



## AREA 8 NEWSLETTER – JULY- AUGUST 2024

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### District 7720 News

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*Editor's Message – This newsletter is off the monthly schedule, but as many active Rotarians understand, life gives you many balls to juggle simultaneously and sometimes adjustments are necessary despite best intentions. Nonetheless, there is a lot that has happened, and is being planned, in Area 8, that I want to share!*

### YOU NEED TO ENHANCE YOUR ROTARY EXPERIENCE WITH RLI –Rotary Leadership Institute!

#### LEARNING + FUN

Register Now On Dacdb or RLI33.org

##### The RLI Program

Each session is highly interactive and, therefore, contains a minimum of lecturing and provides lots of opportunity for participants to share their experience and ideas. The sessions are led by Rotary leaders who have been trained in the facilitation techniques that maximize the learning experience.



August 24<sup>th</sup> in New Bern  
Part I, II, and III  
Garber Methodist Church  
4201 Country Club Road  
Trent Woods NC 28562

I know you have probably received multiple emails promoting RLI and maybe you have avoided signing up to begin, or finish, the three sessions of Rotary Institute because the word “Leadership” sounds like you will be expected to be an officer in your club or the District. Actually, there have been many suggestions to change the “L” from Leadership to Learning in the title of this special program for exactly that reason. However, Rotary International believes leadership is not unique to Rotary, but rather an opportunity in all parts of a Rotarian’s life, so they’re not interested in changing the branding at this point. Perhaps if I share the program agenda for the next RLI

program on Saturday, August 24, from 8:30 am to 3:30 pm, you will have a better sense of what each session module includes. Since all three sessions are being held in New Bern, right here in Area 8, it is particularly convenient! Morning snacks and lunch are included! **Check with your club President or Treasurer to see if the club covers the \$95 tuition fee, because many clubs do recognize this as an investment in retaining and engaging their members!**

- Session I – The Roots of Rotary, My Club & Beyond, Engaging Members, Our Foundation, Creating Service Projects
- Session II – Rotary & Ethics, Strategic Planning, Targeted Service, Attracting Members, Team Building
- Session III – Effective Leadership Strategies, Vocational Service Expectations, Club Communications, International Service, Public Image & PR

Other RLI programs are scheduled in Jacksonville, Wilmington, and Durham through the end of this year, so you can continue to the next session. Whether you have been a Rotarian for years, but especially if you are a new member, the Rotary Leadership (and Learning) Institute will make a real difference in your understanding of and commitment to being part of this international organization! And since I am serving as facilitator for two sessions in New Bern, I will be delighted to see you that day!

**Register on DACdb** - Click on the District Tab, then on the Calendar Icon. In the box at the top of the page are Event options, and if you click on “RLI Training Event” at the far right, you will find all of the RLI programs scheduled. The program for August 24 is the second one on the list and once you click on “Register” you should be all set! If your club is paying the tuition, ask your treasurer about your reimbursement!

## AREA 8 CLUB NEWS TO SHARE

Rotary Club of New Bern - Meets Tuesdays, 1:00-2:00 pm, at Chelsea Restaurant - President 2024-25, Guy Smith



- Guy Smith, the President for RY 2024-25, received the club gavel from outgoing President Garry Flannery, after being inducted by club member and current District Governor, Gene Foster.
- The District Banner was transferred to the Rotary Club of New Bern, home of DG Gene Foster, from the Rotary Club of Oriental, home of PDG Tony Santore.



