Atlanta West End Rotary Club

KeyWay

APRIL 23, 2026

This Week's Program: Club Assembly this Friday

Friday, April 24, 2026

At our upcoming meeting, we will hold a Club Assembly, an essential forum for member engagement and organizational alignment. Club Assemblies provide the opportunity to pause regular programming and focus inward on how the club is functioning, where it is headed, and how each member can contribute to shared priorities. This session will include updates from club leadership, discussion of current initiatives, and a review of key administrative and strategic matters. Members will have the chance to ask questions, offer input, and help shape decisions that affect the club's operations .

Participation is especially important, as Club Assemblies support transparency, sound governance, and collective ownership of our work. Whether you are a long-standing member or new to the club, your perspective matters. Please plan to attend, stay engaged, and take part in the stewardship of our club's mission and effectiveness.

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

KeyWay Report

KeyWay Report on Bill Marianes

April 17, 2026

AWER President-Elect Chris Hempfling lead the AWER meeting and introduced AWER member **Mark Newman** who then presented **Mr. Bill Marianes**, a former law partner of Mark and also of **Richard Gerakitis**, 2-time president of AWER and recipient of the first Richard Gerakitis Award.

This meeting featured Bill Marianes, a retired corporate attorney turned leadership consultant, who presented on discovering and living one's calling or purpose in life. Bill, who has nearly 40 years of legal experience including time at

MEETINGS

April is Environment Month

4/24	Club Assembly
5/1	Program Speaker: Leo Chancey
5/8	Program Speaker: Berny De La Garza
5/15	Program Speaker: Sonia Hantman
5/22	Memorial Day Holiday No Meeting
5/29	Program Speaker: LaShay Wilson
6/5	Program Speaker: Brandon Teal
6/12	Our Lady of Perpetual Help site visit

BIRTHDAYS

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

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

LEADERSHIP

President	Victoria Seals, PhD

Troutman Sanders and McGuire Woods, now dedicates his work to helping Orthodox Christian churches and individuals identify their stewardship callings. The presentation explored the fundamental question "Why are you here?" and provided practical frameworks for discovering one's purpose. Bill emphasized that we are living in exponential times with unprecedented rates of change and challenged attendees to consider whether they are "living too small" relative to their God-given potential. The talk integrated philosophical wisdom from Socrates, biblical references, modern business theory, and neuroscience to help participants understand how to identify and pursue their calling.

Bill Marianes shared his personal trajectory as what he called the "Greek Forrest Gump," beginning in two small villages in Greece, with his family immigrating to the worst ghetto on the south side of Chicago in East Chicago, Indiana. Growing, he was blessed to play in a soul and funk band called "Almost Midnight" with 8 black guys in the early 1970s. As children of uneducated Greek immigrants, he was taught that lifelong learning and educational challenge were non-negotiable requirements. His academic journey took him through Northwestern University for psychology, Emory University for his JD and MBA, back to Northwestern for graduate management studies, and eventually a PhD focusing on church leadership and stewardship. Beyond traditional legal work at Troutman Sanders and McGuire Woods law firms, Bill was involved in extraordinary projects such as working on the beginning of CNN Headline News, on the founding the Georgia and North Carolina lotteries, and on representing high-profile clients like Taylor Swift. Approximately 10 years ago, Bill "re-fired" rather than retired, transitioning to full-time ministry work focused on helping Orthodox Christian churches and individuals discover their stewardship callings. Bill emphases *it's never too late to begin again*, sharing that he received his PhD one week after his 70th birthday. **Mahatma Gandhi's** wisdom applies: "Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever."

Bill constantly thinks about change; he cited a few phenomena speaking to the rate of change … Years it took to reach 50 million users: Telephone – 75 years; Radio – 38 years; TV – 13 years; Internet – 4 years; Instagram Threads – 24 hours. AWER's **Don Schewe** added that the rate of knowledge doubling has accelerated from every 10 years to every 2-3 years, with artificial intelligence further accelerating this pace.

