

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

June 27, 2023

2022-2023 Board Members

President William Bradley
Pres Elect Edwin Peacock
Past Pres Carol Hardison
Secretary Kim Brattain
Treasurer Patrick Baker
Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2021-2023

Ann Clark
Ellison Clary
Jesse Hite
Warren Kean
Vanessa Stolen

Directors 2022-2024

Will Barnhardt
Glenn Bouley
Margaret Donovan
Laura Little
Mark Norman
Diego Ramon
Robert Shaw

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Elly Clary



William Bradley
President 2022 - 2023



Edwin Peacock
President 2023 - 2024

2023 Presidential Changeover

by **Susie Masotti**

At this week's Rotary meeting, President **William Bradley** prepared to turn the gavel over to his successor. As the 106th President he reminded attendees that on October 24, 1916, Charlotte Rotarians sat down for the inaugural dinner of this club. Charlotte Rotarians pride themselves on providing the best programs, fellowship, and service to our community. As we strive to be more inclusive, we ask that you invite someone you know to become one of us.

Looking back, President **William** recalled that in the past year, we heard from the Maestro and two performers from Opera Carolina; former White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles, and we were entertained by our own **Tony Marciano** for unique and creative introductions throughout the year. He thanked **Ellison Clary** for his excellent work as the speaker chair for the past year.

Service projects included long-time programs such as Classroom Central, the Salvation Army bell ringing, and serving Christmas morning breakfast at the Charlotte Rescue Mission. He was proud to have continued Trees Charlotte (dating back to 1958) along with our newest project with the Charlotte Trail of History.

He thanked **Laura Little** and her membership engagement team for the large variety of fellowship events outside of the club meetings and encouraged everyone to take advantage of these opportunities. **Warren Kean** led his committee which administered community engagement grants program sponsoring local nonprofits, **Diego Ramon** ran the golf tournament which continues to provide scholarships to the children of first responders. **Terri DeBoo** took on the task of membership chair and produced our first year of growth post-Covid!

He reminded us that **Jessie Hite** and **Jason Otto** arrive early for each of our weekly meetings to help with the setup. Past President **John Tabor** launched the Club's new website featuring upcoming speakers as well as club history – if you haven't done so, please check it out (www.charlotterotary.org).

Finally, he thanked members who represented the club on our Board of Directors – their support makes it all happen.

Sadly, we lost several long-time members over the past year – **Gene Williams**, **Bob Knight**, **Ronnie Pruitt**, **Jim Deas**, **Biff Virkler**, and **Dale Halton**. They were invaluable to our club and remain in our thoughts.

President **William** then gave a recap of his recent trip to the Rotary Club International Meeting in Melbourne, Australia. Over 14,000 Rotarians attended, and general sessions were held at the Rod Laver Arena. Rotary took on the global project of Polio eradication in 1988 – a time when our own country had not had Polio for some time but was still present in 125 developing countries. Today, Polio is in just 2 countries. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches Rotary Contributions to continue this effort and President **William** shared a video of Rotary International President Jennifer Jones' visit to Pakistan where she witnessed first-hand the work that is being done with the funds raised.

Attendees were given an update on Rotary in Ukraine, the clean water program in Haiti, and the global effort to reduce plastics in our oceans among other service projects. He also enjoyed dining, running, and volunteering with fellow Rotarians from around the world.

President **William** then turned to the business of passing the torch to our 107th President – **Edwin Peacock III**. **Edwin** is a Charlotte native who graduated from Charlotte Country Day School and attended the University of Georgia. **Edwin** has been a member since 2003 and served on Charlotte City Council from 2007-2011. He has served on a variety of boards including Blumenthal Performing Arts, The Fletcher School, and the NASCAR Hall of Fame.

Edwin is the Owner and President of Pomfret Financial Company. **Edwin** and his wife Amy are the proud parents of Bruton and Avery.

Edwin thanked **William** for his past and continued service and spoke of how well they had worked together for a smooth Presidential transition and recognized the incoming President-Elect, **Kim Brattain**. President **Edwin** then adjourned the meeting.

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/840563523>
The program introduction begins at 21:45 minutes.