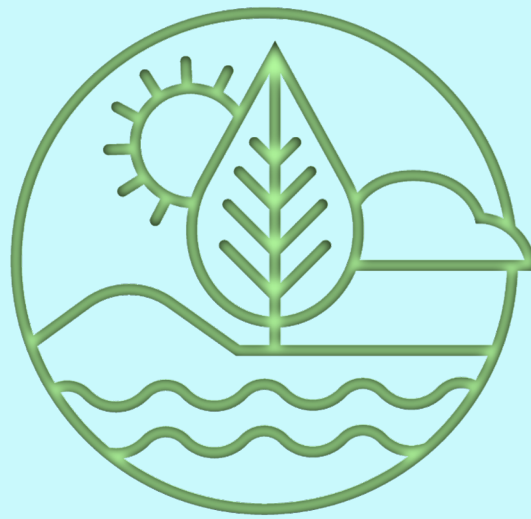


The Piedmont Rotarian

Rotary District 7690

April 2024



ENVIRONMENT

In this edition...

- Messages from District Leadership
- Southern Guilford Interact, Summit, Southern Guilford, Greensboro, Downtown Greensboro, GSO Airport, Summit Satellite Clubs – Food for Families
- Field trips for Newcomers – Crecent Rotary
- Joe Kelly’s Perfect Attendance
- Southern Pines Speed Networking Event
- Save the Date – Family Day of Rotary June 1st
- Upcoming Events

Got To or Get To



Van Lankford
District
Governor
2023-2024



It's interesting that in the English language one letter can make a huge difference in the meaning of a word. Take, for example, the words "Got" and "Get." In English, the word "got" is the past participle of the word "get," but in practice the two words take on a different meaning and energy. Consider the things we "get" to do versus the things we've "got" to do. If it's Monday evening, I know I've "got" to get my trash out to the street for pick up early Tuesday morning, which is a chore I really do not enjoy. As a person who owns a business, in April I've "got" to file and pay taxes, which is another thing I do not enjoy. Therefore, the word "got" brings about connotations of obligation and things that are not always pleasant. On the other hand, the word "get" is all about privilege, excitement, and things we enjoy doing, rather than feeling obligated to do something. This past Saturday morning I was excited to "get" to go to my youngest granddaughter's first birthday party. I knew I was getting to see family and friends and to celebrate little Reagan's special day. This coming weekend I get to celebrate my 90-year-old aunt with a party on her birthday among family and friends. There's a big difference between the things we get to do versus the things we've got to do. Could the same be true when it comes to our relationship and experience with Rotary?

Do we look at Rotary as something I've "got" to do or is it something I "get" to do? I can tell you that if people feel too much "got" and not enough "get" then they are probably not going to be with us very long. We have talked for many years now about the culture of our Rotary clubs and the type of "experience" we desire to create for our members and guests. We've talked about making our meetings "must see TV" and creating valuable club experiences. All these things are important because if our members and potential members do not find value in our clubs and meetings become obligations, then we will lose the opportunity for a connection with Rotary and what that connection has to offer both personally and professionally.

As I think back on my year as your District Governor, I am reminded of all the things I "get" to do. From August – November, I was excited to get to visit all 47 clubs in our district. I was privileged to see firsthand how clubs in our district "do" Rotary because all clubs are unique and leave a unique footprint in their respective communities. The club visits were by far the highlight of my DG year. As DG, I "get" to meet some of the best people I know across our district. I get to talk with them, eat with them, and share life together whether it is talking about Rotary, our work, or our family. Yes, there were some duties when I felt like I've "got" to do this, but the "gets" far outweighed the "gots."

As I am writing this, we are only two short weeks away from our District Conference in New Bern. In just two weeks, I get to go to New Bern, see old friends, make new friends, and celebrate all that our clubs were able to accomplish this Rotary year. I get to hear inspiring speakers and maybe have a laugh or two. I get to learn more about Rotary and the impact I can make in my community. I get to enjoy the beautiful town of New Bern, take a boat ride with my family, and serve the Craven County community. I get to spend time with my family who will be attending. I get to enjoy being a Rotarian!



Our Rotary
Foundation
By James Gouty
District Rotary
Foundation
Chair
2022-2025



FOUNDATION NEWS

James Gouty DRFC
April, 2024

FOUNDATION BANQUET FOR NOVEMBER 2024



Rotary International President Elect Stephanie Urchick

I know this is 7 months away, however I want to make you aware that our speaker for that evening will be Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick. The last time District 7690 had a RI President speak at our Foundation Banquet was in 2011, 14 years ago. The banquet is scheduled for November 7, 2024, and will be held at the Koury Center in Greensboro.

