

CLUB NEWS

March 19, 2024



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

The Wilmington
Rotary
Club



Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self

Three to be honored for service, plus a new 'Legacy' award at fundraiser

The founding dean of a university health school; a corporate head-hunter who worked to merge racially divided youth organizations; and the founder of a medical clinic for teens: all have been honored with this club's third annual Leaders in Service Awards. The awards will be presented on May 1 to **Dr. Charles Hardy, Brian McMerty, and Connie Parker.**

Also at that event, retired educator and civic activist **Bertha Todd** will receive our first-ever Legacy Award, recognizing her lifetime of work to overcome racial divisions in Wilmington.

Leaders in Service recognizes executives in the private, non-profit and public sectors making Wilmington a better place to live, work, and raise a family.

The awards will be presented during a gala evening at the UNC-Wilmington Burney Center. More than 400 guests are expected to attend the reception, dinner, and awards ceremony.

As of mid-March, our fundraising team has secured sponsorships totaling more than \$86,000. Between last-minute sponsors and individual ticket sales, we hope to meet or exceed our goal of \$100,000.

Rotarians are urged to support our club's foundation by buying tickets. These are \$150 each, partially tax-deductible, and available through the website www.leadersinservice.org

Public sector: Dr. Hardy was the founding dean of UNC-Wilmington's College of Health and Human Services, established in 2010. He retired from that role in 2022 but still serves as a professor of public health. His award recognizes his years of effort to increase the number of health professionals available to work in New Hanover County and in the broader region.

Private sector: McMerty's proud-



Dr. Charles Hardy: public



Brian McMerty: private



Connie Parker: non-profit

est accomplishment was leading the merger of the Brigade Boys & Girls Club with the Community Boys & Girls Club of Wilmington, overcoming a century-long racial divide between the two organizations. He continues to lead the consolidated Boys & Girls Club of Southeastern North Carolina. He established the "Men on a Mission" group to mobilize volunteers at Wilmington's St. James Episcopal Church. He is a managing partner of Arris Partners, an executive-search firm.

Non-profits: Parker founded Wilmington Health Access for Teens in 1995, was its executive director through 2005, and is now director "emeritus." In addition to her passionate concern for teens and young adults, Parker is also devoted to restoring Wilmington's tree canopy. She founded the Alliance for Cape Fear Trees and serves as its president and acting executive director. Parker has served on several agencies and boards that promote tree planting and urban forestry.

Todd helped students through desegregation, helped citizens understand 1898 insurrection

Our Leaders in Service Committee unanimously recommended **Bertha Todd** for the club's new Legacy Award for lifelong community service.

Librarian at the all-Black Williston High School from 1952 to 1968, she was transferred to Hoggard when New Hanover County desegregated its schools and closed Williston. At Hoggard, she helped students through the tense period of class boycotts and racial violence that followed.

She became an assistant principal, served on local and state human relations boards, advised mayors, superintendents and governors, and led the centennial observances of Wilmington's 1898 white-supremacist insurrection. The monument to the victims of 1898 is a visible legacy of her work.



Bertha Todd: Legacy Award



Above: With a translator's help, Gabe Rich discusses a child's dental needs with her mother.

Right: Rotarian volunteers Cathy Barlow and Christina Ferris help with record-keeping at first clinic Feb. 17.



Gabe Rich examines one of 25 children seen on the clinic's first day.

Club gives children badly needed dental care

More than 100 children from low-income families got dental exams, cleanings and treatments in a series of four free club-sponsored clinics in February and March. The club donated money for supplies and the services of five volunteers, including two retired dentists.

Rotarians Dr. **Gabe Rich** and Dr. **H. Coleman Burgess III**, with help from a hygienist, three dental assistants, translators, and other volunteers, saw 25 patients, most of them pupils at Mary C. Williams Elementary School, during the first clinic on Feb. 17. The Saturday morning session took place at the St. Mary Health Center on Fifth Avenue at Ann Street. It is in the basement of the Tileston Building, below where our club meets every Tuesday.

