

THE ROTARY CLUB OF MARIETTA **ROTALIGHT**

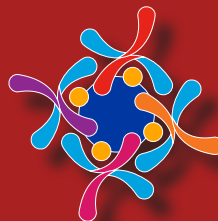
Celebrating 100 Years of "Service Above Self"

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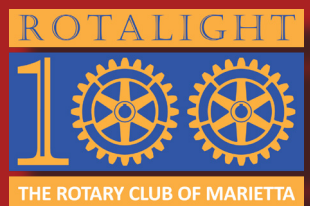
Today's Guest Speaker:
**Major General
Thomas M. Carden, Jr.**
Adjutant General of the
Georgia Department of Defense



Rotary
Club of Marietta



**ROTARY
CONNECTS
THE WORLD**



Today's Guest Speaker: Major General Thomas M. Carden, Jr.

Major General Carden was appointed by Governor Kemp in January of 2019 as the 43rd Adjutant General of the Georgia Department of Defense. He is responsible for directing, coordinating, organizing and stationing the Army and Air National Guards of the State of Georgia, the Georgia State Defense Force, and federal and state civilians, ensuring their readiness to perform state and national missions.

In 1986, Major General Carden enlisted in the Georgia Army National Guard as an infantryman. He was commissioned as a second lieutenant in August 1989 after completing officer candidate school. His military education includes the Infantry Officer Basic Course, Infantry Officer Advanced Course, the Combined Arms Services Staff School, the United States Army Command and General Staff College, and the Army War College.

Major General Carden has held a number of key positions in the Army and Georgia Army National Guard. Most recently, he served as Deputy Commanding General of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization's Multi-National Division Southeast (Romania). Major General Carden previously served as the Georgia Army National Guard Commanding General, chief of staff, deputy chief of staff for operations, and deputy chief for personnel.

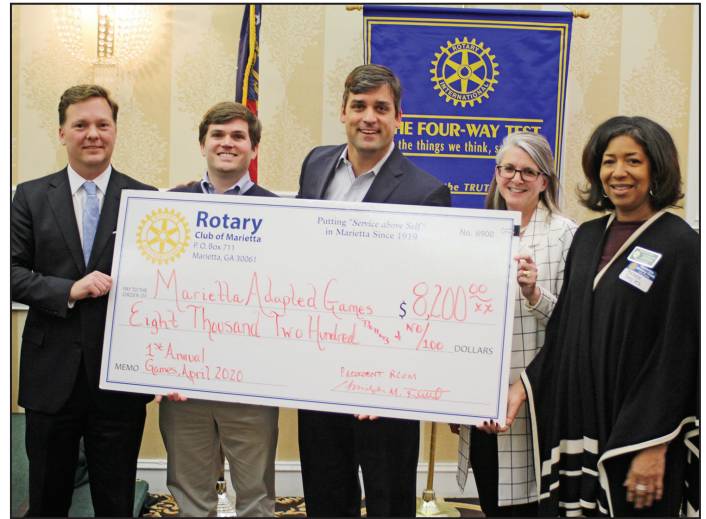
Major General Carden Commanded the 560th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade and the Georgia Army National Guard's Recruiting and Retention Battalion. He also served as the operations officer for the 2nd Battalion, 121st Infantry Regiment. While serving in this capacity, he deployed to Bosnia, Herzegovina as part Operation Joint Forge. In 2005, he deployed to Iraq with the 48th Infantry Brigade Combat Team as part of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Major General Carden's military decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Army Reserve Components Achievement Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

Major General Carden graduated from Georgia Southwestern State University in Americus with a Bachelor of Science in History. He later earned a Master of Arts in human resource management from Webster University in St. Louis, Mo. and a Master of Science in Strategic Studies from the Army War College.

Pictures from Last Meeting

by Jim Kellogg



PRESIDENT CHRIS, TYLER STEPHENS, GRANT RIVERA, KIMBERLY BLASS, AND MICHELLE SAYLES



PRES. CHRIS, ROTARIAN FRIEND OF THE MONTH ADRIANE LARSON, KIWANIS PRESIDENT DEBBIE McCracken, AND ADG MARK BARBOUR



ROTARIAN OF THE MONTH – JEFF COOPER

WHEN WE LAST MET

Minutes from the February 26 Meeting

President **Chris Bethel** called the weekly meeting to order and asked **Sandeep Kapoor** for the invocation.

Jeff Cooper introduced 16 guests and visiting Rotarians. Jim Bunda, Past President of the Marietta Metro Club and Debbie McCracken, President of Marietta Kiwanis were present at the meeting. March is membership drive month and the good program and membership prospects resulted in this large number of guests. **Kelly Maxwell** announced that there is a full court press for new members and President Chris indicated he has 4 pending applications in hand.

