

# CLUB NEWS

October 1, 2019



The Wilmington  
**Rotary**  
Club



*Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self*

## Wheel of Honor to be a 'sea of red, white and blue' at Rotary Garden

The Wilmington Rotary Club is proposing to honor veterans and others, as well as to raise the club's public profile, with a two-month-long "Wheel of Honor" project at Greenfield Park. The Wheel of Honor will become the new focus for the club's fund-raising efforts.

In cooperation with Wilmington's Parks and Recreation Department, we plan to place 500-plus U.S. flags in the grassy center of the Rotary Wheel Garden. The display will begin on Armed Forces Day, May 16, 2020, and continue through Independence Day, July 4.

The flags, which will form a "sea of red, white, and blue," will be provided through honorariums paid by individuals and organizations. These will honor anyone who is a source of personal pride to the donor or has made a special impact on the quality of life and freedoms we enjoy today.

Each three-by-five-foot flag will be mounted on a seven foot, six inch staff. A waterproof tag will be attached to each staff showing who that flag honors. President Eric McKeithan said, "The Wheel of Honor holds the potential of becoming an enduring annual Wilmington tradition and serves as a gift to the people of Wilmington and southeastern North Carolina and all visitors to the area; a gift that reminds us of the greatness of America and the special people who have made and/or continue to make our lives better."

Individual flags may be sponsored for \$40 each. Larger contributions may be applied to multiple flag dedications. Proceeds will pay for the flag display itself, as well as supporting the Rotary Club's projects through our non-profit charitable foundation.

The Wheel of Honor display will be free and open to the public, 24-7, with the flags lit at night.



The central lawn of the Rotary Wheel Garden, above, will be filled with more than 500 flags, as seen at right, from mid-May through early July.

The club plans a dedication ceremony, tentatively scheduled for 11 a.m. May 16, 2020. Then at 5:30 pm Tuesday, May 19, our members and guests will gather at the Rotary Wheel Garden for a "Celebration of Service."

While our club is taking the lead on this project, we intend to invite other civic and professional organizations to become sponsors.

A subcommittee of our Fund-raising Committee is managing the Wheel of Honor project. Matt Pugliese is chairing that subcommittee.



## Club contributes \$10,000 for project to feed Dorian's victims

To help feed Hurricane Dorian's many victims in the Bahamas, our club has contributed \$10,000 to Rotary District 7730's Rise Against Hunger project to pack 100,000 emergency meals.

Our \$9,125 contributions included \$3,055 in club funds—the \$2,055 balance in our district grants budget line and \$1,000 from selling Attractions coupon books—plus \$550 from auctioning left-over wine on Sept. 24, and other member donations of \$5,520.

Our Foundation's Board has agreed

to round that up to \$10,000. With every \$75 paying for a box containing 200-plus meals, this club's contribution will provide nearly 29,000 meals.

District Governor-elect Dawn Rochelle reported Sept. 26 that total contributions had exceeded \$37,000, well above the district's goal of \$32,000. Rotarians packed 230 boxes of meals Sept. 28 in Jacksonville. Volunteers are needed to pack another 230 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 5 at 4136 Southport-Supply Rd SE, St. James.





Reading original limericks for Jake were R.B. Richey, Eric McKeithan, Erin Payne, Mimi Cunningham, and John Meyer.

## Rotarians honor Jake Shepherd with new limericks for his 96th



Jake thanked club for birthday wishes on Aug. 12.

Rotarian Jake Shepherd has collected and written limericks for most of his life, often entertaining the club with them during Health and Happiness segments.

On Aug. 6, in honor of his 96th birthday the day before, five Rotarians read original limiericks about Jake, his poetry, his business and Rotary career, and his service as a bomber pilot in World War II.

While Jake didn't feel up to attending that day, copies of the limericks and an enormous birthday card were sent home to him. The following week, he did attend and acknowledged the club's good wishes.

Retired from the Blue Bell clothing company, Jake has been a member of this club since January 1990. He was sponsored by the club's archivist, the late Herman Blizzard. (See item at right about the Blizzard archive.)



John Lilley, John Meyer and Erin Payne with Jake's card.

## Rare artifacts join Rotary archive

Past President Donna Shiro has issued an appeal for Rotarians, former Rotarians and their families to preserve, protect and defend rare and irreplaceable Rotary documents and memorabilia.

