

Rotary



Club of Waxhaw-Weddington

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Lisa Hilbish
Club Service Chair



Michael Webber
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Past

The Summer Newsletter



*Callin' out around the world -
Are you ready for a brand new beat?
Summer's here and the time is right
For dancin' in the streets. - Martha and the Vandellas*

Here is a bit about this weeks amazing speaker



SARAH VERARDO CEO, THE INDEPENDENCE FUND

Sarah Verardo is a national advocate for wounded Veterans and their Caregivers. Her husband Michael was catastrophically wounded in Afghanistan in 2010 in two separate IED attacks that took his left leg, much of his left arm, and left him with polytraumatic conditions that have required more than one hundred surgeries and years of speech, visual, physical, and occupational therapies

Starting as a volunteer with The Independence Fund, Verardo's steadfast devotion, experience, and drive led to her eventual selection as the organization's first Chief Executive Officer. Verardo carries on the legacy of The Independence Fund's roots by continuing the hallmark all-terrain trackchair program to provide mobility to wounded heroes. She created the nonprofit's Caregiver, Family, Mobility, Independence@Home, and Advocacy programs. Based on personal experience from her husband's military unit, Verardo also developed a partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) that works to combat Veteran suicide through reunions of some of the hardest hit units of the War on Terror. This revolutionary program, Operation RESILIENCY, works with the VA and U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) to recall units for peer support, relying on bonds formed during war and keeping the commitment of shared experience and brotherhood alive back home.

Verardo advises Administration officials and members of Congress on the experiences of the families of severely wounded Veterans and has been instrumental in shaping national policy for our warfighters and their families. Regularly appearing on cable news to commentate on the sacrifice of Veterans and Military families, Verardo is a respected subject matter expert in the field.



"Hero at Home" was inspired by Verardo's personal family journey. Grace's dad is an inspiration to so many, and he is not the only one in his family who deals with scars of war. This book is dedicated to the brave men of Bravo Company, 2-508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, who fought alongside Grace's dad. The book is in tribute to Mike's military brothers: the ones who came home, and in loving memory of the ones who did not.

"Hero at Home" is an important read for those wishing to embrace the wounded heroes in their community and honor military families across the globe. Acknowledging that the war doesn't end upon homecoming, "Hero at Home" celebrates the contribution that our Veterans have made, and it shines a light on how vital it is to embrace these special families. One hundred percent of proceeds from "Hero at Home" go to benefit The Independence Fund's programs.



President
iPast
President

Paula
Jeanne
Smith
Assistant
Governor-
Union
County

Events

August 11th
Youth Services
Committee Monthly
Meeting
August 19th
Thirsty Thursday
Local Meet and
Greet

Birthdays

Gayle Fox
August 9th
Jeanne M. Pritt
August 14th
Kimberley Angeli
August 17th

Announcements

Service Volunteer Update By Lisa Hilbish

August is a busy month for us to make a difference in our community. Please check out the volunteer opportunities for August and let Lisa know where you can help. Thank you!

- **Thursday, August 5th - Common Heart Food Pantry Service (5:45-8:00) UPDATE: we have enough volunteers for August. The Matthews Rotary group will be volunteering with us at Common Heart for August. You can still sign up for September with the link below.**

Our Rotary club partners with The Common Heart Mobile Food Pantry at the Union UMC the first Thursday of every month. We unload the truck, organize the items, and pass out much needed food supplies to local families. This is one of our ongoing volunteer opportunities and we need



Marnie E. Carter
August 19th
William G. Whittaker
August 29th
Nate McDaniel
August 31st

Years of Service

Lisa Hilbish
08-17-2017
4 Years

Athanasios A
Koutsaftis
08-23-2018
3 Years

Ann H. Davis
08-08-2019
2 Years

Betsy Lamb
08-20-2020
1 Year

6 volunteers. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up.

