



August 20, 2019

We meet on Tuesday at 12:30 pm at Fairfield Inn & Suites – Charlotte Uptown, 201 South McDowell St, Charlotte NC 28202

2019 - 2020 Board Members

President John W. Lassiter

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Stephanie Hinrichs

Chris Kemper

Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

Edwin Peacock, III

Membership John Tabor

Foundation William Bradley

Programs Mac McCarley

1st Qtr Edwin Peacock

2nd Qtr Ron Kimble

3rd Qtr Jeff Atkinson

4th Qtr Karen Price

STEPHANIE COOPER-LEWTER Leading on Opportunity



Edwin Peacock began his introduction by reminding us of the 2014 Chetty Study that identified Charlotte as the 50th city in the US in terms of upward mobility out of the 50 cities included in the study. In response to the study, Charlotte created a task force to come up with a strategy to improve this situation, and also created *Leading on Opportunity*, a group whose purpose is to follow through and work with the community to improve our upward mobility.

The director of Leading on Opportunity is Dr. Stephanie Cooper-Lewter, a native of Kanpur, India, immigrated to Minnesota and graduated from Bethel College with a degree in Social Work, followed by a Masters in social work from the University of Minnesota, and then a Ph.D. in social work from the University of South Carolina. Prior to coming to Charlotte in 2018, she served as Vice President of Initiatives and Public Policy for the Sisters of Charity Foundation, which has disbursed some \$67 million over the last 20 years to reduce poverty in South Carolina. Stephanie was head of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Columbia, following her work in Minnesota as a school and hospital social worker and in child welfare. Overall, she has more than 25 years of nonprofit and philanthropic service.

Stephanie thanked Edwin for his help and advice as a member of the Leadership Council for Leadership on Opportunity, for the support and engagement of the many nonprofit leaders she recognized in the audience, and to Charlotte Rotary for all that we do in the Community.

She went on to discuss the March 2017 Report from the Opportunity Task Force. It identified three Key Determinants of upward mobility, those being: (1) Early care and education from birth through age five; (2) College and career readiness, improving K-12 education and include educating parents and children about the various college and career paths and how to get on them; and, (3) Child and family stability, arguably the most important of the three, emphasizing lasting two-parent families with the ability to earn a living wage and accumulate assets, find affordable housing, and access reliable transportation, healthcare and mental healthcare. It also identified two “cross-cutting factors” that impact all three of the key determinants: (1) Segregation by race and ethnicity and also by poverty and wealth limit upward mobility by making it harder to bridge the gaps and communicate; and, (2) Social Capital, defined as the relationships and networks that people have that can connect them to opportunities. Clearly those that have little knowledge of what opportunities exist or how to take advantage of them will not be able to better themselves as well as those who receive substantial help in learning what is out there and who to talk to about opening doors to get there.

We know a lot about where we are in Charlotte: 25% of Charlotte’s children experience

poverty; 44% of Mecklenburg County children ages 0-5 live in households earning below 200% of the Federal poverty level; The poverty rate of working-age African Americans and Hispanics is twice that for whites; and 14.5% of young people ages 16-24 are neither working nor going to school or training. We are not helping these people to develop their talents and contribute to this community. 34% of single parents that get into college don't graduate, which is the key to future success.

Stephanie was an orphan in Kanpur, abandoned at one of Mother Teresa's orphanages as an infant. She was moved to another orphanage and was placed with Indian foster parents. Subsequently, she was adopted by a woman in the United States. Her mother was single, worked as a college social worker, and adopted her because she wanted a family. She later adopted two other children. Stephanie was raised in Minnesota by her mother and grandparents. Later in life, she found herself in college, a single mother with a daughter, barely able to make ends meet on AFDC and food stamps. She decided that she would find a way to stay in college, and found help with childcare, healthcare, and tuition assistance. While she had some people tell her she would never make it, she had others who admired her spirit and helped her through. She went on to get her advanced degrees (just to show some people that she could)! Her daughter, Courtney, is now a student at UNC Chapel Hill, studying social work. As a result of these life experiences, Stephanie firmly believes that your present circumstances do not define your ultimate destiny in life.

She spoke briefly about her Leadership Council, and the North Star Goal that they set for Charlotte, "Within a generation, every child in Charlotte-Mecklenburg will have an equal chance to achieve social and economic success." Leading on Opportunity is charged to engage the community, amplify the work, help influence the policies being implemented, and track the changes that result. She described how they are working to do these things, and then discussed the measurable results already being seen in the three Key Determinants and the two cross-cutting factors. These include significant commitments of money as well as policy changes and corporate actions, along with some significant recognition of the work being done here.

The six-person staff of Leading on Opportunity continues to be a catalyst for change. While they run no programs, they partner with many organizations that do, and work to connect them with each other to collaborate on specific projects. Small changes made now can have large impacts in the future. She would like to include Charlotte Rotary as one of those partners, and see how our areas of service might work with others in the community to help Charlotte move from #50 to #1 in upward mobility!

Stephanie's PowerPoint presentation is packed with more useful information, and Sandy can email you a copy if you ask nicely. Additional information and ideas are available at their website: <https://www.leadingonopportunity.org/>.

