



Charlotte Rotary Club Leaders:

President: Tyler Pray
President-Elect: Mandy Stewart
Treasurer: Len Kilgore
Assistant Treasurer: Tim Jewell
President-Nominee: John Dykstra III
Secretary: Ed Foster
Assistant Secretary: Eric Crandall
Rotary Foundation Chair: Doug Buck
Membership Chair: Don Sovey
Public Image Chair: Keisha Howe
Club Service Chair: Cary Ritter
Past President: Jerry Sommer
Directors: Jim Cicorelli, Mike Crowner, Keisha Howe, John Newland, Tim Johnson, and Joel Fox



**Please join us at The Center for our
March 8 meeting!**

Greeter: Everyone received warm welcomes as they arrived at The Center.

Call to Order and Invocation: **President Tyler** led us in the pledge and welcomed **Brian Lautzenhiser** to come forward for the invocation.

Arts & Culture: **Don Sovey** introduced Charlotte Public Schools Drama Teacher **Margaret Robinson**, who gave an update on the district's arts program. The state of the Arts, she said, is strong. The district is adding courses this year, has doubled the band size in the middle and high schools, creating the largest-ever musical presence in the school district, and the Marching band received its highest scores ever in competition. They've also added courses to the drama sections. The holiday musical *Elf* was a hit, as was *Aladdin*.



Robinson's call to action for the Rotary group was to please consider supporting the schools' productions. "Be our guest," she said, and then shared the upcoming productions from the middle and high schools for spring. They include a middle school band concert next Tuesday, the play "*Harvey*" on March 17-18, and *Cabaret* in May.

Robinson introduced CHS senior **Kennedy Mizer**, who shared her passion for the arts. "Since I was born," Mizer said, "my parents have immersed me in the arts." Mizer plays the French horn and Tuba, and has participated in and toured with the Blue Lake Fine Arts program. She sings soprano, alto and tenor. This year she is doing two plays and a musical. "With the arts, I've found my purpose in the world," she said, as she announced her post-graduation plans to become an arts teacher.

Guests: **President Tyler** introduced his wife **Dana Pray** and his grandfather, **Joseph Eugene Pray**, **Don Sovey** introduced **Sarah Cool** from the Charlotte Aquatic Center and **Chris Henry**, and **Amy McGill Austin**

Jr Rotarians: Due to illness, one of our March Jr Rotarians was unable to attend, so we will meet **Joseph Davis** next week. Today, **Ava Holmes** and **Lance Byers** were on hand to introduce the other March Jr Rotarian, **Katharine "Kate" Stewart**. Kate is the daughter of Lorin and Ian Stewart. She has won awards from the FFA Greenhand Public Speaking competition, and achieved academic all-state in volleyball in 2021. She has also received teacher awards. *Welcome Kate!*



Member Spotlight:

The two-minute member spotlight was CPS Superintendent **Dr. Mandy Stewart**. Instead of talking about herself, she opened herself up for two minutes of audience-driven Q&A, tossing a piece of candy to each person with a question. In that time, the membership learned she has two kids, two dogs, loves most that her job is never boring, is from Macomb County, went to Chippewa Valley High School and Wayne State University, loves the color orange, has a phobia of parasites, favors the Detroit Tigers and has no spring break plans this year.



Keisha Howe gave a spin of the digital wheel, revealing next week's guest in the Two Minute spotlight to be **Joe E Pray!**

Announcements: Members were reminded to support the club's April 18 fundraiser at the Lansing Country Club. More information coming soon.

50/50: **John Newland** sold tickets and slowly released the winning number, which was held by **Stephanie Leavitt**.

Barrel: **Joel Fox** was busy with the barrel, collecting the customary presidential dollar, plus those from winners. He went after Don Sovey, for shouting when the mic volume was too high. He then moved on to a variety of other fines, such as a luxury tax for those wearing ties or having a heel higher than one inch. He went looking for happy dollars and found one from Kathie Cook, who was happy her sister Barbara was part of the program.

PROGRAM: Club members **Barbara Fulton**, **Tyler Pray** and **John Dykstra III** each offered a short presentation on their family histories. This was a fascinating look back at three families whose roots go back to the early years of the town itself, showing how some of Charlotte's top families have grown with Charlotte through the past decades.

Barbara traced her roots back to *Clyde Alvin Fulton*, who lived nearly 100 years during a time when few people achieved that mark. He met several presidents, was a lifelong Rotarian and a Mason. She discussed Clyde's father WB Fulton, (who started Fulton Lumber in Charlotte, which lasted 111 years) and his father, Benjamin Fulton.



Tyler then told the story of how various branches of his family have not just been known for phenomenal sweet corn (separate but related Prays) and end-of-life services. Through the years, they've also been storied professors at Eastern Michigan University, state lawmakers, and furniture store owners. In fact, Pray & Co. furniture also offered undertaking services originally. He traced multiple generations with excellent photos and stories.



John discussed his family's history with the Ford Motor Company, going back to the Original John Dykstra, who came to the U.S. from Friesland, a province in the Netherlands, in 1902. He came from a family of coppersmiths, worked from age 15 as a diemaker's apprentice, served in the U.S. Army, and went to work for Hudson Motor Company on his return from the war. By 1934 he was working as a production manager for Oldsmobile, at a time when they were making a lot more than just automobiles. He then was recruited by Henry Ford II, and in 1960 he brought the company a breakthrough marketing idea – the 12,000 mile warranty on all Ford cars. The company hit a sales milestone 3.5 million cars sold that year. Dykstra was named president of Ford Motor Co in 1961, replacing Robert McNamara, who joined the Kennedy Administration as Defense Secretary.



The presenters ended with a slide asking “who’s next?” and encouraged fellow Rotarians to discover interesting stories from their own histories and team up with other club members for a similar program in the future at some point.

Announcement from the Membership Committee

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL: The following individual, **Amanda Pollard** has been proposed for membership under the classification of **Director/Referee Juvenile Court** by **Mari Calton**. Members have seven days from the date of this Mirror in which to object to this person in writing to the board of directors. No objections being received, then this person will officially become a member two weeks from the date of this Mirror.

If you missed the meeting, there was no **Zoom** recording.

You can always complete a makeup at the Rotary eClub site, where they have great programs.

If you wish, you can check it out at <https://www.rotaryclubone.org/makeups/articles/>

MARCH DUTIES

ATTENDANCE	John Dykstra, III
GREETER	Sean Williams
INVOCATION	Eric Crandall
MIRROR	TBD
Arts & Culture	Don Sovey
SGT-AT-ARMS	Joel Fox (Barrel) Tim Johnson 50/50 All committee (S & T)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS:

March 8 - Mandy Stewart – **Jeff Bennett** – CPS Director of Technology

March 15 - Mandy Stewart - **Cooper Frost** - Interact

March 22 – Mandy Stewart - CPS Education – **Kindergarten Roundup**

March 29 – Barbara Fulton – **Dr. Steven Corey**, Olivet College ADVANTAGE scholarship



*Until next time...
Brad*