

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA **ROTALIGHT**

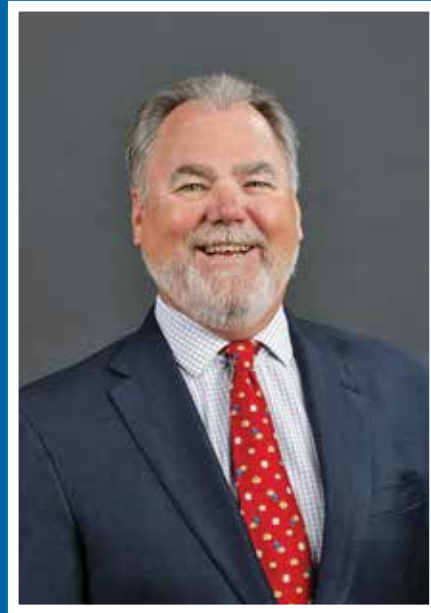
Celebrating 100 Years of "Service Above Self"

February 26, 2020 • Volume 83, Number 27

Today's Guest Speaker:

Mike Plant

President and Chief Executive Officer of
the Braves Development Corporation



Rotary
Club of Marietta



**ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD**



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Mike Plant
President and Chief Executive Officer of
Braves Development Corporation

Mike Plant is in his 16th season with the Atlanta Braves, and his second as President and Chief Executive Officer of Development. Plant joined the organizations Executive Vice President of Business Operations in November of 2003.

In his role, Plant oversees the Braves real estate and development holdings including The Battery Atlanta, its development and project management teams, design, financing, construction and leasing activities. Braves and Battery security, life safety, parking and government relations are all consolidated under Plant's leadership. He also works with key Braves' executives managing all Minor League Team operations and the new Spring Training complex in North Point, Florida.

As part of the Braves executive leadership team, Plant was instrumental in the Braves' efforts to secure and plan SunTrust Park and the adjacent mixed-use development, The Battery Atlanta, which opened in Cobb County in April 2017. The creative innovative approach Plant led since inception has been recognized as a leading example of how to structure a successful Public/Private partnership now generating substantial returns for multiple government entities. Oversight and direct responsibility for managing all aspects of design, project management, financing, leasing and construction led to delivering approximately 2.5MM square feet in less than 36 months. A \$300MM, 800,000 square foot phase 2 of The Battery Atlanta started in July 2018. The hallmark of this phase is led by Thyssenkrupp, the global leader in urban mobility, creating a new North American headquarters at The Battery Atlanta.

Plant joined the Braves after having served as Executive Vice President of Turner Sports since February 2002. In that position, he was in charge of the day-to-day operations of the division, a \$500-million acquisition, promotion and production company that at the time broadcast approximately 1,200 hours of sports programming on various Turner networks.

Before becoming Executive Vice President of Turner Sports, Plant was President of Ted Turner's multi-sport event, The Goodwill Games, and Vice President of Events for Turner Sports. He was responsible for the overall direction and management of The Goodwill Games, as well as all sports properties acquired by Turner Sports.

Prior to joining Turner Sports, Plant was Owner and President of Medalist Sports, a full-service sports marketing company he founded in 1988. Medalist Sports

created and operated premier professional cycling events in the United States and China. In addition, Plant was the Associate Executive Director of the United States Cycling Federation in Colorado Springs, Colo., from 1986 to 1988 and the Executive Director of the Canoe and Kayak Team from 1985 to 1986.

Plant was a member of the 1980 U.S. Olympic speedskating team in Lake Placid, NY, and a six-time member of the U.S. World Championship speedskating teams. Since 1980, he has chaired numerous committees and boards for the U.S. Olympic Committee (USOC), the U.S. International Speedskating Association, International Cycling Federation, and USA Cycling. Plant served on the Atlanta Committee for the 1996 Olympic Games (ACOG) Board of Directors and the Board of Trustees for the Salt Lake City Olympic Bid Committee for the 2002 Winter Games.

Plant served two eight-year terms on the USOC's Board of Directors and Executive Committee (1984-1992 and 2003-2011). He was Chairman of the USOC Athletes Council, and Chairman of the Athlete Performance Group (1992-1996). Plant was President of USA Cycling, the National Governing Body for Olympic cycling, from 1995 to 2002, and President of U.S. Speedskating from 2013-2018.

Internationally, Plant served on the International Cycling Federation's (UCI) Executive Committee for 20 years, and was President of three different commissions. In 2009, Plant was elected U.S. Olympic Chef de Mission for the Olympic team for the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games.

He and his wife Mary have two daughters, Erika and Maddie, and a son, Drew.

**IMPORTANT
MEETING NOTICE**

**We will meet OFFSITE on March 11th
Join us at Marietta High School**

**We will hear from Blue Devils' Head Football Coach
Richard Morgan and Project Reach Coordinator
Brenda Espinoza as well as enjoy a delicious lunch
prepared by the MHS Culinary Arts students.**

WHEN WE LAST MET

Minutes from the February 19 Meeting

President **Chris Bethel** called the meeting to order and called on **Jeff Long** to provide the invocation. Jeff shared that his son was recently married and used the content of a toast given by his son honoring his family as the basis for the invocation.

