

# CLUB NEWS

February 15, 2022



The Wilmington  
**Rotary**  
Club



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



Chris Coudriet, New Hanover County



J.C. Lyle, Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry



Dr. Yousry Sayed, Quality Chemical Laboratories

## Three 'Leaders in Service' named, sponsors sought for club's 2022 fundraiser

With the announcement of who will receive the first Leaders in Service awards, members of our club are busy soliciting corporate sponsorships for the May 5 award program and fundraiser.

Honored will be Rotarian **Chris Coudriet** in the public-sector category, **J.C. Lyle** in the non-profit sector, and **Dr. Yousry Sayed** in the private sector. Coudriet is New Hanover County manager; Lyle heads the Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry (WARM); and Sayed founded Quality Chemical Laboratories.

Leaders in Service is meant to recognize executives in the three sectors who are making Wilmington a better place to live and raise a family, with emphasis on the seven Rotary Areas of Fo-

cus. Those honored have led their lives and conducted their businesses in harmony with Rotary's Four-Way Test and have demonstrated a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion.

The sponsorships will be the chief source of funds for club projects in the 2022-23 Rotary year. The volunteer solicitors working with our fundraising committee have already secured a number of sponsorships. Those will consist of contributions to our non-profit foundation in the amount of \$2,500, \$5,000 or \$10,000 each.

When the search for sponsors concludes, the club will determine how many seats at the May 5 gala remain open for individual purchase. A maximum of around 400 seats will be available for the reception, dinner, and awards ceremony, to be held at UNC-Wilmington's Burney Center.

The goal is at least \$40,000 after expenses, equal to our most successful fundraisers of recent years, and to get most of that sum

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## RI President Mehta visits club, garden, Williston; reiterates importance of DEI

President Cleve Callison presents a check to RI President Shekhar Mehta.



**Shekhar Mehta** of Calcutta, India, 2021-22 president of Rotary International, visited our club's Jan. 11 meeting as part of a three-day tour of Southeastern North Carolina's District 7730. Before joining us for lunch, Mehta also visited Rotary-supported projects at Greenfield Park's Rotary Wheel Garden, Williston Middle School, and the Harrelson Center.

At Williston, Mehta presented our club's check for \$3,750 to the school's music program. That money was raised during our Dec. 14, 2021 meeting.

On Jan. 10, Mehta visited clubs in Kinston and toured a prosthetics manufacturer involved with Rotary projects there; and then attended the meeting of the Wilmington East Rotary Club. The evening of Jan. 11, he was the speaker at District 7730's Rotary Foundation Banquet at River Landing Country Club in Wallace.

His final stop in our region was at The Miracle Field, the accessible sports facility for athletes with disabilities, on Jan. 12.

While visiting us, Mehta accepted a check for \$5,000 to The Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus campaign. He spoke about the importance of Rotary's 30-plus-year campaign to eradicate polio. Mehta then encouraged our members to embrace Rotary's diversity, equity and inclusion goals, saying, "We want the clubs around the world to be inclusive and to be diverse."

For more on his visit, SEE: *pages 4, 5 & 7.*

**Leaders in Service**  
*Service Above Self*



## Leaders in Service

Continued from page 1

from the broader community, rather than just our own members.

Details about Leaders in Service can be found on the club website and on a special new site:

[www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org/fundraiser.php](http://www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org/fundraiser.php)

[www.bizleaders2022.org](http://www.bizleaders2022.org)

Heading the fundraiser is President-elect **Dale Smith**. **Chris Riley** and **John Hatcher** are managing the sponsorship solicitations, with technical help from **Larry Sackett**, who created the event website and an online system for tracking outreach to potential sponsors. **John Meyer** is doing editing, design and publicity work, and **Angela MacKinnon** is heading the subcommittee planning the May 5 event. All could still use additional help! This effort can use the talents of every Rotarian.



Laura Lisle, new co-chair of the Legacy Committee, presents our check to Eugenia James, Williston secretary, on Jan. 28.

## Bucks for books

Williston Middle School will compete in the county-wide Battle of the Books March 17. Each year, our club helps Williston's team pay registration fees and buy supplies; we gave \$500 in February.