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

Longevity Escape Velocity (LEV) Bill said, “In the very near future, AI will extend your remaining life expectancy (not life expectancy at birth) longer than the time that is passing. (i.e., you have another year of life for each year you live.)”

“In the next 10 years, we will experience as many changes as humanity has seen during the past century.” … says **Ray Kurzweil** Futurist at Google, CoFounder of Singularity University. So Bill referred us to **Peter Diamandis** 's sugestion: "Don't die from something stupid in the next 5-10 years until we reach Longevity Escape Velocity." He explained that AI and medical advances may soon extend life expectancy by one year for each year lived, potentially allowing indefinite lifespan. He cited clinical trials at Harvard working on technology to revert a 70-year-old eye to a 30-year-old eye that doesn't age further, with potential applications to other organs. Historical data shows life expectancy remained constant around 30-35 years until the 1800s when vaccines, clean water, and antibiotics created an exponential curve upward.

Bill poses these three questions for all of us to consider as we look at our lives and our purpose; he says it is “Finding Your ‘One Thing.’” 1. What do I want to be remembered for? 2. What would my ideal life look like? 3. What is my deepest source of inspiration? Bill then put these questions into a larger set of questions for all to consider, the central question of his presentation: "Why are you here?"

· What is the fundamental purpose for which you exist?

· Are you living too small relative to your potential and calling?

· What fear is keeping you locked in place and preventing you from pursuing greater opportunities?

· What will you say when you stand before God when asked, "What did you do for my people?"

· When was the last time you reinvented yourself?

· What do you want to be remembered for?

· How can we reconnect the dots of our life experiences to understand our purpose?

▪ What is your massive transformative purpose?

Bill recommended Bob Buford 's Success to Significance

: Buford's books "Halftime" and "Stuck in Halftime" present a framework of transitioning from success (first half of life) to significance (second half). The process involves four key questions: What do I want to be remembered for? What would my ideal life look like? What is my deepest source of inspiration? What legacy do I want to leave?

Bill recommended several things to read, including:

- Simon Sinek's books: "Start With Why" and "Find Your Why"
- Steve Jobs's Stanford University commencement address on connecting the dots of your life
- Stephen Covey's "The 7 Habits of Highly Effective People" particularly Habit 2: Begin with the End in Mind

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AWER Keyway Editors: Jared Evans, Chris Hempfling, Nel Shorthouse

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RI Theme

April is Environment Month in Rotary

April is recognized by Rotary International as Environment Month, highlighting Rotary's commitment to protecting natural resources and advancing long-term ecological health. This observance aligns local club activity with global efforts such as Earth Day, reinforcing the shared responsibility of environmental stewardship.

For Rotary clubs, this theme is both philosophical and operational. It supports the development of programs, speakers, and service projects focused on conservation, sustainability, and community impact. Examples of club activities under this theme include:

- Educational programs and speaker events on environmental topics
- Community service projects that address conservation and sustainability
- Public image initiatives that highlight local environmental efforts

Consistent with Rotary's framework of service, environmental initiatives fall within **Community Service** and reflect the broader **Object of Rotary** to improve quality of life through responsible action. Clubs can use Environment Month as an opportunity to coordinate efforts, raise awareness, and demonstrate Rotary's ongoing commitment to the environment in their communities.

Calander, Agenda, Connections, & Four-Way Test

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

- May Program Dir. Carolina
- 5/1: ?
- 5/8: ?
- 5/15: ?
- 5/22: ?
- 5/29: ?
- 5/31: Streets Alive - West End to Grant Park
- **June Program Director Needed!**
- 6/5: ?
- 6/12: ?
- 6/19: ?
- 6/26: ?

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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@rotaryatlantawestend
LinkedIn.com/company/rotary-club-of-atlanta-wes?...

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.

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?