



2019 - 2020 Board Members

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4th Qtr Karen Price

CHIEF KERR PUTNEY

Where there is opportunity, there is hope Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police



Kerr Putney, Chief of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD), began his career with CPMD in 1992 after earning undergraduate and master's degrees in criminology from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte and East Carolina University, respectively. He was promoted to Deputy Chief in 2007 and Chief in 2015. During his 27 year tenure, Kerr served in a variety of roles including patrol, training, communication, administration, investigation and other specialized assignments.

Kerr opened his comments by asking us to repeat after him this mantra: Where there is opportunity, there is hope. He acknowledged that the current tally of 103 homicides in Mecklenburg County so far this year is tragic. He reminded us that in 1993, there were 120 homicides and since that time Charlotte has doubled in size. But, even though per capita crime is less than in 1993, it is not a mark of success when citizens in our community continue to suffer devastating losses. While there are no quick fixes, a singular focus in several areas will yield positive results:

- Invest in the youth in our community. Be intentional, transparent and accountable for results. Focus on developing math and reading skills in elementary school and beginning at an early age, teach people how to resolve their differences in a nonviolent manner. Of the 103 homicides this year, 75 of the victims knew their killer.
- Continue to find ways to identify, apprehend and punish violent repeat offenders. Current data reveals that seven out of 10 criminal acts are performed by individuals who have committed criminal acts in the past. Court reform is desperately needed in order to increase the conviction rate. The technology available to the courts is outdated and inefficient and is a result of a lack of funding from the state. Kerr suggests that we quit waiting on the state and find the funds necessary for upgrades.
- Continue to increase efforts to seize illegal firearms.

Following through on these initiatives is challenging given the fact that CMPD is short about 180 officers. Yet, through a focused effort, CMPD has increased arrests of repeat offenders by 20% and increased illegal firearms seizures by 10%. While law enforcement in general suffers from a lack of respect for the office by the public, the shortage of qualified officers is compounded by the low unemployment rate and

otherwise strong job market. Potential officers should be encouraged to be engaged in their communities and see their role as one that bridges the difference between educational, economic and other barriers in society.

A shining example of success in Charlotte is the resurgence of the NODA community. The work that has been done there over the past years has served as a model and has been replicated in communities all over the country.

When asked how he would describe his job, Kerr said that it is humbling, and one that he is privileged to have. He has learned to “put on a hard hat and leave his pride at the door.”

Kerr sees opportunity for a better community, and with that comes hope. And a lot of hard work!

Reporter: Suzanne Bledsoe; Head Table: Robert Freeman, John Lassiter, Reggie Johnson; Invocation: Bill Bradley; Introduce Visitors: Herb Harriss; Photos: Sandy Osborne; Greeters: Kyle Woodruff, Ken Fuquay

CLUB NEWS

The Salvation Army Red Kettle campaign wraps up the end of this week and the raffle drawing will happen at Rotary on Tuesday. Thanks to everyone involved in this effort.

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE: The purpose of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is to strengthen your club and your life. Rotary provides an opportunity for all of us to provide service to our community and throughout the world (Service Above Self). With that service comes a learning experience in the areas of leadership, team building, planning, marketing, communication and organization. RLI provides an opportunity to enrich that learning through sharing experiences and ideas with other Rotarians throughout the region. There are a couple opportunities to engage in RLI in January. The RLI Annual Meeting will be held January 10-11, 2020 at the Rowan-Cabarrus Community College in Kannapolis. <http://www.rli33.org/event-registration/> to register.

RLI Graduates are invited to sign up (www.dacdb.com) for the RLI Graduate History course that will be held in Clayton, NC on January 18.

Colonel Bryony A. Terrell, Department of the Air Force, was given a few minutes to talk about the 145th Airlift Wing. Their mission is to provide airlift, combat, and humanitarian support to federal and state authorities. As they successfully complete their mission conversion from the C-130 tactical mission to a fully operational strategic airlift C-17 unit, Colonel Terrell said they are committed to expanding their profile in the community through a Honorary Commanders Program. The mission is twofold: educate key community leaders about a unit's mission; and foster a supportive relationship with the community, increase military involvement in civic endeavors and organizations and make members of the local community feel part of the unit. The honorary commanders serve a one-year term and the application process can be found here:

usaf.nc.145-aw.list.public-affairs@mail.mil or 704-391-4141.

