



2019 - 2020 Board Members

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HOW I GOT WHERE I'M AT

Mike Wollinger, Jessica Mallicote, Brian Carn

Cheryl Banks introduced the ever-popular How I Got Where I'm At (HIGWIA) program on December 3rd and our members did not let us down.



Our first speaker was **Mike Wollinger**, a senior vice president and corporate banker with First Bank. He joined the club about three years ago but has an almost 20-year history with Rotary, mostly in the Hendersonville-Asheville area, even serving a stint as a club president, although he admitted that the membership could be seated at three of our club's tables. "You really got to know members of the club," he said.

Mike noted off the bat that there were five main things that attracted him to Rotary:

- the goal of eradicating polio, "an audacious goal but we're close";
- the CART Fund, Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust;" Mike noted that his mom had Alzheimer's

Disease for six years, "not a fun existence for caregivers for sure";

- clean water projects;
- business contacts; and,
- friendships, "I've made some really good friends over the years thanks to Rotary.

He was born in Connecticut but raised in Mendham, NJ. He matriculated to Furman University where he helped found the Sigma Nu Chapter there. "Yes, I'm a damn Yankee; I came and never left."

Mike says he's the "lucky father of two wonderful children". Son Graham, 20, has cerebral palsy. Graham's "done a lot with his life," Mike noted proudly, "It's incredible to watch his progress. There was a time when we didn't know if he would be able to walk or talk." Older sister Delaney, 22, graduated from UNCC in May and is completing graduate school there soon. He's looking forward to her next life. He was divorced several years ago, but now has "a wonderful girlfriend. You never know how things work out," he added.

Mike began his career with Duke Power in Greenville, SC, but soon moved to banking where he has focused on commercial and corporate banking during a nearly 30-year career. His been with National City Bank (Dayton, OH), NationsBank, Wachovia, First Citizens and First Bank and has moved quite a bit, as many bankers will attest: Dayton, OH, (where he got his MBA at the University of Dayton), Columbia, Myrtle Beach,

Augusta, Hendersonville and Charlotte. "I'm not a world traveler but I do know the East Coast pretty well."

He has three sisters who live in New Jersey, New York and Tennessee. "Sometimes I wish I had a brother. My sisters aren't here so I can say that." His dad lives in St Augustine. "Depending on the weather, if I need a place to go, I have lots of choices."

He's had lots of varied volunteer experience, mostly in Western North Carolina, with organizations dealing with low-income housing, transportation, Habitat, education, healthcare, the arts and, of course, United Way.

Two years ago, Mike jumped out of a perfectly good airplane. "For those in the military it may not be a big deal but for us in civilian life, it is." He was headed for a perfect landing, he said, when the man on his back hit his legs and they face planted. This past summer he rafted 100 miles down the Colorado River, ending up in the Grand Canyon. From there he had to hike out, 5,000 feet up!



Jessica Mallicote, vice president for advancement and marketing for the Carolinas Aviation Museum, grew up on the same dairy farm where her dad, a third-generation dairyman, was born and raised, about an hour west of Charlotte in Rutherford County, NC

"My parents met and married in Clemson, SC, where much of our family lore takes place," Jessica said. Her grandfather was the legendary 45-year Clemson coach known as "the General." Her parents were not expecting a second child," she noted, "but then Perry Tuttle caught a touchdown pass to give the Tigers their 1981 National Championship title, and I showed up exactly nine months later. There was a lot to celebrate that year!"

Jessica and her older sister spent lots of time exploring their farm, their imaginations fueled by weekly trips to the library and they had all their elementary school teacher mom's discarded books and supplies. Their grandmother lived next door and took them to her garden club meetings and senior exercise class where they "were the stars."

"As an adult," Jessica said, "my parents shared with me that they often struggled to make ends meet, but we never knew it. They were creative and fun and while there might not have been much money, there was always an abundance of the simple things that really mattered."

She majored in communication studies at UNCG where she thought "I would someday emerge as the next Katie Couric," she said with a wink and a smile.

After several post-grad years of college level teaching, she received an unexpected job offer to be the programs and exhibits coordinator at KidSenses Children's Museum in her hometown. She launched the museum's outreach program, which included a traveling planetarium. All the equipment fit into the backseat of her Chevy Cavalier, which she drove to schools all over North and South Carolina, even Lower Alabama, delivering programs. Jessica noted that she reached more than 40,000 children and "put some serious miles on that Chevy Cavalier."

