







Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self

Club approaches halfway point to Wheel of Honor donation goal



More than 500 flags like these will fill the Rotary Wheel Garden from May 16 until July 4.

Sponsorship pledges toward our 2020 Wheel of Honor fund-raiser have topped \$24,750 as of Feb. 15. That's encouraging progress, but also shows we have a long way to go to reach our \$50,000 goal by mid-May.

That is when the sea of 500-plus American flags will be placed in the Rotary Wheel Garden at Greenfield Park, to remain there through July 4.

Individual flags may be sponsored for \$40 each, to be tagged with the names of the persons to be honored. While we encourage Rotarians to do this, this is also an important outreach to non-members who may also sponsor one or more flags.

A public dedication ceremony will take place at the wheel on May 16, Armed Forces Day. Then on May 19, we will have an invitation-only Celebraton of Service,

a shrimperoo. All sponsorships include tickets to that event, which takes the place of the wine-tasting that's been the club's primary fundraiser in recent years.

Sponsorship levels for Rotarians are:

Betsy Ross, \$2,500, which includes eight tickets to the Celebration of Service.

George Washington, \$1,000, includes six tickets.

Francis Scott Key, \$500, includes four tickets.

Paul Revere, \$250, two tickets.

These sponsorships also include placement of your business's logo on promotional materials and mentions on the club's online media.

Flag sponsorship, \$40.

New this year is a simple, secure system for pledging—and paying for—sponsorships online. For details about how this works, please SEE: *Page 2*.

Service? Or lunch?

The club's budget for projects, and our fund-raising goals for this year, both depend on the important reality that this is a service organization, not just a social one.

Service Above Self is Rotary's motto.

What that means is that we expect every Rotarian to contribute to our club's work toward Rotary's six Areas of Focus. Depending on each member's means and preferences, that contribution can come in one or both forms: hands-on volunteer work or money.

As President Eric McKeithan has emphasized, we were able to meet our \$50,000 budget for projects and grants in the 2019-2020 Rotary year only by drawing down our charitable foundation's fund balance—which is not a sustainable strategy.

Although we are trying to raise money from outside corporations and foundations, that doesn't relieve us Rotarians of the obligation to support our club's work, too.

Our club stands for much more than just getting together for lunch once a week.

As our region's oldest and largest service organization, we should be setting a high standard for our impact on the community and for our own generosity. But we're not.

Our members' average annual contributions to our own non-profit foundation is less than \$200. By contrast, the smaller Cape Fear Rotary Club raised more than \$1,000 per member this year. The even smaller Wilmington Central Rotary Club, with just 30 members, raised nearly \$2,000 per capita.

It's easy in such a large organization to take the attitude that "somebody else will do it," whether that is the work a successful club requires, or giving the money that meaningful service requires. Being biggest and oldest, or proclaiming ourselves "the best," doesn't mean much if we aren't making a difference in the community and world.

Moving into the digital future: dues, donations payable online

lined its financial management system, which now allows members to make payments safely and securely online.

Through the efforts of Rotarian Larry Sackett, we can now pay dues, make Rotary Foundation contributions, and donate to our local RCDW Foundation members! It won't work! using credit or debit cards.

Payments are made through a thirdparty platform called JotForm.com, meeting expenses, Rotary International which automatically deposits them into either the club's or our local foundation's bank account. Its payment forms are protected by up-to-date security and encryption technology.

As an alternative to mailed statesurer John Liverman is now using the DaCdb database—the same system President Eric McKeithan uses to send his weekly emails—to send invoices



Larry Sackett was presented with a RISE (Rotarian In Service Excellence) pin on Jan. 21 for setting up secure online payment options and making better use of the online DaCdb database for makeups, billing and communication

The club has modernized and stream- for dues and foundation contributions.

Those emailed invoices include a customized link that takes each Rotarian to a unique payment page, tied to his or her membership account. That's why each of these emails includes a disclaimer: Don't forward this to other

Because the club's operating budget, which covers such things as meals, dues and the *Rotarian* magazine, has a separate bank account from our nonprofit foundation, members will continue to receive separate invoices (and payment links) for each pot of money.

