





Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self

Sponsor solicitation begins for Leaders in Service, aiming to raise \$85,000-plus

A large team of volunteer solicitors has begun securing sponsors for our 2023 Leaders in Service awards, the club's major annual fundraiser.

The club has also begun a public appeal for nominations for the awards, which will recognize business, non-profit and governmental executives who have made major contributions to the community.

Our goal is to raise at least \$85,000 before expenses—a \$6,300 increase over the previous year—with hopes of hitting a \$100,000 "stretch" goal.

The 2022 Leaders in Service event netted \$61,000 for our club's non-profit foundation after subtracting the costs of the May awards banquet, advertising and printing. The Fundraising Committee estimates that this campaign's expenses will be comparable.

The project will culminate with an awards banquet on May 4, 2023 in the Burney Center at UNC-Wilmington. In addition to sponsorships, which provide sponsors with seats or entire tables at the event, we will be offering in-



Bob Kitchen and Terri Everett are chairing this year's fund-raising campaign, which will culminate next May.

dividual tickets for \$150. That is a \$25 increase over the first Leaders in Service event.

A dozen Rotarians attended a training session Oct. 12, where they received information packets and learned how to select and keep track of prospective sponsors through an online database.

An important feature of Leaders in Service is that we are working hard to raise the bulk of our funds from outside the club. Previ-

ous fundraisers have relied mostly on contributions from our own members. While still welcoming that in-house help, the club's leadership believes we can and should get more support from the broader community.

Sponsorship levels, unchanged from last year, are: Platinum, \$10,000; Gold, \$5,000; Silver, \$2,500; and Friend of Rotary, \$1,000. Sponsors will receive recognition in our publicity for the event and at the awards ceremony, as well as seats at the May 4 banquet.

Continued on Page 3

Board awards \$13.5k in District matching grants

The club's Board of Directors has awarded \$13,500 in four grants, with almost half of that sum coming from District Grants. This does not include the club's ongoing support for Williston Middle School and several elementary schools.

Club funds come from our local foundation, subject of our annual fund-raiser. The district matching funds come from The Rotary Foundation.

Williston dental clinic, \$3,200

This provides free dental screening and education on dental health for at-risk middle school students. Facilities will be provided by the St. Mary Health Center in the Tileston

Building. This includes a \$1,000 grant from Novant Health.

Cape Fear Literacy Council Teaching Garden, \$2,500

This project will restore the outdoor space at the Literacy Council's headquarters to allow for teaching and social gatherings for its adult clients

D.C. Virgo garden, \$3,800

This supports students at D.C. Virgo Preparatory Academy (a UNCW laboratory school serving grades K-8) in growing their own food and understanding concepts of character, community, and diversity through the book *Seedfolks*.

For a look at ongoing volunteer

work on this project, SEE: *page 5*. **DEI Collaborative: Our Stories** \$4.000

This grant will create and support a multi-club diversity, equity and inclusion collaborative, led by this club. It will help Wilmington's six clubs to promote the project called Our Stories, Brave Conversations on Race. These moderated conversations, which began last year, are intended to help people learn from and understand those from other backgrounds than their own. Grant funds will be used to support training and community events promoting Our Stories, encouraging participation from all local Rotary Clubs.

Gates becomes PHF 'plus 5'



George Gates was recognized on Sept. 13 for significant contributions to The Rotary Foundation. He was presented with a pin that marks his status as a Paul Harris Fellow "plus five," meaning he has given \$6,000 or more to Rotary International's philanthropic fund.

Club meets new member

Our most recent new member, Dale Lazar, was inducted Sept. 6, sponsored by Dale Smith. He gave his new-member talk on Sept. 27. He is a retired patent attorney. A Rotarian since 2009, in the McLean, Va. and Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio clubs, he is a Paul Harris Fellow and a Major Donor.



Todd Turner, sailor, salesman, Rotarian, dies unexpectedly at age 50

Long-time Rotarian Jonathan Todd Turner, pal Church and on this club's Board of Direc-50, died Sept. 27 in Wilmington.

