



UNITE FOR GOOD

KeyWay Weekly Newsletter

This Week's Program:

District Governor Steve Ivory



Join us this Friday as we welcome District Governor Steve Ivory, a dedicated Rotarian and transformational leader. Steve joined the Rotary Club of Peachtree City in 2001 and quickly became known for his hands-on leadership—serving as Club Treasurer, Vice President, and later as President during the challenging pandemic year of 2020–2021. His tenure saw a remarkable 254% increase in Foundation giving and innovative approaches to service.

Steve's professional journey spans military and corporate leadership. A U.S. Naval Academy graduate and retired U.S. Marine Corps Major, he later earned an MBA from Georgia State and retired as Director of Quality at Eaton Corporation. His accolades include the Stover Community Service Award and the Sheffield Presidential Leadership Award. An ardent champion of youth programs and community service, Steve has hosted five GRSP students and actively supports veterans, healthcare, and education initiatives. He's also a mentor, speaker, and advocate for ethical leadership.

JOIN ONLINE

Zoom Link - [Click here](#)
Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307
Passcode: Service

Dial In

1-646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307
Passcode: 846122

October's Theme is Community Economic Development
Fridays: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31



SERVICE ABOVE SELF SINCE 1958

KeyWay Report **September 26, 2025 | Club Assembly**

President Victoria Seals began the meeting by asking **Marilyn Jackson**, Director of the Diversity, Equity, and

Inclusion Committee, to present an update. Marilyn reported that Harriet Tubman's house in Auburn, NY, was recently designated as the latest national park in the system, joining the Tubman Underground Railroad, also part of the National Park System.

Eric John mentioned that **Carden Wyckoff**, twice an AWER speaker and noted UGA alumna, has been sworn in as a member of the Atlanta City Council to fill the unexpired term of **Amir Farokhi**, now Leader of the Galloway School.

President Victoria announced that **District Governor Steve Ivory** will be visiting and speaking at AWER's meeting at Georgia Tech on October 3. Victoria urged all AWER members to attend. DG Ivory will give an important update on Rotarians' work in Rotary District 6900, take questions on his goals for the district for RY26, and provide updates on activities both within the district and through Rotary worldwide.

Other speakers identified for October include former AWER president **Mr. Michael Mumper** on October 10 to speak about the potential harmful effects of children's marijuana use due to new regulations, and **Mr. Chris Burke**, Executive Director of Community Development for Georgia Tech, on October 17. Former AWER member and Georgia state representative **Mr. Roger Bruce** will also speak.

President Seals recognized **Mr. Rodney Fields** and **Ms. Jennifer Fields** as newly elected members of AWER. She conducted a short ceremony for their official induction into AWER and provided them with Rotary International lapel pins. The induction ceremony emphasized the Rotary theme "Unite for Good" and the founding principles of service, fellowship, diversity, integrity, and leadership.

She asked Rodney to share why he sought to become a member of Rotary. Rodney introduced himself as a recently retired military leader with 21 years of service who wants to become more involved in the community. He mentioned his tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and his new commitment to serving and mentoring young people. When asked by Jared Evans if he'd like to work on Atlanta's Streets Alive initiative, Rodney said he would enjoy participating.

Ms. Jennifer Fields introduced herself as a lifelong Atlanta resident who owns a psychiatric clinic. She mentioned her prior experience with Rotaract during her college years at Spelman and her family's long history of community service in Atlanta. She reflected on serving others while attending Frederick Douglass High School. She's joining Rotary and AWER to pursue fulfilling projects, emphasizing her desire to create impact through service and to build support structures that generate meaningful accomplishments.

It was reported that AWER member **Robert Stephens** has been hospitalized at Emory University Hospital and is now recovering from spine surgery. Prayers were requested for Robert.

KeyWay Program Reporters: Jared Evans and Neil Shorthouse

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Community Economic Development Month

October's Theme

Each October, Rotary highlights Community Economic Development (CED) — one of our seven Areas of Focus. Rotary's vision is to build a more equitable and inclusive world by creating sustainable opportunities for people who live in poverty, young people, women, refugees, people with disabilities, and other underserved communities.

Why does this matter? Unemployment, lack of opportunity, and limited education are at the root of poverty. By supporting entrepreneurship, creating jobs, and strengthening local economies, Rotary helps communities achieve long-term stability and dignity.

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AWER Board Meeting Notes

September 26, 2025

The Board of the Atlanta West End Rotary Club met to plan for the upcoming Rotary year, focusing on finances, membership, and service. The Treasurer reported sound finances with a projected FY2026 budget of \$14,352. Of this, \$4,416 covers Rotary International and district dues. The Board proposed allocating \$500 per committee to support engagement across Club Administration, Membership, Public Image, Service Projects, The Rotary Foundation, and DEI.

Membership discussions included streamlining new member entry and exploring diverse membership types such as organizational and couples. Chair Sonia and the Membership Committee are also planning social events like happy hours.

Carolina will lead the Service Committee in coordinating projects. Only initiatives requiring club funds will need Board approval, encouraging members to bring ideas forward. The Board also discussed collaborating with community partners and pursuing peace pole installations through District Grant funding.

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Honoring 90 Years of Service

Happy 90th Birthday, Ms. Frances Ellison-Dansby!

A lifelong educator and community leader, Ms. Frances began teaching science at Booker T. Washington High in the 1950s and later served at Lena Jean Campbell Elementary. She has also given decades of service to St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church. Joining our club in 1992, she became the first African American woman to serve as a Rotary Club President in District 6900 (2000–2001) and again in 2010–2011. Happy Birthday, Ms. Frances!

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 10/10: Micheal Mumper
- 10/17: Chris Burke, Executive Director of Community Development for Georgia Tech
- 10/24: GA State Rep. Roger Bruce
- 10/25: ATL Tech. College 5K
- 10/26: Streets Alive! *West End*
- 10/31: Judith Fuller & Threshold Choir Voice of Love

Sign up to be a program chair [here](#) today! **Dec. Jan. Mar. Apr. & June are vacant and **need YOU!****

CELEBRATIONS

Birthdays

Matt Parrish: October 4
Frances Ellison-Dansby: October 5
Annabelle La Force: October 14
Paul Caplan: October 21
Joel Alvarado: October 21
Don Schewe: October 28
Fabian Wilson: October 29

Wedding Anniversaries

Christopher Hempfling: October 11
Rose Caplan: October 19

Service Anniversaries

Victoria Seals, PhD: 8 years October 6

Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation & Pledge
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Tasse Trivia
5. DEI Moment
6. Announcements
7. Program/Speaker
8. The Four-Way Test
9. Adjournment

RY2025–2026 Board of Directors

President: *Dr. Victoria Seals*
Co-Presidents-Elect: *Debra Stokes & Chris Hempfling*
Immediate Past President: *Jared Evans*
Secretary: *Neil Shorthouse*
Treasurer: *Rose Caplan*
Club Administration: *Chris Hempfling*
Membership Chair: *Sonia Hantman*
Public Image Chair: *Jared Evans*
Service Projects Chair: *Carolina Ramos*
The Rotary Foundation Chair: *Debra Stokes*
DEI Chair: *Marilyn Jackson*

THE FOUR-WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do



- first* **Is it the TRUTH?**
- second* **Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- third* **Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- fourth* **Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**

Stay Connected with AWER:

Email: inforotaryawe@gmail.com

Website: atlantawestendrotary.org

Facebook: facebook.com/RotaryAWE

Instagram: [@rotaryatlantawestend](https://instagram.com/@rotaryatlantawestend)

LinkedIn: linkedin.com/company/rotary-club-of-atlanta-west-end