

CLUB NEWS

December 14, 2021



The Wilmington
Rotary
Club



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES *Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self*

Fundraising: sponsors sought for our 'Leaders in Service' awards in 2022

An ambitious new fundraising project has gotten under way, with the objective of tapping local corporations and other businesses as major sponsors. Chaired by President-elect Dale Smith, the Fundraising Committee has sought nominations for three "Leaders in Service" awards, to be presented at a May 5, 2022 banquet at UNC-Wilmington's Burney Center.



Dale Smith

Awards will be presented to top executives in three categories of enterprises: business, government, and non-profit. Criteria for the awards are that these leaders are addressing one or more of the Seven Areas of Rotary Focus, conduct their business and their personal lives in harmony with Rotary's Four-Way Test, and have demonstrated a commitment to diver-

Leaders in Service
Service Above Self



sity, equity and inclusion.

Members of the Fundraising Committee will be soliciting sponsorships from targeted corporations. Sponsorship levels are Platinum for \$10,000 or more; Gold, \$5,000; and Silver, \$2,500. Our objective is to net at least \$40,000 after expenses, equal to our most successful fundraisers of recent years.

Another objective is to get more of that sum from the broader community, rather than relying almost exclusively on our own membership, as we have in previous years. Unlike many Rotary clubs' fundraisers, ours have mainly been funded internally, through sponsorships and ticket sales to members.

Both the corporate sponsorships and

individual ticket sales will benefit our non-profit charitable arm, the RCDW Foundation.

In return for their support, sponsors will be recognized at the awards banquet and in public media advertising, and will receive multiple tickets to the May 2022 awards banquet.

Funds raised through the Leaders in Service awards will be allocated during the 2022-23 Rotary year, which begins July 1, 2022.

Individual tickets will be available for the May 5 awards banquet, at a projected rate of \$125 per person. That will still give our members an opportunity to contribute to the event without necessarily having to hit the large sponsorship targets.

Details about Leaders in Service can be found on the club website:

www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org/fundraiser.php

A special website, aimed at soliciting both nominations and sponsorships, has also been set up. Its address is:

www.bizleaders2022.org

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Rotary International president to join us on January 11

Our club will have the distinct honor of hosting Rotary International's president at our regular meeting on Jan. 11, 2022. **Shekhar Mehta** of Calcutta, India, will be in Southeastern North Carolina for the purpose of speaking at the annual District 7730 Foundation Banquet, where he will be guest speaker. That event will take place the evening of Jan. 11 at River Landing Country Club in Wallace. Rescheduled from November, the Foundation Banquet is sold out.

Mehta will spend some time in Wilmington before speaking at the Foundation dinner. During his visit to our club's meeting, he is not scheduled to play any formal part in our program, but is



Shekhar Mehta

expected to speak to us briefly.

Although each RI president travels worldwide during their year in office, it is possible to visit only a tiny fraction of the 46,000-plus Rotary clubs in more than 200 nations and other geographic areas around the globe.

Our Public Relations Committee, in coordination with District 7730, is working on getting news media coverage for Mehta's visits to Wilmington and to Wallace.

Mehta is a member of the Rotary Club of Calcutta-Mahanagar in the Indian state of West Bengal. As his presidential theme, he has chosen "Serve to Change Lives."

Leaders in Service

Continued from page 1

As of the nomination deadline, Dec. 10, approximately 20 nominations had been received, most from club members but some from the public.

As part of a special sponsorship deal with *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*, that weekly paper ran a half-page ad for this project on Nov. 19.

The award recipients will be chosen by a screening committee. It is scheduled to meet in late December to review the applications and narrow down the nominations to three in each category. Then, during the first week of January, the committee will select the final three who will receive the awards.

How members can help

Meanwhile, a sponsors subcommittee, chaired by Chris Riley and John Hatcher, has developed a marketing packet and a list of potential sponsors.

