



## Meetings

November is Rotary Foundation Month

- 11/25 No Meeting - Thanksgiving Week
- 12/9 Jay Litton, The LittonGroup
- 12/23 No Meeting - Christmas Holiday
- 1/13 Speaker: TBD
- 1/27 Speaker: TBD
- 2/10 Speaker: TBD
- 2/24 TBD
- 3/10 Speaker: TBD

## Events

- 11/19 Board Meeting
- 11/20 Companion Club Meeting
- 12/2 Crafts, Bingo and Lunch at Milton Senior Center
- 12/4 Holiday Party
- 12/6 Peace Pole Installation at Wellstar North Fulton Hospital
- 12/9 Donations for NFCC Toyland
- 12/17 Board Meeting
- 1/21 Board Meeting

## LEADERSHIP

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

## Wishing You a Happy Thanksgiving

Dear Fellow Rotarians,

As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to take a moment to express my heartfelt gratitude for each of you. Our club is strong because of the kindness, dedication, and generosity you bring to our community and to one another. Thank you for the spirit of service you embody all year long.

I hope this holiday brings you joy, rest, and time with the people you cherish the most. For those traveling, I wish you safe journeys and smooth returns.

Wishing you and your families a warm, wonderful and grateful Thanksgiving.

With appreciation,

Erik



## November 11th Meeting Recap

Our meeting on Tuesday, November 11th was filled with acknowledgement for our nation's veterans. Many members donated Happy Dollars in an expression of gratitude for the sacrifices their parents and/or grandparents made in service to our country. In addition, there were many mentions of thanks for the volunteers who worked on our Peace Garden at North Park on Saturday, November 8th, in particular for the

## Our Rotary Family BIRTHDAYS

11/10 Stacey Nyman  
11/15 Carolynn DeSandre  
11/17 Daniel Simonton  
11/19 Mike Mudd

## YEARS OF SERVICE

11/8 Erik Bykat (2)  
11/12 Jeffrey Esterkes (0)  
11/12 Regina Orlick (0)  
11/12 Jonathan Stelling (0)  
8 years in Rotary  
11/14 Dan Jenkins (1)  
11/14 Louis Wieland (1)  
3 years in Rotary  
11/14 Suzanne Swain (0)  
1 years in Rotary  
11/19 Carrie Zhou (5)

## ROTARY CLUB OF NORTH FULTON

Tuesdays, 12:00 pm  
Brimstone Restaurant & Tavern

## Rotary Online

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

leadership of **Steve Siders**. **Joy Manbeck** was so moved by the Veteran's Day program at Rotary Club of Marietta Metro that she was compelled to take our Happy Dollars up to \$200 and requested that the funds go to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, supporting first responders and veterans.

**Jeff Esterkes** mentioned that he and Regina have now been members of our club for one year. It sure seems like longer because they both immediately jumped right into volunteering!



District Foundation Chair, Bob Hagan was in attendance to give our 2024-25 Foundation Giving recognitions. Our club was recognized for our contributions to Polio Plus, Every Rotarian Every Year, and for attaining per capita giving of at least \$100. Bob shared some statistics on the giving for District 6900 for the 2024-2025 Rotary Year:

- Our District members contributed over \$1 million to The Rotary Foundation in the 2024-25 Rotary year
- \$750,000 of this was given to the Annual Fund, which means that approximately \$365,000 will come back to our District in the 2027-2028 Rotary year for District Grants
- \$250,000 was given to Polio Plus





Moving on to Club Business, **President Elect Dan Jenkins** presented the 2026-2027 Board Nominees. Members will vote on these nominees at our next meeting on December 9th. Please reach out to Dan if you are interested in serving on a committee for one of the following areas: Fundraising, Community Service, Membership, Public Image, Foundation. If you have any questions about the nominees below, please reach out to Dan as well.

