

# CLUB NEWS

July 9, 2019



The Wilmington  
**Rotary**  
Club



Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self

## McKeithan assumes president's job, calls for ambitious fund-raising goal

*With a focus on extending the club's fund-raising efforts to tap major Wilmington institutions, incoming president Eric McKeithan offered these thoughts as he was installed on June 25.*

Thanks to all members of the Wilmington Rotary Club for your continuing commitment to Rotary, its motto of Service Above Self, and our Four-Way Test of the things we think, say, and do. It is an honor to have the opportunity to follow in the footsteps of the illustrious group of men and women who have served as president of the Wilmington Rotary Club for the last 104 years.

Mark Maloney, Rotary International President for 2019-2020, makes a point of saying that "The clubs are where Rotary happens" and that Rotary's culture as a service-oriented membership organization holds the potential for Rotary to become the global powerhouse for doing good in the world.

That belief underpins his selection of "Rotary Connects the World" as Rotary's theme for 2019-2020 and serves as our call to service. In that spirit, we will continue with our numerous service activities in 2019-2020 and will also focus on increasing fundraising by seeking several major sponsors from throughout the community for our projects.

I am excited about serving as President of the Wilmington Rotary Club in 2019-2020, and I solicit your continuing support for and engagement in Rotary activities throughout the coming year.

It's going to be a great year!

Yours in Rotary service,

*Eric McKeithan*  
2019-2020 President



President Eric McKeithan gives a vigorous 'I will' to each of the questions asked by past District Governor R.B. Richey as he administers the oath of office at the installation banquet June 25.

### New boards inducted

Also taking office were the board of the club's foundation: President **Mike Brown, Ernie Olds, Mimi Cunningham, Laura Lisle, Elaine Leggett, Matt Davis and Watson Snider**. For the club's board, SEE: page 2.



Immediate Past President Cathy Barlow accepts a plaque with her gavel and her 'Past President' pin from Secretary Elliott O'Neal at the June 25 installation banquet.

# Board of Directors for 2019-20 takes office



The club's board members for 2019-20, sworn in June 25, above: John Cheshire, Randall Johnson, Larry Sackett, Dale Smith, Steve Coggins, President Eric McKeithan; right: President-elect Robby Collins, Secretary Elliott O'Neal, President-nominee Cleve Callison, Treasurer John Liverman, and Gabe Rich.



Other board members not present for the induction June 25 are, from left, Past President and Past District Governor Don Adkins; Elaine Leggett; Angela McKinnon, Janet Monterose, Bret Paterson, Erin Payne, Shannon Sandlin, Noah Woods and Rob Zapple.



## Golf outing honors

John Lyon presents the traveling trophy for the club's annual Golf Fore Fun event to Josh Rosenberg. Josh's team recorded the best score during the April 23 outing. This presentation was at the May 7 meeting. The annual golf event, on April 23 this year, is an alternative to that week's regular lunch meeting.

## Food donations add up to 125 pounds for Nourish NC

Rotarians attending the June 25 presidential installation banquet were asked to bring canned or other non-perishable foods as a donation to Nourish NC.

That organization provides boxes and backpacks loaded with food for children who depend on school lunch and breakfast programs. The objective is to help their families through weekends and holiday breaks when they might have no other source of food.

We have supported Nourish NC in recent years through donations and volunteer labor.

The contributions amounted to 125 pounds, which past presidents Mike Beaudoin and Steve Yates delivered to Nourish NC on June 26.

# Notes and vignettes from International Convention

As it does every year, the club sent incoming President **Eric McKeithan** to the Rotary International Convention, this year in Hamburg, Germany from June 1 through 5. Also attending were Past Presidents **John Meyer** and **Mike Beaudoin**.

Representing District 7730 were outgoing District Governor **April Clark**, Past District Governor **Nancy Barbee**, and our new District Governor for 2019-20, **Doug Wolfe**.

Several noteworthy developments were announced at the convention.

