



## 2019 - 2020 Board Members

**President** John W. Lassiter

**Pres Elect** Jerry Coughter

**Past Pres** Mike Hawley

**Secretary** Sandy Osborne

**Treasurer** Phil Volponi

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Cheryl Banks

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Carla DuPuy

Bill Loftin, Jr.

Clyde Robinson

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Stephanie Hinrichs

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Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

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Membership John Tabor

Foundation William Bradley

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1<sup>st</sup> Qtr Edwin Peacock

2<sup>nd</sup> Qtr Ron Kimble

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

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

## RICHARD VINROOT 10 Things On My Mind



In 1995 when he was Mayor of Charlotte, Richard Vinroot was running for governor. He came to the hotel where the Charlotte Rotary Club meets to give a talk. Vinroot said he went into the men's room where there were blowers for hand drying. Someone had stuck words on one of the blowers that said, "Push this button for a few words from Charlotte's mayor."

In an entertaining but insightful talk to Charlotte Rotary on Tuesday, Vinroot said that was one of the most memorable moments from his tenure as mayor of the Queen City.

The impetus for his Rotary talk, he explained, was the valedictory lesson he gave after teaching the senior high Sunday school class at Myers Park Presbyterian Church when he retired from teaching the class about two years ago. Unbeknownst to Vinroot, former students were invited that day to hear him discuss "several things he had never had the chance to say before." One of those who attended was Edwin Peacock who asked Vinroot to share those thoughts with the club.

Said the Morehead scholar at UNC, he decided to add some other thoughts including some favorite Winston Churchill quotes ("one of the great glib minds of all time"), "favorite resentments" of his wife Judy (with tongue firmly in cheek) and some of the things he learned from his father (a Swedish immigrant who had only an eighth grade education).

The ten things from the Sunday school lesson:

1. With apologies to his minister, the Eagle Scout said, "Turn off your damn cell phones. We have cell phones in front of us "all the time. Turn off your cell phone and go talk to somebody. Call them on the phone and say something to them." Cell phones are a "wonderful invention but they could be the death of us."
2. Call people; better yet talk to people in person. "Tell them what you want to tell them." He related an incident when his granddaughter was supposed to call him to pick her up from a friend's. No call came. Finally, his wife called to tell him the granddaughter had been texting him to pick her up. "What's a text," he asked. When the granddaughter called, he picked her up.
3. Be kind to people. Say thank you, yes sir and no ma'am. "Open doors for people. Say nice things."
4. "All teenagers are mentally ill. It happens about the time they turn 13 and continues until about 20. It's simply a fact of life."
5. "We Americans are the luckiest people in all the world. We live on an island. We won the lottery. We were born and raised in America. We live in Charlotte. I tell my grandchildren all the time, by the grace of God we were born here."

6. "Love your country and your neighbor." He said the best public service he ever rendered was being a scoutmaster for a troop sponsored by First Baptist Church West. Nothing he likes better than hearing the Scout pledge. His granddaughter is now a Scout. (Yes, girls can now be Scouts.) He hopes she becomes an Eagle.
7. He talked about the late Antonin Scalia's praise for George Washington, whom he called "the most indispensable man in our country." Why? "He could be believed. He could be trusted, and he could be counted on. I would go to my grave if someone would say that about me. That would be a life well lived." Vinroot also cited the *I-wish-you-bad-luck!* address Chief Justice John Roberts gave at his son's middle school commencement. ([Link here.](#))

The former Tar Heel basketball player who was on Dean Smith's first varsity team is an admirer of Churchill. He shared some favorite quotes including one he apologized in advance for its questionable nature for mixed company.

Churchill was in a men's room when his nemesis Lord Halifax came to the urinal next to him. Churchill moved several urinals away. Lord Halifax said, "My Lord, a little shy in our old age, aren't we?" "No, no," Churchill replied, "It's been my experience that things that are large and productive, you want to privatize."