Born at Camp Lejeune, Todd grew up in Kinston, where he was a high school athlete nis, fishing, boating, and boat building. and earned Eagle Scout rank. He graduated from UNC-Chapel Hill with a history degree. Mary Ellison Turner; children Mary Gretch-

England to earn an international captain's Turner; a brother and sister; and Todd's fianlicense, then to the British Virgin Islands. For five years, he fulfilled his love of sailing by delivering sailboats around the Carib- memory to the suicide prevention programs bean and across the Atlantic. After settling in of National Alliance on Mental Illness (www. Wilmington, he went into real estate but nev- namiwilmington.org), to St. John's Episcopal er completely gave up delivering sailboats. Church (www.stjohnsepiscopalchurch.org), He served on the vestry of St. John's Episco- or to the Wilmington Rotary Club.

tors. He was a Paul Harris Fellow.

His many favorite pastimes included ten-

Survivors include parents Dr. Lynwood and After a brief stint in sales, he moved to en and Stella; former wife Michelle Gleason cée, Mary Ankenbauer of Austin, Texas.

The family suggested donations in Todd's



Todd Turner joined this club on June 17, 2014. sponsored by Ben David.

Rotarian Todd Turner: glimpses of a life of service



Preparing dinner for the homeless at the Good Shepherd Center, 2016.



Serving as sponsor for David Grandey's

On winning Spelling Bee for Literacy team, 2016, with three past

presidents: the late Rick Lawson, John Meyer and Cleve Callison.



With his parents, Lynwood and Mary, on becoming a Paul Harris Fellow, 2017.



Presiding at Williston Middle School's last pre-pandemic Student of the Month award ceremony, February 2020.



Delivering Student of the Month honors to Williston students during the worst of the Covid pandemic, 2021.

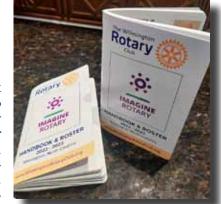
These pictures represent just a small sample of Todd Turner's service to his community and the world through his membership in this club.

Get new club handbooks while they last

The 2022-23 club Handbook and Roster has been delivered to members starting Sept. 20. Any member who has not gotten their copy should check with Vicki Scott, chair of the handbook committee, or ask at the check-in desk.

This useful guide, with biographical and contact information on everyone in the club, is an important perk of membership.

A note: Information about Rotarians is meant only for our members' personal use. Please respect fellow Rotarians' privacy and do not share with non-members.



The club Handbook and Roster was the work of Vicki Scott and her committee, who contacted every member to verify the accuracy of personal information. The committee's members were Cathy Barlow, Bunny Donohue, Lynne Hershey, Tiffany Kitchen and Mary Martin. Editing, design and layout was by John Meyer.

Recruiting for Rotary, Rotaract at biz expo, cybersecurity event

The club staffed a booth at the Greater Wilmington Business Journal's annual Business Expo, Oct. 6 in the Wilmington Convention Center.

Explaining Rotary and our club's work to business people attending were Michael Gillespie, Dale Lazar, Angela MacKinnon, John Meyer, Joe Owen and Dale Smith.

We collected contact information from more than a dozen people interested in membership.

Then on Oct. 13, recruiting for a revived Rotaract Club at UNC-Wilmington, Michael Gillespie represented Rotary at the university's Cybersecurity Conference. Presented by the Center for Cyber Defense Education, the conference included a keynote speech by Rotarian Terri Everett, who has extensive national security experience.

Leaders in Service award project gets under way

Continued from page 1

Our call for the public to nominate candidates for the home. This club has joined awards began with a news release to local media, with with seven others with print and email advertising in the Greater Wilmington Business Journal, and on the club's website and Face-

Nominations may be made through an interactive form on the club's website or by mailing a hard-copy form. These will be accepted through Jan. 15. A committee of non-Rotarians will select the three honorees.

Those nominated should meet these criteria:

- Are leaders of organizations that have contributed to improving our community.
- Have held the top executive position in their organization, or its local branch, for three years or more.
- Have made outstanding contributions to the community in one or more of Rotary's seven Areas of Focus.
- Have led a life and conducted business governed by the Rotary Four-Way Test.
- Have demonstrated a commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, leadership skills in personnel development, and collaborative work with others in the community.

