

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

April 15, 2014



Dena Diorio

Program: Dena Diorio – County Manager

Westchester (N.Y.) County native Dena Diorio was one of five finalists to become Mecklenburg County Manager and took the helm of the county on January 1, 2014. She came to the county as director of the Department of Financial Services in 2007, and during her tenure oversaw the 2011 county tax revaluation.

With her MPA from Columbia, Dena worked for the City of New York as a line analyst before rising to work in the mayor's office as the city council lobbyist for Rudy Giuliani. She honed her negotiation skills in that role, as only four of the 51 councilmembers at the time were Republicans, as is Giuliani. With government roles in Stamford and Danbury, Conn., she was accustomed to a strong mayor form of government as opposed to the council-manager form of government we have here.

Dena outlined her three responsibilities as making the board happy all the time, community engagement and, last but certainly not least, overseeing a \$1.7 billion budget and 5,000 employees. She drew a parallel between the county and Rotary as those who provide human services to address illiteracy, poverty and homelessness.

A primary focus for Dena has been and continues to be streamlining human services, which she improved by uniting five departments' financial systems into one. She also is passionate about collaborating with homeless service agencies, the sheriff's office and police department and other non-profits to create better outcomes for individuals and families.

An example of such collaboration is MeckFuse, a housing program for homeless men and women with health issues who have been frequent users of Mecklenburg's jail, street camps and shelters. The award-winning program reduces taxpayers' costs through jail avoidance and providing wrap around services to get the homeless on the path of self-sufficiency by providing housing first and services second.

Dorio has seen the reduction of our unemployment rate from 12 percent in 2009 to seven percent now and underscored the ongoing efforts in economic development and job creation. An 11-member small business advisory board is consulting on the areas of code enforcement, tax, zoning and permitting and giving input from an entrepreneurial perspective.

Of the \$1.7 billion county budget, a third is earmarked for education, 20 percent for debt service and the balance for general operations. This leaves little room for making choices with what choices can be made in the budget approval process.

Responding to a question about ethics, Dena recalled the 2008 Giving Tree issue and reinforced that the county ethics policy is reviewed annually. With a chief compliance officer in place, contracts are reviewed and audits of non-profits funded by the county are standard practice now. The county also is implementing fraud and ethics training online for all employees.

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Head Table: Bob Webb, Bob Finley, John Tabor, Dumont Clarke, Patrick Maclsaac, Ben Dobson; Invocation: Alice Harrison; Visitors & Guests: John Nicolay; Health, Happiness & History: Chase Saunders; BBB Moment: Tom Bartholomy; Song: Chris Kemper; AV: Jessica Dupree & Nikki Keith; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

Written by Jill Santuccio

Rotary Peru Trip



Charlotte Rotarians Bob Webb, Bill Bradley, Chris Connelly, and Herb Harriss went to visit Jim Hintz's Rotary mission in Alto Cayma. Collectively our Rotary district and clubs have contributed over \$300,000. Yesterday, the group presented their thoughts and experiences to club. One of the points was sponsoring a child. Chris Connelly and his friends sponsor 37 children. Chris made it a point to visit each child while he was down there.

Go to the Conference – We'll pay Registration



The Club will pay your registration if you attend the District Conference. This is Governor Luther's prominent event. Ramesh Ferris will be our keynote speaker Friday night, followed by Casino Night. We will be doing a service project Saturday afternoon, and

you will find there is plenty of fun, fellowship, and education. See Sandy if you are interested.

Looking for a Champion . . .



Governor Luther has presented an idea for Public Image and Fundraising. A barbeque lunch uptown on election day. As you can image, the Governor is very busy, so we are looking for someone to do a feasibility study. So if you are interested in pursuing this idea, please let Luther or Sandy know.

Computer Round Up



Starting May 1st Charlotte Rotary will collect used technology to give to Goodwill Industries. All technology is welcomed. Goodwill will scrub any hard-drives to remove any personal information. Biff Virkler is heading up this effort

Rotary Youth Exchange

Jana Hendrichs



Nordenham, Germany

15 years old, Fluent in English,
4 siblings, like photography
and plays and sings
in school band

Myers Park High School

**Needs Rotarian host family
8-15 to 11-15**



Raul Santana Silva Nato

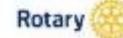


Fiera de Santana, Brazil

17 years old, Fluent in English,
Honors Student, loves science,
sports & his guitar

Charlotte Latin School
(school bus service included)

**Needs Rotarian host family
8-15 to 11-15**



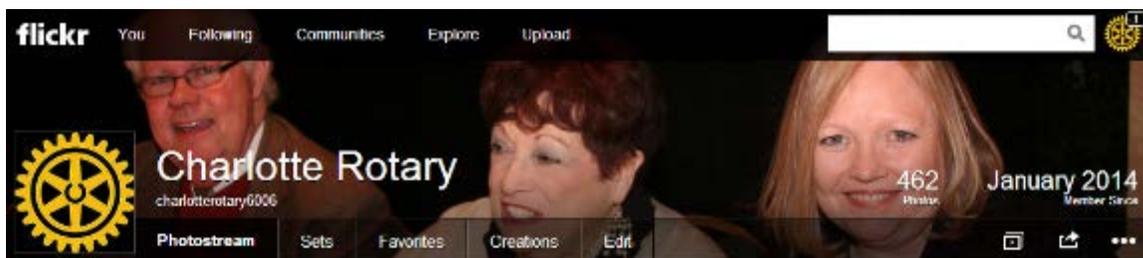
We are looking for host families for next year's RYE students. Each student will live with three host families across the year – each for about 3.5 months. It can be a life changing experience. If you are interested in being a host or a counselor, please see Ed Wadsworth or Sandy.

Photos from the Luncheon





Photos from our luncheons and other events can be found on **Flickr** [Click here](#) and bookmark in your browser.



Other Club News and By The Numbers

- Sweet Baby Mitchell died Sunday, April 13, after his two-year battle with leukemia. The club has been on this journey with **Meg**, Frank and Little Frank from the beginning and we offer prayers and our deepest sympathy. Funeral services will be held at 2:00 PM Wednesday, April 16, at Myers Park United Methodist Church. Visitation will follow the service in Jubilee Hall.
- **Carol Hardison** received Leadership Charlotte's Schley R. Lyons Circle of Excellence Award at their 2014 Leadership Charlotte Legacy Awards Dinner.
- There will be a BBQ dinner (6PM – 9PM) on May 8th at SMS Catering. Tickets are \$50 and all proceeds will fund scholarships for the Gloria Hintz Bridge to Opportunity (Alto Cayma Peru). Contact Sandy for additional information/tickets.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

04/24 Jim Haney
04/26 Natalie English
04/26 Ronnie Pruett
04/26 Biff Virkler
04/27 Rex Welton

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

04/24 Fae and Bob Shaffer
04/24 Dianne and Jesse Hite

04/24 Courtney and Fernando Ycaza

04/26 Linda and Rudy Rudisill

04/27 Tom and Claire Blocker

04/27 Karen and Rob Calder

04/27 Barbara and George Price

ATTENDANCE

Visitors & Guests	10
Club Members	155
Total Attendance	165
Percentage	56.0%

MEMBERSHIP

04/15/2014 316

07/01/2013 316

Net Increase

New Members:

Resignations:

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

April 22, 2014 – Bill Anderson, MeckEd

April 29, 2014 – Danny Morrison, President, Carolina Panthers



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