

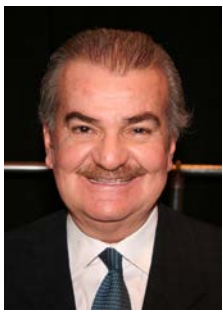
Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

March 19, 2013

Charter Date December 1, 1916 Club 6006 District 7680
www.charlotterotary.org

Carlos Flores-Vizcarra General Consul of Mexico By: Jim Kelley



Wayne Cooper, the Honorary Consul of Mexico introduced our speaker, Carlos Flores-Vizcarra, the Consul General of Mexico in Raleigh. As a context to introducing Carlos, Wayne mentioned that he moved to Charlotte from Mexico City in 1976. He also mentioned that the Consul General post in Raleigh represented the only Consul General in North Carolina from any country. As Consul General, Carlos looks after citizens of Mexican ancestry in North Carolina. His primary focus is jobs. In the year 2000, there were three employees in the office in Raleigh. Currently there are 45 jobs connected to the Carlos's office. In 2009, the President of Mexico elevated the office in Raleigh to the level of Consul General. Carlos studied and received his master's degree in France. He was a university professor and has held other high level positions in the Mexican Foreign Service. He was most recently the Consul General in Arizona working with Sheriff Joe in Phoenix.

Carlos mentioned that as a member of the Mexican Foreign Service his focus was on the good of others and on service. He focused on relationships and on friendship first. He said he would talk about three things in his remarks – Latinos in the United States and North Carolina; the current economic trends as they relate to Latinos; and the demographics of Latinos.

Latinos in the United States and North Carolina. Latinos are growing in importance in the United States. Latinos in the United States represent the 15th largest consumer market in the world. To put that in perspective the United States is the #1 consumer market and the country of Mexico is the 13th largest consumer market. They represent over \$1 trillion in purchasing power in the United States. In 2010, Mexico represented over \$400 billion in trade with the United States representing the US's 3rd largest commercial partner. Trade with Mexico provides 6 million jobs in the US. Carlos mentioned that Mexico is the 3rd largest market for North Carolina exports. The two largest markets are Canada and China. In 2012, there were \$2.3 billion in North Carolina exports to Mexico.

The current economic trends as they relate to Latinos. In 2010, Latinos represented 9.9% of the workforce in North Carolina with over 478,000 jobs. 70% of those workers are Mexican. They represent over \$14 billion in purchasing power in North Carolina. If all the illegals in North Carolina left our state tomorrow, we would lose \$14.5 billion and 101,000 jobs.

Demographics of Latinos

In the US, there are 315 million people. Just over 50 million are Latinos (16%) and of those, 32 million are Mexicans. As a comparison, there are 39 million African Americans in the US. In 2050 there will be 133 million Latinos representing up to 30% of the population.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

MARCH 2013

26th **Harry Jones**
Mecklenburg County Manager

APRIL 2013

2nd **Tom Skains**
President and CEO
Piedmont Natural Gas

9th **Billy Packer**
Sportscaster and Author

16th **Youth Exchange Students**
Aliisa and Juan Carlos

12:30 Tuesday
Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

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

CLUB NEWS

- **Phil Volponi** was pleased to introduce his longtime friend, **Bobby Sabates** as a new member on Tuesday. Bobby's family is very active in Rotary in Cuba and the US and in fact, it was his mother that encouraged him to join the club. Bobby is with Mercedes Benz of South Charlotte and can be reached at bsabates@mbcharlotte.com. **Karen Calder** introduced **Matthew Brown**, who is a former member of the Mt. Airy Rotary Club and Paul Harris Fellow. Matthew is a sales manager with Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices and can be reached at matthewpaulbrown@aol.com. Welcome to Charlotte Rotary!
- **Meg McElwain** provided an update on Mitchell, who has had a pretty rough couple of weeks. Fortunately, his blood counts have jumped to a healthy place and he was released from the hospital Tuesday afternoon. Meg reminded everyone of Hoops Madness for Mitchell's Fund that will be held March 23, 5:00 – 10:00 at Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. She is also sporting a beautiful bald head as a way to support Mitchell and all people fighting cancer.
- **Bill Bartee** read this week's Rotary message: March is World Literacy month. One of Rotary's six areas of focus is basic education and literacy, which we support with our monthly gifts and our dictionary project. Consider a contribution to our Foundation at www.rotary.org/contribute.
- **Karen Bentley** introduced Tom Derham, who provided an update on the Citizens Revaluation Advisory Committee. Tom is looking for volunteers to sit on the review board that would include two full mornings a week for four or five weeks. The deadline is March 22....Tom or Karen would appreciate hearing from you ASAP.
- **Michael Elder** reports the computer recycling project with Goodwill Industries is almost here! For the first four Tuesdays in April, a table will be set up in the hotel parking deck where you can drop off any type of computer or computer related item...printers, monitors, keyboards, external devices...any condition, working or not. A full listing of what is accepted can be found here www.charlotterotary.org.
- The Charlotte Rescue Mission needs volunteers to make Easter more than just a mid-day meal. Volunteer opportunities include serving breakfast to guests starting at 6 AM or helping distribute 400 pairs of tennis shoes. Shifts are broken down into three shifts. Information and registration here: www.charlotterescuemission.org/easter-volunteering.
- Thanks to our Classroom Central volunteers: **Paul Wyche, Elsie Garner, Greg Jones, Bill Allen** and the newest volunteer, **Charlie Williams**. As mentioned last week, Classroom Central has a real need for school supplies. Pens, pencils, paper, rulers, glue sticks are at an all-time low and they could use your help! Drop off items at the check-in desk next Tuesday. Also, the next volunteer date is April 11th....love to see you there.
- Charlotte Evening Rotary and Top of the Week Rotary will host a social on March 28 at the Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 6 PM, \$17 per person.

FOUNDATION MESSAGE

John Tabor's latest Foundation points challenge is about to come to a close. If interested, John needs to hear from you by March 27th.

Paul Harris Society: Commit to becoming a Paul Harris Society Member for three years and we'll give you 1,000 points to designate a person as a Paul Harris Fellow.

Never Given: We'll match you 100%. If you will give anything, we will match you. Give \$1 and we'll match that; give \$1,000 and we'll match that. Whatever amount!

Sustaining Member: Commit to becoming a new Sustaining Member for three years and we'll give you 200 points.

First Paul Harris Fellow: We'll match what you give to get your First Paul Harris Fellow.

Attendance	<u>03/19/2013</u>	<u>03/20/2012</u>	Membership		New Members: Heidi Frankson, Pete Marriott, Jermaine Husser, Bobby Sabates, Matthew Brown
Visitors & Guests	14	9	07/01/2012	316	
Club Members	163	158	03/19/2013	320	
Total Attendance	177	167	Net Increase	+4	Resignations:
Percentage	57%				
Birthdays March 26 – April 1			Anniversaries March 26 – April 1		
26 Mike Crum	26 Bill Allen		26 Jane and Paul Schmidt		31 Mary Helen and Greg Jones
26 Brian Huber	28 Alan Simonini				
29 Eric Davis	30 David Tobin				
30 Mark Erwin	30 Arch McIntosh				