



2019 - 2020 Board Members

President John W. Lassiter

Pres Elect Jerry Coughter

Past Pres Mike Hawley

Secretary Sandy Osborne

Treasurer Phil Volponi

Directors 2019-2020

Cheryl Banks

William Bradley

Dena Diorio

Carla DuPuy

Bill Loftin, Jr.

Clyde Robinson

Rudy Rudisill

Directors 2019-2021

Colleen Brannan

Stuart Hair

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

WARREN COOKSEY North Carolina Turnpike Authority



Edward Peacock introduced and welcomed our speaker, Warren Cooksey, Director of Outreach and Community Affairs for the North Carolina Turnpike Authority, a business unit of The North Carolina Department of Transportation. A native of Raleigh and a Davidson College graduate, he moved to Charlotte in 1995. While working in the banking industry he also has served on the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Planning Commission and City Council. In his role now, he supports community relations for all NC DOT activities in the Charlotte region including highway, rail, transit, bike and aviation.

Today Warren brought us up to date on the toll roads and express lanes that serve or are planned for the greater Charlotte area. Although area toll roads and toll lanes have come on line just in the past few years, they have been in the DOT master plan tool box since 2002. It's quite apparent that public-private partnerships for toll roads or toll lanes will continue to play a role in area road upgrades and new construction. The 2019 State Transportation Improvement Program identified more than \$50 Billion in needed road improvements. Public funds now available are less than \$13 Billion.

How do the toll roads and express lanes operate? With no toll booths, the express toll lanes are "open road" with electronic tolls. Users may elect to prepay tolls and receive a 35% discount either by obtaining a windshield sticker or buying a transponder which provides interoperability with all reciprocal state authorities. Without prepayment windshield devices, toll lane users' license plates are read electronically and then billed at the full price. If an invoice is not paid, subsequent billings add Fees and a fourth unpaid invoice triggers a registration hold on the vehicle.

What is the status of Charlotte regions' toll roads and express toll lane thoroughfares? First to finish, the Monroe to Wadesboro Monroe bypass now has more than 15,000 cars a quarter with much higher use during the summer beach traffic months. Since I-77 Express lanes from Charlotte to Mooresville

came on line last year, now more than 25,000 cars use them daily. The final stretch of the Highway 74 project is well under way. Express lanes will be added, eliminating all crossroads and adding parallel roads between Idlewild Road and I-485. I-485 south between I-77 and 74 also is in the improvement construction phase. The Express toll lanes being added are scheduled for completion in late 2022. Finally, I-77 improvements south from Uptown to South Carolina are in the planning stages; it's anticipated that express toll lanes will be added here too.

Warren commented that the majority of user feedback has been very positive as citizens have been delighted with the time savings and convenience they provide. Additional information is available at www.ncdot.gov/turnpike

Reporter: Ed Wadsworth; *Head Table:* Ed Driggs, John Lassiter, Edwin Peacock, Carla DuPuy; *Invocation:* Marilyn Bowler; *Introduce Visitors:* Wes Sturges; *Photos:* Sandy Osborne; *Greeters:* Jennifer Creegan, Scott Gakenheimer, Reggie Johnson

CLUB NEWS



Daniel Peterson, Counsel, Parker Poe Adams & Bernstein, was introduced as the club's newest member. Thanks to sponsor **Mac McCarley** and endorsers **Ron Kimble** and **Patrick Baker** for inviting him to join Rotary. Patrick focuses his practice on civil litigation and prior to joining Parker Poe, he served as an assistant city attorney in the Charlotte City Attorney's Office. He earned a BA from UNC and JD at the UNC School of Law. Patrick, Courtney and daughter Caroline live in Matthews and you can reach him at danielpeterson@parkerpoe.com. Welcome!

Reminder that next week's meeting (February 18) will be held at Charlotte Country Club. Reservations are **CLOSED** and if your plans have changed and you can't make it, please notify the Rotary office. There are eight people on a wait list.

Tony Marciano will receive the Excellence in Leadership Award at the February 25 meeting being held at Myers Park Country Club. 141 have signed up so far. Final RSVP is Monday, February 17.

Charlotte Business Journal Award Winners – *Most Admired CEO* (by category): Government – **Dena Diorio**, Mecklenburg County; Nonprofits - **Karen Calder**, Classroom Central; Sports, Entertainment & Tourism – **Dan Rajkowski**, Charlotte Knights. 2020 Honoree for *Women in Business Achievement Awards:* **Kim Kuo**, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. Consolidated.

Luther Fincher was appointed by the Insurance Commissioner to the Charlotte Fire Department Relief Fund Board.

Updated contact email for **Karen Price**: klprice102@gmail.com.

