



BE THE INSPIRATION



Wine-tasting fund-raiser was biggest event of year; profit near \$50,000

The club's major fund-raiser of the year took place the evening of April 16, when Rotarians, their guests and paying ticket-holders tasted wine and beer, bid on silent-auction items and, when final accounting is complete, put nearly \$50,000 into the club's foundation.

Money came from four sources:

- Sponsorships, mostly from members or from member-owned businesses. Sponsors got two or more tickets depending on the amount donated.

- Ticket sales. Individual tickets were sold to both Rotarians and the public.

- Bids on silent-auction items. These included works of art, golf packages, weekend resort get-aways, and a wide array of donated merchandise.

- Sales of beer and wine. Tryon Distributing, our partner for the event, pays the club a commission on all bottles purchased the night of the event.

After half a dozen years, however, this year's wine tasting will be our last. A number of members who don't drink have asked that we find a way to raise money that doesn't depend on alcohol. In response, the club's leadership began to explore other possibilities for a major fund-raising event.

The plan to "pivot" to a new fund-raiser for 2019-2020 is meant to:

1. Create greater public awareness of Rotary activities.

2. Generate a greater percentage of proceeds from external sources.

3. Equal or exceed proceeds of the wine tasting to maintain club activities;

4. Endure for several years.

5. Recruit prospective members.

6. Be a fun and family-friendly event for all ages.

An Ad-Hoc Fundraising Committee is recommending what is now tentatively named a "Celebration of Service," inspired directly by Rotary's credo of "Service Above Self."

President-elect Eric McKeithan explained, "We want the entire fundraising effort to cast the spotlight on all those wonderful projects and activities that the club sponsors and supports, and we want that focus to be one that motivates community-minded individuals, businesses, and organizations to join with us in making our community, our region, and our world a better place."

To accomplish that goal, Eric has tasked the Public Image Committee with developing a brand statement that can be used to raise public awareness of the club's work, and to be useful in approaching businesses and foundations to help support that work.



A checklist helped participants move from table to table, sampling the wines and beers that caught their fancy. The list also served as an order form; a portion of the proceeds from bottle sales will be returned to the club.



Centerpiece of the room was the silent-auction table, lined with donated food, drink, merchandise and recreational opportunities.



Attendees browse the silent-auction tables, writing in bids for donated products or services.



The wines on offer came from a wide range of both domestic and foreign vineyards.



Volunteers pose at March 28 dental screening. Dental hygiene students are at top; front row are Rotarians Sandra Kalom, Megan Heathcote, Gabe Rich, Vicki Scott and Rhonda Amoroso.

Screening offers dental checkups for 50 kids

Four volunteers helped fellow Rotarian and dentist Dr. Gabe Rich and ten students from Cape Fear Community College provide a free dental screening for children on March 28. Financed by a club grant, the screening took place at the Community Boys and Girls Club.

The dental hygiene students and Rotarians also offered dental health education. Of the 50 children who participated, more than half had problems, including several cases with painful tooth decay or badly misaligned teeth. Parents, guardians or other caregivers got follow-up reports, along with pamphlets about good oral hygiene, available in both English and Spanish.

The reports included a list of resources for treatment. Children identified with dental needs were referred to the Miles of Smiles mobile dental unit, which visits area schools. The mobile dental unit serves children who have Medicaid or NC Health Choice insurance, charging on a sliding scale based on family income.



Student volunteer uses stuffed animal to demonstrate best tooth-brushing technique.



Hygienist students screened 50 children.

Health & Happiness highlights

Several times recently we diverged from the usual weekly routine of birthdays, jokes and readings. In addition to two unusual Health and Happiness acts, one birthday boy took the mike himself to say a few words to the club.

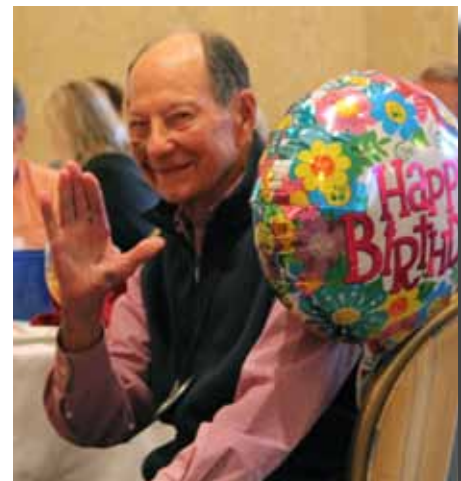


On March 12, as he has done several other times, Bret Paterson livened up his 'Health and Happiness' segment with a fiddle tune.



Recently retired Gene McMurphy did a burlesque of his new life of leisure on March 5, complete with rocking chair and bathrobe.

