North Fulton Rotary Club

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

The Rotary Times

FEBRUARY 17, 2026

February 10, 2026 Meeting Recap

What a great meeting we had on February 10th! **Steve Cory** kicked things off with Happy Dollars, raising a generous amount of money - primarily in support of Rick and Richard's Polar Plunge fundraising efforts. Those in attendance were especially impressed by Rick's back flip, a dive he reportedly hadn't attempted in more than 50 years!

Foundation Chair Doug Higgins shared several well-deserved recognitions. Congratulations to **Jeffrey Esterkes** on becoming a Paul Harris Fellow, and to **President Erik Bykat** on achieving Paul Harris Fellow +4.

MEETINGS

February is Peace and Conflict Prevention Month

2/24	Mt. Pisgah Football Coach Brad Watkins and Joseph Powell
3/10	Ira Gleser, Author of "Stewardship for Business"
3/24	GA Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger
4/14	Spencer Maxwell: Heart for Africa
4/28	Dr. Greg Coffman with Rick Clark
5/12	Tamara Fuller from The Velvet Note
5/26	Sylvia Cardona: North Fulton Community Charities
6/9	Speaker: TBD

EVENTS

2/18	Board Meeting
2/19	Companion Club Meeting
3/7	Peace Pole Installation: Alpha Loop
3/18	Board Meeting
3/19	Companion Club Meeting
3/21	Jacob's Ladder
4/7	Take Out Art Kit Assembly
4/7	First Tuesday Social

LEADERSHIP

President	Erik Bykat
Vice President	Dan Jenkins
Treasurer	Mike Mudd
Secretary	Steve Siders
Public Image	Lisa Gelber

BIRTHDAYS

2/21	Richard Matherly
3/15	Lisa Gelber



3/15	Brad Serff
3/15	David McDougall

YEARS OF SERVICE

2/26	BEN Hunter (18)
3/1	James Marosek (15)
3/11	Carolynn DeSandre (1)

ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH FULTON

Tuesdays, 12:00 pm
Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern

ROTARY ONLINE

https://northfultonrotary.org
https://rotary6900.org/
https://rotary.org/

SOCIAL MEDIA



During Club Updates, **Stacey Nyman** announced that the Peace Pole installation on the Alpha Loop is tentatively scheduled for late February or early March. More details will be shared soon. Special thanks to **Companion Club Chair Joseph Powell** for suggesting the Alpha Loop as a location for a Peace Pole and ensuring that the proper approvals were given by the various City of Alpharetta Departments.

We're also pleased to report that our grant submissions for four Overdose Rescue Boxes have been approved. Special thanks to **Joy Manbeck** for submitting these grants on behalf of the club. We will begin identifying schools for placement of these boxes in the near future.

Our guest speaker was Jay Litton, of Litton Group, who spoke about his leadership of Roswell United Methodist Church's Job Networking Ministry. Since May 1988, volunteers at RUMC Job Networking have

supported job seekers across Metro Atlanta who are seeking employment, changing careers, or re-entering the workforce. The volunteer team includes business leaders, career coaches, and HR and recruiting professionals.

With more than 150 active volunteers, RUMC Job Networking provides job seekers with opportunities to network and learn current best practices for securing their next role. Meetings are held on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month, from 1:00 to 8:00 pm, and include coaching on training on resume writing, interviewing skills, LinkedIn optimization, and overcoming ageism in the job search.

In addition to these critical skills, RUMC Job Networking offers an Attire to Hire wardrobe closet for interview clothing, as well as a headshot studio. Looking ahead, the ministry is committed to continuously updating its curriculum, including guidance on how job seekers can effectively use AI tools in their job search.

Rotary Club members are encouraged to refer job seekers, and employers looking to hire, to rumcjobnetworking.com.



Community Service Project: First Responder Appreciation

Please join us on Wednesday, February 25th at Cambridge High School to create healthy snack boxes for the Milton First Responders. We will be working with the Cambridge Interact Club to create these at the high school, and then will break up into groups to deliver to the various locations (fire stations, police headquarters, 911 center).

Sign up here: Milton First Responder Appreciation

Where: Cambridge High School (Meet in Front Lobby), 2845 Bethany Bend, Milton

When: Wednesday February 25th, 3:00 pm to 4:30 pm

Questions: Contact Steve Cory, (678) 710-5103

Polar Plunge a Success!

Many thanks to both Richard Matherly and Rick Clark for volunteering to take the Polar Plunge to raise funds ($10,000!) for our club. It was a cold and windy morning on February 7th, but spirits were high as many club members were in attendance to show support. In an early morning text, Richard was advised not to take the plunge by his cardiologist, so Rick went all out on his plunge by doing a back flip!

