

# Rotary



BE THE INSPIRATION

Newsletter No. XII

District Governor Isaac Owolabi

June 2019

## My Fellow Rotarians,

A wise man made a statement that fits me and our year together well: "The lines are fallen unto me in pleasant places; yea, I have a goodly heritage." I stand on the shoulders of all the Past District Governors who have served before me. I thank all of them for their contributions to our District. Indeed, it is a great honor for Abigail and me to serve you in 2018/2019 as your District Governor and First Lady.

What a successful year we have had together as a team. Our purpose for coming into the role of governorship is to improve our District membership where we have had negative numbers starting July 1st for the last six or more years. DGE Tiffany Ervin will receive a gift of a positive number starting in July 1st, 2019 from all indications because the "STATE OF OUR DISTRICT IS STRONG." Increased membership will increase Foundation giving, CART, and Polio, and Annual Funds.

In addition to membership increase, we completed several local projects as well as international projects that are still going on in the District. We had a record giving to CART since our District got involved in CART program, \$114,000 plus. There was Hurricane Florence disaster on the East shore of our state; we called on Rotarians from our District 7670 and you all contributed \$20,000 plus to help our brothers and sisters. We have been able to do this because we work together as a team. District 7670 sponsored a Rotary Friendship Exchange to District 9110, Lagos, Nigeria. District 7670 was brought together for a great fellowship at the Rotary International Convention at Hamburg, Germany.

Talking about membership increase, we were able to create several programs that, if continues, it will help our District membership. Past Presidents' Council, for the first time, we have a document on DACDB to report names of past Presidents; thanks to our District Communication Officer

(DCO) for creating the list. We created membership grants, which were awarded to as many clubs as requested. I am happy to report that of the ten clubs who requested grants, seven had a substantial increase in their membership and one club even doubled its numbers.

Youth programs continue to receive major attention in our District. Students from five countries came to our District and we equally sent out seven to other countries this Rotary year.



The RYLA program was conducted just on the weekend—Thursday through Sunday for the first time in our District. Close to 100 young adults attended. Our leaders promise to increase the number in the coming year.

This year is the last year of our District Trail Blazer Executive Secretary, Margaret Gormley-Chapman. She signed up for just one year as Executive Secretary and one year lasted sixteen years. Not only that, she was the first woman in our District to be admitted to Rotary in our biggest club in the District,

Asheville Club, prior to the Supreme Court case decision that Rotary should admit women. She was the first woman president of the club. Margaret has done an outstanding job for our District. She served sixteen District Governors with honor and high integrity. Margaret was celebrated at the District Conference as well as at her club in Asheville.

It is well stated by someone that "diversity is our strength and unity is our power." District 7670, you came along side of me and Abigail to achieve so much this year. Would you join me and come along side of our next District Governor Tiffany Ervin to continue to be the inspiration to your club, community and to our state. DG Tiffany Ervin will bring a great strength into our District. Join Abigail and I to wish my friend, Queen Tiffany, a great success!

**DG Isaac**



## Welcome to Hamburg!

Beautiful weather and a beautiful city were the defining characteristics of this year's Rotary International convention in Hamburg, Germany. Approximately 25,000 people from around the world descended on Germany's second-biggest city from June 1-5 as Rotarians celebrated their 110th Annual Convention. The overarching theme for the week was building a stronger Rotary and adapting Rotary to a changing world through our named values: leadership, service, fellowship, diversity, and integrity.

Hail, hail, the gang's all here—Sunday night river cruise.



The world came to Germany



Remember the quilt which was auctioned at the District Conference? It was purchased by George and Karen Milner—RC of Morganton. They graciously returned it to DG Isaac, and it was given to our friends in Nigeria who participated in the Friendship Exchange.

**With the closing of the District Office, our contact information is changing as of July 1, 2019. Please note the following updates:**

NEW DISTRICT MAILING ADDRESS (for all district correspondence, dues payments, etc): 825 C Merrimon Ave, #332, Asheville, NC 28804

NEW DISTRICT PHONE NUMBER (to leave a message for District Secretary Lynn Marks): 828-767-0175

NEW EMAIL (for District questions and information): [Rotary7670secretary@gmail.com](mailto:Rotary7670secretary@gmail.com)

NEW EMAIL for District Treasurer Sean Gibson: [Rotary7670treasurer@gmail.com](mailto:Rotary7670treasurer@gmail.com)

Questions about DACdb email Billi at [DG201516@gmail.com](mailto:DG201516@gmail.com)

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we begin an entirely new process in a new Rotary year. We are certain it will be a "work in progress" and we appreciate your help!

