



BE THE INSPIRATION



Sponsors, auction items needed for big wine tasting fund-raiser April 16

It's that time of year again: time to prepare for the club's major fund-raiser, the wine-tasting party on April 16.

What that means right now for all members of the club is that we each step up to help in at least one of three ways:

- Become a sponsor. Pledge \$250 or more, which will get you two or more tickets and recognition for your business, family or personal cause.

- Buy tickets, and sell tickets to friends and business associates. Individual tickets cost \$75.

- Donate or get donations of products or services for the silent auction that's a part of the wine-tasting evening.

This event is the source for the great majority of the club's resources. It's how we fund our projects both locally and internationally. Proceeds go to our club's non-profit foundation, which makes grants to the causes we support.

These vary from year to year, but two high-profile projects have gotten major funding through several budget cycles.

- Our Centennial Legacy Project in support of Williston Middle School has been a central part of the club's work since 2011.

- Starting in 2014, we have organized and supported major water-supply projects for rural communities in Guyana, with financial help from other clubs, our district and Rotary Foundation Global Grants.

Other ongoing projects include our annual recognition for outstanding public safety officers, the Service Above Self Awards; recognition for beginning teachers, the Rookie of the Year awards; and our literacy efforts in targeted elementary schools.

The photos on this page show a couple of our current grant projects; for a look at some other causes we support, SEE: *pages 2 and 5*.

A ticket to the wine tasting provides an opportunity to sample more than 175 wines from around the world, offered by dozens of vineyards and distributors, plus microbrews for beer fanciers. You'll be able to place orders to buy bottles of those you like best. Also featured: food in the form of Southern style heavy hors d'oeuvres and an outstanding social evening.

If you have not already become a sponsor, it's easy: seek out Chris Ri-

ley, Henry Brown, or John Hatcher and make your pledge. Have a more modest budget but want tickets for yourself or to sell to others? They can set you up with individual tickets, too.

Have auction items to donate? See Angela McKinnon, who is organizing that part of the event.

However you can participate, remember that the wine-tasting evening is every Rotarian's best opportunity to support our community this year.

A portion of your contribution may be tax deductible. Checks for sponsorships should be made payable to the RCDW Foundation. On request, sponsorships can be added to your quarterly foundation bill.

Kim Loye, left front, Williston Middle School's library director, accepts the club's donation to support the school's Battle of the Books team. Rotarians pictured are President Cathy Barlow and Steve Yates, front, and David Grandey, Todd Turner and Donna Shiro, rear. This is an example of the work our club's foundation supports through its annual fund-raiser.



Work is under way on a well and distribution system that will supply the village of Old England, Guyana with safe, reliable water. This joint project is largely financed using money from our foundation, supplemented with Rotary district and global grants and help from other clubs. An example of what our fund-raiser is for.



Harris the service dog goes through basic training at paws4people's Castle Hayne facility. Left, she gets familiarized with the sights and sounds of equipment in a dental office; above, she learns self-control, remaining in her crate until summoned to come out. Right, Rotarian Kyria Henry, paws4people director, introduces Harris to JoAnn Daley at the club's pre-Christmas family holiday party.



Club builds wheelchair ramp for agency that supplies service dogs

A major grant from both district and club sources has been put to use building a wheelchair ramp on the Castle Hayne campus of paws4people. The agency trains assistance dogs for clients including veterans and children.

The \$5,000 grant was a match between funds from our club's non-profit foundation and a grant from Rotary District 7730. The grant covered the majority of the ramp's \$6,845 cost; private donations paid for the rest.

In addition to the wheelchair ramp, our club has helped with other physical improvements to the agency's property. Three Rotarians, Russell Nugent, Mollie Shiflet and Donna Shiro, volunteered to paint an exterior wall around the building's back yard on a cold day in January.

In recognition of the help from Rotary, paws4people executive director Kyria Henry, a member of this club, named an assistance dog in training for Rotary founder Paul Harris.

Harris the dog visited the club during our holiday party on Dec. 18. Like all the agency's dogs, Harris went through training intended to socialize her and prepare her to deal with a wide range of situations that clients will encounter.