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

Chad Lloyd is working hard to identify/promote and sign up volunteers for LOTS of service projects. Please look over the below information and let Chad know you can help. clloyd@mihomes.com or chad.lloyd@yahoo.com

- *Christmas Morning Breakfast* at Charlotte Rescue Mission: 40 volunteers needed to serve breakfast. Arrive by 6:15AM; white (collar) shirt, black pants (bow tie will be provided). Sign up: www.charlotterotary.org, click on Service, last column on the right has a sign-up box. Questions may be directed to Joe Penner, jpenner@medic911.com. *IF you are interested in chairing this event next year*, please let Joe or Bob Webb (bwebb@myers-chapmen.com) know.

We are up to 31 volunteers (plus 5 from Queen City Rotary Club) and we need a total of 40 or 45. Family/friends are welcome to join in and we can get them registered. Thanks to: [Tom Blocker](#), [Glenn Bouley](#), [Catherine Bracey](#), [Henry/Maude Cantrell](#), [Jeanie/Tom Cottingham](#), [Cate/Jerry/Mary Coughter](#), [Jennifer Creegan/Hope/Kailee Woods](#), [Brian/Mary Gibson](#), [Bill Gill](#), [Wangzhong/Ben/Kathryn/Sheng Li Lu](#), [Luther Moore](#), [Hope/Jean/Matthew/Joe Penner](#), [Art/Lindsey Ringwald](#), [Elizabeth/Rudy Rudisill](#), [Bob Webb](#), [Clayton Woodard](#)



Our club is partnering with [SHARE Charlotte](#) on group volunteering activities.

We would like to SHARE an opportunity with you:

- Thursday, December 12, 5-7PM, Wells Fargo Atrium Uptown

SHARE Charlotte and the Charlotte Business Journal are teaming up to celebrate Charlotte businesses who give back with [#BizGivesCLT](#). This event brings together Charlotte's for-profit and non-profit business community to celebrate local philanthropy. We need 5-10 people to staff the event. To participate, email colleen@branstorm.com



[Clayton Woodard](#), [Catherine Bracey](#) and [Reggie Johnson](#) spent an afternoon sorting and processing incoming books for *Promising Pages*. The organization collects donated books and distributes them to children with few, if any, books at home. They provide direct classroom programming and more than 150,000 free books annually, making them Charlotte's largest and most efficient distributor of upcycled books aimed at addressing this critical and solvable community need.

[Clyde Robinson](#) inspiring students with his story at the Interact Club of Harding High School on November 20th.

Charlotte Rotary supports five Interact Clubs and any of them would be delighted for Rotarians to spend some time with the group.

Interact Clubs and Rotary Advisor
Harding – [Chad Lloyd](#) & [Bill Loftin](#)
West Mecklenburg – [Chad Lloyd](#) & [Bill Loftin](#)
Myers Park – [Cynthia Marshall](#)
Providence Day – [Colleen Brannan](#)
Sugar Creek Charter – [Frank Martin](#)



MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019 276 **New Members:**
12/10/2019 280
Net Increase +4 **Resignations:** Tom Wright

Post for Membership (comments to Rotary office by 12/17/19)

Greg Forest
United States Marshals Service
Classification: Law Enforcement, Federal
Sponsor: Cheryl Banks
Endorsed: Chad Lloyd and John Nicolay

Visitors 10
Club Members 129
Total 139 (55.4%)

Thanks for bringing a guest: Naeem Rush-Jankee with [George MacBain](#), Captain Charles Ellerbe and Colonel Bryony Terrell with [Rudy Rudisill](#), Bob McCarter with [Byron Bullard](#), Tony Mercia with [Edwin Peacock](#), Kelly Lynn with [Terri DeBoo](#), Greg Forest with [Cheryl Banks](#), Eric Elizando, Captain Brad Koch, Nikolai Sharpe, Eric Elizando

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS (12/18/19 – 12/24/19)

12/18 John Tabor
12/19 Ed Wadsworth
12/20 Wes Clark
12/22 Mort Wise

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (12/18/2019 – 12/24/19)

12/19 Norma & Tom Burgess
12/19 Alexandra & Alex Browning
12/20 Kristi & Jerry Walters

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (12/18/2019 – 12/24/19)

04 years – Stuart Hair
10 years – John zumBrunnen
11 years – Gray Langley
12 years – Charlie Bones
14 years – Lynn Johnson and Karen Calder
54 years – Dal Shefte

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

12/17 – Music provided by InReach Singers
12/24 – Holiday – Not Meeting
12/31 – Holiday – Not Meeting
01/07 – District Governor Beth Trotter
01/14 – Rep. Craig Horn, NC House – Civil Discourse in 2020
01/21 – Daniel Lugo, J.D., President, Queens University of Charlotte
01/28 – Woody Connette, Climbing to the top in 50 states

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