District leadership would like to see 850 Rotarians in attendance that evening, so plan on being there.

GRANTS IN OUR DISTRICT

As promised, I will continue highlighting grants, both District and Global in our district. I believe it is “beneficial to all” for everyone to know where your funds are going.

DISTRICT GRANT

- Mount Airy Rotary Club's grant is "Literacy Grant" and is as follows.

To enhance the reading abilities of low-income and low-performing reading students at area elementary schools. Students will also be provided with take-home books for their in-home library with books. Emphasis will be placed on each child to have the opportunity to read on a one-to-one basis with a Rotarian and/or Friend of Rotary to enhance their ability to read aloud and learn about Rotary and the four-way test. This project will enhance and enrich the child's ability to be a successful, on-grade level reader. Many of these students have little adult interaction and this project will allow for increased positive interaction with adults. The books provided may be the only new books these students receive due to the high poverty level.

- Gate City Rotary Club grant is "**Bikes for Kids**"

- Bikes of Kids is a not-for-profit that is focused on delivering hope and confidence to disadvantaged children across America. Gate City Rotary has adopted Foust Elementary School, a Title 1 school (children living below the poverty level) in Greensboro, NC. The program delivers character building curriculum and bikes to high risk children in the 3rd grade in poverty conditions that teaches "nothing is given, everything in life is earned". Each 3rd grade Title 1 child in our sponsored school receives a book titled "Think Big-Work Hard - Be Kind - No Excuses". After a 3 week study and 3 weeks of challenge questions, they are required to write an essay describing how those terms apply to their lives. Learning that nothing is given, everything is earned, they are told that the 3 best essay papers will be rewarded with a new bicycle. At the actual awards ceremony after the 3 essays winners are given a bike then the curtains are opened and each child is rewarded with a bicycle. Gate City Rotary helps assemble the bikes ahead of time and participates in the reading of the essays and the awards program where each 3rd grade child that completed the character building program is awarded a bicycle.

Gate City Rotary members adopted Foust Elementary in 2022/2023 year and sponsored the Bikes for Kids for the entire 3rd grade student population through members personal donations. Each \$135 provides a bike and a helmet for the students. This is a nationwide program that has been proven to provide hope for children in extreme poverty situations and the statistics show that the kids participating in this program have

increased their rate of graduating from high school and going on to college.

The program has made great strides in teaching elementary school children in Title 1 schools accountability and a focus on making their future successful no matter what obstacles they face. The Bikes for Kids Foundation has no salaries and no outside expenses or administration costs within the organization. All operational functions are voluntary.

A Bike for a child who has never had one and whose family can't afford one is more than a reward; its a cause for hope; a moment of confidence; an encounter with role models that will impact them for years. It affirms in their hearts that hard work and dreams really do come true, and they control making it happen.

SUPPORTING THE ROTARY FOUNDATION

The 2 grants detailed above are tangible examples of the good in the world Rotary does. We as Rotarians continue to make a difference in the world and in the communities, we live in and serve. We focus on the 7 Areas of Service as mentioned above and do provide life-changing solutions to myriad of issues facing our communities and the world.

I would ask you to remember the work our Foundation does, from large multi club global grants to smaller single club district grants, disaster relief grants, global scholarships, Peace Centers, and the eradication of Polio.

The bottom line is, our Foundation touches the lives of millions of people around the world and in our district and I hope you will join me in supporting this life changing organization.

HOPE GRANTS

- Just a reminder that these projects are to be completed and the final report filed by April 30, 2024

DISTRICT GRANTS

Just a few reminders about the requirements and deadlines around District Grants

- All clubs must have at least (1) member attend Grants Management Training, that was held on February 3rd. The district does have the ability to provide a make-up if your club did not have anyone there.

Please contact James Gouty the DRFC for more information.

- Clubs must complete and submit the final reports for their 2024-2024 district grants prior to applying for grants for the 2024-2025 Rotary year.
- Clubs must submit a completed MOU to be signed by the President Elect and President Elect Nominee by April 30, 2024. Each club's President Elect has been sent an email from the district administrator Steve Dolat to docusign and complete.

FOUNDATION PROGRAMS

- A reminder that I am available to come to your clubs and speak about the Rotary Foundation. My presentation is normally 20 to 25 minutes long and I can tailor it to whatever you believe your club needs to hear.

Just contact me at jggouty@gmail.com to set up a time and date.

UPCOMING EVENTS

April 30, 2024—Final reports for the Hope Grants are due to Tom Kobrin @ tomkobrin@gmail.com

April 30, 2024—MOUs from the clubs are due to your respective AG

May 15, 2024—Final reports for District Grants are due to Karen Morris.