## Resignation moves Carr up in DG succession

**Nancy Carr** of the Clinton-Sampson Rotary Club will become district governor for District 7730 on July 1, a year earlier than expected. She was designated district governor-elect, effective Jan. 31, after **Jeff Mount** bowed out from that position.



Nancy Carr

Mount's resignation was due to personal family medical issues, according to an announcement from current District Governor **Ellen Deaton**. Jeff is a member of the South Brunswick Islands Rotary Club.

Taking Nancy's place as district governor nominee is **Allen Quigley** of the Wilmington West Rotary Club. Now area governor for the six clubs in Wilmington, Allen will take over the district's top spot for the 2023-24 Rotary year.

## Jones picks year's theme

Rotary International's first-ever woman president has announced the theme, "Imagine Rotary" for the 2022-23 year. Jennifer Jones, a member of the Windsor-Roseland Rotary Club in Canada, will take office on July 1.



Jones urged Rotarians to dream big: "Imagine a world that deserves our best, where we get up each day knowing that we can make a difference."



## Prominent district Rotarian John Capps dies

John T. Capps III, a well-known figure in the world of Rotary International, died Jan. 27 at his home in Morehead City. He was 80.

A long-time member of the Morehead City Noon Rotary Club, he earned worldwide recognition within Rotary for his efforts against polio and other causes.



He served as a sergeant at arms for 30 Rotary International conventions. He also started the Bald-Headed Men of America convention, which met for years in Morehead City. Rotary recognitions include the International Service Above Self Award in 1993. His home club has created a \$25,000 Rotary Foundation fund, the Jane and John T. Capps "Enthusiasm" Endowment. Donations in John's honor can go to The Rotary Foundation, Gift ID #E12283.

John spoke to our club on Nov. 26, 2013 about Rotary's global work.



Capps brought bald-headed men to his home town: "More head" = less hair.

## Lifelong Rotarian Thomas McMillan, finance professional, dies at 81

Rotarian Thomas McMillan, 81, died on Jan. 22. He grew up in Charleston, W.Va., where he began his career in finance, working for Prudential and Merrill Lynch.

He joined Rotary in West Virginia, serving as president during his 37 years in the Charleston club. He moved to Wilmington in 2003, joining our club in 2004, sponsored by his brother William McMillan. Survivors include his wife of 55 years, Toni; five children; eleven grandchildren; and brothers Bill and Bob. A daughter preceded him in death.

Tom earned a business administration degree from Randolph Macon College, and served as a hospital corpsman in the Coast Guard. He was a college sports fan, with his focus on West Virginia, Marshall, and eventually UNC-Wilmington. Gifts to Rotary made him a Paul Harris Fellow "plus three."

Tom's favored causes also included the Holowell Foundation of Lewisburg, W.Va., which he served as president, and the U.S.O. A celebration of life service is scheduled for 2 p.m. Feb. 19 in Kenan Chapel at Landfall.



The 2021-22 Rookie Teacher of the Year finalists are **Brooke Russell**, **Meredith Cash**, winner **Melissa Daria**, **Samantha James**, and **Shelby Yardley**.

## Club honors five Rookie Teachers of the Year

Teaching is a demanding and challenging profession, and too many public school teachers leave the profession after just a few years. For the sixth year, the club made a public and tangible show of support for our community's beginning teachers on Feb. 8.

The "Rookie Teachers of the Year" awards came with \$500 gift cards—to buy classroom supplies—and \$1,000 for the top winner. The cards were donated by First Citizens Bank.

Winner for 2021-22 is **Melissa Daria**, who teaches kindergarten at Forest Hills Global Elementary School.

The four finalists are:

**Meredith Cash**, fourth grade, Rachel Freeman School of Engineering.

**Samantha James**, third grade, Winter Park Elementary School.

**Brooke Russell**, kindergarten, Wrightsboro Elementary School.

**Shelby Yardley**, special education, New Hanover High School.

The awards were presented by Rotarian **Rob Zapple** and School Superintendent **Charles Foust**.

The award winners were chosen from second- and third-year teachers nominated by their principals. A committee of six school administrators and two Rotarians selected the finalists.

Even before the Covid pandemic, 30 percent of college graduates who had become educators left the teaching profession within five years.