She changed to "a new shade of orange" when she met her Tennessee Volunteer husband Ben in 2011. She took a job with the American Heart Association's Greater Charlotte team and Ben joined Bank of America. They moved to Charlotte in December 2013 and married the next December 2014.

"Santa Claus crashed our wedding reception!" Jessica joked, she put in a plug for the Rutherford County Tri-Cities. "You must go to downtown Forest City during the holidays." The Christmas lights are magical," she said. "I'm biased, but it's better than McAdenville!"

In 2015 she joined Lowe's store communications team. "In addition to what I learned about retail and a big box store operation, I also learned you can catch up on the phone with almost every member of your family during that excruciating I-77 commute to Mooresville," she recalled.

Unfortunately, she was laid off in 2017. "As much as I loved Lowe's, I had been starting to feel tugged back to the nonprofit world and decided to see this pause in my career as a time to breathe and reboot."

At CAM "I still have a lot to learn about airplanes, but as we like to say, 'it's not just about planes, it's about people' and that really resonates with me. It's exciting to be a part of the CAM team now and planning our new home."

Said Jessica, "Ben and I love our lives in Charlotte more than we could have imagined, and that is because of many of you in this room and the relationships we're fortunate to have with you. Someone once told me that "people don't care how much you know until they know how much you care" and I've tried to remember that when I've felt insecure or uncertain."



Pastor **Brian Carn**, by his own admission, "comes from an extremely huge family." His is just one of two children. But his mom is one of seven and his maternal grandmother is one of 15. His mom is the 21st of 49 grandchildren and he is the 51st of 120 great-grandchildren. Wow!

He was born and raised in Hazlehurst, GA. "I know you've never been there," he said. It's a town so small that if you blink when you past the only stoplight, when you open your eyes you're through the town.

Brian was raised by his mom, a single parent. "Church was not an option. If you didn't like church, you had to act like you like it until you left home." During school he had no plans to become a preacher. "I actually wanted to be a plastic surgeon. I wanted to major in liposuction. But the Lord had other plans."

He preached his first sermon when he was 12 years old. "If someone wants to know what I preached about, I have absolutely no idea."

"I wanted to be a doctor; the Lord wanted me to be a preacher. He wanted me to operate on their hearts not their bodies," he explained.

He graduated salutatorian of his high school class and wanted to go to college, "but again the Lord had other plans," Brian said. "I want straight into the ministry and began to travel all over the world," he said.

After having appeared on all the major Christian broadcasting networks, he went to Jackson, MS, for a large conference. Some 6,000 people heard him preach and he received the keys to the city, he said. After that he came to Charlotte for a New Year's Eve service when he preached for 2,200 inside Ovens Auditorium and 4,000 outside. He came back to Charlotte and preached before some 6,000 people at the Park Expo Arena.

His next move was to Charlotte. "I felt the Lord wanted us to come here," even though he is no fan of the Queen City's traffic. He was in Jacksonville, FL, where there is very little traffic.

Using all forms of social media, he told his followers that he was moving to Charlotte to start a church. "You should come to Charlotte" and be a part of the new church.

His first Charlotte church was on West 32nd St and accommodated 400. The congregation quickly outgrew that location and moved to another building on Clanton Road. Next stop is the current location on Dr. Carver Road, but the ministry has now bought a shopping center on Brookshire Blvd. that is being completely remodeled.

People are coming from all over the nation, not just Charlotte, to be a part of the ministry. The goal is not just to start a new community but to provide jobs and help revitalize the neighborhood. "I want to be a blessing to Charlotte."

"We're changing the world one day at a time," Brian said. "We're living in a culture today where people are so mean. I believe the way to change is to treat people right."

Then, he ended, with the "real reason" he wanted to become a Rotarian. "Don't judge me," he said. He had a friend in Union City, TN, who was a Rotarian. He was a speeder, but he never had to pay his tickets. He said he had a judge friend in the Rotary club. "Make sure you join the Rotary when you get to Charlotte. And so, that's the reason I joined Rotary, and I'm grateful to be here."