**Polio progress:** As of August 2019, Nigeria is expected to be declared “polio free,” as a result of immunization efforts supported by Rotary’s Polio Plus campaign. That will also mean Africa is also free of the paralyzing disease, now endemic to only two nations: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

**Disaster grant inaugurated:** Traditionally, the Rotary Foundation has not undertaken direct response to natural disasters, preferring to leave that to more specialized agencies. But the Foundation has changed course, approving a new Disaster Response Grant. These grants may be for up to \$25,000 each.

**Partnership with Toastmasters:** To help improve Rotarians’ communication and leadership skills, extend Rotary’s reach into corporations, uni-



versities and other institutions, and to broaden our outreach to women, Rotary International has undertaken a new partnership with Toastmasters International. That organization has 360,000 members, more than half of them women, in more than 17,000 clubs worldwide. Toastmasters’ “Leadership Curriculum” will be available for Rotary and Rotaract clubs, tailored to Rotary values.

**Learning from history:** Among the most in-demand breakout sessions at this year’s convention—hundreds had to be turned away—was one titled “What We Can Learn From History” about Rotary’s accommodation to dictatorial governments, starting with the relationship of German Rotary clubs to the Nazi regime in the 1930s. German Rotarians have delved into both RI and government archives to document how, to be allowed to keep operating, clubs expelled Jewish and anti-Nazi members, and declared that the Rotary and Nazi movements had identical goals. Panelists discussed how the tension between Rotary’s firm policy of remaining non-political has always created tension with the Four-Way Test’s demand that Rotarians always honor the truth. “Damned if you do and damned if you don’t” was how one panelist described the dilemma of Rotary clubs attempting to do good in countries with dictatorial or non-democratic governments.



**Friends and partners I:** Past President Mike Beaudoin and his wife, Gayle, connected in Hamburg with Past President Liz Cox of the Georgetown, Guyana Rotary Club. The Georgetown club has been a crucial partner in our projects to develop water supplies for two villages in that South American nation.



**Friends and partners II:** Gayle and Mike Beaudoin with Anita and Andy Smallwood from the Houston Rotary Club in Texas. Andy was the RI president’s representative at our 2018 District Conference in Wilmington. He will also be an aide to future RI President Holger Knaack, who will serve in 2021-22.



This photograph was a centerpiece of the “What We Can Learn From History” session. Postwar German Rotarians attempted to disguise their history during the Nazi era by doctoring the photo, from a 1935 German Rotary district conference. They inserted the Rotary Wheel symbol in place of the swastika.



**Dialogue with strangers:** John Meyer in a spirited (and intelligent!) conversation with Clifford Allen of Maryland in one of the booths at a Rotary exhibition in Hamburg’s old city. Free Intelligent Conversation (FreeIC) is a non-profit organization that encourages conversations between strangers in public places.

# Youth exchange, film and liquor business, tech recruiting, corporate ethics and the value of diversity among program topics



J. Hall: Youth Exchange

Recent meeting programs have covered a diverse array of topics, including the value of diversity in business and organizations.

Rotary Youth Exchange was the subject on May 7. **Jean Hall**, District 7730's youth exchange chair, introduced the program, which included first-person accounts of their time in Europe from exchange students **Sophie Hall** and **Emma Tracy**. The district will be hosting several incoming exchange students in the coming school year.

The local film industry's recent slow recovery was the topic on May 14, when **Bill Vassar**, executive vice president of Screen Gems Studio spoke. He talked about the effect of legislative decisions that sent movie and TV productions to other states.

Retired pharmaceutical executive **Dick Morris**, now associated with UNCW, spoke May 21 about the value of ethics in business. This program was presented by the club's Four-Way Test Committee.

UNCW economics professor **Dr. Craig Galbraith** presented the May 28 program, about the qualities technology companies look for in a community, and

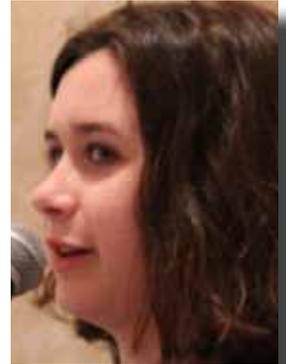
how Wilmington measures up.

