

CLUB NEWS

October 17, 2023



CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD

The Wilmington
Rotary
Club



Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self

Club assists new teachers

Each first-year teacher in New Hanover County Schools got a \$25 Staples gift card on Aug. 15, a gift from our club. Rotarians wearing “Wilmington Rotary Works” T-shirts joined the new teachers at Hoggard High School and spoke about our various projects to help teachers and schools.

The gift cards were meant to help with a chronic problem: teachers’ need to use their own money to buy classroom supplies. The club spent \$2,000 on this, enough for 80 teachers.

Laura Lisle, Nick Rhodes, John Meehl and Mike Beau-doin told teachers about projects including our long-term partnership with Williston, Middle School, our Literacy Committee’s work to supply books to several high-poverty elementary schools, and our annual Rookie Teachers of the Year awards.



Laura Lisle helps distribute gift cards to beginning teachers.



Nick Rhodes chats with first-year teachers on Aug. 15.

Fundraising work starts

The club’s fundraising campaign for the 2024-25 Rotary year gets under way this month, with volunteer solicitors beginning to seek sponsorships for the next Leaders in Service awards presentation.

Advertising, social-media outreach and a news release are asking for public nominees for the third annual awards. Leaders in Service honors outstanding local business, government and non-profit executives.

The awards will be presented at a gala banquet scheduled for May 1, 2024. For the second year, the Leaders in Service committee is chaired by **Bob Kitchen and Terri Everett**.

A solicitation team led by **John Hatcher and Chris Riley** is distributing information packets about the awards to prospective sponsors, many of which set their budgets before the end of the year.

Proceeds will replenish the club’s non-profit foundation, which pays for our projects and grants. The 2023 Leaders in Service project raised nearly \$72,000 after expenses.

Habitat House will begin to go up on Oct. 28

The Habitat for Humanity house build, one of this club’s major projects, will resume with a wall raising work day on Oct. 28.

Rotarians from this and several other participating area clubs will swing hammers on the job site, a new subdivision in the Castle Hayne area. Wall sections prefabricated by volunteers last January will be put into place.

The house will be home for a single mother named Tysheia and her children; she and members of her family also put “sweat equity” into the job.

Thirty volunteers will be needed for the wall raising. The next work

days, and number of workers needed:

Nov. 4, roof sheathing, 25.

Nov. 11, framing, 25

Nov. 18, vinyl siding, 30

To participate, Rotarian volunteers will need to log in (or create a new account) on Habitat’s volunteer website. See the URL below. Once logged in, you can sign in for the volunteer days you want to work. You will get emailed instructions.

If you can’t do carpentry, you can still help by donating lunches. These will be needed for each build day.

If you can provide lunches, email

<https://www.volgistics.com/appform/1833153924>

devcoord@capefearhabitat.org

Also needed: money! The budget for this house is \$60,000, toward which our club has contributed \$6,000, and our members more than \$13,100. Other clubs, the district, and individual Rotarians put in more than \$36,000. We are still about \$5,500 short of the overall goal.

All donations are tax-deductible and go to building Tysheia’s home.

The job site’s address is 1617 Dorsey Lane, Castle Hayne. (A new street, this may not register on a GPS. A nearby address: 3208 Reminiscence Road, Castle Hayne.)

Scenes from workplaces: Vocational Fellowship Day

Rotarians messing about in boats



Katie Crosby, Ramona Farrell, Bert Williams, J.C. Lyle, Alex White, Gabe Rich, Dustin Hocken, R.B. Richey and Chris Hoenig aboard a boat. Right: Gabe, R.B., Ernie Olds, Katie, J.C., Ramona, Alex, Charlie Mintz, Julie Rehder, Bert, Mimi Cunningham, and Chris on MarineMax pier.



On screen and behind the scenes



Green-screen technology seamlessly puts Rotarian April Jones in front of the Channel 6 weather display.



In the WECT control room are Rotarians Bunny Donahue, Dale Lazar, Nancy Bullock, Tolis Vardakis, Tiffany Kitchen, and Donna Cameron.



Donna Cameron, in front of a neutral backdrop, is digitally placed over TV station's weather graphics.



Right: camera operator demonstrates video techniques in WECT studio to Rotarians including Charlotte Davis, Donna Cameron, Tiffany Kitchen, Dale Lazar, Paul Lawler, Tolis Vardakis, John Hatcher, and Kevin Crane.

A dog's life at Paws4People



Bonding with service dogs in training are Mike Brown & Vicki Scott.



