



June 6, 2017

CHIEF KERR PUTNEY

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department



Claire Fallon introduced Kerr Putney, our Chief of Police. Chief Putney was sworn in as chief of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department on June 29, 2015. He was hired by the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department in August of 1992. Since that time, he has held a variety of patrol, training and specialized assignments at various ranks within the organization. He was promoted to the rank of deputy chief in September, 2007. He earned a Bachelor of Science degree in criminology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and a master's degree in criminology from East Carolina University.

Chief said he had some brief comments but wanted to spend most of his time having a conversation by answering questions from Rotarians. He said he liked the first question in our Four Way Test – “Is it the truth?” That is his test too. He is always looking for the truth. He said that the riots in Charlotte last Fall were the toughest times he has ever had as a police officer and a leader. He experienced a lot of emotions – disappointed by the response of some; surprised at the response of others; proud at how Charlotte came back from the experience of the riots. Chief said his mom always told him and others that Kerr would hit you between the eyes with his truth. Chief said that he would do that today too.

According to Chief, during and after the riots there were various versions of the truth. There was the box of history, the box of race, the box of uncertainty, and the box of distrust. He said with all those various versions of the truth that each person's or group's version depended on their perspective. But, he said, the true facts don't change. The police base their investigations and decision on the facts. Chief opened the meeting to questions from the floor and proceeded to directly and truthfully answer 18 questions. This Rotary Reporter cannot remember a time when we asked more questions.

1. Chief said that in making the city safe, he has access to alerts from local, state, national and federal law enforcement entities. He won't wait for ordinances to act. He has concerns about the use of vehicles to hurt others. He also worries about hidden items like what happened at the Boston marathon.

2. As regards security checks at community events like the Panthers, his officers try to extend the bubble, that is they move further out from the Panthers stadium for example and screen and visualize a good ways from the stadium. By checking further away from the stadium, they can mitigate the danger but there is no fool proof way to prevent violent acts.

3. There were hundreds of officers involved in the riots last year and the three month effort to address the issues related to the riots cost over \$4.5 million.
4. Chief said they are having difficulty getting new recruits. Some years ago Charlotte Mecklenburg would have 1,000 applicants, Now they have 200 to 300 applicants. Words matter and there needs to be more focus in the community on the positive impact of the work his officers do. Last year they had over 600,000 citizen encounters. They had over 1,000 compliments for his police officers. There were five individuals fatally wounded last year but they saved 15 lives.
5. Police officers coached and mentored over 300 youth in their youth symposium held last Saturday.
6. Chief remains fully committed to community policing. They had 20 forums last year where they connected with citizens.
7. The force had several lessons learned from last year's protests. First, the police are resilient. Second, the force has a wonderful capacity. Third, they can effectively move crowds. Fourth, emotion overrides process. Fifth, the force is able to appropriately tolerate bad treatment. Sixth, they will be more proactive in the future.
8. Chief said the way to address sensualized coverage of shootings is to write their own narrative. The negative narratives trigger protests. Chief asked us to like them on Facebook; to receive and resend their tweets.
9. To combat violence, the local, state and federal authorities are doing a much more effective job sharing information.
10. The lack of respect for authority, which seems rampant, starts at home. The force has a diversion program that over the last three years has helped 2,100 first time offenders and after completing the program, 90% do not return to crime.
11. The Chief has no stance on the "conceal and carry" program. He just focuses on responsible gun ownership. Too many disputes are settled by gun violence and too many crimes are committed by those who illegally obtain guns to commit illegal acts.
12. He said the pay is good for beginning officers but the middle ranks are not paid enough. They lose more officers because other employer's offers better benefits.
13. He said the force is bearing up well overall. They now have a psychologist to help officers deal with mental health challenges.
14. The gang situation is improving. They just worked with other law enforcement agencies to arrest 83 key gang leaders. He said kids will fill a void when they lack love. If they really want to join a gang, they can join CMPD.
15. In discussing the rape of a couple last week in downtown, Chief said Charlotte is releasing too many criminals.
16. Chief said body cams protect officers but they do not have a 360 view. They miss some things. In the riots last Fall, he released video footage in four days. Best practice across the country is five days. In many instances, body cams exonerate officers. Truth based on facts never comes fast.
17. In deciding where they place their officers and services, they use a scientific approach along with common sense. They use density of population, modeling, crime patterns, and community policing philosophy.
18. We can help the force by using our networks to spread good news and speak out publicly on issues important to police.

Speaker Write-Up: *Jim Kelley*

Head Table: *Tom Bartholomy, Warren Kean, Claire Fallon, Ed Driggs*; Invocation: *Cheryl Banks*; Visitors & Guests: *John Cantrell*; Health, Happiness & History: *Colleen Brannan*; AV: Photos: *Sandy Osborne*

CLUB NEWS

Em Syrewicze introduced new member **Tyler Richardson**. Tyler has been an associate director with Barings (*Financial, Investment Management*) since 2013. Em was delighted to have succeeded in getting Tyler on her board at Catawba Riverkeeper Foundation and now a member of Rotary. Reach out to Tyler at tyler.richardson@yahoo.com. Welcome to Charlotte Rotary!

Ronnie Pruett enjoyed a two week father-son trip in Scotland with his oldest son, Wes. They worked in the usual tourist places, plus 17 distilleries and caught a performance in London of Verdi's longest opera "Don Carlo" at Royal Opera House in Covent Garden.