The patients received exams, cleanings, fluoride treatments, and X-rays and dental sealants as needed. Any dental disease, such as cavities, was documented and the children's families given referrals for needed follow-up treatment. All were also given a take-home dental care kit.

The budget for this project, primarily to buy supplies, was \$3,000, which allowed seeing as many as 120 patients.

The other screening clinics were Feb. 24, March 9, and March 16. School nurses and social workers at Mary C.



Rotarians Coleman Burgess and Gabe Rich, both retired dentists, consult on a patient's chart at the first of four free dental clinics on Feb. 17.

Williams Elementary, Sunset Park Elementary, and Williston Middle Schools referred children for screening. Those schools were selected because they serve large numbers of low-income children. "For most of these kids," Coleman said, "it is their first professional dental care visit and many have significant dental disease."

This is the dental clinic's second year. "This project is completely scalable depending upon the funds," Coleman explained. "We can do more with additional funds for supplies. The volunteers want to make this happen."



St. Mary Health Center Director Laura Vinson-Garvey. She assisted the dentists, the patients, and their parents during the free dental clinics.



Gabe prepares to see a young patient. Volunteers provided professional and clerical help and translated for non-English-speaking parents.

2024 Rookie Teacher of the Year finalists, honored on February 13: Maggie Sellers, Devin Pierce (top winner), Breylin Young, Sarah Wood, and Melissa Lawrence.



Top Rookie teachers get honor, gifts

Five beginning teachers in the New Hanover County Schools got recognition and cash awards on Feb. 13 through this club's "Rookie Teachers of the Year" program.

The five were selected by a committee of educators. The top honor, with \$1,000 cash and a crystal trophy in the shape of an apple, went to **Devin Pierce**, a special-education teacher at The International School at Gregory. The others received \$500 each. Each one also got a framed photograph taken in



her classroom when she was first informed of her award. The other four finalists were **Melissa Lawrence**, a pre-school teacher at Johnson Pre-K Center; **Maggie Sellers**, who teaches fifth grade at Snipes Academy of Arts and Design; **Sarah Wood**, a special-education teacher at Codington Elementary; and **Breylin Young**, who teaches eighth-grade English at Trask Middle School.

Presenting the awards was Rotarian

Dr. Charles Foust, superintendent of New Hanover County Schools.

Teaching is a demanding and challenging profession, and too many public school teachers leave the profession after just a few years. Starting in 2017, our club has been trying to remedy that with this public and tangible show of support for "rookie" teachers.

In cooperation with Rotary's awards program, the school district operates a "Beginning Teacher Support Program" to inspire and promote leadership among those new educators. That includes more than 300 teachers with less than three years of full-time classroom experience.

With music and desserts, we celebrate the season, help Salvation Army

Our Dec. 19 holiday lunch meeting was a benefit for the Salvation Army. A silent auction and a live dessert auction raised \$3,740. For more on this, SEE: *page 6*.

Entertainment came from Ray

Kennedy, Andi Creech, Shannon Playl, and Troy Rudeseal of Opera House Theatre Company.

And as a thanks for feeding us so well, the club presented a year-end gift to the staff of Sawmill Catering.



Bella Davis & Krya Arndt of Sawmill Catering accept holiday thank-you gift from Treasurer Larry Sackett.



Proceeds from desserts and silent auction went into Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign.



Despite no 'ugly sweater' contest, Mike Beaudoin and Chris Hoinig still rock the holiday fashions.



Singers Shannon Playl & Andi Creech of Opera House Theatre Company entertain with holiday standards.

Williston students honored for ethics

In January and February, we again recognized Williston Middle School students who conduct themselves in harmony with the principles of Rotary's Four-Way Test.

Families and Rotarians are invited to attend the Student of the Month awards ceremonies at the school. The honor comes with a certificate, citation, yard sign, shirt, and a literacy goody bag donated by the Friends of the New Hanover County Library.



