



### December 31, 2020 CLUB BULLETIN

#### Speakers

Dec. 31: NO MEETING

Jan. 7: Library Bookmobile & Outreach Dept., courtesy of Denise Leeson

Jan. 14: OPEN

Jan. 21: Kerry Carithers, Mentor Me Executive Director

Jan. 28: Tina Fischlin, District Governor

#### Birthdays

No Birthdays

#### UPCOMING EVENTS:

If you have any upcoming events that you would like to see in the bulletin, please reach out to Stephanie Woody at [swoody@forsythnews.com](mailto:swoody@forsythnews.com).

#### Club Leaders



[Claire H. McDonald](#)  
President



[J.B. Bader](#)  
President-Elect  
Rotary Foundation Chair  
On-To Conference Chair



[Denise Leeson](#)  
Secretary  
Public Relations Chair



[Donna S. Wade](#)  
Treasurer



[Zack A. Rice Jr.](#)  
Family of Rotary  
Membership Chair



[Stephanie Woody](#)  
Bulletin Editor  
Club Programs Chair



[Denton B. Ashway](#)  
Sergeant-at-Arms



[Terri L. Willett](#)  
Club Socials Chair

#### THIS WEEK:

December 31: **NO MEETING FOR THIS WEEK!**  
Happy New Year!

## This week in history: 1999

### Panama Canal turned over to Panama

On Dec. 31, 1999, the United States, in accordance with the Torrijos-Carter Treaties, officially hands over control of the Panama Canal, putting the strategic waterway into Panamanian hands for the first time. Crowds of Panamanians celebrated the transfer of the 50-mile canal, which links the Atlantic and Pacific oceans and officially opened when the SS Arcon sailed through on August 15, 1914. Since then, over one million ships have used the canal.

Interest in finding a shortcut from the Atlantic to the Pacific originated with explorers in Central America in the early 1500s. In 1523, Holy Roman Emperor Charles V commissioned a survey of the Isthmus of Panama and several plans for a canal were produced, but none ever implemented. U.S. interest in building a canal was sparked with the expansion of the American West and the California gold rush in 1848. (Today, a ship heading from New York to San Francisco can save about 7,800 miles by taking the Panama Canal rather than sailing around South America.)

In 1880 a French company run by the builder of the Suez Canal started digging a canal across the Isthmus of Panama (then a part of Colombia). More than 22,000 workers died from tropical diseases such as yellow fever during this early phase of construction and the company eventually went bankrupt, selling its project rights to the United States in 1902 for \$40 million. President Theodore Roosevelt championed the canal, viewing it as important to America's economic and military interests. In 1903, Panama declared its independence from Colombia in a U.S.-backed revolution and the U.S. and Panama signed the Hay-Bunau-Varilla Treaty, in which the U.S. agreed to pay Panama \$10 million for a perpetual lease on land for the canal, plus \$250,000 annually in rent.

Over 56,000 people worked on the canal between 1904 and 1913 and over 5,600 lost their lives. When finished, the canal, which cost the U.S. \$375 million to build, was considered a great engineering marvel and represented America's emergence as a world power.

In 1977, responding to nearly 20 years of Panamanian protest, U.S. President Jimmy Carter and Panama's General Omar Torrijos signed two new treaties that replaced the original 1903 agreement and called for a transfer of canal control in 1999. The treaty, narrowly ratified by the U.S. Senate, gave America the ongoing right to defend the canal against any threats to its neutrality. In October 2006, Panamanian voters approved a \$5.25 billion plan to double the canal's size by 2015 to better accommodate modern ships.

Ships pay tolls to use the canal, based on each vessel's size and cargo volume. In May 2006, the Maersk Dellys paid a record toll of \$249,165. The smallest-ever toll—36 cents—was paid by Richard Halliburton, who swam the canal in 1928.



Jeremy P. Skinner  
Club Service Chair



Burton Blackmar  
Youth Services Chair



George Galphin  
iPast President

### The Four-Way Test

Of the things we think, say or do...  
Is it the **TRUTH?**

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?**

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



Rotary Opens Opportunities



## Please keep the following in mind when considering attending in-person meetings:

- ◆ Attending in-person meetings is not required. There are no attendance requirements at least through the end of the year. Additionally, we are working on making the meetings accessible via Zoom. Do not feel any obligation to attend in-person meetings if you are not comfortable doing so or feel it is unsafe.
- ◆ Anyone who is sick, infected with COVID-19 or exhibiting symptoms of COVID-19 must not attend in-person meetings.
- ◆ Guests and visiting Rotarians are not permitted to attend in-person meetings at this time. However, they are encouraged to join us via Zoom.
- ◆ Please be aware that the Governor's order strongly encourages people to wear face coverings as practicable while outside their homes except when eating or drinking.
- ◆ Please keep the following excerpt from the Governor's order in mind when deciding to attend Rotary meetings in person:

**All residents and visitors of the State of Georgia who meet the following criteria for higher risk of severe illness as defined by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention are required to Shelter in Place within their homes or places of residence:**