Detailed information about Leaders in Service, including the 2022 honorees and interactive forms for both nominations and sponsorships, is on the club website. wilmingtonrotaryclub.org/bizleaders.php

That page can also be found under the website's "Club Links" tab.

Leading this year's effort are Terri Everett and Bob Kitchen, co-chairs, John Hatcher and Chris Riley are managing the sponsorship solicitation campaign. Other members of the committee are working on the awards banquet, the selection process, and communication.

Funds needed for Habitat project

The joint Rotary Habitat House project is still \$14,850 short of the \$60,000 needed to help a working family build themselves a new committments of cash and volunteer labor.

Work is expected to begin in February and be completin District Grants, \$18,000 carpenters will use early next year.



Habitat Executive Director Lauren ed by May. The project has McKenzie shows Rotarians the work been funded with \$8,000 space and materials that our volunteer

from the eight clubs, and \$19,150 from individual Rotarians. The first work days in February will take place in Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity's warehouse, where unskilled volunteers will assemble pre-fab wall sections. Those will later be raised on the construction site.

RYLA discussion leaders needed

The Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Committee is collecting nominations from guidance counselors at ten area high schools: public, private and parochial. The Wilmington area RYLA conference will be Dec. 3 at UNCW.

RYLA, Rotary's premier youth services program, helps develop leadership among high school juniors.

Committee Chair **R.B. Richey** is recruiting Rotarians from this and other clubs to serve as discussion leaders. With 70 students expected to attend, and two discussion leaders for each table, about two dozen volunteers will be needed. "I'd like to have a variety of professional fields represented among them," R.B. said, "with a generous proportion of young Rotarians."

The discussion leaders would take part in selecting ten of the Wilmington participants to attend the District 7730 RYLA conference in January at Pine Knoll Shores. Have questions or want to participate? Contact R.B.



Williston Middle School monthly student awards resume



Honored Williston students pose with Rotarians after the first Student of the Month ceremony of the school year.



Left: parents amily members re always ivited to see ecognized.

Right: Steve Yates reads teachers' nents about an honored student



moment as award is presented.

Students whose conduct matches Rotary's Four-Way test were honored Oct. 19 as Willison Middle School's Students of the Month. Rotarians congratulated winners, who received certificates and prizes.

Club aids academic contests at Williston

The club is providing financial aid and personal support to two academic competitions at Williston Middle School.

We contributed \$143 to the Battle of the Books book club, which meets every Wednesday. Rotary volunteers are needed to work with sixth and seventh graders preparing for the county-wide Battle of the Books, in which students demonstrate mastery of books from a common reading list.

Williston's librarian, Heather McGuire, started the book club, divided into sixth- and seventhgrade groups, each of which will read the books on the Battle of the Books list. She has asked for Rotary volunteers to read with students and discuss what they have read.

First to step up was Peter Maloff. On Oct. 12, he read Insignificant Events in the Life of a Cactus with sixth-grade book club members in the school library. More volunteers are still needed.

The club also contributed \$290 toward the school's Odyssey of the Mind team. This program, meant to make learning fun, emphasizes creativity, science, technology, engineering, the arts, and math.



Steve Yates presents checks totalling \$433 to Williston treasurer Sheliah Lowe



Peter Maloff reading with sixth-graders.

Legacy committee needs hands-on help

As the stories on this page show, our commitment to Williston Middle School requires volunteers to actively participate, whether reading to students, supporting teachers, or joining in our monthly student awards program.

Any and all participation or support is valued. Want to help? Please contact the Williston Legacy Committee's co-chairs, Anna Erwin, Laura Lisle, or Steve Yates.

Staff snack frequency altered

Starting with the 2022-23 school year, we have changed how we supply snacks for Williston Middle School's faculty and staff.

Instead of weekly, we are now bringing treats on the first Tuesday of each month. The purpose is to offer appreciation and moral support for all 100 members of the school staff.

The Williston Legacy Committee is asking for five Rotarians each month to contribute snacks for 24 people. These can be either home-made or purchased, at the volunteer's option. They should be delivered to Williston's office between 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. on the first Tuesday of each month.