Honored students pose with Rotarians and school staff after Feb. 21 ceremony.



An honored student's proud parents, prizes.



A student of the month accepts award from principal Jo McDonnell. Rotarian Steve Yates reads citation.



Rotarians including Cathy Barlow, Clint Meyer, Marty Feurer, Paul Lawler, and Steve Lester congratulate one of February's students of the month.



Fifth Wednesday well attended

Seventy-five Rotarians and friends attended the Jan. 31 "Fifth Wednesday" social at Waterman's Brewery. These informal happy-hour gatherings are open to members of all six Rotary Clubs in Wilmington, spouses and other guests. They are held in months that have five Wednesdays; next up are May, July, and October.

Melissa White of our Social Committee took the lead to organize this event.



Lauren Ramchandran with her sponsor, Hansen Matthews; Debby Gomulka, who sponsored Eileen Stefan; Gabe Rich, sponsor for Katie Tate; Mark Ihnat, sponsor for Karen Richards; and Secretary Elliott O'Neal Jr., after Feb. 6 induction ceremony.

Club adds five to member rolls

So far this year, the club has added four new members and one returning former member.

Inducted on Feb. 6 were **Lauren Ramchandran**, sponsored by her father, Hansen Matthews; **Eileen Stefan**, a broker with Intracoastal Real Estate, sponsored by Debby Gomulka; **Katie Tate**, foundation director for Lower Cape Fear Life Care, sponsored by Gabe Rich; and **Karen "Kaitlyn" Richards**, an assistant New Hanover County attorney, sponsored by Mark Ihnat.

Katie and Kaitlyn introduced themselves to the club through new-member talks on Feb. 20.

On March 12, we welcomed back a former member. **Ramin "Ray" Bahar** let his membership lapse briefly while he was away from Wilmington, but rejoined upon his return. He first joined the club on

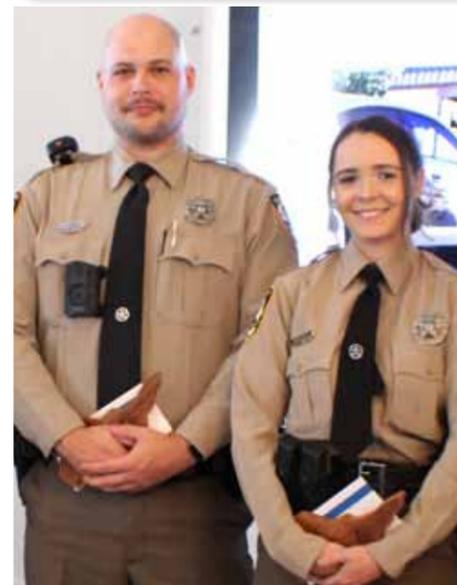


Ray Bahar

May 10, 2022, sponsored by Joe Owen, after 33 years in other Rotary Clubs. He is a retired financial advisor.



Honored for their role in a fatal shootout with an aggressive gunman were New Hanover County Sheriff's Deputies Danny Atkins, Jeremy Moncus, Aaron Naughton, and Eric Tello and Wilmington Police Officers Joseph Lachapelle and Daniel Huerta. With them are District Attorney Ben David and Deputy Police Chief Alex Sotelo.



Stephen Sawyer & Emily Watson, Pender S.D.



Timothy Moon, Wilmington Police Dept.



Jennifer Slish, state crime laboratory



Craig Melville, Wilmington Police Dept.



District Court Judge James Faison



Meghan Gilbert, who works at the Sawmill Restaurant on Castle Hayne Road, with Rotarian Charles Mintz, who nominated her for the award, which Ben David presented. She saved the life of a restaurant customer by administering cardio-pulmonary resuscitation after the woman collapsed while eating lunch.

Club rewards police and others for saving lives, solving crimes, bolstering community

Police officers, a crime-lab specialist, a judge, and an alert restaurant employee were presented with the Rotary Club's 2024 "Service Above Self" awards March 5. This annual program recognizes first responders and people in the justice system for actions beyond the call of duty. Rotarian **Ben David**, district attorney, presented the awards.

