



Only half of club's members have bought chances in fund-raiser raffle

Ticket sales for the club's Feb. 9 fund-raising raffle had reached nearly \$30,000 by late December. Deducting expenses, that means we will have a net \$25,000 for the club's projects next year.

That is significantly less than what had been raised by the club's fundraisers in previous years.

As of Dec. 24, fund-raising chair Donna Shiro reports, 97 members had bought tickets and/or sponsorships, an average of \$300 each. Sixteen Rotarians have contributed \$500 each. "We have a lot of \$100s and only a very few \$2,500 or \$1,000," she said.

Tickets cost \$100. A \$300 contribution gets a buyer four tickets; \$500 buys seven; \$1,000 buys 15, and \$2,500 is good for 40 chances.

Fifteen prizes, including cash and merchandise, will be awarded. Winners will be drawn during the club's virtual meeting on Feb. 9.

The prizes have a total value of more than \$26,000. Although this year's fund-raiser has essentially no operating costs compared to previous years, the \$4,750 to be given as cash prizes must be subtracted from the total revenue.

Net proceeds will go into the club's non-profit foundation. From that will come our commitments to Williston Middle School, other club projects, and grants to other organizations, which may be matched by district grants.

If you haven't bought a ticket yet, there's still time. Note, however, that raffle tickets, even for charity, are not deductible for federal income tax purposes.

The 15 prizes are:



Donna Shiro shows one of the raffle prizes, a \$11,500 set of diamond ring and gold bands, during the Nov. 10 meeting.

- Bundt cakes, pizzas and balloons, total value \$150.

- Champagne and chocolates basket, value \$225.

- A gift certificate to Beau Rivage Golf Club for a round of golf for four, including carts, valued at \$276.

- Wine basket, \$500 value.
- Artwork by Dumay Gorham, valued at \$550.

- \$750 cash
- \$1,500 cash
- \$2,500 cash
- Use of a 2020 Altima for one year or 10,000 miles, \$4,000 value.

- Five jewelry prizes, ranging in value from \$625 to \$11,500.

Ticket sales are open to non-members. Anyone, including Rotarians who haven't yet signed on, can still buy chances online. For details contact Donna, Chris Riley, John Hatcher or Tolis Vardakis.

Board endorses Diversity, Equity and Inclusion goal

Our club's Board of Directors voted Nov. 16 to adopt Rotary International's statement on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI).

This is in harmony with efforts by Rotary International and by District 7730, which has formed a DEI Taskforce. That group's purpose is "to grow and support membership reflective of our communities and to promote peace and conflict resolution."

One result of the district's work is the "Better Together" billboards that went up in the Wilmington, Jacksonville and Fayetteville areas in December.

The district's taskforce has stated that diversity, equity and inclusion are important "as they relate to our society's demand for social justice, whether it's with regards to race, religion, culture, gender, physical abilities, or sexual preference," and that these goals are a reflection of the Four-Way Test.

This club's Four-Way Test Committee, chaired by Dale Smith, has been given responsibility for raising awareness of our DEI goals, both within the club and in the community. It will present a program on the subject at our Jan. 26, 2021 meeting. One recent initiative was a news release that called public attention to our commitment to diversity and to our recent statements on conflict resolution and economic development.

That release was published verbatim in the Dec. 13 Wilmington *StarNews*.

Copies of the news release, our statement on peace and conflict resolution, and other relevant information can be read and downloaded from the "documents" section of the club website.

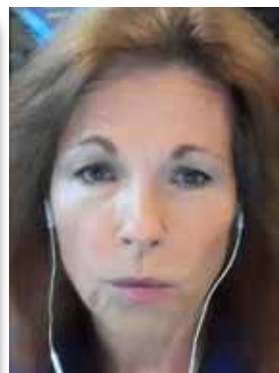
www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org/?s=documents



Tobin: Shelterbox



Antonelli: basketball



Barringer: Supreme Court



Estep: public schools



Walsh: Swain Center

Education, military, sports are recent program topics



Sartarelli: UNCW



Grandey: veterans tribute



Hunt: National Guard



Richey: Rotary Foundation



Smits: banking



Brenner: city gardens



Young: Black Marines



Hamilton: entrepreneurship



Bezrodnov: children's fund

Online-only meetings continued through year end, and likely will remain necessary for several months into the new year. Through the fall, programs covered a wide range of timely topics.