Many thanks to member Garrett Vaughn for capturing this amazing photo!

Also taking the plunge from our club for worthy causes were Chris Miller (Stand Up for Kids) and Joseph Powell (Revved Up Kids).

Afterwards, many of us (more than 20!) gathered at Crust for lunch and camaraderie, including District Governor Steve Ivory and his wife Anna.

Community Service Recap: Fun with Seniors!

Spreading love and joy at the Crabapple Senior Center last week was an absolute delight! We helped create stunning floral arrangements, crafted festive Valentine garlands, and got competitive with rounds of bingo. Everyone left with full hearts and stomachs, after enjoying an Italian feast from Ippolito's!


Rotary
Club of North Fulton


EXIT
Rotary
Suzanne



Membership Minute: Spotlight on Jim Murphy

ROTARY

MEMBERSHIP MINUTE

Rotary Club of North Fulton extends a warm welcome to our newest member, Jim Murphy. Jim is a retired commercial real estate debt manager living in Alpharetta. He was born and raised in Newport News, VA and graduated from James Madison University. (If this university sounds familiar to you it's likely because they were in the CFP playoffs this year. In addition, Curt Cignetti, National Championship Coach of the Indiana Hoosiers coached at JMU before Indiana.) Jim began his career with a small Virginia bank that is now Bank of America. He was transferred to Washington, DC for two years, then transferred to Atlanta in 1997. After spending five years in corporate finance, he shifted back to banking at Trimont Real Estate Advisors and then Situs AMC where he managed large commercial real estate loans for Wall Street clients. He retired in 2023.

Jim is married to Christion Murphy and they have two children with a house divided - a 23-year old son who graduated from GA Tech who lives in NYC, and a 20-year old son who is a sophomore at UGA. Somehow, they are still best friends!

Jim is excited to become a member of Rotary Club of North Fulton and looks forward to making new friends while serving the community.



District Conference at Lake Lanier

District Conference is coming up quickly (April 16-19) and will be just up the road from us at Lake Lanier. It's a wonderful time to connect with each other and other Rotarians in our District. The cost to register is $350 until January 31st, when it increases to $375. The Thursday evening dinner is for current Presidents, so most club members will plan to arrive on Friday and stay at the resort for the weekend as there are evening hospitality suites for continued fun. Please reach out to Doug, our District Conference Champion, with any questions!

Register Here: District Conference



Rotary
District 6900

Register

APRIL 16 - 19, 2026:

Thursday, April 16:
3:45 - 5:45 pm - Welcome Lounge Open
5:30 - 8:00 pm - Dinner - INVITATION ONLY (Presidents, AGs, District Leadership)
8:00 - 10:30 pm - Hospitality Suites at the Legacy Villas*
- North Metro Dance Party (led by Alpharetta)
- South Metro Karaoke (led by Peachtree City)
- "Rest" of District (led by Columbus & Carrollton for chill vibes & conversation)

Friday, April 17:
8:30 - 9:30 am - Breakfast - INVITATION ONLY -(Past District Governors)
8:00 - 12:00 - Various Activities (Registration Required)
9:00 - 11:00 - Welcome Lounge Open
9:00 - 11:00 - Collaboration Station Open
12:00 - 3:00 - Game Changes Lunch & Team Competition
2:15 - 4:15 - Welcome Lounge Open
2:15 - 4:15 - Collaboration Station / House of Friendship Open
3:15 - 4:15 - Service Project
5:30 - 5:45 - Mix & Mingle
5:45 - 7:15 - DINNER & FIRST SESSION
7:15 - 8:00 - Coffee & Dessert Reception for DGE Cynthia Edwards
8:00 - 11:30 - Hospitality Suites at the Legacy Villas*

Saturday, April 18:
8:30 - 9:45 - Breakfast - Celebrating our Youth
9:00 - 10:30 - Welcome Lounge Open
9:30 - 11:30 - Collaboration Station Open
10:00 - 10:45 - 1st Breakout Session
11:00 - 11:45 - 2nd Breakout Session
12:00 - 4:00 - Golf, Pickleball, Pool, Spa, - On Your Own Options
5:15 - 6:00 - DG Steve Reception (Semi-Formal) - Peachtree Pavilion Amphitheater
6:00 - 10:00 - DINNER & DANCE PARTY
10:00 - 11:30 - Hospitality Suites at the Legacy Villas*

Sunday, April 19:
7:30 - 8:15 - Non-denominational Service
8:15 - 10:00 - Breakfast & Final Session

ROTARY DISTRICT 6900 · SERVICE HEROES · POLICE · HEROES TEACH · FIRE DEPT

UNITE FOR GOOD

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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL