegiance, and Chris Bethel gonged the bell and dismissed all. 🌐

*Scribe, Marlys Williams  
Photos, Dale Covington*



# Marietta-Metro & Marietta Rotary Club Golf Tournament

Photos by Dale Covington and Chris Bethel

## The Ball Drop!



**The Winner!**



# Great Day to Play Golf!





# Celebrating a Fun Day!





# Marietta Rotary Supports Annual Memorial Day Services

Memorial Day 2019 marked the 11th year that the Rotary Club of Marietta played an integral part in the success of the annual event. On the Saturday before Memorial Day, Past President **Mark Barbour** was present to assist in the “Flag Placement Ceremony.” Over 1,200 Scouts and their families placed 18,000 + miniature flags on each grave in the 23 acre National Cemetery. Brownie, Girl, Cub and Boy Scouts from the Foothill Scouting District gather in preparation for the Memorial Day Commemorative Service on Monday to place the flags, stand at attention and then salute each grave to honor each fallen soldier.

On Memorial Day Monday, Rotarians **Mark Barbour** (who serves on the Board of the National Memorial Day Association and as NMDA Chaplain), **Abbott Hall**, **Holly Walquist** (and her Rotary husband, Bruce), **Norman Aiken**, **Jim Trapnell**, and **Lee Pence** all made the day successful by assisting in the program, driving golf carts and vans carrying our Veterans and their families “up the hill” to the Dias seating area for the Memorial Day Ceremony. Many thanks to the Rotarian Team and Rotarian attendees who support this meaningful event each year. And, May GOD BLESS AMERICA!”



# UPCOMING EVENTS

|                          |          |   |
|--------------------------|----------|---|
| Wednesday, June 12, 2019 | 12:15 PM | Luncheon Meeting – Kevin Scott, Principles of Leadership                            |
| Thursday, June 13, 2019  | 10:30 AM | Cook and Serve at MUST Ministries   |
| Wednesday, June 19, 2019 | 12:15 PM | Luncheon Meeting – Meris Lutz, Atlanta Journal & Constitution Foreign Correspondent |
| Wednesday, June 26, 2019 |          | NO Meeting  |
| Thursday, June 27, 2019  | 5:00 PM  | Presidents' Night – Marietta Country Club   |
| Wednesday, July 3, 2019  |          | NO Meeting  |
| Wednesday, July 10, 2019 | 12:15 PM | Luncheon Meeting – TBA  |

## MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

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