On Sept. 22, **Bill Tobin** of Shelterbox USA discussed how his organization provides tents, tarps and other equipment in the aftermath of natural disasters and conflict.

Debbie Antonelli, ESPN analyst and former college and pro player and coach spoke Sept. 29 about her career on and around the basketball court.

Tamara Barringer, a candidate for the N.C. Supreme Court, spoke on Oct. 6 about the court's relationship to the business community.

The challenges schools are facing during the COVID pandemic was the topic on Oct. 13 when New Hanover County school board member **Lisa Estep** presented our program.

Richard Walsh, executive director of UNC-Wilmington's Swain Center, spoke on Oct. 20 about his agency and its training programs.

The following week, Oct. 27, Rotarian and UNC-Wilmington Chancellor **Jose Sartarelli** discussed the university's recent growth.

Nov. 3, in advance of Veterans Day, Rotarian **David Grandey** pre-

sented a tribute to the club's veterans, followed by a talk about the N.C. National Guard by its adjutant general, Major General **Todd Hunt**.

The Rotary Foundation was the topic on Nov. 10 when Past President and Past District Governor **R.B. Richey** presented the program. For more about the Foundation and its donors, SEE: *Page 6*.

Rotarian **Steve Smits** of Live Oak Bank spoke Nov. 17 about developments in the banking business.

Nov. 24, for our annual Farm-City Week program, our speaker was **David Brenner**, director of Wilmington Green. He spoke about his organization's community gardens.

Retired Marine Sergeant Major **Johnny Young** presented a program Dec. 1 about the Montford Point Marines, the first Black members of the U.S. Marine Corps, at Camp Lejeune during World War II.

Entrepreneur and philanthropist **Brian Hamilton** spoke on Dec. 8 about the foundation he created to help people overcome adversity and start their own businesses.

Our final program of the year was presented Dec. 15 by **Vitaliy Bezrodnov**, founder of the Rotary Children's Foundation, which brings young people from the former Soviet republics to the United States.

Getting into the weeds: long-term collaboration among clubs proposed for Rotary Wheel Garden

Eighteen Rotarians from five of Wilmington's six clubs spent the morning of Nov. 14 cleaning up the Rotary Wheel Garden at Greenfield Park. They filled more than 30 large trash bags with weeds that had invaded the Wheel's flowerbeds.

Two proposals to put maintenance of the garden on a more consistent basis have been presented to our club's Board of Directors, which will consider them during its January meeting.

The first proposal is to formalize a collaborative framework of all the clubs, to include a financial commitment from each. Several of the other clubs have al-

ready agreed to this, and the rest have it under consideration, Rotary Wheel Committee chair Terry Smith said.

Also in the works is a request to our club's foundation for money to repair the garden's sprinkler system.

A joint committee is working on a proposed budget, shared by the clubs, to pay for regular maintenance as well as discretionary projects. This would take effect in the 2021-22 Rotary year.

Other committee goals include creating a calendar of work days to allow ample lead time to recruit Rotarians from all the clubs, and developing a long-term

wish list of capital projects.

The Rotary Wheel Garden was this club's gift to the City of Wilmington to mark our 50th anniversary in 1965. Its cog-wheel shape makes it the world's largest Rotary emblem. Since then, this club and several of its daughter clubs in Wilmington have made significant investments in landscaping and such infrastructure as the central gazebo, irrigation, lighting and sound systems.

Regular maintenance of the lawn, trees and shrubbery remains Rotary's responsibility, according to the city's Parks and Recreation Department.

