



## Fund-raising raffle nets \$43,850 for club's foundation and new projects

The club's first (and we hope only) virtual fund-raiser proved a success, raising \$43,850 for our foundation to use in carrying out club projects.

A raffle with hundred-dollar tickets concluded with a drawing during our online meeting on Feb. 9. President **Robby Collins** presided at **Donna Shiro's** house; she and guest assistant **Eugenia James** of Williston Middle School drew the winning tickets.

The proceeds were a notable improvement on the net income from our last couple of fund-raisers, which involved significant expenses that weren't a factor this year.

Prizes were donated and expenses were largely limited to printing tickets and a promotional flyer.

### Prizes and winners were:

Three rings, gold, platinum and diamonds, value \$11,500, Melissa Hight.

One-year lease on a 2020 Nissan Altima, value \$4,000, Terri Everett.

\$2,500 cash, Al Butler III.

\$1,500 cash, Jack Clark.

Gold and platinum ring, value \$1,250, Albert Corbett.

Gold earrings and pendant, value \$1,250, Steve Yates.

Gold ring, value \$850, Jim Sumnerlin.

\$750 cash, Van Dempsey.

Ring with diamond accents, value \$625, Bo Dean.

Sculpture by Dumay Gorham, value \$550, Kyria Henry.

Wine basket, value \$500, Mollie Shiftet.

Paws 4 People puppy party, value \$300, Jack Clark.

Golf foursome at Beau Rivage,

value \$246, Charles Mintz.

Champagne and chocolate basket, value \$225, John Hatcher.

Bundt cakes, balloons and pizza assortment, value \$150, Janet Monterose.

One cash winner returned the money to the club's foundation. One after-the-fact contribution, a valuable piece of jewelry, is on consignment and proceeds from its sale will also go to the foundation.

### Fund-raising volunteers:

Rotarians who helped organize the raffle and took the lead in selling tickets included **Donna Shiro, Henry Brown, John Hatcher, Chris Riley, and Tolis Vardakis.** **Larry Sackett** set up the online payment system, "which saved us lots of time," Donna said. For more on the club's online resources, SEE: *page 4*.

Donating and/or securing prizes were **Terri Everett, Noah Woods, Cat Marinich, Kyria Henry, Donna Shiro, Laura Lisle, Melissa Hight, Beau Rivage Country Club—via Mike Beaudoin, WineStore—via Chris Riley, and Dumay Gorham—via Debby Gmulka.**

Of the 214 members on the club's roster, 155 or 72 percent bought tickets or otherwise contributed directly to this year's fund-raiser.

### Dues payments lagging

As of March 10, unpaid club dues totalled \$17,000, with many balances 90 days or more late. For more on the club's finances, a comparison with other clubs' giving levels, and how to safely pay online, SEE: *page 4*.



With President Robby Collins presiding, Donna Shiro and Eugenia James draw one of 15 winning tickets on Feb. 9.



In the weeks leading up to the raffle drawing, Donna drummed up interest and ticket sales by showcasing some of the prizes, including an assortment of fine jewelry.







Harbeck: city planning



Hood: Credit unions



Kimes: Bridge replacement



Thompson: implicit bias



Hook: UNCW baseball

## Finance, education, infrastructure, bias and disease among recent programs



Madden: Williston school



Linton: agriculture science



Rhyne: epidemiology



David: Service Above Self

Despite encouraging news about the vaccines against COVID-19, the club's meetings have remained online only through 2021's first few months. Via Zoom software, we have continued to enjoy a wide variety of informative programs.

The year began with a presentation from Wilmington Planning Director **Glenn Harbeck** on Jan. 5. He talked about the city's growth challenges and how smart planning can help us cope with them.

Our Jan. 12 speaker was **Rodney Hood**, chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, who talked about the history, regulation, and future of these consumer-friendly financial institutions.

**Chad Kimes**, division engineer with the N.C. Department of Transportation, spoke Jan. 19 about alternatives for replacing the 52-year-old vertical-lift Cape Fear Memorial Bridge, which is nearing the end of its useful lifespan.