Sponsorships for our major fundments and mailed paper checks, Trea- raising campaigns, including this year's Wheel of Honor, may also be paid online. A link to the payment page for that purpose, which allows you to choose your preferred sponsorship level, and to specify whether it should be in the name of your business, is on the club's website.

> Look for the "Wheel of Honor" links at wilmingtonrotaryclub.org

> Other initiatives Larry has spearheaded include encouraging members to log into DaCdb to enter makeups and update their contact information.

> You can log in to DaCdb on its own website, or through the club website: www.DaCdb.com

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org

On the club site, look for "DaCdb login" on the upper right corner. The username is usually the member's email; passwords default to the member number, found on the mailing label of your Rotarian magazine.

DaCdb (pronounced "Dac-dee-bee") stands for "District and Club database." It's the vendor our District 7730 chose to manage member data. It also drives such functions as the meetingtopic calendar and member directory on both club and district websites.

Check RI Foundation giving

Your status as a donor to the international Rotary Foundation can also be reviewed online, but on a different platform. SEE: Page 3.

Treasurer's note about billing delays, confusion

Some confusion surrounding mailed invoices for the second half of 2019 has resulted in many members having to play catch-up on their dues and Foundation contributions.

Club Treasurer John Liverman explained, "In October, we billed club members for two quarters of dues, July 1-Sept. 30 and Oct. 1-Dec. 31. It's been our practice for many years to bill dues a quarter in advance." In late January, the club issued invoices for the third quarter, Jan. 1-March 31. (The Rotary year runs from July to June.)

"We delayed the July 1-Sept. 30 billing until October," John said, "believing we would have our attendance and meal records caught up to date. The records did not become available and so we made the decision to delay the billing. As a result, two quarters of billings went out at the same time, causing no end of problems. Most members paid the full amount, some paid for only one quarter, and others still haven't returned any payments. A few of our members only pay yearly.

"In hindsight, that was the wrong decision. We should have billed both quarters separately and on time. We apologize for the inconvenience and the confusion."

If you are among those whose dues and/or pledged contributions are past due, please make your payment as soon as possible. Any questions should be directed to John Liverman, by email to jhliiicpa@hotmail.com or by phone at 910-792-5600.

Any old-school members who prefer to mail a check can still send it to P.O. Box 1194, Wilmington, NC 28402. Dues are payable to "Wilmington Rotary Club." Local foundation donations are payable to "RCDW Foundation."

Major Foundation donors, new Paul Harris Fellow honored

Rotarian Howard McCain and his wife, Martha Mc-Cain, were recognized on Jan. 14 as major donors to The Rotary Foundation. Major donor status recognizes contributions of \$10,000 or more to the Foundation, which is the charitable arm of the worldwide Rotary movement.



David Brown with his new Paul Harris Fellow medallion Feb. 4.

R.B. Richey presented Howard and Martha with their major donor pins and a crystal recognition piece. Howard was already a multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

A new Rotarian, David **Brown**, was recognized on Feb. 4 as a Paul Harris Fellow, for making con-

> tributions of \$1,000 to the Foundation. The Rotary Foundation supports ma-

ior international projects, notably the Polio Plus campaign to eradicate that paralyzing disease, and funds Global Grants and District Grants, both of which our club has used to leverage local funds for projects abroad and in our own community.



Martha and Howard McCain, recognized as major donors on Jan. 14.

To achieve the tax advantages of non-profit status, our club incorporated its own charitable foundation in 2015. Our fund-raising efforts, plus quarterly contributions from Rotarians, go into that RCDW Foundation. For more on our current fund-raiser, the Wheel of Honor, SEE Page 1.

Foundation needs \$100-a-year donors: be a sustaining member

R.B. Richey, a past president and past district governor, is now our club's Rotary Foundation chair. He makes this appeal to members of the Wilmington Rotary Club.

"Our club has enjoyed a long history of supporting The Rotary Foundation. While many in our club give generously to the Foundation, our overall level of support has been declining. Today, only 86 (39 percent) of our members give the minimum recognition level of a sustaining member: donating \$25 each quarter with their quarterly club and district dues.

