

# CLUB NEWS

August 30, 2022



## The Wilmington Rotary Club



Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self

# Friendly meetings, more project work among President Dale's goals for year

Since taking over the president's gavel on June 27, Dale Smith has challenged the club's members to meet a series of goals for the 2022-23 Rotary year.

He elaborated on this during a presentation, with slide show, at the Aug. 9 club meeting. Those goals are:

1. Develop and sustain a comfortable, friendly, fun, relaxed atmosphere at meetings.
2. Increase the number and strengthen participation in community projects.
3. Increase net membership by five members.
4. Initiate a Rotaract Club at UNC-Wilmington.
5. Increase fundraising for both foundations.
6. Be the international sponsor for a Global Grant for the Salud Hondu health clinic in Honduras.
7. Have weekly programs that are interesting and informative or entertaining.

Dale's priorities for the year include the projects listed here, which use our club foundation's money (largely raised through our annual fundraisers), supplemented by District Grants. Those grants are competitive, awarded to some of the district's 50 clubs according to strict criteria.

Those include a project's sustainability and the active, hands-on participation of Rotarians.

### Community

DC Virgo gardening project. . . . .	\$3,600
Williston student of the month. . . . .	\$7,500
Williston dental clinic . . . . .	\$1,100
Williston Battle of the Books. . . . .	\$750
Williston Science Olympiad . . . . .	\$750
Williston teacher support. . . . .	\$1,900
Williston school store . . . . .	\$750
Cape Fear Literacy Council grant . . . . .	\$1,250
New Hanover High School grant. . . . .	\$2,000
Habitat for Humanity House . . . . .	\$6,000

### International

Honduras Global Grant . . . . .	\$5,000
Ukraine orphanages . . . . .	\$2,000
Moldova. . . . .	\$2,000
Kiva (microloans in developing countries) . . . . .	\$500
Guyana orphanage . . . . .	\$500
Emergency fund. . . . .	\$2,500

**Total . . . . . \$47,600**

## St. Mary's Tileston building to be club's new home

The club will have a new meeting place as of Sept. 6: The Upper Room in the Tileston building at St. Mary Catholic School.

Our Board of Directors unanimously accepted the recommendation of the location committee, which considered 15 different sites.

"Tileston meets the Four-Way Test and has the best venue for the price, with adequate parking," President Dale Smith announced.

Earlier this year, the board had selected Landfall Country Club as our new meeting place, but reconsidered that because many active members said that change would force them to resign due to conflict with their work schedules.

The change will not affect mem-



Board members visit our new meeting space. An elevator provides second-floor access.

ber dues. Sawmill Catering will continue to serve our lunches.

The meeting space is on the second floor of the old Tileston building, built in 1871 as a public school, at 412 Ann St. It has parking on site and on nearby streets.



Tileston School building, at 412 Ann St., is just off South Third Street.

Google Maps



## B&G Home kids get baseball outing

Rotarians David Grandey and Matt Hilliard, Boys & Girls Home Committee co-chairs, took ten residents of the home to the Down East Wood Ducks baseball game Aug. 21 in Kinston. The outing was done in tandem with Rotary District 7730's second annual End Polio Now! event. The kids joined approximately 25 Rotarians from throughout the District in the stadium's Mother Earth Pavilion.



Matt Hilliard and David Grandey enjoy a moment with the Wood Ducks' mascot.

Before the game, the entire Rotary group and each of the kids went onto the field to be recognized. Afterward, all were treated to a lunch. Each child received a special Wood Ducks baseball and a \$10 McDonald's gift card for dinner on the way home.



"There is no way I can capture how you took our kids under your arm, embraced them with kindness and made them feel comfortable, accepted and at home," said Joe Kennedy, director of community engagement for the Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina. "You guys are exactly the kind of folks we hope each of our children has the opportunity to meet and pour life and love into their life. Seeing the joy on our children's faces there with you at the Wood Ducks' game is the most significant expression of gratitude



This district banner was displayed at the game.