## New Rotarians introduce themselves

The year's first additions to our membership came on Jan. 4, when two new Rotarians were inducted.

**Alex White** is a real estate agent with Intracoastal Realty, and got involved with our Williston projects before even becoming a member. His sponsor was Chris Hoenic.

Also joining on Jan 4 was **Bob Elliott**, sponsored by Joe Owen. Bob recently returned to Wilmington; a retiree from General Electric's nuclear-energy division, he had worked for GE both here and in California. He was a



Alex White



Bob Elliott

member of the Tracy, California Rotary Club.

Catching up with new-member talks, we heard on Jan. 4 from **Jamie Stokely** and **Garrett Huffman**.

Jamie, who owns a home-health agency, joined the club July 19, 2021, sponsored by David Morrison. Garrett, a real-estate agent, was inducted June 8, 2021, sponsored by Matt Mylott.

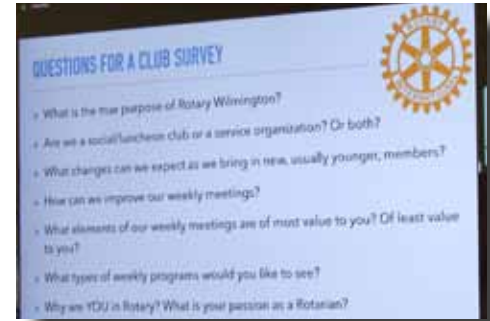
Just three weeks after their inductions, both Bob Elliott and Alex White gave talks to formally introduce themselves on Jan. 25.



Jamie Stokely



Garrett Huffman



Proposed survey questions displayed on the big monitor at the Jan. 4 club assembly meeting.

## Member survey to guide club's future

President **Cleve Callison**, with help from several volunteers, has crafted a survey that will be sent to all the club's members. "The purpose," he explained, "is to gain insight of how our members feel the club is doing, where we can do better, and possible new opportunities for service."

The survey, to be conducted online, will consist of about a dozen questions. Helping Cleve with this project are **Paul Lawler**, Past President **Donna Shiro**, and President-Elect **Dale Smith**. Cleve announced the plan at the club assembly on Jan. 4.

First step in writing the all-member survey was to send a shorter, five-question survey to a group of the club's past presidents, which was conducted in January.



President Cleve at club assembly on Jan. 4.

## Committee reports begin

Club committee chairs have been invited to give short summaries of their work at our weekly meetings.

On Jan. 25, **Terry Smith**, chair of the Rotary Wheel Garden Committee, described how a coalition of Rotary clubs, including ours, is helping the City of Wilmington to improve and maintain the world's largest Rotary symbol.

**Debby Gomulka**, chair of the Literacy Committee, spoke Feb. 8 about buying books for six elementary schools and a new project to create "Little Free Libraries" at those schools.

# RI president visits Rotary projects around Wilmington

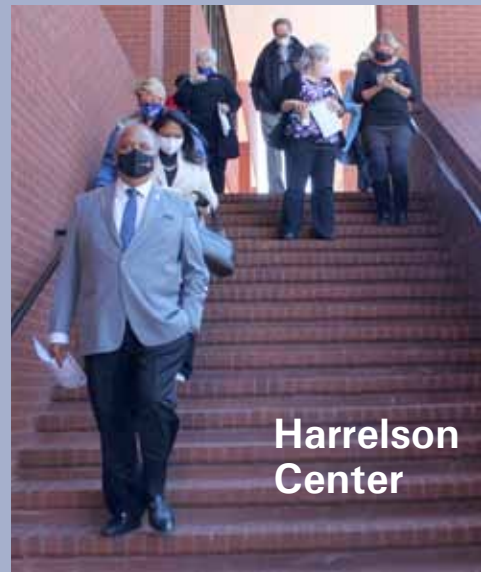


## The Rotary Wheel Garden

Terry Smith tells Shekhar and Rashi Mehta about the Rotary Wheel Garden's history as a gift to the city and current efforts of a coalition of Rotary Clubs to improve and maintain it.



Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo explained the city's long partnership with Rotary to preserve and enhance Greenfield Park. 'Rotary works best when it works with government,' Mehta commented. 'Government works best when it works with the community.'



