

# Rotary



# Club of Gastonia

## Birthdays

Harry Graham Petrey  
April 15th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Vincent Cherry  
April 12th

## Years of Service

Robert Voorhees Sytz Sr.  
04-06-1978  
43 Years

Mark T. Skillestad  
04-05-2001  
20 Years

Leslie Gene Davis  
04-06-2017  
4 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  
iPast President

Stephen Barrett Driscoll  
Rotary Foundation

## President's Message -April 15, 2021

Dear 'life cherishing' members of the Rotary Club of Gastonia,

**It is with great difficulty that I write this week's message.** At last week's meeting I was so happy to present *Bill Seabrook* with an honorary membership to our club and thrilled to announce that *Martha Burris* had received a kidney transplant, giving new hope for extending her life. Right after sharing that wonderful news, we were informed during Health & Happiness that the dark plague of gun violence in our country had touched our community and one of our own in the mass shooting in Rock Hill.

According to news accounts, grandparents, *Dr. Robert Leslie, his wife Barbara* and their two grandchildren, *Adah and Noah* had their lives taken. Before that horrific event occurred, two GSM employees on a routine service call were gunned down. HVAC technician *James Lewis* died at the scene and technician *Robert Shook* initially survived but succumbed to his injuries Saturday. *Steven and Joel Long*, as well as all their staff and the families involved are in a living nightmare right now. Be with them in your thoughts and prayers to give them strength as they do the best they can for the families of *James and Robert* along with their entire *GSM family*. Steven and Joel have set up a **GoFundMe** account for the families of their cherished employees lost. Here is the link if you would like to help. <https://gofund.me/ae351b5c>

**Life is so precious.** We live our lives looking forward to making it to and enjoying our golden years such as *Bill* has done. Sometimes we battle a disease and hope for a life saving miracle such as a kidney transplant as in *Martha's* case. Unfortunately, we are also reminded of how the life that we hold so dear and fight for can be so suddenly taken away. Cherish each precious day that you have, your family, co-workers, friends and even strangers. Our world would be so much better if everyone did.

**For the program last week,** *Barbara Voorhees and Davidson Hobson* gave us a taste of the upcoming, Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader competition which will run Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with the final championship rounds being held on Thursday. Our cerebral team members, *Les Davis, Patti Black, Karen Walker and Barbara Voorhees* will team up with students from Belmont Central to make us proud with their cognitive prowess. Our club is a corporate sponsor for this virtual event, having donated **\$1,000** which will benefit the **Gaston County Education Foundation**.

**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 members and their career paths of interest go to the Google sheet link <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/174YxVRnrqUPVAAFumi0V7CkRGMDdp7ubIdeODO9joJw/edit?usp=sharing>. There will also be a sign up sheet on your table for you to use if you attend in-person. **This effort does not cost you any money, only a little of your time, but yet it could be so valuable.**

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](mailto:mark.skillestad@yahoo.com).

**The Recovery Court** program continues to need our help. Several fast-food gift cards have been 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.

**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.



Chair



Matt Gibbons  
Membership Chair



Kay Collins Peninger  
Bulletin Editor



Davidson Robert Hobson  
Club Programs Chair



Sharon Heinrich  
Assistant Governor-  
Gaston County

**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.

**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** , *Donna Lockett* will take center stage, telling us about the good things happening with Gaston Together. Joining her will be *Lisa Clement-Bryant*, CaroMont Director of Employer Services and *Vincent Wong*, City of Gastonia Director of Community Services.

*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](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=SHYrRWc2aEFFdINKMEs2Y0ZlVFFsdz09>

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 15, 2021

### Gaston Together - One of Gaston County's Best Kept Secrets



Many of its Board Members say that Gaston Together is one of the best kept secrets in Gaston County. You may not think you know about Gaston Together however you may be aware of one of its programs such as its community pride building programs: the Community Leadership Awards, the Pride in Gaston Traveling Tour for third graders or its companion program the Proudest Kid in Gaston County Essay Contest. You may have attended one of the Gaston Together MLK Unity Award events or your company may be a Healthy Gaston organization. You may even be aware of the Gaston Clergy & Citizens Coalition (GC3) - Law Enforcement Covenant. Yet, all of these programs are Gaston Together initiatives.

