



Scuttlebutt

Wednesday, February 10, 2021

President Gavin's notes

Greetings friends,

It was great seeing so many of you last Friday for a fantastic program by Hugh Stevens. I am excited about the speakers we have scheduled over the next several months, and I encourage you to keep tuning in. This Friday we will have a Valentine's Day special intro to our program, and I encourage you to invite your own Valentine to join us for a fun meeting. A special thanks to Cathy Thomas, who shared her wonderful "member minute." We have a truly exceptional group of people in our group, and our hope is to use these highlights as a chance to learn a little more about our fellow rotarians.

As you are aware, our ability to safely meet in-person remains hindered by COVID 19. The East Chapel Hill Rotary Board recently met, and agreed to temporarily reduce our quarterly dues to \$92.50--an amount that covers our obligations to Rotary International, our district, and charitable assessments. Our expenses have been significantly reduced this year due to our inability to host several in-person events, and consequently we remain on a good financial footing. We will readjust our dues accordingly as the situation changes, and we are able to once again meet in person. In the meantime, we wanted to inform you of this change prior to receiving your dues statements in the near future.

I continue to be impressed by all of the good works that our members do in our community and beyond. I am also reminded of what a strong and wonderful network of friends our club is, and am proud of the support that our members offer one another during difficult times. I appreciate your willingness to remain engaged in our club meetings in a virtual format, and continue to look forward to a time when we can safely resume our in person meetings.

I appreciate all that you do to serve East Chapel Hill Rotary. Together we will strive to thrive despite these uncertain times. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Yours in Rotary,

Gavin Heymann
 President 2020-2021

Announcements

- Our next meal service date at the SECU Family House is 2/18/21. If you are able to serve please use this [Sign-Up Sheet](#).
- Alan Young and Liz Henke announced at our meeting last week that they were able to obtain a grant for \$95,000 for Habitat to install solar panels on ten homes during the next year. The grant is from Orange County. Liz and Habitat's grant writer wrote the grant. This is a huge success for Liz and the Solar Squad, The Green Team, East Chapel Hill Rotary, Orange Habitat, and 10 future homeowners. Thanks so much to all involved for helping to secure this funding!
- While we had hoped to be transitioning to limited in-person meetings early in the new year, recent COVID trends have hampered those plans. Guidance from our district still strongly discourages in-person meeting, and we agree with this prudent advice. We continue to monitor the situation, and will be poised to meet again physically when it is safe to do so. In the meantime, I ask that you do your best to attend virtually, and reach out to others who may have been absent to encourage them to do the same.

Sergeant-at-Arms Dick Baddour

Dick Baddour did the duties as Sergeant-at-Arms.

Discussed the vaccine rollout in the state, 900,000 doses of first vaccine given. 200,000 2nd vaccines given. But what really matters vaccinating ECHR members? Dick talked to 16 members of ECHR Club about their experience. Responses and observations:

- Cedars does 549 vaccines per day
- Long waits on phone to get an appointment
- Friday Center process running smoothly. UNC Hillsborough slower once there
- Same smooth experience over at Duke
- Orange County more problematical. Hard to get 2nd vaccine lined up
- Dick had to go to Siler City, but it went smoothly once there
- One person arrived in parking lot and was told his appointment had been cancelled (he received the notice of cancellation 2 days later!) Refused to leave the parking lot without getting a new appointment scheduled
- How does someone without a smartphone or computer do this? Such as, for example, ECHR's own Al Freund! Need a daughter who understands tech
- As of today no appointments available for UNC and Orange Counties
- Walgreens says they are going to start vaccinations. Dick went through the web site sign-up process at end of wading through it all he was then told no appointments are available at a Walgreens within 50 miles!

Speakers

Birthdays

- Cecil Rambarat
February 11th
- David F. Anna
February 11th
- Joel Wagoner
February 19th
- Dennis Ellis
February 21st
- Mary Roodkowsky
February 22nd
- Gavin Christopher Heymann
February 24th
- Steve Hess
February 26th
- Ronald C. Link
February 27th
- William H. Bunch
March 4th
- Donald J. Heineman
March 5th
- Patrick Phelan
March 8th
- William E. Bolen
March 9th
- John Akin
March 10th
- Clifford Roosevelt Butler
March 11th
- Robert Harper Slater
March 11th

Club Leaders



[Gavin Christopher Heymann](#)
 President



[Patrick Phelan](#)
 President-Elect



[Omar Zinn](#)
 Secretary



[Courtney H Knoll](#)
 Treasurer



[Christine Diane Jones](#)
 Club Director



[Laurie Paolicelli](#)
 Public Image Chair



[William B. Aycock II](#)
 Service Projects Chair



[David Baddour](#)
 Club Fellowship Chair

February 5, 2021 Speaker - Hugh Stevens

By Robert Harper Slater



Introduced by Jim Heavner is nationally known media lawyer, Hugh Stevens. Has even battled with UNC to release records. In news recently US Supreme Court sided with Daily Tar Heel to release records of sexual offenses. General Counsel for NC Press Association for 20 years. Recipients of many, many awards. Second lawyer ever inducted into NC Journalists Hall of Fame. Taught at Duke's Sanford Institute of Public Policy. Later, taught at NC State. Bird watcher and Red Sox fan.