On Jan. 23, Harris was delivered to the West Virginia prison system, where inmates will continue her training, with emphasis on obedience and particular helping skills. Typical training for assistance dogs takes around 16 months. Then Harris will be matched with a client and return to Wilmington, where students from UNCW's College of Health and Human Sciences will complete her training.

The early phase of her training included learning to remain in her crate until asked to come out, and gaining familiarity with medical equipment, such as in a dental office. She was trained to navigate the wheelchair ramp, as she would need to do with a physically disabled client.



A \$5,000 club and district grant paid most of the cost of this ramp for paws4people clients.



Rotarians Russell Nugent, Mollie Shiflet and Donna Shiro braved January chill to paint this wall at paws4people. As with all club projects and events, they also earned make-up credit.



String section from Williston Middle School orchestra plays at the club's holiday family party on Dec. 18. Proceeds from the day's dessert auction were donated to benefit the school's music program and will be used to help finance a trip to Washington for the student musicians.

The auction and donations raised \$6,032.



Holiday party combines family fun with fund-raising for Williston music program



Mom, come on!

Eager daughter Addison, left, urges Past President Stacy Ankrum to hurry in so she can see Santa Claus at the club's annual family holiday party Dec. 18.

Ugly sweater contestants, ranked at random, not by bad taste, were Chris Utesch, Chris Hoenig, Elaine Andrews, Mike Beaudoin, Joe Augustine, Tyler Layton, Bret Paterson.



Past President Mike Beaudoin peruses goodies offered for sale at Dollars for Desserts auction, our annual fund-raiser for Williston Middle School's band and orchestra. Mike was also a competitor, though far from the most egregious, in the holiday sweater competition as seen at left.

Programs address recovery from Florence, state's resources, economy, Alzheimer's research, relaxation and rookie teachers



Coudriet: New Hanover

The aftermath of Hurricane Florence has been an important part of the club's business in recent months, including our weekly programs.

We closed out 2018 with our annual family holiday party on Dec. 19, which included the "Dollars for Desserts" auction to benefit Williston Middle School's music program. For more on that, SEE: *page 3*.

The new year began with two county managers discussing how their communities are coping with post-storm recovery. Rotarian **Chris Coudriet**, New Hanover County's manager, and Pender County Manager Randy Woodruff, both spoke at the Jan. 8 meeting.

Public affairs remained in the spotlight when **Susi Hamilton**, North Carolina's secretary of natural and cultural resources, spoke on Jan. 15. Hamilton, a former member of this club, is also a former state representative.

A look at our region's economic prospects was the topic on Jan. 22 when **Dr. Adam Jones**, an economist with UNC-Wilmington's Cameron School of Business, was guest speaker.

We returned to the subject of hurricane recovery on Feb. 5, when several Rotarians discussed their personal experiences in coping with hurricane damage to their homes and businesses. **Melissa Gott** described how she and her children dealt with damage that forced them out of their home. Past President **Elaine Andrews** spoke about the aftermath of water damage that put her

family's restaurant out of business for five months.

Appropriately in light of the physical and psychological toll of such challenges, the following week's program was about coping with stress. On Feb. 12, **Holly Konrady**, a Wilmington yoga instructor, demonstrated and described techniques for calming and relaxing ourselves.

The club's annual celebration of teachers took up the program slot on Feb. 19. New Hanover County's superintendent of schools, **Tim Markley**, introduced the five finalists who had been selected as rookie teachers of the year. Each of the five spoke about their reasons for teaching.

Each of the five was presented with a plaque and a check for \$500; the winner got \$1,000. Honored were:

Alisha Little, who teaches third grade at Ogden Elementary school.

Stacey Maurer, who teaches fifth grade at Wrightsboro Elementary school.

Stephen O'Neil, who teaches drafting at Ashley High School.

Alexandra Schaivone, who teaches English in the Lyceum program at New Hanover High School.

Jennifer Yates, who teaches in the Johnson Pre-Kindergarten Center.

All are new to teaching, but not all are recent college graduates; both Maurer and O'Neil recently changed careers.

Winner of the Rookie of the Year award and the \$1,000 grant was Stacey Maurer.