Those honored were:

Deputies **Emily Watson** and **Stephen Sawyer** of Pender County Sheriff's Department for providing life-saving first aid, including cardio-pulmonary resuscitation, to a nine-year-old boy suffering a severe asthma attack.

Detective **Timothy Moon** of Wilmington Police Department and the regional ATF Task Force, for his investigative work that enabled successful federal prosecutions for several serious

firearms offenses.

Jennifer Slish, a ballistics specialist with the North Carolina State Crime Lab, for resolving the murders of three people by linking bullets to the guns—and the killers—that fired them.

Sgt. **Craig Melville** of Wilmington Police Department, for many years of service in the department's community outreach efforts, including a bike-patrol crime-prevention project, "Cop Camp," and now the Crime Scene Investigation unit.

Officers **Joseph Lachapelle** and **Daniel Huerta** of Wilmington Police Department and **Danny Atkins**, **Jeremy Moncus**, **Aaron Naughton**, and **Eric Tello**, deputies with New Hanover County Sheriff's Department, for stopping and fatally shooting a gunman who had attacked multiple people, all

while safeguarding innocent passers-by on busy Market Street.

District Court Judge **James Faison**, for more than twenty years of overseeing the Community Recovery Court, which offers alternatives to prison, and a path to sobriety, for offenders struggling with drug or alcohol addictions.

Meghan Gilbert, an employee of the Sawmill Restaurant on Castle Hayne Road, for administering life-saving CPR to a customer who went into medical distress while dining.

Each of those recognized received a hand-crafted plaque made by teenage volunteers at Kids Making It, and a \$200 gift certificate to treat their family to dinner. David made a point of recognizing the vital support that spouses, children, and parents provide to public-safety professionals.



Among the many Rotarians and family members who solicited donations on Tuesdays in December were Matt Hilliard, Lucy Holman, Racheal Prorise and her fiance Allan Lusk, and Matt's daughter Tory Hilliard.

Club sets Red Kettle record

Our bell-ringing volunteers raised the most money ever for the Salvation Army's annual holiday fund. Stationed at Sam's Club on Tuesdays, during December, our members encouraged shoppers to donate \$4,921.

Added to \$3,740 contributed at our Dec. 19 holiday lunch party, that totalled

\$8,661, our highest ever, according to the Salvation Army's **Maj. Ken Morris**. That helped the campaign reach its \$400,000 goal, which aided 2,136 children, Ken reported.

Our volunteers, identified by the Rotary-branded aprons they wore, also outpaced the other civic clubs that rang bells for this campaign.

Blood drive goes on

Members continue to donate blood through a series of blood-drive days supported by this club and other organizations, under the leadership of Wilmington East Rotary Club.

Next opportunity to give will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 21 at Independence Mall. This will be the 42nd donation day since this drive began. "We have helped collect 1612 units of blood," reported **Dan Parks** of the Wilmington East club, the blood drive's organizer.



Marty Feurer gives blood Dec. 23, 2023.

Fellowships mark Foundation gifts

A new Paul Harris Fellow and two "plus" Fellows have been honored for gifts to The Rotary Foundation.

Tom Hoggard became a Fellow "plus four" on Jan. 9 for contributions of \$5,000 or more.

On March 12, **Mark DeLoach** received his medallion and certificate, recognizing \$1,000 in giving.

The same day, **Susan Harrell** got her "plus two" pin, representing gifts totalling \$3,000 or more.



Above: Susan Harrell sports new 'plus two' pin and Mark DeLoach his new Paul Harris Fellow medallion, pin, and certificate. Left: R.B. Richey presents Tom Hoggard with his 'plus four' pin for Rotary Foundation gifts.



Gary Chadwick, Boys & Girls Club advocate and Rotarian, dies at 77

Rotarian Gary W. Chadwick, owner of a title insurance company and a devoted philanthropist, died Feb. 9. He was 77.