Getting acquainted with some of the puppies at Paws4People are Mike Brown, Susan Harrell, Tyler Wooden, Lynne Hershey, Marty Feurer, Vicki Scott, John Meehl, & Sarah Stone.

Vocational Day

Vocational Fellowship Day has been an annual tradition since the late **Bernie Malman** introduced it to this club in the early 2000s. It was an idea he brought from his previous Rotary Club, in Cincinnati: to have Rotarians visit their colleagues' workplaces once a year and learn something about their businesses.

This year, on Oct. 3, instead of our regular lunch meeting, the club's members split up to tour one of six different venues. Those were:

Cape Fear Community College's nursing school, hosted by **Rosemary Guendner**; WECT-TV6, hosted by **Mark Mendenhall**; MarineMax, hosted by **Chris Hoenig**; Paws4People, hosted by **Melissa White**; StepUp Wilmington, hosted by **Ally Thornton**; and the Carousel Center, hosted by **Laurie Taylor**.

Organizing the day was a committee chaired by **Tiffany Kitchen** and including **Michael Gillespie** and **Hansen Matthews**.

Robotic patients at CFCC nursing school



Brenda Holland (right), Cape Fear Community College's director of nursing, describes one of the robot 'patients' that nursing students interact with. Rotarians Dori Bishara, Nick Rhodes, Rosemary Guendner, and Tufanna Bradley listen to the patient, whose electronic voice actually originates with an instructor in a hidden control room.



Dale Smith, Tom Hoggard, Clint Meyer, and Nick Rhodes with CFCC's Brenda Holland in one of the nursing school's practice hospital rooms.



Describing how nursing students use dummy patients, Holland is under expert eyes of Rotarians Tom Hoggard and Clint Meyer, both retired physicians.

Polio walk begins Oct. 20

District Governor Allen Quigley is urging all Rotarians in District 7730 to join in, or donate to, the Walk Around the District to eradicate polio. The walk takes place at the Miracle Field, 5510 Olsen Park Lane, beginning at 6 p.m. Oct. 20, and continues for 24 hours. Sign up or donate at: <https://go.dojiggy.io/polio24/Campaign/Details>

Newsletter photos

by Robby Collins, Nancy Bullock, Rafaela Dejanovic, David Grandey, Rosemary Guendner, Chris Hoenig, April Jones, Bob Kitchen, Mark Mendenhall, John Meyer, Dan Parks, Gabe Rich, Donna Shiro, and Melissa White



Williston teachers get gifts

Our Legacy Project at Williston Middle School began the school year by supplying gifts as a morale booster for teachers. These included insulated drink tumblers and gift cards for various retailers.

Williston's in-house "Sunshine Squad" will distribute these during the fall semester "as needed for teacher morale," as Rotarian Donna Shiro put it.

- Also at Williston: the next Student of the Month award presentation will begin at 9 a.m. Oct. 18. Rotarians should arrive at Williston (401 S. 10th St.) by 8:45 to help set up. The ceremony, honoring students whose conduct complies with Rotary's Four-Way Test, takes about an hour.

- Any Rotarians have surplus T-shirts? Maybe leftovers from a business promotion? Williston can use them for its emergency clothes closet. The staff often has to supply garments to student whose outfits suffer spills or violate the school's dress code.

Billy King slowly on the mend

Rotarian Billy King, recovering from a car-wreck injury, has had physical therapy and has begun taking short walks. Full recovery is likely a year away. He welcomes visitors, but asks for a call first.



Getting set up for Oct. 7 barn party at his place, Rotarian Gabe Rich poses with Rafaella Dejanovic, Katie Corpening, Cat Marinich, and Melissa White. This was one of our Social Committee's major events for the year.

Members can help club's public image

One of President Nancy Bullock's top goals for the 2023-24 Rotary year is raising the club's public profile and enhancing its image. A newly enlarged Public Relations Committee is at work on this, and can use some help from all our members.

- Social media: We are making regular use of the club's accounts on both Facebook and LinkedIn. To help expand our reach, the committee is asking all members with a personal profile on either platform to follow, "like," re-post, or comment on the club's profiles and posts. Coming soon: an Instagram page.

- Timely news updates. To help us spread the word about all the good our club does, we are asking all committee chairs to provide monthly updates about their work. These are compiled in an online spreadsheet developed by Rotarian Rosie Guendner, and used for social-media and news-media outreach, as well as in the club's website and this newsletter.

