

Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

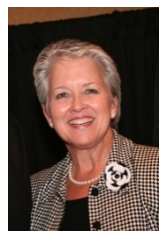
June 25, 2013

Charter Date December 1, 1916 Club 6006 District 7680
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Sharon Decker

NC Department of Commerce Secretary

By: Jim Kelley



Bill Constangy, Superior Court Judge, introduced our speaker, Sharon Decker, the NC Department of Commerce Secretary. Sharon is a woman of faith and a dynamic business and civic leader, having over 30 years of hands on experience in business and commerce including 17 years at Duke Power, now Duke Energy, where she became its youngest and first woman Vice-President. Later she was the founding President of the Lynnwood Foundation that restored the Duke Mansion as a conference center and leadership institute followed by being President of the Doncaster Division of Tanner Industries. She also served on the board of directors of three Fortune 500 companies and was named Charlotte Woman of the Year in 1998, while serving as the President of the Charlotte Chamber of Commerce. Sharon also found time to serve as CEO of two small businesses and the non-profit Tapestry group, be a lay pastor in a Presbyterian church, a chaplain to UVA law students and work toward the completion of a Masters in Divinity degree at the Christopher White School of Divinity.

Sharon said she loves Rotary having been part of a group study for five weeks to Sweden in 1984. She was the second woman approved for membership at Dilworth Rotary Club and spoke to our club with Bill Lee on quality initiatives in 1988. She stated that as a lay Presbyterian pastor, prayer was an important skill she used in her job as NC Secretary. Her main focus is jobs for North Carolinians. There has been a net job decline for five years in our state. In fact, 22 of North Carolina's counties have had double digit unemployment for seven years. We need to change the way we recruit businesses and realize that private enterprise, not the state, will change the economy. For example, in 2012, the film industry accounted for \$376 million and over 20,000 jobs. Exports out of North Carolina accounted for \$29 billion yet only one to two percent of companies export their goods out of North Carolina. There is a great deal of potential for that to increase.

As one way to refocus the state economy, the Department is developing a public private partnership so we can have greater speed and agility in getting packages for new and growing businesses. Currently we are losing business to other states because our state is too slow to put these packages together. Sharon said the Department is focusing on five core areas of activities to help drive the economy. First is a health; specifically focusing on clean air, health care, livability, healthy employees. Second is education; specifically with a modernized focus on textiles and farming. That new focus is on advanced manufacturing and agribusiness and our community colleges like CPCC are helping educate people in those areas of work. Third is economic development; specifically focusing on infrastructure, recruiting and connectivity. Fourth is tourism, arts and culture; specifically focusing on areas such as film and sports. With tourism, we don't have to educate those who visit our state and don't have to take care of

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

JULY 2013

2nd **Meeting Cancelled
For Holiday**

9th **President's
Changeover**
Marilynn Bowler/John Tabor

16th **Dan Murrey**
CEO, Ortho Carolina

23rd **Bobbie Shields**
Interim County Manager

30th **Fred Cole**
Dept. of Agriculture and
General Manager Charlotte
Farmer's Market

12:30 Tuesday

Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42974089870/>

them when they are older. Fifth is quality of life and the environment; specifically focusing on our friendliness, our philanthropy, our congregations, our access to the beach and the mountains, our grass and our trees.

Leading change is difficult but necessary. We have to decide what to stop doing, what to start doing and what to change how we are doing things. Our state government is too slow and Sharon hopes to have the Department take a stronger effort on the sales and marketing side of commerce so we can act quicker and with more agility. Going forward she hopes to use states such as Indiana and Missouri as models of how to operate.

Head Table: David Anderson, Pete Marriott, Marilyn Bowler, Bill Constangy, Edwin Peacock, Karen Bentley; Invocation: John Galles
 Visitors & Guests: Herb Harriss; Song: Bill Griffin; Health, Happiness & History: Tony Zeiss
 AV: Jessica Dupree & Nikki Keith; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

CLUB NEWS

→ **Karen Simon** is looking at one more month medical leave, which will give the bones in her broken elbow more time to heal; add **Carol Jordan** to the list of broken bones and stitches....Carol fell last week and had to have stitches in her face and has broken her right arm; **Meg McElwain** and sweet Baby Mitchell checked into Hemby Children’s Hospital on Monday for a two to three week stay. Mitchell received his last high dose of chemotherapy on Wednesday. Still looking at moderate to low doses of chemo for the next year; **Mike Rash....**I expect you’re reading this newsletter and we would love to hear from you. Healing thoughts and prayers to all.

→ **Phil Van Hoy** shared pictures of first grandchild, Hill; Scott and **Penny Hefner** welcomed Lake Alan Hefner into the world on May 10, 2013. Lake weighed in at 7 pounds and 1 ounce. All are doing great; **Bob James, Tod Thorne** and their team of shooters took overall high place, out of 235 shooters at CPCC’s Sporting Clays Classic in May. Proceeds from this event go to Veterans and First Responders educational needs at CPCC; **Ralston Pound** celebrated **63 years** of perfect attendance in Rotary on June 25th; **Jim Barnhardt** met up with daughter, Elizabeth, for a bicycle trip through Holland.