Other Churchill quotes:

- Diplomacy is telling someone to go to hell in such a nice way that they ask you for directions.
- The postman will never get the mail delivered if he stops for every barking dog. Vinroot said that quote was a favorite of Coach Smith, especially as Smith endured a lot of trials and tribulations early on because there were many more losses than wins.
- Fear is reaction. Courage is a decision.
- If you're not a liberal by age 20, you have no heart. If you're not a conservative at age 40, you have no brain.
- There is nothing government can give you that it hasn't taken from you in the first place.
- The best argument against democracy is a five-minute conversation with an average voter.
- A good speech should be like a woman's skirt. Long enough to cover the subject but short enough to create some interest." Vinroot noted this would have been more appropriate when Rotary was all-male, but he quoted it anyway.
- One man with conviction will beat a hundred men who have only opinions.
- However clever the strategy you should occasionally look at the results.
- You don't make the poor richer by making the rich poorer.

Vinroot is 6 feet, 7 inches. Wife Judy is 5 foot, 3 inches. She doesn't take a lot from him. He listed a few of her favorite resentments.

- She had to change her name from Allen to Vinroot, something she's had to tell people how to spell for too many years. He didn't have to change his name.
- He didn't get pregnant three times . . . each one in the summer.
- No matter where he goes, he can pack in one bag; she must pack as if she's going to the moon.
- She must shop for Christmas for three to four months. He can do all his shopping at the Rite Aid (now Walgreens) in an hour on Christmas Eve.
- His wife's bathroom looks like a pharmacy; his has six items: toothbrush, toothpaste, razor, shaving cream, soap and towel.
- Vinroot just dresses up for wedding and funerals; Judy has to dress up for every occasion.
- Judy says Vinroot doesn't remember birthdays, anniversaries or anything about the family. "You seem only vaguely aware that there are four short people in the house with him." To which Vinroot retorted, "There's some truth to that. I don't have to remember. She has a clear record of it all."

Vinroot called his father the greatest influence in his life. Here are some of the things he told Richard and his brother and sister.

- Make a good account of yourself wherever you go, whomever you're with.
- Remember who you are and where you're from.
- People who lie down with dogs will get fleas.
- If you always tell the truth, you never have to remember what you said.
- You'll learn a lot more while listening rather than talking all the time. You really ought to try it sometime.
- Richard, between you and your mom she's always right, even if you are right.
- If you want to teach a boy to be a good husband and father, love his mother . . . "and boy did he!"
- The older you are the smarter your parents will become.
- Try, Richard, to make a good life not just a good living.
- Watch your thoughts. Your thoughts will become your words. Watch your words. Your words will become your actions. Watch your actions. Your actions will become your habits. Watch your habits. Your habits will determine your character and your character will be your destiny.

And then Vinroot quoted Churchill again: "Life is fraught with opportunities to sit down and shut up, and I shall."

*Reporter:* Henry Bostic; *Head Table:* Tony Zeiss, John Lassiter, Mac McCarley, Frank Martin; *Invocation:* Cheryl Banks; *Introduce Visitors:* Charlie Bones; *Greeters:* Travis Barnes & Bryan McAllister

## CLUB NEWS

Thanks to **Bill Loftin**, Loftin & Company, Inc. for their work to print the membership roster. This is a tremendous undertaking that is almost impossible to keep current. Rosters are available for pickup at our Rotary meetings over the next few weeks. Please make the following changes and let me know if there are others: **Wes Clark**, Home: 6205 Morrison Blvd, Apt 602. Cell 704-622-5045; **Brian Gibson**, Ofc: 6035 Fairview Rd (28210), 704-295-3000; **Stephanie Hinrichs**: Womble Bond Dickson (US) LLP, [stephanie.hinrichs@wbd-us.com](mailto:stephanie.hinrichs@wbd-us.com); **George MacBain**: 200 S. College St., 11<sup>th</sup> Flr; **Pender McElroy**: Primary email [pmcelroy1958@gmail.com](mailto:pmcelroy1958@gmail.com), Cell 704-236-7040; **Bob Phifer**, Home 5633 Ballinard Ln (28277), 704-577-5798; **Mike Ranson**: Primary email [mranson37@gmail.com](mailto:mranson37@gmail.com); **Martin Waters**, Ofc 10100 Park Cedar Dr., Ste 1990 (28210).

