



September 16, 2014



Jay Bryson

The Global Economy – A Snapshot

Jay Bryson, managing director and global economist at Wells Fargo Securities, captured our attention this afternoon with a concise but telling analysis of the many factors at play that impact the global economy. a graduate of UNC-Chapel Hill (both undergraduate and graduate), Jay's comments are often published in the Wall Street Journal, the New York Times and USA Today as well as academic and popular economic journals. He is also a frequent commentator on both CNBC and Bloomberg TV. Prior to joining Wells Fargo, Jay was an economist in the Division of International Finance at the Federal Reserve Board in Washington, D. C. Prior to that, he was an assistant professor of economics at University of Alabama and has lectured on international economics and macroeconomics at the School for Advanced International Studies at both Johns Hopkins University and at Georgetown University.

Jay divided his talk into two parts, highlighting what appears to be good news, from a US economic standpoint as well as potential global threats to continued improvement. He forecasts strengthening, but slow, US economic growth in the near term, with little to no threat of a recession on the horizon. This is supported by a variety of factors: expanded governmental spending, continued consumer deleveraging, and recovering balance sheets due to a rising stock market and increased real estate valuations. Consumer sentiment is moving towards optimism and, as a result, consumer spending is expected to ramp up. Housing starts are trending upward, with very strong multi-family analytics. Home ownership remains affordable, due to continued low mortgage rates as well as more realistic home prices. Employment growth is robust and the current unemployment rate of 6% is dropping. Inflation will remain low and the threat of mild deflation is receding. He expects a rise in fed funds rates to begin in mid 2015.

What are the threats to this good news? Jay reminded us that what generally causes a recession, simply stated, is an imbalance in one or more sectors of the economy. Think housing and real estate most recently; technology in the early 2000s. While he sees no such imbalances domestically, there are risks globally. Growth in China, the second largest economy in the world, is slowing, with reduced consumer spending and increased business leverage. The governments of Italy and Spain have debt outstanding in excess of \$3 trillion, far in excess of other countries. Without a restructuring of this debt, the collapse of the countries' financial systems is a significant threat to the global economy. Debt and interest rates globally would be impacted, particularly those based on LIBOR. Another major factor impacting European stability is its dependence on Russian energy resources.

So, taking all of that into account, what is the US forecast? A return to the norm, perhaps with expected growth close to historical averages in 2014 and slightly ahead in 2015. Sounds good to me!

Written by: Suzanne Bledsoe

Meeting Participants: Head Table: Brent Cagle, Eric Davis, Tom Bartholomy, John Armistead, Dena Diorio, Omar Kazzaz; Invocation: Pete Marriott; Visitors & Guests: Keith Nowokunski; Health, Happiness & History: Mac McCarley; Song: Gray Langley; AV: Jessica Dupree & Nikki Keith; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

Club News

The membership role continues as **Chase Saunders** introduced **Jim Hendery** on Tuesday. Jim is part owner of Liqua Flow Pump Company and can be reached at charlottejim@ymail.com. Welcome, Jim.

Posted for Membership (comments to Rotary office by 9/23/14)
Chuck Howard, Autobell Car Wash (Car Wash, Management)
Sponsor: George MacBain; endorsed: Luther Moore, Alice Harrison

Sympathy is expressed to **Liz Irwin**, whose father passed away and was buried in St. Louis on 9/16/14. And to **Ralston Pound** who lost his wife, Deanie, on 9/14/2014. Funeral services will be held at Hankins & Whittington on Saturday, 9/20/14 with the visitation at 10:00 and memorial service at 11:00.

From the papers: **Greg Sizemore** contributed to an article on the exporting business; **Frank Martin** submitted an article on the educational achievement gap; **Tom O'Brien** was awarded the master of Corporate Real Estate designation by CoreNet Global; **Karen Calder** commented on the impact Big Brothers, Big Sisters have on a child's life; **Phil Van Hoy** is in Best Lawyers in America 2015; and the newly renovated Fairfield Inn & Suites, home of Charlotte Rotary Club, is highlighted in Greater Charlotte Biz.

Follow the link: YouTube video of **Matt Joyner's** father being inducted into the French Legion Honor: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kCNpganMQe8>. And from **PDG Luther**, you may be interested in clicking on this link to read the Caribbean Partnership Newsletter: http://issuu.com/rotary7020/docs/sept_2014_caribbean_partnership_new

Katie Tyler recognized several for their outstanding support of The Rotary Foundation: **Jenn Jackson**, PHF; **Mike Crum**, Level One; **Chase Saunders, Ron Kimble & Mark Norman**, Level Two; **John Scharer & Jerry Coughter**, Level Three; **Warren Kean**, Level Four; **Charlie Bones & Nancy Roberson**, Level Six; **Tom Cottingham**, Level Seven; and **John Tabor**, Level Eight.

Coming up:

- ANY event you'd think our exchange students, Jana and Raul, would be interested in participating in. Shopping, dinner, boat ride, ballgame....whatever.
- Fund raiser for Charlotte International Rotary Club at BB&T Stadium on September 29. Tickets are \$125; table for 10 available for \$1,000. Contact Gene Stewart, 704-763-2763.
- FLU shot clinic at the October 7th Rotary meeting.

Foundation Banquet: RI President Nominee John Germ will be the keynote speaker at this year's Foundation Banquet. Please let Sandy know if you plan to attend and she can handle your registration. The event will be held Saturday, October 25 at the Embassy Suites in Concord; tickets are \$50 per person; reception at 6:00 and dinner at 7:00.

GOLF: \$2630 has been raised with the sale of raffle tickets and we're hoping to reach \$4000 this coming week. You have one more Tuesday to buy tickets – one for \$10 or two for \$20. Golf spots and sponsorships are still available. Contact the Rotary office if you need the registration form.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (9/23/14 – 9/29/14)

09/23 Karen Bentley
09/24 Joe Penner
09/26 Tom Burgess
09/27 Harriman Jett, Tim Newman, Tod Thorne

09/28 Lisa Mask
09/29 Henry Batten, J. C. Cousar, Lee Tabor

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (9/23/14 – 9/29/14)

09/25 Miriam & Jon Hannan
09/26 Robin & Todd Stevens
09/28 Ashley & Marcus Lee

ATTENDANCE

Visitors & Guests	19
Club Members	174
Total Attendance	193
Percentage	60.6%

MEMBERSHIP

09/16/2014	324
07/01/2014	317
Net Increase:	+7

New Members: Brent Cagle, Torrence Shealy, Wes Sturges, Jim Hendery
Resignations: John Stedman, Bernie Washington, Gail Norman

VISITORS ON 9/16/14

Whitney Bauman, Chris Lagerbloom, Brian Borkowicz, Tom Lawell, Fred Wagner, Philippe LeBaron, Theo Nixon, Bruce Stewart, Paula Carter, Dorothy Alexander, Lutz Schminke, Lisa Gallimore, Shannon Eckard, Sandra Szoke, Chuck Howard, Keisha Johnston, Ruth Samuelson, Bob Hepler

UPCOMING LUNCHEONS (www.charlotterotary.org and click on the events tab)

09/23/14 – Citizen First Responder Awards
09/30/14 – Rick Thames, Observer Editor (**meeting at Harris Conference Center**)
10/07/14 – George M. Baldwin, Piedmont Natural Gas
10/14/14 – Karl Rudisser, Blum

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



charlotterotary.org 704.375.6816
841 Baxter Street | Suite 118 | Charlotte, NC 28202-2720 USA
© The Rotary Club of Charlotte 2014