Reporter: Rick Handford; *Head Table:* Catherine Bracey, John Lassiter, Edwin Peacock, Terri DeBoo; *Invocation:* Jeff Atkinson; *Introduce Visitors:* Brian Carn; *Greeters:* Michael Norton and Mike Ranson

CLUB NEWS



Terri DeBoo introduced the club's newest member, **Mary Grace Lotstetter**. Mary Grace has more than 10 years in the financial services industry and joined Merrill Lynch in 2018. She earned her bachelor's degree in Industrial Management with a double major in Economics and a concentration in Finance from the Tepper School of Business at Carnegie Mellon University. In addition to a FINRA Series 7 and 66 registration, she holds a Life, Accident, and Long Term Care insurance license and a mortgage loan license. Mary Grace, her husband Steve and their four children reside in Lake Wylie. You'll be hearing from the Greeter Committee and we welcome you to Rotary! marygracelotstetter@ml.com.

Pat Millen shared his grandfather, **Pat Gilchrist**, was chair of the Host committee for the Rotary International Convention that was held in Hawaii in 1968. That's got Pat thinking about heading off to Honolulu for the 2020 RI Convention.

About 15 bags of school supplies were dropped off at Classroom Central following Tuesday's meeting. Thanks to all that supported this effort to offset a need that will help more than 127,000 students and their teachers across 6 school districts in 199 high-poverty schools. **Basic supplies needed:** pencils, markers, highlighters, glue sticks, composition books, crayons, scissors, colored pencils, and paper. Drop off your donation at a Rotary meeting through September 3rd.



IMPORTANT: Only **6%** of the club has responded to Chad Lloyd's survey on ways to provide more hands on service opportunities that will be a key element to engage our members. **Please** take some time to click on the Survey Monkey link and share your thoughts: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/CharlotteRotaryService>

17th Annual Rotary Scholarship Classic - September 10, 2019 - Ballantyne Resort

Moving along...*golfers are needed*...thanks to two new raffle participants! Bryan McAllister, Fink's Jewelers, has donated a pair of earrings (valued at \$425) and Dan Rajkowski, Charlotte Knights, has put a package together with a Bret Saberhagen autographed baseball, 2 game ticket vouchers for 2020 season, and a few other miscellaneous items (valued at \$216).

Congratulate Bryan Adams, who was named the Best Lawyers in America 2020 Employment Law – Management “Lawyer of the Year” in Charlotte.

Please note: The Teagarden Group, LLC (Elizabeth Teagarden) is now scandentHR, LLC. Email update: elizabeth@scandenthr.com.

Education philanthropist Dale Halton, brought together the Aspire Carolinas Foundation (Jennifer Nichols) team to create a new concept of ‘school’ for unique learners. The Halton School (for third- through eighth-graders) is the first of three academic programs and buildings envisioned for the education campus on 25 acres adjacent to Hopewell High School. The school officially opens August 28 and was created in response to the growing need for specialized education for students on the autism spectrum.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITES ON BOARD....

- School supplies for Classroom Central can be dropped off through September 3, 2019
- Start gathering your warm clothing donations to benefit Crisis Assistance Ministry. You will be able to drop off your items at club meetings throughout the month of October, 2019
- Sign-up to ring the bell for The Salvation Army begins in late October/early November, 2019
- Opportunity to serve breakfast to clients served by Charlotte Rescue Mission on Christmas morning.



UPDATE from Michael McGovern, International PolioPlus Chair: “I’m pleased to share the important news that as of today, 21 August 2019, it has been three years since a child in Nigeria was paralyzed by the wild poliovirus. This means that the entire World Health Organization (WHO) African region could be certified as wild poliovirus-free as soon as mid-2020.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019	276	New Members: Lori Giang, Mary Grace Lostetter
08/20/2019	283	
Net Increase	+7	Resignations: Lisa Mask, Lindsey McAlpine

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP *(Comments to Rotary Office by 8/27/19)*

Chris Thompson

Ashford Advisors *(Classification: Financial Consultant, Chartered)*

Sponsor: John Nicolay

Endorsed: Carla DuPuy and Phil Volponi

Visitors	8
Club Members	112
Total	120 (48.1%)

Thanks to our club members for inviting a guest: [Kim McMillan](#) guests: Anne-Marie DeCatsye and Terri Marshall; [All Allison](#) guest: Lauren Deese; [Gene Williams](#) guest: Deborah Williams Bell

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS (08/28/19 – 09/03/19)

09/03 Ed Driggs

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (08/28/2019 – 09/03/19)

08/29 Raleigh and Jordan Harris

08/30 Marilyn and Roger Sarow; Sallie and Dick Klingman

09/01 Jeanne and Linwood Bolles

09/03 Nancy and David Roberson; Kasey and Paul Lankes

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (08/28/2019 – 09/03/19)

03 years – Randall Mountcastle

05 years – Brent Cagle

06 years – Rudy Rudisill

15 years – Jay Westmoreland

18 years – David Erdman

23 years – David Zimmerman

27 years – Catherine Browning

41 years – Vernon Anderson

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

(All meetings at the Fairfield Inn & Suites, 201 S. McDowell St., unless otherwise noted)

08/27 – Stephen Saucier, President, Carolinas Aviation Museum

09/03 – Mac Lackey, The Value of Entrepreneurial Thinking to CLT

09/10 – **GOLF TOURNAMENT (not meeting for lunch)**

09/17 – Chas Fagan, American Master Artist/Sculptor

09/24 – Bob Morgan, Director of Public Affairs, Robinson Bradshaw

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