
THE ROTARY CLUB OF ATLANTA WEST END

Friday, September 15, 2017 @ 12:15 PM
Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center
Basic Education & Literacy Month

Call to Order	Elma McCutchen
Invocation	Faye Hammonds
Pledge	Mark Newman
Introduction of Guests	Don Schewe
Tasse Trivia	Don Schewe
Program	Leyla Compani
Announcements	Elma McCutchen
Adjournment	Elma McCutchen



**ROTARY:
MAKING A
DIFFERENCE**

This Week's Speaker:

Jay Neal, Georgia Criminal Justice Coordinating Council

Jay Neal currently serves as the Executive Director for the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council. He was appointed to this position by **Governor Nathan Deal** in November of 2016. Director Neal formally served in the Georgia House of Representatives from 2004 until 2013, when he was appointed by Governor Deal to be the Executive Director of the Governor's Office of Transition, Support, and Reentry. Director Neal previously sat on the Board of Directors for the Lookout Mountain Fellowship of Christian Athletes, the SAGE Resource Center, and the YOBEL House. He and his wife, Gretchen, have two children and seven grandchildren, and they currently reside in Chickamauga, Georgia.



Last Week's Speaker: Joe Sarra, Georgia Advocacy Office

Leyla Compani presented **Mr. Joe Sarra**, MSW, of the Georgia Advocacy Office, Inc., a non-profit organization funded in 1977 by federal government mandated federal and private funding. Its purpose centers on assisting persons with intellectual and development disabilities, and their families. The GAO was put into law to protect persons with handicaps, countering past practices which actually made life harder for them, ridiculing them and keeping these citizens from mainstream living and self-improvement opportunities and supports. Since its inception, the GAO has, through federal legislation, an enlarged mission to strengthen the public's responsibilities while building the capacities of people with disabilities allowing greater societal benefit from their contributions. For example, the Help American Vote Act of 2002 provides education, training and assistance to individuals with disabilities to gain their full participation in the electoral process. Joe also explained that the "federal block grant" initiatives, such as is proposed for the Medicaid part of the Affordable Care Act, threatens GAO work as most assuredly its funds would be diverted because of the weaker political position persons with disabilities have. Joe also explained funding from GAO provides families with professional support that make it possible, less expensive and much more desirable for a disabled family member to live with his or her family, whereas without such assistance the family might not be able to do. Joe says "90%" of his time takes him to nursing facilities and with families to maximize awareness of service opportunities through the law. He notes disabled people want very much want to contribute but when in a nursing home, they may actually be blocked from more assistance and from learning of ways to help themselves and contribute, left literally to lying in a bed most of the time. The for-profit nursing system has no incentive to get their disabled clients out of the nursing home, back into their families' homes with supports, and in situations where they learn dependency-reducing skills. See www.thegao.org. - *Neil Shorthouse*

Show Javier Atlanta & Some Southern Hospitality!

Our GRSP student from El Salvador, **Javier Mayora**, is looking for opportunities to get to know the United States and Rotarians better. Invite him to join you or your family for an upcoming sports outing, outdoor activity, or cultural event! You can reach Javier at javier.mayora30@gmail.com.

Atlanta's West End has historically been fertile ground where ideas and leaders take root and branch out to change the social environment. That history is reflected in the membership of the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End. We are diverse...young and old, male and female, from varied racial, ethnic, religious, and geographic backgrounds. Our membership has included leaders in the civil rights movement of the 60s, and leaders in social change today. We work in many professions...higher education, community service, law, government, business...but we have in common a commitment to building a stronger community, one committed to social justice and the celebration of diversity. The Rotary Club of Atlanta West End is living, breathing proof that fellowship flourishes when we seek our common humanity and celebrate our differences. If you are a visitor and would like more information about joining us, please speak with a club officer today. **Follow us on *Linked In, Facebook, or Twitter @ATLWEndRotary***

Club Leadership, 2017-18

President: Elma McCutchen
 President Elect: Ernie Hughes
 Vice President & Foundation: George Dobbins
 Immediate Past President: Rachel Floyd Nelson
 Treasurer: Don Schewe
 Secretary: Neil Shorthouse, Sasha McBurse
 Membership: Leyla Compani

Administration: Richard Gerakitis
 Community Service: Pearlie Perryman
 Public Relations: Bailey Webb, Judith Fuller
 New Generations: CJ Stewart
 Vocational/Civic: Kimberly Weaver
 Historian: Eric John, Kimberlin Butler
 Keyway Editor: Paige McKay Kubik

Rotary Helps Those Recovering from Harvey & Irma

Two Rotary Foundation donor advised funds have been set up to accept donations for disaster relief and recovery in response to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma:

Hurricane Harvey

Account name: Gulf Coast Disaster Relief Fund
 Account number: 608

Hurricane Irma

Account name: Hurricane Emergency Relief Fund
 Account number: 296

You can contribute by check or wire transfer or online with a credit card. You'll need to provide the DAF account name and number listed above. If you would like a credit card receipt, please check the address box to share your address with Rotary.

<https://www.your-fundaccount.com/rotary/HowToContribute.asp>

Mark Your Calendars

- **September 22:** Rotary AWE Board Meeting
- **September 23:** WEND Concert, 7 PM
- **September 26:** WEND Candidate Forum at Brown Middle School
- **December 14:** Rotary AWE Holiday Celebration
- **April 26-29:** District 6900 Conference
- **June 23-27:** Rotary International Convention, Toronto, Canada

Celebrations

♥ 9/13 - Elma & James McCutchen
 🎁 9/16- Todd Jones
 🎁 9/21 - Terri Copeland
 🎁 9/22- Stacey Stevens