- Paul Harris Recognition Awards were presented by club Foundation Chair, Terry Lubsen, in June and July to Chris Kelso (PH+2), Meloni McGraw Way (PH+5), Stephen Clayton (First PH), and Cillie Griffith (First PH). The New Bern Rotary Club has challenged any club member who does not currently have a Paul Harris Award to achieve their PHA by Nov 2024, "Rotary Foundation Month". As an incentive, and in keeping with the motto of "Service above Self", the club will assist each member with points toward their first PHA for contributing time on any Club Service Project. Points will be awarded, 100 points (750 points max.) for every hour contributed to a Club sponsored service project for RY '23-24 and' 24-25.
- Club Giving in June and July included donations made to Craven Arts Council and the NC Symphony for their contributions to the arts in New Bern and Craven County. A significant donation was also made to RCS and a personal contribution from member Walt Crayton was made to the Rotary-Habitat Home Build Project from his winnings at the Big Rock Blue Marlin Tournament.
- Scholarship Committee Chair Jim Findlay presented Shaelee Wright with the club's scholarship award of \$16,000 (\$4,000 for 4 years) to Appalachian State University. Shaelee is a 2024 graduate of New Bern High School and has been active in that Rotary Interact Club.
- Stephen Clayton was recognized by the club as Rotarian of the Year for 2023-24 for his outstanding coordination of the annual Pigskin Preview event, arranging for the weekly speaker programs, and much more as a super-engaged club member.
- The 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Pigskin Preview, held on July 30, raised over \$4,000 to support high school athletics in area high schools in each of our Area 8 communities – West Craven, Pamlico, New Bern, and Havelock. The popular and well attended program was moderated by WCTI sports reporter, Brian North, and included a panel of the coaches from each high school who answered questions about their predictions and goals for the coming season. New Bern High School Coach, Bob Curlings, received the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Goodwill Helmet Award. There was plenty of media coverage, and links are available on WCTI, WITN, and WNCT.





## Rotary Club of New Bern Breakfast

Meets Thursdays: 7:30-8:30 am, at the Masonic Lodge, 516 Hancock Street (2<sup>nd</sup> floor, elevator access)

President 2024-25, Clifton Pike



- On June 27, after induction by DG Gene Foster, President Clifton Pike receives the club gavel and expressed appreciation to Andy Garlick, outgoing President, for his year.

- The club was pleased to present the first Leadership Awards to Mitchell Hardware (Business Sector Community Service Award, co-owners Lindsay Sims and Winnie Smith), and to Susan Husson (Non-Profit Sector Community Service Award) for her 25+ years of dedication as the Executive Director of Interfaith Refugee Ministries in New Bern.



- Winners of this year's Major Todd S. Denson Memorial Scholarship, named after a former club member and Marine pilot of an AV-8B Harrier that crashed in 2008, were announced at the Annual Meeting. The five students receiving a \$1,000 scholarship are Abby Rodriguez (New Bern High School), Liza Reno (New Bern High School), Maliyah Hill (Havelock High School), London Montanye (Havelock High School), and Whitney Saucier (Craven Early College). In addition, a \$1,000 Don Masch Memorial Nursing Scholarship at Craven Community College was presented to Allison Hodges. The \$1,000 Don Masch Volt Toolbelt Trust scholarship was also provided to the VOLT Center to be awarded at their discretion.

Shown here, with their parents/grandparents are three of the five high school scholarship recipients.

- Foundation Chair, Paul Platek, presented Dick Peebles with his PH+2 recognition.
- Sponsorships of \$100 from members for the club's annual Oktoberfest fundraiser in September, were enthusiastically solicited at recent meeting by Team Captains Dave Super, Dick Peebles, and George Orsega. Each team quickly reached, or surpassed, the \$1,000 team goals after members were coached by the Captains with reminders of deep friendships! Some members even agreed to contributing to each team rather than show any favoritism!



- It is with deep sadness that the club recognizes the passing of our member William "Bill" Taylor. A member of Rotary since November 1985, Bill was dedicated to the mission and purpose of Rotary, and a Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation. His years of contributions to his community, known and unknown, have been beyond significant.





- The Breakfast Rotary Club's major fundraiser – the 13<sup>th</sup> Annual B/S/H/ Oktoberfest, presented with First Flight Credit Union, is scheduled for Saturday, September 28, from 5:00 to 10:00 pm at the Riverfront Convention Center on South Front Street. The traditional German food, music and entertainment from the Little German Band, the Stein holding contest, and plenty of beer thanks to this year's partners – Brewery 99 and Shortway Brewing - guarantee a very festive evening!



- A free and open-to-the-public "Tapping the Keg" Party will be held on Wednesday, September 25, at 5:30 pm at Brewery 99 on Pollock Street. According to tradition, Mayor Jeffrey Odham has been invited to again do the honor of tapping the keg at 6:00 pm. He was available to do the same last year!

• Oktoberfest Tickets, as well as advance beer/wine tickets, and souvenir t-shirts can be ordered on line at <https://bit.ly/2024oktoberfesttickets>. Event tickets are also available at Mitchell Hardware.