He is survived by his wife of 34 years, Sharon Bryan Chadwick; daughter Margaret Chadwick of Raleigh; and sons Bryan of Pittsburgh and Logan of San Francisco.

A Wilmington native, he graduated from New Hanover High School and Wilmington College, now UNC-Wilmington, where he was student body president. After college, he served in the Army.

Gary used the GI Bill to attend law school at UNC-Chapel Hill, earning a J.D. degree. His law practice specialized in title insurance,

most recently with Chadwick Land Title, a firm he founded.

He was especially devoted to the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern North Carolina and its predecessor organizations. For 39 years, he served the clubs as a board member, chairman, fundraiser, and volunteer. He also supported the Eden Village project to house the homeless, and was an active member of Wrightsville United Methodist Church.

Gary's enthusiasms included golf, tennis, hiking, dancing, and world travel. He was an avid fan of both the Carolina Tar Heels and the UNCW Seahawks. A memorial service was held Feb 13 at his church.



Gary Chadwick joined this club on Aug. 8, 1984, sponsored by Mal Murray.



Kennedy: Opera House



Rich: international projects



Braddock: cold storage



Guetta: regional economy



Wells: Novant Hospital



Bovio: Novant Hospital



Hallingse: small business



Mason: Fire Department

Programs cover club business, awards, health and economy

Reports from club committees, two annual awards presentations, and a wide range of guest speakers have filled the program calendar.

We ended 2023 with our holiday luncheon on Dec. 19, raising money for the Salvation Army, with music from Opera House Theatre Company's **Ray Kennedy** and singers **Andi Creech** and **Shannon Playl**.

We didn't meet Dec. 26 or Jan. 2.

On Jan. 9, our International Projects Committee offered members detailed information about the club's various global projects, introduced by committee chair **Gabe Rich**.

Michael Braddock II of Frontier Scientific Solutions spoke Jan. 16 about the cold-storage complex for pharmaceutical shipments his company is developing at Wilmington International Airport.

On Jan. 23, UNC-Wilmington economist **Dr. Mouhcine Guetta** returned to give us his annual report on the region's economy.

Novant Health's management of New Hanover Regional Medical Center was the topic for Jan. 30. Chief Physician **Dr. Roxie Wells** and President **Ernie Bovio** spoke.

Josh Hallingse, vice president for small business retention and expansion at the Wilmington Chamber of Commerce spoke Feb 6.

The changing face of the Wilmington Fire Department was the topic for Chief **Jon "Steve" Mason's** presentation Feb. 13.

The club's annual Rookie Teachers of the Year awards were presented on Feb. 20, introduced by Rotarians **Mike Beaudoin** and **Dr. Charles Foust**, New Hanover County Schools superintendent. For details, SEE: *page 3*.

Donna Flake of Wilmington East Rotary Club spoke Feb. 27 about Rotary's work in Moldova, a small eastern European nation.

The March 5 program was our annual Service Above Self awards for police and others in the criminal justice and public safety professions. Rotarian **Ben David** presided. For more, SEE: *page 5*.

The club's Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Committee presented a program about Rotary's Four-Way Test on March 12. Presenting were Rotarians **Julie Rehder**, **Dale Smith**, and **Althea Johnson**.



Beaudoin: rookie teachers



Foust: rookie teachers



Flake: Rotary in Moldova



Rehder: Four-Way Test



Smith: Four-Way Test



Johnson: Four-Way Test

Newsletter photos
by Robby Collins, Bunny Donohue, Matt Hilliard, Cat Marinich, John Meyer, Dan Parks, and Donna Shiro.

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, MARCH 19

The Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina, with **Marc Murphy**, president and chief executive officer.

SATURDAY, MARCH 23

Rotary Day at the Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., Lake Waccamaw.

TUESDAY, MARCH 26

The Turnaround Task Force, with Rotarian **Dr. Charles Foust**, superintendent of New Hanover County Schools.