May 18, 2024—District Leadership Training at Randolph Community College (Details to follow)

May 31, 2024—Applications for district grants for the 2024-2025 Rotary year are due.

September 14, 2024—(Tentative Date) Fall Foundation Training at Randolph Community College, Asheboro NC

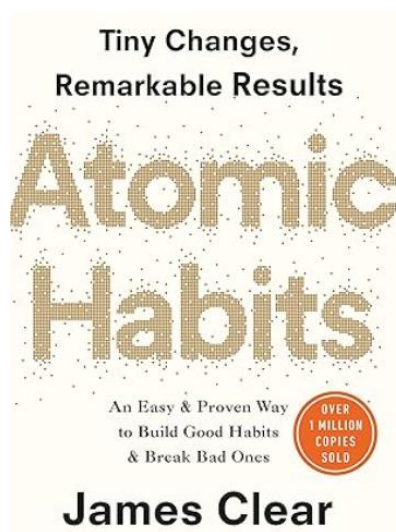
November 7, 2024—District 7690 Foundation Banquet and Paul Harris Society Event at the Koury Center in Greensboro NC. RIPE Stephanie Urchick will be our featured speaker.



Membership Focus
By PDG Jon Spillman
District Membership Chair
2022-2025



For over 100 years, British cycling was mired in mediocrity. They had only one gold medal and zero Tour De France wins, the signature event in cycling.



However, as chronicled in the book, “Atomic Habits” by James Clear, the situation changed with the hiring of David Brailsford as the new performance director. Brailsford focused the team on making tiny improvements across all aspects of cycling. Some of the changes included making the bike seat more comfortable, creating lighter uniforms, and applying rubbing alcohol on tires for better grip. He believed the culmination of these improvements would lead to significant results. He called his philosophy the “aggregation of marginal results.”

How did it work? In 2007, British cyclists won their first world championship. Over the next decade, British cyclists won 178 world championships and 66 Olympic or Paralympic gold medals and captured five Tour de France victories in what is widely regarded as the most successful period in cycling history.

Like Brailsford, I believe if clubs concentrated on three aspects of membership and make tiny improvements every week, they would see remarkable results. Specifically, 1) Club Experience, 2) Discover Rotary and 3) Meeting People Where They Are.

- 1) Club Experience – Rotary surveys indicate there are four key aspects to what new and existing members are looking for in Rotary. Namely: meeting enjoyment, dynamic service projects, building connections, and leadership development opportunities. Do a club survey on Membership Success Center to see if you need to make any adjustments in these areas.
- 2) Discover Rotary - A 30-to-45-minute session before or after a meeting, to describe who Rotary is, what we do, and the benefits of being a Rotarian is the best way to tell your club’s rotary story as well as its impact on the community. Check out the District Website under membership resources or call a membership team member who will help your club get started.
- 3) Meeting People Where They Are – For many clubs across North America they have only one way to be a part of their respective Rotary club. Examples of just two ways to update club options are, first create alternative membership types such as corporate, family, social or service. Second, form a new satellite or companion club such as alternative meeting time, interest or cause based club. Examples of the types of clubs are Impact, Golf, Latino and Senior Living Community clubs.
- 4) As author and performance coach, Jim Rohn said, “Success is a few simple disciplines, practiced every day; while failure is simply a few errors in judgment, repeated every day.”