## Harrelson Center

Mehta led a delegation of Rotarians on a tour of the Harrelson Center, which houses a wide range of non-profit agencies and provides services for Wilmington's most vulnerable residents.

## Miracle Field

Shekhar Mehta winds up to pitch to Rotarian David Morrison during his Jan. 12 visit to the Miracle Field, Wilmington's accessible venue for athletes with disabilities. David, a former member of this club, is a founder and board member of ACCESS Wilmington, which developed and operates the field with support from several area Rotary Clubs.



Wearing a blindfold to simulate a vision impairment, Mehta tries to hit a beeping softball, another piece of technology Wilmington's Miracle Field uses to make sports accessible to people with disabilities.



Among the adaptive equipment ACCESS offers to athletes with disabilities is this recumbent tricycle. Mehta tried it out, taking it for a spin around the Miracle Field's rubberized surface. That was designed to make fielding and base-running possible for athletes who use wheelchairs or have other mobility issues.



David Morrison and the ACCESS Wilmington staff hosted Mehta and District Governor Ellen Deaton at the Miracle Field.



Executive Director Meade van Pelt describes renovation work in the former county jail building, much of it paid for through projects of Wilmington's Cape Fear Rotary Club.

# Williston legacy project gets an up-close look from RI president



Shekhar Mehta shares a light moment with Williston Middle School student musicians who played two numbers during his visit.

Third stop in the Rotary president's tour of Wilmington was Williston Middle School, where he learned about our club's Legacy Project and presented our \$3,725 check to support the school's music programs.



Photographing Williston student musicians.



Mehta presents Williston music teachers Erin McKemie and Derrick Foskey with a check for \$3,725. Our club's members raised that money for the school's music programs through pledges at our Dec. 14 meeting.



Chatting with Rotarians Elliott O'Neal, Steve Yates, and R.B. Richey.



Rotarians pose with Williston students and teachers in school library.

## More visit highlights

Shekhar Mehta's trip to District 7730 was arranged by Past District Governor Nancy Barbee of Maysville, who got to know him during Rotary projects in India.



Wilmington East Rotary President Dan Parks presented a \$500 contribution to Polio Plus when Shekhar Mehta visited his club on Jan. 10. Our club, with a much larger membership, made a \$5,000 contribution.



Above: Wilmington Rotary Club members welcome Rashi and Shekhar Mehta and other guests at our Jan. 11 meeting.

Left: a Jan. 10 tour of Eastpoint Prosthetics and Orthotics in Kinston, owned by Rotarian Paul Sugg, whose Kinston Rotary Club supplies artificial limbs to people in developing countries.



Brennan: Black soldiers

Singleton: sustainable trees

Osborne: insurance

Corpening: helping families

Callison: Club assembly

## Programs address families, landscaping, insurance, teachers, history meeting art

The club closed out 2021 with a variation on our annual holiday traditions, and began 2022 with some club business. In addition to our scheduled guest speakers, we entertained one very special visitor in January.

The Dec. 14 meeting was the club's first year-end Christmas party since 2019. Because of continuing concerns about Covid, we did not invite student musicians from Williston Middle School, as we normally do. We did have musical entertainment: harp music by Rotarian **Julie Rehder** and her friend **Kim Robinson**. And the club raised \$3,725 for Williston's music program. For more on how this money was presented, SEE: *page 5*.

President Cleve Callison presided over a club assembly on Jan. 4, with a look at a planned all-member survey, a plan to have regular reports from committee heads, and new-member talks.

Our Jan. 11 program featured Chief District Court Judge **J. Corpening**, a former member of this club. He spoke about the courts' initiatives to help families and interrupt patterns of poverty and abuse that can lead to crime.

Also on Jan. 11, we welcomed Rotary Interna-

tional President **Shekhar Mehta** and his wife, **Rashi**. For more on President Shekhar's visit, SEE: *pages 1, 4, 5 and 7*.

New Hanover County Agriculture Extension Director **Lloyd Singleton** presented a program on Jan. 18 about the importance of trees and sustainable landscaping.

