

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA **ROTALIGHT**

Putting "Service Above Self" in Marietta Since 1919
June 12, 2019 • Volume 82, Number 39

Today's Guest Speaker

Kevin Scott

Principles of Leadership

Rotary
Club of Marietta

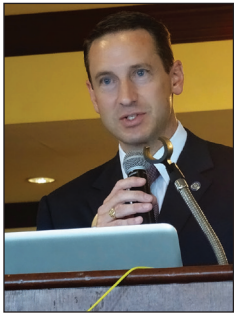


BE THE INSPIRATION

WHEN WE LAST MET

Minutes from the June 5 Meeting

President **Jesse Evans** opened the meeting by commenting it was his second to the last time to ring the opening bell. He thanked President-Elect **Chris Bethel** for filling in for the previous few weeks. New member **Lance Burchett** opened with an inspirational Invocation, and **Sandeep Kapoor** presented our visiting Rotarians and guests.



PRES. JESSE EVANS

President Jesse recognized Memorial Day and the Veterans in our club; **Neera Bahl** on her appointment to the Cobb County Board of Elections and **Joe Atkins** and **Carlos Rodriguez** on being named to the new Cobb County Board of Ethics. He reminded us of the upcoming Presidents' Night that will be Thursday, June 27 at the Marietta Country Club. Contact P.E. Chris Bethel to reserve your place.



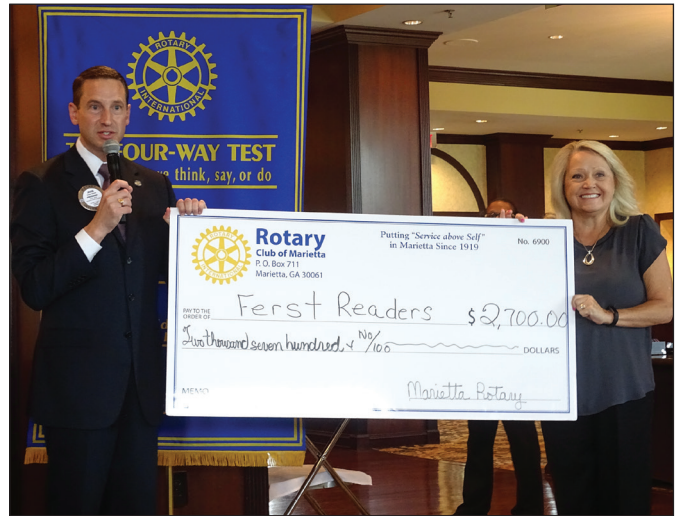
LANCE BURCHETT

President Jesse presented checks to non-profits of funds from last year's golf tournament.

The first presented was in the amount of \$10,000 to Live Safe Resources represented at the meeting by Executive Director Tracey Atwater. "Live Safe is a non-profit located in Cobb County and is committed to providing services that increase awareness and reduce the occurrence of domestic violence, sexual, and elder abuse."



PRES. JESSE PRESENTING A CHECK TO TRACEY ATWATER REPRESENTING LIVE SAFE RESOURCES



PRES. JESSE PRESENTING A CHECK TO DEBBIE ROSS REPRESENTING FERST READERS

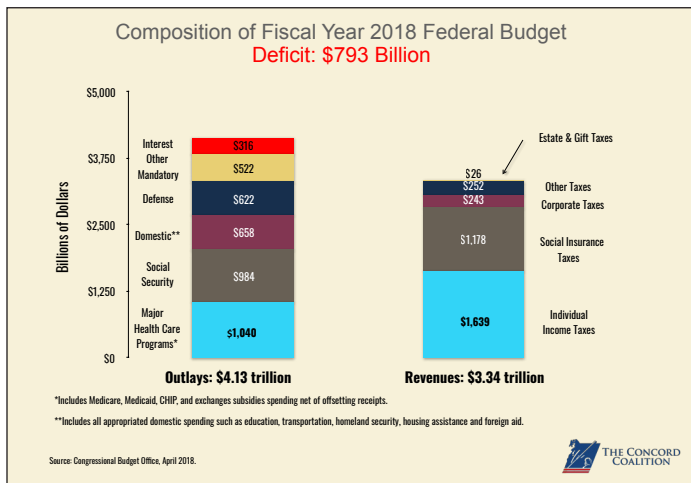
A second check for \$2,700 presented to Debbie Ross of Ferst Readers and the Emily Lembeck Learning Center and she thanked the club for the donation. Ferst Readers, a non-profit national program, helps develop the skills children need to be successful in school.



