

# CLUB NEWS

April 26, 2022



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

The Wilmington  
**Rotary**  
Club



Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self

## 'Leaders in Service' raises record sums, pushes for more individual seat sales

With just two weeks to go, the club's main fundraiser was close to its "stretch" goal of a net \$60,000. Fundraising Chair Dale Smith reported on April 19 that sponsorships and ticket sales totalled \$71,750, from which expenses of the May 5 award banquet will be subtracted.

That banquet will honor the three Leaders in Service recipients, top executives recognized for their work to improve our community. They are Rotarian **Chris Coudriet** in the public-

sector category, **J.C. Lyle** in the non-profit sector, and **Dr. Yousry Sayed** in the private sector. Coudriet is New Hanover County manager; Lyle heads the Wilmington Area Rebuilding Ministry (WARM); and Sayed founded Quality Chemical Laboratories.

The final push, Dale told the club, is for individual seat sales at \$125 each. Some 60 of the club's more than 180 members have bought seats; several others are sponsors through their businesses. The reception, dinner, and awards ceremony will be at UNC-Wilmington's Burney Center.

The Leaders in Service project was the focus of a four-page spread in the April 15-May 5 *Greater Wilmington Business Journal*, which is a sponsor.

For more, SEE: page 3.

**Leaders in Service**  
Service Above Self



## Members propose favored projects, disagree about meeting place, cost

Eighty-three Rotarians took part in the club's membership survey in February, with results discussed at our April 12 meeting.

A key finding concerned service projects. Asked about categories of projects the club should take on, members favored:

- Mental health, 58
- Violence, 52
- The environment, 40
- Homelessness, 38
- Early childhood, 37
- Human trafficking, 35

Asked if our speakers have been "interesting and good quality," 77 percent agreed "strongly" or "somewhat," 12 percent disagreed, and 10 percent took nei-

ther position.

On the question of a meeting place, 36 percent want to remain at Grace church, 16 percent would find a new venue if costs remain the same, and 48 percent favored moving even if dues must increase. Of those 18 percent would accept paying an extra \$75 per quarter, and 30 percent favored no more than a \$50 increase.

Asked about other changes to improve the club, respondents said they want our meetings to be more fun, light-hearted, and cheerful; want greater involvement from more members; and want more new, younger, more diverse members.

## Club sends cash to Ukrianian refugees and orphanages



On April 12, Rotarians raised \$425 for Ukrainian orphans. 'Pysanky' eggs were offered as mementoes.

Since the beginning of Russia's war on Ukraine, the club has sent nearly \$3,500 to groups helping Ukrainian refugees and orphans.

Most of that was in three \$1,000 club grants made March 1 to these three groups:

**Wilmington East Rotary Club**, working with partner Rotarians in Moldova, to supply food, water, bedding, medications and other needs to Ukrainians who have fled into that eastern European nation. As of early April, the East club had raised \$21,000 for that work.

**New Life Ministries** based in Raleigh, in partnership with the **International Orphan Resource Center**, is taking food and medicine to six orphanages in Ukraine, including four in the war-ravaged Chernihiv region. In addition to the club's \$1,000 grant, individual members contributed \$425 in cash through sale of Ukrainian-style *pysanky* Easter eggs.

**UnitedHelpUkraine.org**, a group backed by Rotarians in both Wilmington and Raleigh.



At March 8 meeting, John Meyer shows banners our members have brought home from visits to Ukrainian Rotary clubs.





Peter Maloff

Phillip Craig

## Two members join

The club added two new Rotarians to our ranks on April 19.

**Peter Maloff** is a retired lawyer. He was sponsored for membership by Clint Meyer.

**Phillip Craig** is rector of St. James Episcopal Church. His sponsor is Tom Dodson.

## Grant to empower girls in Sierra Leone

The club has contributed \$2,500 to a project called "Letting Girls be Girls" in the Rotifunk region of Sierra Leone in west Africa. International Committee Chair Gabe Rich described this and other overseas projects during our Feb. 15 meeting.



Gabe Rich

The project aims to reach teenagers, Gabe explained, and give them resources to avoid unwanted pregnancies.

This is the latest of the Missions of Hope projects we have supported in Rotifunk, including ongoing aid for the "Madonna Project" at the community's hospital. This offers free medical care to new mothers, both during pregnancy and post-partum, along with gifts of food.

