



## 2019 - 2020 Board Members

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3<sup>rd</sup> Qtr Jeff Atkinson

4<sup>th</sup> Qtr Karen Price

## WOODY CONNETTE Climbing to the Top in 50 States



Today we had the pleasure of hearing from Edward “Woody” Connette. Woody is a highly regarded Charlotte litigation attorney. It wasn’t until he reached 61 years of age that he decided his passionate weekend goal would be to climb the highest peaks in all 50 states. To him that sounded very doable; he had already done three so only forty-seven to go!

Woody began his remarks thanking Rotary for being the catalyst and founder of Easter Seals in Mecklenburg County 100 years ago. Woody has become very involved with Easter Seals, every year witnessing the more than 4,000 Charlotte area served and 19,000 statewide.

When, how and why did Woody decide to climb the 50 highest peaks in all 50 states, an accomplishment he completed with his wife at Mauna Kea in Hawaii? You wouldn’t think that Woody’s upbringing would lead to this ambitious goal. Woody grew up far from the mountains in Wilmington in the 1950’s, a time when the population of Wilmington was shrinking. When he was 16 his parents steered him to a summer job manning the concessions at Mt. Mitchell. Unbeknownst to him, his hike to the top got his first state of the future fifty out of the way. Then, in 1986 as a young adult and with seven friends, they hiked Alaska’s Mt. McKinley/Denali. That’s a fly-in hike to 5000 feet, the first stage to 14,000 where the real climbing starts to 17,000. Woody must have forgotten the 3 to 4 days of bad weather at 17,000 feet hindering them before being able to reach the top. 25 years later he heard about “high pointing” and decided to set the goal to climb the other 47 other peaks.

Of course, some peaks have been easy. Ebright Azimuth in Delaware sits at 425 feet. Hawkeye Point in Iowa and Charles Mound in Illinois are highpoints in

corn fields. However, among the toughest climbs are Mt. Hood-Washington, Granite Peak-Montana, River Range-Wyoming, and Mt. Whitney-California.

Woody holds the unique distinction of being the only North Carolinian to reach the highest point in all 50 states.

The presentation was interesting to all and furthermore may inspire some of us. Ruth and I enjoy hiking. Being less ambitious, we may still seek the highest peaks in some states as we travel. Woody left on each table a copy of the club publication **50 State Highpointers**. Anyone can join for \$25/yr and receive this quarterly publication from **The Highpointers Club**. It highlights the progress of many members' treks and journey. There is an article within that suggests all contemplate other adventure goals "because they are there, too." Perhaps one of the following may inspire you, especially since they do not necessarily require any training:

- Hike the peaks of all North Carolina counties (talk to Henry Pharr of Charlotte who has done that;
- Hike the world's longest trail which is in Canada – 14,913 miles
- Play the highest golf course in each state
- Visit a Park in every state
- Visit a winery in every state

Are you inspired yet?

*Reporter:* Ed Wadsworth; *Head Table:* Marilyn Bowler, John Lassiter, Mac McCarley, John Tabor; *Invocation:* Mac McCarley; *Introduce Visitors:* Ken Poe; *Photos:* Sandy Osborne; *Greeters:* Jay Westmoreland & Chuck Dahlgren

## CLUB NEWS

**REMINDER:** Service Opportunity HERE: [LifeSpan Volunteer Opportunity](#). LifeSpan empowers children and adults with disabilities by providing education, employment and enrichment opportunities to live, work, and play in the communities. On January 31, 2020 there will be a fellowship event (Bingo!) and 10-15 volunteers are needed to assist friends with disabilities. Time is 11AM – 1PM; address is 601 N. Graham Street. Click on the above link to sign up. Questions may be directed to Chad Lloyd ([chad.lloyd@yahoo.com](mailto:chad.lloyd@yahoo.com)).

Rotary offers so much. Relationships built through Rotary can last a life time and taking time to get better acquainted with those in this club is important. [Vernon Anderson](#) just called the office to ask about our friend [Phil Van Hoy](#). Vernon's health has taken a few rough turns, he no longer drives, but he is still a faithful Rotarian. Think of someone you've not seen in a while and take a few minutes to check on them. It will make both of you feel good.



