

CLUB NEWS

October 29, 2024



The Wilmington
Rotary
Club



Founded April 1915 • A Century of Service Above Self

Club disburses \$14,500 in District Grants

The Wilmington Rotary Club has awarded six District Grants, totalling \$14,500. Half of that sum came from our non-profit foundation; the rest from the international Rotary Foundation, as approved by District 7730.

Our six were among 65 matching grants the district awarded this year, valued at almost \$146,000. Presented at the Sept. 10 meeting were:

Dental clinic, \$3,000. With help from Rotary volunteers, including dentists, as well as dental hygienist students from Cape Fear Community College, this project aims to provide screenings and tooth-care kits for up to 300 low-income children.

First Fruit Ministries, \$2,000. This will buy carts, shopping bags and other supplies for the group's food pantry.

Good Shepherd Center, \$2,000. This will support a soup kitchen for homeless people, and the Second Helpings project to help feed another 3,000 men, women and children.

Good Shepherd Center, \$3,000, re-housing support to help some 60 people transition from the streets to permanent homes. The money will help with rental application fees, deposits, and home furnishings.

Rotary Wheel Garden, \$2,000. This will pay to hire masons to do repairs, mostly mortar re-pointing, on the garden's 58-year-old walls. Those walls outline the Rotary gear-wheel logo. The garden was this club's gift to the city on our 50th anniversary in 1965-66.

St. Mary Catholic School, \$2,500. This will help the school's library recover from damage caused by 2018's Hurricane Florence, by buying books and video equipment.

The money from the club's foundation was raised through the annual Leaders in Service Awards program. For details, SEE: sidebar on *this page*.

All District Grant projects require hands-on participation by Rotarians.



Grants Committee Chair Ernie Olds with dental clinic partners: Michelle Blalock, CEO of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Southeastern North Carolina; Melissa Peterson, CFCC dental hygiene instructor; and Gabe Rich, who manages the clinics for our club.



First Fruit Ministries founders, Rev. Anna Lee Stoker and Rick Stoker.



Liz Carbone of Good Shepherd Center with Treasurer Larry Sackett, who has been one of the group's volunteers.



Left: Principal Joseph Poletti and language arts teacher Megan Gavrilien of St. Mary School.

Leaders in Service seeks award nominations, sets goal of \$110,000 for club's fund-raising

Work on the club's fourth annual Leaders in Service Awards began this month, with a call for nominations and a start to soliciting sponsorships.

The awards honor leaders whose work has improved our community. As in previous years, we are looking for nominations in the private-sector, non-profit, and public-sector categories. Nominations are accepted from both Rotarians and the public.

The awards will be presented at a May 13, 2025 banquet at UNCW.

Our solicitation team, led by **John Hatcher**, has begun making contacts with potential donors. Sponsorship levels have been set at \$10,000, \$5,000, \$2,500, and a "Friends of Rotary" category for \$1,000. Sponsors receive banquet tickets. Individual ticket sales will begin next spring.

The awards banquet is the club's only major fund-raiser. We are working toward a goal of \$110,000 before expenses. Proceed will benefit our non-profit charitable arm, the RCDW Foundation. A portion of the money for sponsorships or tickets will be

tax-deductible. This year, the foundation will disburse \$70,000 or more to non-profit organizations and to support our own projects. This includes our club's half of District Grant projects like those described on this page.

A nomination form and other information about Leaders in Service are at www.leadersinservice.org. Nominations are open until Jan. 17, 2025.

A committee of non-Rotarians will select the honorees. Their names will be announced early in the new year.

Persons nominated but not selected in prior years can be proposed again.

One uncertainty is whether the club will present a special Legacy Award. The first of these, which may or may not be given in any year, went to retired educator and civil-rights activist Bertha Todd. Members of the club will be asked to propose candidates for that award this year. The Leaders in Service committee will decide, sometime in the new year, whether any candidate deserves that honor.

The committee is headed by **Bob Kitchen** and **Donna Cameron**.

Peace Pole placed in Rotary Wheel Garden

A Peace Pole, with the message “May peace prevail on earth” in four languages, was unveiled at the Rotary Wheel Garden in Greenfield Park on Sept. 21. The event marked World Peace Day.