- Newsworthy photos. More members than ever are contributing images for the club's communications. For maximum impact, look for ways to show Rotarians at work, rather than simply lined up and looking at the camera. Non-members of the club want to know what we do. Let's all help to show them!

Questions or suggestions? See committee chair **John Meyer**.

Ukrainian refugees find home and job

Ukrainian refugees Ivan and Anastasiia Slieпов and their twin sons arrived in Wilmington Aug. 22, sponsored by this club and Wilmington East Rotary. The two clubs have raised close to \$13,000 plus many in-kind donations but need another \$2,000. The money is covering a few months rent, furnishings, clothing, food, and transportation to get the family fully settled.

Rotarian **Dori Bishara** has taken the lead in setting up an online signup system to collect donations. **Jeff Lesley** found

them an apartment. **Dan Parks** of the East club is coordinating Rotary support for the Slieпов family, as he has for seven other Ukrainian refugee families.

Ivan, a marine engineer who formerly worked on an oil tanker, has found a job with a Wilmington heating and air conditioning contractor. Anastasiia is taking English classes.

Contributions to help the Slieповs or other Ukrainian refugee families can be mailed to Wilmington East Rotary Club Trust, P.O. Box 373, Wrightsville Beach, NC 28480.



Sarah Stone, Kevin Crane, and April Jones were inducted into the club on Aug. 29.

New members join up, introduce themselves to the club

Five new members were added to the club's rolls since July, and five new Rotarians have given talks to introduce themselves.

Three were inducted Aug. 29. **Kevin Crane** is the new general manager of WHQR public radio. His predecessor in that job, Past President Cleve Callison, sponsored him for membership. Kevin was formerly a member of the Nashville, TN Rotary Club from 2017 to 2020.

April Jones returned to the club after an absence of several years. She first joined the club in November 2012. Sponsored this time by Jeff Leslie, she is an independent insurance agent. She spoke to the club on Sept. 26.

Sarah Stone is director of retail ex-



Katie Crosby



Dan Daniel



Julie Varnam

perience for Excite Credit Union. Her sponsor is Elizabeth Redenbaugh. She gave her new-member talk on Sept. 19.

On Sept. 29, two more members were inducted. **Katie Crosby** is assistant director of corporate and foundation engagement with UNC-Wilmington. Gabe Rich sponsored her for membership.

Dan Daniel is chief development officer for Wilmington's Good Shepherd



Giving new-member talks were Mark DeLoach, who spoke on Aug. 22, and John Downing, who addressed the club Sept. 5.



Center. Sponsored by Steve Coggins, Dan is a former member of the Charleston (S.C.) Breakfast Rotary Club.

On Aug. 22, **Mark DeLoach** addressed the club. A business consultant, he joined on July 11, sponsored by Jack Clark.

John Downing, who gave his new-member talk Sept. 5, is vice president for economic and workforce development at Cape Fear Community College. Erica Talbert sponsored him.

Julie Varnam introduced herself to the club on Sept. 19. A special educator, assistant superintendent for student support with New Hanover County Schools, she was inducted July 11, sponsored by J. Corpening.



Service in vein: Mike Beaudoin and Laurie Taylor donate at the Sept. 28 blood drive.

Rotarians give the gift of life

Since its beginnings in 2020, the monthly blood drive co-sponsored by Wilmington's Rotary clubs has collected more than 1,400 pints.

Organized by Rotary Area 3—consisting of the six Wilmington clubs, with Wilmington East taking the lead—the most recent drive collected 48 one-pint units of blood on Sept. 28.

Starting early in the Covid-19 pandemic, these blood drives have collected a total of 1,427 units. The September Rotary event was the 38th.

The total collected is equivalent to more than 178 gallons.



Rotarians Dale Lazar, Matt Hilliard, David Grandey, and Nancy Bullock joined eight boys from the N.C. Boys and Girls Homes Aug. 6 at the minor-league Wood Ducks baseball game in Kinston. The boys were treated to lunch and Wood Ducks ballcaps. This was a 'Take Me Out To The Ballgame' event with dozens of other Rotarians from around District 7730.

Paul Harris Fellows honored for Foundation gifts

Donations to The Rotary Foundation have been recognized in recent weeks with Paul Harris Fellow awards, including several "plus" honors.

Giving \$1,000 to the Foundation qualifies the donor as a Paul Harris Fellow. Additional gifts are acknowledged with "plus" pins.