[Cheryl Banks](#) introduced her former Chief and good friend, [Greg Forest](#) as the club's newest member. Greg was appointed US Marshal for the Western District of NC in May 2018. He is responsible for the management, administration and direction of operations throughout the district, which consists of 32 counties and three US Courthouses located in Charlotte, Statesville & Asheville. Greg enjoys life with his wife Regina and their four children. Reach out to Greg at [gforest63@gmail.com](mailto:gforest63@gmail.com). Welcome!



We are all still trying to process the news that [Philip Marshall Van Hoy](#) died unexpectedly on January 25, 2020. After all, we had been emailing each other nearly every day for the last couple weeks regarding the Excellence in Leadership Award and about introducing this week's Rotary speaker. Phil is survived by Sylvia Van Hoy, his wife of forty-seven years, son Marshall Van Hoy and wife Luci and their son Hill of Candler, NC, son Travis Van Hoy of Asheville, NC, brother Houston Van Hoy and his wife Katherine of Charlotte, and canine companion Wyli Van Hoy. Phil was quite the personality with outstanding professional accomplishments, lifelong learner, Duke Basketball fan, world traveler, outspoken conservative, and a Rotarian for thirty-six years. A celebration of life will be held at Myers Park United Methodist Church at 2:00pm on Saturday, February 1, 2020. The family will receive friends immediately following the service in Jubilee Hall at the church. The family requests donations to the NC Wildlife Endowment Fund for lifetime hunting and fishing licenses for youth. (<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charlotte/obituary.aspx?n=philip-marshall-vanhoy&pid=195171870>).

[Bill Constangy's](#) article "Clarion Call for a Uniform or Model Noncompete Law Act" was published in the American Bar Association Labor and Employment Law, Fall Edition.

[Chad Lloyd](#) introduced Tori Kendrick, Executive Relations Manager for CPCC's Year Up Charlotte program. Tori explained the basics of the program: Year Up offers an intensive, one-year program for young adults, ages **18-24**, combining professional coaching, hands-on skill development, and internships at some of America's top companies. Internships cover a 26-week period; partners make a financial investment in Year Up on a per intern basis; a Year Up account manager supports each partner; and there is zero cost to hire upon graduation. If you would like to make Year Up part of your recruitment strategy, or volunteer as a mentor, reach out to Tori at [tkendrick@yearup.org](mailto:tkendrick@yearup.org).

## MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019	276	<b>New Members:</b> Greg Forest
01/28/2020	268	
Net Increase	-8	<b>Resignations:</b> Matthew Greer, George Cochran, Jordan Harris, John Shaver, Suzi Ford, Todd Ford, Alex Browning, Bob Phifer

(Hard way to start the New Year...retirements, relocation, time commitment, family...membership is always evolving and everyone is needed to help keep the club relevant and thriving)

Visitors	11
Club Members	116
Total	127 (53%)

Thanks for bringing a guest: Paul Vickers, guest of [Brian Carn](#); Stacey Snyder, guest of [John Snyder](#); Justin Favaro, guest of [Jeff Atkinson](#); Tod Stevens, guest of [Wes Jones](#); Stefan Riedl, guest of [Mike Hawley](#); Club guests: Jane Harper, Tori Kendrick, Jaclyn Lencz, Kate Gruber, Linda Rakvic, Joan Foley

## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS (02/06/2020 – 02/11/2020)

02/08 Jim Barnhardt  
 02/09 Hunter Widener  
 02/09 John Cantrell  
 02/11 Chris Jackson

## **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (02/06/2020 – 02/11/2020)**

02/09 Katie & Scott Tyler

## **ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (02/06/2020 – 02/11/2020)**

03 years – Graham Wilson (in this club)

04 years – Susan Nestor, Vanessa Stolen, Andy Dinkin

05 years – Tom Blocker

06 years – Tim Flanagan

09 years – Wes Clark

14 years – John Shell

21 years – John Nicolay

## **UPCOMING PROGRAMS**

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

02/04 – Dr. Justin Favaro, Oncologist, World Cancer Day

02/11 – Warren Cooksey, NC Turnpike Authority – Toll Roads & NCDOT

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

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

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