



October 6, 2015

INEKE WILSON

District Governor – Rotary District 7680



Accentuating the 2015-16 theme of Rotary International President K.R. Ravindran, Rotary District 7680 Governor Ineke Wilson called on Charlotte Rotarians to “Be a Gift to the World.” In her annual formal visit to Charlotte Rotary, the native of the Netherlands “we all have gifts to give” to make “dreams real.”

“We have only one chance at life,” she said. “Can we make a difference? Will we? Yes we will,” she challenged club members. “Small things matter. We can all make a difference.”

She cited the “butterfly effect” to emphasize that we have no idea what effect our actions will have on others or the world. The phrase refers to the idea from the Chaos theory that a butterfly's wings might create tiny changes in the atmosphere that ultimately may affect weather conditions worldwide.

It will take hard work, the district governor said, but it will be worth it, she emphasized. We can blame others if things don't work out. “Remember, when you're pointing at someone, three fingers are pointing at you. Have you done your part?”

In her speech, which she described as like a miniskirt – long enough to cover the topic but short enough to keep your attention – she asked the question: if there were no Rotary would the world miss it? She answered her question with a resounding “yes.” She cited several examples where Rotary has made a lasting impact.

During World War II, many clubs were forced to disband. In 1942, looking ahead to the postwar era, Rotarians called for a conference to promote international educational and cultural exchanges. This event inspired the founding of UNESCO. And in 1945, 49 Rotary club members served in 29 delegations to the UN Charter Conference. Rotary still actively participates in UN conferences by sending observers to major meetings.

“Service above Self” is why I joined Rotary,” she noted. She reminded club members of the five areas of service: community, international, vocational, youth and club service, which she called the most important, “the glue” that holds everything together.

She and her husband, Bob Wilson, himself a former district governor, recently visited family in the Netherlands. While there they visited a small club in the countryside. At the meeting, club members announced their first international project: helping children in West Virginia.

“Rotary,” she said, “is the best story never told.” She cited examples of Rotary's work in the six areas of focus: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies.

District Governor Ineke talked about the success of the Polio Plus campaign to rid the

world of polio. Until last year, there were four countries where it still exists: Uganda, Nigeria, Afghanistan and Pakistan. Today Africa is polio free.

But the challenge of helping people in the United States understand the importance of the Polio Plus campaign is difficult because most citizens today have no memory of polio in this country. She cited a campaign by the six-member China Grove club to educate school children. Each child was asked to bring a dollar to give to the campaign. When children gave their dollars, their pinky fingers were painted purple so they could take the message to their parents who asked about their pinkies.

She admonished the club to educate the community about the who, why and where of Rotary. "It's very important that we "spread the word about Rotary. When we do something, we should put our name on it. We need the Rotary logo everywhere."

The district governor had high praise for the club's soccer initiative and challenged the club to join with other clubs in the City to develop a Rotary Soccer Park.

She also admonished the club to celebrate Rotary. In fact, she suggested a fifth test to the unique Rotary Four-Way Test. "Will it be fun?"

The founding member of the Huntersville Happy Hour Club showed the promotional YouTube video her club developed. Using the "Don't Worry. Be Happy" theme, the video highlights the club's work and play.

"Why join Rotary if you're not going to have fun?" she asked.

Speaker Write Up: Henry Bostic

Head Table: Tom Templeton, Jennifer Marshall, Natalie English, Luther Moore, Cheryl Banks, Em Syrewicze; Invocation: Julie Haack; Visitors & Guests: Wes Sturges; Song: Steve Eanes & John Tabor; Health, Happiness & History: John Tabor; AV: Nikki Keith & Jessica Dupree; Photos: Ken Poe

Club News

Tim Newman called around 8:15AM to see if a note could be sent out asking for donations of bottled water for the flood victims in Columbia, SC. WBT Radio was organizing a drive and Tim was willing to make the delivery. With barely a three hour notice, 40 cases of water were brought to the meeting. Thanks to all for your Service Above Self.

Matt Joyner is coordinating Scout related projects (Eagle, etc.) that correlates with the club's 100 Service Project effort. He is looking for co-captains to work within the Scouting Districts. Contact Matt, mjoyner@bdg-law.com, if you can assist.

Bill Griffin put out a request on behalf of the Music committee for volunteers to participate in the December 22 Holiday program. Contact Bill at bgriffin@griffinhomehealthcare.com.

Karen Calder is returning to Classroom Central as their executive director; **David Veach** has taken a position at Uwharrie Bank, dveach@uwharrie.com; **Natalie English** is pleased with the legislative session that called for long hours and hard work; **Ed Driggs** had front page coverage for District 7 in South Charlotte Weekly; **Bob James** had an accident while hunting...he fell from a tree and broke his back in two places and fractured both wrists. He was airlifted to Duke Medical Center and is recovering at home. No paralysis, fortunately! He would appreciate your prayers; **Nikki Keith** was photographed at the Gantt Symposium; **Hank Donaghy** was recognized for 40 years of service to the Boy Scouts of America; **Ron Campbell** will provide an update on the highly successful Rotary Golf Classic next week.

Bill Barnhardt has done a wonderful job to increase support for The Rotary Foundation; specifically, with encouragement to become a Major Donor. This is your last week to accept the challenge – Bill is preparing a celebration and recognition program November 3 and wants everyone to have the chance to be included.

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (10/06/15 – 10/12/15)

10/06 Dick Klingman
10/07 Tom Templeton
10/08 Carol Jordan
10/09 Amy Burkett, Frank Horan

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (10/06/15 – 10/12/15)

10/06 Beth & Rick Handford, Angie & Daryl Larner
10/10 Laura & Charlie Pitts; Tracey & Rich Campbell; Laura & Bob Thomas
10/11 Jane & Chris Thomas
10/12 Amy & Edwin Peacock; Tammy & Gray Langley

Visitors & Guests	17
Club Members	151
Total	168
Percentage	53.9%

MEMBERSHIP

06/30/2015	319
10/06/2015	321
Net Increase:	+2

New Members:

Resignations: Tony Pinkard, Frank Watson, Brad Cansler, Marie Jaffe

Guests: Andrea McGowan, Olga Muller, Dmitry Murzinov, Nathan Evans, Russell Hughes, Mike Walker, Brijesh Patel, Yannick Stubb, Todd Adams, Trip Wheelen, Peter Dineen, Will Hinson, Betsy Joyner, Ryan Thompson

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

10/13 - Anne Matthews, Past Rotary International Vice President
10/20 – Laura Clark, Director, Renaissance West
10/27 – Owen J. Furuseth, UNCC, Upward Mobility in the Area **Meet at Convention Center**

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





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