On Aug. 8, President **Nancy Bullock** received her "Plus 1" pin, for donating \$2,000; **Mike Brown** got his "Plus 2" for \$3,000, and Past President

Cathy Barlow became a "Plus 6" for giving \$7,000.

Dustin Hocken became a Paul Harris Fellow Aug. 15. Past President **Donna Shiro** got her "Plus 6".

Next to be honored was **Mark Mendenhall**, who got his Paul Harris Fellow medallion, pin, and certificate Aug. 22. The same day, **Christina Ferris** received her "Plus 2" pin.

Sept. 5, **Gabe Rich** got his "Plus 6." And on Sept. 19, both **Marcia Morgan** and **Clint Meyer** were recognized as "Plus 1."



On Aug. 8, Foundation Chair R.B. Richey (right) recognized Mike Brown, 'Plus 2,' Nancy Bullock, 'Plus 1,' and Cathy Barlow, 'Plus 6.'



Donna Shiro earns her 'Plus 6' for giving \$7,000 and Dustin Hocken becomes a Paul Harris Fellow Aug. 15.



Mark Mendenhall shows off his new PHF regalia; Christina Ferris becomes a 'Plus 2' on Aug. 22.



R.B. Richey presents 'Plus 6' pin to Gabe Rich on Sept. 5.



Clint Meyer and Marcia Morgan get 'Plus 1' honors at Sept. 19 meeting.

Guarding our coast and our water supply, aviation, theater, war & development are program topics



Schultz: Coast Guard



Allen: Coastal Federation



Maurer: war books

Protecting our beaches, coastal environment and maritime borders were the focus of several recent programs, which also touched on topics including Wilmington's water supply and prospective development.

On Aug. 1, retired Coast Guard Commandant **Adm. Karl Schultz** addressed the club. Wilmington Mayor **Bill Saffo** read a proclamation in honor of the occasion, and a number of local Coast Guard officers were our guests for lunch.

Kerry Allen of the N.C. Coastal Federation spoke Aug. 8 about a recent kayak trip to call attention to coastal environmental issues.

Researching and writing books about national security was the topic Aug. 15 when journalist and author **Kevin Maurer** spoke.

Huge investments in water treatment technology and suits against companies that polluted the Cape Fear River were **Ken Waldroup's** subject Aug. 22. He heads the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority.

Layton Bedsole, New Hanover

County's shore protection coordinator, spoke Aug. 29 about the challenges of finding and paying for sand to maintain our beaches.

Rotarian **Richard Formo**, who manages the Modern Aviation fixed-base operator at ILM Airport, spoke Sept. 5 about general aviation.

The club met Sept. 12 at Thalian Hall, where Rotarian **Rob Zapple**, the historic theater's interim director, talked about the 1858 building.

Amanda Leese, who does historic walking tours, spoke Sept. 19 about two business women who made a major impact on Wilmington.

Downtown developments, including the city's purchase of the former PPD tower, were the topic Sept. 26 for **Aubrey Parsley**, Wilmington's economic development director.

Oct. 3 was Vocational Fellowship Day. SEE: pages 2 and 3.

James Morton, president of Cape Fear Community College, was our speaker Oct. 10. He reviewed the college's accomplishments since 2018.



