

AREA 8 NEWSLETTER – APRIL ISSUE 2025

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District 7720 News

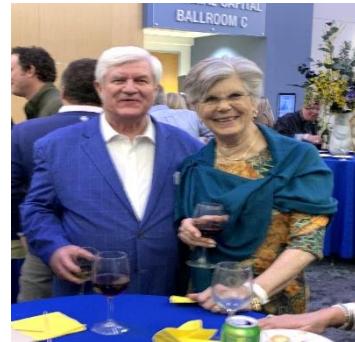
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AREA 8 CLUB NEWS TO SHARE

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

- The special event – “**A Night Of Comedy**” – held on March 7, a club fundraiser conveniently during the District 7720 Conference, grossed over \$50,000 with a net of between \$23,000-\$25,000 to benefit the Coastal Center for Hope and Healing. Congrats to the event organizer, Bill Stafford, and everyone who made the event such a success! (Photo: Bill with club member Linda MacDonald)
- The Rotary Club of New Bern has announced the availability of two scholarships for graduating seniors at \$4,000 for 4 years, plus a new William Sherman Scholarship for \$2,500
- Future Community Service and activities for the club include:
 - April 8 – Backpack Blessings at Garber UMC, 10:00-12:00 PM
 - April 15 – Club Meeting - Field Trip to the Tuscarora Landfill
 - April 24 – Art Auction in partnership with Rotary Club of New Bern Breakfast
 - April 26 – Parkinson’s Awareness Run
 - May 2-3 – Neuse River Bridge Run



Rotary Club of New Bern Breakfast - Meets Thursdays: 7:30-8:30 am, at the Masonic Lodge, 516 Hancock Street (2nd floor, elevator access), President 2024-25, Clifton Pike



- Joni Bass received her PH+4 from the club’s Foundation Chair, Paul Platek
- Club President Clifton Pike, Club CART Chair David Whitley, Executive Director Tiffany Ervin of The CART Foundation, and club member/District CART Chair Ann Super, presented a check for \$1,191.32 as the club’s first contribution to the CART Foundation for this year, following Tiffany’s inspirational presentation, “The Power Of One” to the club in March. Member Barry Lutz was also recognized for becoming a monthly donor to the CART Foundation to advance Alzheimer’s research.
- Three New Members were welcomed to the club in March: Gretchen Derda (sponsor-her cousin and club Charter member, Mitch Khouri), Carolyn Perrigo, a long-time Rotarian, Past President, and PHF (transferred from the Morehead City Rotary), and Rodger Allison (sponsor Paul Platek)

- Three members (Paul Platek, Andy Garlick, Deedra Durocher) from the New Bern Breakfast Rotary club served as the primary facilitators for the RLI sessions in Asheboro, NC on March 29. The club now has seven certified RLI facilitators – all of whom encourage fellow Rotarians to participate in future RLI offerings!
- The club's signature project – **Kicks-For-Kids** purchased and delivered 300 pairs of new shoes to elementary and middle school students throughout Craven County in early March. Since this program began in 1996, the New Bern Breakfast Club has donated approximately 8,000 shoes (est.

\$250,000). Member Tom Gingrich (far left) has coordinated this important program for area children for the last 15 years and works closely with our business partner, Todd Whisnant (second from left) of Coastal Sole to purchase the shoes.



- **"Discover Rotary"** is planned for Thursday, April 3, as the next meeting to establish an **EVENING COMPANION CLUB**, for those current members and prospective members who would prefer an alternative to the weekly meetings at 7:30 AM. This informal meeting will be held at the Craven-Pamlico Regional Library from 5:30 to 6:30 PM. Please join us – and bring someone who needs to know more about the purpose, benefits, community service, and fun of Rotary!
- Member Ramona Stoner, an outstanding cook and host, has initiated a series of unique **"Dinners To Donate"** to benefit a local charity supported by the New Bern Breakfast Rotary Charities. Her next event is scheduled for Friday, April 4 and offers an impressive menu to a limited group of 18 guests. This month's dinner will benefit the CART Foundation and reservations of \$50 per person are required. Contact RamonaStoner@yahoo.com if you would like to be included on her future dinner invitations.
- In recognition of Earth Day, the New Bern Breakfast Rotary is once again sponsoring a **Shredding Event** as a fundraiser for the club's charities. In partnership with the City of New Bern, the public can bring their papers to be shredded on-site at Union Point Park on Saturday, April 19, from 10:00 to 2:30 pm. Donations of \$10 per box are requested and Rotarians will be there to unload boxes so folks won't even have to get out of their car!

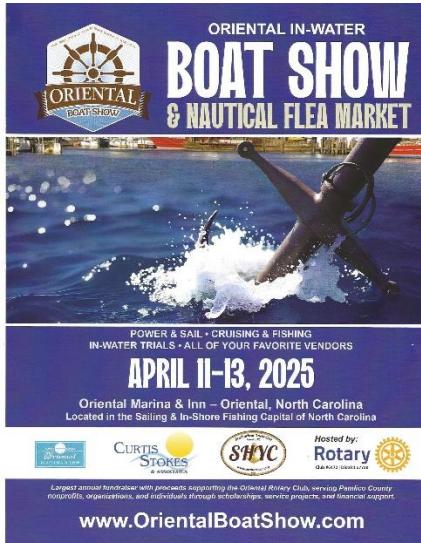


Once Again, the New Bern Rotary Clubs are Working Together to Support the Community & Each Other!