## Rotarians introduce themselves

Several recently inducted members have made brief introductory talks during the past two months.

**Ken Morris**, a major in the Salvation Army and head of its Wilmington operations, introduced himself on March 8. Sponsored for membership by Albert Corbett on Aug. 3, 2021, Ken has 27 prior years in nine Rotary clubs.

**Steve Lester** spoke on March 15. Inducted on Sept. 28, 2021, he was sponsored by Joe Owen. Steve is a retired investment banker.

Addressing the club on March 22 was **Lloyd Rothschild**, a retired dentist, also sponsored by Joe Owen. Inducted on Oct. 12, 2021, Lloyd has been

gave her new-member talk on March 29. An accountant, she was sponsored by Wilbur Jones. Mary's grandfather is Rotarian Dick McGraw.



## Bullock to be 2023-24 president

Nancy Bullock has been elected to succeed Dale Smith as the club's president, taking office effective July 1, 2023. She is a current member of the club's Board of Directors, with a three-year term expiring in 2023. She previously served on the board from 2013 through 2016. She is retired from managing her family business, which owns The Cotton Exchange, Chandler's Wharf, and other retail sites.

## Jake Shepherd, pilot, WWII vet, poet & lifelong Rotarian, dies at 98

Rotarian Jacob "Jake" Shepherd, 98, died on March 15. He joined this club in 1990, sponsored by the late Herman Blizzard, and was our last surviving World War II veteran.

In 1945, Jake flew a B-17 bomber on two dozen combat missions over Germany. He had a long career with the Blue Bell company, helping to launch its Wrangler brand. He earned a mechanical engineering degree from N.C. State University in 1949.

He had been a Rotarian in other clubs for 22 years, for a total of 54 years in Rotary.

During that time, he was part of a Rotary exchange trip to the U.S.S.R. and Finland. Active in civic life, Jake was a lay preacher in various churches and a volunteer leader of causes including United Fund, Salvation Army, the YMCA, Guilford Community College, and an addiction treatment center.

He published two books of poetry and loved to share limericks at Rotary meetings.

Widowed twice, Jake is survived by his third wife, Rosemary; seven children; eight grandchildren; and one great-grandchild.



Lloyd Rothschild



John Fonda

Mary English, who joined the club Nov. 30, 2021,



Mary English

a Rotarian for 43 years, previously with the Raleigh Crabtree club.

Also introducing himself on March 22 was **John Fonda**. A lawyer, he joined the club Nov. 30, 2021, sponsored by Albert Corbett.

**Mary English**, who joined the club Nov. 30, 2021,

## Leaders in Service earns high public profile



Campaign 'thermometer' indicates gross pledges from sponsors and seat sales. Indicated goals reflect net proceeds after expenses.



Pages from 'Greater Wilmington Business Journal' detail the program, award recipients, sponsors, what Rotary stands for, and how the money will be used.

## Committee chairs report on basics of club business

Weekly reports from the club's committee chairs have continued, informing members about each committee's purpose and needs.

On Feb. 22, **Charlotte Davis**, chair of the New-member Retention Committee, explained its efforts to make members feel welcome and get involved.

Its initiatives include doing exit interviews to learn why members leave the club.

**Julie Rehder**, co-chair of the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee, spoke March 1 about continuing work to foster dialogue and

broaden members' understanding about one another.

**Vicki Scott** of the Handbook Committee explained on March 29 how the annual membership directory is compiled, and said helping with this project is a good way for new members to get better acquainted with the club.

The same day, **R.B. Richey** discussed how his Foundation Committee encourages and keeps track of contributions to Rotary International's charitable arm.

On April 5, **R.B.** put on another hat



Vicki Scott



R.B. Richey

and asked for help on the RYLA Committee, which will organize this year's Rotary Youth Leadership Awards. With him was a RYLA alumna, **Mayleigh Young**, a junior at Laney High School.

**Angela MacKinnon** spoke for two Christmas-related committees on April 19, asking for volunteers and fresh ideas for the annual December holiday program, and encouraging Rotarians to volunteer to ring the bell for the Salvation Army's holiday kettle campaign.



Mayleigh Young



Angela MacKinnon



## Rotarians help Williston students set up school store



Eighth-grader Wilbert Martinez gets tutorial on cash register from Rotarian Alex White.



Williston career exploration teacher Mike Mitchell explains inventory requirements to students.

