



The Rotalight

Official Newsletter of the Rotary Club of Marietta



Today's Speaker:
Tyler M. Driver
Executive Director
of The Extension



EXTENSION

The solution for homelessness & addiction



Rotary
Club of Marietta

*Celebrating 107 Years
of "Service Above Self"*

**"Peace
Through
Outreach"**

**August 12, 2026
Volume 90
Number 5**

Tyler M. Driver

- Oversaw The Extension's growth from seasonal emergency shelter to its current position as a state licensed and CARF accredited addiction treatment center and the leading provider in the State of comprehensive substance abuse recovery services for homeless adults.
- Directed program expansion that lead to the Georgia State Board of Pardons and Paroles to deem The Extension's program one of the State's most effective.
- Developed a capital campaigns that increased the value of The Extension's real estate assets 10 times.
- Developed partnerships with various supporting organizations that greatly increased the effectiveness of The Extension through resource sharing.
- Advanced an unparalleled program of staff development at The Extension.
- Current and past member of various community coalitions and civic clubs
- Former Member, Executive Committee, Georgia Council Trout Unlimited

He is married to Keisha and is the father of five children and four grandchildren.

He loves to fly fish, finding exhilaration and peaceful exhaustion in the small streams that crease the highlands of western North Carolina, eastern Tennessee and northern Georgia. When not fly fishing or tying flies, He enjoys reading and smoking a pipe (the legal kind, of course).



The Right Chance Can Transform Lives.

Mission

Our mission is to facilitate a transformation that empowers individuals and communities experiencing homelessness and substance use challenges to engage in a process of change and recovery.

Vision

Our vision is to advance our replicable model of success in our community and beyond for the prevention, intervention and treatment of substance use challenges for those without the ability to pay.

Short History

Late in 1987, as the last of the fallen leaves were crushed under his footsteps, B R Hogan made his way to the bleachers of a local high school football stadium. Those were his last steps, taken just hours or perhaps minutes- maybe just moments before he took his last breath.

Shortly after his body was found the next day, word spread. The first question asked was how did he die? Next came a far more compelling question: how did he live? We don't know much about Mr. Hogan, but we do know that he died in a way no one should, and with great sadness in their hearts, many in the community felt that perhaps he lived that way as well.

A commitment to life was the community's response to Mr. Hogan's death. The Marietta-Cobb Winter Shelter opened its doors in 1987 to anyone threatened by the cold.

Within a short few years, crack cocaine was destroying lives and tearing families apart in our community. The threat expanded and so did we. We saw firsthand that homelessness is not so much a problem as it is the symptom of a problem. For most homeless men and many homeless women in our community, that problem is addiction and its causes.

AUGUST 5- MEETING MINUTES

by Marlys Williams

Opening today's meeting earlier than usual, Pres. **Elizabeth Manning**, welcomed members and guests to the weekly gathering, presenting a PowerPoint deck outlining future meetings and events:

- A calendar list of upcoming meetings and events for August and September 2026.
- The Back to School Service Project for August – school supplies will be collected throughout the month to assist local students beginning the school year prepared for success. Bring supplies to any Rotary meeting (see list in Rotalight) or donate utilizing the envelope at the check-in desk. Packets will be assembled during the District Governor's visit on August 26.
- Thanks to the incredible generosity and support of the Golf tournament, \$20,000 was raised for The Women's Extension. These funds made it possible to purchase a van supporting The Women's Extension's mission and daily needs.
- Applications are now open for the Rotary Youth Exchange Scholarship program which changes lives while offering high school students a \$25,000 scholarship to spend in the 2027 and 2028 academic year, including traveling abroad, learning a new language, and working toward becoming a global citizen. Every student age 14 – 17 is eligible. Ask your Interact Club to share it on local media.
- American Legion Post 29 is sponsoring a 12th annual Veterans' Memorial 5k to include a 5k walk/run, wheelchair, and Tot Trot on Saturday, November 14 at 7:30 am on the Square. Marietta Rotarians can register at bit.ly/12thVM5K. There will be a Veterans' Day Parade which travels down Roswell St. and culminating with a Veterans' Day ceremony at Glover Park on the Square.

Pres. Elizabeth summoned **Jim Fausett** to the podium to provide the invocation. Jim expressed thanks for family and friends and for Rotary and what it does around the world.

Julie Sebastian introduced guests and visitors. Janet Peeler wife of **Jim Peeler** is visiting today. Beth Moore and Autumn Sines from the Family Promise of Cobb are present. Faithful North Cobb Rotarian, Dan Kirk, from North Cobb Rotary is gracing the Club with his delightful presence.

Jennifer Nelson opened the floor for Sunshine. **Mark Wright** welcomed speaker, Fran Sutton, who served as Chair of The Marietta Housing Authority. Mark recounted a story involving traveling back to the U.S. from Canada, when he was mistakenly detained and handcuffed, then released shortly thereafter due to a mistaken identity issue. He is glad to be an American and back in the U.S.