Former club member **Anne Brennan**, executive director of the Cameron Art Museum, spoke Jan. 25 about "Boundless," the new sculpture on the museum grounds honoring the U.S. Colored troops, Black Union soldiers who fought in an 1865 Civil War battle on the museum's grounds.

Insurance, with emphasis on the special risks to, and programs for, homeowners along the coast, was the topic Feb. 1. The speaker was **Michelle Osborne**, chief deputy commissioner of the N.C. Department of Insurance.

Our Feb. 8 program was our annual Rookie Teachers of the Year awards presentation, introduced by Rotarian **Rob Zapple**, along with New Hanover County Schools Superintendent **Charles Foust**. For more on the awards and the winners, SEE: *page 3*.



Kim Robinson, a Celtic harpist from Wisconsin, with Rotarian Julie Rehder providing entertainment for the club's Dec. 14, 2021 pre-Christmas holiday lunch.



Sculptor Stephen Hayes of Durham with 'Boundless,' the life-size bronze figures memorializing the U.S. Colored Troops who fought at Forks Road in February 1865. The battle site is now part of the grounds of the Cameron Art Museum, which unveiled the monument in November 2021.

## Shekhar Mehta addresses club

During his Jan. 11 visit to our meeting, Rotary International President Shekhar Mehta accepted a \$5,000 check to The Rotary Foundation's Polio Plus Fund. What follows is a transcript of his remarks to our members.

### Polio Plus: getting close

*Polio still remains the corporate program of ours, and every time I think of it, it gives me goose-bumps. Twenty days from now, if we do not have a single case in Pakistan, we will have completed one full year in Pakistan without polio. And one year without a polio case means you are in the threshold of becoming a non-endemic country. That will leave us only one other country, and that is Afghanistan.*

*When we started the program, 350,000 children were getting afflicted in 125 countries. Right now, two countries; in a few days, hopefully one country, and with just five cases last year, and we hope no cases this year.*

*Thank you so much. Every contribution that you make does make a lot of difference. Thank you; your club is wonderful. I've heard of all the other programs that you do.*

### 'Your Stories' and DEI

*The "Your Stories" program is really very nice, a wonderful thing. It gives insight into the diversity that we live in, the different types of people around the world.*

*Diversity, equity and inclusion is something that has become one of the mantras right now of Rotary. The board has taken a very special position on it and we want the clubs around the world to be inclusive and to be diverse.*

*After all, each of our communities - our club has to be reflective of the communities that we live in. I think if there is an organization that is really diverse, it is our 200 different countries. Imagine how many languages, how many cultures, how many colors, how many orientations our people are.*

*As Paul Harris had said, tolerance is the cornerstone of Rotary. That is what has kept us together.*

*That is why we strongly believe in DEI. I was so happy to observe the "Your Stories" program. May that program and all the other things that you do flourish absolutely. All the very best! Thank you.*



Mehta: RI president



Foust: NH County Schools

## Generous Foundation donors recognized as Fellows +



Donna Shiro was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow 'Plus 4' on Jan. 25. On Feb. 1, R.B. Richey presented Gabe Rich with his 'Plus 4' pin. Those honors represents contributions of more than \$5,000 to The Rotary Foundation. John Lilly's 'Plus 2' on Feb. 8 recognized Foundation gifts of over \$3,000.

## Mehta urges membership growth

North Carolina Rotarians were challenged to "Grow more and do more" when International President Shekhar Mehta spoke to the District 7730 Foundation Banquet in Wallace Jan. 11.

Mehta noted that Rotary's membership had not grown for twenty years and had steadily declined in the most recent six years. But in the first half of the 2021-22 Rotary Year (through Dec. 31), he said, global membership showed a 23,000 net gain. To build on that growth, he challenged everyone in his audience: "Let's find one friend, one relative, one colleague" and invite that person to become a Rotarian.

Whenever he asks audiences if they will do that, Mehta said, he sees a forest of raised hands. But the membership statistics don't reflect that. Rotarians are eager to give, he said, but not so much to recruit. In his years of Rotary leadership, he said, "I've never seen a Foundation goal fail. And I have never seen a membership goal succeed."

