

Rotary



Club of Gastonia

Birthdays

Plato Poletus Pearson P.
October 13th

Brittany Schrea Bethel
October 17th

Wedding Anniversaries

Gavin Dawson
October 15th

Years of Service

Thomas Jason Austell
10-12-2011
9 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



Kay Collins Peninger
Club Director



D. Scott Scarborough
Club Director

Stephen Barrett Driscoll
Rotary Foundation

President's Message - October 15, 2020

Dear Adaptable Members of the Rotary Club of Gastonia,

Last week we were honored to have **District Governor Mike Walker** visit our club virtually, which he has done in 31 out of 33 club visits in our District 7680, one of six N.C. Districts. DG Mike informed us that even though we are experiencing a "Rotary year like no other", Rotarians are still able to get things done and adapt because of our 'can do' attitude and track record of getting things done. As he put it, "Rotarians don't quit" and most members see our current situation as being a temporary setback. Over 1,500 members in our District have been able to adapt and maintain connections by meeting virtually.

DG Mike informed us of three major announcements that have been made since April.

1. On August 8, it was announced that Jennifer E. Jones, member of the Rotary Club of Windsor-Roseland, Ontario, Canada, has been named president for 2022-23 making her the first female president in Rotary International's 115 year history.
2. Rotary International has added a seventh Area of Focus. **The seventh Area of Focus is the environment** and will be added to the current Areas of Focus - peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy and economic and community development.

3. On August 25 the 47-country WHO African region was certified as being Wild Poliovirus-free four years after Nigeria reported its final case. Even though only Afghanistan and Pakistan remain, "if polio exists anywhere, it exists everywhere". Therefore we must continue our commitment to polio eradication by raising \$50 million per year that is matched by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation 2:1 through at least 2023.

District Governor Mike also gave us an update on our District's response to Covid-19. Through 2020 all District events are to be virtual, his club visits have been strongly encouraged to be virtual, and no in-person events are mandatory and any such events should be held with an abundance of caution.

As for 2021, the January 30th Foundation Celebration will be virtual, with a fun event being planned. Tentatively the mid-year assembly will be held at the UNCC Center City in uptown Charlotte on February 27. The District conference will be held in Greenville, SC at the Hyatt Regency on April 23-25.

Information regarding the coronavirus has been added to the District7680 website under the 'Our District' tab with the headings, Serving Others Now, Staying Connected and Coronavirues Updates.

D.G. Mike encouraged us to continue to support the Rotary Foundation and consider becoming a Paul Harris Society Member by giving \$1,000 per year. One easy way to do it, as he has done, is to give \$85 per month at www.rotary.org/donate which is convenient, secure and simple. Another way to support the Foundation is to pledge \$10,000 to be given over a three year period, or by joining the Bequest Society by designating \$10,000 in your will, insurance, or retirement plan.

Before meeting with our club, D.G. Mike met with our Board about challenges that we and many other clubs face and strategies on how to overcome those challenges. In our one on one discussions before and after the meetings he stated that he thrives on having challenges and figuring out how to overcome them. It seems to me that Mike Walker is the right District Governor to have at this historic time of challenge for Rotary.

Crowd Out Polio: Our PolioPlus event is coming together and I and the Polio Plus team are excited to announce that you can now go online to register for the event or become an event sponsor by going to www.CrowdOutPolio.com. After your online payment a receipt will automatically be emailed to you. A CrowdOutPolio logo will then sent to you in a separate email and a CrowdOutPolio bracelet will be mailed to you. Either or both can be worn on your journey, walking, hiking or climbing the trails of Crowders Mountain State Park sometime during the week of October 17 to 24.

Take a selfie with the logo and/or bracelet and post it in our Facebook page contest for a chance to win a 1/10 oz gold coin and other prizes. A celebration hot dog lunch will be held at the Boulders Access area on World Polio Day, October 24 from noon to 4:00. Even if you don't register in advance you can come out that day, register in-person and join in the fun, while helping to eradicate Polio. If



Chair



Matt Gibbons
Membership Chair



Vincent Cherry
iPast President



Sharon Heinrich
Assistant Governor-
Gaston County

you don't want to be a sponsor or register for the event you can go to endpolio.org/donate to make a donation directly to PolioPlus

Operation Starfish update: To date we have received **\$8,500**. That puts us past our goal of at least matching our District Grant of \$7,500. We will present a check to Crisis Assistance Ministry for Rent Assistance the first of November, so there is still time for you to make a donation to help our community in its time of need. **You can make your check out and mail it to The Rotary Foundation of Gaston County, P.O. Box 339, Gastonia, NC 28053. Note on the check, Operation Starfish.**

Highway Clean-up: Meet with Past-president Vinnie at the Rotary Community Garden on Saturday, October 17 at 9:00am to clean up the stretch of Franklin Blvd., between Tony's Ice Cream and Broad St. It should take about an hour.

