

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



REPORTER

August 22, 2017

RON LAW

Theatre Charlotte



Today we had the pleasure of hearing from the Executive Director of Theatre Charlotte, Ron Law. Ron is a UNC Greensboro graduate, former college professor and joined Theatre Charlotte in 2005 as Executive Director.

Ron started out with a history quiz asking us questions on a few important dates: 1927 (Coolidge President), 1929 (Great Depression), 1941 (Pearl Harbor attacked), 1959 (US declare Alaska and Hawaii become states), 1989 (Berlin Wall comes down), and 2005 (YouTube founded). Our members got all but the last one right. Not bad!

Theatre Charlotte was founded as The Charlotte Drama League and first play, "Outward Bound," was performed in the Carnegie Library uptown. In 1929, a young Indianan named Tom Humble came to Charlotte and became director until he retired in 1968. In 1935 the name changed to The Little Theatre of Charlotte. In 1941 Little Theatre moved from uptown to the current location at 501 Queens Road and the first play produced was "George Washington Slept Here." This play went for about a week and the day after the play ended, Pearl Harbor was attacked on December 7, 1941. During the war years he had to use women in many men roles due to the men at war. In 1959, Little Theatre produced its first musical, "The Boy Friend." In 1989 the Little Theatre of Charlotte was renamed to become Theatre Charlotte, its current name. In 2005 along with YouTube, Ron joined Theatre Charlotte as Executive Director which seems like only 20 or 30 years to Ron!

Annually they have a 5 production season as well as the Christmas show. The Theatre is moving into its 90th year and will celebrate with the season known as Magic Memories and Future Firsts. The theatre has produced close to 500 plays and will do all new material for the 90th year.

They will start with an adaptation of Elton John and Tim Rice's opera ADIA; in January they will do "The Nerd," a comedy by Larry Shue; in March they will do an adaptation of John Grisham's novel "A Time to Kill;" and in May they will close the season with "Spring Awakening" with music by Duncan Sheik. This will also be his 11th year with the Charles Dickens "A Christmas Carol."

In the summer they have a play for young aspiring actors and this year's play was Lion King Jr. Theatre Charlotte Jr. is for 9-14 year olds and this year they had 84

audition and 37 were chosen for their presentation. They also have Student Theatre Guild for 15 year-old to college age children. This year they had 70 audition and 24 were chosen for their presentation. Ron shared a clip of the presentation of the 9-14 age group.

He commented on their rendition of "Hair" a few years ago and the nude part had a lot of interest from local talent, 21 for that scene, including Mrs. Law! Ron was not a big fan of his wife sharing her birthday suit, so she was IN THE BACK!

Ron is quite proud of the quality of his productions, relevant presentations, affordable prices and history of looking for and promoting diversity on stage.

Ron shared they are looking for a new location to accommodate more than 216 seats, better stage lighting and more parking. They are making much needed exterior renovations this summer.

Primary funding comes from Arts & Science Council, donors and ticket prices. His budget is \$693,000 for this year. His biggest expense is the royalties they pay for use of plays, typically \$12,000 per production. He was able to purchase 2 scenic projectors this year that will enhance his presentations.

This is a real cultural gem in Myers Park/Charlotte and we are fortunate to have Ron at the helm!

Speaker Write-Up: George MacBain

Head Table: *Van Hall, Katie Tyler, Elly Clary, Tripp Guin*; Invocation: *Charlie Bones*; Visitors & Guests: *Don Carmichael*; AV: *Tom Bartholomy, Daryl Larner, Nikki Keith*; Photos: *Bert Voswinkel*

CLUB NEWS

Bill Gill introduced **David Seroy** as the club's newest member. David is from San Francisco and graduated magna cum laude from the University of Arizona, with a degree in Management Information Systems. While working as a consultant for Deloitte, he led projects across the globe. In 2016, he founded Old North Capital, an investment fund which acts as a private lender for local real estate investors in NC. david@oncfund.com – welcome to Charlotte Rotary.

President **Katie** recognized **Martin Waters**, who joined the Rotary Club of Charlotte August 22, 1950 – 67 years in this club! He and **Ralston Pound**, who joined February 3, 1948 – 69 years in the club, are remarkable men that understand Service Above Self. **Katie** also gave well deserved thanks to those working behind the scenes to keep our meeting on track: AV – **Tom Bartholomy, Nikki Keith & Daryl Larner**; Photos – **Bert Voswinkel**; Computer Check-In – **Hunter Widener**; Greeters – **Davan Cloninger & Ranjay Sarda**; Visitors table – **Rick Handford & Matthew Greer**; and speaker write-up for the Reporter – **George MacBain**.

The Nominating Committee has selected **Nancy McNelis** to fill an unexpired Board term and will serve through June, 2018.

Elizabeth Teagarden and Scott Anderson (also a Rotarian – Top of the Week) are engaged - Congrats; **Byron Bullard** has had a few falls over the last couple weeks and has moved to The Carriage Club (5804 Old Providence Rd, 28226); **Steve Meckler** is included in The Best Lawyers in America 2018; **Ben Dobson** and **Rex Reynolds** are in Leadership Charlotte

Class 39.