With help from a team of Rotarians, Williston Middle School opened its school store April 14. Run by a staff of some 15 eighth-graders, it offers school supplies and other products to the student body and business training for its staff. Student roles include management, sales, accounting and advertising.



Student Will Barwick and Alex White master the cash register.



Alex White discusses advertising principles with Williston school store's staff.



Bob Kitchen and Alex White with Williston seventh-graders.

## Dental clinic planned to aid uninsured Williston students

Too many children, including many students at Williston Middle School, have no health insurance and are not covered by Medicaid, the public insurance program for low-income families. North Carolina's legislature has declined to expand Medicaid, mostly at federal expense, as provided by the Affordable Care Act.

To partly remedy that problem, the club is helping pay for a dental clinic for those Williston students. Organized by Rotarian Gabe Rich, a retired dentist, it will take place on Saturday, May 7 at the St. Mary's Health Clinic, 412 Ann St.

Besides the club's financial support, Gabe needs volunteers to entertain and organize the students while they wait to be seen. The professional dental work will be performed by volunteer dentists and dental-hygiene students.

If you can volunteer some of your time to help things move smoothly, please contact Steve Yates, Anna Erwin or Laura Lisle, co-chairs of the Williston Legacy Project Committee.

The clinic will be held from 8 a.m. until 2 or 3 p.m. May 7. Volunteers are needed to fill slots or one or two hours at a time.

## Williston students will tour community college

As a final reward for Williston Middle School's Students of the Month for 2021-22, the club will take all of them on a field trip to Cape Fear Community College on May 10.

This resumes a tradition that the pandemic interrupted. In prior years, honored students have visited such attractions as UNC-Wilmington and the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

The tour is meant to introduce middle-schoolers to the community college system and to its career offerings. The CFCC faculty will help conduct the tour. Each student will receive a CFCC gift bag and lunch.

### Teacher appreciation lunch set

Rotarian volunteers are needed to help set up and serve our annual catered lunch for Williston's faculty and staff. This will be on May 26 at the school. If you can help, contact Steve Yates, Laura Lisle, or Anna Erwin.

### Career academy needs helpers

A new Summer Career Academy will give 200 Williston students an opportunity to spend two weeks at Cape Fear Community College's two campuses, learning about career opportunities. The academy runs from July 11 through 22. Rotarians are needed to help transport students. The academy is paid for by a state grant.



Rotarians offer personal greetings to students after they accept their awards at March's Student of the Month event. From left, Marty Feurer, Steve Lester, Alex White, Garrett Huffman, Howard Loving, Rob Zapple, Laura Lisle, and Steve Yates (at lectern.)

## Club honors students of the month, April, May awards to be combined



Students of the Month pose with Rotarians. Every month, Williston's faculty nominates five students from each class who teachers believe follow the principles of Rotary's Four-Way Test. Because of scheduling complications at the school, the April and May Student of the Month ceremonies will be combined, with both groups honored May 4.

## City Rotarians hobnob at social

The latest in the occasional Fifth Wednesday series of happy-hour get-togethers occurred on March 30 at the rooftop aView bar at the new Aloft Hotel downtown. The hotel is part of the Coastline Conference Center, where our club met until forced out by the hotel construction project.

The socials are an opportunity for members of all six Rotary clubs in Wilmington to gather informally. We choose a venue that will supply us with complimentary hors d'oeuvres; in return, those attending buy their own drinks from the host site's bar.



Rotarians and guests enjoy river views on a warm spring afternoon.



Williston Middle School Battle of the Books team and advisors.

## Battle of the Books

With our help, Williston Middle School competed in the county-wide Battle of the Books on March 17. In February, our club gave the school \$500 to pay registration fees and buy supplies.

The team's faculty adviser, Heather Maguire, reports, "The competition was fierce and our kids worked hard. They have already started reading books from next year's book list!" She has asked for help to buy some of those books.





Jenkins: college athletics



Kennedy: Opera House



Brier: music academy



Estep: music academy



Scott: South Africa



David: Service Above Self



Stokley: home elder care



Callison: member survey



At the piano, Ray Kennedy accompanied cast members from Opera House Theatre Company's production of 'Footloose' during our Feb. 22 meeting.



## Programs address sports, the arts, aid for elders and kids, biotechnology and film jobs

Recent programs have been a mix of general-interest information and Rotary business, including an annual awards presentation and a just-completed member survey.