**DGE Tiffany**



The Hickory Crawdads, a Minor League Baseball team of the South Atlantic League and the Class A affiliate of the Texas Rangers, visited the Rotary Club of Hickory on June 6, 2019 and presented a program on life in the minor leagues. Crawdads (L-R): Mark Seaman, GM; Matt Whatley, C; Isaias Quiroz, C; Jonathan Ornelas, SS; Jax Biggers, 2B; Matt Hagen, Manager and Rotarian Charles Young..



**7th Annual Rotary Club of Highlands, NC  
Highlands Twilight 5k 2019  
Saturday, August 17th, 6:00 PM  
Check in starts at 3:30 PM  
\$30.00  
\$35.00 starting July 17th  
\$40.00 day of race**



Rotary Club of Brevard had a massive turnout for the White Squirrel 5k and fun run – even more expected for the Firecracker race on July 4. 434 runners in the White Squirrel 5K and fun run organized by the Rotary Club of Brevard.

We hope to run 400 more in our firecracker race and then wrap it up in October with the Race of the Vampire. These are the club’s three fundraisers for the year and they hope to raise in excess of \$20,000 for local charities and causes.



Rotary Club of Franklin Daybreak hosted its 31st annual charity golf tournament at Mill Creek Golf Club, raising more than \$8,000 for community projects.



**ERADICATE POLIO-ENJOY AN EVENT WHILE DOING SO!**

Nate McClure, a member of the Rotary Club of Lynchburg, VA, is passionate about eradicating polio in our lifetime. His intense passion is deeply rooted in a family history of combatting the disease – you see, his father had polio.

Nate is also passionate about travel; so combining an initiative to end polio, enticing Rotarians to travel to Hamburg for the 2019 International Convention, and gaining a corporate gift to End Polio was an easy achievement for Nate.

Nate is a *Person of Action*, and his personal initiative drew 25 Rotarians and guests from districts across the US and Canada to participate in a “Rotarians on the Rhine River Cruise” aboard the AMAkristina. They sailed from Basel, Switzerland, and disembarked in Amsterdam, spending seven wonderful days together. The Cruise line, AMA Waterways, donated \$100 USD per cabin toward the eradication of polio.

On Thursday, May 23, 2019 they ate dinner at the Chef’s Table. A private dinner for them, where they celebrated each other’s company and also recognized the Cruise Manager, Eliane Spurzem, as a Paul Harris Fellow in recognition of her living example of ‘Service above Self.’ Rotarians and their guests melded together during this cruise and will forever remember sharing stories, experiences, and histories with one another. For one week, they united to celebrate taking action to eradicate Polio from the world.



Arch Woodard, Rotary Club of Spruce Pine, welcomed Marquette Crockett of the Southern Appalachian Highlands Conservancy to their meeting on May 23.

## EDUCATION — AN IMPORTANT PART OF ROTARY SERVICE



In May, the **Rotary Club of Asheville** awarded four Tennent scholarships. Started many years ago the Tennent Scholarship allows the club

to grant Asheville High School seniors assistance with their first year of college education. In 2019 the club distributed funds amounting to \$10,000 among four Asheville high school seniors. Alya Dunham, Sophie Manning, and Ariahn Glass. Not included is Shawntell Smart. We are incredibly proud of these students and look forward to following them on their journeys to success.

### The Rotary Club of Black Mountain 2019 Scholarships



Ken Scott (L) and Bill Bauman, Youth Services Chair.

The Rotary Club of Black Mountain annually awards scholarship aid to graduates of Owen High School and Community School who have demonstrated both academic and service achievement and have been admitted to postsecondary schools. Seven scholarships are for \$1000 are for one year

and one for \$2000 for two years. The \$2000 scholarship is awarded in Dr. Kenneth Scott's name, and preference is given to a student interested in the health care field.

The **Rotary Club of Marion** presented the 2019 Marshall Dark Rotary Scholarship to Bethany Hartwell. She was highly recommended for the scholarship by her science teacher Angela Autrey, who talked about Bethany's unprecedented work ethic and dedication to her studies.



The club also presented a special scholarship to a truly deserving student because of a generous gift from a former Rotarian which funded this scholarship. The student selected is Pobze Vang, the youngest son in his Hmong family.



**Rotary Club of Lenoir** presented scholarship checks to its recipients. There were nine students recognized who received a total of \$11,500. Of these, two were grants at \$1000 each and seven were club funded for \$9500.