Figure 1 Sir David Brailsford

Member Name	Start Date	Club	Sponsor
Smith , Leslie Reno (LESLIE)	03/01/24	Yadkin Valley (Elkin-Jonesville)	Bear Ray
Testerman, Tommy (TOMMY)	03/01/24	Yadkin Valley (Elkin-Jonesville)	Katee Hettleman
McLeod, Melanie (MELANIE)	03/01/24	Troy	Will Carpenter
Pinder, Jamilla (JAMILLA)	03/01/24	East Greensboro	Mac Sims
Blackledge, Ryan Hamilton	03/01/24	Greensboro	Jodi Lorenzo
Roach, Michael N (MICHAEL)	03/04/24	Downtown Greensboro	
Fore, Peter (PETER)	03/05/24	Pinehurst	William Schran
Cardwell, Adam (ADAM)	03/06/24	Kernersville	Donna V Rodgers
Dawkins, Randal C Jr.	03/11/24	Crescent	Lisa Hazlet Ed Widman
Murcia Escobar, Cindy Julissa	03/11/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Hernández Mendoza, Eduviges	03/11/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Marta, Juan Carlos	03/11/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
García, Juan (JUAN)	03/11/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Avila Hernández, Brenda	03/11/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Edwards, Regina (REGINA)	03/12/24	Mount Airy	Carol Burke
Pittman, JuJuan J (JUJUAN)	03/12/24	Guilford (Greensboro)	William Ingold
Vaughn, Calvin B. Jr (CALVIN)	03/12/24	Mount Airy	Carol M. Burke Ann L. Vaughn
Kolosieke, David A (DAVID)	03/12/24	East Greensboro	MacArthur Sims Robert Powell
Aguilar, Kristy M (KRISTY)	03/13/24	Thomasville	Beth Hibbitts
Warner, Kathleen (KATHLEEN)	03/14/24	Winston-Salem	
McCann, Brandon (BRANDON)	03/14/24	Winston-Salem	
Fargis, Hope (HOPE)	03/18/24	Reidsville	Trevor Haga
White, Melody Hiatt (MELODY)	03/19/24	Mount Airy	Carol M. Burke
Gibson , Thomas S (THOMAS)	03/20/24	Kernersville	Anthony John Beddick
Craven, Regina (REGINA)	03/21/24	Stratford (Winston-Salem)	Linda Thorup
Armitage, Donald L. (DON)	03/22/24	Reynolda	Sara C. Smith
MartÃ, Lucero (LUCERO)	03/24/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Menius, Joy Victoria (JOY)	03/25/24	Asheboro	
Brown, Mindy (MINDY)	03/28/24	Siler City	Curtis Brown
Legere, Jan D. (JAN)	03/29/24	Mount Airy	Matthew Edwards
Cooke, Keith (KEITH)	03/29/24	Mount Airy	Carol M. Burke
Lee, Nikki Boulware (NIKKI)	04/01/24	Furnitureland	Karen Morris
Moses, Warren L (WARREN)	04/01/24	Southern Guilford	David Thomas
Williams, Irvin V (IRVIN)	04/03/24	Kernersville	Thomas Edward Fitzgerald Sr.
Narvaez, Marcela (MARCELA)	04/04/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Lentzen, Rosemary Budd	04/05/24	Siler City	James E. Spence III
Lucero, Carlos Estanislao	04/05/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Lucero, Lia (LIA)	04/05/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Trocel, Lorena (LORENA)	04/05/24	Rotario Hispano de Alamance	
Phillips, James K (JAMES)	04/07/24	Jonesboro	David Miller
Widom, Calvin (CALVIN)	04/07/24	Jonesboro	John R. Ramsperger
Mastin, Desiree C (DESIREE)	04/10/24	Yadkin Valley (Elkin-Jonesville)	Brittany Russell Myra Cox
Mastin, Walter Lee III (LEE)	04/10/24	Yadkin Valley (Elkin-Jonesville)	Britanny Russell

SOUTHERN GUILFORD HIGH SCHOOL INTERACT CLUB AND SOUTHERN GUILFORD ROTARY CLUB ARE “PEOPLE OF ACTION”

What They Did

Some members of the Southern Guilford Rotary Club had a blast working alongside the 11 Southern Guilford High School Interact Club members. This group of highly motivated students assisted at both shifts at the Food For Families project which operated at Out of the Garden on Saturday, March 9th. Thank you, Summit Rotary Club, Greensboro, N.C. for the opportunity that allowed our young, energetic Interactors to show their commitment to service in the community. This Interact club has a history of being active in many of the projects in the Greater Greensboro area but it is amazing to watch them put in the sweat equity and to remain on task throughout the assigned projects. The fellowship with Rotarians from several of the local clubs allowed many of them to share their future educational plans and to demonstrate the leadership skills they are developing as our future young leaders. Kudos to Rotarian Cynthia Williams, the Youth Service Leader whose quality time spent with the students shines through in all of their efforts. We are so proud of our Interact Club. Pasta, Pasta Sauce, Hot/Cold Cereal, Oatmeal, Beans, Cereal, Canned Vegetables/Fruits, Snacks, Milk, ETC.



2024 Food for Families Meal Packing Event Submitted by Lynn S. Pitman (Summit Rotary)

Food Deserts are defined as areas that have limited access to affordable nutritious food. Did you know that Guilford County has 24 Food Deserts? Or that Greensboro is ranked 14th in the United States for Food Insecurity and that 1 in 5 Guilford County residents is food insecure? This need has a tremendous impact on our community and Rotarians from across District 7690 came together on March 9, 2024 to do something about it.

Summit Rotary of Greensboro and the Greensboro Rotary Club joined forces to secure \$9,000 in district grant funding to support the *Food for Families* Meal Packing Event. Hosted by our partners, The Out of the Garden Project, 64 volunteers donated their time and talents to pack 1,260 – 10 pound boxes of food. Each box was filled with fresh fruits and vegetables, including such things as granny smith apples, russet potatoes, sweet potatoes, onions, beef broth, lentils and rice. To accomplish this Rotarians assembled boxes, packed rice into bags, and assembled everything into each box.