Retired educator **Clauston Jenkins** spoke Feb. 15 about the influence of money on college athletics, and called for reform of the NCAA.

On Feb. 22, Opera House Theatre Company director **Ray Kennedy** talked about the post-pandemic return of live theater, and presented some musical excerpts from Opera House's production of *Footloose*.

Musical outreach to children was the topic on March 1, when **Christina Brier** and **Linda Estep** of the Brooklyn Arts Music Academy spoke. They are instrumental teachers and administrators.

Rotarian **Ben David** presided over

presentation of our annual Service Above Self awards on March 8. The club honored law enforcement officers and other public safety workers. For details, SEE page 7.

Williston Middle School Assistant Principal **Matilda Scott** spoke March 15 about her experiences as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar in South Africa in 2012 and 2013.

Rotarian **Jamie Stokley** presented the March 22 program, talking about the need for better home health care for the elderly, and about her non-profit patient-advocacy group, Helping Hands Foundation.

The March 29 program was about biotechnology in North Carolina, presented by Rotarian **Randall Johnson**, executive director of the N.C. Biotechnology Center's Southeastern Office.

Therapy and other services for children who have suffered physical or sexual abuse was the topic on April 5. Rotarian **Laurie Taylor** of the Carousel Center described her organization's work.

Club members' opinions, as expressed in a recent survey, were the topic for a slide presentation and Q&A session April 12. President **Cleve Callison** conducted the discussion. For more on the survey results, SEE: page 1.

Bringing new talent into the region's and the state's film and TV industry was the subject of **Susi Hamilton's** presentation April 19. A former state representative, state cabinet secretary, and member of this club, she is a founder of the Film Partnership of North Carolina.



Johnson: biotechnology



Taylor: fighting child abuse



Hamilton: film partnership



# Club gives Service Above Self awards

Police officers, firefighters, and other workers in the public safety and criminal justice system were honored on March 8 for serving the public above and beyond the call of duty.

These "Service Above Self" awards have been given annually by our club since 2012.

Rotarian **Ben David**, district attorney for New Hanover and Pender Counties, presented 18 awards. The wooden plaques were crafted by Kids Making It, a Wilmington non-profit.

With the exception of one who was not present, the honorees are pictured here.



Detective Eric Short of the Pender County Sheriff's Office was honored for coordinating with other police agencies to track down and arrest the suspect in a violent public murder.



Sgt. Ronald Evans of Wilmington Police Department was honored for buying a bicycle to replace one stolen from a young man while the owner was being interviewed for a job.



Detective Erin Cable of Surf City Police Department was honored for her work as a victim advocate and work against sexual crimes and offenses against children.



Firefighters Eliseo Venecia and Joshua Gipson of Wilmington Fire Department for adapting an infant seat to properly fit the owner's car, which saved the baby's life during a crash less than 24 hours later.



Sgt. Dominic Segers of the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office and Officers Bradley Speight and Kyle Petrone of Wilmington Police Department received awards for their life-saving rescue of a woman from a burning apartment.



District Attorney's Office staff, from left: Jake Newell, Rebecca Donaldson, Stacy Haines, Ben David, Courtney Last, and Charissa Joyner.

Donaldson, an assistant DA, was honored for her work with Cpt. Ken Engeldrum of Wilmington Police Department (not pictured) using DNA evidence to find, arrest and convict a rapist in a 'cold case' dating from 1996.

The others, legal assistants in the D.A.'s Office, received awards for work to eliminate court docket backlogs, for assistance to crime victims and witnesses, and for management of remote-meeting and video technology to keep courts running safely during the pandemic.



## 5 nominated to board

A nomination committee headed by President-elect Dale Smith has proposed five candidates for the club's Board of Directors. The club's membership will vote April 26 on that slate; other nominations will also be accepted.

Those elected will serve from July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2025. The proposed slate: **Cedric Dickerson, Terri Everett, Michael Gillespie, Debby Gomulka, and Donna Shiro.**



Allie Hernandez, Brandon McMillan, Ami D'Ambrosio, and Kristy Williams, civilian employees of the New Hanover County Sheriff's Office, were honored for their work with the Elements Youth Violence Intervention Program.



## Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, APRIL 26

D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy, with **Sabrina Hill-Black**, principal, and **Van Dempsey** of UNCW.