The **Rotary Club of Burke-Sunrise** recently held its "STRIVE" banquet at Freedom High School. There were 12 students participating in the program this year. Destiny Browning and Jacob Greene were recipients of \$2,000 Rotary scholarships. Rotary member Buddy Armour, a longtime member of the Burke County School Board, was instrumental in developing STRIVE. Students meet once a month with members of the Rotary Club of Burke-Sunrise. At the informal meetings, Rotarians share lunch, ideas, and experiences as well as provide the students with tools to help them later in life.



In recognition of Youth Month, **The Rotary Club of Madison County** liaison for the RotaKids Club at Mars Hill Elementary delivered T-Shirts to the club members. Member Mike Foster worked earlier in the school year with the advisor of an existing service club for 5<sup>th</sup> grade students to merge it with the idea of a RotaKids Club. The club has been involved with community service projects throughout the school year, raising money for the Madison County Animal Shelter and for the Ronald McDonald House in Durham where one of our kindergarten student's families stayed while he was receiving medical treatment. On Friday, May 10 they went to MANNA Food Bank to help sort and repack donated food.



### Over the Mountain String Band

The Rotary Club of Tryon was entertained by the Over The Mountain String Band as part of their June 6th meeting. Glen LeFever, Rotarian and band member, brought the group to the Club meeting to share their passion for Old Timey music. Band members played many of the traditional instruments we would expect to see at an old-time music performance, mandolin, guitar, banjo, washtub bass and fiddles, but the group also included a Celtic flute and a concertina.



### FORMER PEACE SCHOLAR STILL SERVING ROTARY

The Rotary Club of Asheville held its annual fundraiser on a Sunday, June 9, at the Diana Wortham Theatre. David Lamotte and Friends performed an amazing concert that truly conveyed a message of peace and goodwill to the audience. Due to the generosity of the musicians, the theatre, the sponsors-many guests within the audience were truly enlightened about the invaluable experiences that Rotary brings to local

communities and abroad. This particular fund-raising event helped raise over \$50,000 for the projects of Rotary!



Hickory's Charity Chase, organized and led by The Rotary Club of Catawba Valley, distributed \$30,000 to twenty-two volunteer groups that helped in the staging of the 2019 Charity Chase Half Marathon and Charity Chase Lite. This year's sponsor was CommScope, an international supplier of cable products, headquartered in Hickory, NC. Volunteer groups are instrumental in not only setting up and staging the event, but also provide support to runners along the route by cheerleading and manning water stations.

Numbers of runners were down this year due to weather conditions on the day of the race, but the event successfully raised funds critical to charitable organizations that serve Catawba County and the Unifour area.



This past month, The **Rotary Club of Asheville-Biltmore** gave Paul Harris recognition to four **ADDITIONAL** members, bringing our yearly total to 35 recipients - a new record for the club! We'd like to thank Don Brannon (+2 & +3), Tom Young (+4), George Collett (+1) and Bruce Ertell (+1) for their generosity and support of Rotary goals.



DG, Isaac Owolabi, (r) presents Courtney Wright, President of the RC of Caldwell County (l), with the Governor's Inspiration Award for her year as club president. This club along with several other clubs in District 7670, have led the way in growing Rotary membership across the District by 114 new members.



What an exciting day, Wednesday, June 5 in downtown Brevard. Both Rotary Clubs in Transylvania County (Brevard and Pisgah Forest) dedicated the new Rotary clock that sits just off S. Broad Street at the Domokur Plaza. President Nick Bearden presided over the dedication and recognized long-time Rotarian Dolores Littleton for her vision and action in all she has done for the club and community and in bringing the clock to downtown Brevard.

