



2020- 2021 Board Members

President Jerald Coughter

Pres Elect Carol Hardison

Past Pres John Lassiter

Secretary Bill Bradley

Treasurer Edwin Peacock

Exec Sec Sandy Osborne

Directors 2020-2021

Colleen Brannan

Kandi Deitemeyer

Stuart Hair

Stephanie Hinrichs

Chris Kemper

Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

Directors 2020-2022

Patrick Baker

Bill Bartee

Suzanne Bledsoe

Kim McMillan

Rex Reynolds

Ranjay Sarda

John zumBrunnen

Membership Clyde

Robinson

Foundation John Tabor

Programs Elly Clary

Jeff Atkinson

Cheryl Banks

Bill Bartee

Bill Bradley

Kim Brattain

David Tobin

PRESIDENT JERRY COUGHTER Rotary Club of Charlotte 2020-2021



In another first for Charlotte Rotary compelled by the Coronavirus pandemic, the annual official leadership succession ceremonies took place in a conference room in Uptown Charlotte while more than 65 members looked on from their homes and offices throughout the area via Zoom.

New president Jerry Coughter secured the coveted past-president's pin in John Lassiter's lapel and Past-president John returned the favor with the president's pin.

In another virtual act, President Jerry announced that he had made his daughters Mary and Cate Paul Harris Fellows in what at other times would have been a surprise in-person event. "My daughters have been part of my Rotary journey from the beginning," he said.

Following are President Jerry's inaugural remarks:

"I want to start by recognizing John for the steady hand he brought to the club this year, especially in these last few months. It's a great honor to be the 104th president of this club. And I want to especially appreciate the men and women who've been president during my time in the club, starting with Ron Kimble, who was my sponsor, Marilyn Bowler, John Tabor, Tony Zeiss, Tom Bartholomy, Natalie English, Katie Tyler, Mike Hawley and John Lassiter. And special thanks to all who agreed to serve on the board or as committee chair.

"I also want to thank all of you on the call today for all that you do for Rotary and for community, and for choosing to continue to be a part of Charlotte Rotary even while we've had to meet via Zoom. That commitment, your commitment, gives me hope that we'll come out the other side still a force for service in a world of forces for self.

"But we need to consider, together, how we do that in the time of Covid and, hopefully, in a post-Covid world. How do we use technology to stay engaged with each other? How do we do service projects in our community? How do we stay relevant? How do we share the gift of Rotary with others?"

"I don't bring any special skill to this job. Like many a Rotarian, I can dig a hole, swing a hammer, pack a box. I've often joked that my superpower is I show up. That's what Rotarians all over the world do; we show up when needed. But why? Why does it make us feel good to practice "Service Above Self?" I've been thinking about this over the last few months when our opportunities to serve have been so restricted.

"Certainly, the fellowship is an important part of it. It feels good when we do good together. But more than that, I think showing up and helping makes us hopeful because we can see the good in the world. These reflections led me back to rereading a 2018 essay by author Anne Lamott who encourages us to decide to hope despite the perils. She was writing about climate change but could be talking about Rotary and Covid-19.

"She said you'd almost have to be nuts to be filled with hope in a world so strife with hunger, hatred, and pestilence. Yet I have boundless hope, most of the time. Sometimes it's cranky optimism that everything will be OK, whatever life holds in store. Hope is the belief that no matter how dire things look or how long healing takes, modern science in tandem with people's goodness and caring will boggle our minds. Lamott tells us that after we pass through the conviction that we're all doomed, we should remember what Mr. Rogers' mother said: In times of disaster we look to the helpers.

"So, look to the volunteers giving children vaccines, to the planes and trains bringing food to the starving. Look to Malala, to Bill Gates, to anyone committed to public health, to teachers. We Rotarians are people of action. We take action – in soup kitchens, butterfly gardens, mentoring – and then the insight follows; that by showing up with hope to help others, I'm guaranteed that hope is present. Then my own hope increases. By creating hope for others, we end up awash in the stuff.

"We Rotarians create goodness in the world, and that gives us hope. We plant trees and a few years later children are playing in their shade. We show up in waders or with checkbooks. We send money to Peru, to Sudan, to Greer Heights and to Hidden Valley. We might hope that this or that will happen and be disappointed – but when we instead have hope in the resilience and power of the human spirit, in innovation, laughter, and nature, we won't be. We see people every day rising to their highest most generous potential in every direction we remember to look. That's why I show up.

"None of us knows when we'll have in person Rotary meetings again, but we all know the world still needs Rotarians. Our club may well be smaller for a while, and have reduced revenue, but I hope we can use this time to perform more hands-on service in our community and to share the gift of Rotary membership with our friends. There's a lot to do."

Past-president John in his valedictory remarks recalled what Tim Belk, his former boss at Belk and friend, said when he took over the reins of the Charlotte Chamber in the depths of the Great Recession of 2009: I don't know what a crosswind hurricane is but I know I'm in one.