TUESDAY, APRIL 2

How the Community Endowment will invest proceeds from the hospital sale, with speaker to be announced.

TUESDAY, APRIL 9

The State of the City: A report on Wilmington's municipal government, with Mayor **Bill Saffo**.

MONDAY, APRIL 15

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

TUESDAY, APRIL 16

Research work at UNC-Wilmington's Center for Marine Science, with **Dr. Kenneth Halanych**, executive director.

TUESDAY, APRIL 23

Literacy Committee report, with Rotarian **Debby Gomulka**, president-nominee and committee chair.

TUESDAY, APRIL 30

No meeting because of Leaders in Service banquet.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 1

Leaders in Service banquet, 6 p.m. at Burney Center, UNC-Wilmington. For ticket info, SEE: *page 1*.

TUESDAY, MAY 7

Speaker and topic to be announced.

TUESDAY, MAY 14

The changing face of local news, with Rotarians **Mark Mendenhall** of WECT TV and **Kevin Crane** of WHQR.



Harpers serenade first responders. Rotarian Julie Rehder and friends from the Coastal Carolina Chapter of the American Harp Association play before the March 5 meeting to honor recipients of our Service Above Self Awards.

Rotary news briefs

Rotary Day at Lake Waccamaw: The Boys & Girls Homes of North Carolina invite Rotarians to visit the campus from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, March 23. Visitors will take a trolley tour, including the Rotary Cottage, which is being renovated. Lunch will follow. To attend, register through the District 7730 website: www.rotary7730.org

Club revives Sunshine Committee: Volunteers are needed to offer personal touches like birthday greetings to members. Interested? See President Nancy Bullock.

Students sent to RYLA weekend: Thirteen high school juniors from New Hanover County attended the district Rotary Youth Leadership Awards conference Feb. 2 and 3 at Pine Knoll Shores. This club paid expenses for six of them, joining more than 100 delegates from the district.

Environmental Committee aids Williston: This newly formed group helped Williston Middle School's Science Olympiad team engineer balsa-wood aircraft on Jan. 18, and will help chaperone a school field trip to Burnt Mill Creek on March 21. To help with this trip or join the committee, contact co-chairs Vince Howe or Mark DeLoach.

Mentoring new Rotarians: In a Feb. 20 report to the club, our Membership Engagement Committee said it is matching recent inductees with experienced Rotarians. To help both groups, the committee is developing a list of resources for new members, as well as a checklist for mentors. To help identify our newest members, their name badges will carry a big red dot for the first three months.

College gets film scholarship: Crystal Dixon of the Cape Fear Community College Foundation and James Varrone, head of the college's Public Services Department, joined us Jan. 16 to accept \$1,500 to fund a scholarship to CFCC's filmmaking and videography program.

Club to staff booth at district conference: The annual gathering of District 7730's Rotary Clubs will be in Wilmington April 19 and 20. We plan to showcase our current projects with a booth in the conference's "House of Friendship." Want to help with the booth? See Dale Smith or Debby Gomulka. To attend the conference, register through the district website, www.rotary7730.org

Rotary 101 going hi tech: Sessions of our monthly elective course for new Rotarians will be recorded and posted online so they are more easily accessible, both to new members and club veterans. Details to come soon!

Prospective leaders needed: The club's Nominating Committee is being organized this month to seek members interested in serving on the board or as an officer. Board members serve three-year terms starting July 1.

Grant proposed to restore "Wheel": The 58-year-old brick walls of the Rotary Wheel Garden badly need re-pointing. A pending District Grant request seeks funds to hire professional masons to repair the walls' mortar.

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

President Nancy Bullock 910-262-7633
President-Elect Paul Lawler 910-409-2425
Secretary Elliott O'Neal 910-397-3613
Newsletter Editor John Meyer 910-297-7251
Webmaster John Meyer 910-297-7251

Submit News Items

Send photos or other information for the newsletter to jmeyer1@ec.rr.com. Please include all pertinent details: names, dates, etc.

Website

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org