<b>Club Growth for District #7670</b>		<b>01-Jul</b>	<b>June 17, 2019</b>		
<b>Club Name (#)</b>		<b>2018-2019</b>	<b>#</b>	<b>N E T</b>	<b>%</b>
Arden (5995) #1		6	12	6	100.0%
Asheville (5996)		145	152	7	4.8%
Asheville-Biltmore (58266)		51	58	7	13.7%
Asheville Breakfast (23683)		52	54	2	3.8%
Asheville-Metro (84751)		13	14	1	7.7%
Asheville-South (81703)		29	38	9	31.0%
Asheville-West (6049)		17	16	-1	-5.9%
Avery County (29042)		20	25	5	25.0%
Black Mountain (5998)		54	53	-1	-1.9%
Blowing Rock (5999)		53	43	-10	-18.9%
Boone (6001)		12	12	0	0.0%
Boone Sunrise (23608)		51	54	3	5.9%
Brevard (6002)		25	22	-3	-12.0%
Bryson City (6003)		20	22	2	10.0%
Burke-Sunrise (55539)		21	25	4	19.0%
Burnsville (58596)		13	13	0	0.0%
Caldwell County (6004)		15	17	2	13.3%
Cashiers Valley (29349)		42	39	-3	-7.1%
Catawba Valley (Conover) (6005)		38	38	0	0.0%
Clay County (83934)		12	13	1	8.3%
Denver/Lake Norman (31056)		62	68	6	9.7%
Franklin (6013)		87	91	4	4.6%
Franklin Daybreak (50795)		37	39	2	5.4%
Granite Falls (6016)		17	14	-3	-17.6%
Haywood County (Canton) (6018)		27	25	-2	-7.4%
Hendersonville (6019)		141	138	-3	-2.1%
Hendersonville-Four Seasons (6020) #2		26	36	10	38.5%
Hickory (6021)		105	110	5	4.8%
Hickory Sunrise (54544)		24	27	3	12.5%
Highlands (6023)		94	101	7	7.4%
Highlands-Mountaintop (57907) #3		18	24	6	33.3%
Lake Hickory, (Hickory) (6022)		70	74	4	5.7%
Lenoir (6026)		84	82	-2	-2.4%
Lincolnton (6027)		74	76	2	2.7%
Lincolnton-Sunrise (55175)		20	24	4	20.0%
Madison County (64474)		37	49	12	32.4%
Marion (6028)		72	77	5	6.9%
Morganton (6035)		56	61	5	8.9%
Murphy (6037)		21	28	7	33.3%
Newton-Conover (6038) #3		62	53	-9	-14.5%
Pisgah Forest (50468)		59	60	1	1.7%
Sherrills Ford-Terrell (76222)		14	14	0	0.0%
Spruce Pine (6042)		36	37	1	2.8%
Sylva (6044)		59	58	-1	-1.7%
Tryon (6046)		57	65	8	14.0%
Valdese (6047)		37	37	0	0.0%
Waynesville (6048)		79	79	0	0.0%
Waynesville-Sunrise (24319)		17	16	-1	-5.9%
<b>Total Member Count For District #7670</b>		<b>2181</b>	<b>2283</b>	<b>102</b>	<b>4.7%</b>
<b>EXCEEDS Governor Isaac's Goal</b>					

### Membership Tidbits June 2019

The 2018-2019 Rotary year is almost in the books, but as Yogi Berra would say, "It ain't over till it's over." Just a reminder that the membership awards are based on your membership as of June 30, 2019. Keep inducting new members. Remember the more Rotarians; the more Rotary can do for your communities and the world. I would be remiss if I did not remind you that your club's RI dues and District dues are based on the number of members you have on July 1, 2019. If you have members that need to be dropped, please do it **NOW** and do not wait any longer. The official membership numbers from RI generally will not be released until early August.

**CONGRATULATIONS** are in order **again** for all the clubs in District 7670! Our district remains the top district in the Zone with the highest percentage of membership gains. Rotary membership worldwide is 1,229,167 as of May 31, 2019, which represents a growth of 34,060 since July 1, 2018. As of June 17, 2019, the District membership stands at 2,283, which represents a growth of **102**, since July 1, 2018. **Eighteen** clubs have exceeded Governors Isaac's goal of a seven percent increase in membership. Additionally, a total of 30 clubs have growth in membership this year.

**CONGRATULATIONS to the Rotary Club of ARDEN with a 100% growth.** That is correct they **doubled their size!!!** Eight clubs have a 20% or higher increase in membership. **Way to GO!** Please check the district membership chart to see where your club stands on membership growth. Membership awards will be given out at the Foundation Banquet in November.

On a personal note, I have had the honor of serving as the District Membership Chair for the past three years. I would like to thank all the Rotarians in District 7670 for your support. I am confident that my successor, Lyn Lazar, with your continued support, will take membership to the next level.

Together we have made a difference. Our communities and our world are a little better because of your hard work.

*John Yermack  
District Membership Chair*

*This will be my last newsletter for the District. It has been great fun and a privilege to be of service to all of you. My best wishes go to you with this newsletter. Thanks for the memories!  
Margaret*

Wishing you a wonderful  
2019-20 year of  
Rotary Connects the World.



*District 7670 thanks DG Isaac and First Lady Abigail for their service during this past Rotary year. The remembrance of their untiring efforts in behalf of Rotary will bring a "smile" to your thoughts long into the future! Thanks for the memories.*