A project of Wilmington’s six Rotary Clubs, this is one of hundreds of similar monuments worldwide. Rotary Clubs have sponsored many of them; one of Rotary’s seven area of focus is “Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution.”

The languages used depend on the location. The Wilmington Peace Pole’s message is in English, Spanish, Ukrainian, and Cherokee. Spanish is the second most widely spoken language in the Wilmington area; Ukrainian represents the war-refugee families whom area Rotarians have helped to relocate here; and Cherokee represents the Native American tribes, past and present, of North Carolina.



Cathy Barlow, Paul Lawler and Mike Beaudoin with District Governor C.J. Crooks, Past District Governor Dan Parks, and Mike Reid of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. The inscription on the visible face of the Peace Pole is in the Cherokee language.



Dale Lazar, Tiffany Kitchen, and Cathy Barlow take a close look at the Peace Pole.



Participants in the dedication ceremony recite Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.



President Paul Lawler speaks at Peace Pole dedication.

Rotarians and families help athletes on service day

The first in a series of “family friendly” service projects put Rotarians, spouses and children on the Miracle Field Sept. 21, acting as “buddies” for athletes with disabilities. The volunteers helped players with batting, base-running and fielding.

The Miracle Field and the Miracle League are projects of Access Wilmington, meant to provide athletic opportunities on a wheelchair-friendly surface. This club has supported the league since its beginning.

Because some of our service projects are not convenient for members with young families, this and similar projects are scheduled for weekends. That lets Rotarians with nine-to-five jobs and/or young children easily participate. These include tasks that children can safely perform under supervision.

Participating Rotarians included **Dori Bishara, David Grandey, Matthew Hilliard, R.B. Richey, Dale Lazar, Paul Lawler, Mark Mendenhall, and Lauren Matthews.**



David Grandey’s daughters Charlotte and Kalyn practice catch; Matt Hilliard assists with glasses.



Left: Matt Hilliard helps a young athlete who tossed his bat after successfully hitting the ball. Volunteer ‘buddies’ helped Miracle League athletes with hitting, fielding, and base-running.



Matt Hilliard’s daughters Tory and Ella volunteered as buddies; here they cheer on their player.



Rotarians visiting Cape Fear Solar Systems hear about types of batteries used in residential solar power installations. David Grandey was the group’s host.



In the woodworking shop at Kids Making It, Rotarians learn about how its young participants acquire both technical and personal skills.

Scenes from Vocational Fellowship Day tours

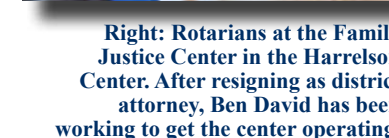
On Oct. 22, our members scattered to four different workplaces to learn about how those organizations do their work and/or serve the community.

Vocational Fellowship Day has been an annual event for the club for two decades. Visiting Rotarians ate sack lunches and took tours of their host sites.

Participating were Cape Fear Solar systems, hosted by **David Grandey**; Randall Library at UNC-Wilmington, hosted by **Lucy Holman**; Kids Making It, hosted by **Allan Lusk**; and the new Family Justice Center, hosted by **Ben David**.



Left: Lucy Holman welcomes Rotarian visitors to UNCW’s Randall Library. A major expansion to the library, the first since the 1980s, was just completed this summer. Lucy is dean of the library.



Right: Rotarians at the Family Justice Center in the Harrelson Center. After resigning as district attorney, Ben David has been working to get the center operating.



David Grandey explains a display showing the electrical output of the individual solar panels on Cape Fear Solar Systems’ roof.



Elliot O’Neal and J. Corpening admire finished projects made by young woodworkers at Kids Making It. The club has been one of this non-profit’s supporters.

Club, members send aid to hurricane victims

Since Oct. 1, members of the club have given more than \$7,000 toward help for victims of Hurricane Helene in western North Carolina. Those individual gifts are on top of a \$5,000 contribution the club made from its non-profit charitable foundation.

A wide swath of western North Carolina was devastated by flooding caused by Hurricane Helene. The individual gifts were made through an online donation form. The form is on our website’s home page:

www.wilmingtonrotaryclub.org

All contributions have been directed to Rotary District 7670, which covers 22 counties in western North Carolina. For more on how that district is using these contributions, see www.rotary7670.org.