Joe Rogers returned the club's birthday greetings on April 9 with an appreciation for reaching the age of 92, and for being surrounded by good friends. Joe is one of the club's four members in their 90s. The others are Jake Shepherd, 95; Joe Augustine, 91; and John Murchison, 90.





Rotarians hear about history of 18th-century Burgwin-Wright House. It was headquarters for the British General Cornwallis during Revolution.



Service dog in training is named 'Thurm' in honor of the late Rotarian Thurm Watts. His widow, Rotarian Pat Watts, helps support Paws 4 People.

Members scatter on vocational day



Tour of New Hanover Regional Medical Center included trauma room, above, and historical displays, below. Hospital spokesman Scott Whisnant led tour, along with Rotarians and hospital Trustees Rhonda Amoroso and Bobby Greer.



A classroom, left, at Virgo Preparatory Academy, a lab school run by UNCW's Watson College of Education. Rotarian Dean Van Dempsey and Principal Sabrina Hill-Black, right, hosted Rotary visitors.



Lots of hugs

Ann LaReau, Laura Lisle and Kiki Lackman, above, suffer a cuteness overdose with pups in training at Paws 4 People.

Jane Birnbach embraces pupils at Virgo Prep Academy, left.



Rotarians dominate program schedule, with committee reports, police awards, education, Navy, and club's archives



Olds: Grants Committee



Henry: Paws 4 People



Karl: Children's Museum



Hicks: support for schools

Most of the weekly programs since late February have been about Rotary projects or presented by speakers who are members of the club.

First of these was our Literacy Committee's presentation on Feb. 26. **Debby Gomulka**, the committee's chair, introduced guest educators from the schools we work with.

Rotarian **Natalie English**, who is executive director of the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, discussed the Chamber's current work at the March 5 meeting.

The following week, March 12, was our annual Service Above Self award program, presented by Rotarian **Ben David**, district attorney for New Hanover and Pender Counties. For the winners, SEE: *page 5*.

The Grants Committee presented the March 19 program, at which recipients of club and district grants described their groups' work and how they are using the Rotary grant funds. Committee chair **Ernie Olds** introduced Rotarian **Kyrie Henry** of Paws 4 People, Rotarian **Jim Karl** of the Wilmington Children's Museum, **Louise Hicks** of New Hanover County Communities in Schools, and **Elizabeth Felts**, who runs a transitional program for ninth-grade students at New Hanover High School.

The speaker March 26 was Rotarian **Dr. Jose Sartarelli**, chancellor of UNC-Wilm-

ington. He discussed the university's newest degree programs, campus construction projects, and student achievement.

The April 2 program recognized Navy Week. **Steffanie Easter**, director of Navy Staff at the Pentagon, was our speaker. A brass quintet from the Navy Band performed during the meeting.

Early intervention and services for young children with developmental disabilities was the topic on April 9. **Heather Ratliff**, director of the Child Development Center, was the speaker.

No lunch meeting was held on April 16, the date of the annual wine tasting fund-raiser. For details, SEE: *page 1*.

Regular programs resumed April 23, with **Lucy Holman**, head librarian at UNCW's Randall Library, and special collections librarian **Rebecca Baugnon** spoke about the library's expansion and the Herman Blizzard Rotary Archives. Some Rotarians missed that meeting in favor of the annual Golf Fore Fun outing. For details, SEE: *page 7*.

Another special program took Rotarians all over town on April 30. The Vocational Fellowship Day, originally scheduled for last fall, was postponed because of Hurricane Florence. For photos and a list of venues that members visited, SEE: *page 3*.



English: Chamber



David: public safety awards



Easter: Navy staff



Sartarelli: UNCW



Holman: UNCW library



Baugnon: Rotary archive



Ratliff: child development



Felts: New Hanover H.S.



The Literacy Committee welcomed educators from our partner schools as the club's guests at Feb. 26 meeting. The topic was the club's literacy projects.



Navy brass quintet played for us during April 2 visit of Steffanie Easter, chief of Navy Staff for the secretary of the Navy.

'Service Above Self' awards honor law enforcement

Hurricane Florence doubly challenged public safety officers. Many worked long days and nights without a break while their own homes were damaged or flooded. Several of these were recognized with the club's "Service Above Self" awards on March 12.

Steve Stills, head of New Hanover County's Emergency Operation Center, worked without a break for two weeks, sleeping on a cot. **Sgt. Steve Schmidlin**, commander of the Sheriff's Office's Marine Unit, supervised chainsaw crews and water rescue teams, sometimes using his personal boat to evacuate people and pets.

Capt. James Rowell and his wife **Sharon Rowell**, assistant 911 director for Pender County Sheriff's Office worked tirelessly through the storm and its aftermath, even though their own home was under water.

A three-member team, New Hanover County Sheriff's **Detective Will Campbell** and **Connie Jordan** and **Courtney Last** of the district attorney's violent crime division, were honored for breaking a human trafficking case, largely thanks to their empathetic interactions with the victims.

