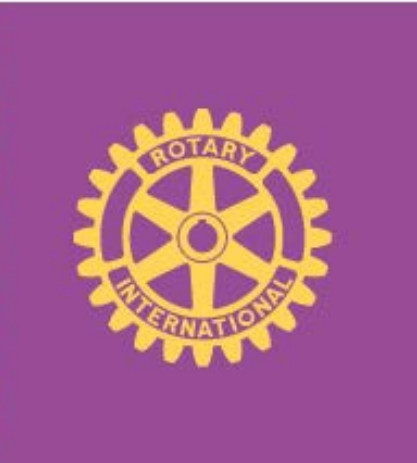




Rotary Club of Decatur



February 11, 2015 | Be Involved, Be Engaged, Celebrate Rotary

In This Issue

Upcoming Speakers

Feb. 27
Robert Blazer
 Owner
 Your DeKalb Farmer's
 Market
 "Expansion Plans for
 YDFM"

.....
 March 6



Paul Morris
 President
 Atlanta Beltline

Our Speaker this Week:
Douglas R. Hooker
 Executive Director
 Atlanta Regional Commission



Speaking on the topic "Three Keys to Winning the Future in Metro Atlanta," Doug Hooker is the executive director of the Atlanta Regional Commission (ARC). ARC is an agency which facilitates local governments in the Atlanta region to implement innovative solutions for small and large challenges and opportunities. He oversees programs and services that support community development, transportation development, water and natural resources, arts and culture, aging and health resources and workforce development, community research and analytics, and more.

In his career he has worked for public sector and private sector organizations, among them: the City of Atlanta's Department of Public Works (serving as the commissioner who led the agency through the 1996 Olympic Games); executive director of the State Road and Tollway Authority; director of finance and administration with Bio-Lab, Inc., and vice president for business development and marketing with Atkins Engineering (formerly PBS&J). He began his career

Decatur Rotary Club Officers

President:
Peter Michelson

President-Elect:
Scott Thompson

Past President:
Robert Brown

Secretary:
Vee Nelson

Treasurer:
Drew Robinson

Sergeant-at-Arms:
Mark Burnette

with Georgia Power where he worked as a design engineer, project manager, design section supervisor, and as a technology policy analyst. Through the different facets of his career he has worked on important regional and local projects in the areas of energy, education, transportation, transit and water.

Doug holds a bachelor of mechanical engineering degree and a master of science (in technology and science policy) degree from Georgia Tech, as well as a masters of business administration from Emory University's Goizueta Business School.

Honoring Jean

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](#)



Friday
Lunches
catered by
Oakhurst Market

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
#4132, District #6900.

Mailing Address
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
Doug Robinson, [doug@
eagleeyebooks.com](mailto:doug@eagleeyebooks.com)



On Thursday, Feb. 5, the Decatur Rotary Club honored retired Executive Secretary Jean O'Callaghan for her 25 years of service at our First Thursday Social held at Eddie's Attic. More than 50 people came to enjoy food and drinks as Jean was saluted. President Peter read the article that

Betty Spiker wrote as a tribute to Jean that appears in this newsletter. Bob Wilson also gave an eloquent toast to Jean and recounted her value to the club for all these years. A great time was had by all!

A Tribute to Jean O'Callaghan

By Betty H. Spiker

Jean O'Callaghan retired on Dec. 31, 2014, after 25 faithful years as the Executive Secretary of the Decatur Rotary Club.



You may know Jean as the ever-smiling, ever-present force that organized each meeting, kept track of all attending members and visitors, collected dues and payments, and assisted every officer and member in any way necessary. And, you would be 100% correct. She has been a great asset to our club; she knew every detail about every activity.

But what you may not know is how Jean became our executive secretary 25 years ago.

When Jean was a young wife with two small girls, her husband was tragically killed in a plane crash. Coincidentally, that same year, Decatur Rotarian Ted O'Callaghan lost his wife. After a period of time, one of Jean's friends arranged a blind date for her. Although Jean was sure that she had no interest in dating again, she agreed. Jean Price and Ted O'Callaghan went on their first date during the Christmas holidays in 1977. They were married a year later.

