

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

April 4, 2017

KEVIN POET

Siemens Charlotte Energy Hub



Floyd Davis introduced Kevin Poet, the head of plant operations for Siemens Charlotte Energy Hub. Kevin was born in Michigan. He has a bachelor's degree in industrial engineering from Wayne State University in Detroit and has an MBA from University of Michigan. In 1989 he started as an industrial engineer with Ford Motor Company where he worked for 27 years. He spent ten years working in various engineering, production and support roles in the factory and learned in that time how to talk with people. In those ten years, he moved from industrial engineer to front line supervisor to process/automation engineer to general foreman. He then spent the next 17 years in various operations leadership positions from shift manager to engineering manager to operations manager to plant manager. He then became involved in contract negotiations and then facility planning. In contract negotiations, he negotiated agreements with UAW where he learned the value of listening. In facility planning, he learned how to shrink facility foot prints when Ford reduced its work force by 40,000 people in the years 2006 to 2008.

That led him to Charlotte in May, 2016 where he became the leader at the Charlotte Siemens Energy Hub, a world class power generation equipment facility. (His family has still not joined him in Charlotte. They will get here in June). The Hub is 1.2 million square feet over 400 acres where Siemens has invested over \$400 million since 2011. At the Hub, there is a full manufacturing and service capabilities across the steam and gas turbine and generator portfolio. A typical generator can weigh over 1 million pounds. They have an annual value generation of \$1.1 billion.

Education Outreach is an important part of Siemens work. They have strong partnerships with CPCC and UNC Charlotte. At CPCC, they have an apprenticeship degree in mechatronics and computer integrated machining. They also have developed customized training for new and incumbent workers. At UNC Charlotte, they have the Siemens Large Manufacturing Solutions Laboratory in EPIC. They also have leadership training for managers. In this kind of work, they are developing the next generation of leaders. This gives them a competitive advantage with other companies and with other Siemens locations. In 2014, Siemens made a \$32 million in-kind software grant and invested \$4.3 million in UNC Charlotte EPIC.

The people at Siemens are their greatest resource – both staff and students. They have doubled their workforce since 2010, adding over 800 employees. At CPCC, they have had 11 apprenticeship graduates and currently have 15 apprentices in the program. These students get either journeymen certificates or a degree in computer integrated machining or mechatronics. On an average month they have classes of 32 employees.

In the past two years, Siemens has exported more than \$790 million. They are recognized by the Charlotte Business Journal as one of the region's top exporters. They have shifted their focus from new power plants (there aren't any) to being a service center, working with current power plants. Finally, they are making sustainability a positive business driver. They are planning a 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2020 and be carbon neutral by 2030. They expect \$5.6 million in Charlotte EE projects through 2017 with a 13.7% reduction in CO2 emissions.

They plan to cut emissions in half by driving an energy efficient program, by leveraging distributed energy systems, by reducing fleet emissions and by purchasing green energy.

In answers to questions, Kevin offered the following comments:

-Detroit as a city is coming back. They have the most diverse economy they've ever had. They are no longer focused just on manufacturing. They had a net population growth last year for the first time in 40 years.

-At Ford, they wanted people to buy their cars so they could get them into Ford trucks. For 40 years, they have been leaders in trucks.

-As a company, Siemens tries to balance profitability and sustainability. They are investing \$100 million euros in Europe in becoming more energy efficient. The two questions are how clean does it need to be and how do you make it clean.

-There are more foreign car sales in the US. We have moved from the Big Three to the Global 8 or 10. That happened because the Big Three didn't keep up with the technology or quality curves. Now Ford has caught up and leads the pack.

-Siemens has invested heavily in wind and solar energy. The next breakthrough will be in storage technology and when that happens, there will more of a focus on wind and solar.

-Lastly, Kevin said that self-driving cars are inevitable.

Speaker Write-Up: *Jim Kelley*

Head Table: *Charlie Bones, Floyd Davis, Warren Kean, Katie Tyler*; Invocation: *Lisa Mask*; Visitors & Guests; *Jeff Searcy*; History Moment: *David Zimmerman*; AV: *Jessica Dupree, Nikki Keith*; Photos: *Sandy Osborne*

CLUB NEWS

District Conference: District 7680 has sent a flurry of email invitations to attend the District Conference April 28-30 in Greenville, SC. If you would like to attend, Sandy will be glad to walk you through the registration process.

Hotel Parking Lot: There did not seem to be too many issues getting in and out of the hotel parking deck this week. Going forward, everyone will pull a ticket when they enter the deck, bring it to check-in desk and the gates will be open when our meeting is adjourned. Those leaving early can pick up a sticker at the check-in desk.

The Rotary Foundation: Arch Klumph's idea for an endowment fund dedicated to "doing good in the world" planted the seed for **The Rotary Foundation** in 1917. That one idea and an initial contribution of \$26.50 set in motion a powerful force for good that has transformed millions of lives around the globe.