Stephanie Hinrichs completed her first triathlon at the Ramblin' Rose South Charlotte event over the weekend.

The opening session of Rotary International's Convention kicks off in Atlanta Sunday morning and concludes Wednesday afternoon. A record 255 Rotarians in District 7680 (*includes 12 Rotarians from Charlotte Rotary*) will join the 40,000+ that are scheduled to attend.

EXCHANGE STUDENT UPDATE: Chuck Cocke provided two important updates: the school has been changed from Providence Day to *South Mecklenburg* and a host family for the first three month period has been identified. The club will **welcome 16 year-old Henrik from St. Waldens near Frankfurt Germany on August 21st**. If you would like to learn more about the Youth Exchange program, please reach out to **Chuck**, 704-578-5478 or chuck.cocke@gmail.com.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016	318
06/06/2017	312
Net Increase:	-6
New Members:	Tyler Richardson
Resignations:	
Visitors & Guests	16
Club Members	144
Total	160 (53.7%)

Guests: Will Ward, Mellow Honer, Janet Honek, Michael Levin, Bernie Petit, Helen Verkamp, Bryan Hull, Claudio Carpano, Devon Cains, Rob Salmon, III, Beverly Stevenson, Lynn Lee, Darrin Warnock, Chad Champlin

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (06/15/17 – 06/21/17)

06/15 Tom Gibson
06/17 Terence Gordon, Jeff Atkinson
06/19 Irwin Carmichael

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (06/15/17 – 06/21/17)

06/15 Debra & Bob Webb, Beth & Stuart Hair
06/16 Mary & Brian Gibson, Peggy & Bob Culbertson

06/17 Mary & Bruce Rinehart
06/18 Gayle & Luther Fincher
06/19 Gloria & Vernon Anderson, Laura & Charlie Greer
06/20 Liz & Dick Reiling, Dot & Tony Marciano, Pamela & Wes Clark
06/21 Karen Steffens & Todd Porter, Brenda & George Rohe

100 SERVICE PROJECTS (90 completed; 212 participants; 2563 volunteer hours) 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.

NEW PROJECTS in red

- **24 Hour of Booty Events – July 28 & 29.** Click [THIS LINK](#) for volunteer information.
Contact: **Rhonda York**: ryork@teamwidesolutions.com .

- **Vehicle Needed:** Motivated by the recent race relations dialogue involving numerous Charlotte Rotarians, Mark Norman has partnered with a recent BofA retiree to adopt a family and help them break the cycle of poverty. This includes relocation, change of schools, child care and more. The 5 person family is in need of a donated reliable vehicle. If you are aware of a reliable vehicle that could be made available to this family, please contact **Mark Norman**: mark.norman@jwu.edu.

- **Charlotte Kidney Walk & KEEP Healthy Kidney Screening** (National Kidney Foundation) will be held **June 10th**, Gateway Village Promenade. Various needs between 6:30 and 11:30 AM, for the walk and for an on-site kidney screening. <http://donate.kidney.org/charlottewalk17> and contact: **Rob Hayden**, Robert.hayden@kidney.org.

- **KEEP Healthy Kidney Screening June 17th**, Romare Bearden Park. Volunteers needed between 7AM and Noon. Contact: **Rob Hayden**, Robert.hayden@kidney.org.

- **Florence Crittenton** has offered several opportunities: serving a meal (can bring a meal or serve what the staff has prepared); facilitate a game day, planting in their garden, seal wooden decking, reading to children. Contact: Sarah Hyde, shyde@fcsnc.org. **Terri DeBoo**, terri@terrideboo.com.

- **Dragon Boat Race:** Top-of-the-Week Rotary will be hosting a Dragon Boat Race at All Seasons Marina, Langtree Road in Mooresville, on **June 17th**. They could use volunteers on Friday, June 16 for set up starting at 10am and/or Saturday, June 17th 8am to 3pm to help run the event. Proceeds will benefit Polio Eradication.
Contact: **Brian Moreland**, brian.moreland@bankofamerica.com.

- **Dilworth Soup Kitchen** provides a hot, home-cooked lunch every Monday to those in need. All food is donated and an all-volunteer team preps, serves and cleans-up. Housed in the Fellowship Hall of First Christian Church, 1200 East Blvd, volunteers are needed to pick up donated food on Saturday and Sunday nights, and Sunday mornings, at three locations: Trader Joe's Metropolitan, Harrisburg Food Lion and Trader Joe's Mallard Creek. Heavy lifting and a medium to large SUV to pick-up are necessary. Contact: **Tom Fedell**, tomfedell@gmail.com.

- **2017 PGA Championship**, Quail Hollow Country Club. Volunteers needed to help in their concession areas on **August 9th**. Several schedule options range from 6am-1pm,

7am-2pm; 8am-4pm, 9am-4pm, 10am-close, 11am-close. Contact: **Tim Newman:** tnewman@levineproperties.com.

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. 80 donations to date! **John zumBrunnen:** jzumbrunnen@zumbrunnen.com.

-**American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO):** Fall registration. Wayne Riley at wayneriley@aysoservicescorp.com or **Carolyn Carlburg** c.carlburg@gmail.com.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

06/13 – Quentin Williams, Attorney & Author, Preparing our next generation for greatness

06/20 – Marcus Jones, Charlotte City Manager

06/27 – President's Changeover

07/04 – NO MEETING

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



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