TUESDAY, MAY 3

No meeting. See next item

THURSDAY, MAY 5

Leaders in Service awards banquet (club fundraiser)  
6 p.m. at UNCW Burney Center. Tickets \$125. With honorees **Chris Coudriet**, **J.C. Lyle**, and **Dr. Yousry Sayed**. Rotarian **Ben David**, master of ceremonies.

TUESDAY, MAY 10

Investigating arson, with **John Golder** of Forensic Investigation and Consultation, a former ATF agent.

MONDAY, MAY 16

Board of Directors meeting, 5:15 p.m. LS3P Architects conference room, 101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor.

TUESDAY, MAY 17

UNC-Wilmington's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, with **Susan Williams**, OLLI program assistant.

TUESDAY, MAY 24

Informal social meeting at Rotary Wheel Garden, 12:30 p.m., West Lakeshore Drive in Greenfield Park.

TUESDAY, MAY 31

Using proceeds of public hospital's sale, with **William Buster**, CEO of New Hanover Community Endowment.

TUESDAY, JUNE 7

Topic to be announced, with Rotarian **Jose Sartarelli**, UNC-Wilmington chancellor.

TUESDAY, JUNE 14

Topic to be announced, with **Robert Burrus**, dean of UNC-Wilmington Cameron School of Business.

MONDAY, JUNE 20

Board of Directors meeting, 5:15 p.m. LS3P Architects conference room, 101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor.

TUESDAY, JUNE 21

Fighting human trafficking, with **Audrey Moore**, CEO of Lifting Up the Vulnerable (LUV).

SATURDAY, JUNE 25

District governor induction ceremony, with **Nancy Carr**, district governor-elect, 12 noon, Patriots Hall, Moore's Creek National Battlefield. \$20 per person.

TUESDAY, JUNE 28

Presidential induction ceremony, with **Dale Smith**, president-elect. 6 p.m., Country Club of Landfall.

## Rotary news briefs

### Moore's Creek to host induction.

Incoming District Governor Nancy Carr of the Clinton-Sampson County Rotary Club will take office on Saturday, June 25, in Patriots Hall at the Moore's Creek National Battlefield. The lunch ceremony begins at noon and costs \$20 per person. A park ranger will conduct a free battlefield tour starting at 10:15 a.m. Registration is online through links that have been emailed to all Rotarians. Moore's Creek is on N.C. 210, 24 miles north of Wilmington.



Nancy Carr

**District governor candidates sought.** Rotary District 7730 needs an experienced Rotarian to become its district governor for 2024-25. The normal line of succession was interrupted last year, when a prospective governor had to drop out for health reasons. That moved Nancy Carr (2022-23) and Allen Quigley (2023-24) up by a year each. To qualify, a candidate must have been a Rotarian for at least seven years and have served as a club president, both before July 2024. Applications are due May 13, 2022. Questions about the process and qualifications can be directed to Lin Kelly: [lin@linkelly.com](mailto:lin@linkelly.com).

**Tech, PR committees still need help.** The club's Tech Committee, which manages the complexities of our hybrid meetings, needs a couple of new members. Want to help? See Cleve Callison or Tyler Wooden. No special expertise is required. The Public Relations Committee also needs help. Experience with news releases or social media would be most useful. Contact John Meyer if you're interested.

**Presidential induction banquet to resume.** After a two-year hiatus during the Covid pandemic, the club will again begin the new Rotary year with a dinner ceremony on June 28. President-elect Dale Smith and other club officers will take office. Each Rotarian, plus a guest, is invited to the reception and dinner at the Country Club of Landfall from 6 to 9 p.m. Dinner is paid for through member dues; a cash bar will also be offered.

Club officers for 2020-21 were inducted virtually, in a Zoom meeting. The 2021-22 year began with an informal ceremony at the Rotary Wheel Garden. This year, the banquet takes the place of the lunch meeting June 28.

### Newsletter photos

by Robby Collins, John Meyer and Bob Kitchen

Additional photos are screen captures from Zoom meetings

### Board of Directors Meeting

5:15 pm, 3rd Monday of each Month  
LS3P Architects conference room  
101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor  
Wilmington, NC 28401

### Get In Touch

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### Submit News Items

Send photos or other information for the newsletter to [john@capefearpublishers.com](mailto:john@capefearpublishers.com). Please include all pertinent names, dates, etc.

### Website

[www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org](http://www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org)