→ **Karen Bentley** was named to the board of Carolina Breast Friends; **Tony Zeiss** was on hand for the dedication of the new Howard R. Levine Veterans Resource Center at the Levine Campus in Matthews.

→ The **Tabor** family is attending the RI Convention in Lisbon, Portugal this week. John called on Monday to say it has been a great and impressive experience.

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments/questions to the Rotary office by 7/2/13)

Claire Fallon
 Councilwoman
 Classification: Government Official
 Sponsor: Luther Moore
 Endorsed: Phil Volponi, Pender McElroy

John Gregory Crumpton (Greg)
 Airtight Mechanical, Inc.
 Classification: Computer, Environmental Conditioning
 Sponsor: Jessica Dupree
 Endorsed: Todd Stevens, Sandy Osborne

| Attendance | <u>06/25/2013</u> | <u>06/26/2012</u> | Membership | New Members: Mason Alexander, Mark Markanda |
|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------------|--|
| Visitors & Guests | 18 | 10 | 07/01/2012 316 | |
| Club Members | 156 | 158 | 06/25/2013 316 | |
| Total Attendance | 174 | 168 | Net Increase | Resignations: Elsie Garner, Ed Ruff, Scott Anderson, Nick Whitenburg, Jack Smylie |
| Percentage | 55.5% | | | |
| Birthdays July 3 - 15 | | Anniversaries July 3 - 15 | | |
| 03 Brent Trexler | 04 Tom Robertson | 04 Heidi & Mike Frankson | 06 Phyllis & Bill Gill | |
| 04 David Erdman | 08 Dale LeCount | 07 Penny & Charlie Bones | 09 Barbara & Tom Robertson | |
| 08 Rex Savery | 09 Charlie Bones | 10 Cynthia & Tom Marshall | 11 Anja & David Zimmerman | |
| 10 Ron Kimble | 12 Harry Workman | 13 Marilyn & Bob Bowler | | |
| 13 Herb Harriss | 14 Jerry Bryson | | | |
| 15 Wells Van Pelt | 15 Erskine Harkey | | | |

THE YEAR IN REVIEW

Community Service

Hoops Madness for Mitchell's Fund - \$2,000

When club member Meg McElwain's three month old son, Mitchell was diagnosed with a rare form of Leukemia, members of Charlotte Rotary went into full swing to do whatever necessary to provide support to the family. Just as Mitchell was diagnosed, the family was in the process of buying a new home. Twenty volunteers from Charlotte Rotary worked for two days to get everything packed up, moved out and set up at the new house. A program to coordinate delivery of meals (Food Tidings) was set up and between Rotary, Avondale Presbyterian Daycare and Myers Park United Methodist Church, four meals a week were provided to Meg, Frank and three-year-old Little Frank for the next ten months. The family established the Mitchell Bays Turner Pediatric Fund at Presbyterian Healthcare Foundation and in addition to the most recent donation to support Hoops Madness, club members raised \$1000 through the sale of "Praying for Mitchell" wrist bands.

TreesCharlotte Foundation - \$2,500

TreesCharlotte is a public/private collaborative dedicated to planting 15,000 trees annually through volunteer efforts. Eleven club members gathered to plant twenty-one trees in the Southside Park Community on March 23, 2013.

Rotary Club of New York - \$1,000

Donation to the New York Rotary Foundation's Hurricane Sandy Relief Fund

Charlotte Rescue Mission - \$700

Forty-five volunteers (19 Rotarians/26 family & friends) served breakfast on Christmas morning to clients served by Charlotte Rescue Mission.

CARTS - \$5,000

Donation to support Coins for Alzheimers Research Trust

Charlotte Mecklenburg Schools Flag Project - \$3,676

American flags were purchased to replace torn and tattered flags in eighty-five schools throughout Charlotte Mecklenburg. Charlotte Rotary partnered with Rotary Clubs of Ballantyne, Charlotte East, Charlotte Evening, Charlotte International, Charlotte North, Charlotte South, Charlotte SouthPark, Charlotte University City, Charlotte West, Davidson, Matthews, Mecklenburg County South and North Mecklenburg on (partial) funding and deliveries to the schools.

Dictionary Project (Kilimanjaro) - \$60

Purchased dictionaries for John Tabor to take on his climb to Mt. Kilimanjaro

Dictionary Project (Rotary Club of The Jefferson's) - \$546

Purchased 312 dictionaries to be distributed to third graders in Ashe County

Dictionary Project - \$4,900

A \$2000 District Simplified Grant was added to the club's literacy budget to bring a total donation of \$4900 to provide dictionaries to third graders in Stanley County, Albemarle, Wadesboro and ten elementary schools in Charlotte-Mecklenburg. A total of 2112 dictionaries were bookmarked with the Four-Way Test and presented to the students.