Location: Union United Methodist Church 6315 New Town Rd., Waxhaw [Sign up here!](#)

- Saturday, August 14th Waxhaw Police Department and Waxhaw Community Back to School Bash (10:30 - 2:00) You can sign up by clicking the link below

This annual event provides free clothing, shoes, groceries, backpacks, school supplies and lunch to kids and families. We volunteer where needed that day. Please let Lisa know if you can make it.

Location: Waxhaw Elementary School, 1101 Providence Rd., Waxhaw [Sign up Here!](#)

- **August 19th (THURSDAY)** - Board Meeting after regular meeting & In place of Thirsty Thursday we are having a meet and greet with local businesses at: Waxhaw Tap House from 5:30-8:30 - food and drinks supplied. Please [RSVP](#) here or on DACdb

- Saturday, August 28th - United Way Day of Caring (8:00-11:00) You can sign up by clicking the link below

This event illustrates the power of uniting volunteers, organizations and resources to make a difference in our community. Volunteers help disabled or elderly members take care of their yard work (mowing, trimming, weeding, washing windows, pruning, etc.). Larry Hook is organizing this for us and he will know who we will be helping on August 8th. He needs at least 10 volunteers. Please let Larry or Lisa know if you can help. [Sign up Here!](#)

Location: TBD

- Sunday, August 29th (new date) - Union County Community Shelter (11:00-1:00) UPDATE: We have enough volunteers.

We have signed up to make lunch and Sherry and Michael McCoy will be leading our team. The shelter allows for 4 volunteers so we are looking for 2 more. We serve lunch at noon so you will need to be there at 11:00.

Location: 160 Meadow Street, Monroe

- Don't Forget **Flags for Heroes**. Don't forget to **sell, post, reach out and promote**. We will need people to put up and take down flags around 9/11.

If you have any announcements for the newsletter, send those to **Kate Turner at ktturner2991@gmail.com** by end of day Sunday.

Hybrid Meetings!

Hybrid meetings are now in effect. Whether you prefer to attend virtually or in person, it is always a great Thursday morning. Masks are optional and at individual discretion.

To participate in person:

Weddington Swim & Raquet Club
4315 Weddington Matthews Rd, Weddington, NC 28104

To participate virtually:

[Click to join Zoom meeting](#)

Meeting ID: 788 2144 2471
Passcode: 222910

At this new location volunteers are needed each week to:

- Set up and tear down tables and chairs
- Pick up breakfast
- Deliver any leftover breakfast to Waxhaw Police Department

Remember: Many hands make light work!

The Weekly Agenda

Welcome Waxhaw-Weddington Rotarians and Guests! Thursday, August 5th

7:30am	Breakfast and Social Time	
7:35am	Welcome	Marcus Watson
	Invocation & Pledge	(See Schedule)
7:40am	Guest Introductions	Athanasios Koutsaftis
	Health & Happiness	New Member
	Announcements	Committee Chairs
7:55am	Happy Dollars	Members
8:05am	Introduce Program	Paula Smith
	Program	(See Schedule)
	For the Good of Rotary	All
	The 4-Way Test	Marcus Watson

8:30am Adjourn
Room clean up

Invocation & Pledge Schedule

If you are scheduled to give the Invocation & Pledge but can not make that meeting, if you would please try to find someone to sub for you, we would greatly appreciate it!

Date	Member Name
August 5th	Ulanda Baker
August 12th	Ashley Bode
August 19th	Christopher Brantigan
August 26th	Cathy Burns

Speaker Schedule

Date	Topic	Speaker
August 5th	The Independence Fund - Champion for America's Veterans	Sarah Verardo
August 12th	Waxhaw Police Foundation	Earl Cook
August 19th	Chefs for Seniors - Rachel's Kindness Matters Movement	Cynthia Schick
August 26th	Foundation	Celeste & Tamar Slay

District Conference

District Conference - Charlotte, NC September 10-11, 2021

[Register NOW](#) or send your REGRET that you cannot attend by [clicking here](#).

Rotary
District 7680



District
Conference
September 10-11, 2021



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

*Fun, Fellowship,
&
Fabulous Venue!*

