



Club Calendar

FEBRUARY IS ROTARY'S
PEACE AND CONFLICT
PREVENTION/RESOLUTION MONTH

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| February 15 | Sam Wellborn
State Transportation Board
Georgia DOT |
| February 22 | Brian Kemp
Georgia Secretary of State

Club Assembly |
| March 1 | Board Meeting @ 5:45 PM |
| March 8 | Cliff Bowden, District
Federation Manager
Georgia Farm Bureau |

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

Her Essay Changed Lives



Jackie Harmon

When Jackie Harmon was a senior at Griffin High School in 2012, she thought the required English essay on Laws of Life was just another annoying assignment. But, Jackie told us on Thursday that the process of writing and presenting that essay "changed my life." Her essay captured the turmoil and hardships that she and her mother had experienced in living in her mom's truck without a home, Jackie arriving at school before everyone to clean up before school, and eating free breakfast and lunch provided while saving unperishable foods to take to her mom after school dismissal. The essay went on to tell of how a school counselor helped Jackie and her mom find a local shelter for abused and battered women. There, her mom learned and earned a certificate in cosmetology

which landed her a job and eventually an apartment so she and Jackie were no longer homeless. Jackie's essay told us that when hardships occur, we cannot just endure them; we must know that we are not alone and that there are others who care and can help as you find ways to overcome those hardships. As Jackie read that 2012 essay to us, she was visibly shaken by words she had not read in years. She said, "The first time I told my story was to Griffin Rotary [in 2012]," She shared that she immediately was offered, and accepted, part-time employment at Piggly Wiggly. "There were lots of other offers," she said. "My life changed." Jackie joined the Georgia National Guard which supplemented scholarships to Mercer University. She completed her bachelor's with multiple majors including biomedical engineering. She is now working on a Master's degree. And, just as we thought we were watching a "fairy tale ending," Jackie explained a few bad incidents that had occurred since that 2012 essay. She was attacked by a former boyfriend who stalked her forcing her to relocate several times. In October 2015, her mother was murdered by an ex-boyfriend. She went to court to get legal custody of her three younger siblings (the youngest is now 15). She cracked some vertebrae in a collision caused by a distracted driver. That took considerable rehabilitation and she lost her chance at a commission as an officer in the US Army National Guard. Yet, Jackie continues to be positive and she is progressing in her life and goals. It is apparent that she is living that Law of Life she explained so well in her 2012 essay – don't just endure hardships, but work to conquer them. She concluded, "If I remain focused on working hard, the Lord will provide."

Our Rotary Family

BIRTHDAYS

- | | |
|-------------|-------------------|
| February 14 | Don Crider |
| 14 | Wayne Gardner |
| 18 | John Crouch |
| 23 | Bill Dallas |
| 23 | Philip Smith |
| 26 | Joel Purser |
| 27 | Stephanie Windham |

ANNIVERSARIES

- | | |
|-------------|------------------------|
| February 09 | Steve & Erin Mulder |
| 10 | Steve & Marty Crouch |
| 14 | Eddie & Toni Grogan |
| 20 | Kevin & Laura Barlow |
| 25 | Eddie & Nancy Johnston |
| 27 | Joel & Rachel Purser |



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**



Stephanie Windham

Stephanie Windham introduced Jackie Harmon as our program speaker on Thursday. The year that Stephanie was President was 2012 when Jackie presented her essay. She shared that Jackie's essay had changed her life, too. She quoted the German philosopher Friedrich Nietzsche, "That which does not kill us makes us stronger," in alluding to Jackie's experiences. Stephanie said she had learned from that example. "It changed my life." Stephanie has since been highly active in the Georgia Laws of Life Essay competition every year since her club presidency. She serves at the District level in coordinating this Character Building component of Rotary. Stephanie also encouraged anyone wishing to judge submitted essays this year to contact her.

....By Wayne Gardner

THE GRIFFITARIAN

Contact John White to Register for Rotacon 2018



Rotacon 2018 is set for April 26-29 in Destin, Florida. We still have 3 or 4 rooms available, if you wish to attend. We will be headquartered in Embassy Suites which is a short walk to the beach and a short drive to Sandestin Golf & Beach Resort where the convention will convene. The Club is again paying for one night's stay for those attending. Contact John White to reserve a room. He will also register you for the convention.

ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFIN, GA
PO Box 473, Griffin, GA 30224
Club Number 4129

OFFICERS

President	-	Tom Gardner
Vice-President	-	Janice Wallace
President-Elect	-	Randy Peters
Treasurer	-	Art Hammond
Secretary	-	Yvonne Langford
Sergeant-at-Arms	-	George Granade
Club Chaplain	-	Wade Miller
Bulletin Editor	-	Wayne Gardner
Photographer	-	William Wilson

DIRECTORS

Membership	-	Charles Woodroof
Public Relations	-	Brett Bell
Club Administration	-	John White
Rotary Foundation	-	Alan Dodson
Vocational Service	-	Corey Letson
Community Service	-	David Galloway
International Service	-	Bill Hardee
New Generations	-	Katy Arrowood

DISTRICT 6900 AND ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

ED OUTLAW

Assistant District Governor

ALEC SMYTHE

District 6900 Governor

IAN H.S. RISELEY

Rotary International President

JOIN GRIFFIN ROTARY ONLINE

griffinrotary.org

FOLLOW ROTARY CLUB OF GRIFFIN



LIKE GRIFFIN ROTARY ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

We could win \$250.00 if we have the highest percentage increase in LIKES of our page. So LIKE our page and get others on FB to do the same.

Students for RYLA Conference



Jeff Jacobs announced that he is seeking candidates for the RYLA Conference to be held June 2-6 at Georgia Southwestern State College and University in Americus. The students must be rising juniors in high school who are interested in further developing their leadership skills. The Club will provide scholarships for the two participating students. Jeff explained that since we do not have any Interact clubs this year, we will be accepting nominations for candidates from anywhere. If you have a student who is interested in attending, please contact Jeff.

Membership Drive Continues

For the remainder of February and all of March, please help build our membership by inviting colleagues, friends, and other contacts to our weekly meetings. Any guests will be Guests of the Club and will be welcomed by our leadership and given an informational brochure about Rotary and our Club. Each guest you bring to meetings will enter you in a drawing for a \$250 gift card (drawing on April 5).

Happy Valentine's Day

MEETING MAKEUP INFORMATION

Monday - 12 Noon	Henry County	PJs Sidewalk Café, McDonough
Monday - 12:15 PM	Fayetteville	IHOP, Fayetteville
Monday - 6:30 PM	Coweta-Fayette	Senoia Coffee Company, Senoia
Tuesday - 12 Noon	Barnesville	Lamar Co. College & Career Academy
Tuesday - 12 Noon	Jackson/Butts Co.	Daughtry Park, Jackson
Tuesday - 12:15 PM	Thomaston/Upson Co	Thomaston-Upson Senior Center
Wednesday - 7:30 AM	Griffin Daybreak	J. Henry's Restaurant, Griffin
Wednesday - 12:15 PM	Clayton County	Holiday Inn, Jonesboro
Thursday - 7:15 AM	Fayette Daybreak	Windham ,Peachtree City
Friday - 12 Noon	Newnan	Newnan Country Club, Newnan

Rotary eClub One- One Makeup per Quarter

THE ROTARY FOUNDATION



YEARS OF DOING GOOD IN THE WORLD

GRIFFIN ROTARY: MAKING A DIFFERENCE