The Jan. 26 meeting was presented by our Four-Way Test Committee. **Linda Thompson**, New Hanover County's chief diversity and equity officer, discussed implicit bias and techniques to raise awareness of such habits in our own thinking. For more about this and the club's Diversity, Equity and In-

clusion initiatives, SEE: *page 6*.

**Randy Hook**, coach of the UNC-Wilmington men's baseball team, spoke on Feb. 2 about athletics in the COVID era and prospects for this season's team.

Feb. 9 was a special program, the drawings for our fund-raising raffle. Rotarian **Donna Shiro** and guest **Eugenia James** of Williston Middle School drew the winning tickets. For details, SEE: *page 1*.

Williston Middle School, the focus of our multi-year Legacy Project, was the topic on Feb. 16, when the new principal, **Christopher Madden**, was our speaker.

Agriculture and the science that supports it was the subject of our Feb. 23 program, with **Dr. Richard Linton**, dean of the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at N.C. State University.

Infectious diseases and their impact on history was the topic of **Dr. Jan Rhyne's** presentation on March 2. She is an epidemiologist and former medical director of the New Hanover County Health Department.

On March 9, Rotarian **Ben David** introduced a video in which he presented the club's annual Service Above Self Awards to law enforcement officers and other first responders. For details, SEE: *page 7*.

## Rookie teachers honored in remote ceremonies

Five first-year teachers were honored on Feb. 12 as New Hanover County "Rookie Teachers of the Year." Because our usual lunch-meeting presentation wasn't possible, the winners of this Rotary-sponsored award were honored during individual visits to their schools.

The top winner was **Abbey Emerson**, who teaches first grade at Carolina Beach Elementary School. Rotarian **Joe Owen**, who heads the Teachers of the

Year Committee, presented her with a plaque and a check for \$1,000.

The event got TV news coverage; a school district video is also available online. Find the link on the "Our Projects" page of the club website:

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

The other four finalists each received a plaque and \$500. They are:

**Erica Biggs**, who teaches science at Trask Middle School.

**Alexandra Caldwell**, who teaches fourth grade at Mary C. Williams Elementary School.

**Amanda Sharp-Royals**, who teaches science at Wilmington Early College High School.

**Kayla Trevethan**, who teaches first grade at Wrightsboro Elementary School.



Finalist Kayla Trevethan with her check in her classroom at Wrightsboro Elementary School.



Amanda Sharp-Royal teaches science at Wilmington Early College High School.

Erica Biggs accepted her \$500 check in her classroom at Trask Middle School.



First-grade teacher Abbey Emerson of Carolina Beach Elementary School is New Hanover County's 2021 Rotary 'Rookie of the Year.'



Joe Owen with Rookie of the Year Abbey Emerson at Carolina Beach Elementary School.

Below: jubilant first-graders celebrate their teacher's honor during outdoor ceremony.



Fourth-grade teacher Alexandra Caldwell with Mary C. Williams School's 'Redhawk' mascot.



## Rotary Day at Boys & Girls Homes to be virtual event

Because of COVID, the annual Rotary Day at the Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina will be held online, at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 28.

Rotarians can register online. Log-in credentials for Zoom will be sent by email. Rotary Districts 7710 and 7730 are sponsors. The event will include:

- Virtual tour of the Rotary Cottage

and other buildings on the Homes' Lake Waccamaw campus.

- Praise Team performance
- An introduction by the Homes' new B&GH president, Ricky Creech.
- Recognition of participating clubs' Rotary Day contributions.
- Opportunity to help the Rotary cottage's residents by buying needed items from an Amazon "Come to the

Table" gift registry.

Founded in 1954, B&GH has helped more than 5,000 abused and neglected children through residential and community-based services. Since 1966, Rotarians have raised nearly \$2 million for the organization.

Find the registration link and more information on the District website: <https://www.rotary7730.org>



## Liverman honored for many years service as treasurer

Rotarian John Liverman, the club's treasurer for more than 25 years, has stepped back from that demanding position as we shift to a new online accounting system.