- President, Dan Jenkins
- President Elect, Jonathan Stelling
- Treasurer, Erik Bykat
- Secretary, Steve Siders
- Community Service - Amie Blanton
- Membership - Jeff Esterkes
- Foundation - Doug Higgins
- Fundraising - Rick Clark
- Public Image - Lisa Gelber
- Interact Club - Joy Manbeck

Since it is Foundation Month, our program for today's meeting was all about The Rotary Foundation, presented by our Foundation Chair, **Doug Higgins** and District Grants Chair, **Mike Mudd**. Doug and Mike gave us an in-depth explanation of how The Rotary Foundation works and why it's important to contribute so that Rotary can continue to issue grants to "do good in the world". Although our club is modest in size, we have a rich history of contributing to The Rotary Foundation. Since our club was chartered in January 2000, we have contributed over \$900,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Mike shared a few fun facts about our giving:

- Our 2024-2025 giving was \$18,637 or \$478 per Rotarian - we were #5 in the District for per capita giving.
- For at least 20 years, our club has been in the top 10 for the District in per capita giving AND 10 of those years we were in the top 3.
- Our Polio Plus giving average for the last 4 years was \$1300, which is then matched 2 to 1 by The Gates Foundation (\$3900).



Many thanks to Doug and Mike - we are lucky to have such knowledgeable members in our club!

## Peace Garden Refresh!

Submitted by Steve Siders, Project Chair for our Peace Garden at North Park

We had two beautiful days with many club members volunteering to help enhance our Peace Garden at North Park on November 8th and 15th. The garden is now officially rebranded the Peace Garden and we've planted a second Peace Pole closer to the front entrance to draw visitors in. The back garden has been updated with a cleaning, refurbished Peace Pole and mulch. The front garden has been created from scratch to include a new Peace Pole, some boulders, mulch and 40 new plants including a Japanese Maple, spreading plum yew, oakleaf hydrangea, autumn fern and black-eyed susans.

I would like to thank our many volunteers for the work accomplished over the two days. We had about 15 at both work days covering 2 hours and 2.5 hours respectively (that is about 68 man hours total). After our hard work, we were able to enjoy even more fellowship together at Cue Barbecue both days.

I am grateful for the support of our project committee: Stacey Nyman, Carolynn DeSandre, Kathleen Peneguy, Andy West, Rick Clark, and Richard Matherly. Special recognition goes to the following three people for their extra effort: Rick Clark, for building and installing the new Peace Pole; Andy West, for refurbishing the existing wooden Peace Pole; and Brad Serff, who picked up the plants and saved our back with his auger!









## Engaging with Seniors!

Volunteers Needed for a Fun Day with Local Seniors!

Milton Senior Center, 15690 Hopewell Road, Alpharetta (really, it feels like Milton, but GPS says Alpharetta)

December, 2nd

We're looking for volunteers to help us host a joyful morning at the Milton Senior Center. You're welcome to join for any portion of the event - whatever fits your schedule. Every helping hand makes a difference!

### 10:00 AM - Wreath-Making Craft

We'll assist seniors in creating colorful holiday wreaths. Our volunteer need is greatest at this time, as we'll be working with a strong adhesive and want to ensure seniors don't have to handle it.

### 11:00 AM - Festive Bingo

Help run a fun, low-key bingo session - calling numbers, helping with cards, and handing out prizes.

### 12:00 PM - Lunch Service

We'll serve lunch (likely from Ippolito's; final menu TBD) and enjoy time visiting with residents.

If you have any questions, please let me know: (770) 856-9509.

Click here to sign up: [Engaging with Seniors](#)



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## Women in Rotary

The next quarterly Women in Rotary event will be sponsored by Rotary Club of Roswell on December 3rd from 5:30 to 7:30 pm at:

Artisan Design Center, 426 S Atlanta Street, Roswell

Appetizers will be provided, wine will be \$5.00 per glass.

Please bring a \$5.00 gift card for Publix or Kroger to support The Drake House.

