



## KeyWay Weekly Newsletter

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<b>JOIN ONLINE</b> Zoom Link - <a href="#">Click here</a> Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307 Passcode: Service	<b>Dial In</b> 1-646-558-8656 Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307 Passcode: 846122
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### ***October's Theme is Community Economic Development*** ***Fridays: 3, 10, 17, 24, 31***

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### **This Week's Program:**

*Roger Bruce, trailblazing public servant and former Georgia State Representative*



Born in Harlem and a proud Morehouse graduate, Roger Bruce has dedicated his life to public service, equity, and community development. As the first in his family to earn a college degree, he went on to serve over 20 years in the Georgia House of Representatives, representing parts of Fulton, Douglas, and Cobb counties.

During his tenure, he championed legislation focused on education, voting rights, economic equity, and support for both youth and aging populations. He was instrumental in creating the City of South Fulton and helped secure millions in local revenue and infrastructure investment. His Parent Protection Act, anti-mugshot exploitation law, and push for minority business equity are just a few highlights of his impact.

Beyond the Gold Dome, Bruce has held senior leadership roles in human resources, led a charter school, and founded a reentry program for first-time, nonviolent offenders. He's a stroke survivor, a proud family man, and a model of resilience and public integrity.

Join us this Friday to hear his insights on service, leadership, and building stronger communities.

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**KeyWay Report on Our Speaker  
Chris Burke, Executive Director of Community  
Development at Georgia Tech  
AWER Speaker report at GA Tech, October 17, 2025**

AWER Club Secretary Neil Shorthouse introduced **Mr. Chris Burke**, Director of Community Development for Georgia Institute of Technology as our speaker. Chris began by noting that he taught at GT for ten years before becoming GT's leader for Community Development, succeeding **Dr. Norman Johnson**. He said one of his main jobs centers on ensuring that GT is as good as its reputation.

True, Chris said, GT is a public good as a public university, but it also a luxury good too given the vast support systems for its students and its highly selective admission policy: The fall 2025 incoming class totaled 4,500 only 6.7% of the 67,000 applications for admission. Importantly, GT places a large commitment on identifying and investing in students who might be failing. As a result GT graduates more than 90% of its entering freshman in 6 years which places it in the top ten of universities in the US.

He stressed GT's growing commitment to innovation by creating a Center for Entrepreneurship and purchasing the former Biltmore Hotel on West Peachtree to house it. Its Maker Space is one of the largest in the US. In 2024 GT earned 147 patents. And ... when one adds the online student population of 26,000 to the on-campus student population, GT is the largest university in Georgia.

He was pleased to report the growing mutually beneficial relationship GT is developing with Atlanta Technical College. While all are pleased with its football heroics so far during this 2025 season, GT may spend about \$100M on all athletics while its research budget tops \$1.6B, making it the 17th largest research university in the US. GT's ten-year plan calls for doubling its number of degrees earned by 2030, it will come close to achieving that goal with the 2026 class, nearly a half decade ahead of schedule.

Chris ended his remarks by mentioning \$100 million gift to the College of Engineering from alumnus **Mr. John W. Durstine**, a 1957 mechanical engineering graduate who had a long career at Ford Motor Company. Mr. Durstine passed away in February 2025. The donation was part of his estate. This \$100 million bequest, is the largest single donation in the entire history of the university.

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*Neil Shorthouse, Keyway Reporter*

## **World Polio Day**

### *Rotary's Commitment to a Polio-Free World*

October 24 is World Polio Day, a moment when Rotary members around the globe unite to highlight one of our organization's greatest missions: the eradication of polio. Since Rotary helped launch the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988, polio cases have been reduced by more than 99 percent. Only two countries still have endemic wild poliovirus, and continued vaccination and surveillance remain essential to protect the progress we have made.

Rotary continues to lead in awareness, advocacy, fundraising, and volunteer service. Every dollar contributed to the End Polio Now campaign is matched 2-to-1 by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, multiplying our impact and helping sustain vaccination efforts that reach millions of children each year.

World Polio Day is also an opportunity for local clubs to educate communities, engage partners, and renew our commitment to a future where no child is paralyzed by this preventable disease. Our club encourages members and friends to learn more, share Rotary's message, and consider a contribution to End Polio Now. Together, we can help finish the job and achieve a polio-free world.

Learn more: <https://www.endpolio.org/>

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## **Community Economic Development Month**

### *October's Theme*

Each October, Rotary highlights Community Economic Development (CED) — one of our seven Areas of Focus. Rotary's vision is to build a more equitable and inclusive world by creating sustainable opportunities for people who live in poverty, young people, women, refugees, people with disabilities, and other underserved communities.

Why does this matter? Unemployment, lack of opportunity, and limited education are at the root of poverty. By supporting entrepreneurship, creating jobs, and strengthening local economies, Rotary helps communities achieve long-term stability and dignity.

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<p><b><u>MARK YOUR CALENDAR</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● 10/25: ATL Tech. College 5K</li><li>● 10/26: Streets Alive! <i>West End</i></li><li>● 10/31: Judith Fuller &amp; Threshold Choir Voice of Love</li><li>● Nov. Program Dir. Debra</li><li>● Dec. Program Dir. Bridgette</li><li>● Jan. Program Dir. Victoria</li><li>● Feb. Program Dir. CJ</li><li>● May Program Dir. Carolina</li></ul> <p><b>Sign up to be a program chair <a href="#">here</a> today! <b>Mar. Apr. &amp; June are vacant and need YOU!</b></b></p>	<p><b><u>CELEBRATIONS</u></b></p> <p><b>Birthdays</b></p> <p>Matt Parrish: October 4 Frances Ellison-Dansby: October 5 Annabelle La Force: October 14 Paul Caplan: October 21 Joel Alvarado: October 21 Don Schewe: October 28 Fabian Wilson: October 29</p> <p><b>Wedding Anniversaries</b></p> <p>Christopher Hempfling: October 11 Rose Caplan: October 19</p> <p><b>Service Anniversaries</b></p> <p>Victoria Seals, PhD: 8 years October 6</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*  
**Secretary:** *Neil Shorthouse*  
**Treasurer:** *Rose Caplan*  
**Club Administration:** *Chris Hempfling*  
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**Public Image Chair:** *Jared Evans*  
**Service Projects Chair:** *Carolina Ramos*  
**The Rotary Foundation Chair:** *Debra Stokes*  
**DEI Chair:** *Marilyn Jackson*

**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?**

Stay Connected with AWER:

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