Atlanta West End Rotary Club

KeyWay

MARCH 12, 2026

This Week's Program: Don Schewe on the Evolution of Information

Friday, March 13, 2026

This week, the Rotary Club of Atlanta West End welcomes longtime member **Don Schewe**, who will speak on the evolution of information and the stewardship of historical records. Don joined the club in 1980 and recently marked more than four decades of Rotary service, reflecting Rotary's enduring commitments to integrity, leadership, fellowship, and Service Above Self.

A native of Lincoln, Nebraska, Don earned a Ph.D. in history from Ohio State University and served in the United States Army, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel in the Reserves. His professional career included directing the Carter Presidential Materials Project, where he oversaw the processing of more than 27 million documents from the administration of Jimmy Carter.

That work culminated in his leadership in building the Jimmy Carter Presidential Library and Museum, where he served as Library Director beginning in 1985 and continuing until his retirement in 1999. Drawing on this experience, Don will share reflections on how information has evolved over time.

Click **here** for link to see Don talking about presidential records.

JOIN ONLINE: Zoom Link - Click here Meeting ID: 874 0116 4307 Passcode: Service | One tap mobile: +13052241968

KeyWay Report

Olympian Ms. Maritza McClendon

March 13, 2026

MEETINGS

March is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month

3/13	Program Speaker
3/20	Program Speaker
3/27	Program Speaker
4/3	Happy Easter
4/10	Program Speaker: Al Pearson
4/17	Program Speaker: Bill Marianes
4/24	Club Assembly
5/1	Program Speaker: Leo Chancey

BIRTHDAYS

4/3	Leo Chancey
4/4	Richard Gerakitis

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

3/12	Neil Shorthouse (49)

ROTARY ONLINE

https://atlantawestendrotary.org
https://rotary6900.org/
https://rotary.org/

ROTARY CLUB OF ATLANTA WEST END

Fridays, 12:15 pm
Georgia Tech Hotel & Conference Center*
800 Spring St NW
Atlanta, GA 30308

SOCIAL MEDIA



AWER

Chair-Elect Christopher Hempfling led our meeting and presented **Ms. Maritza McClendon**, an Olympic Silver Medalist in swimming at the 2004 OLYMPIC GAMES in Athens, Greece – and the first women of color to do so in Olympic History. She also broke several world records and won eleven national and world medals throughout her legendary career. Amazingly, at age six she was diagnosed with severe scoliosis and swimming was recommended as a good support for her to participate because it was thought this activity could help ameliorate the effect of the disease, primarily because swimming could support good posture and increase flexibility. Plus these activities could avoid the necessity of surgery.

Born in Puerto Rico to parents from Guyana, McClendon began swimming competitively after her initial swim lessons. When her family moved to Tampa, Florida, she faced significant challenges as one of the few Black swimmers on her team, experiencing discrimination and isolation. Despite these obstacles, she excelled in high school swimming, winning six state titles and earning a scholarship to the University of Georgia. Her first Olympic trials ended in disappointment when she placed 34th, leading to harsh criticism from her father who called her "an embarrassment to the family." This experience led to depression, but with support from teammates and coaches, she recommitted to her goals. Over the next four years, she became a 27-time All-American with 11 NCAA titles, broke world and American records as the first Black person to do so, and ultimately qualified for the 2004 Olympics in Athens, where she won her silver medal.

LEADERSHIP

President	Victoria Seals, PhD
President-Elect	Christopher Hempfling
Immediate PP	Jared Evans
Vice President	Christopher Hempfling
Treasurer	Rose Caplan
Secretary	Neil Shorthouse
Public Image	Jared Evans

Meritza enthusiastically promotes swimming, but expressing concern that 64% of African American children don't know how to swim. She encourages adults to become swimmers because without adults' encouragement, Black and Brown children will continue to lag. She's also committed to water safety education and more swimming accessibility for Black and Brown communities.

She emphasized how important it is for society and especially athletes of color to overcome the adversity and discrimination in competitive sports. Conversely, she's watched how children of color feel bigger possibilities of accomplishment by seeing her as a champion especially when explaining the difficulties she's had to overcome: physical challenges, people telling her as a Black did not belong, and even from her father's rejection of her when she did not succeed. Accordingly, Meritza is very specific about not allowing others to define what one can achieve. And she strongly believes in the importance of community and teammate support.

In response to a question from AWER member **Don Schewe** about her ethnicity and her relationship with her father, Maritza explained, "My family background is Portuguese, but my parents and grandparents are from Guyana in South America. I identify as a Black woman raised in Caribbean culture. Regarding my father, our relationship was difficult - his love felt conditional based on my performance. When I qualified for the 2004 Olympics, I asked him not to attend but called him after I made the team. Before he passed away from prostate cancer in 2008, he told my mom he was always proud of me."

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AWER Keyway Speaker Reporters: Christopher Hempfling, Jared Evans and Neil Shorthouse

March Focus: Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

March is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene Month in Rotary, highlighting the organization's commitment to ensuring that communities around the world have access to safe water and healthy living conditions. Rotary International recognizes that clean water and proper sanitation are fundamental to public health, education, and economic stability. When families have reliable access to safe drinking water and sanitation facilities, children are healthier, girls are more likely to stay in school, and communities are better able to thrive. Rotary clubs work with local partners to create sustainable solutions such as drilling wells, installing water filtration systems, building sanitation facilities, and teaching good hygiene

practices. By dedicating March to this focus, Rotary reminds members that access to clean water is not a privilege but a basic human need. Through service, partnerships, and community leadership, Rotarians help bring lasting improvements in health, dignity, and opportunity to people around the world.

Calander, Agenda, Connections, & Four-Way Test

MARK YOUR CALENDAR Works
• 3/20: Hon. Brad Raffensperger - Georgia Secretary of State
• 3/27: Brandon Butler - Founder of Trust Fitness
• April Program Dir. Bridgette
• 4/11: District Learning Assembly, Columbus, GA
• May Program Dir. Carolina
• 5/31: Streets Alive - West End to Grant Park
• **June Program Director Needed!**
Sign up to be a program chair here today! June needs YOU!

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

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Never a Bad Time to Catch Up (ON DUES)!

District 6900 has updated to a new Stripe ACH payment process. The new method is more convenient and more secure. If you pay your dues via ACH (**and you should!**), go to YOUR PAGE on our club website (Click here) and use the Setup ACH button to relink your account. Should you encounter any problems, click the Contact Webmaster link in the page footer.