This packet will be ready when we conduct a training program for all the volunteers who are going to find and secure sponsors. Those volunteer Rotarians will kick off the solicitation campaign in mid to late January. As of early December, 17 members have signed up to solicit sponsors. We can still use more. Your contacts are as important as your time and your belief in what we do. Every volunteer will have an opportunity to select—and to recommend—the contacts they wish to pursue.

Want to help? See Chris Riley or John Hatcher. Or talk to Dale. This is one of those all-hands-on-deck moments, so if you believe in this club, please step up.

A subcommittee chaired by Angela MacKinnon has selected the Burney Center at UNC-Wilmington as the banquet venue. That banquet subcommittee will now start working on the details of the menu. They would also welcome any help, as would the Public Relations Committee, which will be publicizing the fund-raiser from now until May.

Don't talk membership when introducing guests

President Cleve Callison issued a protocol reminder on Oct. 28: It's not appropriate to mention potential membership when introducing guests.

"It is awkward," he said, for guests to hear mentions of "a second visit" or a pending membership application. Remember: all applications are subject to vetting; not all are approved.

Shared Biz Expo exhibit plugs Rotary, local clubs



Dale Smith and Bob Kitchen at the Rotary booth, with literature from Rotary International and local clubs.



David Morrison is positioned to greet passersby in the aisle, while Jane Morrow, Cleve Callison and Jim Edge staff the booth. Jane is from the Cape Fear Rotary Club.

Our club, with three others, flew the Four-Way Test flag at the Greater Wilmington Business Expo on Oct. 7.

Our purpose was to introduce Rotary to Wilmington's business community. Volunteers staffed a booth, answered questions about Rotary and local clubs, and distributed literature. The annual trade show took place in the Wilmington Convention Center.

It was the second time Wilmington-area clubs had shared a booth at the Expo; we were part of a similar effort in 2016.

Although turnout was somewhat sparse due to concerns about the Covid pandemic—total masking was required, per New Hanover County regulations—we got contact information from a good number of people who wanted more information about area Rotary clubs. That data was supplied to the participating clubs' Membership Committees.

David Morrison coordinated the event and scheduled the volunteers, who came from the Cape Fear, East and West clubs in addition to our own.

Covid rules remain in flux; vaccine a must for meetings, masks requested

As local government mandates have changed, and our meeting host's rules have also evolved, the club is still focused on keeping its members healthy.

As of mid-December, our policy—set by the Board of Directors—is that any member or guest who attends club meetings or other functions must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19. Those who are not vaccinated, for any reason, are asked to stay home but invited to join our meetings via Zoom link.

Grace United Methodist Church has eased its requirements for anyone using its buildings. That means mask-wearing is no longer required, but our club still encourages members to wear them except while eating or speaking from the lectern. The church also relaxed its food-service rules. So we can now help ourselves from the lunch buffet; volunteer servers are no longer needed.

As of Nov. 29, with many unknowns about the new Omicron variant of the Covid virus, President Cleve Callison reiterated this admonition: "Many Rotarians, including me, have become casual about wearing masks. However, current Board policy still strongly recommends (but does not require) the use of masks." He urged "the prudent course of action," as follows: "Do not attend our meetings if you have not been vaccinated; use Zoom instead. Please wear a mask unless you are eating, and then put it back on after you have finished."

New members hear about committees at orientation

Recently inducted Rotarians were invited to get involved through a presentation on Oct. 18 from the club's committee chairs.

show that if members don't feel engaged in the first two years they leave." Presentations from the other committee chairs were meant

This casual afternoon get-together, organized by the club's Membership Engagement Committee, took place in the backyard of Albert and Paula Corbett's home on the banks of Bradley Creek.

Invited to the orientation were the 30 or so members who joined since just before the Covid pandemic. "Our club didn't get a chance to get these members a good start," said committee chair Charlotte Davis. "Rotary statistics

to help new members figure out how they could best get involved in the club's work.

Afterward, Charlotte reports, a number of the committees got new members to volunteer.

A related project was to gather written summaries about the committees' functions, which are now on a new page on the club's website:

www.wilmingtonrotaryclub/committees.php



Charlotte Davis at new-member orientation.