Shifting to the importance of service, and of support for the Rotary Founda-



Cleve Callison with District Governor Ellen Deaton, accepting an award for greatest total giving by a club in District 7730. Our per-capita support for the Rotary Foundation, however, lags behind many other, smaller clubs.

tion, Mehta said, "You are actually doing God's work," following the admonitions in Christian scriptures to make the lame walk and the blind see; to heal the sick; and to be peacemakers. To bring peace to the world, he said, it's necessary first to cure such ills as hunger, sickness and homelessness. As long as those problems continue to plague humanity, peace will be elusive.

## What is the 'Your Stories' project?

This project, which RI's president praised on his visit to Wilmington, began with Rotarians in Raleigh. It has been extended to Wilmington, with encouragement from District 7730's DEI Task Force. The project's subtitle is "Brave Conversations About Race." Several members of our club participated in the first round of discussions; the second cohort began in late January.

Co-chairs of the Wilmington group are Allen Quigley, district governor nominee, and Terri Everett of our club.

Your Stories describes itself as "a program that enables individuals from different backgrounds, experiences, perspectives, and opinions to openly dialogue in a friendly and non-threatening environment." Each session joins ten participants—five white and five people of color—with trained facilitators. They learn about each other by sharing personal stories and experiences in a respectful and non-judgmental environment. Additional sessions are planned in the near future.

## Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 15

“Think Again: It’s time to take another look at college athletics,” with **Clauston Jenkins**.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

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

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Program and speaker to be announced.

TUESDAY, MARCH 1

Rotary scholarship in South Africa, with **Matilda Scott**, assistant principal, Williston Middle School.

TUESDAY, MARCH 8

“Service Above Self” awards with Rotarian **Ben David**, New Hanover County district attorney.

TUESDAY, MARCH 15

Program and speaker to be announced.

MONDAY, MARCH 21

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

### Newsletter photos

by **Robby Collins, John Meyer and Chris Stevenson**

Additional photos from **Gabe Rich, New Hanover County, Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry, Chris Brehmer/Quality Chemical Laboratories, Paul Sugg/Kinston Rotary Club, and Alan Cradick/Cameron Art Museum**

## Wilmington East hits cash goal for Moldova project

Wilmington East Rotary Club raised \$20,000 on Jan. 18 for its Global-Grant health education project in Moldova. An evening featuring Moldovan food and wines allowed the club to meet the \$36,000 goal for its work in the former Soviet republic. Our club has contributed \$2,000, and a number of our members attended the East club’s fundraiser at the Community Arts Center.



## Rotary news briefs

**Rotary International urges vaccination, good examples.** On Dec. 16, President Cleve Callison reminded our members of Rotary’s position on how all Rotarians and all Rotary Clubs should combat the Covid pandemic. That includes strong encouragement for all members to get vaccinated against Covid-19; for clubs to be “exemplary role models;” and to redouble their efforts to support efforts to treat, prevent, and vaccinate against the coronavirus.



**Club sends medicines to Ukraine.** A shipment of badly needed medications recently arrived at four orphanages in Chernigov, Ukraine, thanks in part to our \$1,200 donation, International Committee Chair Gabe Rich reports.

**Tech, PR committees need help.** The club’s Tech Committee, which manages the complexities of our hybrid meetings, needs a couple of new members. Want to help? See Cleve Callison or Tyler Wooden. No special expertise is required. The Public Relations Committee also needs help. Experience with news releases or social media would be most useful. Contact John Meyer if you’re interested.

**Rotary blood drive Feb. 16.** The next monthly Rotary-sponsored blood drive for the American Red Cross will take place Wednesday, Feb. 16, at Independence Mall. Make appointments at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), sponsor code: “Rotary Wilmington” or call 800-733-2767.

**District Conference begins in Wilmington April 1.** The annual District 7730 conference will take place at the Ballast hotel in downtown Wilmington April 1 through 3. Our club will be taking an active part and will need many volunteers to help. Mollie Shiflet is coordinating; email her at [goodgollimsmolli@aol.com](mailto:goodgollimsmolli@aol.com) for more information.

**District starts virtual club.** The Global Partners in Peace Rotary Club was chartered in January as part of our District 7730. Past District Governor Dawn Rochelle explained that the new club “is composed of nearly 30 members from around the world.” Working locally, nationally and globally, members “are activating peace in 18 countries.”

### 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)