"Surprisingly, another 87 members have not given to The Rotary Foundation in over a year. The district average for sustaining members is 45% of club membership. Because of our club's size and community leadership relative to other clubs in our district, we should be increasing our sustaining member participation by 27 members. If you are not now a sustaining member, I urge you to become one. To do so, contact club Treasurer John Liverman directly.

"If you are not sure about your giving level, then please contact me."

Check your Foundation giving status

Have you lost track of how much you've contributed to The Rotary Foundation? Unsure of your progress toward becoming a Paul Harris Fellow? (Or toward your "plus one" or other "plus" status?)

As Foundation Chair R.B. Richey suggests in the box at left, you can check with him. Or save time and review your giving history yourself online, through the Rotary International website.

- 1. Go to www.Rotary.org and click on "My Rotary."
- 2. Log in, or if this is your first time, create an account. Use your email address as your username.
- 3. Find the "Member Center" tab and hover your cursor on it.
- 4. From the menu that appears, choose "Profile/account settings."
- 5. Select "Donor History Report." This will show your report.
- 6. The "Overview" tab will show your total giving.
- 7. The "Transaction Detail" tab will show individual donations.



This is an example of what the 'Overview' tab will show of your Donor History Report on the Rotary.org website.

It shows your status as a contributor to The Rotary Foundation.

Encouraging citizenship: Williston Students of the Month recognized for ethical attitudes and behavior

"He is very caring and does not mind helping others that need help with their classwork."

"She is brave, kind, hardworking and passionate about her beliefs. This year she noticed that ESL (English as a second language) students needed a safe space and support club to talk about their shared experiences and to collaborate on ways they can cope with and prevent bulling at Williston. She founded the club, Tu Voz, to fulfill this purpose. As the leader of the club, she takes pride in what she has created and offers support and inspiration to all of the students in the ESL program. No matter what she is going through at school or home, she shows up for meetings focused and ready to work."

"His manners are very genuine and sincere and he is on track in his college prep class. I cannot wait to see what the future holds for this young man."

"She shows leadership in the classroom whether it be towards an assignment or classroom decorum. She works well individually or in groups. This child comes to class each day with a positive attitude that not only affects her classmates, it affects me too!"

These are just a few of the comments that Williston Middle School teachers made about the 16 students they nominated as Students of the Month for December. They were recognized at our Jan. 15 awards ceremony at the school.

That morning, 18 Rotarians attended. We, members of the faculty, and the students' parents and other relatives heard these comments and more as the students were presented with certificates and other gifts.

The previous award ceremony was on Dec. 18, 2019.

The purpose of the Student of the Month recognition is to encourage ethical behavior. These honored student are not necessarily those who excel academically or in athletics, arts or other skills. They do, however, demonstrate that they live by the principles of Rotary's Four-Way Test. In recognition of those principles, we give each student a coin engraved with the Four-Way Test.

Legacy Committee co-chair Anna Erwin commented, "When you hear teach-

Science help needed

The Science Olympiad for 2019-20 will include 30 students from Williston Middle school, supported by a \$1,000 contribution from the club.

The competition will be Feb. 29 at Murray Middle School.

In addition to our financial aid, the team's faculty advisor, Bobby Garcia, has asked for volunteers to help students with their projects.

Rotarians who have talents or experience in specific areas can meet with Williston's Science Olympiad team from 8:30 to 9:05 a.m. or 3:45 to 4:45 p.m. on Tuesdays. Areas of focus are:

- Food sciences, including preservation
- Water quality and pollution
- Engineering
- Circuitry/electricity
- Circuitry/Rocketry
- Ornithology
- Computer programing and
- game design
 Forensics

er comments such as these and see the faces of their family members as the comments are being read in front of the entire gathering, it reinforces the value of our Legacy project and its relevance to young students and their families."

The committee encourages everybody to come to the next Student of the Month program at 9 a.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19.

> "Join us," Anna said, "so that you can see first hand how the support from our Rotary Club, both physically and financially, does make a difference."

Students of the Month get framed certificates, a copy of their teachers' citation, a Four-Way Test coin, T-shirt, and gift cards.