Two other Wilmington-area Rotary Clubs have pitched in another \$7,500. Rotary District 7730 has provided a \$15,000 match, Paul reported on Oct. 8. Altogether, District Governor **C.J. Crooks** reports, our district has con-

tributed more than \$45,000 for Hurricane Helene relief.

In 2018, in the aftermath of Hurricane Florence, which caused widespread flooding in and around Wilmington, Rotarians from all parts of the country sent aid here, some of it directly to this club. We have remembered that generosity recently by helping disaster victims elsewhere, such as to the Hawaiian island of Maui after wildfires there destroyed much of the city of Lahaina.

Williston Middle School project takes new direction

Our Williston Legacy Project entered a new phase this school year with the end of Student of the Month awards after 13 years.

Jo McDonnell compiled her first year as Williston Middle School's principal in June. She told our committee co-chairs that she wants to motivate all her students, not just the few who have been recognized by the awards program. A major concern was the number of students who

skipped school on Fridays. One solution she proposed was to have all the school's clubs meet on Fridays, and to create new clubs to offer extra-curricular activities that could appeal to more students.

To provide supplies and other needs for these new clubs, we have given the school \$5,000.

McDonnell also wanted a "fresh new start" for her teachers, to reduce faculty turnover. One moral-boosting

idea was to give all the teachers new T-shirts. We donated \$2,000 for that.

Despite the challenges, the school was able to raise its poor grade performance, with year-end testing averaging D this year, up from F last year.

Further initiatives are likely as the school year goes on, the committee reported.

Legacy Project Committee co-chairs are **Laura Lisle, Anna Erwin, Donna Shiro, and Steve Yates.**



Carter Jewell



Don McGlynn



Minutes after joining the club Sept. 24, David Andrews draws the lucky King of Clubs from the deck Sean Frelke is holding. Enjoying the spectacle are Don Wood, Marty Conley, Ken Morris and Charles Mintz.



Heather Evans



Jason Smith



David Andrews



A week later, on Oct. 1, David Andrews hands back his winnings, to the delight of Paul Lawler and Steve Yates. For how that money was used, see Rotary News Briefs on page 8.

Club welcomes newest members, one of whom gets lucky

Four new members joined the club in September and October, and we heard from three recent inductees through their new-member talks.

Don McGlynn was inducted Sept. 10. He is a retired real estate broker and a 13-year Rotarian, most recently at the Metro Bethesda club in Maryland. **Joe Owen** sponsored Don for membership.

The same day, **Carter Jewell** joined. She is a consultant, working with small businesses, non-profit groups and po-

litical campaigns, as well as running a non-alcoholic beverage catering service. She addressed the club Oct. 15. She was sponsored by **Dale Smith.**

Also joining Sept. 10 was **Heather Evans**, who was sponsored by **Ramona Farrell.** Heather is employed by Salt Air Heating and Cooling, Inc.

David Andrews joined the club Sept. 24, and instantly had a stroke of luck: winning the pot in that day's raffle. (A week later, he donating his winnings

—\$157—back to the club.) David gave his new-member talk on Oct. 15. He is a retired government administrator, who served multiple towns and counties. Most recently, he was Pender County manager. **Rob Zapple** is his sponsor.

Jason Smith, who was inducted Aug. 20, introduced himself to the club on Sept. 10. He is an assistant district attorney for New Hanover and Pender Counties. He was sponsored by **Mark Ihnat.**

Members thanked for service



Chris Utesch, Vicki Scott and John Meyer with personalized paperweights.

Aug. 27 was proclaimed as "Thank a Rotarian Day" by Past President **Donna Shiro.** She presented custom-designed Rotary paperweights to three members as a thank-you for their technical and professional work for the club.

Chris Utesch was recognized for his work on the Technical Committee, which makes meetings accessible remotely. **Vicki Scott** was honored for her many years of producing the club handbook, and **John Meyer** for editing and laying out both the handbook and this newsletter.



Vicki Scott announces Sept. 3 that the new club handbooks are ready for distribution.