FRAN SUTTON

Jim Fausett has recently returned from a 21-day trip to England, Ireland, and Scotland. He was unable to attend a Rotary meeting due to his demanding guided tour schedule; however, advised there were many Rotary Clubs in every country.

Kay Peninger introduced today's speaker, Fran Sutton, current Chair and Founder of 10 Women of Hope (10womenofhope.org), a native Mariettan, graduate of MHS, the University of Georgia, and also a graduate of the Stonier School of Banking. She spent more than 20 years in the banking industry with First Bank & Trust, Chattahoochee Bank, and concluding her banking career with Charter Bank (now Synovus). Currently serving on the Marietta Development Authority, she is an active member of First United Methodist Church. She and husband, Don, reside in Marietta and are parents to two adult daughters.

Fran seemed to be acquainted with the majority of the audience. She described the story of the founding of 10 Women of Hope 18 years ago by Patsy Brian and nine other women who wished to help single parents facing emergencies. Patsy saw how fast an emergency could destabilize a family, experiencing single motherhood herself. The current Board of Directors of the 10 Women of Hope are: Alexis Blackmon, Angie Davis, Amanda Seals, Fran Sutton, Heather Johnson, Jacki Payne, Jaclyn Wood, Kate Gaffney, Kimberly Harmon, and Molly Metz. You may also join "Friends of the 10" and volunteer and assist the organization.

Referring partners are Cobb County Social Workers and School Social Workers, SafePath Childrens' Center, LiveSafe Resources, Cobb Juvenile Court Drug Program, Cobb Superior Court programs, Cobb Legal Aid, and Loving Arms Cancer Outreach.

There are strict guidelines, and applicants are carefully screened:

- Clients must live in Cobb County and have a stable income. Single Dads and grandparents are included.
- Family must have transportation in order for them to work.
- Providers are paid directly. No payments are made to clients.
- A partner screens the applicant and then presents the application to the Board of Ten for approval. Last year 500 families were assisted, with over \$800,000 paid for family's expenses. There is a 4-page online application, which the gatekeeper screens. There are between 40 – 70 applicants each year, and \$2,500 is the maximum amount of funds they are eligible to receive.
- There is no staff and thus no overhead.
- Funding originates from the community, such as Cobb EMC Foundation, the Cobb Fairground Foundation, and a fund raiser held in October. On Thursday, October 15 10 Women of Hope will sponsor a Girls Night Out fundraiser at the Foxglove in Marietta from 5:00 – 8:00 pm.
- There is also a scholarship opportunity: an endowed \$1,000 scholarship is available for single-parent students at Chattahoochee Technical College supported by the Chattahoochee Tech Foundation.
- God's hand is frequently present. Service Above Self is closely adhered to by the Ten Women of Hope.

Fran closed the presentation and opened the floor for questions. **Jennifer Nelson** inquired what is the biggest need. Deposits for housing are the biggest need. Apartments require 2 month's rent in advance plus a security deposit. **Alan Gibby** asked about Federal Grants. Grants are only done for EMC Foundation and Fairground Foundation. No money is spent on employing a grant writer. **Dan Kirk** remarks Marietta is a generous community. **Jim Fausett** seconded that statement declaring Cobb County is the most generous community in the U.S. **Walt Walker** confirmed the Ten Women of Hope are a 501c(3).

Elizabeth presented Fran with a coin from Rotary. The Opportunity Drawing was coordinated by **Jennifer Hogan**. PP **Don Barbour** drew the first number, and extracted a black ball. The next number was also drawn by **Don**, and that selection from the green bag was the same. **Alan Gibby** led the Pledge and 4-Way Test. **Megan Walter** reminded everyone that there were two more meetings to collect for the August School Supply project. Every Rotarian needs to step up and participate. Pres. **Elizabeth** gonged the Rotary Bell, and dismissed the assembly. The speaker next week will be Tyler Driver from The Extension.

August is



Membership and New Club Development Month

Why we are Rotarians

1. Friendship

Marietta Rotary was founded on the principle of fellowship, which remains a key reason many choose to join. Members enjoy connecting with like-minded professionals, while club projects provide meaningful opportunities to build lasting friendships. Rotary members traveling to other cities benefit from a global network of friendly contacts.

2. Service Opportunities

Marietta Rotarians have abundant opportunities to serve both locally and globally. We support MUST Ministries through monthly meals, educational programs, adaptive games, drug rehabilitation, and by addressing children's needs at Christmas. We also assist local Police and Fire Departments. Internationally, Rotary service projects tackle issues such as health care, hunger, poverty, illiteracy, and environmental sustainability. Rotarians gain genuine satisfaction from making a positive impact in their communities and beyond.

3. Professional Networking

One of Marietta Rotary's founding principles is regular meetings that foster fellowship and expand members' circles of business, community, and professional relationships. As Marietta's oldest service club, our membership reflects a diverse cross-section of the community's leaders—including business owners, executives, managers, political figures, and professionals who shape local policy.