Organized in 1997, Gaston Together's mission was intentionally developed to allow it to respond as needed to Big Community Challenges. In 2014, Gaston Together was asked to help address the need to create a potential future pool of leaders for Gaston County. From their discovery and research of current leadership efforts in our county, Gaston Together developed the Civic Engagement Leadership process. This process addresses the gaps of intentional cross-sector Community Building, Personal Skills/ Personal Awareness development and Greater Knowledge of Gaston County - its past and present and its impact on the future of our community.

Presenters will be Donna Lockett, Gaston Together Executive Director, and two Civic Engagement Leadership Graduates: Lisa Clement-Bryant, Director of Employer Services at CaroMont, and Vincent

Wong, Director of Community Services for the City of Gastonia.

*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\\_1YcN1Jqz8mQxvBEaGa1K8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1C29DcbTxMvR9rizejJ2-W_1YcN1Jqz8mQxvBEaGa1K8/edit?usp=sharing)

**Join the Zoom Meeting here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87542837213?pwd=SHYrRWc2aEFFdINKMEs2YOZIVFFsdz09>

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## This Week's Birthdays: April 12-18, 2021



*Harry Graham Petrey - April 15*



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## HONORARY MEMBER - Bill Seabrook

*Our newest honorary member, Mr. William "Bill" Brownlee Seabrook*



We are very honored to present The Rotary Club of Gastonia's newest honorary member, Mr. Bill Seabrook! At our April 8 meeting, President Brent Messer presented Bill with the news and recounted the tremendous contributions that he has made to Rotary and our community! Congratulations, Bill! We are honored to serve alongside you.

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## Thoughts and Prayers

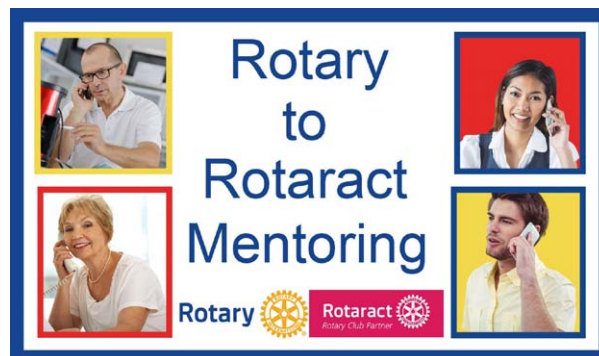
### Thoughts and Prayers



Please keep in your thoughts and prayers, the families of James Lewis and Robert Shook, our Rotary brother, Steven Long, his brother and Rotarian Joel, and the GSM family, as our community grieves the loss of these two men.

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## 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](#)

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## Recovery Court Gift Cards



**The Recovery Court** program continues to need our help. Several fast-food gift cards have been 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.

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## 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](http://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](http://www.rli33.org).  
 Contact Marcia Scheideman ([mscheideman.ms@gmail.com](mailto:mscheideman.ms@gmail.com)) RLI District Chair 7680

## Next Week's Program: April 22, 2021

Stay tuned for additional information!



*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\\_1YcN1Jqz8mQxvBEaGa1K8/edit?usp=sharing](https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1C29DcbTxMvR9rizejJ2-W_1YcN1Jqz8mQxvBEaGa1K8/edit?usp=sharing)

**Join the Zoom Meeting here:**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87542837213?pwd=SHYrRWc2aEFFdINKMEs2Y0ZlVFFsdz09>

Meeting ID: 875 4283 7213  
Passcode: 698591

## Events

April 15th

**Club Meeting: Donna Lockett - Gaston Together**

April 22nd

**Club Meeting: TBA**

April 29th

**Club Meeting: Patti Black - Ready to Travel?**

May 6th

**Club Meeting: TBA**