If anyone might be motivated to take more than one slot on a specific date, nobody will say no! Extra efforts will always be appreciated.

Young Rotarians (and older ones, too) toil in Virgo Academy garden and classroom

The club's Under 40 committee and other volunteers have continued to help Virgo Preparatory Academy's "Seedfolks" gardening, reading and writing project, both in the classroom and in the school's garden.

A hard-working crew of Rotarians and friends spent Aug. 29 replacing old planter boxes and building some new ones.

Other young Rotarians have been contributing to the project in Kemeka Sidbury's sixthgrade class, intended for students to learn how gardens bring people from all ages, races and backgrounds together.

The project is supported by a \$3,800 grant, half from our club's funds and half from a Rotary District Grant. For more, SEE: page 1.

With help from Rotary volunteers, the students have been reading Paul Fleischman's novel Seedfolks, in which a junk-strewn, ratinfested city lot is transformed into an urban oasis, transforming the gardeners' lives as well. After reading the book, each of the Virgo sixth-graders took a chapter and wrote about what its central character had learned from the community garden.

Kyria Whisenhunt and Amanda Norton did classroom readings. Working in the garden were Past President Donna Shiro, Presidentelect Nancy Bullock, President-nominee Paul Lawler, Worth Merritt, Taft Martin, and two employees of Taft's business, Baker Roofing, Max Daniel and Grant Ciarrocca.

Because some of the wood needed for the garden boxes was donated, more of the grant funds can be invested into soil and plants.

The garden has been thriving, and the Rotary Under 40s plan to buy and plant winter and spring fruits and vegetables that the students will eat. Already, in late August, students enjoyed fresh watermelon they helped to grow.





Left: Taft Martin, Paul Lawler and Worth Merritt; right: Paul Lawler, Nancy Bullock, Taft Martin and Max Daniel show off their handiwork in the Virgo Academy garden.



sixth-graders from 'Seedfolks.'

Above: Amanda Norton reads to Virgo



Virgo pupils enjoy their garden's bounty

Right: Worth Merritt and Taft Martin worked up a sweat on Aug. 29 work day.

Under-40 committee plans to keep talking

turnout for the Under 40 committee's the most and how it's much easier to happy hour Sept. 29, but four turned walk into a big meeting room when up: Kyria Whisenhunt, Alex White, you actually know others." Tyler Wooden, and Donna Shiro.

Rotary, the speakers, the food, the "Do a few matches with the under meeting place, etc.," Donna report- 40s so they know we care about them ed. Participants suggested setting up as people, not just as Rotarians." She a rotating schedule of Under 40s and noted that these members are busy other Rotarians "to get people talking with jobs, families, children, houses, one on one, whether it be to grab a and marriage, and that the club has cup of coffee, breakfast, lunch or din- an obligation "to be there for them" ner," Donna said. "All three agreed after we recruit them.

Hurricane Ian's wind and rain hurt that it is the relationships that mean

As a mentor to the club's younger "The conversation revolved around members, Donna plans to do just that:



Alex White, Donna Shiro, Kyria Henry Whisenhunt and Tyler Wooden.



Vicki Scott and Charlotte Davis put their hoops skills to the test.

Rotarians party at barn

About 40 Rotarians gathered for fun and food Sept. 17 at Gabe and Lisa Rich's "mini-farm" on Middle Sound. Billed as a college football-themed "barn party," the afternoon social featured a catered meal, games, and bragging about attendees' favorite teams.

Unlike our more informal "Fifth Wednesday" socials, this party required RSVPs and a \$25 charge to cover the food, drink, and entertainment.

"We had a 'good old time," co-organizer Donna Shiro reported, "with a lot of team spirit including ribbing, bocce ball, cornhole, basketball toss, ping-pong, beach tunes, beverages, incredible decorations and tail gating food to die for."

As it happened, the party coincided with the hosts' 39th wedding anniversary.



Wilbur Jones, Donna Shiro, Gabe Rich, Ann LaReau, and David Grandey worked together to plan the party, despite the T-shirts that expressed divergent opinions about the true meaning of 'Carolina.'



President Dale Smith congratulates Gabe and Lisa Rich, the party's hosts, on 39 years of narriage.