PICTURES FROM LAST MEETING

AUGUST 5, 2026



PRESIDENT ELIZABETH WITH ADELE GRUBBS



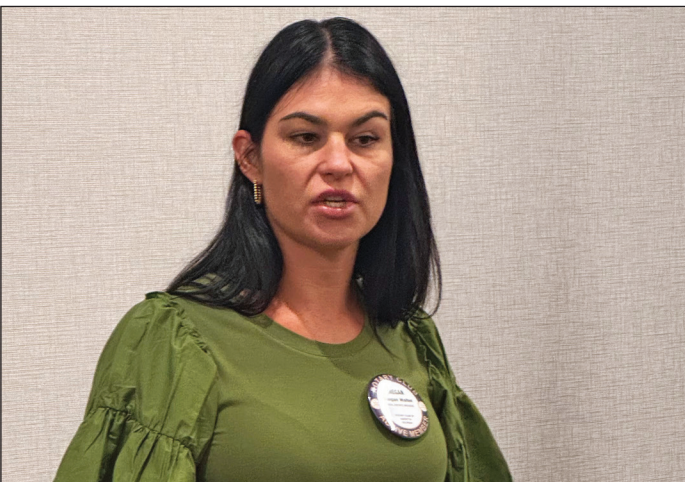
JIM FAUSETT DELIVERED THE INVOCATION



KAY PENINGER INTRODUCED OUR GUEST SPEAKER



JENN HOGAN WAS IN CHARGE OF THE OPPORTUNITY DRAWING



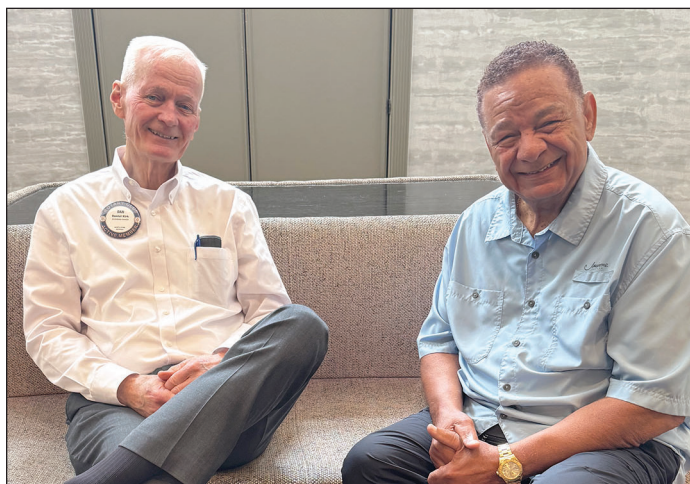
SERVICE DIRECTOR MEGAN WALTER



MARK WRIGHT - SUNSHINE



KAY PENINGER, SPEAKER FRAN SUTTON AND PRESIDENT ELIZABETH



DAN KIRK AND IRV SMITH



MEGAN WALTER AND LEE FOSTER

OUR AUGUST SERVICE PROJECT

RECOMMENDED SCHOOL SUPPLY items

THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING LOCAL FAMILIES
AND STUDENTS IN OUR COMMUNITY! ♥

- ♥ Three ring binder paper
- ♥ Binders
- ♥ Composition notebooks
- ♥ Pens
- ♥ Pencils
- ♥ Colored pencils
- ♥ Crayons
- ♥ Spiral notebooks
- ♥ Basic scissors – big and little kids
- ♥ Glue sticks
- ♥ Crayon
- ♥ Inexpensive headphones for classroom
- ♥ Tissue boxes
- ♥ Hand sanitizer
- ♥ Markers
- ♥ Paper
- ♥ Backpack
- ♥ Pencil box

PACK DATE: 8/26

*Together, we can
make a difference!* ♥

OUR COMMUNITY ♥ OUR KIDS ♥ OUR FUTURE

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, August 13, 2026	9 & 11:30 AM	MUST Ministries - Cook and Serve
Wednesday, August 19, 2026	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Anna Gibson, Junior League of Cobb-Marietta
Wednesday, August 26, 2026	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - District Governor Cynthia Edwards
Thursday, August 27, 2026	6:30 PM	Serve Dinner to the Women's Extension
Wednesday, September 2, 2026	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Sharon Mason, President & CEO, Cobb Chamber of Commerce
Wednesday, September 9, 2026	11:30 AM	Luncheon Meeting - Public Safety Appreciation Luncheon - Off site meeting
Thursday, September 10, 2026	9 & 11:30 AM	MUST Ministries - Cook and Serve
Wednesday, September 16, 2026	12 Noon	Luncheon Meeting - Allison Nyarko, Cobb Collaborative

MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

www.mariettarotary.org

CLUB OFFICERS 2026-27

Elizabeth Manning, *President*

Julie Sebastian, President-Elect

Cliff Kelker, Past President

Megan Scoggins, Executive Secretary

Michelle Miller, Secretary

Mark Wright, Treasurer

Teresa Jones, Assistant Treasurer

Adele Grubbs, Presidential Advisor

DIRECTORS

Kay Peninger, Administration

Megan Walter, Service

John Roberson, Membership

Jenn Hogan, Public Image

Christal McNair, Foundation

*Meeting makeups may be emailed to:
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THE ROTALIGHT

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