### 17<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Scholarship Classic

Tuesday, September 10, 2019 at Ballantyne Resort. There will NOT be a regular Rotary luncheon that day. All are invited to the BBQ dinner that will be provided by **Bob & Robert Freeman**, SMS Catering, when play wraps up around 5:30PM. Registration and driving range will open at 11:30AM. Boxed lunch will be provided by **Fairfield Inn & Suites** before the shotgun start at 1:00PM. Thanks to our (confirmed) tournament sponsors: GOLD \$10,000: Greater Charlotte Auto Dealers; BRONZE \$5,000: Charlotte Rotary, MEDIC; SILVER \$3,000: Motorola Solutions, PBI Products; Full Page Ad \$1500: CPCC. We have a guarantee of 88 golfers (100 max) and stand at 56 golfers at this time. Please get your registration into the Rotary office ASAP.

Raffle tickets will be sold at the Rotary luncheons 8/8/19 – 9/3/19. \$20 for 3 tickets and the list of prizes continues to grow: original watercolors (**Wil Bosbyshell**), Autobell Car Wash (**Chuck Howard**), Panther Tickets (**Dale Halton**), Bracelet (**Julie Haack**), Charlotte City Club (**John Scharer**), Pottery (**Scott Anderson**), Jesse Brown Outfitters (**Bill Barte**), Blumenthal Performing Arts (**Dale Halton**), Charlotte Ballet (**Dale Halton**), Belk Gift Card (**Luther Moore**).



A new twist this year is the beautiful high-top table & chairs on display in the hallway by the name badge boxes at the hotel. This piece of furniture was made by KSO (Kitchen Studio Office) and was donated by Fred Wagner. Valued at \$1000...a separate ticket will be sold for this piece. \$20 for 1 ticket.

Several to thank for in-kind donations: Loftin & Company for the Ad journal, NoDa Brewery and Adams Beverage for beer, Pepsi and Frito-Lay for soft drinks, water, & snacks.

YOUR help to find more sponsors, foursomes, single players, ads for the journal, tee signs, or other donations will be APPRECIATED. Committee chair **Mike Wollinger** ([mwollinger@localfirstbank.com](mailto:mwollinger@localfirstbank.com)) would be glad to bring you on board.

## MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019	276
07/30/2019	283
Net Increase	+7

New Members: Terri Guthrie, Russell Peck, Kevin Poet, Robert Daughtridge, Jim Deas, Clayton Woodard, Mary Ellen Player (reinstated), Clayton Wood, Michael Norton  
Resignations:

### APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP *(Comments to Rotary Office by 8/6/19)*

**Lori B. Giang**

**NC MedAssist** (*Classification: Non-Profit, Healthcare, Pharmacy*)

Sponsor: Terri DeBoo

Endorsed: Karen Calder and Marilyn Bowler

Visitors	22
Club Members	128
Total	150 (53.4%)

Guests: Walter Siegenthaler, Jill Strong, Mary Aileen Clark, Mary Grace Lastetter, Hal Murray, Kim Van Sickler, Eric Franzen, Mike Walker, Greg Whitaker, J. Wilfred Neal, Regis Morrison, Isaiah Scott, Lauren Currin, Lori Giang, Ken D. Fuquay, Beth Zeiss, Bryan Zeiss, Mark Erwin, Jennifer De La Jara, Joe Clifford, Erhard van Vuuren, Brendan Kelleher,

## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS (08/07/19 – 08/13/19)

08/09 Marilyn Bowler

08/12 Ben Dobson

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (08/07/2019 – 08/13/19)

08/08 Donna & Tom Turpin

08/10 Faye & Ron Campbell

08/11 Charlotte & John Shaver

08/12 Karen & Mike DeAmicis

### ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (08/07/2019 – 08/13/19)

04 years – John Shaver, Cheryl Banks

15 years – Harriman Jett

20 years – George MacBain

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

08/06 – David Gilbert, Destination Cleveland

08/13 – How I Got Where I'm At (*Andy Dinkin, Chad Lloyd, Rhonda York*)

08/20 – Michael Kahn, CEO, Charlotte Checkers

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)

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