

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

March 18, 2014



John Galles, Tony Zeiss, Chase Saunders

Program: Charlotte's Long Range Economic Plan

"I have never been more excited about Charlotte's future," Tony Zeiss exclaimed.

"All Rotarians need to think big and globally about how to bring businesses into Charlotte," admonished Chase Saunders. "That's how to provide the jobs that are going to help our children and grandchildren have successful futures."

Could Charlotte enjoy two more enthusiastic boosters than this pair of Rotarians who presented Tuesday's program?

At lightning speed, Zeiss, president of Central Piedmont Community College, and Saunders, a dispute resolution specialist and retired Superior Court judge, extolled Charlotte's virtues and challenges. Program organizer John Galles, publisher of Greater Charlotte Biz, summarized their points.

The Queen City's economic vision is to become the world's next hub of global commerce, Zeiss said. In promoting that idea, he added, he and Saunders and others are getting buy-in from Mayor Patrick Cannon, County Commission Chairman Trevor Fuller, Gov. Pat McCrory, and leaders of business, industry and education.

Charlotte already ranks 30th among the world's cities in competitiveness, Zeiss said. But that's not enough.

Charlotte needs a bigger vision for its economic future, Zeiss said, adding, "People have to catch the vision, it must be grassroots."

Required is a region-wide commitment, he said, combining twin emphases on advanced manufacturing and logistics. To make that meaningful, the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools and Central Piedmont Community College are concentrating on training a workforce for the future.

Advanced manufacturing employs the latest technology, which can turn Charlotte into a most efficient, most effective region. Logistics involves being savvy enough to take best advantage of Charlotte's location equidistant from New York City and Miami, and from Chicago and New Orleans.

Saunders jumped in with a buoying thought.

"Charlotte is 17 hours by train and 24 hours by truck to half the continental United States. It's the half that happens to have all the money," Saunders chuckled.

He pointed to the new intermodal facility at the Charlotte Douglas International Airport that is a growing hub for truck, rail and air freight. Meanwhile, completion of Panama Canal widening means a huge uptick of sea traffic for the port of Charleston, which can easily funnel goods into Charlotte for distribution.

Wrapping up, Galles pointed out that more than 900 internationally owned companies operate in the Charlotte region. The proliferation of free trade agreements continues to open many new doors for business.

Finally, Galles extolled the merger of US Airways and American Airlines. "We already have access to the domestic market through USAir, but by linking with American Airlines, we're now going to have the opportunity to travel the world."

Written by Elly Clary

Other Club News and By The Numbers

- **Daryl Larner** introduced the club's newest member, **Troy Rice**. Troy is president of See the Matrix, Inc., a local IT company and can be reached at troyrice@stmsupport.com. Welcome!
- **Bill Griffin** has reassessed his business model to include wellness products, in addition to the traditional medical equipment at Griffin Home Health; **Mark Erwin** offered an article on Russia's pursuit of Crimea; **Angela Broome** was highlighted in UNC Charlotte's magazine for her work at the Red Cross and in the community; **Bob Culbertson's** photograph is on the Arts & Science Council's fund drive brochure; **Pat Millen** provided an update to Davidson commissioners that the startup program E2D (Eliminate the Digital Divide) has delivered its 200th computer to a family in need.
- **Biff Virkler** is doing well from shoulder replacement surgery and is now dealing with pneumonia. He'd appreciate hearing from his Rotary friends;
- **Meg McElwain** and family are working closely with a team of doctors to find the next step in Mitchell's treatment. How can you help?? Consider making a donation to the Mitchell Turner Benefit Account (a fund that supports Mitchell's needs and is separate from the Mitchell Bays Turner Pediatric Fund). If you are so inclined, your check is payable to Meg McElwain with "Mitchell Turner Benefit Account" in the memo section. Checks may be mailed to the Rotary office for handling.
- **PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP** (comments to the Rotary office by 2/25/14)
Terence N. Gordon – TnG Films LLC (classification: Film, Directing & Producing)
Sponsor: George Cochran; Endorsed: Tod Thorne, Ed Pickett

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS

03/25 George McGough
03/26 Mike Crum
03/26 Bill Allen
03/26 Brian Huber
03/27 Todd Lanham
03/28 Heath Morrison
03/28 Alan Simonini
03/29 Eric Davis
03/30 Mark Erwin
03/30 David Tobin
03/30 Arch McIntosh

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES

03/26 Jane & Paul Schmidt

ATTENDANCE

Visitors & Guests	14
Club Members	154
Total Attendance	168
Percentage	54.4%

MEMBERSHIP

03/18/2014 316

07/01/2013 316

Net Increase

New Members: Marie Jaffe, Troy Rice

Resignations: Ellen Stahlsmith, Harley Dickson

MEETING PARTICIPANTS

Head Table: Harry Jones, Nancy McNelis, John Tabor, John Galles, Tony Pinkard, Brad Cansler; Invocation: Marilyn Bowler; Visitors & Guests: Charlie Bones; Health, Happiness & History: David Erdman; BBB Moment: Tom Bartholomy; AV: Jessica Dupree & Nikki Keith; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS

March 25, 2014 – Eric Steigerwalt, Executive Vice President, MetLife

Location: Charlotte Plaza Uptown

April 1, 2014 – Dan Rajkowski, Charlotte Knights

Location: Charlotte Plaza Uptown



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