Cornhole contestant Christina Ferris winds up to toss the beanbag.



The party theme was football, but the basketball toss proved popular. Host Gabe Rich tries for a three-pointer.



Wilbur Jones and Ann LaReau, who helped plan the party, show no hesitation about letting their Carolina blue flag fly.

Weekly raffle pot tops \$1,300!





If your ticket is the fourth one picked, you draw from the leck. The King of Clubs or the Queen of Clubs (get it?) wins 1/3 of the jackpot! High-stakes gamblers who buy 10 or more tickets get to draw two cards. As of Oct. 18, the winner stands to collect \$440, onethird of the pot. Only 14 cards remain in the deck. Two of those 14 cards are winners!

Win big dollars! Help the CART fund! Astonish your friends!

Our weekly raffle contributes to the CART fund and research against Alzheimer's disease. Tickets are \$1 each or five for \$3. If yours is one of four drawn each week, you win five bucks, cash money! The fourth winner gets a shot at the jackpot, which grows each week. And as cards are pulled from the deck, the odds also steadily improve.













Speakers address food deserts, no-free energy, air travel, and offer a memorial to a departed friend



Newsletter

photos

by Robby Collins,

Anna Erwin,

Tiffany Kitchen,

Peter Maloff,

John Meyer,

Donna Shiro,

Steve Yates, and

Sabrina Hill-Black

of Virgo Academy





Yates: remembering Todd

and nuclear power were the subjects of several recent programs, as were food supplies, air travel, and the tragic loss of a fellow Rotarian.

David Brenner of Wilmington's Green Community Gardens spoke Aug. 30 about the benefits of shared land for growing fresh produce.

The potential for wind energy projects off the North Carolina coast was the topic on Sept. 6. John Hardin of the N.C. Department of Commerce was the speaker.

Geoffrey Bourk, director of Wilmington International Airport, spoke Sept. 13 about the new terminal expansion and the post-pandemic recovery of air travel.

The Northside Food Co-op's efforts to correct a "food desert" with a cooperative grocery store in Wilmington's inner city was the subject of Cierra Washington's presentation Sept. 20.

Karen Williams of Duke Power spoke on Sept. 27 about the role of reactor designs.

Energy sources including wind nuclear power in achieving a carbon-free energy future. Duke operates the Brunswick Nuclear Plant at Southport.

> On Oct. 4, we dispensed with our usual program to allow members time to offer their thoughts about the life and death of Rotarian Todd Turner. Speakers included Ben David, who sponsored Todd for membership, and Steve Yates. For more about Todd, SEE: page 2.

> Oct. 11 was our first Vocational Fellowship Day since 2019. Instead of a regular meeting, members dispersed to several work places, hosted by Rotarians, to learn about those enterprises. Normally an annual event every October, it was canceled in 2020 and 2021 because of the Covid pandemic. SEE: photos below.

> Nuclear power generation was on the program again Oct. 18, when Brad Hartnett of GE-Hitachi Nuclear Energy spoke about his company's development of new modular

Members visit work places for Vocational Fellowship



Rotarians tour Habitat for Humanity's workshop, where wall sections pre-assembled by volunteer workers are stacked, awaiting a wall raising on a homebuilding site. Our club has committed money and labor for a Habitat House.

On Oct. 11, Vocational Fellowship Day, several Rotarians opened their work places to the club's members for lunch and tours.

This year's hosts were Ben David at the district attorney's office; Christina Ferris at Cape Fear Habitat for Humanity; Wilbur Jones at the Hannah Block Historic USO; Mark Mendenhall at WECT-TV6: Elliott O'Neal at LS3P Architects; and Rob **Zapple** at Thalian Hall.



Rotarian Mark Mendenhall, right, WECT-TV6 general manager, hosted visitors at the TV station. Here, they pose behind the newsroom's anchor desk.