The Herman Blizzard Archive in the special collections division of UNCW's Randall Library is a repository for the club's history from 1915 to the present.

"The people in the first 40 or so badge slots have accumulated Rotary stuff throughout the years," Donna said. She herself has more than 50 Rotary pins. "I'd love to get some of this stuff from our older members," rather than taking the risk that someday "their families will just toss this stuff."

On Aug. 20, she was able to show us some fruits of that quest. Sweetie Francis, daughter of former Rotarian Robert Lee Thompson, Jr., donated club handbooks from as far back as 1951, as well as a rare copy of the club's 50th anniversary history from 1965.

Those valuable documents are now part of the archives.

A Rotarian's family saved and donated this rare half-century history book, right.



Donna Shiro presents historical club handbooks on Aug. 20.



These club handbooks, now in our archives, include irreplaceable biographical information for everyone who was a member between 1951 and 1973.

## An important reminder on Rotary's non-political rule

President Eric McKeithan issued a reminder Sept. 1 about Rotary's strict non-political policy.

While elected officials and candidates for office are always welcome as visitors, it is not appropriate for either visitors or Rotarians to campaign during meetings or to make public statements to the club endorsing either candidates or measures up for a public vote.

Rotary International requires

clubs to maintain a neutral political stance in the official conduct of our meetings. That means at any time between the call to order and adjournment. Neither Rotarians presenting portions of the program, visiting Rotarians, Rotarians introducing guests, nor guest speakers should use the club as a captive audience to express support for or opposition to any political candidate or ballot issue.

# Car show and 5k run at Rotary Wheel Garden raises money for CART fund

A five-kilometer race and an antique car show on Sept. 14 made a profit to benefit the Alzheimer's Disease research fund: CART.

The combined event also included a mini-trade show with booths and displays by business sponsors. It was held in and around the Rotary Wheel Garden and Amphitheater at Greenfield Park.

CART is an acronym for Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust. It's the organization supported by the money placed in the blue buckets on our lunch tables every Tuesday.

Rotarian Terry Smith, who chaired the event, reports that approximately 100 runners, 15 classic cars, and four vendors participated.

The race followed the paved trail around Greenfield Lake. The youngest runner was 4 while our oldest was 74, Terry reports. Both received medals.



The hundred-plus runners included a dozen from Williston's team, in blue jerseys.



Lejeune High School JROTC cadets gave help with runners, parking, color guard.



Car show winners included President-elect Robby Collins, above left. His Land Rover is below at right.



Other Rotarians helping with the event were Rhonda Amorosa, Elaine Andrews, Ann La-Reau, and Josh Rosenberg. The volunteers were especially pleased to see that Williston Middle School, focus of our long-term Legacy Project, had 13 members of its running team competing. Most of them took home medals.

In the car show, the winner for the 1950s-1970s category was Rotarian Steve Smits, who entered his 1967 Mustang. As a totally unbiased observer, Terry described it as "one bad-ass looking muscle car."

The winner of the overall fastest male runner finished five kilometers in a bit more than 17 minutes, a pace of less than six minutes per mile. "We had some of the most elite runners in Wilmington participate," Terry says.

The City of Wilmington opened the concession stand at the Amphitheater, selling snacks and drinks including beer and wine. They donated 20 percent of the proceeds to our event.

Sponsors contributed \$4,100.

Helping manage the crowd were volunteers from the Camp Lejeune High School Junior ROTC. The cadets helped on the racecourse, directing runners and handing out water. They also assisted by putting up barricades and directing parking. The ROTC contributed a color guard to present the flag. Williston Middle School's choir director, Erin Cuellar, led the crowd in singing the National Anthem.



Terry Smith was emcee, gave trophies to winners.



Winning runners pose with their trophies.



# Programs cover club projects, Williston and Wheel, plus range of public issues, sports, science, military history and museums



LaSala: science facts



Evangelous: Police Dept.



Davis: Smithsonian.



Myers: local TV news

In addition to our traditionally strong array of outside speakers, recent programs have also featured Rotarians addressing club projects.

On July 9, **Erika Squires**, intake coordinator for Elderhaus, discussed her agency’s programs to serve people with dementia and other needs.

Retired physicist **John LaSala** spoke on July 16 on the topic of science facts and myths.

Assistant County Manager **Kathy Stoute** presented a program July 23 about the work of New Hanover County’s social services and health departments.