Get your club handbook now

Anyone who hasn't yet picked up their 2024-25 *Handbook & Roster* should see **Vicki Scott.** She began distributing them, one for each member, on Sept. 3.

This useful resource is meant for members only and should not be shared outside the club or used for solicitation.

This edition is the last that Vicki will produce; after many years service, she is stepping down from that committee's chairmanship.

Grandey steps up as president-elect, Kitchen nominated



David Grandey

David Grandey, who had been president-nominee (due to take the gavel in 2026) has moved up to the President-elect position. This was due to Debby Gomulka's resignation from the club because of a medical crisis in her family.

With David now scheduled to become president in July 2025, the club's Nominating Committee has proposed **Tiffany Kitchen** as the replacement president-nominee.

Dale Lazar was nominated to take Tiffany's seat on the Board of Directors; he would fill a term that ends June 30, 2025. The Board endorsed those recommendations at its Oct. 21 meeting. The club's full membership will vote on those nominations Oct. 29.

Tiffany joined the club in August 2021. Dale joined in September 2022 after 13 years in other Rotary Clubs.



Tiffany Kitchen

County health department flies Rotary polio-eradication banner



President Paul Lawler and Area Governor Cathy Barlow with flag that was raised over New Hanover County's Health and Human Services Department on Oct. 21. It flew over the department's building for a week.

District governors galore

When District Governor **C.J. Crooks** of the Jacksonville Rotary Club made his official visit to our club on Aug. 27, three past district governors were present. Here, **R.B. Richey**, who served in 2017-18, **Russ LaBelle**, 2004-05, and **Allen Quigley** of Wilmington West Rotary Club, 2023-24, pose with C.J. and President **Paul Lawler.**

District 7730 is looking for an experienced Rotarians to become district governor for 2028-29. For details, SEE: Rotary News Briefs on page 8.



R.B. Richey, Russ LaBelle, Allen Quigley, C.J. Crooks, and Paul Lawler.



Stacy Ankrum, Donna Shiro, Paul Lawler, Chad Pearson, and Ramona Farrell accept their latest Paul Harris Fellow 'plus' pins. With Ramona is her Foundation co-chair R.B. Richey.

Foundation donors honored with 'plus' Paul Harris status

Five members of the club received Paul Harris Fellow "plus" pins on Sept. 17 to recognize their continuing generosity toward The Rotary Foundation.

All donors of \$1,000 to the Foundation are honored as Paul Harris Fellows, named for Rotary's founder. On top of the initial fellowship, each additional \$1,000 merits "plus" status. Those honored were:

Ramona Farrell, who is co-chair of our Foundation Committee, Plus Seven, for \$8,000 in giving. She is also a Paul Harris Society member, having pledged to give \$1,000 a year for ten years.

Past President **Donna Shiro**, Plus Seven. She is also a Foundation benefactor.

Past President **Stacy Ankrum** and **Chad Pearson**, Plus Two, for \$3,000 in gifts.

President **Paul Lawler**, Plus One, for \$2,000 in Foundation giving.

Social to be at waterfront venue Oct. 30

The next of our occasional Fifth Wednesday socials takes place Oct. 30 at Smoke on the Water in the River Lights development.

Hours are 5 to 7 p.m.; the address is 3704 Watercraft Ferry

Ave.; invitations extend to all Wilmington-area Rotarians and their guests. The host venue will provide appetizers and a separate bar. Attendees buy their own drinks from the bar.

Nancy Marks, honorary Rotarian and Alzheimer's advocate, dies at 92

Honorary Rotarian Nancy Lee Smith Marks died Sept. 18 in Durham at age 92.

A native of Washington, N.C., she was a student athlete and musician in high school and at Duke University. After graduating from Duke, she studied in Aberdeen, Scotland, as a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholar.

While speaking to Rotary Clubs about that experience, she met Henry A. "Ham" Marks, who had been this club's president for 1935-36. They married in 1960 and had one child.

In 1966, she became a counselor at the new Hoggard High School, where for the next thirty years she helped students with college applications. Among her many edu-

cation activities, she helped establish Cape Fear Community College's nursing program. She served on CFCC's Board of Trustees and the New Hanover Regional Medical Center board, among many other positions.

