



WHAT'S HAPPENING



May 20, 2015 | Be Involved, Be Engaged, Celebrate Rotary

In This Issue

Upcoming Events and Speakers

May 29
Genia Cayce and
Claire Waggenpack
Hayes: Woodland
Garden

June 5
Jody Noland, CEO
at Leave Nothing
Unsaid

June 12
George Birnbaum,
International
Political Consultant

June 19
Perry Mitchell,
President, GA
Chapter of
Compassionate
Choices

Greetings!

No Meeting This Week May 22



See Friday, May 29 at the Old Courthouse on the Square.

Last Week's Speaker

"Are You Good To Go?"

June 26
- No Speaker -
Changing of
Presidency

Friday Lunches
catered by
Oakhurst Market

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

The Four-Way Test

In everything that
we think, say or
do:

Is it the TRUTH?

Marshall Orson

DeKalb County School Board



Introduced by Doug Robinson

Mr. Orson noted that it's astounding how quickly things change in life and politics these days. Although he's been a DeKalb County Board of Education member for only 2-1/2 years, he is one of the longest serving board members.

He began his term in a crisis environment with a dysfunctional board and a school system on academic probation, followed by the governor's replacement of six board members. Lacking leadership and vision, the new board has worked diligently to address the elements that caused the systemic difficulties, and things have improved significantly as a result. Their work efforts have resulted in an honest evaluation of negative contributing factors, including the inertia that prevented the introduction of positive changes.

Because DeKalb County is such a large school district, different factors deeply affect the success or failure of different schools within the district. Graduation rates and test scores among different areas vary widely, yet the notion that identical "recipes for success" in all areas was never questioned.

It became evident that "doing the same thing everywhere" for students was a recipe for failure. DCSS needed a new vision. In their search for a new superintendent, the strategies required to ensure student achievement led them to their future leader, Dr. Stephen Green, currently superintendent of the Kansas City, MO school district.

Dr. Green has stabilized and revamped the Kansas City school district with remarkable results, largely because he understands that there is no singular path to success within a large district. Dr. Green has proven strategies that address the needs of divergent student populations.

Mr. Orson concluded by saying that interim superintendent Michael Thurmond has done a remarkable job stabilizing the school district, and that the DCSS would appreciate partnerships with all DeKalb County businesses and citizens.

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

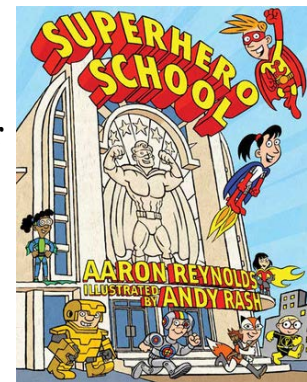
Meeting Time
Every Friday
12:15 to 1:30 pm

Our Club
#4132, District #6900.

Mailing Address
Decatur Rotary Club, PO
Box 845
Decatur, GA 30031



President Peter presented the book, Superhero School by Aaron Reynolds and Andy Rash, to be placed in the DeKalb Library System in honor of Marshall Orson's visit.



More about last week's meeting

Invocation

Delivered by Elliot Augustine

Pledge of Allegiance: At President Peter's request, Judge Dan Coursey led the Pledge of Allegiance (ask Judge Coursey why!).

Visiting Rotarians presented by Bedros Sharian III:

Art Rosser, Northlake Rotary Club
Joe Farrell, Cambridge, Ohio Rotary Club
Chris Brand, President of Stone Mountain Rotary Club

Visitors:

Tom Adams introduced Preston Etheridge, Guest of the Club

Celebrating graduations within our Rotary Family:

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)

- President Peter Michelson: son Jeremiah graduated from the Waldorf School
- Jim Crabb: son Will graduated from the University of the South
- Jason Conn: daughter Reagan graduated from 8th Grade
- Charlie Bell: son Andrew graduated from Mercer Savannah medical school
- Mac Willett: daughter graduated from Georgia State University
- Noel Maloof: daughter graduated from Decatur High School
- Todd Speed: son graduated from the University of Georgia
- Scott Thompson: daughter graduated from Kenyon College
- Visiting Northlake Club Rotarian Art Rosser: niece graduated from 8th Grade

Derby Day Follow-up

Jason Conn reported on the wonderful Derby Day gathering and auction results. Here are the highlights:



More than 100 people attended this entertaining fundraiser for the Decatur Rotary Foundation.

Net proceeds stand at \$23,000 before paying bills. Thank you to everyone who attended!

If you haven't already done so, it's not too late to make your \$150 donation, which will help to fill our Foundation coffers for next year's community services and grants. Whether or not you were able to attend, you can still be counted as a supporter with your donation.

Thank you to our sponsors: Origin Title and Escrow, (John Bennett); John Robinson; Jim Jarboe; Renewal Design (Peter Michelson); Amy Nash; Jason Conn (Fifth Third Mortgage); Jim Topple. Thanks also to Al Adams and Hugh Goodwin for their donated items they brought from the Kentucky Derby last weekend that added a real Derby flair to the event.

Other Announcements



Stone Mountain Rotary Club President Chris Brand announced a joint service project: On May 30 from 10 am to 1 pm, our clubs will participate in medical equipment donations at the Decatur YMCA on Clairemont Avenue. Please donate your no-longer-needed medical equipment and devices such as wheelchairs, crutches, etc. These items will be given to FODAC to re-purpose for people in need of assistance.



Joe Kusmik recounted the great fun everyone had at the District 6900 conference at Jekyll last month, and urged everyone to put next year's conference on your calendars. The 2016 District 6900 conference will be held at Hilton Head on the third weekend in April 2016. Join us for more fellowship and relaxing fun!

Dan DeWoskin alerted us about the upcoming May 31 club service project for assembling and distributing hygiene kits for the homeless in Atlanta. All are welcome to participate.

Here are a few more shots from last week's meeting:



Special thanks to . . .

Betty Spiker for reporting and Mark Hasting for the

photography.

Sincerely,

The Rotary Bulletin Committee
Decatur Rotary Club

Directions: Old Courthouse on the Square