Rotarians from four (4) Greensboro clubs, including the Airport Club, Downtown Club, Southern Guilford and Summit Rotary, were in attendance. They were joined by two (2) families from the Summit Rotary Satellite Club and six (6) members of the Southern Guilford Interact Club.



The 1,260 boxes that were packed represented 15,120 meals. We made an immediate impact on the community as the boxes were distributed that day to needy families at 10 area elementary/middle schools, including: Allen Jay Elementary School, Vandalia Elementary School, Archer Elementary School, Washington Montessori, Hairston Middle, Bessemer Elementary School, Hunter Elementary School, Union Hill Elementary, Foust Elementary School and Allen Middle School.



Everyone worked hard, but a great time was had by all and we are already looking forward to next year!

Crescent (Greensboro) Rotary's Newest Project

Rotarians strive for worldwide peace and understanding. Rotarians help children of various nationalities all over the world. Rotarians act locally when they see a need in their own community. What if you could combine all those things into one project? Crescent (Greensboro) Rotarians are doing that with their newest project: Providing money and chaperones for Guilford County Schools Newcomer's School.



Think about it for a minute. The kids at the Newcomer's School have just arrived to our community with their families. Their parents are getting situated in the area and may not have time or money to chaperone their kids on field trips. They may also have a language barrier to supervising a group of 6 or more kids out in public.

And they don't yet know their way around the special parts of our community. "If we want these kids to become part of our community (and future Rotarians), why don't we give them the same opportunities our kids and grandkids had? Let them learn what's special about our community and be proud to live here." says Club President Alec Pratto.



With that simple idea, Crescent Rotarians are providing the funding and chaperones for field trips for the Newcomer's school. After cutting through the usual red-tape that tries to impede but never stops a Rotarian, the first trip was to the Greensboro Science Center on March 13th. After having a picnic lunch in view of the Rotary Carousel, the teachers assigned 6 kids to each

chaperone and we made our way into the Science Center. Most everyone followed the path right into the aquarium. A mild panic passed over each chaperone as they realized they were supposed to keep up with 6 kids they don't know in the middle of a dark aquarium!!! But we all settled in with our groups and after counting to 6 about forty times, we started to have a good time. It was interesting to be with kids from various cultures and watch their reactions to the different sights, sounds and smells of various animals and other science exhibits. At the end of the day, one of the teachers looked us in the eye and said "There is no way this trip would happen without your help."





The leader of this project is Jim Granfortuna, known as “Doc Tuna.” Doc retired from a stressful career as an Oncologist then joined Crescent 2 years ago for fellowship and a chance to help the community without the stress of a daily medical job. When Doc found out we needed 6 volunteers on a Wednesday work day, he thought the project might be a bust. Within 24 hours, he had 6 volunteers and 2 spares from his project team, without even opening it to the entire club! “I didn’t know club members would practically fight for a chance to chaperone our Newcomers,” he said.

Two more trips are planned before this school year ends. We will go to the Greensboro Historical Museum and downtown library in May and then to the High Point Museum in June. In a survey the club did last year, it was clear that Crescent cares deeply about youth so we are expecting strong support from our club in these events and looking forward to more the next school year.





PO Box 2784 Honolulu, HI 96803

March 15, 2024

Rotary International District 7690
PO Box 38906
Greensboro NC 27438

Aloha Donor,

On behalf of the Rotary District 5000 Foundation, we appreciate your gift of \$ \$4,948.97 to the Maui Fires Relief Fund. The Rotary District 5000 Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization, and your donation is tax deductible as a charitable gift allowable by law. Also note that 100% of your gift will go directly to our relief efforts to the people impacted by the fires. There are no overhead or management fees deducted from your gift.

The Rotary District 5000 Foundation immediately established a key group of Rotarians from Maui and around the State of Hawaii to guide the response and relief efforts. This Advisory Committee of volunteers quickly organized to prioritize the use of the funds and to develop plans and procedures that strategically help those in the community that were most hurt by the fires. Our goal is to address critical emergency, intermediate and long-term needs in the aftermath of this horrific event. The work of this Committee will continue for many months and years as Maui begins the recovery and rebuilding process.

The response to the devastating fires on Maui has been truly inspiring, and your gift has already helped hundreds of individuals and families that survived this tragic event. In our first phase of immediate relief, the Rotary District 5000 Foundation has granted more than \$600,000 to numerous community focused projects with Rotary members involvement. Through this work we are touching lives and assisting hundreds of Maui families that need our help. We will continue to provide regular updates highlighting the work being done on:

www.RotaryD5000Foundation.org.