She was an advocate for awareness and specialized care for Alzheimer's patients. In recognition of her many connections to Rotary before women could become regular members, this club made her an honorary member in 1991. She moved to Durham in 2013.

She was also a lifelong active member of United Methodist churches in several cities.

She is survived by her daughter, Sara Marks of Durham.



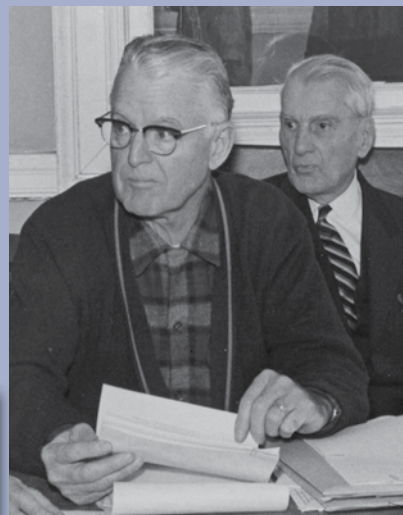
Nancy Marks was a retired educator and widow of Past President Ham Marks.

Nancy was a living link to long Rotary Club history

Left: torn clipping from Raleigh's 'News & Observer' about Nancy Lee Smith's selection as a Rotary Ambassadorial scholar. After her year in Scotland, Nancy spoke to numerous Rotary Clubs in North Carolina, which is how she met Rotarian Ham Marks.

Right: Ham Marks at a 1965 meeting of our Board of Directors. He was 1935-36 president and 1949-50 district governor. Behind him is club founder Roger Moore, our president from 1916 through 1918.

Below: Nancy with Rotarians in Scotland.



Crooks: district governor



Huffmon: non-profits day



Wood: Venus's flytrap



Currin: HOA software



Dollar: demographics



Kozlowsky: transportation



David: Family Justice



Fernando: Thalian Hall

Newsletter photos
by Robby Collins, Dori Bishara, Cathy Barlow, Nancy Bullock, Ramona Farrell, Paul Lawler, John Meyer, and Donna Shiro

Program topics cover gamut from nature to law & justice

Recent guest speakers have told us about non-profits, Rotary business, nature, justice, theater, and prospects for the region's future.

District Governor **CJ Crooks** made his official visit on Aug. 27. He conducted a "Family Feud" style game to raise awareness about reasons people join Rotary clubs, and why some leave. His goals, he said, include developing Global Grant projects, and having fun.

Andy Wood, an environmental educator, spoke Sept. 3 about the rare Venus's flytrap and other examples of our region's biodiversity.

Part of President Paul Lawler's series about our region's future was UNC-Chapel Hill demographer **Nathan Dollar's** Sept. 10 presentation. He talked about the state's population trends.

On Sept. 17, Rotarian **Ben David** described the new Family Justice Center he is working to get started after resigning as district attorney. Its purpose is to make it easier for crime victims to access needed community resources.

A special non-profits day pro-

gram Sept. 24 featured representatives from five local agencies. Rotarian **Teresa Huffmon** introduced the speakers. For details, SEE: the sidebar below.

Ben Currin, CEO of the Wilmington company Vantaca, spoke Oct. 1. He recounted how the start-up began and described its software for managing homeowners associations and similar property-management organizations.

Our region's transportation needs in coming decades was the topic for **Mike Kozlowsky** of the Wilmington Metropolitan Planning Organization on Oct. 8.

Thalian Hall's 166-year history, and its future expansion into its shared building's soon-to-be-vacated City Hall wing, was **Shane Fernando's** subject Oct. 15. He is the historic theater's new general manager.

Instead of our normal lunch meeting Oct. 22, members visited one of four businesses or non-profits on the annual Vocational Fellowship Day. For details about those tours, SEE: page 3.

Non-profits explain their programs, needs

Five charitable organizations offered information about their work at our Sept. 24 meeting.

Jason Clamme of Lower Cape Fear Lifecare (formerly Hospice) explained "end of life services" including palliative care.

Jessie Goodwin of the Chil-

dren's Museum of Wilmington described volunteer opportunities to help "little learners" and the goal of "playing with purpose."

