

Rotary



Club of Gastonia

Birthdays

Brenda Lopez
January 18th
Kenneth Pruitt III
January 18th
Carl Ellis Fisher
January 19th
Nancy Anne Kuney
January 21st
Susan Lisle
January 24th

Wedding Anniversaries

Robert C. Helton Jr.
January 21st

Years of Service

D. Scott Scarborough
01-16-1986
35 Years
Thomas Ray Cloninger
01-10-1991
30 Years
Ronald Alex Pantuso
01-10-2003
18 Years
Cheryl Jean Rhoades
01-15-2009
12 Years
Cheryl Black Loggins
01-14-2010
11 Years
Peggy Blackburn
01-12-2017
4 Years
Donald Benton Parrott
01-16-2020
1 Year

Club Leaders



Brent Messer
President



Laurel Roe Morris
President-Elect



Patricia Lane Black
Vice President

President's Message - January 21, 2021

Dear hopefully, soon to be vaccinated members of the Rotary Club of Gastonia,

It has been extremely encouraging to see the orange cones on Long Avenue leading to the Farmer's Market where the parking area is full with our older citizens being first in line to receive the Covid-19 vaccine. I'm also hearing first hand reports of how smoothly CaroMont's vaccination program is running. We have started down the road of recovery in many ways. In the interim, don't let your guard down, wear your mask and use precautions. We don't want to stumble and fall as we approach the finish line.

This week we will have a very timely presentation by **Dr. G. Ward Adcock III MD, MHA** who will provide an update on the COVID-19 vaccine.

Last week we had a Club Meeting where we reported that our nominees for Board of Directors, **Tony Pasour, Omer Shedd and Marcia Schedeiman** and nominee for **Vice-President Les Davis** were approved by an email vote with 66 out of 66 members accepting the slate.

It was also announced that Part 1 of the first virtual **Rotary Leadership Institute** seminar on January 23 & 24 has been filled, with members **Kay Peninger and Sundae Dowdle** having registered. I have since learned that **Les Davis** has also registered for Part 1 in February. RLI helps to turn members of a Rotary Club into Rotarians. Consider taking the opportunity to register and attend when you can. It will be beneficial to you and the club and will be easier than ever.

Our Foundation Celebration, being referred to as 'The Foundys' will be a virtual event held on January 30th from 6:00pm to 8:00pm. Look for information in your in-box to register or go to **DACdb - District Tab - Calendar - Scroll to the date - click to register**.

Before the program we took a look back at the last six months at what we have been able to accomplish as a club in spite of the pandemic. We started the year with **Operation Starfish**, using our District Grant along with contributions from our members to assist 27 families with rent assistance helping to keep families in their homes. A total of \$17,125 was contributed to CAM as COVID-19 relief for them to distribute.

We partnered with **Gastonia East** to recognize **First Responders** by providing a BBQ lunch for them on September 10. In October we launched our inaugural Crowd Out Polio event at Crowders Mountain that was led by **Past-President Cheryl Rhoades** and that involved our newer members. During that process we created an associated website where contributions could be made and **President-Elect Laurel Morris** led the effort to enable our club to start taking credit card payments at events and for meals.

Les Davis led a few of our members in a service project to paint the new building added to the **Rotary Community Garden** and **Past-President Vinnie Cherry** continued to lead a Highway Cleanup Crew. Operation Christmas was a little different this year with Patti Black and Jason Austell putting together an effort that helped fewer HH Beam families but in a bigger way.

Omer Shedd has been working diligently over the last few months on an application for a Global Grant that will help provide a much needed hospital incinerator for the Hospital Bienfaisance De Pignon, in Pignon, Haiti. Many members of our club have contributed and the grant has been approved. Now we have to get the equipment delivered and installed.

Looking forward to the remainder of this Rotary year, foremost I look forward to being able to get back to in-person meetings again as we continue to move the Rotary ball forward. We are starting a new **Community Service Team**, led by **Patti Black, Past-President Greg Dills and Kathryn Styers**. They will be looking for manageable outdoor projects that our members can participate in. They will appreciate any ideas that you may have.