Residents welcome visitors to Rotary Cottage. Come see yourself on Rotary Day, March 28.

Club aids Boys & Girls Homes

The club hosted the residents of the N.C. Boys & Girls Home Rotary Cottage for an annual holiday dinner and a UNCW basketball game on Jan. 4.

Our Boys & Girls Home Committee received a wish list of kitchen items the cottage needed, and members quickly rounded up the requested items, co-chairs Hansen Matthews and Steve Coggins reported. Regina Petty, Matt Hilliard and Worth Merritt took the lead in shopping, using their own dollars.

The boys' evening out began with dinner at Elizabeth Pizza, with David Grandey, Regina Petty and Matt Hilliard as chaperones and dinner companions.

Janet Montrose provided us with a block of discounted seats for the UNCW vs. Towson State game. "A certain Rotarian who insists on remaining anonymous also provided \$10 each for the boys to have money for the game concession stand and a burger run on the way home," Hansen said.

"These young men need some caring and guidance in their lives," he added. "To the extent that we can help in a small way, it's a worthwhile effort and we'll never know the results that society will either reap (or avoid.)"

The committee members' generosity allowed a budget of \$1,500 to stretch enough to cover the outing and the gift supplies. It will also cover a trip for the boys to a UNCW baseball game in the spring, as well as allow us to present a \$1,000 check at the Boys' & Girls' Home Rotary Day on March 28. That event is open to all Rotarians, from all clubs, and runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on the campus at Lake Waccamaw.



Williston Middle School's band, led by Gwen Fitzpatrick, played for Rotarians and guests at annual family holiday lunch on Dec. 17, 2019

Williston musicians entertain; club returns the favor with \$7,285 gift

A festive change from our usual routine of club business and informative programs, the annual pre-Christmas holiday lunch meeting has become an important part of our Legacy Project with Williston Middle School.

On Dec. 17, 2019, as they have most years since the project began in 2011, musicians from Williston joined us for lunch and played for our entertainment. This year's delegation from the school band was led by Gwen Fitzpatrick, who will be retiring at the end of this school year.

Our parallel holiday tradition, the "Dollars for Desserts" auction, is dedicated to raising funds for Williston's instrumental and choral music programs. Proceeds have been used to buy and repair instruments and to help the school's ensembles attend out-of-town competitions.

This year, between a live auction and a silent auction of donated sweets, plus a few adults-only beverages, Rotarians' purchases raised a total of \$7,285. That topped our total from 2018's event by more than a thousand dollars.





Williston's student musicians will benefit from the club's gift, raised during the 'Dollars for Desserts' auction, featuring lots of donated goodies.

4

Plastic pollution, home for youth, global projects, Rotary affairs are program topics



Among a series of interesting guest speakers, Rotarians have dominated our programs since the first of visit to the club. He spoke about Ro-

We closed out 2019 with our annual family holiday lunch on Dec. 16, which featured Santa Claus, student musicians from Williston Middle School, and the Dollars for Desserts fund-raiser. For more on that, SEE: *Page 5*.

The new year began with **Bonnie** Monteleone of the Plastic Ocean Rotary business, specifically inter-Project, who spoke Jan.

at our meetings, with the need to

been our tradition of new-member

enough time for the program.

most recently inducted

7 about the problem of plastic waste in the sea.

The North Carolina Boys & Girls Home at Lake Waccamaw was the topic on Jan. 14, when Mason Smith, the home's executive director, spoke. For more about our work with boys living in the home's Rotary Cottage, SEE: Page 4.



District Governor Doug Wolfe was our guest on Jan. 21, his official tary District 7730, which includes 50 clubs across Southeastern North Carolina, and the district's projects.

On Jan. 28, and again on Feb. 11, the program was devoted to our most recently inducted Rotarians, who delivered their new-member talks. For details, see below.

The Feb. 4 meeting was also about

national projects our club has helped support. Rotarian Gabe **Rich** spoke about helping orphanages in Ukraine and other former Soviet republics. Rotarian Dale Smith described projects to help farmers in the west African nation Sierra Leone to become more self-sufficient.







