

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

April 17, 2018

Rhett Mabry – The Duke Endowment

Spirit of genius. Legacy of Hope.



Since 1992, Rhett Mabry has been with the James B. Duke (The Duke Endowment) serving as Associate Director of Health Care, Director of Child Care and Vice President before becoming President in 2016. Mabry is a native of Greensboro, N.C. and earned a Master of Health Administration from Duke University and a bachelor's degree from UNC Chapel Hill.

Before joining the Endowment, he was a manager at Ernst & Young and HCA West Paces Ferry Hospital. He has served on the North Carolina Governor's Early Childhood Advisory Council and the board of the North Carolina Center for Public Policy Research. He is a past board chair of the Southeastern Council of Foundations, and serves as an Observer to the Duke University Board of Trustees.

Mabry started his presentation by sharing some history about James Buchanan Duke. Born in December 1856 near Durham, he grew up on a small farm with a widowed father. After the Civil War devastated the Carolina countryside, the Duke family began growing and selling tobacco. In 1874, the Dukes opened a tobacco factory in Durham, where they were among the first cigarette manufacturers to adopt machine production on a large scale. Duke was ahead of his time on many fronts including advertising and market research. Mabry told the story of how James Duke would conduct his own market research by picking up cigarette butts on the streets of New York City to see which brands were most popular. By 1911 antitrust legislation was enacted causing many of their products to spin-off.

By 1902 Duke was planning his next enterprise: hydroelectric development of the western Carolinas. He bought land and built dams and persuaded risk-averse mill owners to use the new source of energy. By the 1920s, Duke's Southern Power Company was the leading electric utility in the western Carolinas. Today, it's known as Duke Energy.

The Duke Endowment seeks to fulfill the visionary genius and innovative legacy of James Buchanan Duke, one of the great industrialists and philanthropists of the 20th century.

Mabry stated that they work through community partners and organizations to identify where grant funding can make an effective and lasting impact in four program areas:

Child Care (Funded at 10%)

Support of early intervention, collaborative approaches, and projects that help organizations serve children and their families more effectively. They focus on advancing evidence-based, nationally recognized practices that promote child well-being.

Health Care (Funded at 32%)

Remove barriers and improve the lives of individuals in North Carolina and South Carolina by working to expand prevention and early intervention programs, to improve the quality and safety of services, and to increase access to care.

Higher Education (Funded at 46%)

They work through select colleges and universities (Davidson College, Duke University, Furman University and Johnson C. Smith University) to support undergraduate programs, scholarships, professorships and faculty with the goal of educating people whose future contributions will benefit society.

Rural Church (Funded at 12%)

By developing rural United Methodist churches and supporting their clergy leaders, we aim to expand church outreach across North Carolina. We work collaboratively with the North Carolina and Western North Carolina conferences of the United Methodist Church and Duke Divinity School to help rural churches serve their neighbors.

Recently, the Duke Endowment board voted to place more emphasis on funding programming and initiatives targeted on the population birth to third grade (or ages 0 to 8). Current day research, such as emerging brain science research demonstrates that early intervention helps children achieve higher cognitive function. Support of children and families contribute to fewer children in the welfare system. By investing in academic achievement, you have a more educated society. By providing means to a healthy start in life you have a healthier population, and by engaging congregations you have stronger communities.

Mabry wrapped up by quoting Aristotle – a framed quote in his office left to him by his predecessor Gene Cochrane.

To give away money ... is an easy matter and in any man's power. But to decide whom to give it and how large and when, and for what purpose and how, is neither in every man's power nor an easy matter.

Speaker Write-Up: Kim McMillan; *Head Table:* Phil Van Hoy, Katie Tyler, Edwin Peacock, Governor Scott Van Der Linden, David Erdman; *Invocation:* David Anderson; *Visitors & Guests:* Mark Norman; *Photos:* Bert Voswinkel

CLUB NEWS



It is with great sadness to let you know **Tom Robertson** passed away April 17, 2018. As his wife Barbara so lovingly said, William Thomas (Tom) Robertson, Jr. died at the age of 86 at The Cypress following a full and wonderful life. Tom served as our Rotary club president in 2003-2004, Assistant Governor in 2007-2009. Tom graduated from Virginia Tech with a BS in Engineering and he and Barbara were very proud of the endowed scholarship established in their name at the College of Engineering at VT. Tom loved his family and is survived by his wife of 62 years, Barbara. Also, their two sons Mark and Jeff and their families. The Robertsons were long time members of Hawthorne United Methodist Church and it was a great honor to have completed the club's 100th service project working with Room At The Inn at their church. Funeral services will be at Hawthorne United Methodist Church on Saturday, April 21 at 12:00pm. In lieu of flowers, please give to The Salvation Army, Hawthorne Lane United's Permanent Endowment Fund, or The William T. and Barbara F. Robertson College of Engineering Endowment Fund.