Rotarian **Ken Sarvis**, the chief deputy, filled in for his boss, New Hanover County Sheriff **Ed McMahon**, on June 4, discussing the sheriff's department's current operations.

The Four-Way Test Committee presented a second program on June 11 about how diversity in hiring and membership strengthens organizations. Speakers were **Tracy Jackson**, president of Wilmington's African-American Business Council, and **J.C. Smith**, director of facilities and employee learning for Wilmington-based Live Oak Bank.

Alcohol was the topic when **Greg Matheson** spoke on June 18. The bar and restaurant manager for Wilmington's City Club, he discussed the history of distilled spirits in Wilmington, including prohibition, bootlegging and moonshining, and the current revival of craft distilleries.

Instead of the normal lunch meeting on June 25, the club gathered for dinner and the installation of **Eric McKeithan** and the new Board of Directors. For more, SEE: *pages 1 and 2.*



Tracy: exchange student



S. Hall: exchange student



Sarvis: sheriff's department



Vassar: Screen Gems studio



Morrison: business ethics



Matheson: local liquor



Galbraith: tech recruiting



Jackson: diversity



Smith: diversity



**Pat's birthday**  
Joining Pat Watts for her 83rd birthday on June 20 were Rotarians Don Adkins, Cathy Barlow, Vicki Scott, Donna Shiro, Ann LaReau, Rob Lapp and Larry Sackett. With them was service-dog-in-training Thurm, named for Pat's late husband, Rotarian Thurman Watts.



One of the ways we show our appreciation for the hard-working teachers and staff at Williston Middle School is to serve a catered ‘Thank-You’ lunch on the last day of the school year. With food from Chipotle, this took place June 13 this year, in the school library.

## Legacy Project honors Williston faculty and principal at end of school year

The Williston Middle School Legacy Project closed out the school year with an appreciation lunch for teachers on June 13. Rotarians served, donated supplies, and cleaned up afterward.

After lunch, President Cathy Barlow presented Principal Ron Villines with a check for \$3,310, from Hurricane Florence recovery funds contributed by Rotary clubs nationwide.

The club then surprised Villines, expressing our appreciation

for his help and support, by making him a Paul Harris Fellow.

Committee co-chairs Steve Yates and Anna Erwin summarized the year’s efforts, noting that the club and individual Rotarians had supplied snacks as an ongoing teacher appreciation effort, donated garments and cash for the school’s clothing closet, supported the Trailblazers running team, and made direct contributions to help with the school’s recovery from the hurricane.



Above: The club’s Foundation chair, Past District Governor R.B. Richey, presents Williston Principal Ron Villines with Paul Harris Fellow pin and medallion in thanks for his support.

Left: Principal surrounded by the Rotarians who helped serve the teacher appreciation lunch: Elliott O’Neal, David Grandey, Tyler Wooden, Mike Musselwhite, Hayley Sink, Sandra Kalom, Charlotte Davis, Ann LaReau, Albert Corbett, Villines, Melissa Hight, Rob Zapple, Steve Yates, and R.B. Richey.



Williston students of the month were treated to a year-end field trip to UNC-Wilmington. SEE: page 6.



Williston Middle School's students of the month for the 2018-19 school year pose for a group photo on their year-end field trip to UNCW.

# Williston's honored students tour UNCW

Our Student of the Month awards at Williston Middle School concluded with a two-day celebration in May. The school year's final award ceremony took place on the 15th, then the next day all the students honored during the year took a field trip to the UNC-Wilmington campus.

The university's admissions office coordinated the visit, which began at the Fisher University Union. Courtney Sola from the admissions staff gave the visiting middle schoolers an overview of what it takes to apply for a place in the student body.