Bill Stafford (New Bern) and Rich Goldstein (New Bern Breakfast) are working together on a unique joint fundraiser on Thursday, April 24 at the Riverfront Convention Center. Tickets at \$25 pp are available by scanning the QR code or at Nautical Wheelers on Craven Street. Scheduled during New Bern's "Arts in April" month, the event will include an evening of food, wine & beer, some great Art to bid on, and socializing with fellow Rotarians and guests, as well as folks from our community. Both clubs will share proceeds to support local Rotary scholarships.

Rotary Club of Oriental

Meets Mondays: 6:00-7:00 pm at Brantley's Restaurant – Acting President 2024-25 Tony Santore



- The signature annual fundraiser of the Oriental Rotary Club is scheduled for April 11-13 – **The Oriental In-Water Boat Show & Nautical Flea Market**. Whether it's power or sail, cruising or fishing, or just looking at all kinds of boats, there is something to see and enjoy in this beautiful waterfront community known as "The Sailing Capital of the East Coast." Admission is just \$10.
- The Oriental Rotary once again served 140 college students who participated in the annual SailPack Sailing Competition in a multi-day program in the waters off the community's shore. The Competition is organized by the University of North Carolina.
- Past President Cathy Santore (at left) presented two Libre Diabetic Sensors to the Hope Clinic patients.
- Members of the club completed the installation of playground equipment for HeartWorks, a nonprofit after school program in the community.

Rotary Club of Havelock-Cherry Point

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

- You can join the Havelock-Cherry Point Rotary Club's **Toga Party & Raffle** on Friday, April 25 for an evening of fun, dinner, dancing, and just great entertainment! It's all for their primary fundraiser. The grand prize is \$5,000!!! Contact Diane Menger for tickets at 252-675-2204 or email her at sdmenger@yahoo.com



Rotary Club of Vanceboro

Meets 1st and 3rd Thursdays: 7:00-8:00 pm, at Vera's Diner - President 2024-25 Hudson "Hud" Jordan



- The club's annual fundraiser, the **Pan Fish Tournament**, is set for Saturday, April 26 from 5:30 AM to 3:00 PM at CowPen Landing on Cow Pen Landing Road in Vanceboro. Application & Entry Fee is \$30. Cash prizes and Bragging Rights are available for winners. Call President, Hud Jordan, at 919-345-0360, for more information.

District 7720 Conference A Success!

- For those of you who attended the District 7720 Conference in New Bern from May 7-9, you know that we had some great speakers and programs. As the Volunteer Coordinator this year, I want to thank all the volunteers, primarily from the New Bern and New Bern Breakfast Rotary clubs, who made everything come together!
- On Friday afternoon, we heard from, and had an open conversation with, Patrick Eakes, Rotary International Director (2024-2026) who has held many Rotary positions at the club, District, Zone, and International levels. Our District Treasurer and New Bern member, Bill Sherman presented the Treasurer's Final Report for 2023-24 and the current Finance Report through the end of March this year. (If you would like a copy of either or both reports, please let me know since I have copies of each). Friday evening, Conference participants had the opportunity to enjoy themselves in New Bern or join many of us at "An Evening Of Comedy" hosted by the Rotary Club of New Bern.
- Saturday morning, after the Color Guard by ROTC students from New Bern High School, and Meloni Wray of New Bern Rotary leading us in the Star-Spangled Banner, we heard from Ron Pierce, District 7690 Governor. His presentation on the reasons we are losing Rotary members, and more importantly what we can, and must, do about that, was provocative, entertaining, and offered real solutions to hold and increase our clubs' membership. Presentations were also given by District Foundation Chair, Terry Lubsen (New Bern), and District Grants Chair, Paul Platek (New Bern Breakfast) who shared that in Rotary Year 2023-24, 27 District Grants were awarded to 23 out of 34 clubs for a total of approximately \$50,000 to make a difference in their local communities! District Youth Services Chair, Andy Garlick (New Bern Breakfast), and Zone 33 End Polio Now Chair, Nancy Barbee (District 7730) also spoke about their programs. The morning included an important address by District 6980 Governor, Sonya LaBosco, who outlined the realities and consequences of Human Trafficking, and what her District in Florida has initiated to focus on this serious issue. She then introduced Brittany Rohr, a survivor of human trafficking, who gave a very personal account of her own experiences and how she has moved on with her life to help others in such situations and make a difference with a nonprofit organization she has founded, Kind I Am, with a mission to reunite the world with kindness paid forward (for more information, I encourage you to go to www.kindiam.org).
- The afternoon was left open for participants to enjoy New Bern and take time to review all the great tabletop information on the activities of District clubs, Shelter Box, and more in the "House of Friendship" displays.
- During the Saturday evening Banquet, Magician Brian Walsh entertained the audience with assistance from our DG Gene and other members, and DG Gene's youngest son, Whit, offered a truly special entertainment to close the evening (I see great things happening for this impressive young man!). There were also multiple awards presented, and I am so pleased that many of our Area 8 clubs and individual members received recognition for their efforts and donations during the 2023-2024 Rotary year:
 - Oriental - #1 of the Top 3 clubs per capita, at \$441.10
 - Havelock-Cherry Point, New Bern Breakfast, Oriental, Vanceboro – 100% Support for Every Rotarian Every Year