Wilmington Police Chief **Ralph Evangelous** gave an update on the city’s law enforcement challenges at the July 30 meeting.

On Aug. 6, Rotarian **Charlotte Davis** spoke about the Smithsonian Institution and her experiences working there before retirement.

The television news business was the topic on Aug. 13 when **Brad Myers**, news director for WECT-TV, was the speaker.

The Rotary Wheel Garden at Greenfield Park was the subject of the Aug. 20 program. Rotarians **John Meyer** and **Terry Smith** and

Wilmington Parks Supervisor **Phil Pope** were the speakers. For more on the planned Wheel of Honor project, SEE: *page 1*.

Retired Admiral **Ron Henderson** spoke about the wartime history of the battleship USS *North Carolina* at the Aug. 25 meeting.

On Sept. 3, retired tennis pro **Len-n-y Simpson** told the club about his association with the late Dr. Hubert Eaton and tennis legend Althea Gibson, and his One Love tennis program for children.

On Sept. 10, Rotarian **Steve Yates** gave a history of the club’s Legacy Project at Williston Middle School since 2011. He introduced Williston’s former principal, **Ron Villines** (now principal of Isaac Bear Early College High School) and the new principal, **Askia Kirby**.

Planning and managing growth and development in New Hanover County was the subject of **Wayne Clark’s** presentation Sept. 17. He is the county’s planning and zoning director.

Coach **C.B. McGrath** spoke Sept. 24 about the UNC-Wilmington men’s basketball team.



Meyer: wheel’s history



Smith: plans for garden



Pope: Greenfield Park



Villines: ex-Williston



Kirby: new at Williston



McGrath: UNCW hoops



Henderson: battleship



Simpson: youth tennis



Clark: county planning



Ukrainian orphans wait their turn for dental screening and fluoride treatments.

## Club sponsors dental screening for orphans in small Ukrainian city

Our club, in partnership with Rotarians in Raleigh and in Ukraine, conducted a dental health screening and fluoride applications for more than 65 Ukrainian orphans this summer.

Rotarian Gabe Rich returned in August from a visit to Truskavets, in southwestern Ukraine near the Polish border. The dental project was a collaboration between our club, which contributed \$1,000, the North Raleigh Rotary Club (Gabe is a former member) and the Truskavets Rotary Club.

American Rotarians met with the Truskavets club to develop future mutual relations for the care of children in the orphanage.

The participating children were attending a summer camp for or-

phans. All received oral hygiene supplies, and when needed were referred for treatment and fluoride applications. Ukrainian Rotarians arranged with a local dental practice to provide clinical care for orphans who attend next year’s summer camp for orphans.

Volunteer staffers were trained on giving instructions for oral health care, to do dietary tracing, and to properly apply anti-cavity fluoride treatment. The volunteer dental teams are now equipped to provide fluoride treatments to more than 500 children in four orphanages.

In addition to cash support from North Carolina Rotary Clubs, the project got donations from dental suppliers to assist the children.



Gabe Rich, second from left, presents Wilmington Rotary Club banner to Ukrainian hosts. Cyrillic lettering on banner reads ‘Rotary Club Truskavets.’



Screening identified problems that required treatment and referred children to local dentists recruited by the Truskavets Rotary Club. Ukraine has a large population of children in orphanages. Many are not technically ophans, but come from families that cannot provide them with proper care, due to various types of abuse, unemployment, poverty, alcoholism, or other problems.



Volunteers were trained to give fluoride treatments.



Children show off their new toothbrushes and other oral health supplies.



# Projects budget remains unchanged, but operating funds make up revenue shortfall

At its July 22 meeting, the club's Board of Directors approved a budget for the projects and activities our club will undertake in 2019-2020. That was based on a tentative and optimistic projection to the club's Foundation, which anticipated having \$50,000 to work with, the same revenue as had been estimated for 2018-2019.

In fact, as President Eric McKeithan reported, the actual tally for the 2018-2019 fundraising effort appeared to have been around \$33,800. That assumed no further defaults on pledges or obligations for winetasting tickets, sponsorships, or silent auction sales.

The club Foundation's Board has expressed strong support for the club's projects and activities and dipped into its reserves to fund the 2019-2020 projects budget at \$43,800. That sum was approved after club treasurer John Liverman and President Eric advised the Foundation that the club could readily draw on its operations budget to cover the \$6,200 balance between the Foundation's contributions and the \$50,000 projects budget.

