

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA **ROTALIGHT**

*Celebrating 100 Years of "Service Above Self"*

*August 7, 2019 • Volume 83, Number 5*

TODAY'S SPEAKER  
**Evan Mercer**

**"Crushing your Challenges"**

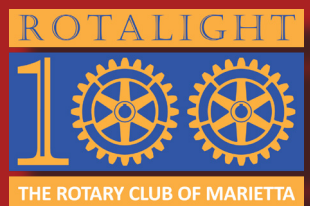
SEE PAGE 2



**Rotary**  
Club of Marietta



**ROTARY  
CONNECTS  
THE WORLD**



## Today's Speaker: Evan Mercer



Evan Mercer graduated as valedictorian from Harrison High School in 2014 and was named National Eagle Scout of the Year while in high school. He went on to earn degrees in Neuroscience and Communication Studies from Vanderbilt University in 2018. While at Vanderbilt, he served as the school's mascot, Mr. Commodore, performing at school events and games. At Vandy, he started both a TV and a radio show, focusing on college sports. In addition, Evan founded a mentoring group, the Mercer Maniacs, for homeless children in Nashville to help them academically.

Currently, Evan is a second-year medical student at Vanderbilt University. When he's not in class or studying, he can be found volunteering at a low-income health care clinic or conducting research. He has yet to decide upon his area of practice.

# *The* ROTARY CLUB *of* MARIETTA

*Celebrating*  
**100 YEARS**  
*of* SERVICE ABOVE SELF

*Enjoy an evening with us as we launch the  
100<sup>th</sup> year of the Rotary Club of Marietta*

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**SATURDAY, OCTOBER 19, 2019**

FORMAL INVITATION TO FOLLOW





# WHEN WE LAST MET

## Minutes from the July 31 Meeting



**JIM KELLOGG**

President **Chris Bethel** approached the podium and clanged the bell to open our fourth meeting of our 100th year as a Rotary Club. He dispatched with business immediately, calling up PE **Mary Ansley Southerland**, to give today's invocation. She gave thanks for bringing us all together in service above self and prayed for the educators to provide guidance to our young people as they prepare for the new school year. **Jim Kellogg** introduced Lieutenant Mike Goins, of the Marietta Police Department and Guest of RCOM member and today's speaker, Chief **Dan Flynn**. There were no visiting Rotarians.

President Chris called out Rev. Dr. **Mark Barbour**, who is back from a whirlwind vacation visiting family in Michigan. He said the only reason he came back was because he was running out of money. Alas, the missing red marble in last year's infamous Opportunity Drawing continues to haunt our dear friend Mark.

President Chris reminded us about our sponsorship of two young men for the Boys to Men event, on August 18 from 11:30 AM to 4:30 PM. Volunteers should contact **Tyler Stephens**. The 6th Annual Thanksgiving Golf Tournament will be held on November 11 at the Marietta Country Club. Proceeds benefit Kennesaw State University's Cares Program. We were reminded to sign up for a volunteer activity to benefit the Club. Those who do not make a choice will be assigned to whichever opportunities remain.



**IRV SMITH**

**Irv Smith** was deputized by President Chris as our new Sergeant at Arms. Resounding applause ensued. Not to be outdone, **Dan Kirk** was named our new Ambassador of International Services, to keep us abreast of our three major initiatives, Polio, Clean Water and Literacy. Those

who worked on the Club Directory were heartily thanked for their service. Then, our fearless leader deputized all of us to find our Club's original charter. Feeling empowered, we'll search high and low for our charter that will usher us into the next 100 years.

In the news: our very own **Joyette Holmes** was in the house, fresh off of her induction as the new Attorney General of Cobb County. **Joe Atkins** was re-appointed to the Cobb Ethics Committee. Congratulations and well done, Joyette and Joe!