Past President Robby Collins addresses new members at outdoor orientation session on Oct. 18.



New members and committee chairs on the Corbetts' lawn.

Club adds members; new Rotarians introduce themselves

Although our membership has dwindled slightly since the Covid pandemic began, a steady stream of new members is bringing new blood to the club.

Steve Lester, who joined Sept. 28, sponsored by Joe Owen, is retired from investment banking with J.C. Bradford & Co.

Also inducted on Sept. 28 was **Christina Ferris**, who is development director for Wilmington's Habitat for Humanity chapter.

Lloyd, a retired dentist, is a 43-year Rotarian, formerly with the Raleigh Crabtree club.

John Fonda was inducted Nov. 30, sponsored by Albert Corbett. He is a lawyer in civil practice.



Steve Lester



Christina Ferris



Mary Ann Broughton

Broughton, sponsored by Steve Coggins, also joined on Sept. 28. She is donor relations manager for StepUp Wilmington.

Inducted on Oct. 12 were **Louis DiGiusto** and **Lloyd Rothschild**. Both were sponsored by Joe Owen. Lou is a retired marketing/media professional and has been a Rotarian for 44 years. He was president of the Jacksonville Downtown Club in Florida.

Lloyd, a retired dentist, is a 43-year Rotarian, formerly with the Raleigh Crabtree club.

John Fonda was inducted Nov. 30, sponsored by Albert Corbett. He is a lawyer in civil practice.



Lou DiGiusto



Lloyd Rothschild



John Fonda

Also joining Nov. 30 was **Mary English**. She is an accountant and is the granddaughter of Rotarian Dick McGraw. Her sponsor for membership was Wilbur Jones.

New-member talks resume

Talks by new members resumed recently. Telling us a bit about their backgrounds have been Jack Clark and Shemeka Henderson Kemp Nov. 2, Tiffany Kitchen and Christina Ferris Nov. 23, and Erica Talbert Dec. 4. Jack joined the club Dec. 1, 2020; Shemeka and Erica, April 27, 2021; Tiffany on Aug. 17, 2021.



Mary English



Jack Clark



Shemeka Kemp



Erica Talbert



Tiffany Kitchen





Worth Merritt used a drone to capture these aerial images of Rotarians at work in the Rotary Wheel Garden, thus not putting himself above the service.

Garden clean-up work goes above and beyond

Volunteers from our club and others gathered on Oct. 23 to clean up the grounds at the Rotary Wheel Garden in Greenfield Park. Primary tasks included pulling weeds and removing leaves and other debris.

In exchange for bringing tools, energy and “a fun attitude” in committee chair Terry Smith’s words, volunteers were supplied with coffee, bagels, and water.

Terry has secured financial pledges from area clubs to help support the garden’s maintenance.



Volunteers revive Youth Leadership Awards day

A dozen Rotarians, eight of them from our club, spent a Saturday morning in December with some of the best and brightest students from New Hanover County’s public high schools.

The Wilmington conference of the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) resumed Dec. 4 at UNC-Wilmington, after the Covid pandemic cancelled the 2020 event. Tight timelines limited participation to the four largest public high schools. Ordinarily, students are also invited from the private and early college high schools.

Rotarian discussion leaders presided over a series of 35-minute conversations with rotat-

ing groups of students, all high school juniors. The leaders rated the students on such qualities as participation, listening, and the relevance of their comments. Out of several dozen participants, the ten ranked highest were selected to attend the District 7730 RYLA conference in January.

Participating were Terri Everett, Christina Ferris, Bob Kitchen, Angela MacKinnon, John Meyer, Terrie Nelson, R.B. Richey, Robin Schoolfield, and Rob Zapple from our club, and Jean Hall from Cape Fear Rotary, Ron Copley and Scott Rebein from Wilmington East, and John Hinriches from WilmingtonWest.



Above: R.B. Richey welcomes high school juniors to RYLA conference. Below: Robin Schoolfield in an informal conversation with students between official round-table discussion sessions.