The tour continued through the Watson College of Education and Cameron School of Business, the Upperman African American Cultural Center and the Centro Hispano. After an open-air lunch, student volunteers with Paws4People and Rotarian Kyria Henry gave a demonstration of how they work with puppies to qualify them as service dogs.

Williston Legacy Project Committee co-chair Steve Yates explained, "It is our hope that this visit will encourage students to look to the future with the goal of attending college following graduation from high school."



Middle schoolers get a taste of campus life, encouraging them to aspire to seek higher education.



## Chief justice is club's guest

**Cheri Beasley**, chief justice of the North Carolina Supreme Court, briefly addressed the club on June 13 when she attended as a guest of District Attorney **Ben David**.

She was in Wilmington to sign an agreement renewing the School Justice Partnership, an initiative meant to reduce the role of police and courts in

school disciplinary matters.

As she and Ben explained, the partnership aims to keep kids in school and out of court by reducing law enforcement involvement in minor misconduct at schools.

Also attending as Ben's guest was Chief District Court Judge **J.H. Corpening**, a former member of this club.



*Club photographer:*  
**Robby Collins**

*Other photos from:*  
**Mike Beaudoin,**  
**Melissa Hight, Donna Shiro, John Meyer,**  
**and Steve Yates**

# After lull, club rolls grow by 8

The club has experienced a steady flow of new members the past two months, after a slow period for recruiting in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence.

Eight new Rotarians have been inducted, an average of one a week, in May and June. Two of those new members are “legacies,” following in the footsteps of Rotarian family members.

**Eugene W. (“Worth”) Merritt III** was inducted on May 7, sponsored by Hansen Matthews. His vocational classification is video media. Worth’s father, Eugene Merritt Jr., is a former member of this club and his grandfather, the late Eugene Merritt Sr., was president in 1972-3 and district governor in 1976-77.

**Cedrick Dickerson**, an insurance agent, joined the club on June 4, sponsored by Hansen Matthews. He manages a State Farm agency in Wilmington.

**Kathryn Bruner**, sponsored by Matt Mylott, also became a member on June 4. She is a real estate agent, associated with Intracoastal Real Estate.

Matt Mylott was also the sponsor for **John Picano**, who was inducted on June 11. John is a healthcare administrator, employed by Wilmington Treatment Center.

Two new members joined on June 18. **Steven Smits** is a banker with Live Oak Bank. His sponsor is Albert Corbett.

The second June 18 inductee, **Rob High**, was a Paul Harris Fellow before becoming a Rotarian. He is the son of Rotarian Robert High and works in his father’s real estate development firm. He was sponsored by Charles Mintz.

Another double induction took place at the presidential installation banquet on June 25. **Theresa Bassett**, a marketing professional with Keller Williams Real Estate, was sponsored by Albert Corbett.

Also joining June 25 was **Bunny Donohue**, sponsored by Donna Shiro. She is retired from the clinical research business.



Worth Merritt



Cedrick Dickerson



Kathryn Bruner



John Picano



Steven Smits



Rob High



Theresa Bassett



Bunny Donohue

**Have you identified a new member?**

Membership application materials, including a checklist, are available on the check-in table at each meeting, and also from the club’s website.

## Foundation donor is Paul Harris Fellow

Rotarian **Mike Musselwhite** was named a Paul Harris Fellow on June 4 for contributing \$1,000 or more to the international Rotary Foundation. First-time fellows benefit from Foundation recognition points donated by Pat Watts. Mike joined our club on January 8, 2019.



Musselwhite

## District challenge: Another \$100 to Foundation from every member

The leadership of Rotary District 7730—the fifty clubs of Southeastern North Carolina, including this one—is asking every Rotarian to consider giving an extra \$100 to the Rotary Foundation. The Rotary Foundation is how Rotary International does good in the world and in local communities.