There was plenty of Sunshine to go around. **Jim Trapnell** urged the group to bring on the good news. Joe Atkins went first, saying that his father is in hospice, and he and his family were able to take his mom to the beach for a few days of R&R. Past President **Jesse Evans**, gave sunshine for his three daughters who attended a school orientation and open house prior to the start of school. Then Mary Ansley shined on Jim Trapnell just for being Jim Trapnell!



**CHIEF DAN FLYNN**

**Will Allen** strode to the podium to introduce our speaker, RCOM member and the Chief of Marietta's Finest, Dan Flynn. Will ticked off a plethora of honors, awards and commendations Chief Flynn has amassed over his career in law enforcement. As he approached the podium he received a warm round of applause. He looked out at us and smiled, saying that he is proud to be a member of our Rotary Club, surrounded by such great people. We agree! Chief said that he will keep his remarks short, as his mother told him, "there's a reason God gave us one mouth and two ears." So true.



PRESIDENT CHRIS WITH CHIEF FLYNN

Chief Flynn said that after a strategic planning session to study what is harming people in the community, the opioid epidemic bubbled up to the top. It is a crisis and getting worse every year. This led to training first responders, firefighters and police to become educated on administering Narcan. A few statistics for you. In 2017 there were 1,043 drug induced deaths in GA and 163 drug induced deaths in Cobb County. Approximately 85% of these deaths were caused by opioid use. What do you think is the age range of people overdosing on opioids? Ages 50 – 59. That was a shock. Chief said that everyone knows a member of their family or someone else's family that is addicted to opioids. We can't solve this crisis by arresting everyone who uses.

Chief went on to say that there were 10 opioid induced deaths in Marietta for 2018. So, the numbers of people who are using opioids seem to be going in the right direction. However, in 2018 100 doses of Narcan were administered by 10 police, 16 firefighters and 74 EMS first responders. So, many deaths were prevented by administering Narcan.

What can we do? There are three types of activities that will deter opioid use. First and most effective is Prevention. Educate the youth in our community to the dangers of using drugs. The next activity is Intervention. This is where the accountability courts can make a big difference. Finally, there is Interdiction, arresting drug dealers and traffickers and getting them off the streets. Circling back to Intervention and the accountability courts, Chief Flynn said that most drug addicts are typically not violent people. They'll steal to enable drug purchases, which is more of a Public Health problem than a Public Safety problem. The short-term strategy is to get these people sober and into treatment. The long-term strategy is treatment and intervention.

Sensing an opportunity to make a difference, the Marietta Police Department began focusing on the gap in time between when an addict overdoses and when they seek help. They created the ASSIST program, which stands for Active Substance Support and Intervention Solutions Team. This team is headed up by Lieutenant Mike Goins. An ASSIST team member will contact someone who has overdosed within 24 hours to provide the individual with options, answer questions and be a non-judicial contact to provide information and support. The team attempts to gain the victims' trust to encourage them to decide to accept their help. They then follow up in 14 days after the initial contact to see what progress has been made. Chief Flynn said that they are receiving a lot of calls about the ASSIST program from many groups in Cobb.

Chief commented on a success story for the ASSIST team. Marietta Police were called to a home where they found a woman who was unconscious, not breathing and with no heartbeat. Seeing drug paraphernalia around the home they assumed it was a drug overdose. They gave the woman NARCAN and detected a faint heartbeat. After a period of time they administered another dose and she revived. She said that she became addicted to pills after a divorce. The next day a member of the ASSIST team visited her and she accepted their help. So, the ASSIST team saved her life, twice.

Chief ended by praising his team. Initially they gave the Marietta Police officers doses of NARCAN to save each other if they came in contact with opioids that are incredibly lethal. Instead of saving the NARCAN for each other, they administered it to victims they encountered. The police were more likely to help these victims over themselves. Marietta's Finest, indeed.

President Chris thanked Chief Flynn and said that a book in his honor would be placed in a Marietta school. Today's book was Peppa Pig, Fun Around Town.

The opportunity Drawing was administered by Jim Kellogg and **Walt Walker**. The first lucky ticket holder was **Jennifer Nelson**. Alas, the red marble did not appear. Next up was **Charles Kilgore**, who was equally unsuccessful.