Welcome new members and dynamic husband and wife team....**Suzie** and **Todd Ford!** **Em Syrewicze** and **Phil Volponi** are delighted to serve as their Rotary sponsor. Todd is a former pilot who has always enjoyed brewing small batch beers. Suzie is the detail-oriented one that once worked in motorsports marketing. The couple opened NoDa Brewing Company on October 29, 2011 and served over 1000 folks that day. These two are ready to roll up their sleeves and get to work – Suzie has a passion for literacy and Todd is a golfer. Great to have you in the club! Suzie: suzie@nodabrewing.com. Todd: todd@nodabrewing.com.

Elly Clary participated in the Cooper River Bridge 10K on April 7. Finish time was 1:06:23. **John Tabor** had knee replacement surgery on April 17 and will be on the mend for a while. **Jeff Searcy** had a nasty fall and has broken 5 ribs!

Bryan Adams has asked if there are club members whose business has a need for a college student to hire over the summer. That question could apply to others in the club and if you have a suggestion or can help out in any way, let Bryan (bryan.adams@vradlaw.com) or Sandy (sandy@charlotterotary.org) know.



Governor Scott Van Der Linden made a very special tribute to **Mark Markanda** this week. Mark's 41 year Rotary history is absolutely legendary and his achievements are many. Rotary International and The Rotary Foundation have awards in place to recognize Rotarians that exhibit exemplary service. Mark has received the Citation for Meritorious Service Award (1989-1990; 325 awards presented on average), Distinguished Service Award (1993-1994; max of 50 presented annually), Service Above Self Award (1997-1998; max of 50 presented annually), and International Service Award for a Polio Free World (2001-2002; max of 10 presented annually). Mark is one of 17 Rotarians to have received the Polio Plus Pioneer Award. This award is for Rotarians who performed exceptional meritorious service to the ultimate cause of polio eradication prior to November, 1992. Congratulations Mark.

DISTRICT CONFERENCE: Rotary Districts 7680 and 7750 are teaming up to host a joint conference May 18-20, 2018 in Charleston. The conference will be held at the Charleston Convention Center with hotel accommodations at Embassy Suites by Hilton. Scheduled to speak: Immediate Past RI President John Germ and RI Director-Elect David Stovall will talk about how Rotary is making a difference throughout the world. SC Attorney General Alan Wilson will speak about human trafficking. And, business consultant Peter Chatel will talk about leadership. 202 Rotarians have already signed up to attend. Conference registration is \$150; hotel is \$170 per night and sign up is available on the database (DACdb.com). This conference is open to everyone.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2017	309
04/17/2018	292
Net Increase:	-17

New Members: Brian Carn, Christy Majors, Suzie Ford, Todd Ford

Resignations: Steve Byrum, Susan Evans, Tom Robertson (deceased)

Visitors 7
Club Members 121
Total 128(49.6%)

Visitors & Guests: Bob McCarter, Ronald Belton, Skip Berry, Rich Bovard, Assistant Governor Mike Walker, Governor Scott Van Der Linden, Linwood Bolles,

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (04/26/18 – 04/25/18)

04/26 Ronnie Pruett, Biff Virkler
04/27 Rex Welton
04/28 Graham Wilson
04/29 John Powell, Marcus Lee
04/30 Jessica Dupree
05/01 Carla DuPuy

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (04/26/18 – 05/02/18)

04/26 Linda & Rudy Rudisill
04/27 Karen & Rob Calder, Claire & Tom Blocker
05/02 Devon & Parker Cains
05/02 Summer & Neal Triompo, Suzanne & Louis Bledsoe, Jill & Ron Mikels

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (04/26/18 – 05/02/18)

01 year – Robert Salmon
04 years – Terence Gordon
08 years – Lisa Mask
23 years – Ed Kizer
25 years – Bill Nichols
34 years – Bert Voswinkel, Bob Brietz, Leland Park, Phil Van Hoy
45 years – Bob Freeman

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

04/24 Chef Alyssa Gorelick, Chef Alyssa's Kitche
05/01 Dr. Clayton Wilcox, Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools
05/08 Tai Jaiyeoba, City of Charlotte Planning Director

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





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