Registration for the **15th Annual Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic**, October 17 at Ballantyne Golf Club, is open. **Larry Broome** (larry.broome@salvationarmy.org) and **Luther Moore** (luthermoore2015@gmail.com) are coordinating door prizes and are looking for everyone's support. Thanks to **Michael Wollinger** for reaching out to those that have participated in the tournament in the past. Time to get those registration forms turned in! **Checks** are payable to *Foundation for the Carolinas*.

Karen Calder and **Bill Bradley** thanked everyone that has supported Classroom Central with school supplies or a check. Karen also mentioned Sheriff **Irwin Carmichael** and his Deputies partnered with Target for a donation of \$5500 worth of school supplies! This project wraps up next Tuesday, August 29.



Rotary School Tools Campaign

Collection receptacles available at Rotary meetings *through the end of August*

3 Ways you can help:

1. **New backpacks stuffed with:**
 - Pencils, colored pencils, crayons
 - Notebook Paper
 - Rulers, glue stick
 - 2 pocket folders
 - Composition books
 - \$20 check made payable to Classroom Central (optional)
2. **Shop online** at <http://www.amazon.com/gp/registry/wishlist/S5MWQOPXF6KA/>
3. Any **monetary gift** is welcome and appreciated

100 SERVICE PROJECTS (92 completed; 212 participants; 2563 volunteer hours)

- <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1EnTJdBeYQF4EqAySvHwdKYaAeyn1hIVBM1NpxQqS91s/edit?usp=sharing>

Click above to sign up to help with soccer registration.

Chase Saunders: chase@chasesaunders.com or Carolyn Carlburg: c.carlburg@gmail.com.

Volunteers needed to register students at Back-To-School nights on August 24 and September 5, 6 and 7 at both Starmount Elementary and Merry Oaks Elementary. 2-3 people needed on each date.

-Registrations at Back-To-School nights from 4PM to 6PM at both sites.

-Pre-Season Registrations on September 5, 6 and 7 from 3PM to 5:30PM each day

-Starmount Academy of Excellence: 1600 Brookdale Ave (South Blvd area)

- Merry Oaks International Academy: 3508 Draper Ave (Northeast of Independence Blvd)

- **UPDATE - Queen City Honor Flight** has added a **second flight** for the October 7th trip to Washington, DC. 16 Veterans have signed up so far and there about 40 seats that need to be filled. Priority seating is open to WWII Veterans, and this flight is also available to Korean and Vietnam Veterans. Desert Storm, Granada and Panama Veterans who returned with life limiting physical conditions may also apply. Applications for Veterans and Guardians can be found at www.charlotterotary.org, click on the Service tab, then Flight of Honor information in the middle column.

- **HeartBright Invitational Golf Tournament** coming up September 12th, 2017 at the Ballantyne Resort. Contact: Tom Blocker tomblocker48@gmail.com.

- Konica Minolta NFK Golf Classic will be held September 25 at River Run Country Club. Volunteers needed for three shifts: 7:30AM-10:30AM registration; 9AM-4PM volunteer scorers, 2PM-5PM post-event reception. Contact: Rob Hayden Robert.hayden@kidney.org.

- **Platelet Donation:** Register at the American Red Cross or Community Blood Center of the Carolinas to donate platelets. **UPDATE - 73** donations (**not 80**) to date. Donations have fallen off in the last 3 months and not meeting the goal of 100 donations will jeopardize this effort. Contact: **John zumBrunnen:** jzumbrunnen@zumbrunnen.com.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2017 309

08/22/2017 307

Net Increase: -2

New Members: Kyle Woodruff, Ann Clark, Margaret Marshall, David Seroy

Resignations: Sheila Cox, LJ Stambuk, Ben Pendry, Kelly Mirt, Tyler Richardson, Lee Morris

Visitors & Guests 14

Club Members 144

Total 158 (56%)

Guests: Christina Lindenberg, Lynn Lee, Cathy Ringwald, Jackson Lourer, Chelsea Engle, Ella Hoyle, Howard Hoyle, III, Chad Champlin, Toussiant Romain, Jennifer Braun, Tom Long, Karen Dickson, Jan Robinson, Bill Hammelman

UPCOMING BIRTHDAYS (09/01/17 – 09/07/17)

09/03 Ed Driggs, Meg McElwain

09/04 Martin Waters

09/05 John Lassiter, Robert Freeman, Dusty Holcomb, Frank Watson

09/06 Paul Wyche

09/07 Susan Evans

UPCOMING ANNIVERSARIES (09/01/17 – 09/07/17)

09/02 Wanda & Randy Robinson

09/03 Nancy & David Roberson; Rose Marie & Gene Bratek; Kasey & Paul Lankes

09/05 Kim & Bill McMillan; Marti & David Head

09/07 Harriet & Bill Barnhardt

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

08/29 Bishop Claude Alexander

09/05 Winn Maddrey, TedX Charlotte

09/12 Sharon Decker, Tryon International Equestrian Center

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



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