A year's worth of new members introduce themselves



On Jan. 28, the first of eight speakers was Tufanna Bradley. She is assistant county manager for New Hanover County. She was inducted on Nov. 5, 2019, sponsored by Bo Dean.

members.

David Brown, who also joined the club Nov. 5, 2019, is a bulk cargo transportation Cedric Dickerson broker with Farmers'

Grain Express. He was sponsored as

Time is a precious commodity a member by Janet Monterose.

Cedric Dickerson, an insurance fit many pieces of business into a agent with State Farm, spoke about 50 minute window and still leave his civic involvement. He joined the club on June 4, 2019, sponsored by A casualty of that time crunch has Hansen Matthews.

Mike Higgins, inducted on Aug. talks. To catch up on Rotarians who 12, 2019, spoke about growing up in have joined us in the past year, we England and becoming a U.S. citidevoted two recent programs to just zen. He is retired from the informathat: brief introductions from the tion technology business. Sponsored

> by Joe Owen, Mike has 13 years prior Rotary experience in Santa Rosa, California and Fuquay-Varina.

Also sponsored by Hansen Matthews was Matt Hilliard, who joined the club on Jan. 15, 2019. A commercial banker, he had six vears experience in Rotary clubs in Garner and Wake Forest.

Continued on next page





New-member talks, continued

Continued from previous page

Lucy Holman is the university li-

tions branch includes our Herman Blizzard Rotary Archives. Sponsored by Wilbur Jones, she joined the club on Aug. 6, 2019.

Inducted Dec. 10, 2019, Cliff Pyron went from TV journalist to ports authority spokesman to business developer, with Wilmington Industrial Development. His Teddy Davis sponsor was Billy King.

Jan Yokelev joined the club on Aug. 13, 2019, sponsored by Natalie English. She is a workforce training specialist with Cape Fear Community College. Her multi-year prior Rotary experience was with clubs in Mount Airy and Reidsville.

Starting off the Feb. 11 round of talks was Robert "Teddy" Da-

vis, III. After time in various corporate positions, he is now the owner of Wilmington's Farmer's Supply Co. His sponsor was Bert Williams;



terials and a checklist are available on the check-in table at each meeting, and can also be downloaded from the club's website. Look for "prospective member checklist" under the 'Documents tab.

he was inducted May 14, 2019.

Dave Berkheimer joined the brarian at UNC-Wilmington's Ran-club on Aug. 6, 2019, sponsored by dall Library, whose Special Collec- Ann LaReau. His business, Healthy

Green Solutions, promotes good nutrition and wellness. He was pieviously a member of the Shallotte, Southport, and Little River, S.C. Rotary Clubs.

A Rotarian since Nov. 26, 2019, Regina Fisher is a native of Vienna, Austria, who has traveled and lived around the world. Since coming to live in North Carolina, she has been a business broker with the Bristol Group. Hansen Matthews sponsored her

Taft Martin's ca- Regina Fishe reer has evolved from renewable energy to roofing and he now works for Baker Roofing Co. Sponsored by his aunt Charlotte Davis. Taft was inducted on Nov. 19, 2019.

for membership.

A member of the club since Aug. 20, 2019, **David Morrison** is a consultant to non-profits; he formerly wrote a column for the StarNews newspaper. Hayley Sink is his membership sponsor.

The newest member to speak on Feb. 11 was Marcia Morgan, who had just been inducted on Jan. 28. She is a former teacher and military intelligence officer, having retired from the Army as a colonel. Ellen Solomon sponsored her.

Also a veteran of military intelligence work is Sean Parrish, a former Marine, whose overseas assignments included work in Central America. He was sponsored by Michael Gillespie and joined Dec. 10.









Involved in club projects? Please submit digital photos for use in this newsletter. Articles, summary notes or even outlines also welcome. Email any and all info to John Meyer at:

john@capefearpublishers.com.

For best results, please be sure cameras or smartphones are set for high-resolution pictures, no less than 1000 pixels wide.