Jones: economic outlook



Woodruff: Pender County



Lecci: Alzheimer's research



Road to recovery

Plenty of work still remains to help our region fully recover from Hurricane Florence. For information on how to designate club Foundation contributions for local hurricane aid, or to help our district's hurricane recovery project in Puerto Rico, SEE *page 7*.



Andrews: storm impact



Konrady: stress reduction



Markley: Teacher awards



Hamilton: Culture/Nature



Gott: Florence recovery



Club honors rookie teachers of the year

These five teachers in the New Hanover County Schools were recognized with the club's annual 'Rookie Teacher' awards on Feb. 19. Along with a plaque came a \$500 check for each finalist; the winner was presented with \$1,000. From left: Stephen O'Neil, Ashley High School; Alisha Little, Ogden Elementary School; Stacey Maurer, the winner, Wrightsboro Elementary School; Alex Schaivone, New Hanover High School; and Jennifer Yates, Johnson Pre-K Center.

Hurricane help for Boys and Girls Homes

Rotarian Hayley Sink presents a check for \$5,000 to Ray Cockrell, development officer for the Boys and Girls Homes of North Carolina at Lake Waccamaw. The presentation, in December, was to help the homes repair damage from Hurricane Florence. The money came from the Longwood Rotary Club of Kennett Square, Pa. This is one of many generous gifts from Rotarians across the country that came in the hurricane's aftermath.



The San Jose Rotary Club in California was one of many that sent money to us to help with recovery from Florence. The \$1,500 from San Jose was presented to Forest Hills Global Elementary School to buy classroom book sets. Rotarians Donna Shiro, David Grandey (a former member of the San Jose club) and Steve Yates made the presentation to Principal Boni Hall.

Rotary news briefs

The Literacy Committee needs volunteers for its outreach projects. These include tutoring and reading to elementary school students. For information, or to join up, contact Debby Gomulka at debby.gomulka@icloud.com or 352-7339; or JoAnn Daley at jndaley54@gmail.com or 471-2447.

Proceeds from the raffle from January through-June will be donated to the district project that's providing hurricane relief for Puerto Rico.

The annual Golf Fore Fun outing will be April 23 at Castle Bay Country Club in Hampstead. This is an optional alternative to the regular weekly lunch meeting. The cost, including greens fees and lunch, is \$45 for club members and \$60 for nonmembers. Lunch is at 11:15 a.m.; the first tee time is at noon. For information or to sign up, see John Lyon: 350-8888 or johnlyon@newhanoverprinting.com.

Our bell ringers for the Salvation Army raised \$9,316 at Sam's Club in December.

Work on wells in Guyana is progressing satisfactorily, the international committee reported at January's board meeting. This, our most recent international project, in partnership with Rotary clubs in North Carolina and in Georgetown, Guyana, is creating a safe water supply for the village of Old England in that South American nation. SEE: *photo on page 1*.

Our Miracle League Team, the Diamondbacks, plays its first game at 1 p.m. Saturday, March 2. The club sponsors this team for disabled players. The Miracle League field is at 5510 Olsen Park Lane in the NorthChase industrial park.

Parking will be a challenge until construction work at Cape Fear Country Club is complete. Our hosts have created overflow parking on the golf course, accessible from the parking lot's south end. From there, a gravel path leads to the clubhouse's rear entrance.

New members join club, introduce themselves



Mike Musselwhite

Two new Rotarians have joined the club this year, and four other recent inductees introduced themselves with new-member talks.

Mike Musselwhite was inducted on Jan. 8. He is a real estate agent with Suncoast Partners and was sponsored by Hansen Matthews.

Hansen also sponsored **Matt Hilliard**, who became a member on Jan. 15. Matt is a commercial banker and has been a Rotarian for six years, two in Garner and four in Wake Forest.

Chris Utesch addressed the club on Jan. 8. Inducted Nov. 13, he works for CloudWyze and is an alumnus of RYLA, the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. His sponsor is Bret Paterson.

Cat Marinich spoke on Jan. 15. A member of the club since last July 23, she is owner of Nothing Bundt Cakes. Donna Shiro sponsored her.

