

Rotary



Club of Gastonia

Birthdays

Christopher B. Leazer
April 8th
Richard Kennedy Craig
April 10th

Wedding Anniversaries

Richard Lee Farrell
April 6th

Years of Service

Bruce R. Trefz
04-01-1984
37 Years
Lamar Kellar Jr.
04-01-1985
36 Years
May Gray Robinson
03-31-1994
27 Years
Robert R. King
03-31-2011
10 Years

Club Leaders



Brent Messer
President



Laurel Roe Morris
President - Elect



Patricia Lane Black
President - Nominee



Leslie Gene Davis
Vice President



Cheryl Black Loggins
Secretary



Scott Scarborough
Treasurer

Vincent Cherry

President's Message -April 8, 2021

Dear "*vaccinated and soon to be vaccinated*" members of the Rotary Club of Gastonia,

Last week it was great to get back to offering in-person meetings. It was the largest turnout since I've had the honor to be your president. We had about 41 members join in-person and 11 join by zoom. It was all I could do to keep from hugging some of you. Last year at this time we were headed into the unknown darkness of the pandemic for our generation, and now, even though we still have a ways to go, we are headed toward the brightness of hope and anticipation of the return to normalcy where a handshake or hug can be given without fear and masks are no longer a part of our wardrobe. When asked how many in attendance had been vaccinated with at least one shot, I would say that about 90 percent raised their hands.

For the program our own **Linda Slade, President of The United Way of Gaston County**, gave us another reason to love **Dolly Parton** who is already one of my favorite people. **Dolly** (I think she's on a first name basis with everyone) made her musical mark as a singer-songwriter who is a 10-time Grammy winner (out of 50 nominations) and also as an actor and entertainer. Recently she made news by playing an important role in the fight against the COVID-19 virus by donating one million dollars to **Vanderbilt University Medical Center** to help develop the **Moderna COVID-19 vaccine**.

Linda educated us on how **Dolly** has quietly been helping change the lives of young children with the help of organizations like **The United Way of Gaston County**. Your United Way in the past five years has awarded \$632,528 to organizations that provide crisis services for food and shelter, while also administering **Duke Energy** funds totaling \$462,518 to pay utility bills through crisis agencies, helping families in need.

Along with all the great benefits and investment of more than \$5.5 million over four years that **The United Way of Gaston County** has provided to our community, they have also partnered with **Dolly Parton's Imagination Library** since 2004. **Dolly's** quiet life changing gift to young children provides age appropriate books for children from 0 to 5 years of age. Currently there are 1135 children enrolled in the program locally.

The creation of the Imagination Library was inspired by **Dolly's** own father who could not read. **Dolly**, the fourth child of twelve children recognized the importance of reading and how important it is to provide the building blocks for language during the first five critical years of a child's life when their brain is developing at the fastest rate of it's lifetime.

The Imagination Library provides the free books with funding from **Dolly Parton** and local community partners such as **The United Way of Gaston County** which funds its part through corporate gifts, grants, book clubs and individual donors. The total cost to supply books for the first five years of one child's life is \$175. The program is offered in the **U.S., Canada, the United Kingdom, Australia and Republic of Ireland**.

Dolly Parton and The United Way of Gaston County. Quiet partners making a big difference in the lives of children, their families and our community. You just gotta love them both.

The Recovery Court program started getting a boost from our club members last week as several fast-food gift cards were donated to the effort. Some were regifted gift cards that were still good. Please remember that the gift card must be for a fast-food restaurant that does not offer beer, wine or any other alcoholic beverage. We will continue collecting the gift cards at the Sargent at Arms table. **You can also help by purchasing fast-food gift cards and donate them or you can make a monetary donation to the Gaston County Adult Recovery Court**. Bring your cards to our in-person meetings or mail them to the ACY/CIS address below.

