

# WHAT'S HAPPENING



January 28, 2016 | Be Involved, Be Engaged, Celebrate Rotary

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### At the Podium

**Jan. 29**  
 Penny McPhee  
 Arthur M. Blank  
 Family Foundation

**Feb. 5**  
 Anibal Torres  
 Executive Director  
 Latin American  
 Association

**Feb. 12**  
 Dan Gordon  
 COO  
 City of Atlanta

**Feb. 19**  
 Dr. Steve Green  
 Superintendent  
 DeKalb School  
 System

**Feb. 26**  
 Chris Clark  
 President & CEO  
 Georgia Chamber of

## This Week at Rotary

**Penny McPhee**  
 President, Arthur M. Blank  
 Family Foundation

As president and trustee of The Arthur M. Blank Family Foundation, Penelope McPhee directs the foundation's strategic focus on fostering opportunities for children and youth and enhancing the quality of life in Atlanta and beyond. One of the largest family foundations in the region, the Blank Foundation has made grants of more than \$350 million since its inception.

Penny joined the Blank Family Foundation in 2004, from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation in Miami, where she led the \$1.8 billion foundation's grant-making programs. A national leader in the arts, she launched Knight's national Arts and Culture Program in 1990 and became vice president and chief program officer in September 1996.



Commerce

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**2016 Community  
Projects Grant  
Application**

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and to apply online,  
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Friday  
Lunches  
catered by  
**Oakhurst Market**

**Decatur  
Rotary Club  
Officers**

**President:  
Scott Thompson**

**President-Elect:  
Amy Nash**

**Past President:  
Peter Michelson**

**Secretary:  
Doug Robinson**

**Treasurer:  
Pete Pfeiffer**

**Sergeant-at-Arms:  
John Drake**

Penny has had a distinguished career as an author and television producer. Her television documentaries and performance programs have won five Emmys, as well as prestigious awards from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and the National Association of Television Program Executives. For seven years she was on the staff of WPBT, Miami's public broadcasting station, where she launched its cultural affairs department and served as executive producer of cultural programming.

She is also a noted author whose pictorial history of the civil rights movement, *Martin Luther King Jr. A Documentary: Montgomery to Memphis*, was recognized in 1980 as one of the "Best Books of the Decade" by the American Library Association. Her 1986 book, *King Remembered*, received the New York State Martin Luther King Jr. Medal of Freedom.

In 2014, *Georgia Trend* magazine named Penny as one of the "100 Most Influential Georgians." The magazine included Penny in its 2012 and 2013 lists of "Notable Georgians." In 2008, she was elected to the YWCA of Greater Atlanta's Women of Achievement and selected by *Business to Business* magazine as a woman of achievement. She currently serves on the boards of the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, the Westside Future Fund, the Woodruff Arts Center and the Atlanta Committee for Progress. Regional and national board service has included the Council on Foundations, the American Red Cross Georgia Disaster Campaign Cabinet, The Southern Regional Business Council and the Southeastern Council of Foundations. She is a past president of Grantmakers in the Arts, a national affinity group of arts funders.

Penny has a master's degree from the graduate school of journalism at Columbia University, and graduated with honors from Wellesley College, where she received her bachelor's degree in English and theater arts. She and her husband, Raymond H. McPhee, a retired film and television producer, have one daughter and one granddaughter.

## Jan. 22 Speaker Recap

## The Four-Way Test

In everything that we think, say or do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

[For more information visit our website.](#)

[Check our club's calendar](#)

[District 6900 Website](#)



## Good to Know

Meeting Place  
Old Courthouse  
Downtown Decatur  
101 E. Court Square

Meeting Time  
Every Friday  
12:15 to 1:30 pm

Our Club



Our speaker, Chris Carr, was presented by John Cushnie (right). Our speaker grew up in Dunwoody and is honored to be at the Decatur Rotary Club. He is the commissioner of the Georgia Department of Economic Development. This Department is the chief marketing agency for the state of Georgia and is charged with bringing business and investments to Georgia. He is proud that Georgia has been named the number one state to do business in for three years in a row.

The newest addition to the Department of Economic Development is the International Development team, who focus on recruiting global businesses to Georgia. It also helps provide business opportunities overseas for Georgia companies. The department has offices in 11 countries to help create opportunities for trade. Georgia is the 11th largest exporting state in the country.

The big announcements are always the ones involving new business coming to Georgia. Two-thirds of the business announcements involve current businesses expanding and not new companies. Mr. Carr broke his department down to several key areas.

Everyone has heard of Kia Motors. Georgia has a fantastic geographical location and transportation system for automotive manufacturers.

Next he spoke about corporate headquarters. Recently, Porsche decided to stay in Georgia and Mercedes is moving here. Since 2014, Georgia has added 13 headquarters and is home to 20 Fortune 500 Companies.

#4132, District #6900.