Yasmin Tompkinson of Cape Fear Literacy Council made a plea for volunteer tutors in its adult literacy and English-as-a-second-language programs.

Heather Sellgren of Nourish NC explained its work helping "food-insecure" children and families in urban "food deserts."

Rotarian **Ken Morris** of the Salvation Army described his organization's disaster relief work and its efforts to help the homeless, including the new community center being built near the Creekwood neighborhood.



Clamme



Goodwin



Tompkinson



Sellgren



Morris

Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 29

Is there an author in you? With **Dalene Beckel** of Lasting Legacies, a coaching and ghost-writing service.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 30

Fifth Wednesday social, 5-7 p.m., Smoke on the Water, 3704 Watercraft Ferry Ave. Free snacks, cash bar.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

It's not your father's library, with Rotarian **Lucy Holman**, UNCW head librarian, and **Dana Connors**, New Hanover County Public Library director.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 12

Air Cavalry in Vietnam, with retired Army **Brig. Gen. Dan Hickman**, a special Veterans Day program.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 18

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

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 19

The Rotary Foundation, with Rotarians **Ramona Farrell** and **R.B. Richey**, Foundation Committee co-chairs.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Agriculture in Southeastern North Carolina, our annual Farm-City Week program. Speaker to be announced.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 3

Speaker and topic to be announced.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10

This year in UNCW sports, with **Michael Oblinger**, Director of Athletics at UNC-Wilmington.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 16

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

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 17

Annual family holiday party. Games, music and good food, with spouses, children and grandchildren invited.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24

No meeting: Christmas holiday

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 31

No meeting: New Year's holiday.

Program ideas welcome

Have a suggestion for a future speaker or program topic? Contact Paul Lawler, president and committee chair, at paul@enjoywilmington.com

Rotary news briefs

Expect surprises at holiday party. Our last meeting of the year, on Dec. 17, will be the traditional family holiday celebration, but with some new twists. Rotarians are urged to dress up in your favorite Christmas attire, whether an ugly sweater or something actually tasteful. A special raffle, music, fun and games will be featured, some of them surprises, says party committee chair Donna Cameron.

Blood shortages remain, drives to go on: Monthly blood drives will continue, to meet serious shortages aggravated by Hurricanes Helene and Milton. Wilmington's Rotary Clubs, along with Kiwanians and Masons, are sponsoring these drives at Independence Mall. The most recent were on Sept. 26 and Oct. 24; the November date will be announced by email from past District Governor Dan Parks, who is District 7730's disaster relief chair.

District governor nominees sought. Rotarians in District 7730 are being asked to nominate an outstanding club leader to serve as district governor for 2028-29. Time is short, with the deadline on Oct. 31. Applicants must have served as a club president, will have been a Rotarian for seven years before July 1, 2028, and preferably have been involved in district-level activities and projects. Nominations must be made on a form attached to past D.G. Allen Quigley's Sept. 20 email.

Ukrainian refugees need jobs. Past District Governor Dan Parks reports that recently arrived refugees from the war in Ukraine are seeking employment. The most recent of those who have been helped by area Rotary Clubs are Artem and Maryna Zhuravel, who have experience in sales and management and speak English. Others who have been helped by Rotarians are Svetlana Baranave and Natasha Melnik, who are professional clothing designers and seamstresses. Anyone with leads or needing more information can reach Dan at parksd7272@gmail.com

Raffle give-back improves meeting tech. After newly inducted Rotarian David Andrews won the weekly raffle Sept. 24, he decided to return his winnings to the club. A portion of this, \$55.50, went to buy some equipment to improve the sound quality of Zoom meetings that include on-screen presentations by our speakers. The balance of David's \$157 winnings went back into the CART fund.

Dale Smith presents \$2,000 Oct. 8 to Logan Thompson, Cape Fear Community College's foundation director, funding a scholarship for a film-studies student. CFCC will select the award's recipient.



Board of Directors Meeting Get In Touch

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

President Paul Lawler 910-409-2425
Pres.-Elect David Grandey . 910-352-2935
Secretary Elliott O'Neal. . . . 910-397-3613
Newsletter Editor John Meyer 910-297-7251
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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