Club photographer: Robby Collins Other photos from: Worth Merritt





We need pictures and articles!

about committee work and club projects are

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Rookie teacher of the year awards: Rotarian Joe Owen.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Student of the Month awards, 8:45 a.m., Williston Middle School library, 401 South Tenth Street.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Environmental issues facing region and state. With **Michael Regan**, NC secretary of environmental quality.

TUESDAY, MARCH 3

Service Above Self awards for law enforcement, first responders. With Rotarian **Ben David**, district attorney.

TUESDAY, MARCH 10

Votes for women: the long struggle for the 19th Amendment. With **Dr. Jennifer Le Zotte** of UNCW.

MONDAY, MARCH 16

Board of Directors meeting, 5:30 p.m. Address below.

TUESDAY, MARCH 17

What Wilmington is doing, and must do, for affordable housing, with **Katrina Knight** of Good Shepherd Center.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24

The latest news from the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher, with **Hap Fatzinger**, aquarium director.

TUESDAY, MARCH 31

Rotary's current efforts to combat illiteracy in our community, with members of our Literacy Committee.

TUESDAY, APRIL 7

The 105-year history of North Carolina's second-oldest Rotary Club, with Rotarian **John Meyer**.

TUESDAY, APRIL 14

Expansion of the Wilmington port, with **Paul Cozza**, executive director, N.C. State Ports Authority.

TUESDAY, APRIL 21

New Hanover County Arboretum, with **Lloyd Singleton**, New Hanover County agriculture extension director.

TUESDAY, APRIL 28

Wilmington's crown jewel and historic theater, with **Tony Rivenbark**, Thalian Hall executive director.

TUESDAY, MAY 5

How do we determine "Is it the truth?" with members of our club's **Four-Way Test Committee**.

Rotary news briefs

Membership roll guidelines: Members are reminded that the contact information in our club Handbook and the online DACdb database is not to be used for political, business, or other non-Rotary purposes.

President Eric McKeithan notes that our club's constitution specifically restricts the club from endorsing political candidates or issues subject to a public vote. By extension, the club's membership data is made available for our own internal purposes, and should not be used by or on behalf of any candidate for political office.

A similar limitation applies to using confidential member contact information for any other marketing purposes.

Service canine honor: Rotarian Kyria Henry was recently named international chair of the Committee for Post Traumatic Stress Disorder standards for psychiatric service dogs by the Committee of Assistance Dogs International.

Rotary 101: This informative course about the history and culture of the Rotary movement will reconvene on Feb. 18. The sessions begin at noon, just before our lunch meeting. All members are welcome. Attendance counts as a makeup.

Sessions are scheduled monthly and information materials will be provided. No sign-up is needed; just show up!

Salvation Army service day: Volunteers are needed Feb. 26 to help prepare and serve meals at the Salvation Army Shelter, 820 N. Second St. Help is needed to prepare the meal from 2 to 4:30 p.m. or to serve from 4:30 to 6:30 pm. To sign up for either shift, or get more information, contact Marty Feurer. His email is martin.feurer@uss.salvationarmy.org.

Rotary Wheel Garden work day: The Community Service Committee is planning a work day from 9 to 11 a.m. Saturday, March 14. The job is to weed the flower beds in the Rotary Wheel Garden at Greenfield Park. This will prepare them for an application of mulch. That, in turn, is being done in advance of the Wheel of Honor dedication in May. If you can help, please contact Terry Smith: *Tsmith@tworld.com*

For more about the Wheel of Honor, SEE: Page 1.

Interclub social: With a large turnout from Wilmington's six Rotary clubs, the most recent Fifth Wednesday social took place on Jan. 29 at Bill's Front Porch, a brew-pub that's part of the Captain Bill's volleyball complex.

Fifth Wednesday is an opportunity for area Rotarians to

meet and mingle in an informal setting.

Council on Legislation: Rotary District 7730 has appointed Past District Governor Lee Dixon of Morehead City as its representative to this important Rotary International body.

The Council on Legislation for 2020-23 will start work in July. Any Rotarian in good standing can propose a change in any Rotary policy or procedure. If you have an idea for a change, discuss it with President Eric McKeithan. If it gets approval from the club's board, a proposed change can then be submitted through the district and on to the COL.

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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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