The club will therefore be proceeding with a \$50,000 total projects/ac-

tivities budget in 2019-2020, the same level of funding available in the 2018-2019 Rotary year. "Committees whose operations depend on this funding can now proceed full speed ahead with their activities," Eric advised.

On the revenue side, the club's leadership has reached a consensus that our major fund-raiser needs to achieve two new objectives. First is to increase the contribution of major external sponsorships rather than continue to rely almost exclusively on our own membership for funding. The second objective is to organize activities that are more inclusive for families than the winetasting events we have held in recent years.

Accordingly, the club is ready to begin putting the pieces into place for the Wheel of Honor project. This will provide a headline for our solicitation of major sponsorships from outside our membership. While the Wheel of Honor will be our signature event, these sponsorships will support the entire package of the club's projects and activities.

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

2019-2020 Expense Budget for Projects and Activities	
<b>Disease Prevention and Treatment</b>	
Dental Clinic (Ukraine) .....	\$1,000
Total DiseaseP&T .....	\$1,000
<b>Education</b>	
Legacy (Williston Middle School) .....	\$9,000
Literacy .....	\$5,000
Rookie Teachers of the Year .....	\$3,000
Scholarships .....	\$8,000
Total Education .....	\$25,000
<b>Grants</b>	
Contingency .....	\$5,500
International .....	\$3,000
Total Grants .....	\$8,500
<b>Restricted Grants</b>	
District Grants (matching funds) ..	\$8,500
Total Restricted Grants .....	\$8,500
<b>Unrestricted Grants</b>	
Boys and Girls Home .....	\$1,500
Veterans Day Parade .....	\$300
Rotary Wheel Maintenance .....	\$3,500
Rotary Youth Leadership Awards ..	\$1,350
Wheel of Honor .....	\$350
Total Unrestricted Grants .....	\$7,000
Total Expense .....	\$50,000
Net Income .....	\$50,000

## Cunningham honored as a gender pioneer



Mimi Cunningham was presented with the club's Rotarian In Service Excellence award Sept. 24 in recognition of the 25th anniversary of her becoming this club's first female president. President Eric McKeithan presented Mimi with the RISE pin.

## Brandy, wine auctioned for big bucks

Donated drinks are dropping dollars into the club's coffers. A gift bottle of exotic booze and six orphaned bottles of wine that had gathered dust since April were recently auctioned off to help raise money for club projects.

On Aug. 20, Debby Gomulka won an auction for a bottle of Ukrainian "cognac" Gabe Rich brought home from his dental mission in the foothills of the Carpathian Mountains. The area is Ukraine's chief grape-growing region. That money went to the CART fund. For more on the Ukraine dental project, SEE: *page 5*.

Then on Sept. 24, Bill Fuller, Henry Brown and Lynn Boney collectively bid \$550 on six bottles of Chardonnay that had been unclaimed since our wine-tasting fund-raiser in April. Proceeds from the wine were used for the Hurricane Dorian food project. SEE: *Page 1*.



When Gabe Rich delivered dental supplies and serves to Rotarians in Ukraine, they returned the favor with this bottle of local brandy, labeled as "Cognac." It was sold to benefit our CART fund.

# Club inducts five members

The membership rolls continued to grow since mid-summer, with five new Rotarians joining the club in August.

**David Berkheimer** was one of two new members inducted Aug. 6. His sponsor is Ann LaReau; his business is Healthy Green Solutions. He is a former member of Rotary Clubs in Ocean Isle Beach, Shallotte and Little River, SC.

**Lucy Holman**, who also joined Aug. 6, is university librarian for UNC-Wilmington's Randall Library. She was sponsored by Wilbur Jones.

Two more members joined on Aug. 13. First of these was **Jan Yokely**. She does workforce development work for the Cape Fear Council of Governments. She is a former member of Rotary Clubs in Reidsville and Mount Airy. Natalie English sponsored her for membership.

Also joining Aug. 13 was **Mike Higgins**. He is retired from the information technology business. Sponsored by Joe Owen, he was formerly a member of Rotary Clubs in Santa Rosa, CA and Fuquay-Varina.

**David Morrison** was inducted on Aug. 20, sponsored by Hayley Sink. A former newspaper columnist, he is now a consultant for non-profit organizations.