No joke: revamping Health & Happiness

The club's longstanding Health & Happiness tradition, a feature of every meeting, has been revised to emphasize inspiration and our members' accomplishments, and to eliminate our highly uneven attempts at comedy.

Past President Steve Yates, who chairs the H&H Committee, announced his executive decision in November. He asked that each H&H segment make note not only of members' birthdays but also of spouse's birthdays and wedding anniversaries.

"I have also decided that our jokes need to go on a hiatus," Steve said. "These are sensitive times for a large number of people and I feel that our time would be better served if instead of a joke, we provide a saying or thought for the day that will be uplifting, motivational or thought-provoking."

Those uplifting, motivational or thought-provoking commentaries must follow Rotary's Four Way Test.

In other Health & Happiness news,

Rotarian Bret Paterson broke new ground on Dec. 1. He delivered an outdoor H&H segment from 300-plus miles away, on a 27-degree day in Brevard in the North Carolina mountains.



Bret Paterson 'phones it in,' without jokes, from the mountains.



Robby Collins hands over check for \$3,000 grant.

Fighting hunger and keeping things clean

This club's long relationship with Nourish NC took two forms on Oct. 10, when 13 Rotarians gathered—masked and safely distanced—to pack food for the agency's client families. The pandemic, which keeps children from getting meals at school, has exacerbated the hunger that Nourish NC exists to fight.

While there, President Robby Collins presented a check that paid for a floor scrubber needed to keep the organization's food warehouse and packing room clean. With regular use, the scrubber will eliminate surface pathogens, including coronavirus.

Nourish NC supplies food boxes to the families of children who, in normal times, depend on school breakfasts and lunches.



Mollie Shiflet takes new floor scrubber for a spin. Label is a reminder of our contribution.

Program sked

Calendar of club events lists upcoming speakers. SEE: *page 8*.



Seth Eure

Harris, service dog named for Rotary founder, now at work with veteran

Harris the service dog, named for Rotary founder Paul Harris, has graduated from her training and is now living permanently with retired Marine Corporal Seth Eure of Leland.

Trained through Wilmington-based Paws 4 People, Harris was named in recognition of this club's financial support for the group. Part of her two years of training was conducted by prison inmates in West Virginia.

Eure has been diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder. He met Harris in July 2019 during her training in West Virginia, after being referred to Paws 4 People by a friend. "I had quite a few bad moments after returning home from Afghanistan," he said, and was medically retired from the Marines in 2016. He would stay "locked in my house for days on end," he said, before meeting Harris. "Because of her, I had reason to get out of bed in the morning." He added, "I could go about my day with more confidence, knowing that she's got my back."

Paws 4 People was founded by Rotarian Kyria Henry. Its roster includes 500 service dogs working in 25 states.



Service dog Harris mitigates Marine veteran Seth Eure's PTSD symptoms.

Jones recognized for work on World War II history

Rotarian Wilbur Jones received the RISE (Rotarian in Service Excellence) award in recognition of his work to create a federal "World War II Cities" designation and get it applied to Wilmington.

President Robby Collins presented the RISE award to Wilbur during the Sept. 29 meeting.



Wilbur describes 'World War II Cities' project during Sept. 29 meeting.

Ellen Solomon, organizational development specialist, dies at home

Rotarian Ellen Solomon, 77, died at home on Thanksgiving Day, where she was under hospice care for metastatic lung cancer.

Shortly before her death, she said, "My sister is with me for the duration and hospice is wonderful. I am at peace with my decision and am surrounded by my beloved sister Laura and a few very close friends. I have loved being in Rotary and thank you for your caring and support."

Ellen was a 13-year Rotarian, including seven years in this club beginning in 2013,

and a Paul Harris Fellow.

Her career in organizational development included work for the U.S. Department of Labor and Eastman Kodak. In 1993, she founded a consulting firm, Strategic Change, Inc., which she operated in Durham and in Cambridge, Md. Ellen was a graduate and state-level board member of Leadership America, a national women's leadership program. After retiring in 2011, she moved back to Wilmington, where she had grown up. Among her interests were reading and travel.