President Chris presented **Jeff Cooper** with the Rotarian of the Month award and Adriane Larson "friend" of the month award. Debbie McCracken, Marietta Kiwanis President was present to support Adriane with this honor.

President Chris indicated that the new membership directory is almost ready for publication and he wants all members to sign off on their data to ensure accuracy. The proofs are available outside on the badge table for your review and approval.

Tyler Stephens was called on to announce the club's support of the Adapted Games coordinated by the Marietta School System. Coordinator of the games Michelle Sayles was introduced and she explained the games will give 99 athletes with disabilities a chance to compete in 17 events. School Superintendent Dr. Rivera was present to accept a check from the club for \$ 8,300 to support this program.

Sunshine brought good news from **Ralph Knight**, Sandeep Kapoor and **Fred Beloin**.

Terry Dewitt introduced the speaker for the meeting, Mike Plant, President and CEO of the Braves Development Corporation. Mike has been with the Braves Organization since 2002. He has worked in various capacities and was instrumental in The Braves' efforts to secure and plan SunTrust Park and adjacent mixed use development, The Battery Atlanta.

Mike was a member of the 1980 Olympic Speedskating team and a six time member of the US World Championship speedskating team. Since then he has served on a number of USOC committees, boards and governing bodies.

He and his wife Mary have 2 daughters and a son, a recent graduate of KSU.

Mike indicated that the Braves organization is very pleased with the way the Cobb move has been successful and continues to develop. He indicated that all of the work and planning is beginning to pay off in every way and this concept is proving to be the model for the world. Sports facilities combined with mixed use development partnerships will be the only way to finance new



PRESIDENT CHRIS WITH MIKE PLANT

complexes without unreasonable burdens on taxpayers. Revenue from Stadiums alone will not retire the debt of the cost of construction.

One unexpected addition to the development has been the project required for the thyssenkrupp corporation, a German Elevator Corp. This project will ultimately bring 1000 employees and require a high rise elevator test facility with 13 test shafts. The complex is half finished and the high rise will top out by the end of March. Ten thousand visitors per year are expected to visit the test facility which will bring in \$50 million a year in property tax.

Other activity underway in The Battery include a Loft Hotel and movie theater.

It is expected that the county's obligations will be fully covered in 2-3 years. This is viewed as a great example of a successful public/private partnership.

As far as the Braves team is concerned Mike indicated that it will be stronger than last year. Spring practice is going well and the team has a great pitching staff with the best relievers in baseball.

President Chris thanked Mike for his informative and encouraging presentation. He indicated that a book will be donated in his honor to further facilitate the Marietta Reads Program.

The opportunity drawing was handled by **Julie O'Meara** and **Mark Wright**. **Jim Speed** and **Harold Hobbs** won the right to draw but failed to find the red acorn.

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

Scribe : Warren Gordon

UPCOMING EVENTS

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 - Tracy Rathbone Styf and Jennifer Hogan; 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 - Dr. Roger Tutterow, KSU
Wednesday, April 1, 2020	12:15 PM	Luncheon Meeting – Peter Heintzelman, President and CEO of Cobb EMC
Thursday, April 2, 2020		Marietta First Adapted Games
Wednesday, April 8, 2020		No Meeting
Sunday, April 12, 2020	6:30 AM	Community Sunrise Service, Kennesaw Mountain National Park

MARIETTA ROTARY CLUB

CLUB OFFICERS 2019-20 Christopher Bethel, *President*

Mary Ansley Southerland, *President Elect*
Marla Blackstone, *Co-Secretary*
marla@skeltonblackstone.com

Jeff Cooper, *Co-Secretary*
Terry DeWitt, *Interim Treasurer*
Reuben Green, *Presidential Advisor*

DIRECTORS

Joseph Atkins, *Administration*
Tyler Stephens, *Service*
Kelly Maxwell, *Membership*
Thomas Sherrer, *Public Relations*
Daniel White, *Foundation*

Meeting makeups may be emailed to:
jeff.cooper@wellstar.org

www.mariettarotary.org



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ROTALIGHT STAFF

Deborah Marshall, *Editor*

Joseph Atkins	Abbott Hall
Mark Barbour	Jim Peeler
Marla Blackstone	Marlys Williams
Dale Covington	
Warren Gordon	

We welcome and encourage all contributions.
Send articles, photographs and editorials to:
Deborah.Marshall@uss.salvationarmy.org

DISTRICT 6900

Jim Squire, *District Governor*
Mark Barbour, *Assistant District Governor*
mmlbarbour@bellsouth.net

www.rotary6900.org

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

Mark Daniel Maloney
President

www.rotary.org