Honored for crime fighting was **Carlos Lamberty**, a Wilmington Police Department detective. Investigating the disappearance of two women, he found evidence that resulted in a murder conviction, despite absence of a body.

Officer Colby Edens of Carolina Beach Police was honored for saving a life. When a woman walking her dog collapsed, Edens performed CPR until paramedics arrived. The heart attack victim has now fully recovered.

The final honoree is an educator, whose many accomplishments included helping to keep the peace at Williston High School in the aftermath of Martin Luther King's assassination in 1968. **Bertha Boykin Todd** was librarian at Williston, then an assistant principal at Hoggard High School. In addition to her role in the desegregation of New Hanover County's schools, she helped community reconciliation as co-chair of the 1898 Centennial Foundation.



Sheriffs Alan Cutler of Pender County, second from left, and Ed McMahon of New Hanover County, second from right, with members of their staffs honored for outstanding service during and after Hurricane Florence in September 2018.



Will Campbell



Connie Jordan



Courtney Last



Carlos Lamberty



Daniel Edens



Bertha Todd

Rotary aids new farming ventures for schools and hospital in Sierra Leone

A coalition of Rotary clubs in three states, including ours, has helped put a rural West African community on the road to self-sufficiency after a brutal civil war and an Ebola epidemic.

Rotarian Dale Smith reported to the club on March 5 about the work in the village of Rotifunk, part of the Bumpah chiefdom in Sierra Leone.

By then, more than 3,000 pineapples in what are called "Education Orchards" were beginning to fruit. Begun three years ago, the fruit crops are expected to provide a net income of \$50,000 a year by 2023. That money will be used for educational projects, such as hiring of additional teachers, improving school facilities and offering college scholarships.

A local education and community development group called Center for Community Empowerment and Transformation has taken the lead in these projects, but has used outside financial help to help get them started.

The Rotary Club of Ann Arbor and District 6380 in Michigan took the lead to get district and global grants to complete three Education Orchards plus a Hospital Orchard, which will pay for patient care. The Hospital Orchard will provide long-term support for patients at the Hatfield Archer Memorial Hospital in Rotifunk. Our club has raised the money and, through Dale, is providing oversight for the hospital part of



Above: farmers with one of the pineapples being grown to support education and health care in rural Sierra Leone. Right: women and children wait for check-ups in the Hatfield Archer Memorial Hospital.



the project.

A related initiative is a vegetable farm owned by a local man, Kenneth Mahoi, who used money he earned working in the United States to develop his family's land. In a swampy area he created naturally irrigated fields where vegetables can thrive during Si-

erra Leone's dry season.

His 200-acre farm is growing onions and he plans to add peppers and sweet potatoes soon. These crops are creating jobs for local farm workers and also generating income that will be applied to developing the orchards. That will ultimately benefit schools and hospital.

Participating clubs

Offering financial support for these projects have been these clubs:

MICHIGAN

Ann Arbor Rotary Club

NORTH CAROLINA

Leland Area Rotary Club

Shallotte Rotary Club

South Brunswick Islands Rotary Club

Wilmington Rotary Club

Wilmington Cape Fear Rotary Club

Wilmington East Rotary Club

TEXAS

Brazosport Rotary Club

Georgetown Rotary Club

Gulfway/Hobby Airport Rotary Club

Humble Rotary Club

SIERRA LEONE

Freetown Rotary Club



Kenneth Mahoi, left, is owner of a large tract where he is raising high-value vegetable crops. This is creating jobs and profits that will further develop the pineapple orchards that support education and health care. Rosaline Kaimbay, right, leads the local organization Center for Community Empowerment and Transformation, which manages these projects.

Paul Harris Fellows recognized for giving to Rotary Foundation

More Rotarians have been named Paul Harris Fellows recently for contributions of \$1,000 or more to the international Rotary Foundation. Two earned “plus” status for continuing contributions. The newly named fellow is Turner Schaeffer; “plus one” for a \$2,000 contribution is Dick McGraw; and “plus two,” for \$3,000, is George Gates. First-time fellows benefit from Foundation recognition points donated by Pat Watts.



Schaeffer: new Fellow



McGraw: PHF+1



Gates: PHF+2



John Lyon, right, presents trophy for best team finish to Josh Rosenberg. Josh and his guests Matt Cedrun and Chad Harris broke a tie by scoring a birdie on a playoff hole. John was a winner himself in the men's closest-to-the-pin competition.

Golf outing was option to our regular lunch meeting

Nineteen Rotarians and four guests teed it up at Castle Bay Country Club in Hampstead on April 23 in the club's annual “Golf Fore Fun” tournament. They got full attendance credit as an alternative to that day's normal lunch meeting.