John Lynch, retired publisher and wire-service reporter, dies at 83

John A. Lynch, retired publisher of the Wilmington Star-News, died Dec. 3. A member of this club since 1988, he was a Paul Harris Fellow. He was 83.

He was publisher of the Wilmington paper from 1988 until retiring in 2001. During the prior 20 years, he was publisher of three newspapers in Louisiana's Cajun country. Before that, he was a reporter for the United Press International wire service.

He met his wife Glo while both worked in UPI's Richmond bureau. While with UPI

in Alabama, John covered the Civil Rights movement, including the dramatic confrontations between Martin Luther King, Jr. and his allies and supporters, and Alabama state authorities in Selma. He was allowed to file his stories on a telephone that the owner of a Selma bar denied to "Yankee" competitors.

John was a native of Goldsboro, where he got his start in newspapers as a reporter trainee. He and Glo had one son, Brock, of Wilmington, and two granddaughters.

A favorite pastime was deer hunting.



Yard signs honor Williston students as ceremony resumes, now door to door

As the 2020-21 school year got under way, our Williston Legacy Project committee resumed the pandemic-disrupted Student of the Month recognitions, but with a new twist.

The traditional in-school award ceremonies had to be canceled back in the spring when the COVID pandemic shut down in-person instruction.

This fall, Chris Madden, the new principal at Williston Middle School, worked with Rotarians to create a door-to-door method of recognizing honored students each month. They are selected by their teachers as demonstrating the Four-Way Test in their daily lives.

Instead of a group ceremony at the school, Rotarians and Williston faculty went on the road starting Nov. 4 to deliver certificates, gift cards and a Rotary Four-Way Test coin to the honored students' homes.

As Legacy Committee co-chair Steve Yates explained, Madden organized five teams to visit the 15 or 16 students recognized each month. Each team included both Williston staff and Rotarians.

Most students also got a yard sign so neighbors and passersby were aware of the honor. Those without a yard got a T-Shirt. Madden contacted the families in advance to make sure a parent or other relative knew who was coming and why—but kept it a surprise.

After a successful first try on a sunny November day, the process was repeated on Dec. 16, despite heavy rain.

Both times, Steve said, "We will wear masks, stay outside and maintain social distancing." The new format "was extremely well received by the students, family members, staff and Rotarians," he added.



Steve Yates, wearing his Rotary mask, led one of the teams that presented yard signs and gifts to Williston's students of the month in November.



Undampened by a rainy December day, Rotarians and Williston faculty fanned out again for the second monthly at-home presentation.

Club gains new members

April Jones and Terri Everett were inducted as members on Sept. 29. April is an insurance agent and a former member of the club. She was sponsored by Melissa Hight. Terri is a member of the Wilmington Housing Authority board. Her sponsor is Rob Zapple.

On Dec. 1, Jack Clark joined the club. An investment lawyer, he is a former member of Rotary clubs in Maryland: Friendship Heights, 2001-2013; and Chevy Chase, 2013-2020. Sponsors are Albert Corbett and Lynne Boney.



April Jones



Terri Everett



Jack Clark

Carr to become district governor

Nancy Carr of the Clinton-Sampson Rotary Club will serve as 2023-24 district governor for District 7730. She now is the district's community service chair. She has also served as membership advocate and assistant governor for Area 7, which covers Sampson, Duplin and Pender counties. She was her club's president in the 2014-15 year.

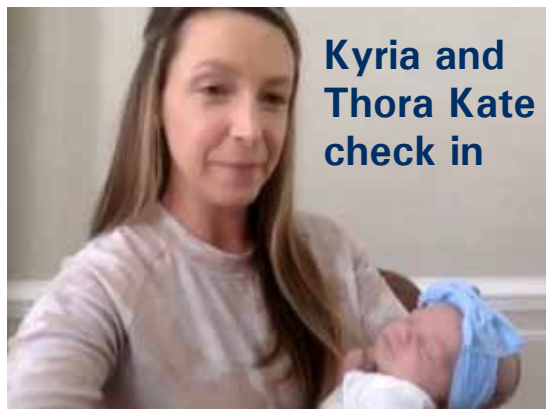


Nancy Carr

Nancy has been executive director of United Way of Sampson County since 2003.