To mark this historic year, The Rotary Foundation set a fundraising goal of \$300 million, including contributions to the Annual, Endowment, and PolioPlus funds. To date, \$207.8M has been raised through this campaign. By making a special centennial gift beyond what you normally contribute, you are helping to launch our Foundation into its second century of service. And you're empowering Rotary members to continue fighting disease, reducing poverty, providing clean water, promoting peace, and advancing economic development in communities all over the world.

Only contributions received between 1 July 2016 and 30 June 2017 will count toward the goal.

If you are not currently supporting the Foundation, and there are about 30 club members that fall into this category, please consider doing so during this special campaign. Checks are payable to The Rotary Foundation and mailed to the Rotary office (1850 E. 3rd St., Ste 220, Charlotte 28204). If you would like to be invoiced quarterly or annually, let Sandy know and this can be set up immediately.

Foundation chair **Robert Freeman** recognized the following for their continued support of The Rotary Foundation. Level One **Joe Penner**, Level Two **John Lassiter**, Level Four **John Scharer** and Level Five **Warren Kean** and **Henry Bostic**.

Jeff Atkinson's suggestion to arrange a table for newer Rotarians was kicked off on Tuesday. Fourteen 'newbies' had the chance to meet and greet over lunch. We will continue setting up a couple tables the first Tuesday of each month.

100 SERVICE PROJECTS *(80 completed; 203 participants; 2347 volunteer hours)*

The idea behind the commitment to complete 100 service projects is to TOUCH 100 organizations. We are starting to lap ourselves and although we can count the community service hours, we can't count the organization if we've already provided a service for them. Example: Christmas breakfast at Charlotte Rescue Mission, coat collection for Crisis Assistance, bell ringing. Do not read into this that we will not continue supporting these projects. Just that we need to identify new organizations that need something done....manpower, no funding, prefer minimum of 2 Rotarians (can be more) volunteering to make it count. I'm looking forward to your new ideas.

NEW PROJECTS *in red*

- **Hospitality House of Charlotte** provides a place to stay for families who are in medical crisis at area hospitals. They have reached out for help with household supplies. Most needed: toilet paper, dry cereal & breakfast bars, travel sized bars of shampoo & soap, sugar/coffee creamer/artificial sweetener, and paper/Styrofoam cups. Contact: **Sandy Osborne**: sandy@charlotterotary.org.

- **BBB's Annual Shredding Event** will be held Saturday, April 8, 2017 from 9am until noon. Location is in the parking lot at Charlotte Latin, 9502 Providence Road and a **couple more volunteers are needed**. Contact: **Tom Bartholomy**: tom@charlotte.bbb.org

- **Freedom School Partners** need help to supply 120 classrooms at 16 sites serving over 1,200 scholars. Items needed: basic school supplies, hygiene supplies (tissues, baby wipes, hand sanitizer), arts & crafts supplies, books & magazines (K-8 grade). Contact: **Nikki Keith**: nikki@freedomschoolpartners.org

- **2017 PGA Championship**, Quail Hollow Country Club. Volunteers needed to help in their concession areas on August 9th. Several schedule options range from 6am-1pm, 7am-2pm; 8am-4pm, 9am-4pm, 10am-close, 11am-close. Contact: **Tim Newman**: tnewman@levineproperties.com.

ONGOING

-**Allenbrook Elementary School:** North Star Reading Partners with a commitment to read to a 3rd grade student one hour a week. **Eric Davis:** eric.davis@wellsfargo.com

-**Platelet Donation:** Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. **75 donations to date!** **John zumBrunnen:** jzumbrunnen@zumbrunnen.com

-**American Youth Soccer Organization (AYSO):** Coach, referee, board member, linesman, snack shack worker, etc. Kathy Riley at rc@ayso05.com or **Carolyn Carlburg** c.carlburg@gmail.com

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2016 318

04/04/2017 316

Net Increase: -2

New Members:

Resignations: Kristina Aquilone, Elizabeth Harrison

Visitors & Guests 13

Club Members 135

Total 148 (50.4%)

Guests: Russell Hughes, Jennifer Trembley, Robert Salmon, Richard Manelis, Victor Chen, George Gabel, Doug Barr, Mike Walker, Tyler Richardson, Delisse Thomas, Dale LeCount, Lynn Lee, Skip Moore

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (04/13/17 – 04/19/17)

04/16 Will Barnhardt, Susan Nestor

04/18 Charlie Pitts

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (04/13/17 – 04/19/17)

04/16 Nancy & Michael McNelis; Barbara & Bob Knight

04/17 Elizabeth & Bill Bartee

04/19 Karen York & Michael Elder

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

04/11 – Mark W. Boyce, True Homes: Building a company culture that produces success

04/18 – Club Social – SMS Catering (evening meeting)

04/25 – International Youth Exchange Program (Franzi & Yseult)

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

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