Thank you for your generous support to provide hope and healing to the people of Maui.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Hamil".

David Hamil, President
Rotary District 5000 Foundation

Federal ID #99-0339185

Rotary District 5000 Foundation is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization and provided no good or services in consideration for your contribution. Your donation is tax deductible as allowable by law. The IRS requires written substantiation for charitable gifts of \$250 or more, therefore, keep this acknowledgement for your tax records.

Southern Pines Rotary Club



The SoPines Rotary club did a Speed-Networking Event at one of the weekly meetings. It was a great way for new members to meet other members as well giving us all a moment to reconnect with each other! We highly recommend doing this in your club!

#WeAreRotary

Southern Pines Rotary Club



Southern Pines
Rotary
Club



#WeAreRotary

Southern Pines
Rotary
Club



#ServiceAboveSelf





“80% OF SUCCESS
IS SHOWING UP”

JOE KELLY

**CURRENTLY HAS A SUMMIT
ROTARY 25-YEAR RUN OF
PERFECT ATTENDANCE.**



Once upon a time that great “American philosopher” Woody Allen said, “80% of success is showing up.” For most Mondays over 25 years Allen “showed up” at Michael’s Pub in New York City, to play his clarinet with a New Orleans jazz group.

After Michael’s Pub closed, the band has continued playing at Manhattan’s Carlyle Hotel and Allen has been there most Mondays. Famous as a comedian and film actor/writer/director, Allen is committed to the music.

Joe Kelly currently has a Summit Rotary 25-year run of perfect attendance. Meetings are on Friday, and Joe is usually there. When unable to be physically present, he has faithfully made up his absence. For the past couple years, showing up has had its challenges.

Joe’s first brush with Summit came in 1975 when he received the Greensboro Parks and Recreation/Summit Rotary Club’s Student of the Month award as a Dudley High School senior. He was 18 years old. He will celebrate his 67th birthday in April, 2024!

Joe grew up in Greensboro, attended public schools and is a proud Dudley gradurate. College began that fall at UNC Chapel Hill. Graduation would not take place until 1984. Eventually determination and perseverance won out and this dye-hard Tar Heel became a UNC alum.

JOE KELLY

"When I went to sign up for graduation in 1979, I was told that while I had enough hours overall to graduate, I was three hours short in my major," recalls Joe. "I had already taken a job so I signed up for a correspondence course. I passed the course and reapplied for graduation but was then told 'By the way', the last 12 hours of any degree program have to be taken in residence at the university."

"By the summer of 1984, I was the boss of a large retail store in Charlotte. I signed up for an 8:00 a.m. summer class at UNC-CH -- got up at 5:00 a.m. every day and drove from Charlotte to Chapel Hill -- recorded the class -- listened to the recording again on the way back to Charlotte -- and worked my retail store job from 1:00 p.m. til closing. I not only passed the class, I got ONE of only TWO A's in my entire college career. I reapplied for my diploma and finally received it in 1984."

Joe joined Summit Rotary in December 1989, sponsored by Michael Jones. He has been a active and committed Rotarian. Served as club president and assistant governor. He has served in leadership roles with various club and district committees. He was club president in 2006-07, Summit's 50th Year Anniversary. He went to Russia in a club group led by Mike Sigmon, and spent five weeks in India in 2009 as a Group Study Exchange Leader with a team of four non-Rotarians. Joe and his wife Susie have attended International Rotary Conventions in Copenhagen, Denmark, Hamburg, Germany and Toronto, Canada.

"I have served District 7690 as a District Youth Services Chair, District Youth Exchange Chair and was a District Conference Promotional Chair for PDG Patrick Eakes and was an Assistant District Governor for Area 5 for three years."

Over the past 10 years, Joe has had several serious health issues, but he has continued to "show up." He recovered from two hip replacements in 2015 and 2018. A year later he started suffering extreme fatigue and shortness of breath. A year-long series of tests failed to identify the cause. Then an X-Ray showed a mass. In March of 2020, a CT scan confirmed a diagnosis of idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis. I was then referred to a pulmonologist here in Greensboro who basically told me I was too fat for them to do anything for me. I asked about a referral to Duke Hospital, which I received and I was told to re-apply after losing 100 pounds. I immediately stopped drinking, quit eating red meat, started walking with a goal of five miles per day."

Again dedication, perseverance and commitment took over uncertainty and reinforced the awareness that this would be a serious challenge.....life or death. "I reached the goal weight of 230 pounds, then re-applied at Duke and was accepted. I was then told to lose another 30 pounds prior to a transplant approval. I went almost two years with very little progression of the disease."