Reporter: Henry Bostic; *Head Table:* Brian Carn, John Lassiter, Cheryl Banks, Jessica Mallicote, Mike Wollinger; *Invocation:* Angela Broome Powley; *Introduce Visitors:* Bill Bradley; *Photos:* Sandy Osborne; *Greeters:* Andy Ross and Mort Wise

CLUB NEWS

Do you know [Jim Hintz](#) – longtime Rotarian that joined Charlotte Rotary when the University City club folded; spends over half a year in Alto Cayma; writes a newsletter every week he's in Peru. If you want to learn about a dedicated Rotarian and a man that gets things done, click here: [Report No. 1 from Alto Cayma 1 Dec 19.pdf](#). Inspiring!

There are about 60 people ringing the bell for the Salvation Army Red Kettle program and you have two more Tuesday's to support the raffle - \$10 per ticket; \$20 for 3 tickets; drawing on December 17, 2019.

The Salvation Army - Bell Ringing at the Square
November 25 through December 13
(everyone gets an attendance makeup)

11:30am – 12:30pm

11/25/19 Glenn Paton, Rex Reynolds
11/26/19 Hank Donaghy, Chad Lloyd
11/27/19 Jerry Coughter, Will Barnhardt

12:30pm – 1:30pm

Jason Otte, Linwood Bolles
Diego Ramon, MaShona McAfee
Ed Wadsworth, Gray Langley

12/02/19 Ron Campbell, Mike Guacci
12/03/19 Dan Rajkowski, Mark Norman
12/04/19 Robert Daughtridge, **OPEN**
12/05/19 Jesse Hite, Ken Poe, Fred Brown
12/06/19 Roger Sarow, Tom O'Brien

Lynn Johnson, Travis Vance
Marilynn Bowler, Bob Bowler
David Tobin, Jim Deas
Dumont Clarke, Ed Pickett
Catherine Bracey, Carla DuPuy

12/09/19 The Cantrell Family
12/10/19 Stuart Hair, Mike Wollinger, Robert Salmon
12/11/19 Elizabeth Teagarden, Scott Anderson
12/12/19 David Zimmerman, Fred Wagner
12/13/19 Jeff Atkinson, Luther Moore

Scott Gakenheimer, Diego Ramon
Kim Brattain, Bill Gill
Benton Bragg, Kandi Deitemeyer
Clayton Woodard, Tom Blocker
Pat Millen, Eileen Keeley & Sam

ATTENDANCE

My guess is most of you are noticing the drop in attendance at our weekly meetings. I don't know why – we have great speakers, lots of fun people. About three years ago, we averaged 140 to 185 each week. This week, with three guests, there were 114 attending. Please reach out to your fellow Rotarians and ask them to attend.

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

- Promising Pages on December 10th, 2-4PM, 4020 Yancey Road, need up to 10 volunteers. Volunteers needed to help process incoming book donations, count, clean & sticker, and/or sort books. Questions may be directed to Kim McMillan (kim.mcmillan@carolinahome.com). Thanks to Clayton Woodard, Reggie Johnson and Jessica Mallicote for signing up.

- 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.

There are 26 people signed up (plus 4 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 Cantrell, Cate/Jerry/Mary Coughter, Jennifer Cregan, Bill Gill, Luther Moore, Hope/Jean/Matthew/Joe Penner, Art/Lindsey Ringwald, Elizabeth/Rudy Rudisill, Bob Webb, Clayton Woodard, Hope/Kailee Woods.



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

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019	276	New Members:
12/03/2019	280	
Net Increase	+4	Resignations: Tom Wright

Post for Membership (comments to Rotary office by 12/10/19)

Kevin Loux
Foundation for the Carolinas/Leading on Opportunity
(Classification: Philanthropic Partner, Community & Economic Development)
Sponsor: Pat Millen
Endorsed: Edwin Peacock and Floyd Davis

Visitors	3
Club Members	110
Total	114 (48.2%)

Thanks for bringing a guest: Scott Mooney with [Ken Fuquay](#); Rocky Cabagnot with [Bill Bradley](#); Ben Mallicote with [Jessica Mallicote](#)

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS (12/11/19 – 12/17/19)

12/11 Russell Peck
12/13 Brooke Reddington
12/16 Jim Rogers

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (12/11/2019 – 12/17/19)

12/13 Jessica & Ben Mallicote
12/16 Christen & Matthew Greer

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (12/11/2019 – 12/17/19)

13 years – Bill Constangy
16 years – Charlie Pitts

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

12/10 – Chief Ken Putney, CMPD
12/17 – Music provided by Inreach Singers
12/24 – Holiday – Not Meeting
12/31 – Holiday – Not Meeting
01/07 – District Governor Beth Trotter

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