

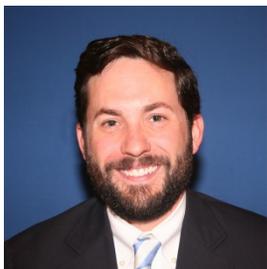


May 30, 2017

HOW I GOT WHERE I'M AT

Robbie Kirk, Tripp Guin, Sandy Osborne

Always one of the most fun and enjoyable programs, the club was treated to its quarterly rendition of "How I Got Where I'm At" (HIGWIA) presentations. Three members, Robbie Kirk, Tripp Guin and Sandy Osborne gave brief presentations of their backgrounds and careers.



Robbie Kirk is a civil engineer and Charlotte office manager for SEPI, an engineering/construction firm based in Raleigh. He is a specialist in roadway design for geometric designs and also does some land tract design as well. SEPI was founded 16 years and today has 250 employees that did over \$25mm in revenue last year. Robbie said he owes Manuel Noriega a good deal as to How he got where he is At. Robbie's dad was career Navy man and upon retirement, went to law school and became a lawyer for the Panama Canal. Robbie spent his first 6 years in Panama and was in pre-kindergarten when there was a Rebel uprising. His school bus was detained and US Army troops had to escort the buses back to safety. Because of the heroic work of the Service men that day, he then said at Kindergarten graduation as a 6 year old he wanted to be a US soldier. Robbie attended The Citadel and was there during 9-11. He went on to graduate from The Citadel as a 2nd Lieutenant and upon graduation the US Army put him into the Corp of Engineers. He achieved the rank of Captain during his 8 years of service so we now need to refer to Robbie as Captain Kirk! He was deployed to Baghdad, Iraq and was base engineer for the largest detainee holding compound in Iraq. He was responsible for carrying out orders to double the size of the facility from occupancy of 12,000 captives to 22,000. This huge construction project was ordered by General Petraeus and he visited to make sure it was done! Later he was deployed to Afghanistan to FOB Tillman and was ordered to destroy the base when we had decided to abandon the facility. In between assignments from Iraq to Afghanistan, he went to UNCC and got his civil engineering degree. While at UNCC Robbie was an early intern on the Blue Line project, worked on the I-85 and the I-485 interchange and also the widening I-485 in Pineville. Now in his current role with SEPI, they are providing design work for these same projects as well as projects throughout all of NC. Great presentation on how Captain Kirk has gotten where he is at!!



Tripp Guin, born in Charlotte at Presbyterian Hospital, shared a picture showing the audience he was a normal size baby before reaching his basketball size in junior high. Trip was raised in Mt Holly and his family has been in textiles for years. His grandad was founder of Love Mills of Shelby and was later hired by American Efird, became president and was put on the Board of American Efird's owner, Ruddick Corporation. He and Tripp's father were Rotarians and were what led Tripp to our club. He shared with us his basketball achievements. First he was at Gaston Day and was a member of the bomb squad in 7th grade. This

group would go in when the starters were up by 30 or down 30! Tripp persevered and his skills became noticed in 11th grade when the East Gaston coach recruited him. He became a starter, could dunk the ball and accepted a scholarship to Chowan Jr College. He later transferred to College of Charleston and played there one year. Tripp continues to practice with the team yet the talent level rose at CC and they made the NCAA tourney with a 29-3 record. He graduated in 1994 and worked for Office Environments for 6 years. He went to work for Trammel Crow in 2004 and with the merger with CBRE he stayed until 2012. He then began his own firm called Tripp Commercial Real Estate and now has 4 reps doing tenant rep business all over the US. Tripp is active in several local not for profits (YMCA and Festival in the Park). He has recently obtained his MBA from the University of South Carolina. Tripp has a wife Caroline and they have 3 "tall" daughters, Ava, Madelyn and Grace who all love Volleyball. Nice job Tripp with a great overview of How you got where you're at!