During the Feb. 16 meeting, President Robby Collins presented John with the RISE award—Rotarian in Service Excellence. John joined the club in 1996 and is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow.



## Many members remain in arrears as the club modernizes its finances

Despite the sharp reduction in dues since the club suspended in-person lunch meetings, many members' accounts remain badly behind. In late February, interim treasurer Larry Sackett reported, more than \$20,000 was 90 days in arrears.

After an email appeal, that deficit fell to \$17,000 by March 10, better but still a significant problem. Even though we are not paying for catering or room rent, the club is still obliged to pay Rotary International and District dues for every member. "In effect," Larry said, "members who are current with their payments are subsidizing those who aren't."

An important step to reduce administrative overhead has been converting the club's accounting to the online District and Club Database (DaCdb) system. That allows both dues payments and foundation contributions (both international and local) to be made online by credit or debit card.

While payment by check remains an option, Larry advises, "I'd like you to know that means we have to pick up your check at the post office and manually enter the check into our bookkeeping system. This process is a lot of work and is a source of errors." The DaCdb payment system, by contrast, automatically updates members' records. "It's a lot more efficient and accurate to pay by credit card," Larry said. He added, "All the club accounting is done on a volunteer basis."

Statements for club dues, which include promised contributions to The Rotary Foundation, are now sent by email. Similar statements cover members' voluntary pledges to our club's own non-profit RCDW Foundation. Each statement comes with a personalized link to the member's DaCdb login.

In most cases, the user name is an email address; the password is the Rotarian's membership number, found on the address block of your monthly *Rotary* magazine. In addition to making secure online payments, your DaCdb account allows you to keep all your contact information up to date.

That is essential to the accuracy of our online member directory. That virtual roster took the place of the printed handbook that was suspended due to the COVID pandemic. Your fellow members' information is visible only through your login; the directory is not accessible by the general public.

You can find the DaCdb log-in form through a link at the top of the club's website, [www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org).

## Club does our part to fill red kettles

Our club's volunteer bell-ringers helped the Salvation Army raise \$4,306.87 for its Christmas-season charity work. The local commander, Maj. Mark Craddock, announced that total during our Jan. 5 meeting. Mark is a Rotarian, a member of the Wilmington West club. Our members worked the red kettles at Sam's Club on Tuesdays in December.



## Making H&H family friendly

Always an innovator when he does 'Health & Happiness' duty, Bret Paterson demonstrated on Feb. 23 that Rotary service is compatible with family life, including his children in his presentation.



## Joe Augustine, veteran, past president and Chamber exec, dies at 94

Long-time Rotarian Joe Augustine, 94, died on Feb. 11. He had endured serious health challenges in the past year, including a chronic eye problem and a COVID infection.

Joe was our president for 1988-89. He joined the club in February, 1979, shortly after coming to Wilmington from Chapel Hill to become the Chamber of Commerce's executive. He was sponsored by his predecessor at the Chamber, H. Van Reid.

As a Rotarian, his service included heading the Health and Happiness committee.

A star athlete at the University of North Carolina and a World War II Army veteran, Joe filled many leadership roles. Those included the Wilmington Executives Club, Cape Fear Sales and Marketing and the Wilmington Safety School. After retiring from the Chamber, he worked as a business broker.

Along with his many volunteer activities, Joe and his wife Carolyn endowed a scholarship at the UNC-Wilmington School of Nursing, where he served on the advisory board.

Also surviving are a son and grandchildren.



## Wheel lighting donation recognized

In preparation for the abortive 2020 Wheel of Honor fund-raiser, the club solicited donation of a lighting system for the Rotary Wheel Garden at Greenfield Lake. While the event had to be canceled, the lights are now in place, along with a sign that recognizes the donors, Johnson's Modern Electric, as well as Rotarian John Cheshire, who arranged for the work to be done.