I can imagine."

"I am beyond words with the relationship that we are building," said Erika Brown, the homes' chief residential officer. "I can't thank you enough."

"It is probably the most fun and impactful day that I will have this calendar year," Matt Hilliard said.

Upcoming this winter are a pizza dinner and UNCW basketball game outing for the residents of the home's Rotary Cottage. To volunteer as a chaperon, see David or Matt.

## New Rotarians tell club about themselves

Two of the club's newest members introduced themselves to the club during July.

**Ramin "Ray" Bahar**, who joined the club May 10, gave his new-member talk July 12. He touched on living in two dozen countries before immigrating to North America and working in financial services. He was a 33-year member of several Rotary Clubs in New York State. His sponsor was Joe Owen.



Ray Bahar

**Amanda Norton**, who was also inducted May 10, spoke July 19. She is in the home health care, marketing and consulting business. Amanda was sponsored for membership by Albert Corbett.



Amanda Norton

## Habitat work to begin soon

In a joint effort with other clubs in southeastern North Carolina, we have committed \$6,000 toward the \$60,000 needed to build a Habitat for Humanity house. The participating clubs have raised more than half of that required sum. Cape Fear Habitat's Executive Director Lauren McKenzie spoke to us on Aug. 23 about how Habitat and its volunteers build houses. That includes labor — "sweat equity" — from the eventual home owners, plus volunteer labor from sponsor groups like ours. No carpentry skills are needed, just ability to swing a hammer.

Construction is expected to begin in early 2023. Besides the club's grant, personal contributions are being sought from Rotarians. If you can help with money, or with labor, talk to Mike Brown, who is coordinating the project for our club.

This club built a Habitat house in 1994-95. That home, on South Third Street, is still occupied by the family that built it alongside our members.

## Quarter-million grant sending medical supplies to Ukraine

Rotary District 7730 is participating in a \$250,000 multi-district grant to provide essential medical supplies to Ukraine. Each of ten districts is contributing \$25,000. Unlike most Rotary grant projects, no matching funds or financial commitments are required.

The participating districts' contributions come from the \$15 million in donations Rotary International has received to provide disaster aid to Ukraine, District Governor Nancy Carr said.

The host club is the L'viv International Rotary Club, which has identified the medical needs to be addressed. The grant also supports a non-profit partner, United Help Ukraine, which sources the supplies and ships these goods via Poland to L'viv in western Ukraine. The L'viv International club then distributes them throughout the country.

## A glimpse of history



The late Darryl Bruestle, right, ringing the bell for Salvation Army with Brett Blizzard and the late Chris McKeithan, circa 1990.

## Planning begins for 2023 Leaders in Service fundraiser

The club's Fundraising Committee is planning to hold our second annual Leaders in Service awards banquet the first week of May, 2023.

The committee also recommended a goal of raising at least \$85,000, with an ambitious "stretch" goal of \$100,000. The Board of Directors has endorsed those goals.

Co-chairs **Bob Kitchen** and **Terri Everett** reported on these preliminary plans at the Aug. 9 meeting.

The full committee will meet at 11:30 a.m. the third Tuesday of each month. Subcommittees will schedule other working meetings.

The selection committee, which **Cathy Barlow** chairs, will include

a majority of Rotarians plus outside members. They will choose the three honorees from nominations submitted by the public.

On Nov 1, we will present the 2022 award winners with a plaque inscribed with their names. This plaque will be updated each year.

**Christina Ferris**, co-chair of the banquet subcommittee, is looking for another Rotarian to help her lead that group, which will plan the awards presentation ceremony.

The subcommittee tasked with seeking sponsors has asked to have all necessary marketing material ready by late September. Solicitations will begin this fall.

## Young Rotarians pitch in at Virgo



Kyria Whisenhunt visits a D.C. Virgo classroom with one of her Paws4People trained service dogs.

