



Charlotte Reporter The Rotary Club of Charlotte May 6, 2013

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

HOW I GOT WHERE I'M AT

By: Rick Handford

Tony Marciano presented us with three very accomplished Rotarians who traveled very different roads to get to where they are.



Jerry Coughter, Executive Director of UNC Charlotte Center City, has taken an academic route. Born in Connecticut, he received a BS from Clemson University, a Master of Science from Virginia Commonwealth University, and an MBA from Shenandoah University. Jerry cites his father as the person who put him on the road to success—he “hit the lottery” with his dad. His dad was born to illiterate Irish immigrants in Brooklyn. Along with many others, he joined the Army in

1942, and after returning from the war, he put himself through college and law school on the GI Bill. In addition to Jerry, all five of his siblings also graduated from college.

Jerry is now in his third year in Charlotte and Charlotte Rotary. He lists as formative experiences in Charlotte his opportunity to work with Harvey Gantt and his experience with Leadership Charlotte. On one of his tours of the city, he and his class of 55 found themselves in line at the St. Peter’s soup kitchen with 400 homeless. In conversation with one of them, he found that while he was concerned about whether the food would be good enough, the other man was concerned if there would be enough food for all. This experience, along with his participation in many Rotary service projects, he has come to understand that service is a gift he gives to himself, not to others.



Angela Broome is the Regional Executive Officer for the American Red Cross, which she joined in 2011. She started her talk by quoting Marilyn Monroe, who said, “Give a girl a good pair of shoes and she can do anything.” She pulled out a cowboy boot to represent her upbringing in rural North Carolina. She was born in Mayodan to her tobacco farming father, and her mother, who worked as a secretary at a local mill. She began riding horses at an early age. She came to Charlotte for

high school where she ran track and was a cheerleader, and started her college education at CPCC, and moved on to Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, and returned to get her graduate degree from UNCC. She also went to Queens University and earned her CFP.

She started her career with Transouth Financial, an arm of Ford motor credit, and spent five years repossessing cars. She moved on to First Citizens Bank so she could work with people that actually repaid their loans. She spent fifteen years there; doing all of the jobs that no one else wanted to do (and displayed a red patent leather pump to represent her banker years). She accepted a position with the Red Cross, and found the place where she wanted to be, helping other people who “are in no position to do anything for you.” She pulled out a Red Cross boot to represent their response to disasters, most recently the flooding resulting from the recent heavy rains. She is excited by working with all of the volunteers who devote their time and resources simply because it is the right thing to do.

She then pulled out a track shoe to represent the running that she has to do to keep up with her two boys, and told us that her greatest job was raising them to be good men, who understand the meaning of respect and service to others. She closed with a quote on service from Aubrey Hepburn, read at her funeral, and with thanks to the many members of Charlotte Rotary who helped and mentored her along her way.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

MAY 2013

14th **Dr. Nathan Hatch**
President
Wake Forest University

21st **Youth Merit Awards**

NOTE: meeting will be held at Charlotte Country Club

28th **Frank Whitney**
U.S. District Court Judge

JUNE 2013

4th **Howard Levine**
CEO, Family Dollar Stores

12:30 Tuesday

Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

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

David Anderson, who served as president of Charlotte Rotary in 2002-03, started out by giving credit to his parents for providing him with a solid foundation, teaching him (among many things) that firm boundaries are important, that hard work and honesty pay off, and that you can do anything you want to, as long as you don't mind reading about it in the Charlotte Observer the next day! He gives credit to his time at the Citadel for the lessons of how to live within the honor code, to focus, prioritize, and persevere; to be a part of something bigger than yourself, to take care of others, and that there are no excuses for failure.



He is grateful for his wife, Lucy, who he describes as not judgmental, as loving and caring, and always willing to meet him more than halfway. He is especially grateful that she chose to marry him, "and not that jerk, Stanley." He had a rewarding career in banking with NCNB and then First Union, and left after 20 the spent six years on the Charlotte Planning Commission, including one year as chairman, and was honored to

serve as this club's president.