The Alliance for Children and Youth are handling contributions made to the Recovery Court Program. You can make your tax deductible donation to ACY/CIS, noting on the memo line "Gaston Co. Recovery Court." Mail to ACY/CIS, PO Box 1695, Gastonia, NC 28053. If you have any questions, please contact **Richard Abernethy** who is helping to lead our club's effort to help this worthwhile endeavor.

Be a Mini-Mentor to a Rotaract Student. Some of our Rotaractors have each identified three career paths that they are interested in and would like to have a conversation with one of our members who is in or was in one of the careers mentioned. To check out a list of the Rotaract



iPast President



Stephen Barrett Driscoll
Rotary Foundation
Chair



Matt Gibbons
Membership Chair



Kay Collins Peninger
Bulletin Editor



Sharon Heinrich
Assistant Governor-
Gaston County

members and their career paths of interest go to the Google sheet link
<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/174YxVRnrqUPVAAFumi0V7CkRGMDdp7ubIdeODO9joJw/edit?usp=sharing>

Just enter your name in the cell next the career path listed for the student and the contact info for that student will be sent to you. There will also be sign up sheets available at the in-person meetings. You can also contact **Mark Skillestad** at 704-718-8850 or mark.skillestad@yahoo.com.

Rotary Leadership Institute. Go to <http://www.rli33.org/> to register. Your next opportunity to take any or all of the RLI courses will be April 23-24 in conjunction with our District 7680 Conference.

CART - Giving CART dollars has never been easier. Go to: <http://www.mycartfund.org> to make a contribution directly to CART to help with Alzheimer's Research.

The Rotary Community Garden- Call Les Davis if you would like to help plant and maintain two garden beds that our club will be sponsoring this year. 704-618-1612 The growing season is coming up fast.

Continue to care for each other and reach out to one another. Make a call or send a note to a Rotary buddy.

This week hear all about the "Are You Smarter than a Fifth Grader" event that is coming up.

We have returned to our hybrid in-person and Zoom format! Go ahead and reserve your seat by entering your name in the Google Sheet as we did before.

Click: https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1C29DcbTxMvR9rizejJ2-W_1YcN1Jqz8mQxvBEaGa1K8/edit?usp=sharing

To attend with Zoom click the link below: The zoom link will start at 12:15. Please join by 12:30. The meeting will start at 12:40

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87542837213?pwd=SHYrRWc2aEFFdINKMEs2Y0ZIVFFsdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 4283 7213
Passcode: 698591

Thank you for your continued support of Rotary, its ideals and efforts to make a difference in our local and worldwide community, even while facing the challenges of COVID-19. **Invite a guest and share the good work of Rotary and the opportunities it provides.**

Take care, be safe out there and get the vaccine ASAP!

YIRS,
Brent

This Week's Program: April 8, 2021

Are you REALLY smarter than a 5th grader?



The Rotary Club of Gastonia is participating in the Gaston County Education Foundation's **Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader** competition for the second year. Join us to find out more about our partner school, the team of geniuses representing our club, and test your knowledge to be considered for a spot on next year's team!

The program will be offered in-person and by Zoom.

Join us at 12:30pm, with the program starting at 12:40pm.

Reserve your seat for the in-person meeting here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1C29DcbTxMvR9rizejJ2-W_1YcN1Jqz8mQxvBFaGa1K8/edit?usp=sharing

Join the Zoom Meeting here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87542837213?pwd=SHYrRWc2aEFFdINKMEs2Y0ZIVFFsdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 4283 7213
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Next Week's Program: April 15, 2021

Donna Lockett and Gaston Together



Our own **Donna Lockett** has served as the executive director of Gaston Together since 2003. The mission of Gaston Together is to bring the people and resources of Gaston County together to address unmet county/community needs achieved through the principles and best practices of collaboration, facilitation, promotion and the anticipation of possibilities.