Succeeding current District Governor Dawn Rochelle of Jacksonville will be Ellen Deaton of Maysville, who will serve in 2021-22. Next in line is Jeff Mount of South Brunswick Islands for 2022-23.

Kyria and Thora Kate check in



Rotarian Kyria Henry introduced her daughter Thora Kate Whisenhunt during the Sept. 22 meeting. Thora Kate was born Sept. 8. Daddy is Kyria's husband Zach Whisenhunt. For news about Kyria's Paws 4 People, SEE page 4.

RI asks brand consistency



Obsolete



Preferred

The December 2020 Rotary magazine makes the case: our brand is important. Specifically, it asks that clubs everywhere use only the new version of Rotary's logo. Word templates with the correct logo can be downloaded from the "documents" section of the club's website. www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org/?s=documents

Foundation gifts meet president's challenge

Enough members of the club made contributions to the Rotary Foundation this fall that President Robby Collins dug into his pocket a second time and became a Paul Harris Fellow "plus two" before year's end.

In September, Robby issued this challenge: "I just completed my second Paul Harris Fellow. If ten additional PHF are earned by the end of 2020, I pledge to level up again and add an additional PHF this year." By the beginning of our holiday break, Robby was able to report, "My challenge was met and I purchased my second recent PHF level-up."



Some of those who met the challenge were first-time Paul Harris Fellows, recognized for giving \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation. Others were multiples, at various "plus" levels.

At the Oct. 6 meeting, **Bunny Donahue** was recognized as a new Paul Harris Fellow.

On Nov. 10, during Past President R.B. Richey's program about the Foundation, the following members were recognized:

New PHF: **Marcia Morgan**
PHF plus one: (\$2,000) **Neal Andrew, Melissa Gott, and John Meyer.**

PHF plus two: (\$3,000) **Albert Corbett, Jim Edge, Michael Gillespie, John Meehl.**

PHF plus three: (\$4,000) **John Hatcher and Gabe Rich.**

PHF plus five: (\$6,000) **Dale Smith**; he is a Paul Harris Society member, having pledged to give \$1,000 a year for ten years.



Bunny Donahue: new PHF



Marcia Morgan: new PHF



John Meyer: plus one



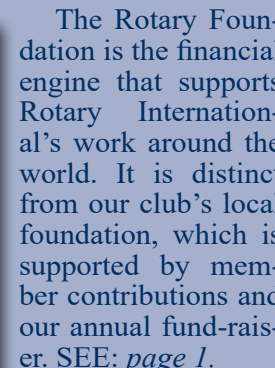
Albert Corbett: plus two



John Meehl: plus two



Gabe Rich: plus three



Dale Smith: plus five

The Rotary Foundation is the financial engine that supports Rotary International's work around the world. It is distinct from our club's local foundation, which is supported by member contributions and our annual fund-raiser. SEE: page 1.



A sport that lends itself to social distancing, golf provided a low-risk alternative to Zoom and cabin fever.

Golf outing goes on after spring pandemic postponement

Golf Fore Fun, the club's annual chance to play hooky from a regular lunch meeting, didn't happen on its original April date, with COVID to blame.

With some adjustments to the cost to accommodate a change in lunch plans, the event went on Nov. 17 at the Cape Fear Country Club. Committee chair John Lyon presented a rotating trophy to the winning foursome, Steve Yates, Dale Smith, Elliott O'Neal and their guest ringer, Craig Relan.



Winners Dale Smith, Craig Relan, Elliott O'Neal and Steve Yates with trophy, which they'll keep until next time, date TBA.

