

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte

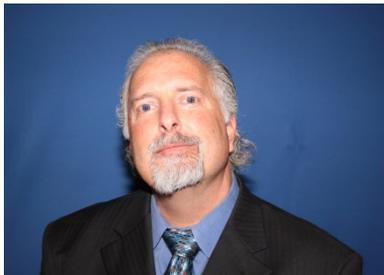


REPORTER

January 3, 2017

BO QUICKEL

Vigilante Truth – Stopping Sex Slavery



Travis Vance introduced NCSU graduate and self-described serial entrepreneur Bo Quickel, who is now the leading authority in Charlotte for advocating against the demand for sex trafficking. He is a leadership team member of “HT Charlotte,” and has been involved in the abolitionist movement to end sex slavery in the USA since early 2012, via the founding of the non-profit Vigilante Truth (vigilantetruth.com).

The main focus of VT is to radically diminish the consumer demand for services provided within the commercial sex trade. The passionate efforts to reach the goal of ending sex slavery in the USA is being accomplished through education, public awareness, reverse john stings, and creating high school clubs that create value understanding in and of females.

Bo Quickel is passionate about ending sex slavery, most particularly in Charlotte, ranked 10th highest in the US and 1st in NC for this activity. Sex slavery is defined as the non-consensual use of a person in the commercial sex trade. About 80% of that trade is in females, 20% in males. It is the fastest growing crime world-wide and in the US, and is now second only to drug trafficking. The annual revenues from sex slavery in this country are estimated at \$9.8 billion, and some 80% of sex slaves in the US are born in this country.

Bo is quick to differentiate between prostitution, which is a consensual exchange of sex for money, with sex slavery, where the victim is forced, through various means, to participate in the exchange against her will. He describes it another way, as paying a pimp for the privilege of committing a rape. As the means of coercion are not visible to the buyer, it is likely that he believes that he is entering into a consensual exchange, but this is almost never the case.

Organized crime, primarily the drug dealers and biker gangs, discovered that it was easier and more cost effective to repeatedly sell humans, sometimes more than 15 times per day, than to smuggle and sell drugs, which can only be sold once before being consumed. Prostitutes were easy targets to press into sex slavery, with the added commercial benefit of reducing competition.

Economics 101 will tell you that reducing the supply of a desired commodity will raise the price, drawing new providers into the marketplace. We saw examples of this with the crackdown on cocaine during the 70's, when the result of increased law enforcement and imprisonment of smugglers and dealers led to much higher street prices and new and more sophisticated providers. On the contrary, the way to reduce the scope of the

problem is to reduce the demand.

He has a number of proposals to affect this. First, raise awareness of the facts of sex slavery in this country and especially in Charlotte, and get men to understand what they are buying. Most men who will engage in consensual sex for money will not engage in rape. If more people become aware of the scope and true nature of this problem, more people will speak out, and motivate more people to put pressure on law enforcement and the politicians who fund it. Second, stop punishing the victims by decriminalizing prostitution. Sex slaves are deterred from seeking help from law enforcement and others by the fact that if they seek help, they are likely to face prosecution for performing the crimes that they are being forced to commit. Thirdly, increase the consequences to the buyers for engaging in this activity. While it is illegal to pay for sex, the buyers are rarely punished. Arresting and prosecuting them will make their activities known to the public. Shaming still works.

The government is still way behind the curve in dealing with this. Charlotte has a sex trafficking task force, with a staff of only two. While there are thousands of victims, there are only 12 beds devoted to rehabilitation, a process which can take years. Known fronts for commercial sex, including unlicensed massage parlors, are allowed to continue operation, largely unmolested. Penalties for crimes against animals can be more severe than for crimes against women. Educating the populace to the problem, which should arouse outrage in all of us, and applying political pressure to reorder priorities can result in the changes needed to reduce demand and thus the need for supply.

Bo Quickle is acting, and is looking for others to join him.

(01/07/17 A Day of HOPE. A city united against human trafficking to include city-wide prayer walks & community worship service. www.presentaqeministries.org to register)

Speaker Write-Up: *Rick Handford*

Head Table: *Natalie English, Travis Vance*; Invocation: *Luke Maybry*; Visitors & Guests: *Kim Brattain*; AV: *Jessica Dupree & Bill Bradley*; Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*

CLUB NEWS

Bill Constangy has a new national eBook legal treatise, Physician Covenants Not To Compete, on the enforceability and drafting of employment contract and sale of medical practice physician covenants not to compete.

Meg McElwain was recognized by the Observer's editorial board as a hero among us who made our region better for her work with the Mitchell Bays Turner Pediatric Fund. Mitchell's Fund works to help families whose children face serious illness. The fund has paid for rent, utilities, funerals and other needs.

100 SERVICE PROJECTS *(80 completed; 203 participants; 2347 volunteer hours)*

NEW PROJECTS *in red*

The idea behind the commitment to complete 100 service projects is to TOUCH 100 organizations. We are starting to lap ourselves and although we can count the community service hours, we can't count the organization if we've already provided a service for them. Example: Christmas breakfast at Charlotte Rescue Mission, coat collection for Crisis Assistance, bell ringing. Do not read into this that we will not continue supporting these projects. Just that we need to identify new organizations that need something done....manpower, no funding, prefer minimum of 2 Rotarians (can be more) volunteering to make it count. I'm looking forward to your new ideas.

ONGOING

-Allenbrook Elementary School: North Star Reading Partners with a commitment to read to a 3rd grade student one hour a week. Eric Davis: eric.davis@wellsfargo.com.

-Platelet Donation: Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. **63 donations to date!**

-American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO): Coach, referee, board member, linesman, snack shack worker, etc. Kathy Riley at rc@ayso05.com or Carolyn Carlburg c.carlburg@gmail.com

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (01/05/17 – 01/11/17)

01/05 Angela Broome

01/06 L. J. Stambuk

01/08 Cindy Wolfe, Bob Finley, Parker Cains

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (01/05/17 – 01/11/17)

01/05 Carole & Kip Kiser

01/07 Cindy & Gary Wolfe

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016 318

01/04/2017 316

Net Increase: -2

New Members:

Resignations: Neil Burkhead, Denise Hallett, Todd Owens, Tony Zeiss

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments to Rotary office by 01/10/2017)

John Luebke

Susan G. Komen Charlotte (Non-Profit, Advancement)

Sponsor: Karen Steffens

Endorsed: Sandy Osborne, Luther Moore

Visitors & Guests 8

Club Members 152

Total 160 (54.1%)

GUESTS: Marty McCarthy, Myra Stewart, Franziska Matusche, Paula Broadwell, Gail O'Neill, Lynn Lee, Dylan Mask

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

01/10 – Dr. Jimmie Williamson, President, NC Community Colleges

01/17 – Mark Price, UNC Charlotte 49ers Basketball Coach

01/24 – Paul Finebaum, ESPN Radio Host & College Gameday Co-Anchor

01/31 – Rotary International President John Germ (meeting at Goodwill Industries)

Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on **Flickr** [Click here](#)





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