Boys & Girls Homes get new trees

Rotarians (and family) improved the grounds at the Boys & Girls Home in Lake Waccamaw on Nov. 20.

David Grandey, Terry Smith, Matt Hilliard and Matt’s family planted four pecan trees and two hollies. The pecans are part of an extensive orchard that provides a product the home sells as a revenue source.

On Oct. 5, the club heard from Mason Smith, director of community engagement for the Boys and Girls Home, who challenged us to participate in a service project there. “So this is our opportunity!” said committee co-chair David Grandey.

“The grounds of the Boys and Girls Home are a much better place,” Smith said afterward, “thanks to the efforts of the Wilmington Rotary Club.”



Terry Smith; the Hilliard family, Ella, Bess, Tory and Matt; and David Grandey pose with their handiwork on the Boys & Girls Homes campus.



Foundation donors recognized as Paul Harris Fellows



Bob and Tiffany Kitchen did each other’s honors as new Paul Harris Fellows Oct. 16.



R.B. Richey presents Rob High with his Paul Harris Fellow ‘plus one’ pin on Sept. 28.



Tolis Vardakis became ‘plus four’ on Oct. 16.

Several members were recognized recently as Paul Harris Fellow for \$1,000 donations to The Rotary Foundation, or got “plus” pins for repeated donations of multiple thousands. ‘Plus 1’ represents \$2,000 in donations, for example.

From left: Terri Everett, a new Paul Harris Fellow, and Tom Dodson, ‘plus 3’, on Dec. 7; Michael Gillespie, ‘plus three’ on Nov. 9; Terry Smith, a new Fellow on Oct. 16; and Bill Fuller, ‘plus 3,’ Sept. 28.



Veterans celebrated in parade, in print and at meeting



Left: Navy veterans Wilbur Jones and R.B. Richey rode in the parade on Nov. 6. Julie Rehder (right) and Dale Smith (below) were among the Rotarians cheering them on a cold, blustery morning.



Right: Rotarians gather for an informal lunch at Terri Everett’s home after Veterans’ Day parade.



Terri Everett

For the third time, our club organized special observances for Veterans Day, including participation in the city’s parade on Nov. 6, publication of a tribute to the club’s military veterans, and special recognition at our Nov. 9 meeting.

Terri Everett headed this year’s Veterans’ Day Committee, and hosted the parade’s participants and spectators for lunch at her house downtown.

On Nov. 9, a Marine Corps color guard presented the flag, and the third edition of our annual Tribute to Veterans was distributed. Our speaker was the secretary of the state Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Walter Gaskin.

Right: A Marine color guard from Camp Lejeune presented the flag at our Veterans Day program.



Printed copies of ‘Salute to Veterans’ can be picked up at meetings. See digital version on the club website.





Scanlon: Symphony



Errante: Symphony



Whisenhunt: Paws4People



Snow: dyslexia awareness



Harrell: The Hill School



Smith: Boys & Girls Homes



Fernando: Wilson Center



Gaskin: services for vets



Jeynes: Doncaster, England



Richey: Rotary Foundation



Rich: International projects



Harding: Farm Bureau

Arts, youth, vets, disabilities, & farmers are program topics

During the last quarter of 2021, our programs were a mix of guest speakers and club business.

On Sept. 28, our speakers were **Liz Scanlon**, CEO of the Wilmington Symphony, and **Steven Errante**, the conductor. They described the orchestra's 50-year history and upcoming season, and played short videos of memorable performances.

The Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina were the topic for Oct. 5. **Mason Smith**, the homes' liaison with civic clubs, brought us up to date on the Lake Waccamaw institution's mission and its long relationship with Rotary. For a recent Rotary project there, SEE: *page 4*.

On Oct. 12, Rotarian **Kyria Henry Whisenhunt** presented an update on Paws4People, her agency that trains assistance dogs for people with special needs, such as post-traumatic stress disorder. Our club has given the group financial and volunteer help.

