



KeyWay Weekly Newsletter

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This Week's Program:

Member Showcase – Featuring Carolina Ramos



Join us at our next meeting for a classification talk. This is a chance to learn more about the professional journey, passions, and service commitments of one of our own.

This week, we're proud to feature Carolina Ramos, Government Affairs Manager at MARTA. In her new role, Carolina brings her expertise in policy and community engagement to Atlanta's regional transit system. Previously, she served as Senior Policy and Partnership Manager in the Mayor's Office of International & Immigrant Affairs – Welcoming Atlanta, where she championed inclusion and cross-cultural collaboration. A member of AWER for nearly a year, Carolina, AWER's Director of Service Projects, exemplifies "Service Above Self" in her professional and personal life. Come learn more about her story!

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August's Theme is Membership & Extension: Fridays: 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

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AWER KeyWay Report Club Assembly – August 8, 2025

President Victoria welcomed members to a Club Assembly focused on current projects, upcoming events, and membership development.

Billboard Opportunity – **Immediate Past President Jared Evans** Immediate Past President Jared Evans shared details of a significant marketing opportunity for AWER. The club's application for a grant of free electronic billboard advertising space has advanced to the final round. If selected, AWER's design will be displayed through the end of August on a massive 30-by-129-foot digital billboard at The Center Atlanta (formerly CNN Center), visible to approximately 12 million annual visitors. The design includes the Rotary logo, club name, website, and the slogan "People of Action" with themes of Purpose, Community, and Leadership. Final submission is due August 13. This represents a significant opportunity to increase the club's visibility in downtown Atlanta at no cost to the organization.

Reading at M. Agnes Jones Elementary – **Ms. Rose Caplan** announced the continuation of AWER’s relationship with M. Agnes Jones Elementary School. Reading opportunities will be arranged for AWER volunteers by **Ms. Lisa Colbert**, formerly the school’s point person for the science garden, to which AWER has contributed. Rose will outline the details of this service opportunity after meeting with Lisa.

Peace Poles – **Co-President-Elect Debra Stokes** is leading another important AWER opportunity to promote Rotary International’s core principles of peace and understanding. The 7-foot-high Peace Pole promotes peace with the message “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in four different languages, one on each side. AWER is seeking to purchase two Peace Poles — one for installation on the Atlanta Technical College Foundation property and another possibly along the West Side Trail of the Beltline or in a city park. This will require partnering with city and community leaders. Fortunately, honorary members of the club include several city councilmembers.

AWER Memberships – The club is exploring organizational memberships to allow institutions or couples to join under a single membership. Georgia Tech and Spelman College were noted as potential partners, with Neil Shorthouse coordinating outreach to Georgia Tech.

Administrative Matters – The club discussed several administrative items, including the need for AWER members to take turns setting up the Zoom and Owl camera equipment for hybrid meetings. The equipment will be stored at Georgia Tech’s business office rather than having one person transport it each week. The club is also working to better organize and preserve historical documents and artifacts, which are currently stored across multiple Google Drive accounts. Members suggested consolidating these into a single, well-organized system.

Finally, President Victoria noted that a new member installation will take place at Atlanta Technical College during the August 29, 2025 meeting.

Actionable Next Steps:

- Submit final billboard design by Wednesday, August 13, at 11:59 PM
- Begin planning for Peace Pole installation, including location selection and design
- Research organizational membership structures from other Rotary clubs
- Coordinate with Georgia Tech business office about storing meeting equipment
- Reach out to Georgia Tech contacts regarding potential organizational membership
- Coordinate with Lisa Colbert about the M. Agnes Jones reading program

Neil Shorthouse, KeyWay Reporter

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Building Rotary

August is Membership and New Club Development Month

August is Rotary International’s month to celebrate membership and new club growth—reminding us that Rotary’s strength lies in both our current members and the fresh ideas of new ones.

At the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End, our impact comes from the diverse talents, perspectives, and commitment of our members. This month, let’s each help grow Rotary by inviting someone to a Friday meeting, sharing why we joined, or connecting them to our service projects.

A personal invitation can open the door to Rotary for someone new. Together, we can build a stronger, more vibrant AWER community.

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Support Freedom University Students

Volunteer Drivers Needed

Freedom University, founded in 2011 in Atlanta, is a modern-day “freedom school” inspired by the Civil Rights Movement. It offers tuition-free, college-level classes to undocumented students in Georgia, who are barred by state policy from attending the state’s top public universities and cannot obtain driver’s licenses.

Every Saturday afternoon, these students travel across the city for classes and they need our help getting there. By volunteering as a driver, you can provide not just transportation, but also a tangible connection to Rotary’s values of Service Above Self, Education, Diversity & Inclusion, and Fellowship.

If you’re available to drive one or more Saturdays, please contact Jared Evans. Your time behind the wheel can help open the road to opportunity.

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<p style="text-align: center;"><u>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">● 8/15: Carolina Ramos–Member Showcase● 8/16: Hammonds House West End History & Walking Tour● 8/22: Imara Canady, Board President, Hammonds House Museum● 8/23: Safe at Home Game● 8/29: Rebekah Enoch; Freedom United.● 9/5: Aretta Baldon - Member Showcase● 9/12: Dr. Bryan Johnson, APS Superintendent● 9/14: Streets Alive! Peachtree St.● 9/27: WEND Candlelight Concert● 10/25: ATL Tech. College 5K● 10/26: Streets Alive! West End <p><i>Sign up to be a program chair here today!</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><u>CELEBRATIONS</u></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy Birthday</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8/11 Debra Stokes 8/17 Victoria Seals, PhD 8/18 Robert Stephens 8/19 Jared Evans</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Happy Anniversary</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">8/23 Richard & Mary Gerakitis</p>
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Meeting Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Invocation & Pledge
3. Introduction of Guests
4. Tasse Trivia
5. DEI Moment
6. Announcements
7. Program/Speaker
8. The Four-Way Test
9. Adjournment

RY2025–2026 Board of Directors

President: *Dr. Victoria Seals*
Co-Presidents-Elect: *Debra Stokes & Chris Hempfling*
Immediate Past President: *Jared Evans*
President-Nominee: *TBD*
Secretary: *Neil Shorthouse*
Treasurer: *Rose Caplan*
Club Admin. Co-Chairs: *Debra Stokes & Chris Hempfling*
Membership Chair: *Sonia Hantman*
Public Image Chair: *Jared Evans*
Service Projects Chair: *Carolina Ramos*
The Rotary Foundation Chair: *Debra Stokes*
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Chair: *Marilyn Jackson*

JOIN ONLINE Zoom Link - Click here Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307 Passcode: Service	Dial In 1-646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307 Passcode: 846122
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 **Never a Bad Time to Catch Up!**

Your membership dues help to keep our service strong. Click [here](#) to pay on the District 6900 website. Your club, your club treasurer, and your community will thank you!

Stay Connected with AWER

 **Email:** inforotaryawe@gmail.com  **Website:** atlantawestendrotary.org
 **Facebook:** facebook.com/RotaryAWE  **Instagram:** [@rotaryatlantawestend](https://instagram.com/rotaryatlantawestend)

THE FOUR-WAY TEST of the things we think, say or do



- first* **Is it the TRUTH?**
- second* **Is it FAIR to all concerned?**
- third* **Will it build GOOD WILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**
- fourth* **Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?**