JOE KELLY

"In doing my research, Duke was the toughest to get into; but had the most positive results, by far. They are only one of a few transplant facilities on the East Coast that will accept experimental and older-aged patients. Since I realized that transplant was my only option; I did not have apprehension -- just a desire to move ahead quickly.

"The challenge was in weeks, not months, prior to transplant since I progressed to Stage 4 from Stage 1 in less than one month in late 2023. It occurred so quickly that the timeline was moved up. We had to move to Durham quickly. I did not complete my pre-surgery rehab before a lung that was a MATCH became available."

Joe was in the ICU for three days and in a standard hospital step-down program at the hospital for ten days. "I was told that going home 13 days after surgery made me a "Double Lung Transplant ONE Percenter". Only 1 percent of double lung transplant recipients are out of the hospital in two weeks or less...NATIONWIDE. As far as respiration, a nurse told me that when they removed me from the heart/lung machine, my new lungs immediately puffed up and I was a 99% O2 immediately. I have had zero supplemental oxygen since transplant." There was just one more little thing. To Joe, it was a big thing. He remembered that the late Summit Rotarian Buck Campbell, who died in 2019 at age 95, with 66 consecutive years of perfect attendance, had also once faced a health threat to his attendance streak. Buck, known to many as Mr. Rotary, had a plan to keep his streak alive.

"It was important to me to keep my Rotary perfect attendance record intact because Buck Campbell thought it important enough that he scheduled his open heart surgery on a Saturday so that he could attend the meeting on Friday before surgery and be back at the Rotary meeting the following Friday with his perfect attendance intact."

Rotary attendance rules say that a group of three or more Rotarians who meet to discuss Rotary business can qualify as a make-up meeting. Summit stepped up and made it happen for Joe. "I had visits from Ted Oliver and Tony Bullock, Mary Lee and Allen Rembert (who were of tremendous help and support for Susie), Brooks and Gail Haworth, Vince Henrich, and Erica Parker." Mission accomplished!

"I received numerous phone calls and text messages, cards and emails and Facebook posts and carrier pigeon messages. I cannot overemphasize how important it was knowing that I had so many people in my corner."

Reaching out to support Joe was important to him and to his family. It was also important to the club! "This was important for the club to do because it not only helped a longtime member retain his 25+ years of perfect attendance, but it allowed us to be present for him and stay connected during this difficult time in his life," said Summit president Keir Davis.

JOE KELLY

Rotary is a family commitment for the Kelly family. Susie is a past president of the Rotary Club of Southern Guilford, and served three years as Assistant District Governor. Joe and Susie have been married for 42 years. They are parents to their 34-year-old son, Phillip, and grandparents to 13-year-old granddaughter, Kaylie. "Joining Summit Rotary was the second-best decision I ever made after marrying my 'solid as a rock wife, Susie'. She was there every step of the way."



Rotary is guided by the Four-Way Test. Should RI ever expand it with a Fifth, a good choice might just be these three words..... Dedication, Perseverance and Commitment

✉ Rotaryglobaltrekkers@gmail.com

Rotary



E-Club of Global Trekkers

We are super excited to have Damien Mander speak to our Club members in May.

In 2017, Damien recruited the initial team of 16 female rangers in the Lower Zambezi valley of Zimbabwe. These women became the first Akashinga Rangers (*The Brave Ones*). They embarked on a mission to safeguard Zimbabwe's wildlife from the devastating impact of poaching. This marked the beginning of the organization's collaborative approach, working directly with local communities to tackle the challenges of illegal wildlife trade and environmental degradation. Finally, instead of looking in, Akashinga was on the inside looking out, and sustainable and measurable change began to happen.

The Rotary E-Club of Global Trekkers

Online Zoom Presentation

with

An Australian-born environmentalist who found his calling while traveling through Africa post-military service.

Inspired by the plight of wildlife, he liquidated his life-savings to establish Akashinga, a pioneering organization focused on people-centric conservation in Africa.

AKASHINGA



Damien Mander (Founder & CEO)

A former special operations sniper, navy clearance diver & IRAQ Veteran.



