Atlanta West End Rotary Club

KeyWay
MAY 7, 2026

This Week's Program: Mystery Topic

Join us for a discussion on a topic TBD.

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

KeyWay Report

KeyWay Report on Leo Chancey's 2026 Legislative Recap

The Rotary Club of Atlanta West End welcomed **Leo Chancey** for a timely and substantive presentation examining the recently concluded 2026 Georgia legislative session and the State of Georgia's FY 2027 budget. Leo brought both technical expertise and practical institutional insight to the discussion, drawing from 17 legislative sessions of experience advising leadership, navigating complex political environments, and advancing policy initiatives within the Georgia House of Representatives. He was introduced not only as a seasoned legislative and policy professional, but also as the club's incoming Membership Director for Rotary Year 2026-2027.

Leo framed the presentation as both a legislative session recap and a practical guide to understanding how state-level policymaking affects communities throughout Georgia. He walked members through the annual budget development process, beginning with the Governor's State of the State Address and budget recommendations, continuing through joint appropriations hearings, House and Senate negotiations, conference committee deliberations, and final passage before the July 1 start of the fiscal year. He explained that the FY 2027 process operated within a $38.5 billion revenue estimate, requiring both chambers to remain within that overall spending framework.

The discussion centered on five major investment priorities that shaped the legislative session: infrastructure, education and workforce development, healthcare access, tax relief, and

MEETINGS

May is Youth Service Month

BIRTHDAYS

5/24	Rodney Fields
6/1	Francis Ingersoll

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

5/29	Leo Chancey (10)

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

justice and public safety. Leo provided detailed explanations of how budget priorities are translated into operational policy decisions and emphasized the role that legislative strategy and stakeholder engagement play in determining final outcomes.

Transportation and infrastructure funding represented a major area of investment. Leo highlighted approximately $805 million in new capital funding, including support for construction and renovation projects across Georgia's colleges and universities, school safety improvements, and transportation infrastructure projects statewide. Members heard about funding directed toward Interstate 75 South congestion relief near McDonough, Highway 316 improvements, resurfacing projects, and broader maintenance efforts intended to strengthen Georgia's long-term transportation capacity.

Education policy emerged as another central priority. Leo discussed the legislature's substantial focus on early literacy, including a $100 million investment supporting literacy coaches and reading screeners for kindergarten through third grade students. He explained that the initiative was modeled in part on Mississippi's rapid literacy gains over recent years. The presentation also examined workforce development efforts, including expansion of the Dual Achievement Program, which allows students to simultaneously pursue high school completion and technical college credentials.

Healthcare and disability services generated particularly thoughtful discussion among attendees. Leo reviewed the historic approval of 900 new waiver slots for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, expanding access to community-based services such as in-home support, adult daycare, and independent living assistance. Members also heard about legislation supporting psychiatric services at regional trauma centers and expanded access to HIV prevention medication.

Tax policy and public safety reforms were also significant components of the session. Leo summarized the reduction of Georgia's state income tax rate from 4.9 percent to 3.9 percent, increases in standard deductions and dependent exemptions, and the approval of one-time taxpayer refunds. Additional discussion addressed criminal justice reforms, HOA oversight legislation, school cell phone restrictions, protections against financial exploitation of seniors, and public safety legislation involving drones and service animals.

The question-and-answer portion of the program reflected strong member engagement and touched on topics including waiver services, automatic record sealing for first offenders, legislative transparency, and methods citizens can use to monitor pending legislation and budget decisions. Throughout the presentation, Leo emphasized the importance of understanding not only what policies pass, but how legislative strategy, coalition-building, and stakeholder engagement shape final outcomes.

The program aligned closely with Rotary's commitment to informed citizenship, ethical leadership, and civic engagement. By translating complex legislative and budget matters into accessible public understanding, Leo provided members and guests with valuable insight into the processes shaping communities across Georgia.





RI Focus

May is Youth Service Month

Rotary designates May as **Youth Service Month**, highlighting the importance of investing in young people and creating opportunities for them to lead, learn, and serve. For Atlanta West End, this observance is a chance to connect club priorities with the needs and potential of youth in our community.

Youth Service Month can guide clubs in planning speakers, programs, and projects that engage young people directly or support organizations that serve youth. It also offers an opportunity to showcase Rotary's ongoing commitment to developing the next generation of leaders and community-minded citizens.

Examples of activities clubs may consider during Youth Service Month include:

- Mentoring and tutoring programs that support youth education and development
- Youth leadership workshops and speaker events
- Collaborative service projects with schools, youth groups, or local nonprofits
- Public image initiatives that highlight young people's contributions and Rotary's role in supporting them

By centering efforts on youth in May, Atlanta West End Rotary can strengthen community ties, encourage intergenerational collaboration, and demonstrate Rotary's investment in a brighter future.

Calander, Agenda, Connections, & Four-Way Test

MARK YOUR CALENDAR
• May Program Dir. Carolina
• 5/1: Leo Chancey, Legislative Recap
• 5/8: ?
• 5/15: ?
• 5/22: No Meeting
• 5/29: LaShay Wilson, Executive Director of StepStone Family and Youth Services
• 5/31: Streets Alive - West End to Grant Park
• **June Program Director Needed!**
• 6/5: ?
• 6/12: ?
• 6/19: No Meeting
• 6/26: Installation Ceremony

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

westend@rotary6900.org
inforotaryawe@gmail.com
atlantawestendrotary.org

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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.

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?