Bedsole: beach nourishment



Leese: women's history



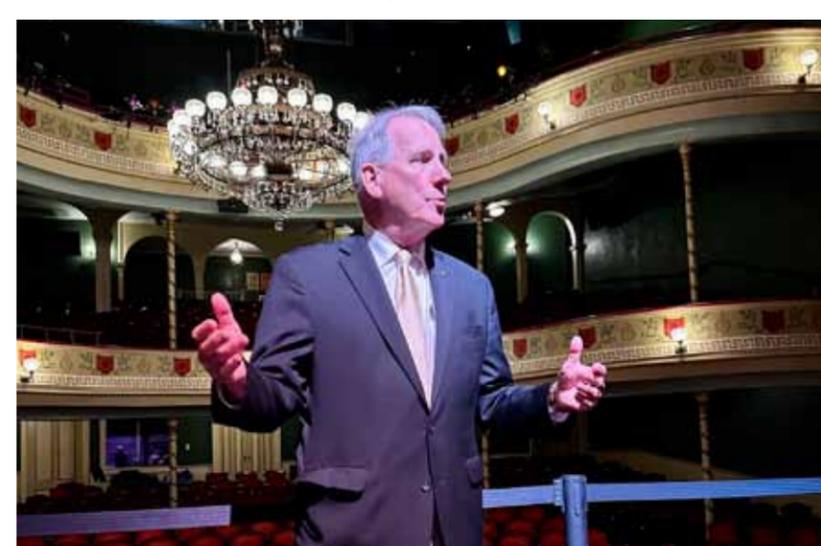
Morton: Cape Fear CC

Club plays host to Coast Guard officers

The U.S. Coast Guard traces its origins to Aug. 4, 1790. Marking its 233rd birthday, our club invited local Coast Guard officers to lunch on Aug. 1. The meeting featured a Coast Guard color guard and a program by retired Commandant **Adm. Karl Schultz**, now a Wilmington resident. **Lou DiGiusto** coordinated.



Wilmington Mayor Bill Saffo with Rotarian and Coast Guard reservist Lou DiGiusto, who organized the event. Saffo read a City Council proclamation honoring the Coast Guard.



Left and above: Rob Zapple welcomes fellow Rotarians to Thalian Hall, which hosted our Sept. 12 meeting.

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17

District governor's official visit, with **Allen Quigley**.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24

Football stories, with **Walt Patulski**, an All-American with Notre Dame who also played for the Buffalo Bills.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31

Recruiting business to the Cape Fear region, with **Cliff Pyron** of Wilmington Business Development.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Veterans Day program, details to be announced.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14

The value of leadership, with 2023 Leaders in Service honorees and UNCW Chancellor **Aswani Volety**.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 20

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21

Topic and speaker to be announced.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 28

The Rotary Foundation, Paul Harris Fellows, and why donate. With Rotarian **R.B. Richey**, Foundation chair.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5

Restoring historic phonographs, with Rotarian **Tolis Vardakis**.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12

Sports at UNC-Wilmington, with **Michael Oblinger**, the university's athletics director.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 18

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 19

Family holiday party. With entertainment from Opera House Theatre Company.



The Young Rotarians Committee met for a social Aug. 10 at Ciana Ristorante Italiano. Pictured: Mark Ihnat, Past President Donna Shiro, Rafaela Dejanovic, Chris Utesch, Chris Hoenic, Katie Corpening, Taft Martin, Albert Sementa, and President-elect Paul Lawler. Not-quite-so-young mentors Donna and Paul joined this otherwise under-40 crowd.

Rotary news briefs

Scholarship deal with CFCC: In August, our Board of Directors approved a five-year contract with Cape Fear Community College that will fund \$3,500 a year in scholarships. Of that, \$2,000 is aimed at former students of Wil-liston Middle School and \$1,500 is designated for students in CFCC's film school.

Aid to Maui fire victims: The club has contributed \$5,000 from our charitable foundation, plus \$700 from members, to aid recovery from the wildfires that destroyed much of the Hawaiian town of Lahaina. The funds will be managed by Rotary Clubs on the island of Maui.

Overdue dues caught up: At its Aug. 21 meeting, the club's Board of Directors decided that membership dues will now be payable immediately upon receipt of invoice. At that time, dues collections were behind by \$10,000. Since then, Treasurer Larry Sackett reports, slow-paying members have caught up and accounts are current!

Grants approved. All three of this year's District Grant requests have been approved. Half of each project will be funded by District 7730, the other half from our club's foundation. Recipients are: Northside Food Cooperative, to support bimonthly community dinners, feeding 150 people each time, \$2,720; 2Share, Inc., supplying beds for children in need, \$3,500; and Theater for All, staging performances by 100 people with disabilities, \$2,500.

Wine sold out: Thirty-two bottles of wine left over from our June presidential installation banquet were sold in July. Thirsty Rotarians put \$320 into the club's foundation.

District offers DEI grants. Rotary District 7730 wants applications for its 2023 Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion grants. In its first year, 2022, this club received a \$1,375 DEI grant. That has supported the "Our Stories" project, which brings Blacks and Whites together to talk about race.

No courage required: red badges identify new Rotarians. At the request of our Membership Committee, the club has issued red name badges to spotlight the club's newest members. All Rotarians are encouraged to make a point of greeting any colleague wearing a red badge and to introduce themselves.



Storm cancels social. A Fifth Wednesday happy-hour gathering scheduled for Aug. 30 was canceled because of the threat from Tropical Storm Idalia, which passed near Wilmington that night and the next day.

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 jmeyer1@ec.rr.com. Please include all pertinent details: names, dates, etc.

Website

www.WilmingtonRotaryClub.org