Please RSVP by November 25th to Joy at [jcmanbeck@msn.com](mailto:jcmanbeck@msn.com)

Gentlemen - please let your significant others know about this!





**Holiday Party 2025**





Join us for our Holiday Party on December 4th at Mac McGee's at 936 Canton Street in Roswell from 6 to 9 pm. We will have the upstairs all to ourselves, so bring your significant others for some fellowship and fun!

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## **Peace Pole Installation at Wellstar North Fulton Hospital**

We will be installing a Peace Pole, some pavers and a bench at Wellstar North Fulton Hospital on December 6th, beginning at 9:30 am. Past President Rick Clark is leading this effort and could use some volunteers. Please reach out to Rick for the specific details at (704) 807-0083.



## **NFCC Toyland**

Our club will be supporting North Fulton Community Charities Toyland again this year. Please take a look at this list and choose something to donate to make the holiday




season a bit brighter for a deserving child. All donations need to be brought to our club meeting on **December 9th** so we can deliver to NFCC by their deadline. If you have any questions, please contact Amie at (770) 315-9974.

Rotary Club of North Fulton is partnering for this year's

2025 Toyland

Please bring your unwrapped gifts to the December 9th meeting

North Fulton  
Community Charities

Brighten the Holidays for a Local Child

Toyland provides about 1,400 local children with new, unwrapped toys. Your donation will not only bring joy to a child, it will bring comfort and financial security to their parents so that they can focus their resources on the rising cost of living expenses. Keep an eye out for toys featured in holiday gift guides provided by major retailers. If a toy is popular in the store, it will be popular at Toyland! Please do not forget to keep teenagers in your hearts this year. We have an increased need for teen gifts. Thank you!

**Group Project Ideas**

Assemble Gift Wrap Supply Kits  
Assemble Stocking Stuffer Bags

**Infant (0-2)**

Fisher Price play sets, Laugh and Learn plush toys  
Activity cubes, floor gyms, MEGA Blocks  
VTech developmental toys, bath toys, musical toys  
Push/pull or riding toys, MEGA Blocks  
Baby blankets, teething, diapers and baby gear

**Young Children (3-10)**

Baby dolls (all ethnicities), and doll accessories  
Pretend play items, VTech Learning sets, Lego Duplo  
Barbie and Disney dolls, Rainbocorns  
My Little Pony, Little Live Pets, Bluey, Li'l Woodzeez  
Hatchimals, L.O.L., Rainbow High, Magic Mixies,  
Pokemon, Fortnite, Roblox and Minecraft items  
Legos, K'nex, and STEM building sets  
Marvel, DC, Star Wars and Transformers action figures  
Smashers, Robo Alive, Hot Wheels, Nerf toys  
RC's, Instant Print Cameras, Smartwatches  
BattleBots, Beyblade sets, Fidgets

**Preteens and Teens (11-18)**

**Most requested:** \$25 Gift cards to popular stores  
including Target, Walmart, Kohls, Best Buy, Sephora,  
Ulta Beauty, Macy's, Marshalls, TJ Maxx, VISA, etc.  
Watches, jewelry, phone accessories  
Headphones, wireless earbuds, portable speakers  
Curling/straightening irons and hair accessories  
Makeup, nail polish, bath and shaving kit sets  
Local sports themed items  
Purses, wallets, and mini backpacks  
Advanced building models and science kits  
Fun room decor, bulletin boards, LED lights, etc,  
Drones, RC's, Polaroid Cameras and small electronics


**All Ages**

Sporting equipment and outdoor games  
Craft kits, art supplies, Play-Doh sets  
Books in English and Spanish  
Board games and puzzles  
Scooters, wagons, skates, skateboards with helmets  
Pajamas, warm socks, winter clothes and blankets  
Stuffed animals and Squishmallows