President Chris said that next week's speaker is Evan Mercer.

Jim Kellogg led us in the Pledge of Allegiance and the 4 Way test. President Chris rang the bell and we were adjourned.

~ Deborah Marshall, Scribe  
~ Dale Covington, Photographer





DOWN 7 UP 8 INC. PRESENTS

Registration  
NOW OPEN

# Boys to Men 2019

*Join us for a SUPER fun & IMPACTFUL day  
Volunteers Needed!!!!*

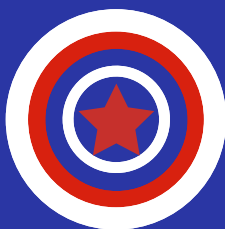
Super-Heroes & Human Heroes needed to encourage and uplift foster, adopted, and at-risk young men from our community, ages 3-10, as well as accomplished professionals and mentors to provide exposure to some life's lessons, and Man talks for ages 11-18.

Sunday, August 18, 2019

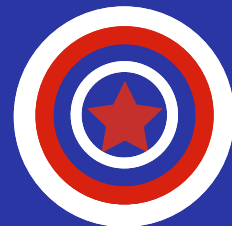
11:30 AM- 4:30 PM

**Smyrna Community Center  
200 Village Green Circle SE  
Smyrna, GA 30080**

VISIT OUR WEBSITE FOR MORE INFORMATION & TO BECOME A VOLUNTEER  
**WWW.DOWN7UP8INC.ORG**



IN PARTNERSHIP



# UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 8, 2019	10:30 AM	MUST Ministries - Cook & Serve
Wednesday, August 14, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Past District Governor Bob Hagan, "Polio Eradication Update"
Wednesday, August 21, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – TBA
Wednesday, August 28, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Scott Hilton, Executive Director for the Georgians First Commission
Wednesday, September 4, 2019		NO MEETING
Thursday, September 12, 2019	10:30 AM	MUST Ministries - Cook & Serve
Wednesday, September 18, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – District Governor, Jim Squire
Wednesday, September 25, 2019	12:15 PM	NO MEETING

## MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

### CLUB OFFICERS 2019-20 Christopher Bethel, *President*

Mary Ansley Southerland, *President Elect*  
Marla Blackstone, *Co-Secretary*  
[marla@skeltonblackstone.com](mailto:marla@skeltonblackstone.com)

Jeff Cooper, *Co-Secretary*  
Brad Leskoven, *Treasurer*  
Reuben Green, *Presidential Advisor*

#### DIRECTORS

Joseph Atkins, *Administration*  
Tyler Stephens, *Service*  
Kelly Maxwell, *Membership*  
Thomas Sherrer, *Public Relations*  
Brooke Cohen, *Foundation*

Meeting makeups may be emailed to:  
[jeff.cooper@wellstar.org](mailto:jeff.cooper@wellstar.org)

[www.mariettarotary.org](http://www.mariettarotary.org)



## THE ROTALIGHT FOUNDED AUGUST 25, 1937

*Published Weekly by*

The Rotary Club of Marietta  
Post Office Box 711, Marietta, Georgia 30061

#### ROTALIGHT STAFF

Deborah Marshall, *Editor*

Joseph Atkins  
Mark Barbour  
Marla Blackstone  
Chuck Boring  
Dale Covington

Warren Gordon  
Abbott Hall  
Jim Peeler  
Marlys Williams

We welcome and encourage all contributions.  
Send articles, photographs and editorials to:  
[Deborah.Marshall@uss.salvationarmy.org](mailto:Deborah.Marshall@uss.salvationarmy.org)

## DISTRICT 6900

Jim Squire, *District Governor*  
Mark Barbour, *Assistant District Governor*  
[mmlbarbour@bellsouth.net](mailto:mmlbarbour@bellsouth.net)

[www.rotary6900.org](http://www.rotary6900.org)

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Mark Daniel Maloney  
*President*

[www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)