WATCH THE DOCO THEN MEET THE MAN WHO MADE IT HAPPEN!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUYQS40I9mw>

MON 13 MAY 2024 at 6 PM (US & Canada) / TUES 14 MAY 2024 at 8AM (QLD, Aust)

Join us on ZOOM: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82191334091>

Meeting ID: 821 9133 4091

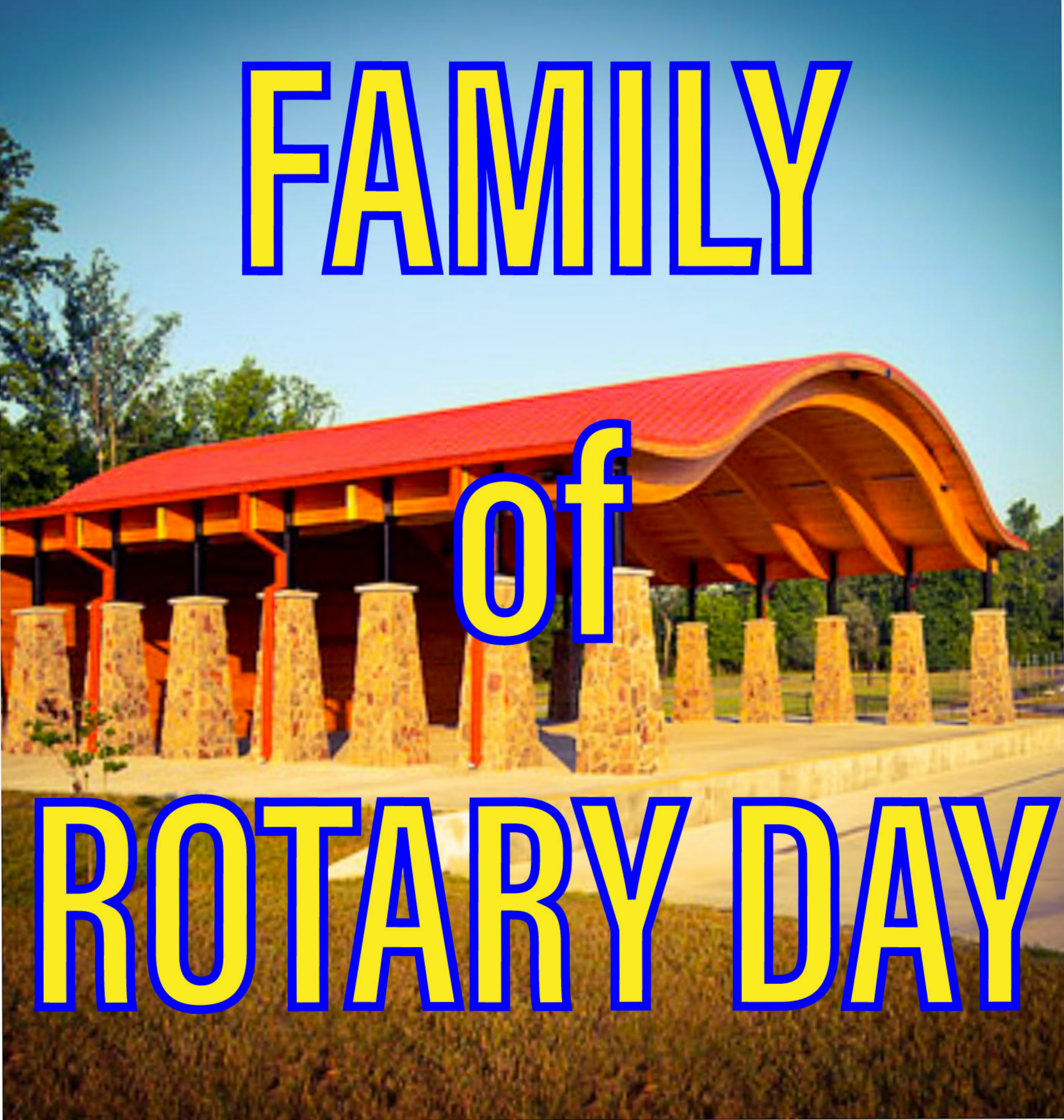
www.rotaryglobaltrekkers.org



National Geographic Documentary: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WUYQS40I9mw>

Donations can be made directly: <https://www.akashinga.org/donate>

www.rotaryglobaltrekkers.org



FAMILY

of

ROTARY DAY

Triad Park Field of Honor
9652 W Market St
KERNERSVILLE

JUNE 1st
11am-3pm

Rotary
District 7690





Save the Date

The Rotary Club of Mount Airy 75th Anniversary

Tuesday, July 16, 2024 | 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM
Cross Creek Country Club | 1129 Greenhill Road, Mount Airy, NC

For more information contact:

Jacqueline Thornhill: rotaryjha@gmail.com

Luncheon Tickets: \$15.00 cash/check at Rotary meeting

OR

Purchase Tickets online:

<https://RotaryClubMountAiry75th.eventbrite.com>

\$20.00 plus fee

Keynote Speaker

Dr. Sylvia Whitlock

The First Woman President of
Any Rotary Club Worldwide