On Jan. 22, new member **Sheryl Mays** introduced herself to the club. Director of the Cape Fear Museum, she joined the club on Oct. 1, sponsored by Elaine Leggett.

City Councilman **Paul Lawler** gave his talk on Feb. 12. Formerly a Rotarian in Raleigh, he joined us on Nov. 13, sponsored by Nancy Bullock.



Matt Hilliard



Sheryl Mays



Paul Lawler



Chris Utesch



Cat Marinich

District conference in Swansboro April 26-27

The annual conference for Rotary District 7730 will be Friday and Saturday, April 26 and 27, at the Swansboro Rotary Club Center. Until March 1, early registration is \$115 per person; after then, \$130. Single-day registration is \$75.

The fee includes continental breakfast both days and lunch Friday. A seafood dinner with live entertainment Friday is \$25, and a Saturday evening "Beach Fest" with entertainment and fireworks is \$45.

Rotarians and guests can register online or get more information at the district website, www.rotary7730.org. To register, log in with your email and member number, found on the address label of your *Rotarian* magazine.

The conference will include a service project, called "Rise Against Hunger."

Speakers will include representatives from Rotary International, the World Access Project, Rotary Peace Fellows and the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

Allison Brown, former president of the UNCW Rotaract Club, and now a member of the Southport Rotary Club, will speak about Rotaract and Interact.

Optional free time activities include:

Birdwatching tour of Swansboro's harbor and the White Oak River aboard the *Lady Swan*, with commentary by a bird expert.

Charter fishing and kayak trips.

A visit to Jacksonville's Beirut Memorial and Museum of the Marine, conducted by Joe Houle of the Jacksonville Breakfast Rotary Club.

Swansboro historic walking tour.

Women in Rotary Tea.

"First Dude" golf outing.

Two hotels are available for those who need overnight accommodations.

Swansboro is on N.C. 24 east of Jacksonville. It is the home club of District Governor April Clark.

Attendance and make-ups

All active members of this club are expected to attend at least 50 percent of the club's scheduled meetings, or to make up for a missed meeting within two weeks in advance or afterward.

The attendance rule's purpose is to strongly encourage *involvement* in the club's life, more than to value mere presence for its own sake. That is why our club offers so many opportunities to make up for missed meetings by serving. Makeup credit can be earned by attending committee or board meetings, participating in club project or special events, attending meetings of other Rotary clubs, or online at www.rotaryclubone.org.

Have you identified a new member?

Membership application materials, including a checklist, are available on the check-in table at each meeting, and also on the club's website: WilmingtonRotaryClub.org.

We need pictures and articles!

Involved in club projects? Please submit digital photos for use in this newsletter. Articles, summary notes or even outlines about committee work and club projects are also welcome. Email any and all info to John Meyer at john@capefearpublishers.com.

Club photographer: **Robby Collins** Other photos by:

Donna Shiro, Kyria Henry, Anna Erwin, Hayley Sink and Aubrey Roberts



Recognized on Jan. 22 for their support for the Rotary Foundation were Mark Alper, Paul Harris Fellow 'plus four' for \$5,000 in contributions; Joe Owen, 'plus two' for \$3,000; and Tolis Vardakis, 'plus one' for \$2,000.

Paul Harris Fellows recognized for Rotary Foundation gifts



Kiki Lackman, PHF

A steady stream of Rotarians have been named Paul Harris Fellows for contributions of \$1,000 or more to the international Rotary Foundation. Several have gotten "plus" status for continuing contributions.

First-time fellows are Kiki Lackman, Hailey Sink and John Peck; "plus one" for \$2,000 contributions: Bo Dean and Tolis Vardakis; "plus two," \$3,000: Joe Owen, Mollie Shiflet and Gabe Rich; and "plus four," for giving \$5,000: Mark Alper. The first-time fellows benefited from recognition points donated by Pat Watts.



Natalie English, plus 4



Hailey Sink, PHF



John Peck, PHF



More multiple Paul Harris Fellows were recognized Feb. 12: Mollie Shiflet and Gabe Rich, 'plus two' for \$3,000 in contributions; and Bo Dean, 'plus one' for \$2,000. With them is Pat Watts, who donates her Foundation recognition points, earned by her own contributions, to help first-time Paul Harris Fellows.