Ted O'Callaghan was a very successful business man (BellSouth district manager), active in our community (10 years on the Decatur City Commission), and extremely committed to Rotary (club president, secretary, and chair of numerous committees, as well as District 6900 Governor 1988-1989).

In addition to his professional triumphs, and perhaps most important, Ted was a wonderful father to Jean's daughters Gina and Tonia, and a wonderful husband to Jean. Sadly, Ted passed away in 2010, leaving a legacy of commitment to his family, to his community and to Rotary.

Ted and Jean loved to travel. They visited Brazil in 1979 to

represent the City of Decatur in its Sister City, Recife. They also traveled to Ireland to explore Ted's Irish roots, to Germany and Scotland through Rotary's Family Exchange Program, to England with the International Friendship Force, and to Alaska.

Jean truly enjoyed joining Ted in Rotary activities, which hit a high point during his tenure as District Governor. After a year of immersion as the District Governor's wife, she said she was hooked!

Again, fate intervened . . . Decatur Rotary's then-executive secretary announced her retirement after 23 years of service. Jean quickly applied for the opportunity to fill that position and she was welcomed as the new executive secretary in 1990.

We will miss seeing Jean at the greeting table, but we will welcome her during our meetings as an honorary member at our dining table!

Again, fate has intervened... Gloria Kusmik is our new executive secretary. Gloria was a long-time member of our club until her office moved OTP (Outside the Perimeter). Gloria missed us so much (and husband Joe, of course), that she wanted to be part of our Rotary Family again. Welcome Gloria!

Last Week: State of the City Address



Fellow Decatur Rotary member and Mayor of Decatur, Jim Baskett, spoke about the State of the City in the annual Mayor's remarks to the club. Jim cited some noteworthy outcomes during 2014 including the city being in good financial shape with a healthy fund balance without drastic reductions in services.

The international City County Management Association awarded Decatur their highest honor - Certificate of Excellence for Performance Management. They also received the Excellence in Financial Reporting Award from the Government Finance Officers Association of the U.S. and Canada. This is the highest form of recognition for government accounting and reporting.

More Highlights

The Allen Wilson Community was named the 2014 Earthcraft Community of the Year, an award recognizing sustainable building principles.

Fire Chief Toni Washington was honored as the first African-American woman to earn the position of chief officer of a fire department. With Stephanie Burton's promotion to deputy fire chief, that probably makes Decatur the only fire department in the nation run by two African-American women.

The city achieved a number of projects including hiring a landscape infrastructure coordinator for the tree canopy conservation ordinance that went into effect.

The Unified Development Ordinance was completed and now all of the City's development and zoning ordinances are updated, cross referenced and easy to find.

The city is adding finishing touches to the Beacon Municipal Center on W. Trinity Place. In addition to housing the Decatur City Schools' headquarters, it houses the city's police department, municipal court, Ebster gym and recreation center and a newly refurbished Ebster pool.

City facilities that have been upgraded all meet LEED standards.

Downtown parking meters and equipment were expanded with payment options that include a City of Decatur mobile app.

Expectations for 2015

Some of the expectations for 2015 include new streetscape projects and outdoor art sculptures, redevelopment opportunities and new retail developments, along with new restaurants. City leaders are also pursuing ways for seniors to afford to live in the city.

News and Announcements

Rotary Awards

President Peter awarded the Show Rotary Cares Award (formerly Rotarian of the Year Award) to Rick Garnitz, Chair of Membership Development Committee, who was honored for the many successful 2014 service projects and outstanding membership development efforts.

Barbara Tedrow, Chair, International Service Committee, was honored with the Regional Key Award and nominated for the District Service Award for the international service learning project for students from Agnes Scott College and Decatur High School at Camp Vasara, a camp for students ages 6-14 who are suffering from the effects of post-traumatic stress syndrome in Vilnius, Lithuania last summer.



About that Tent

President Peter delivered the program under our new Rotary canopy purchased several years ago but unused until now. Members may use it for Rotary service projects, such as MLK Day, to increase the visibility of our work in the community. We will be using the tent for Light Up Rotary on Monday night, Feb. 23 outside the Old Courthouse. (See event details in this newsletter.)