Resuming in-person meetings: On October 22 we will resume in-person meetings at the Conference Center with a limited capacity of 45 members with 5 additional spots for our speaker and guests. You will need to sign up in advance. A link to a Google sign up sheet will be emailed to you. Masks and social distancing will be required. We will stream the in-person meetings via Zoom for members who cannot or do not want to attend in-person. Things will continue to be different as we continue our journey through the end of 2020.

Next week: Our own Dr. Omer Shedd will present a Global Grant initiative to help provide a critical piece of equipment for a hospital in Pignon, Haiti. Omer has a passion for Haiti and has developed many connections with other Rotarians in this Caribbean country that faces many challenges.

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

Club History Highlight: October 22

Gaston County played a major role in the fight against polio in North Carolina. Learn more about this fascinating history by viewing the video created by John Pea, a member of the Gastonia East Rotary Club. Link is below.

[Gaston County and the North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital](#)



Dr. George Miller applying a body cast to a polio patient at the former North Carolina Orthopedic Hospital that was started by one of our club's charter members, R B Babbington.



This Week's Zoom Program: October 15: Locke Bell - Bees Are Our Friends

Bees Are Our Friends!

Our own **Locke Bell**, Gaston County District Attorney, will speak about his hobby: bees. Locke grew up in Greensboro and graduated from UNC Chapel Hill with a degree in religion. He taught and was involved in youth work before following a long line of attorneys in his family and enrolling in law school at Wake Forest University. After graduation, he was engaged in private practice in Gastonia before his election as district attorney. Locke supervises close to 30 staff in a busy office that deals with police, victims and their families, and criminal activity.

In his spare time, he drives a tractor, tends his garden, walks in the woods, and raises bees. Locke began keeping bees around 2004 to pollinate his fruit trees. He and his wife, Mary Robin, enjoy the honey and making mead, a wine made from honey. Locke will discuss his life with bees, the stages of their lifecycle, and the many fascinating facts he has learned about them along the way.

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



Topic: The Rotary Club of Gastonia - Club Meeting - October 15, 2020
Time: October 15, 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

This Week's Birthdays: October 12-October 18

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DEAR FRIENDS!

Plato Poletus P. Pearson - Oct. 13 Brittany Schrea Bethel - Oct. 17



Next Week's Zoom Program: October 22: Omer Shedd and Haiti hospital project

Dr. Omer Shedd and the Haiti Hospital Project

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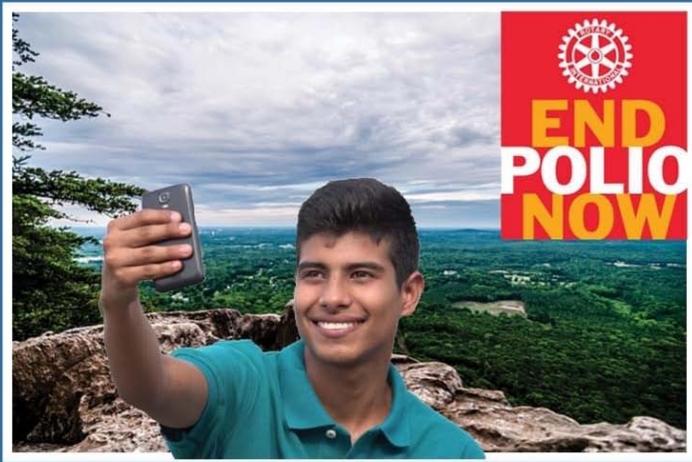
CrowdOutPolio Event: October 17-24, 2020



2020

CLIMB
HIKE
WALK

Oct 17 - 24



Crowders Mountain State Park

Go to CrowdOutPolio.com to Register to Climb, Hike or Walk the trails Oct 17 to 24

TAKE A SELFIE ON THE TRAIL FOR **POLIO PLUS** AND POST IT IN OUR FACEBOOK CONTEST AND BE ENTERED FOR A CHANCE TO WIN A GOLD COIN

[Like us on Facebook!](#)

Join your Rotary family at our club's inaugural *CrowdOutPolio* event at Crowders Mountain State Park starting October 17 with walking, hiking or climbing while social distancing and ending in a celebration October 24 from noon until 4:00pm at the Boulder's Access Area.

Events

October 15th

Program: Locke Bell: Bees Are Our Friends