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25

New Hanover County's proposed transit tax, with **Marie Parker** of WAVE Transit and **Mike Kozloski** of the Wilmington Area Metropolitan Planning Organization.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 1

Revisiting the Leaders in Service awards, with honorees Chris Coudriet, J.C. Lyle, and Dr. Yousrey Sayed.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Cape Fear Honor Flight, with founder **Ruth Ravitz Smith**, part of the club's annual tribute to veterans.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15

Promoting wildlife in home gardens, with **Matt Collogan** of New Hanover County Agricultural Extension, part of our annual Farm-City Week program.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Board of Directors meeting, 5:15 p.m. LS3P Architects conference room, 101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22

The true story of an American undercover agent in Moscow, with **Martha Peterson**, a retired CIA officer.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

Rotary's non-profit foundations, both global and local, with Rotarians **R.B. Richey** and **Ernie Olds**.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6

Preview of *Hark the Herald Angels Swing*, with **Ray Kennedy** of Opera House Theatre and cast members.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13

District governor's official visit, with **Nancy Carr**, 2022-23 governor for Rotary District 7730.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 19

Board of Directors meeting, 5:15 p.m. LS3P Architects conference room, 101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20

Family holiday party, with **Santa Claus** and musical guests from Williston Middle School.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 3

Annual economic update and forecast, with **Dr. Mouhcine Guettabi**, UNC-Wilmington economist.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 10

A sneak peek at the 2023 N.C. Azalea Festival, with **Denise Szaloky**, 2023 Azalea Festival president.

TUESDAY, JANUARY 17

Wilmington Fire Department's crisis-response canines, with speaker **to be announced** from the WFD.

Rotary news briefs

Hybrid meetings resume, sometimes. After a short hiatus, the club has resumed streaming its meetings via Zoom software, but with some lapses stemming from a shortage of tech talent to manage the cameras, computers, and connections. That is why the Sept. 27 meeting could not be broadcast or recorded. Our technology committee still needs new members to help.

Correcting a name error: The Aug. 30 *Club News* misspelled Rotarian Ramin "Ray" Bahar's first name. The editor regrets the error, which would have earned him an "automatic F" from his first-ever journalism professor.

Attraction books sell out. This year's sale of the Attractions coupon books raised \$900 for The Rotary Foundation, which will get half of the \$25 cover price of the 72 books sold. All buyers were entered into a raffle; two winners will be awarded Paul Harris Fellowships.

CART raffle falls short. The district-wide raffle to support the Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust, originally supposed to have concluded in July, has failed to reach its goal of selling 500 tickets at \$100 each. Fewer than 200 tickets have been sold toward the prize: a lease on a new car or \$20,000 cash. Ticket buyers who want refunds can contact Norm Rogers, district CART chair, at normrogers@atmc.net.

RI president-nominee coming to Foundation dinner. Stephanie Urchick, Rotary International's president for 2024-25, will be the speaker at the District 7730 Foundation banquet Nov. 12. The event opens with a 5 p.m. cash-bar reception. Dinner and program begin at 6 p.m., all at the Mad Boar restaurant, NC 41 at Interstate 40, Wallace. Reservations must be made online, through *dacdb.com*, by Nov. 1. The banquet is \$50 per person. Urchick, a member of the McMurry, Pa. Rotary Club, will be Rotary's second woman president. First is RI's current President Jennifer Jones.

Bell-ringing for Salvation Army scheduled. Volunteers from our club will again solicit contributions to the red kettle in front of Sam's Club on College Road. As in past years, we have been assigned to Tuesdays, starting Nov. 29 and continuing on Dec. 6, 13, and 20. To sign up and choose a time slot, see Marty Feurer.

West club oyster roast coming. The Wilmington West Rotary Club's Halloween-themed fundraiser will be 4-9 p.m. Oct. 29 in the gardens of the Burgwyn-Wright House, 224 Market Street. Tickets are \$75 and cover steamed oysters and shrimp, two beer or wine tickets, and music. Liquor will be offered at a cash bar. To buy tickets, contact Sue Meier at 910-538-3781 or suemeiernc@gmail.com.

Board of Directors Meeting

5:15 pm, 3rd Monday of each Month LS3P Architects conference room 101 N. Third Street, Fifth Floor Wilmington, NC 28401

Get In Touch

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Submit News Items

Send photos or other information for the newsletter to john@capefearpublishers.com. Please include all pertinent names, dates, etc.

Website

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org