

This Week's Program: The Honorable Roger Bruce

This **Friday, October 9**, the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End is pleased to welcome **the Honorable Roger Bruce**, former Georgia State Representative and former club member, as our program speaker. Representative Bruce will share his insights on the upcoming **November 3, 2026, midterm election and constitutional issues**, drawing on his 22 years of service in the Georgia House of Representatives.

Roger Bruce

MEETINGS

October is Economic and Community Development Month

BIRTHDAYS

10/14	Annabelle La Force
10/21	Joel Alvarado
10/28	Don Schewe
10/29	Fabian Wilson

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

10/11	Christopher Hempfling (13)
10/19	Rose Caplan (41)

ROTARY ONLINE

<https://atlantawestendrotary.org>
<https://rotary6900.org/>
<https://rotary.org/>

ROTARY CLUB OF ATLANTA WEST END

Fridays, 12:15 pm
 Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center*
 800 Spring St NW
 Atlanta, GA 30308

LEADERSHIP

President	Christopher Hempfling
President-Elect	Rodney Fields
Immediate PP	Victoria Seals, PhD
Vice President	Rodney Fields
Treasurer	Melanie Sewell
Secretary	Neil Shorthouse
Public Image	CJ Stewart



Roger Bruce was born in Harlem, New York in 1953. He attended Catholic and public schools through grade 8. He then attended St. Emma Military Academy. This school is now a part of the history stored at the Smithsonian Institute. He graduated after serving as the Battalion Executive Officer and Company Commander, demonstrating leadership skills very early in his life. He then went on to graduate from Morehouse College where he majored in Political Science. He was the first in his family to attend and finish college. As a student, not only did he succeed academically, but he also displayed great concern for his fellow students and the next generation of students. He was President of the Political Science Club and reinstituted the Frederick Douglass Tutorial Institute to help struggling high school students and to help prepare them for college. During college, he interned for former Atlanta Mayor Maynard Jackson at the law firm of Jackson, Patterson, Parks and Hankin. He is married to Angela, an Educator, and has three children, Angela, Brandon, and Ariel and four grand children.

Rep Roger Bruce represented District 61 in the Georgia House of Representatives. Georgia House of Representatives, where he served the people of his district for 22 years.

His district includes parts of South Fulton County, which includes parts of the new City of South Fulton, North Atlanta, Douglas County, and Cobb County. He served as the first African American Chairman of the Douglas County Delegation for eight years.

He was first elected in 2002, began serving in January 2003, and has been re-elected every two years since then. During his time in office, Rep. Bruce has focused on issues related to children with special needs, aging, education, working families, economic development, voting rights, and criminal justice.

Representative Bruce has served twice as a delegate to the Democratic National Convention. This gave him the opportunity to vote for President Obama to be the Democratic nominee for President of the United States.

He has been recognized for his work by many organizations, including A. Philip Randolph Elementary School, Herndon Elementary School, All Children Are Special, Another Way Out, Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce, Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, National Coalition of 100 Black Women, and the Georgia Council on Aging. The Atlanta Police Department recognized him for his efforts to protect the officers by organizing the community and business owners to raise money to purchase bulletproof vests.

His first major piece of legislation became known as the Parent Protection Act was to provide for a licensing process for developers in response to elderly constituents who were being taken advantage of by contractors. He then sponsored the Time Out for Schools Legislation to protect parents who needed time off from work to address issues at their child's school. His Bill HB 78 was used as the basis for a portion of the Governor's legislative package on the topic of minority equity and fairness in state spending. Rep Bruce also sponsored HB 22 which allows citizens to vote at any precinct within their county versus going to a specified location to vote.

He currently serves on the Board of Trustees at The Interdenominational Theological Center, the Board of Directors for Fulton Atlanta Community Action Authority, Inc., and All Children Are Special. He is a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 1980 and the 2006 Class of the Flemming Leadership Institute.

He is married to Angela , an Educator, and has three children ,

Andrea, Brandon, and Ariel and four grandchildren.

JOIN ONLINE: Click Here | Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307 | Passcode:
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KeyWay Report: Cynthia Edwards

Club President Chris introduced **District Governor Cynthia Edwards** who presented the Annual Report for all Rotary Clubs in District 6900 focusing on Rotary's mission, district goals, and the theme of creating lasting impact through peace, culture, education, and economics. Her three key themes as District Governor centered on membership, annual fund giving, and Polio Plus as key themes for the district year.

District Governor Cynthia underscored Rotary's power: service. *Service* derives from Rotary International's seven areas of focus: Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention, Disease Prevention and Treatment, Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH), Maternal and Child Health, Basic Education and Literacy, Community Economic Development, and Protecting the Environment. Service also includes Rotary International's four-pillar framework: increase impact, expand reach, enhance participant engagement, and increase adaptability, also known as our Strategic Action Plan.

Governor Edwards outlined the district's three key themes for the year: membership growth, annual fund giving, and Polio Plus. She noted that the district raised \$1.1 million last year against a \$1 million goal and set a target of 4,000 district members by 2029. She introduced the AI-powered Membership Success Center tool available through Rotary International, which can generate customized membership growth plans for club presidents. She also announced enhanced training for assistant governors and committee chairs, a club video submission platform, and improved succession planning resources.

District Governor Cynthia Edwards's formal presentation also included her personal motivation for remaining in Rotary, the district's strategic priorities, and a call to action for the club. She shared the story of her father, Thurman E. Dorsey, a Korean War veteran, educator, and community leader in Waco, Texas, who was a Rotarian and whose legacy of service inspired her continued involvement. She framed Rotary's presidential theme — "Create Lasting Impact," set by International President Oleinka Akin Babalola — as a challenge for each club to surpass its own best previous performance.

She stressed peace as a unifying theme, encouraging clubs to connect their existing service work to Rotary's identity as peace builders. She highlighted peace through economics (workforce development, Rotary Means Business), peace through culture (Rotary Youth Exchange, Georgia Rotary Student Program, the Peace Pole planted at the King Center), and peace through education (social and emotional learning, domestic violence awareness). She shared a personal account of a colleague's experience with domestic violence to illustrate the importance of social and emotional education for youth.

The presentation concluded with an invitation to attend the 2027 District Conference in Asheville, North Carolina — chosen in part to support the region's economic recovery following Hurricane Helene — and the International Convention in Barcelona, Spain, in June 2027.

District Governor Edwards explained that Asheville was selected to provide economic support to the region following the devastation of Hurricane Helene. The district also has approximately \$10,000–\$14,000 in

disaster relief funds that can be deployed in that area. She confirmed that the city is in a condition suitable for hosting a conference and that local venues, including contacts connected to the Biltmore Estate, are enthusiastic about welcoming Rotary.

Respectfully submitted:

Christopher Hempfling, Jared Evans, C.J. Steawart and Neil Shorthouse

Agenda, Connections, & Four-Way Test

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

Sign up to be a program chair in the new Rotary Year [here](#) today!

A Little Dues, A Lot of Good

Supporting District 6900 starts with staying current on your district dues. Keeping your dues up to date ensures we can continue providing leadership development, youth programs, district events, club support, and the many resources that help our clubs thrive.

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?