PHIL SMITH

Our guest speaker, Phil Smith, was introduced by Rotalight Editor **Deborah Marshall**. Phil is the National Field Director of the Concord Coalition a non-profit and nonpartisan organization whose mission is to enlighten and encourage fiscal responsibility about our federal budget. A University of Georgia graduate, Phil is a Past President of the Atlanta Kiwanis Club. He is a 2011 graduate of Leadership Atlanta where he currently serves as the

Alumni Membership Chairman. Phil is a 2006 graduate of Leadership Georgia and has received gubernatorial appointments to the boards of directors of the Georgia Humanities Council and the Georgia Children and Youth Coordinating Council. In 2005, Phil was chosen as one of the top "40 Under 40" by the Atlanta Business Chronicle.



Phil began with a graph showing our U.S. debt is on an unsustainable path. Historically the national debt has remained flat except during the depression of the 1930's and wars (WWI, WWII, and Vietnam). However, since 2015, the deficit has steadily risen to over \$22 trillion today — interest on this debt is currently \$316 billion yearly. If the interest rate rises by 1%, the federal interest expense will top \$1 trillion by 2028. The primary health care programs, including Medicare, Medicaid, are pushing up costs, and with the American population aging these costs and Social Security will continue to increase. By 2022 the outlay of this program will surpass the revenue.

Currently, over 50 percent of our national debt is owned by foreign governments, primarily China.

In closing, Phil stated the following key points:

- Current fiscal policy is unsustainable
- There are no easy solutions, such as cutting waste, fraud and abuse or growing our way out of the problem.
- Finding solutions will require bipartisan cooperation and a willingness to discuss all options.
- Public engagement and understanding are vital in finding solutions.
- This is not about numbers. It is a moral issue.

After many questions and appreciation from the audience, President Jesse thanked our speaker and presented a children's book to a Marietta City School in his name.

The opportunity drawing held with **Jim Trapnell** and **Becky Sawyer** unsuccessfully vying for the red ball.

Sandeep Kapoor ended the meeting with the pledge to the flag and 4-way test. 🇺🇸

Scribe, Abbott Hall
Photos, Dale Covington



The Rotary Club of Marietta sponsored the lunch along with several other local charitable organizations who assisted with the graduation. Our very own, State Representative **Bert Reeves** was the keynote speaker. The First Lady of Georgia, Marty Kemp, along with other dignitaries were also in attendance. Very few children in the foster care system actually graduate high school (50% nationally) or even graduate from a 4 year college (less than 3%). It was truly a humbling and a heart warming experience to see these 13 young graduates, who have persevered through so much that we could never imagine, rise-up and graduate (many with honors) from high school and college.

~Chris Bethel

DON'T MISS
Presidents' Night
Thursday, June 27, 2019
RSVP today at mariettarotary.org



LAST WEEK'S GUEST SPEAKER PHIL SMITH WITH DEBORAH MARSHALL

UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday, June 13, 2019	10:30 AM	Cook and Serve at MUST Ministries
Wednesday, June 19, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Meris Lutz, Atlanta Journal & Constitution Foreign Correspondent
Wednesday, June 26, 2019		NO Meeting
Thursday, June 27, 2019	5:00 PM	Presidents' Night – Marietta Country Club
Wednesday, July 3, 2019		NO Meeting
Wednesday, July 10, 2019	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – TBA

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