Past District Governor Vanessa Ervin, the district’s Foundation chair, urges Rotarians who have not yet made their donation commitment for the year to give careful consideration to the Foundation’s needs. Contributions can be made through the club’s dues billing, or online through Rotary Direct, where you can specify a monthly, quarterly or yearly amount.

Foundation gifts can be designated for the Annual Fund, used to make global and district grants, or to the special Polio Plus fund. All contributions to the Foundation are counted toward recognition as a Paul Harris Fellow when total giving reaches \$1,000.

## Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, JULY 9

About Elderhaus, with **Erika Squires**, intake coordinator.

SATURDAY, JULY 13

Installation of District Governor **Doug Wolfe** and officers for District 7730. 2 p.m., Southern Salt Seafood Company, 701 Evans Street, Morehead City.

TUESDAY, JULY 16

What science has discovered versus what we “know,” with **Dr. John LaSala**, retired physics professor.

MONDAY, JULY 22

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

TUESDAY, JULY 23

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

TUESDAY, JULY 30

Law enforcement in Wilmington, with Police Chief **Ralph Evangelous**.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 6

What it's like working for the Smithsonian Institution, with Rotarian and museum retiree **Charlotte Davis**.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 13

The news business and the role played by local TV, with **Brad Myers**, news director, WECT-TV.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 20

The history and latest developments at the Rotary Wheel Garden, with Rotarians **Terry Smith** and **John Meyer**.

MONDAY, AUGUST 26

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

TUESDAY, AUGUST 27

Experiences on the aircraft carrier USS John F. Kennedy, with former commander Admiral **Ron Henderson**.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3

Dr. Hubert Eaton, who was mentor and tennis coach for Althea Gibson. With retired tennis pro **Lenny Simpson**.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

Update on Williston Middle School and the club's Legacy Project there, with principal **Ron Villines**.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

Development and land use issues, with **Wayne Clark**, New Hanover County planning and zoning director.

## Rotary news briefs

**Cleve Callison** was elected President Nominee on May 20, meaning he will be the club's president in 2021-22. Cleve joined the club in February 2011. He is retired station manager for public radio station WHQR.

**Our club won the District Governor's Award** at the 2019 District Conference in Swansboro May 3 and 4. President Cathy Barlow accepted the award on our behalf. It recognizes clubs that meet a long list of goals including member involvement, giving, and public image.

**All remaining hurricane funds** have been allocated to local schools, by decision of the club's Board of Directors on May 20. Williston Middle School received \$3,310. In the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, dozens of Rotary clubs around the country contributed supplies and money, most of which we applied to existing club projects.

**Visits to “shut-in” Rotarians** will count as an attendance make-up, the club's board has decided. Our club continues to require at least 50 percent attendance, or make-ups, as a condition of membership. By giving broad credit to club projects and committee meetings, the policy is meant to encourage involvement in Rotary work.

**The club has contributed** another \$500 to the Kiva micro-loan project. Kiva lends money interest-free to entrepreneurs in developing countries and the US, to pay for such capital items as livestock, a sewing machine or oven, or for business training. Repayment rates are close to 100 percent and repayments are used to make new loans.

**Harris, our club's assistance dog in training** with the Paws4People Foundation, is being trained by an inmate at St. Marys Correctional Center in West Virginia. Now ten months old, she is learning more than 100 commands that will help her work for a future client. Those commands include picking up such items as a dropped phone or keys, opening a refrigerator door, and retrieving medicine or food. In recognition of support from our club, Paws4People named her for Rotary founder Paul Harris.



**District Governor Doug Wolfe** and other district officers will be installed in an afternoon event on Saturday, July 13. To make it easy for Rotarians from around the district to attend, it is scheduled for 2 to 4:30 p.m. at Southern Salt Seafood Company, 701 Evans Street on the Morehead City waterfront. Cost is \$25 for hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, tea and water. A cash bar will also be available. Registration is through an emailed link or directly at the district website: [www.rotary7730.org](http://www.rotary7730.org)

### Board of Directors Meeting

5:30 pm, 4th 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)