The 18th Annual Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic will be held Monday, September 28, 2020 at a new location – ***Pine Island Country Club!*** **Mike Wollinger** will chair the event and if you are interested in joining the committee, contact Mike at mwollinger@localfirstbank.com. Registration flyer will be available soon.

Funeral services for Ray Allen Killian, Sr. were held February 11, 2020 at Myers Park Presbyterian Church. Ray joined Charlotte Rotary in June, 1984 and resigned with health issues in April, 2017. Ray was a WW II fighter pilot, businessman, author, devoted husband and hero to his family. He was 97 years old. The club expresses deepest sympathy to the family and a donation has been made to Sharon Towers in Ray's memory.

The Jan/Feb/Mar invoices were emailed January 9th. 94 members have NOT paid, which means you have slightly passed the 30 day past due mark. It would be great if you get your payment in without me having to individually re-send invoices.



District 7680 & Charlotte Rotary Service Project
Shuffletown Park
9500 Bellhaven Blvd
Charlotte, NC 28214

Saturday February 29, 2020
9:30AM – 12:00PM

Up to 60 volunteers (Rotarians, family members, Interact/Rotaract clubs) are needed to plant trees at Shuffletown Park. All volunteers will receive an orientation from an arborist – tree experts will be available throughout the morning to guide you. Trees, mulch, t-shirts, tools, water, and snacks provided by TreesCharlotte. Volunteers are asked to bring gloves, wear long sleeve shirts, long pants, and closed toed shoes. Rain or shine event! SMS Catering will provide BBQ lunch. (Phil Volponi, volponipc@gmail.com)
Register: <https://treescharlotte.org/event/shuffletown-park-treeday/>

Last year the Rotary of Charlotte made a donation to Libros for Learning to help with a library in the community of El Aguila. The school has one teacher and 19 students; a pre-school for 10 kids is on the same property. The recent dedication of the facility was a big hit and each child received a library card. The village mothers brought in lunch and the kids are excited about the reading log they will fill in each night after they complete their story. Thanks to [Graham Wilson](#) and [Lee Tabor](#) for their work to fund this project.



Hospitality House of Charlotte exists to provide families needing affordable accommodations while seriously ill patients are being treated in Charlotte hospitals. [Bryce Chambliss \(jbcham15@yahoo.com\)](mailto:jbcham15@yahoo.com) and [Diego Ramon \(dframon@gmail.com\)](mailto:dframon@gmail.com) work closely with this organization and are available if you are interested in learning more about the organization.

Area Rotary Clubs of Cabarrus County have partnered with Cannon Pharmacy, Home Instead Senior Care, and Morningside of Concord to conduct a half-day workshop to learn helpful strategies to provide safe, effective and comfortable care through the middle stage of Alzheimer's. The event will be Saturday, March 14, 10:00AM-2:00PM, McGill Baptist Church, 5300 Poplar Tent Road in Concord. RSVP at tinyurl.com/ConfidentCaregiver or 1-800-272-3900.

Queen City Rotary Club has announced their club's project – The Queen's Cupboard – which is a pantry that provides essential, non-food items to families in need (distributed through Loaves and Fishes food pantry). They are specifically in need of toiletry items (toothpaste, toothbrushes, washcloths, bar soap, lotion, shampoo,

deodorant men & women), individually wrapped toilet paper, or a gift card/voucher to purchase these items. Items may be dropped off at Saturday's Mid-Year Assembly at UNC-C Center City.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019 276 **New Members:** Bill Goodwyn, Kevin Loux, Bryan Zeiss, Daniel Peterson

02/11/2020 271

Net Increase -5 **Resignations:** Dal Shefte

Visitors 7
Club Members 105
Total 141 (47.9%)

Thanks for bringing a guest: Stefan Riedl, guest of Mike Hawley; Angel Liu, Gordon Liu, Yuda Sun, and Jason Yi were guests of Chase Saunders; Richard Sidebottom from the Charleston Rotary Club; and Bruce Kantor with Charlotte West Rotary

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS (02/20/2020 – 02/26/2020)

02/20 Brian Gibson
02/23 Dena Diorio
02/25 Cynthia Marshall
02/26 Will Hadley
02/26 Mike Restaino
02/26 Bryan McAllister

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (02/20/2020 – 02/26/2020)

02/20 Terri and Mark DeBoo
02/23 Joy and Hunter Widener

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (02/20/2020 – 02/26/2020)

03 years – Kandi Deitemeyer and Kasey Lankes
05 years – Fred Wagner (this club)
22 years – Luther Moore

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

02/18 – Michael Reddington, Leadership Lessons from the Interrogation Room (***Charlotte Country Club***)

02/25 – Excellence in Leadership Award (***Myers Park Country Club***)

03/03 – How I Got Where I'm At (*Charlie Bones, Mary Grace Lostetter, Bryce Chambliss*)

03/10 – Brent Cagle, Charlotte Douglas International Airport

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