Depending on the need, we may have another **Drive Up - Drop Off Food Drive** like we did last year. **Kim Wheeler** will let me know if the **Letter Carriers Food Drive** is going to be canceled again this year. PE Laurel Morris has been leading the effort to bring our bylaws up to date and that effort will be finalized.

The big item on the agenda will be for us finally to be able to have our **Centennial Celebration** which will also double as our Spring Social on Thursday, May 20th in the early evening. It will be an



Davidson Robert
Hobson
President -Nominee



Cheryl Black Loggins
Secretary



Richard Lee Farrell
Treasurer



Kay Collins Peninger
Bulletin Editor



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

outdoor event appropriately held at the Rotary Pavilion, next to our Centennial public restroom project and directly across the tracks from where our club first met over 100 years ago at the Armington Hotel which was located at the current water treatment plant.

Our program was provided by our own **Luke Upchurch** who doubles as our **District 7680 Sub-Committee Chair for District Grants**. Luke described to us how the **District Grant and Global Grant** process works and how it is all connected to the Rotary Foundation and our giving to it. He explained how important it is for our club to have an average per member contribution of at least \$100 to qualify for a District Grant. The amount we are guaranteed to have available to us is one fourth of the amount contributed three years prior.

Qualifying for and applying for **District Grants** enables our club to do great things for our community such as The Rotary Pavilion, The Rotary Community Garden, the Greenway Rotary Water Fountain, the Centennial Restroom Project and our latest community support project, Operation Starfish.

Global Grants are usually larger with the project being a minimum of \$30,000 and have been used by our club to change and save lives in **Honduras** with our clean water projects for the **Chorti** indigenous people and presently with our **Haiti Hospital Incinerator** project.

None of the good things we have been able to accomplish with the Rotary Grant System would be possible without the contributions from our members like, **Ring Stafford, Marcia Schedeiman, and Laurel Morris** who were recognized during the meeting for their **Paul Harris Fellow Pluses**, +7,+7, and +6. All are **Paul Harris Society** members contributing at least \$1,000 per year to the Foundation

THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON MEETING THIS WEEK OR DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY. WE WILL MEET REMOTELY BY ZOOM.

To attend with Zoom click the link below:

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

Meeting ID: 875 4283 7213

Passcode: 698591

Thank you for your continued support of Rotary, its ideals and efforts to make a difference in our local and worldwide community, even while facing the challenges of Covid-19. **Invite a guest and share the good work of Rotary and the opportunities it provides.**

Take care and be safe out there,
YIRS,
Brent

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Dr. G. Ward Adcock III MD, MHA will provide an update on the COVID-19 vaccine.



The program will be offered by Zoom only. THERE WILL BE NO IN-PERSON THIS WEEK OR DURING THE MONTH OF JANUARY. WE WILL MEET REMOTELY BY ZOOM.

Join us at 12:30pm, with the program starting at 12:45pm.

Join the Zoom Meeting here

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

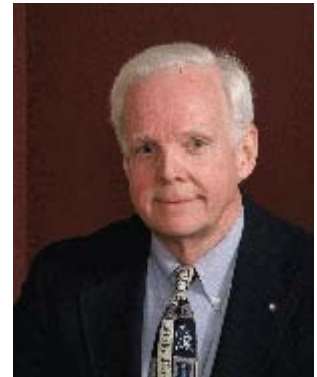
No In-person Meetings
in January
Attend Club Meeting
by Zoom Only



This Week's Birthdays: January 18-January 24, 2021

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FRIENDS!