Sandy Osborne, native Charlottean and associated with the club for 15 years, came out of her comfort zone to share with us her "Got where I'm at story" in quick and concise Sandy fashion. Here goes: Sandy grew up in Charlotte, the 2nd of 4 children and is a graduate of East Mecklenburg High School. Upon graduation, she went straight to work as a clerk for Southern Bell in Charlotte. Sandy attributes right place/ right time for her success at Bell, working with and for extremely talented people during her 30 year career at the utility. I think hard work and dedication are what Bell recognized in Sandy, having worked her way up to manager. When Sandy was a few months from retiring from Bell, former member Hope Lanier called to let her know Charlotte Rotary was in need of a new manager for a 20 hour, 4 hour per day job (now 30+). She interviewed with those 2 tough guys, David Anderson and Jim Woodward for the job in late 2001. Sandy was very active in the Charlotte chapter of Executive Women International and had also run the Bell service organization Telephone Pioneers, the utility service organization for 5,000 local phone workers. She had the experience, David and Jim saw she would be a great choice and made Sandy an offer she just couldn't refuse! Her Rotary career started January 2002 and we are the true beneficiaries. Sandy was sponsored by Catherine Browning and became a member of the Club in 2005. Sandy and husband Jim have been married for 40 years, moved to the Lake Norman area in 1986 and now call Denver home. They unfortunately had an infant death after 4 days in 1979 and in 1981 had daughter Ashely Cole Osborne. Ashely is a Novant RN, married to Brad Little and they have 3 year old Ethan and 1 year old Morgan. Due to Brad and Ashely's work schedule, Sandy and Jim have the grans most weekends.....whew, that Sandy is a busy grandma!!

Great job to our 3 presenters and thank you for sharing HIGWIA!!

Speaker Write-Up: George MacBain

Head Table: *Tom Bartholomy, Chris Kemper, Robbie Kirk, Tripp Guin*; Invocation: *David Anderson*; Visitors & Guests: *Ken Poe*; History Moment: *David Zimmerman*; AV: *Jessica Dupree, Steve Eanes*; Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*

CLUB NEWS

Terri DeBoo introduced new member **Rhonda York**. Rhonda is president of TeamWide Solutions and provides leadership development through one-on-one coaching, directional consulting, training, assessments, and facilitating. Send a note of welcome to Rhonda at ryork@teamwidesolutions.com.

HAS ANYONE THOUGHT ABOUT BEING A HOST FAMILY? **Chuck Cocke** has confirmed no leads on a host family for Henrik. If you know anyone that attends Providence Day, please spread the word. The club will **welcome 16 year-old Henrik from St. Waldens near Frankfurt Germany on August 21st**. Henrik will attend Providence Day. If you are interested in serving as a host family for his first three months, please get in touch with **Chuck Cocke**, 704-578-5478 or chuck.cocke@gmail.com.

Ken Samuelson has created an opportunity for people who were inspired by Ruth's life to gather and hear about the principles that drove her life, her love for God, and for people. A Gathering of Friends will take place June 16th, 7-9PM at The Great Aunt Stella Center, 926 Elizabeth Avenue to hear thoughts of author Ken Boa on faith and eternity, and the music of composer and pianist Stanton Lanier. [Click to RSVP to Sam Blumenthal](#).

Reminder that **tables for new members** will be set up next week, June 6th.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016 318

05/30/2017 311

Net Increase: -7

New Members: Robert Salmon, George Gabel, Jonathan Schulz, Victor Chen, Rhonda York

Resignations: Henry Snead, Fred Lowrance, Street Brewer, Christian Hidden

Visitors & Guests 6

Club Members 136

Total 142 (50.9%)

Guests: Ed Garber, Myra Johnston, Chris Jackson, Beverly Stevenson, Mark Lane, Lynn Lee

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (06/08/17 – 06/14/17)

06/08 Tom Wright

06/09 Henry Bostic, Alex Browning

06/11 Tom Bartholomy, Lee Morris

06/12 Suzanne Bledsoe

06/13 Chris Thomas

06/14 Jay Westmoreland, Jennifer Nichols

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (06/08/17 – 06/14/17)

06/08 Julie & John Armistead, Eileen Keeley & Pat Millen

06/09 Linda & John Shell

06/11 Nancy & Bob Fuzy

06/12 Rhonda & Bill York, Karen & Herb Harriss

06/12 Ashley & Mark Duncan, Claudia & Wes Sturges

06/13 Deborah & Steve Meckler

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

- **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: 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 17, 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@carolyncarlburg.com.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

06/06 – Chief Kerr Putney, Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Department

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](#)

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



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Rotary Club of Charlotte