





February 18, 2026

Governor Kemp, February 23 Meeting

Exciting news! The speaker for our meeting on February 23rd will be Governor Brian Kemp, accompanied by his wife, Georgia's First Lady, Marty Kemp. (Our originally-scheduled event at Shepherd Center will be rescheduled.)
As you might imagine, there will be tight security for this meeting. We are required to give the Governor's office a list by February 19th of all the people who will attend the meeting, so it is imperative that all members register themselves and any guests before the close of business on February 18th.

Need to join by Zoom, click the link below or see the details on the [calendar here](#).
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/67941219913?pwd=Sl5RbUJlTE1TRk1NaDRNa3hTcmphUT09#success> Password: 485257

February is Peace and Conflict Prevention Month



Celebrate Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta

We are a major sponsor of the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta's Gold Award Ceremony, being held on March 1st which honors, celebrates, and recognizes the accomplishments that were made by the winners of this prestigious award. To celebrate the girl's accomplishments, the Monday March 2nd meeting at Maggiano's will feature two of the girls who will share the highlights of their project and the impact they made in the community. We will also have a short, easy, on-site volunteer experience to assemble kits that will benefit the Girl Scouts. We invite you to attend both events and learn more about how the Girl Scouts go beyond the cookie! Please reach out to Bryanne Wainford with questions.



Buckhead Rotary Gala: Sponsorships Available

We are very excited to kick-off the 2026 Buckhead Rotary Club Benefit honoring Gary Stokan, President and CEO of the Peach Bowl and his wife Tia on April 11, 2026.

We hope all of our members and their guests can attend. This event is the primary fundraising effort for the Club that supports our three Signature Projects along with all our other efforts that make an impact in our community.

We are updating the Patron Sponsorship offering this year to include two levels. The first "Patron Sponsorship" level is at \$500 and will offer Buckhead Rotary sponsors an additional ticket (you already have paid for a ticket through your dues) to the event for their plus one (you will have two tickets total) along with recognition in the event brochure. The second "Hosting Patron" level is at \$1,000 and will offer the same number of tickets plus special recognition at the event.

We ask that all Rotarians please seriously consider sponsoring the event to help support the Club and its community service efforts throughout the year.

[Click here to sponsor today!](#)

Volunteer Opportunities: March 7 & March 10

Our second Dog for a Day is scheduled for March 7th at 10:00 am where we will go to LifeLine to pick up pups and walk them around Chastain Park. We will have a tent set up and doughnuts and coffee for everyone. Anyone can join even if you merely want to enjoy a nice stroll but do not want to walk a dog on your own. Additionally, we have a girl's troop from Scouting America joining us. Another great collaboration between our projects that benefits our community. This event will help the girls earn service hours which contributes to their rank advancement. [Click here or on the calendar to sign up.](#)

We will be serving dinner for the families and patients at the Shepherd Center on Tuesday March 10th from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. We will not have a meeting the day before to maximize participation at this event. [Please sign up by clicking here or on the calendar.](#)



Member Mentions

Mary Boyle Hataway of Atlanta, Buckhead Rotarian, died peacefully February 10, 2026. She was 86. She had an illustrious career and in 2004, founded Soire Catering and Events in Atlanta. Mary catered numerous events over the years for Buckhead Rotary, one of the most memorable was in the fall of 2017, held in her warehouse where members were treated to a tour of her facilities and enjoyed her scrumptious cuisine. Mary also held dinners at her home for Rotarians connected with GRSP, Georgia Rotary Student Program and with the former Group Study Exchange program. She generously supported these Rotary programs at no charge to our club. Rest in peace Mary.

At a private dinner, the Netherlands-American Chamber of Commerce Southeast recognized a Dutch trailblazer and an investor — Bernard Vanderlande.

Bernard took home the inaugural Jan Willem Smeulers Award, named for another former chamber president. It was noted Bernard has been a consistent presence, committed to the good of the chamber and the quality of its programming, often opening his network to recruit speakers for breakfast events and lunch-and-learns, officials said. Congratulations Bernard!

Meetings

February is Peace and Conflict Prevention Month

- 2/23 Governor Kemp and Georgia First Lady, Marty Kemp
- 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
- 3/30 Kyle Waide, CEO, Atlanta Community Food Bank
- 4/6 Griff Lynch, President and CEO, Georgia Ports Authority
- 4/13 No Meeting After Foundation Benefit

Events

- 2/19 Thirsty ThirdsDay
- 3/7 Dog for a Day (or a Few Hours) at the lush and scenic Chastain Park
- 3/10 Shepherd Center Family Dinner Volunteer Event
- 3/16 Board of Directors Meeting
- 3/19 Thirsty ThirdsDay
- 3/21 Pawsitivity Partnership with Buckhead Rotarians Delivering Pet Food with OpenHand
- 4/4 Healthy Pet Event as part of the Pawsitivity Partnership with LifeLine
- 4/4 Healthy Pet Event as part of the Pawsitivity Partnership with LifeLine

Governor Kemp, February 23 Meeting

Exciting news! The speaker for our meeting on February 23rd will be Governor Brian Kemp, accompanied by his wife, Georgia's First Lady, Marty Kemp. (Our originally-scheduled event at Shepherd Center will be rescheduled.)