The new Young Rotarians committee, for members under 40 years old, is working with the D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy. Its biggest project, supported by a \$3,600 club grant, is to improve plant beds in the school's garden.

The Virgo academy is a laboratory school operated by UNC-Wilmington's Watson College of Education.

Project participants include **Taft Martin**, **Worth Merritt**, **Jamie Stokley** and **Kyria Henry Whisenhunt**.

The project's purpose is to involve Rotarians with students, who were expected to help with the work.

Other ways the Young Rotarians are helping at Virgo include reading with teacher Kemeka Sidbury's sixth-grade science class on Monday afternoons.

The club has approved a \$3,600 grant to support the Virgo project.

## Darryl Bruestle, retired police chief and past president, dies at 88

Past President Darryl Bruestle, retired Wilmington police chief, died July 15 at 88.

Born April 16, 1934, in Pontiac, Michigan, Darryl graduated from Michigan State University's School of Criminal Justice in 1955, then served as an Army military police officer. After service with the Waterford Township Police Department in Michigan, he became police chief of Birmingham, MI.

He came to Wilmington as police chief in 1975 and joined this club in 1976, sponsored by Willard Anderson, Jr. He was the club's

president for 1986-87. He retired in 1991.

He was a graduate of the FBI Academy and served in the leadership of the International Association of Chiefs of Police. He contributed to developing continuing education programs for public safety officers at Cape Fear Community College. He was a deacon and elder at Winter Park Presbyterian Church.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Kaye Marie Bruestle; one sister, one son, two daughters, six grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.



## Supporting teachers, students at Williston

Left: Rotarian Laura Lisle presents a gift bag to a new Williston teacher. For more, SEE page 5.

Right: Williston students are introduced to a technology lab during Cape Fear Community College's middle school summer camp. For more, SEE page 4.

To learn more about other projects pending through our Williston Legacy Committee, SEE page 5.







Above: Williston students are introduced to the college's tech lab.

Left: students explore robotics, working in teams to assemble automated devices.

Right: figuring out how to assemble parts to create a working robot.



## Summer camp gives Williston students a taste of higher education courses at Cape Fear Community College campus

For two weeks starting July 11, rising seventh- and eighth-graders from Williston Middle School participated in a "Summer Academy" day camp at Cape Fear Community College's two campuses.

Rotarians helped, volunteering as chaperones. The program was free for students, thanks to a grant.

Students were introduced to different vocations available through the college's courses. Each session was hands-on, conducted by CFCC faculty members. Popular stops included the North Campus's Technology Lab, where students had an opportunity to build robots, and the barbering program at the downtown campus, where students got haircuts.

The Rotarian chaperones' duties were to make sure all members of the group were present and stayed together between classes, ensure that they got to know each other, and alert the camp liaison to any problems.

More than a dozen Rotarians volunteered to help.



CFCC retiree and former Rotarian Carl Brown with Williston students during one of summer camp's morning sessions.



Barber instructor give student a free haircut.



Students were introduced to potential cosmetology careers and to CFCC's various training options during this session on the downtown campus.



Giving gift bags to new Williston teachers were Laura Lisle, Steve Yates, Anna Erwin, and Cathy Barlow. Not pictured: Cat Marinich and Donna Shiro.

## Club gives supplies, treats to Williston's 18 new teachers

Six Rotarians presented gift bags to Williston Middle School's 18 new teachers on Aug. 22.

The bags contained Williston-branded insulated tumblers, gift cards to Walmart, Staples and Nothing Bundt Cakes, and a few school supplies. Bags were valued at over \$80 each.



New teachers received gift bags at orientation session on Aug. 22.

## Williston Committee plans coming year's projects

The club's Legacy Committee for Williston Middle School has asked the club's members to help in a long list of projects for the new school year. Co-chairs **Laura Lisle, Steve Yates** and **Anna Erwin** said they want "to make more of a Rotary presence at Williston and branch out."