He then described three life-changing experiences. The first was when his father-in-law taught him, by example, to "Take no offense when none was intended." The second was from "an industrial shrink," who set out to make better leaders by helping them become more aware of themselves. From him he learned to *never give another enough power over you to make you angry*. The third was a near-death experience while whitewater rafting. This changed him from a Sunday Christian to an everyday Christian, and taught him that *faith works*. He describes himself today as "A fortunate guy in many ways—perfect, no way, happy, you bet."

Thanks again to Tony Marciano for putting together one of the best HIGWIA programs I have seen.

Head Table: Thomas Mussoni, Ellen Stahlsmith, Marilynn Bowler, Tony Marciano, David Anderson, Angela Broome, Jerry Coughter
 Invocation: Mary Lynne Calhoun and Father Alex; Visitors & Guests: John Nicolay; Song: Gray Langley; AV: Nikki Keith; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

CLUB NEWS

→ Thanks to **Tony Zeiss** and **Thomas Mussoni** for bringing in two new Rotarians. Tony sponsored **Bryan Mermans**, project architect manager with Jenkins Peer Architects. Bryan can be reached at bmermans@jenkinspeer.com. Thomas sponsored **Chris Connelly**, an attorney in his law firm – Christopher A. Connelly, PA. Reach Chris at cconnelly@connellydefense.com. Membership chair **Terri DeBoo** encourages everyone to bring guests.

→ **Mike Rash** has been moved to rehab and is showing improvement. Cards: 325 Queens Road (28204). **Karen Simon** is down for three months with her broken elbow and arm. Cards: 4913 Cameron Valley Parkway (28210).

→ **Mary Lynne Calhoun** will retire from UNCC after her 30 year career. In fact, the atrium in the College of Education building will be named for Mary Lynne; Laurie and **Dale Gillmore** welcomed the birth of their 3rd daughter – Harper Ryan on May 1st; **Carol Hardison** and Crisis Assistance Ministry commended in a Business Journal article for their good work; Photographed in Society Charlotte magazine while attending various events – Linda & **Rex Welton**, **Meg McElwain** and Anne & **Russell Ranson**.

→ Visit www.tossinfourtykes.org to register or learn more about Charlotte West Rotary's cornhole tournament; visit www.tripsforkidscharlotte.org to learn about Charlotte SouthPark Rotary's bicycle project; Matthews Rotary 4th Annual Spaghetti Dinner, May 10, 5-8PM, Levine Senior Center.

→ Jim Hintz made a very special presentation of a beautiful shawl that Gloria had received during her Rotary travels. As Gloria and daughter Carol were going through personal items, it was Gloria's wish that **Sandy Osborne** receive the shawl. Speaking as the recipient, I have never been more touched and honored by any single event. Thank you, Jim and Gloria.

YOUR TO-DO LIST

- Let Sandy know by May 14 if you plan to attend the May 21 meeting at Charlotte Country Club.
- Select your committee assignment at www.charlotterotary.org.
- Roster updates to Sandy by May 20.

Attendance	<u>05/07/2013</u>	<u>05/08/2012</u>	Membership	New Members: Chris Connelly, Bryan Mermans
Visitors & Guests	8	11	07/01/2012 316	
Club Members	162	156	05/07/2013 318	
Total Attendance	170	167	Net Increase +2	Resignations:
Percentage	57.9%			
Birthdays May 14-20		Anniversaries May 14-20		
14 John Mahaffey	14 Mac McCarley	16 Scarlett & Jay Westmoreland	17 Dee & Bruce Bailey	
14 Bob Culbertson	15 Al Allison	18 Nancy & David Auger	19 Genia & Buddy Chatfield	
15 Rodney Monroe	17 Jill Dineen	20 Jessica & Pete Marriott	20 Shelli & Henry Batten	
20 Dale Gillmore		20 Carter & George MacBain		