Clubs help Good Shepherd to aid hurricane victims

Using money donated by other Rotary clubs around the country that offered assistance after Hurricane Florence, our club presented a \$1,000 check to the Good Shepherd Center on Feb. 13.



Jane Birnbach and Gabe Rich.

Rotarian Gabe Rich gave the check to fellow Rotarian Jane Birnbach, development director of the Good Shepherd Center, which will use the money to benefit clients affected by the hurricane.

People displaced from their homes still need food, shelter, clothing and other supportive services,

Donations to our foundation can be marked specifically for hurricane aid

If you wish to make a purely local donation for hurricane relief, our own RCDW Foundation will earmark funds, ensuring the money is used only for that purpose. To do so, write "Hurricane Florence" on the subject line of your checks. Contributions can be mailed to:

RCDW Foundation
P.O. Box 1194
Wilmington, NC 28402

All such designated gifts to our club's foundation will be used locally.

If not otherwise specified, proceeds from the club's April 16 fund-raiser may be used for any of the club's projects.

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Literacy day: literacy committee report, with officials and teachers from New Hanover County Schools.

TUESDAY, MARCH 5

Wilmington Chamber of Commerce update, with President and CEO **Natalie English**.

TUESDAY, MARCH 12

Service Above Self awards for public safety officers, with District Attorney **Ben David**.

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

Grants committee report, with representatives of agencies receiving club and foundation grants.

MONDAY, MARCH 25

Board of Directors meeting, 5:30 p.m. Address below.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

University of North Carolina Wilmington status report, with Chancellor **Jose V. Sartarelli**.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

Navy Week celebration in Wilmington, with **Steffanie Easter**, director of Navy staff, Department of the Navy.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Services for children with special needs, with a speaker to be announced from the Child Development Center.

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

No lunch meeting. Wine tasting fund-raiser at Cape Fear Country Club, 6 p.m. Tickets required.

MONDAY, APRIL 22

Board of Directors meeting, 5:30 p.m. Address below.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Herman Blizzard Rotary Archive at UNCW's Randall Library, with **Rebecca Baugnon** and **Lucy Holman**.

Golf Fore Fun outing: 11:15 a.m. lunch, 12:00 noon tee time, Castle Bay Country Club, Hampstead. Club members \$45; non-members \$60. Registration required.

FRIDAY-SATURDAY, APRIL 25-26

Rotary District 7730 conference, 1104 Main Street Extension, Swansboro. Registration required.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

Vocational Fellowship Day. Rescheduled from October 2018. Small group meetings begin 12:15 p.m. at various locations to be announced. Sign-up required.



Gwen Fitzpatrick, Williston Middle School's music teacher, accepts the \$6,032 raised in our Dollars for Desserts auction to support the school's band, orchestra and choir. Presenting the check is President Cathy Barlow. Also pictured is Williston Principal Ronald Villines.

There's still time to enter district's CART car raffle

Chances in the District 7730 raffle to benefit Alzheimer's research will remain on sale until late April. The winner will win a new sports or luxury car, or \$50,000 cash.

The raffle is a project of the district's CART committee — the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust that collects cash in the blue buckets on our lunch tables each week.

Tickets cost \$100. The drawing will be April 27. The winner will be able to choose one of three car models: a Chevrolet Corvette, a Cadillac CT6, or a Jaguar I-Pace electric. Don't want a fancy new car? You can take cash instead.

The goal is to raise \$125,000, of which half or more will go to the CART fund and the balance for the prize. If the winner chooses one of the cars, the prize will be a voucher for \$62,500, applicable to one of the three models.

Questions about the raffle or about CART can be directed to Norm Rogers, district CART chairman, at (910) 616-1205 or normrogers@atmc.net

Checks, payable to CART Fund, Inc., can be mailed to:

Norman Rogers
7985 Castaway Lane NW
Ash, NC 28420

To buy a chance online, go to the District 7730 website: www.rotary7730.org

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 pm, 4th 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. Please include all pertinent names, dates, etc.

Website

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org