Brenda Lopez - Jan. 18 Kenneth Pruitt III - Jan. 18 Carl Ellis Fisher - Jan. 19

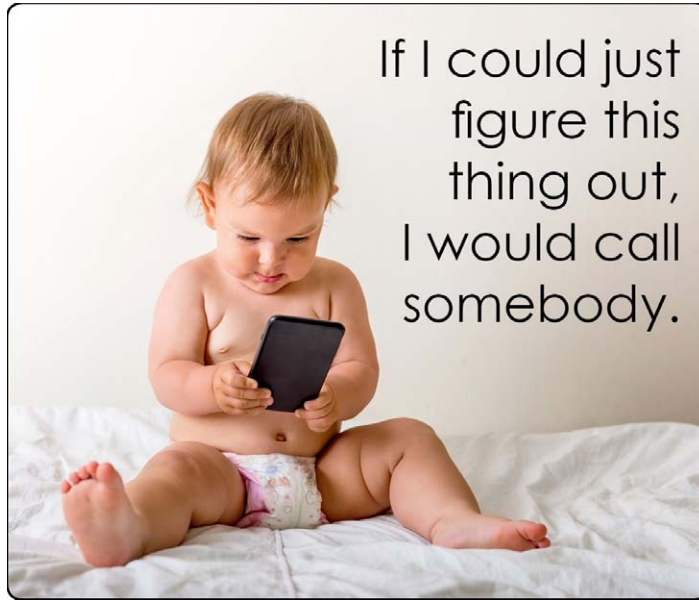


Nancy Anne Kuney - Jan. 21 Susan Lisle - Jan. 24



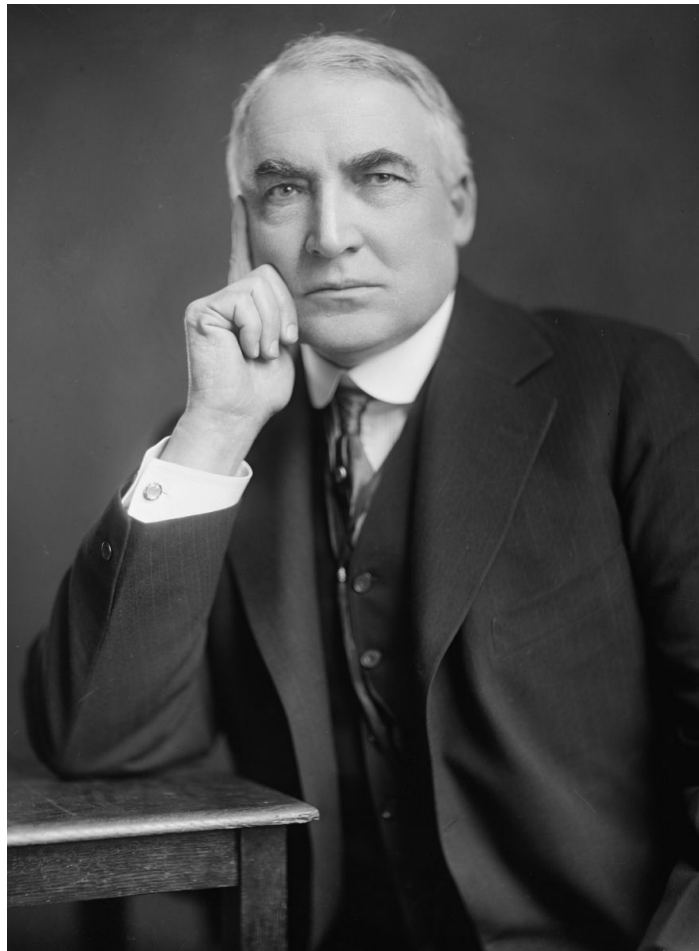
CALL TO ACTION!

YOUR HELP IS NEEDED! PLEASE REACH OUT AND CALL THREE MEMBERS THIS WEEK!



Club History Highlight: January 21, 2021

Warren G. Harding became our 29th president 100 years ago.
He ran on a platform of "*a return to normalcy.*"



Next Week's Program: January 28, 2021

Next week's program:

Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County is excited to announce the development of Dixon Village, a neighborhood that will provide 28 homes for Habitat families and entry-level market-rate buyers in a community that is an innovative approach to providing affordable housing.

Habitat for Humanity of Gaston County's Executive Director **Kay Peninger** and Board Member **Cathy Young** will provide an overview of the project.



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Join the Zoom Meeting here

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Meeting ID: 875 4283 7213
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in January

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Events

No Events found