**Dates and Location:**  
Roswell Presbyterian Church  
755 Mimosa Blvd., Roswell  
**Donation Collection Dates:**  
December 15-17 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.  
**Distribution Dates:** December 18-20

**Contacts:**  
Program Sponsorship and Donation  
Opportunities: SaraSpring Weston  
sweston@nfcchelp.org | 678-387-4474  
Volunteer Opportunities: Vipal Sharma  
vsharma@nfcchelp.org | 678-387-4471

**Ways to Help:**  
Visit <https://nfcchelp.org/toyland-shop/>



- Organize a collection drive
- Register your donation on SignUpGenius
- Purchase an item from our Amazon Wish List
- Volunteer your time and talents
- Make a financial contribution to Toyland

## Rotary Club of North Fulton Supports Military Veterans through CPR Fundraiser



On November 6th, Rotary Club of North Fulton member Marc Gelber donated his time to teach two CPR training classes at Chateau Elan. Attendees contributed a \$25 donation to the Chateau Elan Military Support Foundation (CEMSF). Since its founding in 2019, CEMSFF has raised more than \$450,000 to serve the local military community by providing financial assistance, basic needs, housing support, and mental health resources. The foundation is entirely volunteer-run, with no paid full-time staff, ensuring that every possible dollar goes directly toward helping veterans and their families.

The event took on special meaning after the sports club at Chateau Elan experienced two cardiac arrest incidents in the past two months, one of which resulted in a life saved.

Although Chateau Elan is outside the North Fulton area, our club was honored to extend support to such a worthy organization making a real impact in the lives of those who have served.

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## Score for Polio Plus Fundraiser

Submitted by Doug Higgins, Foundation Chair

This week was another big win for Polio Plus with your teams scoring 637 points! Georgia Southern (Joseph) led the way with 45 points, Tennessee (Brad), Oregon (Erik), and Kentucky (Mike) all scored 42 points. Not to be outdone, Richard's Oconee HS and Denmark HS Flag Football (2 games) scored a combined 79 points! In total, we now have pledged \$5,703.60! Richard remains in the lead at \$539, followed closely by Jonathan at \$487.50, and Erik and Kathleen continue to be in a tight race for third at \$389 and \$385.

Some of you have already donated part of your pledge. Thank you! If you do, please let me know. For those of you who would like to donate now, you can follow the link below and select the Polio Plus Fund or give me a check payable to The Rotary Foundation. Our goal is to donate \$3500 to Polio Plus. We'd like donations beyond this to go to the Annual Fund, so if you are donating more than \$175, please donate the amount above that to the Annual Fund. It is the Annual Fund that provides matching funds for District and Global Grants among other things.

[Give to Polio Plus](#)





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## Membership Minute

Submitted by Jeff Esterkes, Membership Chair

Simple ways to spark interest in Rotary over lunch, coffee or conversation

### Starter Phrases:

- "Have you ever been to a Rotary meeting? I'd love to invite you as my guest."
- "You seem really engaged in the community - Rotary might be a good fit for you."
- "We have a lunch coming up with some inspiring speakers. Want to join me?"

### Spotting a Good Fit:

- Active in other networking groups
- Recently retired and exploring new purpose
- Passionate about service or local impact
- Curious, energetic, and community-minded

# Rotary

## Club of North Fulton



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## Companion Club Update

Reminder that our companion club meeting is November 20th at Thrive, 44 Milton Avenue, Alpharetta (located above Minnie Olivia Pizza) at 6:30 pm. Members will be discussing upcoming service projects and hearing from two members. Stick around afterward and see member Tom Georges and his band playing at Roaring Social.

If you have any questions, please reach out to Joseph Powell, (912) 662-2246.

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## Don't Miss the Fun at District Conference!



District Conference is a great time to join together with other Rotarians from our District in a relaxing and fun environment. For this Rotary year, we won't have a long drive because our conference will be held right up the road at Lake Lanier!

Details can be found at the following link:

[District Conference Details](#)