You can't form an opinion about something if you don't know what's happening. No constitutional right in NC to access public records. Open meetings laws meetings must be held in open. Prohibits secret ballots. Gives people access to meetings and proceedings of gov't bodies at all levels. Records are the property of the people not of the committee, officeholders, state, etc.

Hugh's role has been to vote for improvement in access laws, and to litigate to enforce them. His most important public records case was News & Observer vs Poole. Began in 1989 when a book jacket was leaked to the N&O. Involved alleged improper doings in Jim Valvano's basketball program (he also served as AD). Book Jacket suggested book would reveal academic fraud and serious improper practices. CD Spangler (then President of UN System) set up four person Poole Commission to look into NC State basketball program. All members distinguished. Investigated during summer of 1989.

Having no investigative skills, they asked to borrow some SBI agents 3 were loaned. 160 people interviewed by SBI agents. Frank McDaniels asked for copy of report in advance. Spangler said, I don't have it. Ask Sam Poole. Asst AG Andy Venori said no, these are not public records. Presentation made to Bd of Governors by Sam Poole, and Spangler. They found violations of spirit of law, not law. Real problem was serious lack of supervision from the top in NC State basketball program. Then book came out. Alleged drug use, gifts from boosters, grades changed, team rife with morale and racial issues. Chancellor of NC State resigned. Spangler told Board of Governors he was going to ask Valvano to step down as AD. Records of Poole Commission still not made available to public.

Finally, in October of 1989, Frank McDaniels said sue them. At first, Valvano stayed on a basketball coach because of more and more accusations including from a player who said he had been paid 65k Valvano resigned. He took a settlement and left.

In April of 1990 the case comes to court. Superior Court Judge Barnett ruled in favor of N&O. They were Poole Commission records, not SBI records, and had to be turned over. Seemed a bit late. Valvano gone. 1992 case went to NC Supreme Court ruled in November 1992 for N&O also. Supported Judge Barnett. Also, big holding: *the public records law is to be construed liberally and expansively to accomplish its purpose. Any exemptions or exceptions are to be construed narrowly.*

Lynchpin decision! This construction of the law by the NC Supreme Court made it effective. Irony never any reporting as to the contents of the records!

Hugh has sued governors, city councils and universities.

Daily Tar Heel lawsuit. Title IX serious sexual offenses/predators. Fed govt has put burden on universities to handle these cases. Fed law requires a university administrative process to handle serious sexual assault cases. Some would be felonies. UNC refused to say who these students were, what they did, and how they were punished. Sued UNC in Nov 2016. Lost in trial court. Won at panel of Ct of Appeals. Went to NC Supreme Court. Won 4-3. UNC then asked US Supreme Ct to review the case b/c of interface between NC Records Law and federal privacy law. US Supremes denied petition for certiorari. This process lasted 4 years.

Silent Sam settlement. Two pieces. Trust of \$2.5m for Sons of Confederate Veterans to safeguard the statute. Other piece: paid them \$74,999 to curtail their 1st amendment activities on UNC campus. Big outcry. Op Ed piece in N&O purportedly by 5 members of UNC Bd of Governors. Revealed for the first time the \$74,999 settlement to not come on campus. If true, this piece revealed the Bd violated the open meetings law. Open Meetings law allows action taken at meetings held in violation of the law can be voided.

Op ed piece was not true it was marketing piece to try and put a good gloss on something. Open meetings case shined a light on dark corner of University proceedings. 4 lawyers crafted the deal and Interim President Bill Roper signed it.

To view the recording click the below link.

<https://youtu.be/FLLjkFYCQ9o>

Our next Speaker Michael Washington

Michael Washington is a film and web series creator. He is the founder and CEO of Argyle Rebel Films, a North Carolina film production company that believes in telling organic stories about people, places, and moments we love. Michael is currently producing three feature length documentaries Save the Dad Bod: A Men's Health Odyssey, Harbinger: Stories from the UNC Black Pioneers, Who is Willie Cooper? A Player's Story, and the short-form interview web series A (dot) Rebel.



[Gregory E. Bradbury](#)
Membership Chair



[Will Bunch](#)
CCO-Club Comm. Offer



[Mike Clayton](#)
Rotary Foundation Chair



[Timothy Dalton](#)
Club Fundraising Chair



[David Grier Martin](#)
Sergeant-at-Arms



[John A. Perry](#)
Club Admin Chair



[Nicholas Matthew Vaughn](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Lorenzo Mejia](#)
Youth Services Chair



[Matthew Arnold](#)
iPast President



[Carol J. Rives](#)
Asst Governor



Zoom Information

Topic: East Chapel Hill Rotary Club Meeting
Time: Feb 12, 2021 12:45 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87816108212?pwd=aTdkR2pYQ1dXNFZ1enBrUEpXbExmQT09>

Meeting ID: 878 1610 8212
Passcode: 520811
One tap mobile
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+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)
Meeting ID: 878 1610 8212
Passcode: 520811
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87816108212?pwd=aTdkR2pYQ1dXNFZ1enBrUEpXbExmQT09>

East Chapel Hill
Meets at Chapel Hill Country Club

Time: Friday at 12:45 PM