The committee's areas of concentration will include the long-standing Student of the Month awards and the weekly teacher-snacks program. Other initiatives are:

**Book club.** This will meet weekly; its faculty sponsor, Beth Whittington, would like two Rotarians to read the club's assigned book and attend the meetings. This doesn't have to be the same two people every week.

**Science Olympiad.** We provide financial support and a cheering section for this annual competition. Details to be determined.

**Dental clinic.** A repeat of an event we sponsored May 7, offering free dental screening, is planned for this school year. Volunteers will be needed once this is organized.

**School store.** New this year, the store gives its students staff experience in running a business. It sells useful products including school supplies to the entire student body. Volunteer advisers are needed.

**Cape Fear Community College year-end field trip.** Chaperones will be needed for this outing for all the school year's Students of the Month.

**Cape Fear Community College summer camp.** We expect to continue offering volunteers for this project's second year. For details, SEE: *page 4*.

**Mentoring and tutoring.** The committee needs someone to organize this group, set schedules, and communicate with the teacher in charge.

**Social media.** Laura has asked all volunteers to take pictures when participating in any Williston function. She will collect all the photographs and coordinate their use with the Public Relations committee.

## Literacy Committee gives county's new teachers gift cards

Each of 81 beginning teachers in New Hanover County Schools got a \$20 Staples gift card from our club during an orientation session Aug. 16. It was a small effort to help teachers who often have to pay for their own classroom supplies.

During the meeting at Blair Elementary School, Rotarians **Mike Beaudoin, Anna Erwin, Joe Owen, Nick Rhodes** and **Steve Yates** explained how our club promotes literacy through support for our teachers and students.

Right: Steve Yates, Anna Erwin, Nick Rhodes, Mike Beaudoin and Joe Owen in 'Rotary Works' T-shirts; teachers with gifts.



Teachers with gift cards. Below, Rotarians talk literacy.







Salvation Army Maj. Ken Morris with a portion of the food donated Aug. 9.

## Rising costs require increase in club dues

As of July 1, dues for active members rose to \$260 a quarter, a \$30 increase. “Rule of 85” members will pay \$85, a \$10 increase, plus the cost of meals eaten. Treasurer Larry Sackett explained, “We bill backwards for R85 meals and forward for dues.”

Dues go mainly toward meeting room and meal expenses, plus Rotary International and District dues. Those are \$94 and \$54 per member, or a total of \$24,568 per year for the 166 members on our rolls June 30.

That number reflects a decline of around 50 members dropped from the rolls since 2020, some because of non-payment or non-attendance.

## Williston alum pursues degree in education



Former Williston Middle School teacher Sabrina Hill Black (now principal at D.C. Virgo) with Jahzar Fields, who was twice a Rotary Club Student of the Month while in middle school. Now a freshman at N.C. State, majoring in education, he received three scholarships totaling \$75k. He was partly raised by a grandmother who proudly recalled him receiving the Rotary SOM recognition.

## Rotarians donate foodstuffs

The club’s members contributed canned and other non-perishable food to the Salvation Army during a food drive Aug. 9. Another such drive will be held during our Sept. 6 meeting.

## Generous members honored as PHF, ‘plus’ or Major Donor

Several Rotarians have been recognized as significant contributors to The Rotary Foundation, the world-wide Rotary movement’s charitable arm. Donors are recognized as Paul Harris Fellows for contributing \$1,000 or more. Additional multiples of \$1,000 qualify donors as “plus” fellows.

On July 12, **Neal Andrew** was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow Plus 2, meaning he has given \$3,000 to the Rotary Foundation. **Lou DiGiusto** got his Plus 3 pin, representing \$4,000 in contributions.

**Michael Gillespie** was honored July 19 as a PHF+4, representing \$5,000 in Foundation gifts, and **Dale Smith** became a Plus 7, for \$8,000.