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Decatur Rotary Club  
PO Box 845  
Decatur, GA 30031

Dues & Donations  
\$275 quarterly dues  
\$700 annual donation

Newsletter  
Submissions  
Deadline is Monday at  
noon. Send your news to  
[Adrienne Vinson Waddey](mailto:Adrienne.Vinson.Waddey@decaturrotary.com)

Georgia is becoming a hub of innovation due to the airport and access to universities like Emory and Georgia Tech. Georgia leads the nation in tech security and healthcare IT companies. His department helps small to mid-sized companies partner with universities.

Mr. Carr talked about how tourism is still a large industry in Georgia. Locally, we have Discover DeKalb to promote tourism in DeKalb County. He said this will be the year of music in Georgia, but he could not provide any further details, they are secret for now.

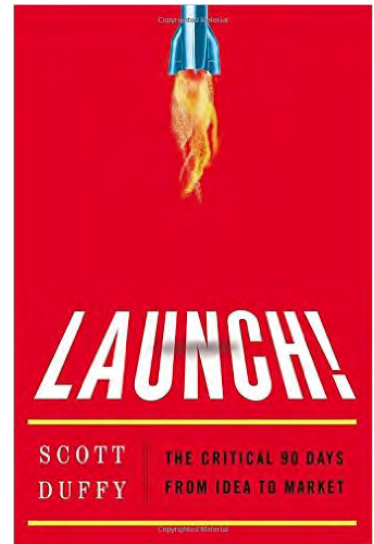
Everyone has probably noticed the recent boom in the entertainment industry in Georgia. It is now a 6 billion dollar industry. There are 15 feature films currently filming in Georgia now and new studios are being built constantly. In addition to the entertainment industry, his department works with fine arts organizations.

On the negative side, he said DeKalb does have some problems. When city commissioners are indicted and the whole school board is replaced, companies see that instability and decide that DeKalb is not a place for their businesses. As an example, in 2014, Fulton County had 249 projects in 2014, Gwinnett County had 116 projects, and DeKalb county had 34. He said with the location of DeKalb County, there is no reason Gwinnett should have more. DeKalb County needs to act as one instead of being divided into sections.

He next listened to questions about casinos, pop-up cities, rail transit, religious freedom act, and craft beer laws. He did not take a side on any of the issues. Without declaring an opinion, he answered by encouraging people to get involved and contact their representatives.



In honor of our speaker's visit President Scott presented a book to be donated to the DeKalb Library System, Launch!, by Scott Duffy.



## News and Announcements

Invocation  
Harl Pike

Visiting Rotarians  
Elmer Stancil from the Midtown club

Matt Gerber from Minneapolis University

Guests  
Our speaker, Chris Carr brought Ember Bishop and Pat Wilson

Linda Harris brought Catherine Lee and Shirley Baylis

Kyle Williams brought Chris Collier

Jim Topple brought Brian Cayce

Herb McCoy brought Baoky Vu

Betty Willis brought Delores Crowell, who is a member of the Gwinnett Rotary Club.

### Announcements

Mark Burnette recapped the MLK service weekend. We had 15 volunteers from the Decatur Rotary Club who worked on two houses, plus 20+ volunteers brought by Kathryn



Johnson from the Emory Conference Center and Hotel. One house received a new kitchen floor and new steps. The other house was mostly cleaning and light maintenance. Jason Conn and Scott Thompson were there all three days and Mark Burnette got to use a jack hammer.

Our next service project is the preparation and distribution of hygiene kits for Atlanta's homeless, on Sunday, Feb. 7. Contact Dan DeWoskin for more information.

Alison Weissinger is spearheading the Rotary local signage project, more information to come next week. Many thanks for donations to date, and additional donations are welcome.

The DeKalb Council meeting/breakfast will be March 4. Our club has two members honored each year. This year, the "You are the Key" award will go to Past President Jason Conn. Jason's continuing contributions to Rotary are an inspiration to all members. He remains deeply involved in a number of Rotary projects, including sponsoring our GRSP student.

To honor the memory and invaluable contributions of one member, the club has posthumously nominated Doug Torbush for the "Show Rotary Cares" award this year. Doug's unfailing willingness to serve Rotary and his community were unparalleled.

President Scott reminded us that the District Conference is April 21-24 this year.



thirsty  
thursday social



Join us Feb. 4 as we range a littler further afield for fun and fellowship at My Parent's Basement, a new pub just "across the border" in Avondale Estates. BWOW (Bring Your Own Wallet), enjoy snacks and mingle with your fellow Rotarians. We'll have access to a heated enclosed outside area with ample seating. Bring a friend!

The details:

My Parent's Basement  
22 N. Avondale Rd.  
5:30-7 pm

[myparentsbasementcbb.com](http://myparentsbasementcbb.com)

## Acknowledgements

Thank you to our photographer Dr. Mark Hastings, editors Lori Ronca and Adrienne Vinson, graphic designer Marcia Lampe, and reporter John C. Bennett and Director Alison Weissinger. Great job!

Sincerely,

The Rotary Bulletin Committee  
Decatur Rotary Club

**Directions:** Old Courthouse on the Square