Our Oct. 19 speaker was **Nikki Peterson Snow**, associate director of the Hill School of Wilmington. It serves children with dyslexia. With her was Rotarian **Susan Harrell**, the executive director.

The club's International Projects Committee presented our Oct. 26 program. Rotarian **Gabe Rich**, the committee's chair, introduced **Donna Flake**, president of Wilmington East Rotary Club, who described a health-education project in Moldova, and accepted a \$1,000

check from our club. Our members then browsed table-top displays with details about that and other international projects we support.

On Nov. 2, for Foundation Week, Past District Governor **R.B. Richey** described the current status of The Rotary Foundation, how it recognizes its donors, and how it supplies grant funding to Rotary projects both around the world and locally. For our club's latest Paul Harris Fellow recognitions, SEE: *page 4*.

Retired Marine Corps **Lt. Gen. Walter Gaskin**, secretary of the N.C. Department of Military and Veterans Affairs, spoke Nov. 9 about the state's services for veterans. For more about our Veterans Day observances, SEE: *page 5*.

Our Nov. 16 program was our annual Farm-City Week presentation. **Shawn Harding**, president of the N.C. Farm Bureau, spoke about current challenges facing the state's farmers.

Cape Fear Community College's Wilson Center and its upcoming slate of touring Broadway shows was the focus of **Shane Fernando's** presentation Nov. 23. As vice president of advancement and the arts, he is in charge of the performing arts center's management.

Our Nov. 30 meeting was a first, a trans-Atlantic presentation delivered via the internet, Zoom software, and the club's big new video

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Programs

Continued from previous page

monitor. **Colin Jeynes** of England's Doncaster Rotary Club presented a slide show about his home town, one of Wilmington's sister cities.

Dec. 7 was a club assembly, focused on summaries of major committees' work. President-elect **Dale Smith** reported on the Leaders in Service fund-raising project. For details on that, SEE: *page 1*.



Rotarian Ben David brought Potter, an assistance dog that Paws4People trained, to Kyria Whisenhunt's presentation about her agency's work. Potter spends his days at the District Attorney's office, helping witnesses, crime victims and others who are coping with trauma and stress.



A portion of Rotarian Colin Jeynes' slide show, as displayed on our 75-inch monitor. His presentation was transmitted live from Doncaster, England on Nov. 30.

Other images are from screen grabs captured from recorded 'hybrid' club meetings conducted via Zoom software.

Members learn about global projects



President Donna Flake of Wilmington East Rotary accepts \$1,000 check to aid a health-education project in Moldova.



After Gabe Rich concluded his presentation, members perused exhibits that detailed international projects we are supporting, in cooperation with other Rotary Clubs.



In Sierra Leone, west Africa, we support initiatives in health, sanitation, water supply, agriculture, and rural economic development.



Moldova, far left, and Ukraine are former Soviet republics in eastern Europe. Projects we support include dental care, public health information, and support for young adults aging out of orphanages.



In Guyana, South America, we contributed to a project that upgraded the water supply system for an orphanage in the capital, Georgetown.

New tech committee runs hybrid meetings

This year, the club has faced daunting technological challenges, integrating online participants with in-person meetings. Several times, in President Cleve Callison's words, things "went haywire." To get such things better under control, the club formed a new Technology Committee. Its mandate, Cleve said: "to avoid this kind of snafu, or burnout down the line."

Answering that challenge were **Lucy Holman**, **Charlotte Davis**, and **Tyler Wooden**. Every Tuesday morning, they set up all the necessary equipment, including the 75-inch flat-screen monitor the club bought in July, microphones, cameras, computers and miscellaneous adapters and cables. Tyler and **Larry Sackett** each donated a gently used MacBook Pro, which

the committee uses to moderate the online chat function (and mute Zoom participants who forget to do so themselves.) When not in use, the equipment is locked up. The exception is the big monitor, which we allow our hosts, Grace Church, to use.

