



UNITE FOR GOOD

KeyWay Weekly Newsletter

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Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307
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1-646-558-8656
Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307
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October's Theme is Community Economic Development **Fridays: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31**

This Week's Program:

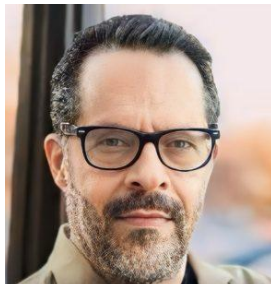
Chris Burke, Executive Director of Community Development at Georgia Tech



Christopher Burke is an educator, strategist, and public relations professional with more than 25 years of experience in education, urban planning, and community development. Chris began his professional career as a housing coordinator for The Atlanta Project, a nonprofit organization founded by former President Jimmy Carter, which focuses on improving living conditions in some of Atlanta's most deprived neighborhoods. It was this experience that sparked Chris's interest in understanding the impact of housing policies on equity and quality of life.

Chris continued his career, joining the research staff at the American Planning Association (APA), where he was a contributing writer for APA Publications, including Zoning News, PAS Memo, and Planning Magazine. While at APA, Chris's research focused on zoning as an economic development tool to improve quality of life indicators such as access to food, transportation, and employment opportunities. In 1999, Chris joined the Greater Atlanta Home Builders Association as a Government Affairs Representative and in the fall of 2003 was appointed Vice President of Government Affairs, where he remained until November 2010. In April 2011, Chris joined the Georgia Tech Office of Government and Community Relations as Director of Community Relations, and in 2019 became the Executive Director of Community Relations. In this position, Chris works with local government, educators, religious,

business, and civic leaders to ensure that Tech plays an integral part in enriching the metro-Atlanta region, particularly the communities closest to campus. He also teaches an undergraduate sociology course in the Georgia Tech Honors Program that explores the challenges prevalent for low-income students in Atlanta Public Schools and the transformative impact of mentoring. As part of Georgia Tech's 10-year Strategic Plan, Chris was selected to co-lead development of an anchor institution strategy to guide the Institute's community engagement efforts over the next decade. Chris is a 2014 graduate of the Regional Leadership Institute and 2019 graduate of Leadership Atlanta, a 2021 Anchor Institution Task Force Fellow, and a 2023 Fulbright-Germany scholar. He holds a BA in Sociology and an MPA in Urban Administration from Clark-Atlanta University.



KeyWay Report on Our Speaker
Mr. Michael Mumper, Georgians for Responsible
Marijuana Policy
AWER Speaker report at GA Tech, October 10, 2025

Co-President Elect Debra Stokes led our meeting and began by introducing **Mr. Michael Mumper**, Executive Director of Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy, as our speaker. Michael began by saying the Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy (GRMP) was launched in 2017 by Dr. Greg Raduka to confront the unscientific approval of and access to Marijuana usages, that were gaining momentum in Georgia, especially among youth. After Dr. Raduka's retirement, in 2023 the board of directors appointed Michael as the executive director to continue the work ... GRMP is determined to increase public awareness including convincing more state elected government officials to understand the impact of unregulated marijuana, enact legislation in line with research with the federal Food and Drug Administration policies and with major medical associations as a way to protect Georgians health.

Michael cited the following negative impacts being experienced throughout Georgia and nationally: roadway safety; workplace safety and productivity; harmful impacts for pregnant & breast-feeding mothers; weak or non-existent policies on drug education, mental health treatment, and addiction, because marijuana, like alcohol, is a drug with harmful effects.

Michael is very concerned about the growing and negative impact of intoxicating high THC hemp-derived products like Delta 8 which goes unregulated.

He also noted:

- More teens in Georgia enter treatment for marijuana than all other drugs combined.
- According to a 2019 meta-study published in JAMA Psychiatry (Journal of the American Medication Association), adolescents who used cannabis had higher rates of depression, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts.

Roadways and workplaces:

- Marijuana impairs safe driving because of slower driver reaction time ... because drug user inhibits ability to make decisions; it impairs coordination and distorts perception.
- Employees who tested positive for marijuana had 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries, 75% greater absenteeism compared to those who tested negative.

Justice, Education, and Access to Treatment :

- Blacks in Georgia accounted for 65% of marijuana possession arrests in 2023 but number only 30.5% of the population.
- Employees who tested positive for marijuana had 55% more industrial accidents, 85% more injuries, 75% greater absenteeism compared to those who tested negative.
- Drug Education: Of 19 Georgia cities with decriminalized marijuana, only 2 offer systemic education, assessments, referrals.

On the positive side on marijuana policy in Georgia, Michael presented find the top five medical and mental health conditions for which Georgians can get helpful treatment using marijuana:

(1) Intractable pain, (2) PTSD, (3) Cancer, (4) Peripheral neuropathy, (5) Seizure disorders.

Because the lack of knowledge of how marijuana is contributing to negative impacts in the workplace, among youth and families, Michael wants people to contact him at Georgians for Responsible Marijuana Policy:

mmumper@GaMarijuanaPolicy.org; or by phone at [404.444.4029](tel:404.444.4029).

Neil Shorthouse, Keyway Reporter

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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.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- 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:

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