Mecklenburg County Council, Boy Scouts of America - \$2,000

Table for eight to support 2013 Boy Scouts Leadership Dinner.

Crisis Assistance Ministry Clothing Drive

Charlotte Rotary has run a month-long campaign to collect warm clothing for men, women, and children; bedding; and kitchen items for about twelve years.

Salvation Army Bell Ringing

Sixty volunteers (Rotarians & family) signed up to ring the bell on the Square for the Salvation Army. The club operates two shifts a day for three weeks during the month of November.

Computer Collection/Recycling Project

The club partnered with Goodwill Industries to conduct a computer recycling project during the month of April. Items were dropped off at club meetings and basically anything with an off/on switch was accepted: computers, printers, monitors, scanners, audio equipment, cell phones circuit boards, telephones, cameras, video games, cords....disposal of such items in a landfill is against the law.

Second Helping - \$1,000

Second Helping helps recently incarcerated women reenter society, reestablish positive relationships and achieve self-sufficiency through employment. Funding will be used to support a mobile coffee station (cart) in the Freedom Drive headquarters of Goodwill Industries.

Queens University of Charlotte - \$1,000

Support for the Collaborative Learning Center at Queens University.

Vocational Service

Classroom Central - \$2,750

A committee of ten Rotarians volunteer on a monthly basis to provide assistance to teachers shopping for school supplies at Classroom Central. The financial donation is used to purchase books and supplies as needed.

Rose Bowl Parade - \$100

Donation to support Rotary International's exposure through their float in the Rose Bowl Parade

Junior Achievement Biz City - \$2,000

Volunteers assist third graders as they navigate their way through JA's Biz City

Excellence in Management Award - \$400

Charlotte Rotary, Charlotte Business Journal and Charlotte Chamber have partnered for twenty-three years to recognize a community leader that exudes outstanding leadership. Wayland N. Cato, Jr. was the 2012-2013 recipient of the Excellence in Management Award presented January 22, 2013 at Myers Park Country Club.

International Service

Polio Eradication - \$10,000

Donation to The Rotary Foundation to support Polio Eradication

Rotary Peace Centers - \$2,000

Donation to support Rotary's Peace Centers

International Youth Exchange - \$7,000

Sponsor two exchange students (Juan Carlos from Spain and Aliisa from Finland) who are attending Myers Park High School and Charlotte Country Day School – August, 2013 through June, 2013.

Matching Grant - \$4,909

Partnered with the Rotary Club of Chandigarh India on a grant to provide hearing aids and therapy to 100 children and young persons. The grant will also allow one person to receive a cochlear implant. Total donations and matching resulted in grant for \$33,333.

Matching Grant - \$4,250

Partnered with the Rotary Club of Curitiba-Leste Brazil to purchase a van needed to transport children to receive parental care by a step family. These children are taken away from their natural parents by the Municipality Tutelary Council, when it is decided that they are being maltreated and under coerced violence.

Water Project with World Vision - \$5,000

Donation to support the District initiative water project in Ethiopia.

AWOGA Carolinas and The Annie Walsh Memorial School Freetown - \$250

Donation to help freight charges for a sea transport delivering science laboratory equipment donated by Queens University to the Annie Walsh Memorial School in Freetown, Sierra Leone, West Africa.

Friends of OFCB - \$3,190

Donation to support a community garden project in Bayonnais, Haiti. The funding will help sustain a project to benefit local farmers by demonstrating modern farming techniques, and will lead to improved crop yields to help alleviate hunger issues in the community.

New Generations Avenue

Established Rotaract Club at Queens University at Charlotte

The Rotaract Club at Queens University was chartered in December, 2012.

Interact Club at Myers Park High School

The Myers Park Interact Club visits Charlotte Rotary's club members quarterly. They also partner with our club on projects, such as collecting clothing for Crisis Assistance Ministry and the computer environmental project.

Funding for Rotaract/Interact students to attend Peace Conference - \$500

Charlotte Rotary covered the cost to rent a van and transport a group to the Peace Conference in Chapel Hill.

Youth Merit Awards - \$11,500

A high school senior from twenty-three of Charlotte Mecklenburg's public and private schools are the recipients of a \$500 youth merit award and are also recognized at an annual club meeting.

CPCC Foundation - \$2,000

The 1921 Rotary Scholarship has converted to a Designated Fund, sending the annual spendable to CPCC Foundation to provide undergraduate scholarships to students participating in their College Transfer Fund.

Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic

The club's 10th Annual Scholarship Golf Classic was held in September with net proceeds of around \$50,000. Children of our public defenders – sheriff, police, fire and medic – are the recipients of a \$1500 scholarship that is renewable for four years. To date, fifty-seven scholarships have been awarded.