## Grant sought to help teach English

The club has applied for a Rotary DEI (Diversity, Equity and Inclusion) grant on behalf of our Literacy and Williston Legacy Committees. The \$1,200 grant is meant to fund a program offered by the Cape Fear Literacy Council to help teachers who deal with students with international backgrounds. The program includes two classes titled "How to Talk With People Who are Learning English."

"Williston Principal Chris Madden is on board with this program," Legacy Committee Co-Chair Steve Yates explained.

The district is expected to make a decision on the grant application sometime in mid-March.

## Williston students honored door to door in February

The Student of the Month awards program, part of our Legacy Project at Williston Middle School, continued on Feb. 24. Rotarians and school staff visited the homes of 16 Williston students who had been chosen by their teachers as living by the principles of Rotary's Four-Way Test.

Four teams, wearing masks and observing social distancing rules, delivered award certificates, yard signs, gift cards and Four-Way Test coins.

Joining the effort was Tom Brimberry, president of the Friends of New Hanover Public Library. His group is supporting our award program by donating book bags and library cards for the winning students.

Because of the challenges of remote education, the school administration chose not to conduct awards programs in January or March. One final event is planned, on a date to be announced, before the school year ends, according to Legacy Committee co-chair Steve Yates.



Taking honors to a student's doorstep.



Rotarian Todd Turner with one of the yard signs that let neighbors know about Williston students' honor.

At left, one of February's students of the month shows off his sign as his family looks on.



## Club gains new members

Kathy Grear joined the club on Jan. 12, sponsored by Dale Smith. She is the co-publisher and marketing director of *Greater Diversity News*, a Wilmington-based monthly.

Anne Gardner was inducted Jan. 19. She is chief executive officer of Cape Fear Realtors; her sponsor is Patrice Willetts.

Our newest member is Robin Schoolfield, who joined on Feb. 16, sponsored by R.B. Richey. Her vocational classification is fitness.



Kathy Grear



Anne Gardner



Robin Schoolfield



## Spring golf outing set

The annual Rotary “Golf Fore Fun” event returns to springtime for 2021 after a COVID-imposed delay last year. The outing will begin with lunch at 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, April 20, at Castle Bay Country Club, 107 Links Court in Hampstead.

The first tee-time will be 11:56 a.m. Registration and payment are needed by April 6. A registration form was attached to President Robby Collins’s March 5 email.

Participation counts as a make-up, in lieu of attending that day’s regular club meeting. The winning foursome will get their names engraved on a handsome traveling trophy.

Rotarians and guests are welcome. The competition is described as a “Four-person scramble, captain’s choice.” Organizer John Lyon explained, “Teams will be made up to mix the good, average and ‘not so average’ players.”

The \$65 cost includes greens fees, cart, prize pool and a box lunch. Fees should be paid to Wilmington Rotary Club and mailed to John. Contact him with any questions.

## Diversity committee offers implicit bias training to members

The club’s Four-Way Test Committee has been charged with carrying out our Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) goals, which include offering implicit bias training to the club’s leadership and members.

Linda Thompson, New Hanover County’s DEI director, spoke to the club at our Jan. 26 meeting, and has conducted two training sessions. The first was for our Board of Directors; the second was open to all members. Fourteen of the Board’s 20 members participated; several of the others had received similar training elsewhere.

“Implicit biases” have been defined as “unconscious attitudes and stereotypes that can manifest in the criminal justice system, workplace, school setting, and in the healthcare system.” Implicit bias training is intended to help all of us, who may believe we aren’t prejudiced, to understand the ways unrecognized biases may distort our thinking.

The Four-Way Test/DEI Committee has asked the Board to take a DEI survey and recommended that it be conducted among the full club membership. A parallel effort is to perform Rotary International’s “diverse club assessment.”

Our DEI objectives include diversifying the club’s membership and soliciting a wider range of grant and projects proposals.

## Foundation gifts acknowledged with awards

A final batch of multiple Paul Harris Fellows, the result of President Robby Collins’s challenge to our members, was recognized during the Jan. 12 online meeting. Robby had promised to make an additional thousand-dollar contribution to The Rotary Foundation if ten other members did the same before 2020 ended.