### Rotary Club of Oriental

**Meets Mondays: 6:00-7:00 pm at Brantley's Restaurant - President 2024-25 Sheri Rettew**

- Sherri Rettew was installed as the RY 2024-25 President of the Oriental Rotary Club. Unfortunately, I do not have any photos of this event, or any other updates from the club as of this publication. I know, however, that this is an active club, involved in their community, so I am sure there will be news to share in the next newsletter!

### Rotary Club of Vanceboro

**Meets Thursdays: 7:00-8:00 pm, at Vera's Diner - President 2024-25 Hudson "Hud" Jordan**



- DG Gene Foster had the honor of welcoming the club's newest member, Brandon Bradley, to Rotary.

- Hudson "Hud" Jordan was installed by DG Gene as the RY 2024-25 President of the Rotary Club of Vanceboro. Hud shared his goals for this year with a full and receptive audience.



### Rotary Club of Havelock-Cherry Point

**Meets 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays: 7:30-8:30 am, at First Methodist Church - President 2024-25 Louis Balogh**



- Lou Balogh was installed as the club President for a third term. Plans for this Rotary year include a commitment by all members to increase the club's membership as well as the visibility and activity of the club in the community. It was also decided to pause, at least for now, the evening meeting on the third Thursday of each month at Mucho Bueno Restaurant.

- The club hosted scholarship winners Melaney Caudill, now in her junior year, receiving her 3rd year scholarship to ENC, and Braxton Cumbo, a freshman at NC State, studying Technology Engineering and Design Education. Maliyah Hill, a first-year student at North Carolina A&T in Elementary Education and Speech Pathology was not available that evening for this photo. (L-R, Lou Balogh, Braxton, Melaney, and Diane Menger, club treasurer and secretary).





## Rotary Clubs of Greater New Bern Partner with Habitat for Humanity to Build a House



- Well, we did it! The Habitat Home that Rotary Built (the Noon and Breakfast clubs), in the Pembroke community of New Bern, was 90% complete as of the end of July. We are now waiting for word from Habitat for Humanity of Craven County on the family that is selected to realize their dream of homeownership with this special Rotary supported home! Details for the Home Dedication with the family will be shared when known. Thanks are due to our Rotary-Habitat Build Co-Chairs, Mike Williams (Breakfast) and Joe Geiger (Noon), for keeping this project on track.

- Each club made a significant commitment to volunteer hours from members as well as multiple events to raise funds needed to support the construction of this 80<sup>th</sup> Habitat home in our community. The Breakfast Rotary held a six-month, third Friday evening, "Pints & Pinots" fundraiser and recognized Pete, and Brewery 99 for the generous contribution of \$400. An additional \$325 was raised, and acknowledged with appreciation, by Capt. Ratty's and Persimmons, the other businesses who participated in this special fundraising effort.



## AND NOW, A WORD FROM OUR ROTARY INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT



RY 2024-25 Rotary International President, **Stephanie Urchick**, the second woman to hold this position after Jennifer Jones in RY 2022-23, is proof of the impact women have had on Rotary since being allowed full membership in 1988. Her recent message in the *Rotarian* magazine emphasizes the importance of Rotary is at its best when ".....we foster a sense of inclusion and belonging in our clubs. In fact, I would go so far as to say that belonging is The Magic of Rotary itself. With a focus on inclusivity and belonging, it is easier to be united in a common purpose. When we are committed to one another and focused on our goals, we are most effective," she said. President Urchick goes on to say ".....if we are to truly change the world with The Magic of Rotary, it's up to all of us to foster a sense of belonging in our clubs. But every club should take its own path to get there."

During my meetings with Area 8 clubs, I have heard each club mention their commitment to growing their membership this year. As we prepare to concentrate on increasing and retaining our members, I remind all our 287+ members of their individual responsibility to this effort. The Rotary's Membership Action Plan can help, and the monthly MAP webinars offer tools, ideas, and actual how-to strategies to engage members to make our club meetings more inspiring, entertaining, and fun! We also have the advantage of having two District Membership resources right here in Area 8 – **Barry Lutz** is District Leadership/Council Membership Chair, and **Dave Super** is the Innovative Club Advocate for District 7720. Both of these individuals may have already, or will soon, be in touch with club Presidents and club Membership Chairs to arrange meetings and/or offer ways to assist in making this an active membership year!