- New Bern, New Bern Breakfast, Oriental – Met or exceeded annual contribution to End Polio Now
- New Bern – Membership Champion for 4 years running for Zone 33/34
- Foundation Major Donor – Deedra Durocher (NBB), Gene Foster (NB), Paul Platek (NBB), Bill Sherman (NB)
- Foundation Major Donor, Level 1 – Philip Kaylor (NB), Philip Swain (NB), Willim Taylor (NBB)
- Paul Harris Society, Level 4 – Meloni Wray (NB)
- A particularly surprising and very humbling award was presented to me by DG Gene. The “Service Above Self Award,” which I did not even know existed, is presented by Rotary International each year to 150 Rotarians nominated by District Governors throughout the world for members whose service has had an impact to make a difference throughout their life.
- The Conference closed on Sunday morning with an Interfaith Service led by retired Pastor Bill Sherman (NB) and a Memorial Service for six District members who passed in the last year, including four from Area 8:
 - Vanceboro – Claude F. Taylor, Jerry Phillips, Richard L. Cannon, Jr.
 - New Bern Breakfast – William “Bill” Taylor
- Also on Sunday morning, presentations were made by District CART Chair, Ann Super, and an overview of Shelter Box was offered by Pauline Dunbar-Berens and Bill Berens. DG Elect, Brownie Futrell shared information on the Rotary International Conference in Calgary this June, and the tentative plans for the 2026 District Conference in Atlantic Beach. DG Gene Foster closed the Conference and introduced Meloni Wray (NB) who led us in our traditional closing song: “Let There Be Peace on Earth.”
- A few photos of the conference are shared below.



It appears we have about 50 junior high school students enrolled for this year's RYLA weekend this year on April 25-27 at the 4-H Conference Center in Columbia, NC. We are still hoping to get to the *75 in 2025* goal, and Cabin Chaperones, Discussion Facilitators, Servers at the Etiquette Dinner on Friday night, and other volunteers are needed. If you can spare a day, evening, or the full weekend to participate in this encouraging and inspiring program, PLEASE contact Andy Garlick, District Youth Services Chair as soon as possible at: amgrotary@gmail.com or call him at 917-656-8778.



Part I – The Roots of Rotary, My Club & Beyond, Engaging Members, Our Foundation, and Creating Service Projects

Part II – Rotary & Ethics, Strategic Planning, Targeted Service, Attracting Members, Team Building

Part III – Effective Leadership Strategies, International Service, Club Communications, Vocational Service, Public Image & PR
Graduation for those completing Part III

Check with your club to see if your \$95 Registration is covered as an investment in your club's commitment to members!



New Bern Breakfast members Dave Whitley & Gretchen Dreda pack participant bags, while member Tim Vandersall is awed by our Rotary Wheel to welcome everyone to the first day of the District 7720 Conference at the Masonic Lodge.



New Bern's Mayor, Jeffrey Odham (New Bern) presents DG Gene Foster (New Bern) with an official Welcome Proclamation to open the 2025 Conference. DG Gene, PDG and Conference Coordinator Lee Adams, present an award to Friday's guest speaker and RI Director Patrick Eakes.



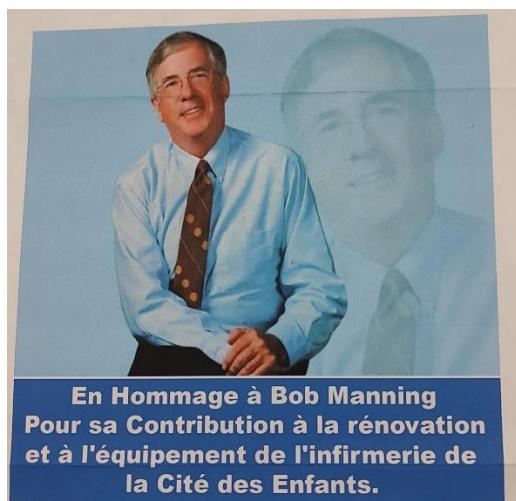
Nancy Barbee & DG Gene Light the Torch For Polio, House of Friendship Displays, and Whit Foster offers great fun on Saturday evening.



One or more Awards presented to all five clubs of Area 8 for Rotary Year 2023-2024. Very Proud of all our clubs and members!



Deedra's Surprise Service Above Self Award! Memorial Service tradition, flowers in the Neuse River; one for Bill Taylor from New Bern Breakfast and three for Claude Taylor, Jerry Phillips, and Richard L. Cannon, Jr. from Vanceboro Rotary.



DG Elect Brownie Futrell closes the Conference. Plaque for Rotarian Bob Manning for the Rotary Children's Clinic in Maii, West Africa.