

**ABSENCES – July 24**

Marty Adams, Theresa Ball, Landon Bentley, Greg Carroll, Brooks Cole, David Cork, Jay Grogan, Jim Meads, RYANNE NOSS, John Patterson, Kim Ryals, Mary Jean Sanspree, Eddie Seal, Dave Smith, Mike Strength, Jeremy Tuggle, Sandra Vernon, Paul Walker

**MAKEUPS – July 24**

Maybe

**VISITORS – July 24**

Lisa Bright, Bill’s wife and a potential member; Brandon Coppage; Matt Yeager; and Chase Williams, Ty’s daughter; John Birmingham

**PROSPECTIVE MEMBER**

Lisa Bright

**PROGRAM SCHEDULE**

08/28/19	Pat McTamney	Chris Bond – Designs for Hope
09/04/19	No meeting (1 <sup>st</sup> Wednesday)	
09/11/19	Jim Meads	
09/18/19	Jamie Overton	

*News of the Weird*

Say you have a new baby. Say you're overwhelmed with love and sleep deprivation, and say you've been auditioning names for months, to no avail. Future Perfect, a web startup, will happily accept your \$350 fee to "email you a customized list of names" to choose from, plus 15 minutes of phone time with one of its consultants. "Working your way through thousands of alphabetized names can be a useful exercise for some," the website explains, "but the lists we provide are personalized, hyper-curated and unique to each client's specific criteria." They'll even help you name your pets! WABC reports that Future Perfect offers less-expensive packages as well, such as a \$100 "namestorming session." [WABC, 6/11/2019]

As members of New Life Baptist Church in Advance, North Carolina, prepared to merge with a nearby congregation, they removed the handmade steeple from their building, intending to return it to church member Mike Brewer, who made it. But a passerby who saw the steeple at the curb on June 5 thought it was intended for garbage pickup and took it home, sparking a different kind of steeplechase, according to the Winston-Salem Journal. Church pastor Matthew Pope called it a clear misunderstanding: "The person assumed we were throwing it out. She ... didn't want it to go to the dump." The unwitting steeple thief saw a post about the missing structure on Facebook from Pope's wife and returned the steeple five days after its disappearance. [Winston-Salem Journal, 6/15/2019]

Hundreds of divers set a Guinness World Record on June 15 at Deerfield Beach, Florida, where they met to perform an underwater cleanup. Fox35 reported that 633 divers collected 9,000 pieces of debris on the ocean floor during the event, which was organized by Dixie Divers. The previous record, 615 divers, was set in the Red Sea of Egypt in 2015. [Fox35, 6/16/2019]

Before teaming up with Rotary on the project, Heifer USA conducted a study that found considerable untapped demand for locally grown produce. The study calculated that Arkansas spends more than \$7 billion a year on food, with about \$6.3 billion of that coming from outside Arkansas. Heifer set up a Community Supported Agriculture (CSA) network — a food subscription service in which consumers buy produce in advance at a fixed price, guaranteeing farmers a market for their crop regardless of how weather or other factors may affect their output.

Rotary members used their extensive contacts to find buyers for the CSA shares, and offered business and planning advice to the farmers. Heifer provided training in sustainable practices and taught its philosophy of accountability, sharing, passing on training, and self-reliance. Through its first five years, the number of shares sold grew from 150 the first year to more than 400 a year.

The New South Produce Cooperative became a largely independent cooperative in 2016, and in 2017 expanded to wholesale markets. Now, Heifer USA is transitioning oversight of the program to one of its funding partners, 275 Food Project, smoothing the path for expansion into the Memphis area. "We've always viewed our role as being an incubator of this project," says Annie Bergman, Global Communications Director for Heifer. "This will allow growth across the border and provide more support for the farmers. We will still offer training and funds when needed."

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