Decatur Rotary Foundation and the International Rotary Foundation

Tom Adams spoke about the important work of both the Decatur Rotary Foundation and the International Rotary Foundation. He asked members to donate to support our

community projects and to advance international projects.

This year our Decatur Rotary Foundation will award \$18,000 to fund at-risk youth and literacy projects involving nonprofit agencies in the metro Decatur area.

Tom invited every member to consider attaining Paul Harris Fellow status with a donation of \$1,000.

Family of Rotary News
by Todd Speed

Adrienne Vinson became engaged this past weekend.

Alison Weissinger, director of DeKalb Library System, was lauded for her 18 years of service to the library.



Peggy Merriss, Decatur City Manager, was acknowledged for her 31 years of service to the city

Visiting Rotarians

Bruce Gunter, Atlanta Club - Real Estate

Guests / Rotary Member

Nick Cantrell / Dan DeWoskin

Nichelle Bright / Peter Michelson

John Graham / Dave Jollay

Keri Powell / Rick Garnitz

Frances Smith / Chad Greer

Brandon Baides / Bill Harshman

Rotary in Action



This past Sunday morning, several Decatur Rotarians assembled and distributed nearly 500 hygiene kits for homeless Atlantans. The project was done in collaboration with Pastor Paul Turner and Gentle Spirit Christian Church in downtown Atlanta. The volunteers also handed out bottles of water. According to Dan DeWoskin, the club initiator of this project, "It was a great day and a great service."

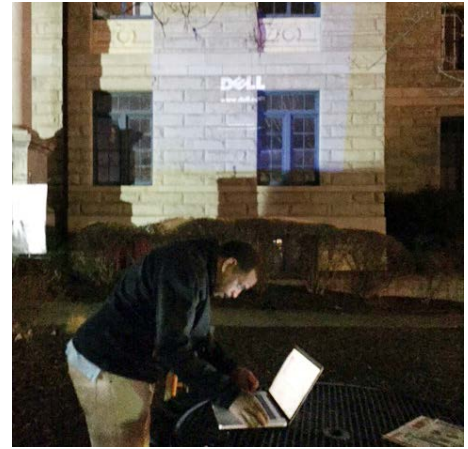
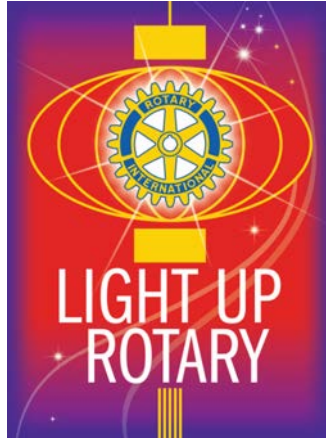
Pictured in the line-up at top (from left) are Peter Michelson and his son Jeremiah, Herb McCoy, Josh Chamberlain, Dan DeWoskin and son Marshal, and Zach North.

Light Up Rotary!

The Decatur Rotary Club will join clubs around the globe as we light up the logo of Rotary International on the side of the Old Courthouse on Monday evening, Feb. 23, to celebrate the founding of Rotary International. Our tech expert, Elliott Augustine, will project the international logo on the outside wall of the courthouse facing the square from 7-8 pm He will also have his drone, Dronie, there again to capture all of us

having fun celebrating
Rotary's theme for the year.

Susie



Simmons and her committee will be serving hot cocoa, hot cider and refreshments to warm you up as we gather at the community bandstand on the square to celebrate the fellowship of Rotary. If you want to further celebrate with libations, there are several popular watering holes around the square that would welcome Rotarians on a cold evening. Please invite your neighbors to come with you and join us for an hour of fellowship, food and fun (7-8 pm). If the weather is really cold, we will be inside the Old Courthouse with the refreshments and if the weather is really inclement, we won't be there at all.

Special Thanks to . . .

Barbara Tedrow, our reporter this week. Great job!

Followups . . .

Keep the feedback coming so we can make this newsletter even better! Deadline for the bulletin is Monday at noon. Please email your comments and suggestions to:

Doug: doug@eagleeyebooks.com

Betty: bhspiker@bellsouth.net

Harl: sharonharl12@yahoo.com

Sincerely,

The Rotary Bulletin Committee
Decatur Rotary Club