David Berkheimer



Lucy Holman



Jan Yokely



Higgins



David Morrison

**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.



# Cars for CART raffle returns

A new Rotary District 7730 CART raffle began in July. Tickets are \$100 and the winner gets \$75,000 to apply to a new car (or \$60,000 cash) and \$5,000 to go to a charity of the winner's choice. All other proceeds go to the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust.

The drawing will take place on June 27, 2020.

Winners can choose from a new Chevy Corvette, a new Lexus LS or a new Tesla S.

Norm Rogers, the district's CART chairman, is marketing the raffle to Rotary districts nationwide. Ticket sales are open to all, Rotarian or non.

"We need your help to provide grants for the researchers to find anything that will detect, slow down, or cure this horrible disease," Norm said in announcing the raffle.

Tickets can be bought online with payment by check or by credit card. Details are on the district website: [www.rotary7730.org](http://www.rotary7730.org)

Questions can be directed by email to Norm Rogers at [carsforcart@gmail.com](mailto:carsforcart@gmail.com)



# Foundation donors honored with Paul Harris Fellow status

Rotarians **Mike Beaudoin**, **Laura Padgett** and **Larry Sackett** have been honored for their contributions to the Rotary Foundation, being named a Paul Harris Fellow or earning "plus" status.

A Paul Harris fellow is recognized for contributing \$1,000 or more to the international Rotary Foundation, or having a contribution made in their name.

Laura became a Fellow on July 30.

On Sept. 10, Mike and Larry were recognized as "plus" Fellows for having given multiples of \$1,000.



Beaudoin



Padgett



Sackett



## Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 1

New Hanover County's judicial system, with Chief District Court Judge **Jay Corpening**.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 8

Selling New Hanover Regional Medical Center, with County Commissioner **Rob Zapple** and a speaker TBA.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 15

Rotary "Partnership for Peace" project in Moldova, with **Elaine Marshall**, North Carolina secretary of state.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 22

Wilmington International Airport (ILM) expansion plans, with Rotarian **Julie Wilsey**, airport director.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 28

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

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

New Hanover County Schools status report, with **Lisa Estep**, Board of Education chair.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Salute to veterans. With U.S. Rep. **David Rouzer**. Meeting at Cameron Art Museum, 3201 S. 17th St.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 10

Veterans Day parade, 11 a.m., downtown Wilmington

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

The Rotary Foundation. What it does and how we can help. With Rotarian **R.B. Richey**, foundation chair.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

The City of Wilmington, with Mayor **Bill Saffo** or, depending on the Nov. 5 election, a mayor-elect TBA.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Farm-City Week, with **Mitch Peele** of the North Carolina Farm Bureau.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Vocational Fellowship Day. Lunch and programs 12 noon at various locations; member assignments TBA.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

Club assembly. Program details TBA.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Annual holiday family party.

## Rotary news briefs

A **bar-code scanning system** will be introduced to track attendance. Testing should begin this month, with bar codes attached to member badges. Larry Sackett is managing the transition to this system, aimed at reducing the time-consuming process of manually entering attendance data in the district and club database.

A **satellite club for Carolina Beach and Kure Beach** is being proposed. President Eric McKeithan is asking for volunteers to help organize this new Rotary Club. It would function as a satellite of this club for a few years before becoming fully independent.



Kim Henry

**Theatre for All needs volunteers.** The program's director, Kim Henry, addressed the club on Sept. 24. With help from a grant from our club, TFA will lead a twelve-week project at New Hanover High School, teaching drama classes for students with disabilities. Volunteers are needed to help in the classroom weekly, as well as assist with production for a theatrical production to be presented in December.

**Ideas for international projects** are needed. The International Committee is soliciting proposals for the 2019-20 budget year. Rotarians who have suggestions or would like to serve on the committee should see Shannon Sandlin. The committee meets next on Oct. 22.

**Veterans should sign up** soon to ride on the club's float in the city's Veterans Day parade on Nov. 10. Other Rotarians, with family and friends, are needed to form a cheering section along the parade route. Sign-up sheets will be on the lunch tables during October.

**Williston Middle School's** eleven new teachers each received a welcome bag when the school year began in August. The bags included classroom provisions, a \$25 gift card to WalMart, and a note that welcomed them to Williston and explained our Student of the Month program.



*Club photographer: **Robby Collins** Other photos from: Donna Shiro, Gabe Rich and Steve Yates*

### 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

**President Eric McKeithan** 859-3365  
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**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)