Bell-ringers aid Salvation Army



Matt Hilliard's daughters did their part for the Salvation Army at Sam's Club, with Rotarian Bunny Donahue.

The pandemic did not prevent the club from supplying volunteers, as we have for so many years, to solicit donations for the Salvation Army, which faced far greater needs than normal this holiday season.

Our members rang the bell on Tuesdays during December at the kettle outside Sam's Club.

One of them, George Gates, paused to remove his mask long enough to deliver an invocation—on location—at the club's Dec. 15 meeting.



George Gates delivers invocation via cell-phone selfie from Sam's Club.



Terry Smith, Anne Coffee and Dan Smith enjoying a sunny afternoon out.

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, JANUARY 5

Perspectives on Wilmington's grown. With **Glenn Harbeck**, City of Wilmington planning director.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 12

Credit unions, details to be announced. With **Rodney Hood**, chairman, National Credit Union Administration.

MONDAY, JANUARY 18

Board of Directors meeting, 5:30 p.m. Online/Zoom.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 19

Replacement of the Cape Fear Memorial Bridge. With **Chad Kimes**, division engineer, N.C. DOT.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 26

Rotary's "Diversity, Equity, Inclusion" initiative, with **Dale Smith**, chair of Four-Way Test Committee.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2

Status report from Williston Middle School. With newly appointed Principal **Chris Madden**.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9

Fifteen-prize fund-raising raffle, with **Donna Shiro**, chair of fund-raising committee.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Board of Directors meeting, 5:30 p.m. Online/Zoom.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16

Rookie teachers of the year awards presentation (tentative). With **Joe Owen**, committee chair.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

The state of the city, with Wilmington Mayor **Bill Saffo**.

TUESDAY, MARCH 2

Service Above Self awards presentation to first responders, with District Attorney **Ben David**.



The first inter-club Rotary social since the pandemic began was Nov. 18 at Junction 421 Restaurant. Drinks were from a cash bar and the host laid on a super spread of hors d'oeuvres to sample.

Rotary news briefs

Access gift buckets: Rotarian volunteers Robby Collins, John Lyons and David Morrison helped to pack and distribute buckets of supplies that Access of Wilmington provided to its clients. This was funded by a club grant. The work day took place the morning of Nov. 14 during a pick-up game at the Miracle Field.

Dean honored by Access. On Dec. 3, World Disability Day, David Morrison presided as Rotarian Bo Dean was inducted into the Miracle League Hall of Fame. "He has served our community of participants and families in more ways than we can possibly count," David said of Bo. "Nowadays, you can find him cheering on our athletes from the announcer's booth during every game of Miracle League baseball."

Girardot earns state honor. Rotarian Donna Girardot was presented with the Order of the Long Leaf Pine at the Dec. 7 meeting of the New Hanover County Commissioners. The order is North Carolina's highest honor. Before her retirement, Donna was an advocate for the construction and real estate industries as executive director of the Wilmington-Cape Fear Homebuilders Association.



Non-solicitation policy: In his weekly email on Nov. 1, President Robby Collins offered this reminder: "Neither our members nor our guests should ever solicit, advertise, or campaign during a meeting or Zoom meeting. This is important to the integrity of our club. As a club we have together selected those grant projects that we will focus on over the next year. Any member with an important cause can apply for a grant from our club in May-June 2021. Rotary is not a marketing or leads group."

Pat Watts has new address. Cards and notes for long-time Rotarian and Rotary Foundation major donor Pat Watts should now be addressed to:

Patricia L. Watts
1011 Porters Neck Road, Artisan #4
Wilmington, NC 28411

Photos by Mike Beaudoin, Anne Coffee, Matt Hilliard, Donna Shiro and Steve Yates. Other images taken from screen grabs during virtual club meetings via Zoom software.

Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 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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Webmaster John Meyer 392-5228

Submit News Items

Send photos or other information for the newsletter to john@capefearpublishers.com. Please include all pertinent names, dates, etc.

Website

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org