Several of those donors, including some first-time Paul Harris Fellows, were recognized last fall.

During the Jan. 12 meeting, our Foundation advocate, Past President R.B. Richey, recognized these new “multiple” Paul Harris Fellows.

PHF plus two: (\$3,000) **Robby Collins, Ann LaReau, Patrice Willetts, Steve Yates.**

PHF plus three: (\$4,000) **Tom McMillan and Tolis Vardakis.**

PHF plus eight: (\$9,000) **Mike Beaudoin.**

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*.



Robby Collins: plus two



Ann LaReau: plus two



Steve Yates: plus two



Tolis Vardakis: plus three

## Club excels in total giving, not per capita

The Wilmington Rotary Club’s members gave more to the Rotary Foundation in 2019-20 than all but one other club in District 7730. As District Foundation Advocate John Mohr reported, we were recognized for contributing \$14,532 toward the \$256,819 our district sent to the Foundation’s Annual Fund. Although we are by far the district’s largest club, we came in a distant second to the South Brunswick Islands Club, whose members gave more than twice as much, \$37,286.

On a per capita basis, the most generous clubs were Fayetteville, \$855 per member; Shallotte, \$764; and South Brunswick Islands, \$601. By contrast, our giving last year amounted to only about \$68 per capita.

Another measure of a club’s commitment to Rotary International’s world-wide work is “Every Rotarian Every Year” or ERAY status. Seven clubs achieved that in 2019-20, with every member giving something and Foundation contributions averaging \$100 or more per member. The district’s ERAY clubs are Burgaw, Fair Bluff, Fayetteville, Morehead City, Shallotte, Southport and Wilmington Central. Wilmington West Rotary was honored for 100 percent of its members being Paul Harris Fellows, each having contributed at least \$1,000 each to The Rotary Foundation.

Foundation gifts go toward Global Grants and the Polio Plus campaign; a portion are returned to the districts in proportion to member clubs’ giving.

# ‘Service Above Self’ awards for police, public servants via video

The 2021 Service Above Self Awards, one of our club’s two programs that honors public servants, came to us via video because of the suspension of in-person lunch meetings.

Rotarian Ben David, district attorney for New Hanover and Pender Counties, presented a video during the March 9 online meeting in which he cited five police officers, two sanitation workers and a non-profit employee for making our community safer.

The full video can be seen on the “Our Projects” page of the club website: [www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org](http://www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org)

Those honored were:



Swan

to the nightly protests in June 2020 in downtown Wilmington.

Detective Sergeant **Stephen Clinard**, a Pender County sheriff’s deputy.

As a result of his investigative efforts, prosecutors have been able to convict 23 sex offenders, who were sentenced to prison terms totalling over 360 years.

Lieutenant **Crissy Starman**, a New Hanover County sheriff’s deputy. She worked to locate several victims, both local and out of state, of an offender who was terrorizing women by phone. Her



Clinard



Starman



District Attorney and Rotarian Ben David and Wilmington Police Chief Donny Williams presenting the ‘Service Above Self’ award to Sergeant David Pellegrino, a SWAT team commander.

investigation help convict the offender despite jurisdiction challenges.

**Matt Mizarahi**, a Wilmington Police Department patrol officer. He administered cardio-pulmonary resuscitation to a ten-year old girl for a minute and a half. His CPR successfully revived her.



Mizarahi

Sergeant **David Pellegrino** of the Wilmington Police Department. A SWAT team commander, Pellegrino was honored for his understanding and training for using force on the job. During a September 2020 incident, a suspect fired on a police officer. Once Pellegrino’s SWAT team arrived, it safely apprehended the suspect without any further gunfire.



Pellegrino

**Elizabeth Buffy Taylor** leads the quick response team at Coastal Horizons, which supports law enforcement. Her team works with people under the influ-

ence of opioids to ensure that they get treatment for their addiction. That medical approach to the causes of criminal behavior relieves police from having to cope with substance-abuse issues. Taylor’s team has had more than an 80 percent success rate getting those with substance use disorders into treatment.

