

**Rotary**  
Club of  
Charlotte



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

April 25, 2023

## 2022-2023

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## ANN'S ABOUT EQUITY

### Ann Caulkins, SVP of Novant Health, President of Novant Health Foundation

by **Marilynn Bowler**

The incomparable Ann Caulkins shared her business savvy with Charlotte Rotary on April 25th, speaking of her own transition from a leadership role in publishing (The Charlotte Observer) to a top role in healthcare (Novant Health and Novant Foundation.)

She related much of her interest in newspaper work to her growing-up years in a household which held people accountable and insisted that all people should be treated the same. "It's Equality vs. Equity," she told us, and during her high school years when she was editor of the school newspaper - The High Life, at Byrd High School - she also learned how to successfully sell ads - skills which formed her decision to pursue newspaper work as a career. And, did she ever!

Named Publisher and President of The Charlotte Observer in 2006, Ann was the first female president of a Knight Publishing Company newspaper. Known during her extensive publishing career spanning from leadership roles with The Fort Worth Star/Telegram to the Lexington, KY's Herald-Leader to The State Newspaper and then to Charlotte, she was recognized for her work on behalf of those who are under-supported. She set as her goal to be an agent of change and within the publishing field she garnered top accolades.

In 2018, after twelve years at the helm of The Charlotte Observer, she was assigned to head-up an additional three newspapers and, in her wisdom, she knew it was an impossible task. She chose to leave the newspaper of her own volition and made the thoughtful decision to take a year off to "rest and recharge." During that time period she received a number of job offers but spent the time putting together a list of "demands" that she felt would best suit her in whatever career for which she opted next. Inclusive

were items such as" spend time with those you love and who will keep you on track; itemize those special things that make you happy in a job and those things that would do the opposite; and make a list of non-negotiables with which to present during meetings with future employers.

Following her own superb advice, Ann was recruited by Novant Health and she accepted the two-fold position she now holds there. She is Senior Vice President of Novant Health and President of Novant Foundations. At the top of her list at Novant ... instituting and maintaining an atmosphere of HEALTH EQUITY. She has stayed true to her upbringing, her education, her career goals, and herself.

We were updated on several of Novant's outstanding plans for expansion in the near future with some already underway, citing the Agnes Binder Weisinger Breast Health Center being built on Lillington Avenue near Midtown; the Children's Hospital expansion with the renovated neonatal ICU; and the excellent philanthropic partnerships with such austere groups as the Michael Jordan Family Community Clinics, the Brunswick Telepsychiatry Initiatives with the Duke Endowment Fund, and other organizations which will - and already DO - have impact on behalf of cancer, nursing, and medical education scholarships, holistic care of body and mind, technological advancements, and a growing list of innovative objectives. She's spearheading the 2021 - 2027 Novant Health Fundraising Campaign and there's no doubt she will lead that effort well above and beyond its stated goals.

We were honored to have Ann speak to Charlotte Rotary. She richly deserves the respect and admiration the entire Charlotte community has for her. She has earned it.

\*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/821448884>  
The program introduction begins at 18:00 minutes.