Gaston Together was founded in 1997 with the goal of building a community of excellence! By focusing on the talents and resources of our citizens, Gaston together works to incorporate community members into planning for the future. They work to bring together citizens through town meetings and citizen task forces to solve community issue by getting to their root causes. One way they do this is through their Civic Engagement Leadership Class, which helps participants improve their personal awareness and increase their community knowledge. In addition to their role in promoting community initiatives, they also hope to promote pride in our community, by serving all 14 municipalities in Gaston County.

The program will be offered in-person and by Zoom.

Join us at 12:30pm, with the program starting at 12:40pm.

Reserve your seat for the in-person meeting here:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1C29DcbTxMvR9rizejJ2-W_1YcN1Jqz8mQxvBFaGa1K8/edit?usp=sharing

Join the Zoom Meeting here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87542837213?pwd=SHYrRWc2aEFFdINKMEs2Y0ZIVFFsdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 4283 7213
Passcode: 698591

This Week's Birthdays: April 5-11, 2021



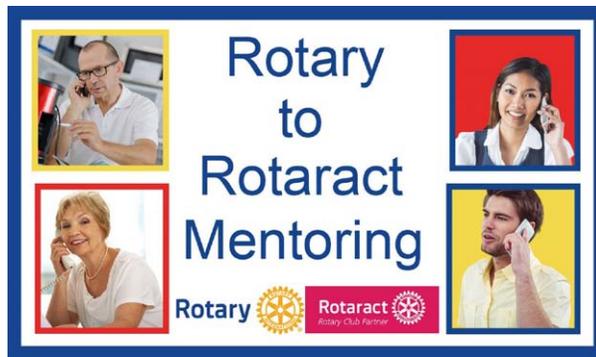
Christopher B. Leazer - April 8 and Richard Kennedy Craig - April 10



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL - April Focus

A blue rectangular graphic for Rotary International's April focus. At the top left, the word "APRIL" is written in large white letters. Below it is a photograph of a young child in an orange shirt. A quote box over the photo reads: "Every child deserves a chance at life filled with love, laughter, friends and family." - Mario Thomas. A large yellow Rotary International gear logo is on the right. At the bottom, it says "MATERAL AND CHILD HEALTH MONTH" in white, "Rotary" with the logo, and "TAKE ACTION: Get Involved, Join Rotary".

ROTARY TO ROTARACT MENTORING - Sign Up Sheet



Share your insights and advice with our future leaders!
 Sign up to be a mentor and have a phone conversation with a Rotaract Student to help them as they select a career path.

[Rotary to Rotaract Mini-Mentorship](#)

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE training opportunities



Rotary Leadership Institute

Where Rotary Club Members become Rotarians

April 23-24: 9:00 - 12:00 (Parts 1,2,3)
 April 23-24: 1:30 - 4:30 (Parts 1,2,3)
(April 23-24 will be in conjunction with District 7680 Conference)

May 7: 8:30 - 4:30 (Parts 1,2,3)
 May 22 & 23: Day 1, 8:45 - 12:15 (Parts 1&2)
 May 22 & 23: Day 2, 1:30 - 4:15 (Parts 1&2)
 May 22 : 8:45 - 4:15 (Part 3)
 May 22 : 8:45 - 4:15 (Part 1)
 June 19 : 8:45 - 4:15 (Part 1)

EASY ZOOM
Register at rli33.org

The club will reimburse the \$35 cost

Register for RLI All Sessions ONLINE
 There are a number of RLI programs available all ONLINE!
 Meet Rotarians from all over the eight state region, share ideas and learn from each other.
 The following events are currently on the calendar and available for registration.
 Register at www.rli33.org.
 Contact Marcia Scheideman (mscheideman.ms@gmail.com) RLI District Chair 7680

Recovery Court Gift Cards



Regift the Gift of Recovery, by regifting a Fast Food Gift Card that you may not have used.

It must be for a fast food type establishment that does not offer beer or wine.

Events

April 8th

Club Meeting: Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?

April 15th

Club Meeting: Donna Lockett - Gaston Together

April 22nd

Club Meeting: TBA

April 29th

Club Meeting: Patti Black - Ready to Travel?