

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

March 20, 2018

PAUL COZZA

North Carolina State Ports Authority



Our Speaker on Tuesday, March 20th, 2018 was Paul Cozza who heads up the North Carolina State Ports Authority. He was introduced by fellow Rotarian Greg Sizemore of the US Department of Commerce-Charlotte. Mr. Cozza is a West Point graduate and has held positions with The CSL Group, The Maersk Group, Sea-Land Service, Inc. and CSX Corporation before joining the North Carolina State Ports

Authority.

Paul opened his remarks with a discussion of the great benefits ports are to trade in North Carolina and to economic development in general. There are two locations in North Carolina:

1. Wilmington – primarily a containers port which currently accepts approximately 525 ship/year
2. Morehead City – 120 acre facility accepting approximately 160 bulk non-container ships/year (i.e. cars, grain, etc.)

In North Carolina the ports run like a business. They generate a P&L and include a Board of Directors and CEO. There are NO state monies for operations, though NC does/has provided capitalization money. Last year, annual revenue was \$55M which generated a profit of \$4.1M.

The goal of the Ports Authority is to make our ports the most efficient in the country. To that end, the work through now is efficient customs, short ship turnaround, and efficient transfer (quick cargo out) from ship to train and/or to truck.

An important aspect of our ports' abilities and efficiencies is that North Carolina is import/export neutral balanced with more exports than imports, unlike the rest of the country as a whole.

Currently, our primary competition is Savannah with other commercial ports in Charleston, Newport News and Jacksonville. Savannah is the largest container port on the East Coast. To drive our ports' competitiveness through port development, Paul outlined some options they are pursuing:

1. Ships use the same routes each week via Asia, US, wherever. "Steal" these routes from other ports

2. Develop more route options, i.e. through Latin America
3. Deepen our rivers so North Carolina can accept larger ships. The example here is the Panama Canal. Prior to expansion, the canal could only accept 3400-4500 TEUs. Now it can accept 24,000 TEUs, which no US port can accept. That delivery is limited to European and Asian ports.

The largest GDP US entity is behind in port development. Wilmington can accept up to 9000 TEUs allowing one ship at a time. The Wilmington goal is to have capacity to accept two larger ships at a time by 2023 which will require a deepening of the current 42 foot channel.

Charlotte's Role For Future Development

Interior land ports such as Charlotte's CSX Intermodal Terminal ultimately help make the entire shipping process more efficient via our airport and rail terminals. Charlotte now has the Queen City Express, a premier rail service with double-stacked trains arriving on a daily basis. The facility provides customs-clearance to expedite delivery and transport.

The challenge is while North Carolina is the 9th most populous state in the country, Charleston ports accept 75% of North Carolina imports! Our rail development is a key to driving competitiveness and opportunity growth as rail, not trucks, is the most efficient transport link.

Speaker Write-Up: Ed Wadsworth; *Head Table:* Eric Davis, Katie Tyler, Greg Sizemore, Herb Harriss; *Invocation:* Cheryl Banks; *Visitors & Guests:* Harriman Jett; *Photos:* Bert Voswinkel; *AV:* Jessica Dupree; *Piano:* Em Syrewicze

CLUB NEWS

Thanks to those that volunteered to plant trees at Community House School over the weekend. 21 Rotarians out of the 86 attendees were from Charlotte Rotary. **Phil Volponi** has co-chaired this event for five years and presented the Club's check for \$5000 to TreesCharlotte. Thanks, also, to **Bob & Robert Freeman** for providing BBQ from SMS Catering.

If you are planning a platelet donation, you have 11 days before the challenge wraps up. Report your donation to John zumBrunnen, jzumbrunnen@zumbrunnen.com.

Henry Cantrell is very proud of his brother, John, who was named Distinguished Person of the Year by the Rotary Club of Morganton. This award was first presented in 1948 and recognizes a person who has contributed significantly to the betterment of the community.

Kim Brattain, Kandi Deitemeyer and **Dena Diorio** are among the 50 Most Influential Women that will be recognized by The Mecklenburg Times at their May 18th Awards Gala.

John Lassiter will receive the 2018 Harold P. Josephson Award at the World Affairs Council of Charlotte Award Dinner on May 8th. This award is given to individuals who have contributed significantly to the WACC and the international life of the community.

Rotary Means Business is an official Fellowship of Rotary International that provides an opportunity to build professional connections. Next meeting – May 27th, 6PM-8:30PM at Del Frisco's. Tickets (\$20): rmb7680.eventbrite.com.



Better Business Bureau President Tom Bartholomy thanking Julie Haack, Donald Haack Diamonds for serving 2.5 years as BBB Board Chair. Julie stepped in when the BBB board president passed away and has served longer than any other BBB Board Chair. She is also the first Chairman whose father – Donald Haack – also served as BBB Board Chair.

Queen City Honor Flight was created as a way to honor veterans for their service and sacrifice. The May 26, 2018 flight will transport 100 veterans (WWII, Korean, and Vietnam) to see their memorials in Washington, DC. Guardians are needed (\$400) and the cut off is April 1, 2018. Visit Queen City Honor Flight for additional information/application.



CREW Charlotte's Signature Luncheon featuring Erin Brockovich will be held May 15 at The Westin, 11am-1pm. For more information, contact Executive Director, Patty Drummond: executive@crewcharlotte.org.

MEMBERSHIP

| | |
|---------------|-----|
| 07/01/2017 | 309 |
| 03/20/2018 | 293 |
| Net Increase: | -16 |

New Members: Neal Triompo, Rohan Paul

Resignations: Patricia Zoder, Warren Henderson, Dick Reiling

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|--------------|-----------|
| Visitors | 13 |
| Club Members | 127 |
| Total | 140 (51%) |

Visitors & Guests: Scott Griffin, Diane Restaino, Andrew Brattain Paustian, Kristina Crews, Josh Ward, Carlton Crump, David Broadie, Frank Mueller, Noemi Santana, Diane Hartjes, Bill McMahan, Frank Steward, Linwood Bolles

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (03/29/18 – 03/28/18)

03/29 Eric Davis

03/30 David Tobin

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (03/29/18 – 04/04/18)

04/02 Michaele & Greg Sizemore

04/04 Debbie & Bill Constangy

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

03/27 Matt Olin, Founder, Creative Mornings Charlotte
04/03 Spencer Merriweather, Mecklenburg County DA
04/10 How I Got Where I'm At – Business Owner Edition
04/17 Rhett Mabry, Duke Endowment
04/24 Chef Alyssa Gorelick, Chef Alyssa's Kitchen

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





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