**Daniel Perry and Larry Hankins** are recycling workers for the City of Wilmington’s Public Works Department. While working their collection route, Perry and Hankins stopped to help a woman who had fallen in the street. A witness documented this on a door camera and notified the department to recognize and thank the workers.



Hankins

The award plaques were crafted by Kids Making It, a non-profit that teaches woodworking and marketing skills to youths.



## Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, MARCH 16

The University of North Carolina system, with **Peter Hans**, UNC System president.

TUESDAY, MARCH 23

Wilmington City Manager **Sterling Cheatham** and New Hanover County Manager **Chris Coudriet**.

TUESDAY, MARCH 30

Program to be announced.

TUESDAY, APRIL 6

Rotary Peace Center at UNC-Chapel Hill and Duke University, with Rotarian **Scott Reynolds** of Cary.

TUESDAY, APRIL 13

"Bring your own" lunch social at Rotary Wheel Garden, off West Lakeshore Drive, Greenfield Park.

MONDAY, APRIL 19

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 20

Status report from Cape Fear Community College, with President **Jim Morton**.

TUESDAY, APRIL 27

Education in the COVID era, with New Hanover County Schools Superintendent Dr. **Charles Foust**.

TUESDAY, MAY 4

UNC-Wilmington women's golf, with coach **Cindy Ho**.

TUESDAY, MAY 11

Rebuilding the region's tourism industry, with **Kim Hufham** of the Convention & Visitors Bureau.

MONDAY, MAY 17

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

TUESDAY, MAY 18

Policing challenges in Wilmington, with **Donny Williams**, chief of police.

TUESDAY, MAY 25

International trade and the port of Wilmington, with **Brian Clark**, CEO of the State Ports Authority.

## District charters new club, considers second

Rotary District 7730 has added a new international online club, focused on members with an interest in Scouting, and is exploring the possibility of chartering a second with a specialty in combating child abuse.

District Governor Dawn Rochelle announced that the new Scouting club began Jan. 24 with an online "charter party" that included RI President Holger Knaack. The Rotary Club of the Friendship Knot now has 52 members, many of them Scout leaders, who live around the world.

The second proposed club is aimed at people concerned with ending child abuse. It would also be a virtual cause-based club open to international membership. An exploratory meeting was held online on Feb. 10. Organizers have provided more information on their Facebook page:

[www.facebook.com/rotaryjoinstoendchildabuse](http://www.facebook.com/rotaryjoinstoendchildabuse)

## Don Adkins says farewell

Past President and Past District Governor Don Adkins is resigning from the club and moving to Florida. A member since 1992, Don was president in 2002-03 and District 7730 governor in 2012-13.

He writes this farewell to the club:

*Dear Rotary friends:*

*As some of you may know, Maryann's health and my health is changing but not for the better. At the request of our extended family, we are moving to Jacksonville FL to live near our son Don, his wife Sarah and our granddaughters Lauren and Ashlynn. Many of you may have met them at Rotary functions when we recognized each of them with a Paul Harris Fellow award.*

*Maryann and I loved living in Wilmington for the past 29 years and will miss the southern charm of our beautiful city but most of all, we will miss YOU!*

*As I have said many times, the best thing that happened to me when we moved to Wilmington, was the Wilmington Rotary Club. I will miss each of you dearly but I will always cherish the beautiful friendship that I have with each of you.*



*With the Warmest Regards,*

*Don A.*

*Photos by Julie Rehder, Todd Turner, New Hanover County Schools and New Hanover County Sheriff's Office. Other images from screen grabs during virtual club meetings via Zoom software. Editorial assistance from Robin Schoolfield.*

### 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

**President Robby Collins** 470-5500  
**President-Elect Cleve Callison** 599-0398  
**Secretary Elliott O'Neal** 397-3613  
**Newsletter Editor John Meyer** 392-5228  
**Webmaster John Meyer** 392-5228

### 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)