As you might imagine, there will be tight security for this meeting. We are required to give the Governor's office a list by February 19th of all the people who will attend the meeting, so it is imperative that all members register themselves and any guests before the close of business on February 18th.

Need to join by Zoom, click the link below or see the details on the [calendar here](#).

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87941219913?pwd=S15RIBjTE1TRk1NaDRNa3hTcmphUT09#success> Password: 485257

Our Rotary Family BIRTHDAYS

2/3 James Cotton
2/3 Daniela Bergamo
2/6 David Bockel, Jr.
2/6 Reeves Smith
2/11 Bill Barney, III
2/14 Kevin Glass
2/14 Eddie LaRocco
2/15 Sean Mikula
2/15 Patty Webb
2/16 Michelle Middlebrooks
2/19 Mark Meltzer
2/22 Emily Carter

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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



Celebrate Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta

We are a major sponsor of the Girl Scouts of Greater Atlanta's Gold Award Ceremony, being held on March 1st which honors, celebrates, and recognizes the accomplishments that were made by the winners of this prestigious award. To celebrate the girl's accomplishments, the Monday March 2nd meeting at Maggiano's will feature two of the girls who will share the highlights of their project and the impact they made in the community. We will also have a short, easy, on-site volunteer experience to assemble kits that will benefit the Girl Scouts. We invite you to attend both events and learn more about how the Girl Scouts go beyond the cookie! Please reach out to Bryanne Wainford

with questions.



Buckhead Rotary Gala: Sponsorships Available

We are very excited to kick-off the 2026 Buckhead Rotary Club Benefit honoring Gary Stokan, President and CEO of the Peach Bowl and his wife Tia on April 11, 2026.

We hope all of our members and their guests can attend. This event is the primary fundraising effort for the Club that supports our three Signature Projects along with all our other efforts that make an impact in our community.

We are updating the Patron Sponsorship offering this year to include two levels. The first "Patron Sponsorship" level is at \$500 and will offer Buckhead Rotary sponsors an additional ticket (you already have paid for a ticket through your dues) to the event for their plus one (you will have two tickets total) along with recognition in the event brochure. The second "Hosting Patron" level is at \$1,000 and will offer the same number of tickets plus special recognition at the event.

We ask that all Rotarians please seriously consider sponsoring the event to help support the Club and its community service efforts throughout the year.

[Click here to sponsor today!](#)

Volunteer Opportunities: March 7 & March 10

Our second Dog for a Day is scheduled for March 7th at 10:00 am where we will go to LifeLine to pick up pups and walk them around Chastain Park. We will have a tent set up and doughnuts and coffee for everyone. Anyone can join even if you merely want to enjoy a nice stroll but do not want to walk a dog on your own. Additionally, we have a girl's troop from Scouting America joining us. Another great collaboration between our projects that benefits our community. This event will help the girls earn service hours which contributes to their rank advancement. [Click here or on the calendar to sign up.](#)

We will be serving dinner for the families and patients at the Shepherd Center on Tuesday March 10th from 4:30 - 6:30 pm. We will not have a meeting the day before to maximize participation at this event. [Please sign up by clicking here or on the calendar.](#)



Member Mentions

Mary Boyle Hataway of Atlanta, Buckhead Rotarian, died peacefully February 10, 2026. She was 86. She had an illustrious career and in 2004, founded Soire Catering and Events in Atlanta. Mary catered numerous events over the years for Buckhead Rotary, one of the most memorable was in the fall of 2017, held in her warehouse where members were treated to a tour of her facilities and enjoyed her scrumptious cuisine. Mary also held dinners at her home for Rotarians connected with GRSP, Georgia Rotary Student Program and with the former Group Study Exchange program. She generously supported these Rotary programs at no charge to our club. Rest in peace Mary.

At a private dinner, the Netherlands-American Chamber of Commerce Southeast recognized a Dutch trailblazer and an investor — Bernard Vanderlande.

Bernard took home the inaugural Jan Willem Smeulers Award, named for another former chamber president. It was noted Bernard has been a consistent presence, committed to the good of the chamber and the quality of its programming, often opening his network to recruit speakers for breakfast events and lunch-and-learns, officials said. Congratulations Bernard!