

Rotary



Club of Gastonia

Birthdays

Sundae Rae Dowdle
September 9th

Marc Thomas Stout
September 12th

Wedding Anniversaries

Robert W. Buckles
September 10th

Thomas Jason Austell
September 10th

Years of Service

Frederick S. Cloninger
09-02-1965
55 Years

Max Gettys Erwin
08-31-1972
48 Years

Rainie Locke Bell
09-01-2005
15 Years

Linda Carnes McConnell
08-31-2017
3 Years

Club Leaders



Brent Messer
President



Laurel Roe Morris
President - Elect



Patricia Lane Black
Vice President



Davidson Robert Hobson
President - Nominee



Cheryl Black Loggins
Secretary



Richard Lee Farrell
Treasurer

President's Message - September 10, 2020

Dear resilient members of the Rotary Club of Gastonia,

Last week *Rev. Dr. Rodney Freeman* and *Gastonia Assistant Police Chief Travis Brittain* informed us about the *Gaston Clergy and Citizen's Coalition*. They explained how the covenant, crafted and signed by members of the local clergy and law enforcement have created better communication and understanding between citizens of our Black & Brown communities and law enforcement. *Rev. Dr. Freeman* explained that because of the relationship and trust that the covenant has created, recent protests were able to remain peaceful, with voices being heard and opinions expressed.

This coalition was made possible in part through the efforts of *Gaston Together*, led by our own *Donna Lockett*. The Covenant signed in 2016 and again in 2019 is posted throughout our Gastonia City Police Department and is intended to be a living document that provides guidance to our law enforcement officers. It is an intentional effort to invest in relationships and communication.

With many Rotarians from our Gaston County clubs being involved in our local law enforcement, judicial system, legal system, clergy, local government and organizations like *Gaston Together*, I can't help but think that the Principles of Rotary have had some influence in creating the desire for Peace and Understanding within our community.

During our meeting I announced that because of our members contributions to the *Rotary Foundation three years ago*, we have been awarded a *District Grant of \$7,500* to be use to assist Crisis Assistance Ministry in providing rent assistance for families in our community affected by the Covid-19 Pandemic. Our campaign, *Operation Starfish*, kicks off this week with cards being sent to each member, asking for financial support by making a contribution through our club's foundation, The Rotary Foundation of Gaston County. Our minimum goal is to match our grant, but I think that we can do much more, enabling us to help keep more families in their homes one at a time.

Our club and CAM received some good press through a story that was aired on WSOC about our *Operation Starfish* campaign. Though we as a club cannot directly solicit for contributions outside of our club, we can be an inspiration to others. One such inspired person did contact me this week and expressed gratitude for what our club is doing. When he asked how he could contribute, I directed him to CAM's website where he and his wife then made a contribution.

After speaking this week with *Kim Wheeler, director of CAM*, about the recent declared moratorium on evictions, she expressed that for many of her clients, it will have no effect, because of the anticipated complexity of applying for such relief and the fact that the rent owed will accrue, thus being due when the moratorium is lifted. In other words, *CAM still needs our help*. Please look for your card in the mail.

This week there will be no 'regular' zoom club meeting. About 25 of our members will be assisting Gastonia East Rotary members in providing a BBQ lunch for members of our First Responder community. First United Methodist Church will host the drive up and delivery event in their parking lot.

Remember to thank our first responders when you can, especially during this week, which marks the anniversary of the 9/11 tragedy in New York. On that horrible day 412 members of our nation's First Responder family lost their lives, when they bravely and selflessly ran into harm's way to save others.

As for future meetings, your board will be discussing how, when and where to resume in-person meetings safely, that will also be shared remotely. Stay tuned and stay safe.

YIRS,
Brent

This Week: September 11: NO REGULAR MEETING - FIRST RESPONDERS LUNCHEON

NO ZOOM MEETING THIS WEEK!



Kay Collins Peninger
Club Director



D. Scott Scarborough
Club Director



Stephen Barrett Driscoll
Rotary Foundation
Chair



Matt Gibbons
Membership Chair



Vincent Cherry
iPast President



Sharon Heinrich
Assistant Governor-
Gaston County

We will partner with Gastonia East Rotary Club to serve Kyle Fletcher's BBQ to all Gaston County First Responders!

Meeting at the First United Methodist Church Parking Lot, 10:30 - 2:00

Be sure to sign up for a volunteer shift or just come by to say THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE!



This Week's Birthdays: September 7-13

HAPPY BIRTHDAY THIS WEEK!!!

Sundae Dowdle: September 9 Marc Stout: September 12



Club History Highlight: September 7

Rudolph M. Schiele
"Bud"



Heavenly Rotarian Bud Schiele, dearly departed member of our club, is paying a Heavenly Happy

Next Week's Zoom Program: September 17: Scott Fowler: Annual Panthers Update

Next week, one of our Club's favorites, *Scott Fowler*, will return with his annual Panthers Update! There have been so many changes on the roster and in the management team this year, that there are sure to be many questions answered! Zoom on in and invite a friend to hear Scott's annual predictions and prognostications! GO PANTHERS!

Join the Zoom meeting beginning at 12:30, with the program starting at 12:45.



Topic: The Rotary Club of Gastonia - Club Meeting - Sept. 17, 2020
Time: Sept. 17, 2020 12:30 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87542837213?pwd=SHYrRWc2aEFFdINKMEs2Y0ZlVFFsdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 4283 7213
Passcode: 698591

Club Service Opportunity: Rotary Community Garden

Service Opportunity!

Help paint the new sheds at the Rotary Community Garden!

Saturday, September 12, 2020

8:00 am - 12:00 noon

Rain Date: Saturday, September 19

Contact Les Davis to sign up!



Stay Connected!

Make sure you follow The Rotary Club of Gastonia on our Website and Facebook!

Website: <http://www.rotaryclubofgastonia.com/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TheRotaryClubOfGastonia>

September 10th

[First Responder Luncheon](#)

September 17th

[ZOOM Program: Scott Fowler, Annual Panthers Update](#)

September 24th

[ZOOM Program: NEW MEMBER TALKS: Robin Loupus, Jonathan Wilson](#)

October 1st

[ZOOM Program: Past District Governor Tom Smith: Polio Plus](#)