July 26, **Cedric Dickerson** received the medallion and other symbols of a Paul Harris Fellow for his first \$1,000 in contributions. **Donna Shiro** became a Plus 5, representing \$6,000.

On Aug. 23, **Albert Corbett** was recognized as a Major Donor. The Rotary Foundation bestows that honor on people who have given \$10,000 or more.



RB Richey, the club’s Foundation chair, congratulates Michael Gillespie for reaching PHF+4 status, and President Dale Smith, now at PHF+7, on July 19.



Neal Andrew with his wife, Beth, receiving his PHF+2 pin. The same day, July 12, Lou DiGiusto received his PHF+3 recognition.



Mary Dickerson accompanied her husband, Cedric, when he became a Paul Harris Fellow July 26. Donna Shiro became a PHF+5.



RB Richey with Paula and Albert Corbett on Aug. 23, when Albert was designated a Major Donor. That title reflected more than \$10,000 in gifts to The Rotary Foundation.



Moore: Human trafficking



Sackett: newspaper career



Clark: cybersecurity



Stoker: cybersecurity



Richey: Life without arms

## Human trafficking, news, cyber threats, disability, Coast Guard & Habitat among speakers’ subjects

Guest speakers have presented a wide range of topics in the past two months, including several in the inspirational or motivational category.

**Audrey Moore**, CEO of LUV (Lift up the Vulnerable) spoke June 21 about her group’s work to combat human trafficking.

Instead of a lunch meeting June 28, the club met that evening for President **Dale Smith’s** induction banquet at the Country Club of Landfall. For more on Dale’s presidential goals, SEE: *page 1*.

We did not meet July 5 because of



A Coast Guard color guard accompanied Capt. Matt Baer at the Aug. 2 meeting.

the Independence Day holiday.

Rotarian **Larry Sackett** discussed his long history in the newspaper business, and his role in founding *USA Today*, on July 12.

Guarding against cyber threats was the subject on July 19, when our speakers were **Dr. Ulku Clark** and **Geoff Stoker** of UNC-Wilmington’s cybersecurity office.

**Daniel Richey** delivered an inspiring message about overcoming disability on July 26. Richey was born without arms.

The U.S. Coast Guard’s history and current role in North Carolina was the topic on Aug. 2 for Capt. **Matthew Baer**, commander of the Coast Guard Sector North Carolina.

Aug. 9 was devoted to club business, as President **Dale Smith** outlined his goals for his presidential year. For details, SEE: *page 1*.

Opera House Theatre Company director **Ray Kennedy** returned on Aug. 16 with cast members from the upcoming production of the musical “Funny Girl” at Thalian Hall.

Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity Executive Director **Lauren McKenzie** spoke Aug. 23 about the group’s work to provide housing and how Rotarians, from this club and others, are needed to contribute money and volunteer work to the cause.



Baer: Coast Guard



Smith: Club goals, 2022-23



Kennedy: ‘Funny Girl’



McKenzie: Habitat

**Newsletter photos**  
by Robby Collins, Charlotte Davis, David Grandey, Peter Maloff, John Meyer, Donna Shiro, Steve Yates, and Caleb Price of New Hanover County schools

## Football is theme of multi-club Rotary barn party

Area Rotarians will kick off the college football season with a sports-themed social from 4 to 7:30 p.m. Sept. 17. The place is the barn on Gabe Rich’s mini-farm, 1018B Peterson Place in Olde Baymeade, off Middle Sound Loop Road.

Somewhat different from other after-hours socials, this one has a \$25 ad-

mission charge, which will cover food (“tailgate menu”), drinks (beer, wine and soda) and a DJ. That can be paid at the door, by cash or check.

“Wear your favorite college team paraphernalia,” organizers urge, and bring fan banners — and lawn chairs. RSVP to Ann LaReau by Sept. 10: 910-470-2378 or [annclareau@gmail.com](mailto:annclareau@gmail.com).



## Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, AUGUST 30

Community gardening, with **David Brenner** of Wilmington Green Community Garden.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

Wind energy off the North Carolina coast, with **John Hardin** of the N.C. Department of Commerce.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13

New facilities and business trends at the airport, with **Geoffrey Bourke**, director of ILM Airport.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

College football barn party, 4:30-7 p.m., 1018-B Peterson Place. \$25 per person; reservations required.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

Board of Directors meeting, 5:15 p.m. LS3P Architects conference room, 101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20

A cooperative approach to food insecurity, with **Cierra Washington** of the Northside Food Co-op.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

Nuclear power for a carbon-free future, with **Karen Williams**, corporate communicator for Duke Power.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4

District governor's official visit, with **Nancy S. Carr**, 2022-23 governor for Rotary District 7730.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 11

Vocational Fellowship Day, starting 12:00 noon, various locations to be assigned, with fellow Rotarians as hosts.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 17

Board of Directors meeting, 5:15 p.m. LS3P Architects conference room, 101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 18

An engineer's experiences with three nuclear disasters, with Rotarian **R.B. Richey**, former power plant manager.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

New Hanover County's proposed transit tax, with **Marie Parker** of WAVE Transit and **Mike Kozloski** of the Wilmington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Revisiting the Leaders in Service awards, with honorees **Chris Coudriet**, **J.C. Lyle**, and **Dr. Yousrey Sayed**.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Tribute to Veterans, in advance of Veterans Day.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Farm-City Week, speaker and program to be announced.

## Rotary news briefs

**Online meetings end, tech help needed.** Starting Aug. 2, the club has discontinued the "hybrid" meeting format that allowed members to attend virtually. This was a Board of Directors decision to encourage members to participate in person. It also stems from a shortage of members willing to help our technology committee, which has juggled all the electronic devices and connections needed to present meetings on Zoom.

**District offering DEI grants.** District 7730 is offering grants to encourage diversity, equity and inclusion. Applications must be submitted online via the District Calendar in DACdb no later than Sept. 20.

**District governor applicants needed.** District 7730 is soliciting potential leaders for the 2025-26 Rotary year. "It's a critical time in the growth of our district, and we're looking for leaders with vision, flexibility, and an unselfish desire to lead," said Allen Quigley, who will be governor for 2023-24. The district includes 50 clubs in 14 counties with more than 1,600 members.

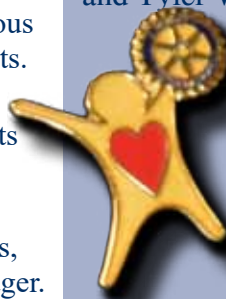
**Rich, Wooden honored with RISE award.** June 21, in his last regular meeting as 2021-22 president, Cleve Callison presented Rotarian in Service Excellence (RISE) pins to Gabe Rich and Tyler Wooden.



Gabe Rich



Tyler Wooden



Gabe has been active in promoting international projects, including current work in Ukraine, Moldova, Guyana and Honduras. Tyler has been a mainstay of the Technology Committee, keeping our hybrid meetings and audio-visual equipment working.

**Attraction books on sale again.** Our annual sales of the coupon-filled Attractions books began in August. George Gates is coordinating this project, with advice and counsel from Harley Sacks, who is still in California recuperating from joint replacement surgery. Half of each book's \$25 cover price stays with the club.

**Membership Summit.** To help clubs recruit and retain members, District 7730 plans a Membership Summit Sept. 17 at Sampson Community College in Clinton. It runs from 9:45 a.m. until 4 p.m. Registration opens at 9 a.m. Cost is \$10, to cover a box lunch.

### Board of Directors Meeting

5:15 pm, 3rd Monday of each Month  
LS3P Architects conference room  
101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor  
Wilmington, NC 28401

### Get In Touch

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### Submit News Items

Send photos or other information for the newsletter to [john@capefearpublishers.com](mailto:john@capefearpublishers.com). Please include all pertinent names, dates, etc.

### Website

[www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org](http://www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org)