1. *Those persons who live in a nursing home or long-term care facility, including inpatient hospice, assisted living communities, personal care homes, intermediate care homes, community living arrangements and community integration homes.*
2. *Those persons who have chronic lung disease.*
3. *Those persons who have moderate to severe asthma.*
4. *Those persons who have severe heart disease.*
5. *Those persons who are immunocompromised. May conditions can cause a person to be immunocompromised, including cancer treatment, smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation immune deficiencies, poorly controlled HIV or AIDS, and prolonged use of corticosteroids and other immune weakening medication.*
6. *Those persons, of any age, with class III so severe obesity.*
7. *Those persons diagnosed with the following underlying medical conditions: diabetes, liver disease, and persons with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis.*

◆ Until further notice, lunches will be pre-prepared with no buffet service.

◆ Tables will be arranged with seating of no more than 6 people and appropriately spaced out. Please adhere to this and do not add seating or rearrange the setups.

## Rotary Club of Forsyth County

<http://www.rotarydistrict6910.org>

PO BOX 57

Cumming, GA 30028

[rotaryofforsyth@yahoo.com](mailto:rotaryofforsyth@yahoo.com)

### Social Media Links

For more information about our club click on one of the links below:

[Website](#)

[Twitter](#)

[Facebook](#)

### Past Presidents

1975 Tommy Bagwell	1986 Steve Jackson	1997 Bill Kehres	2008 Mike Palmer
1976 Terry Smith	1987 Tim LeBlanc	1998 Jeff Stephens	2009 Burton Blackmar
1977 Jackie Welch	1988 Denton Ashway	1999 John Weaver	2010 Shan Mize
1978 Larry Boling	1989 Bobby Thomas	2000 Jim Whitney	2011 Taylor Rice
1979 Zack Rice	1990 Jim Wheeler	2001 Jon McDaniel	2012 George Pirkle
1980 Roger Williams	1991 Rich Brown	2002 Keith Argo	2013 George Pirkle
1981 Tom Miller	1992 Tim Perry	2003 Rich Neville	2014 Mike Smith
1982 Gabe Dukas	1993 Bob McGuinn	2004 Melissa Durand	2015 Rusty Smith
1983 Eddie Stowe	1994 Robert Thuss	2005 Brandon Barron	2016 Donna Wade
1984 Dana Miles	1995 Brian Carpenter	2006 Chuck Welch	2017 Eric Duncan
1985 Mike Gravitt	1996 Charles Ammons	2007 Gabe Arango	2018 Ken Terry

# Paul Harris Fellows

## In 2016 our club became 100% Paul Harris Fellows!

1977	Tommy Bagwell	Penny McGuinn	Jim Whitney	Seth Thomas
1978	Jim French	Rafe Banks	Rex Abbott	Donna Wade
1986	Bob McGuinn	Rich Brown	2000 Nancy Abbott	Lucy Thuss
	Larry Boling	Malvelene Vaughan	Melissa Durand	Matt Richmond
	Bobby Thomas	1993 Stan Gault	Tim Perry	2006 Chuck Welch
1987	Gary Allen	1994 Mike Gravitt	2001 Mike Smith	2008 Dana Miles
	Bill Carter	Shannon Mize	Bill Levensalor	Eric Duncan
1988	Jack Manton	Charles Welch	George Pirkle	Mike Palmer
	Zack Rice	Brenda Thomas	2002 Burton Blackmar	John Heath
1991	Robert Thuss	Chantal Bagwell	2003 Lorne Twiner	2010 John Martin
	Vic Shirley	Shaun McGuinn	2004 Bruce Hearn	2014 Linda Duncan
	Lou Douglas	Brian Carpenter	Jack Godwin	D'Arcy Duncan Andrews
1992	Rafe Banks	Michael O'Bryan	2005 Jon McDaniel	Erin Duncan Topel
	Jack Heard	1996 Leslie McGuinn	Mike Montgomery	2015 Sam Siemon
	Jim Wheeler	1997 Denton Ashway	Joni Owens	Gabe Arango Murray Rice

## Will Watt Fellows

1986	Tommy Bagwell	1999 Rex Abbott	2007 Donna Wade	Lorne Twiner
1990	Dick Neville	2001 Jon McDaniel	2008 Eric Duncan	Bill Guilfoil
	Bobby Thomas	Rich Brown	2009 Dana Miles	
	Lou Douglas	Bill Kehres	2010 John Hall	
1995	Brian Carpenter	Mike Gravitt	2012 George Pirkle	
	Bob McGuinn	2002 Malvelene Vaughan	Dennis Gravitt	
1998	Jim Whitney	2003 Mike Montgomery	2013 Jim Wheeler	

*If you have a question about the bulletin/programs, or have a program of interest to the club, please contact Stephanie Woody at [swoody@forsythnews.com](mailto:swoody@forsythnews.com) or mobile 678-878-0516.*