Marlys Williams introduced the guests and visiting Rotarians. Jesse Evans introduced his 3 daughters. **Teresa Jones** introduced her uncle. **Dale Covington** introduced Barbara, his wife and **Tom Downs** introduced his guest. Five North Cobb Visiting Rotarians were introduced.

February birthdays were acknowledged. **Bill Smith, Sr., Kelly Maxwell, Mark Barbour, Kamal Fatehi, Julie O'Meara** and **Joe DeSantis** were called forward to don hats and beads. **Don Barbour** led the Happy Birthday sing along, but Mark stole the show, as usual.

Announcements included a thank you to **Mary Ansley Southerland** for the great job with the joint Valentine's party. Don Barbour indicated Marietta Reads week is March 30-April 3rd. Many volunteers to read are needed.

President Chris called attention to the long list of 40 service projects undertaken in 2019 in the Mid-Year Report Card. He praised the members for their commitment. He also indicated March will be new member commitment month and that Mayor Tumlin will present the State of the City Address on June 3rd as a joint program with the Cobb Chamber.

Jesse Evans, Lee Pence, Jim Peeler, Mark Barbour, Richard Cope and President Chris provided many rays of Sunshine.

Fred Beloin was asked to introduce the speaker for the meeting. Mary Waters is the Deputy Commissioner for International Trade for the Georgia Department of Economic Development. She oversees the state's International Trade Program. A native Oregonian, she holds a Bachelors degree from Willamette University in Salem Oregon and a Masters from the University of Florida. She has over 15 years experience in managing a variety of company and governmental trade and export activities.

Ms. Waters provided a status report on the International Trades in the State of Georgia. She said her department works with existing business and industry in the state. 2019 was a record year for the state in trades and exports with \$143.3 million in total trades, a 70% 10 year trade growth. Our increases are great especially in view of the nation's decrease.

She said the top 5 export markets are Canada, Mexico, Germany, China and Singapore. The top export



GUEST SPEAKER: MARY WATERS

products are civilian aircraft, vehicles, parts, chemicals, medical equipment and poultry.

Ms. Waters said that 82% of her departments assistance goes to small business, less than 100 employees. Large corporations can afford in-house operations and use our services less frequently. There are companies in every county of Georgia that use our services, she said.

The state has developed an International team over a period of time. The first trade office opened in Japan in 1970. The state now has trade representatives in 12 countries. They serve as boots on the ground for Georgia businesses.

President Chris thanked Ms. Waters for the informative presentation and indicated that the club will honor her by including a book with her name in a new birth literacy package distributed by Wellstar Health System.

The opportunity drawing was coordinated by **Mark Wright** and **Julie O'Meara**. **Harold Hobbs** and **Jim Trapnell** were lucky with the ticket draw but struck out on the red ball search.

Fred Beloin dismissed the meeting with the pledge to the flag and the 4 way test recitation.

~ By scribe: Warren Gordon

Pictures from Last Meeting

by Richard Cope



THE BIRTHDAYS: BILL SMITH, JULIE O'MEARA, KELLY MAXWELL, KAMAL FATEHI, JOE SESANTIS, TERESA JONES, MARK BARBOUR



DON BARBOUR, CHRIS BETHEL, MARK BARBOUR AND TERESA JONES



PRESIDENT CHRIS AND ADG MARK BARBOUR WITH MEMBERS FROM THE NORTH COBB ROTARY CLUB

Legacy of Love Packing Day

Last Tuesday, things were lively and happy on such a dreary, cold and rainy afternoon at the offices of **Mary Ansley Southerland** and W. D. Little Mortgage Corp. Several Rotarians gathered to assemble and pack Literacy Packages to be delivered to WellStar Kennestone Hospital this week.

Will Allen, Marlys Williams and **Harold Hobbs** blew through cases and cases of books removing price tag stickers and affixing our special Rotary Club of Marietta Legacy of Love and Learning Stickers to the backs of the books. **John Knox** and **Julie O'Meara** collated and stacked 1000s of flyer packets to be included with the books in our bags.

Fred Beloin joined in as everyone assisted with stuffing the bags and boxing them for transporting.



SAVE THE DATE! Next Opportunity for YOU to help stuff some bags is Tuesday, March 3rd at 3 p.m. at W. D. Little Mortgage – 707 Whitlock Avenue, Building A-37, Marietta, GA 30064

UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, March 4, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - Major General Thomas Carden, Jr.
Wednesday, March 11, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting Offsite Meeting Marietta High School with Coach Morgan and Project Reach
Thursday, March 12, 2020	10:30 AM	MUST Cook and Serve
Wednesday, March 18, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - Town Center Community Improvement District and Alliance
Saturday, March 21, 2020	8:00 AM	District Training, Columbus, GA
Wednesday, March 25, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting - TBA
Wednesday, April 1, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Peter Heintzelman, President an CEO of Cobb EMC
Thursday, April 2, 2020		Marietta First Adapted Games
Wednesday, April 8, 2020		No Meeting

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Meeting makeups may be emailed to:

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www.mariettarotary.org



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