Three teams tied for first place at five under par:

- Shannon Sandlin, Kurt Sandlin, Stacy Ankrum and Anne Coffee.
- Josh Rosenberg, Matt Cedrun and Chad Harris.
- Joe Owen, Mike Muselwhite, Doug Jennings and John Lyon.

One stroke out of first place, at four under par, were:

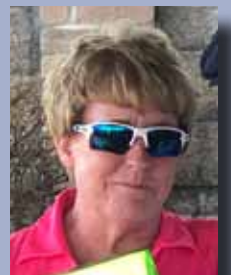
- Harley Sacks, Terry Sacks, Roy Archambault, and Eddie Biedenbach.

The remaining two teams tied at four over par, earning the “Is it the Truth” award for possibly being the only teams to properly record all their strokes.

A scorecard playoff determined the winner. All three top scoring teams recorded a par on the first playoff hole. On the second hole, two teams had par and Josh's team had a birdie, to get their names engraved on a rotating trophy.



Stacy Ankrum won the women's closest-to-the-pin prize.



Anne Coffee earned a prize for sinking the longest putt.

Let your talents help



This trophy-winning runner on Williston Middle School's “Trailblazers” cross-country team sports a toboggan cap in the school's colors. Coach Ann-Marie Pierce Arseneau uses the caps as awards. Where did she get them? Rotarian Melissa Hight knitted them!

The point is: whatever your talent, we can find a way to make use of it in a Rotary project.



Adam Hyatt

Newest member inducted

Adam Hyatt became the club's newest member on April 9. He is executive director of Elderhaus, succeeding the former Rotarian, Linda Pearce, who founded that agency. Adam was sponsored by Megan Heathcote.

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Rotary Youth Exchange, an international peace program.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

Swamp Thing and future movie projects, with **Johnny Griffin** of Wilmington Regional Film Commission.

MONDAY, MAY 20

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

TUESDAY, MAY 21

Business ethics: a Four-Way Test Committee presentation. With **Dr. Richard Morrison**.

TUESDAY, MAY 28

Prospects for technology growth in Wilmington, with **Dr. Craig Galbraith**, UNCW business school economist.

TUESDAY, JUNE 4

The importance of diversity: a Four-Way Test Committee presentation, with speaker TBA.

TUESDAY, JUNE 11

Law enforcement in New Hanover County, with Sheriff **Ed McMahon**.

TUESDAY, JUNE 18

The distilling industry in North Carolina, with **Greg Matheson**, a Wilmington bartender.

MONDAY, JUNE 24

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 25

Installation Banquet for 2019-20 officers, 6:00 p.m. at CFCC, with President-elect **Eric McKeithan**.

TUESDAY, JULY 2

Program to be announced.

TUESDAY, JULY 9

About Elderhaus, with Executive Director **Adam Hyatt**.

TUESDAY, JULY 16

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

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**.



Service recognized

President Cathy Barlow presented RISE awards on March 5 to Charles Mintz for his service on our foundation's board and to Vicki Scott for her years of producing the club handbook. RISE stands for 'Rotarians in Service Excellence.' On Feb. 26, she presented a RISE pin to Al Butler III, right, for his work on the foundation board.



Rotary news briefs

The **Herman Blizzard Rotary Archive** is now largely online. As UNCW special collections librarian Rebecca Baugnon demonstrated on April 23, documents, photographs and images of club banners can be found at: digitalcollections.uncw.edu/digital/collection/rotary

The **CART raffle for a Corvette** was canceled due to poor ticket sales. Despite an extended deadline, CART chair Norm Rogers reports, only 350 tickets were sold of the 1,250 needed for the raffle to make money. Instead of awarding a car, the contest became a 50/50 drawing on April 27. That split the approximately \$17,000 pot, with half to the winner and half to the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust. Before the 50/50 drawing, ticket buyers were given an opportunity to request a refund.

A **PolioPlus Night Outing** at the July 6 Wilmington Sharks baseball game will be a fund-raiser for Rotary's fight to eradicate polio. The game starts at 7:05 p.m. at Buck Hardee Field, next to Legion Stadium at 2149 Carolina Beach Road. The Sharks will play the Holly Springs Salamanders. Tickets are \$7 and \$9. For proceeds to apply to the polio effort, tickets must be bought by June 26.

District Governor Doug Wolfe and the officers for District 7730 will be installed on July 13 in Morehead City. This will be an afternoon event, from 2 to 4:30 p.m., so distant attendees can easily get home before dark. The venue is Southern Salt Seafood Company, 701 Evans Street, on the Morehead City waterfront.

Cost is \$25 per person, which includes hors d'oeuvres, soft drinks, tea and water. A cash bar will be provided. Registration is online; all Rotarians should receive emails with links to a personalized registration form.

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

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Submit News Items

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Website

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org