Other tasks for the committee are making sure program content, such as slide shows and videos, are properly displayed on the monitor for in-person attendees and online for anybody participating remotely. The tech crew also records and posts each session online for those who can't attend.



Newsletter photos by Robby Collins, John Meyer, Bob Kitchen, Worth Merritt, and David Grandey

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14

Annual family holiday party, with **Santa Claus** and musical entertainment.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21

No meeting; Christmas holiday.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

No meeting; New Year holiday.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 4

Program and speaker to be announced.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

Protecting children through the Guardian ad Litem program. With District Court Judge **J. Corpening**.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 11

District 7730 Foundation Banquet, with **Shekhar Mehta**, president of Rotary International, 5:30 p.m., River Landing Country Club, N.C. 41, Wallace.

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18

Sustainable landscapes: water, trees and hurricanes, with **Lloyd Singleton**, New Hanover ag extension director.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25

U.S. Colored Troops monument at Cameron Art Museum, with Executive Director **Anne Brennan**.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1

Program and speaker to be announced.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8

Rookie Teachers of the Year awards. With Rotarian **Joe Owen** and New Hanover County educators.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Program and speaker to be announced.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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



Scan this code to donate to CART using a card.

Use QR code for CART contribution

Want to contribute to the CART buckets for Alzheimer's research, but don't carry cash? A good idea and some ingenious work by a few Rotarians has solved that problem. Now each blue bucket on our lunch tables will have a QR code attached. When scanned by the camera on any smartphone, the code brings up a secure online payment form. (The code on this page works, too.)

Rotary news briefs

'Our Stories' needs your voice. A project of District 7730's DEI Committee, "Our Stories: Brave Conversations on Race" resumes on Jan. 24. For six weeks, groups of ten people—five White, five Black—will meet online to discuss race, racism and social justice. Trained facilitators will ask questions and encourage dialogue, learning, and finding common ground. Sessions will be weekday evenings and Saturday mornings. Get details and register online at www.ourstoriesonrace.org.

District launches polio initiative. In recognition of World Polio Day on Oct. 24, District 7730 began a PolioPlus Society. The purpose is to direct contribution to The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus Fund, which continues to push for total eradication of the debilitating viral disease. Joining the society requires a pledge of at least \$100 annually to the PolioPlus Fund of The Rotary Foundation. Here's how: tinyurl.com/PolioPlus7730

Rotarians organize to give blood. Wilmington's Rotary clubs have partnered with the American Red Cross to sponsor a blood drive from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 16, at Independence Mall. To schedule an appointment, go to www.redcrossblood.org and search by sponsor code: "Rotary Wilmington" or call 800-733-2767. Wilmington East Rotary Club organizes these events.

Clubs join for Fifth Wednesday. This occasional inter-club social event was last held on Sept. 29 at the City Club downtown. Members of all six Wilmington Rotary clubs were invited. As usual, the host venue offered complimentary hors d'oeuvres; those attending bought their own drinks from the club's bar.

Help sought for Boys & Girls Home. The committee focused on helping the Lake Waccamaw institution is planning a movie night there in the spring of 2022. Co-chairs **Matt Hilliard** and **David Grandey** are asking any Rotarians who would like to get involved on their committee to contact them. For more about a recent project, SEE: *page 4*.

Raffle awards fellowship. A special raffle for buyers of the *Attractions* coupon books was held on Nov. 9, and Rotarian **John Lilly**'s name was pulled. Because the \$1,000-plus proceeds from the book sales went to The Rotary Foundation, John's Paul Harris Fellow status will rise to "plus two."

Now, instead of putting coins or bills in the bucket, you can charge your credit or debit card. Donations to Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust will be processed through a Rotary PayPal account. Credit for the idea goes to **Robin Schoolfield**; technical execution, **Larry Sackett**.

Before Covid 19, CART donations averaged more than \$200 a week but have fallen sharply. This new tool could help us get back to that level.

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

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Submit News Items

Send photos or other information for the newsletter to john@capefearpublishers.com. Please include all pertinent names, dates, etc.

Website

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org