"I feel exactly the same way" about this year, he said. I don't want to focus on plans made but talk about what we have to be thankful for and what we have to look forward to in the coming year.

He noted that his family was healthy and safe and had spent more time together than ever before as adults. "Beverly and I have looked on this as a trial run for retirement and it's been terrific. Thank you, Beverly."

"My business is surviving with the help of the Federal government. Something I thought I'd never say," Past-president John said.

"Charlotte Rotary continues to be together and true to its mission" even without live meetings for nearly three months.

Past-president John noted many people in the club stepped up to ensure the club had a great year in unprecedented times. He has special praise for Sandy Osborne, whom he called "the glue which holds the club together." He also thanked

- Mac McCarley and the Program Committee “for bringing exceptional speakers without fail;”
- John Tabor and the Membership Committee for continuing to bring new members under exceptional circumstances;
- Chad Lloyd and the Service Committee for projects that brought new club members together in service; and
- Phil Volponi for his successful efforts to transition the club meetings to the Zoom format.

“The future of Rotary is bright and we’re in good hands with President Jerry.” Past-president John said. “His love for Rotary will shine through in the year to come. Thank you for the opportunity to serve our club. It has been a great honor.”

Written By: Henry Bostic

CLUB NEWS

STAYING IN TOUCH with our Rotary members is important. Please take a minute to check on your friends, report funny stories and updates back to me to share with everyone so we can see who is doing what. The Reporter can be used to share what your company is doing to get through the pandemic, what your family is doing, send me your How I Got Where I’m At....anything to keep our members in the know.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE: June has been particularly difficult with the loss of ten members. All these people are well and just adjusting in the new world of COVID-19.

PHIL VOLPONI: Remember Phil Volponi and his family as they grieve the death of Phil’s mother, who past away this past Sunday. Phil has lost both parents over the last six weeks.

RECOGNITION: The Charlotte Ledger announced their inaugural class of inspirational award-winners for their 40 Over 40 Awards and three Charlotte Rotarians are recipients. Congratulations to [Colleen Brannan](#) (BRANSTORM PR), [Tony Marciano](#) (Charlotte Rescue Mission) and [Pat Millen](#) (E2D).

YEAR IN REVIEW

Vocational Service

- Classroom Central \$3000

Financial and volunteer support to an organization that helps provide free school supplies for Char-Meck Schools.

- Excellence in Leadership Award \$375

Rotary Club of Charlotte and the Charlotte Business Journal sponsor a community-wide effort to identify a leader with extraordinary achievements and contributions to the Charlotte region.

Community Service

- Corporate Champions for Women & Children - \$250

Event to recognize companies that are distinguishing themselves through their support and assistance to women and children across NC.

- Year-Up at CPCC

Attended mentoring/networking sessions with students attending Central Piedmont Community College to discuss resume building, job opportunities, etc.

- Charlotte Rescue Mission - \$1020

Serve breakfast on Christmas morning to clients served by the Charlotte Rescue Mission

- Build Wheelchair Ramp

Partnered with The Independence Fund to build a wheelchair ramp for a wounded veteran.

- *InReach* - \$500

Organization that provides a wide variety of services to individuals with intellectual and development disabilities. The group performed at our club's holiday party.

- *CART* - \$2500

Provide support to Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust

- *Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee* - \$100

Donation to support Rotary's float entry in the Rose Bowl Parade.

- *NCMed Assist*

Volunteers sorted medical supplies for NCMed Assist, a free pharmacy that provides free prescription medication to NC residents who are low-income, uninsured and below the federal poverty line.

- *Bingo at LifeSpan*

Volunteers attended bingo/social for disabled adults that are part of the LifeSpan program.

- *Charlotte Rescue Mission* - \$425

The Mission opened Community Matters Café about a year ago and residents that completed their addiction program can work in the café. Because of the pandemic, the café shut down in-house restaurants and our donation helped provide funding to feed women in the Dove's Nest program.

- *American Red Cross*

Organized a blood drive to benefit the American Red Cross. The successful drive brought in 53 donors for a total of 35 pints of blood.

- *Promising Pages* - \$2000

Purchase new books vs. replenishing used books and to supply & stock summer reading materials for drive thru book fairs starting late June and running through July.

- *Freedom School Partners* - \$2000

Help costs of setting up and operating several pop-up locations as well as virtual interactions for scholars where much needed books, basic household items, and food will be deployed.

- *Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic* - \$5000

17th annual golf tournament to raise funding to provide college scholarships for children of Fire, Medic, Sheriff, and Police.

- *Charlotte Rotary Scholarship Fund* - \$4783

Partner with Central Piedmont Community College to award scholarships to students based on academic merit, financial need and community service.

Environmental Service

- *Clean Air Carolinas* - \$3500

Clean Air for Kids program will help the Citizen Science Lending Library. The donation will enable students and teachers across Char Metro to bring STEM education to life using handheld air monitors and tablets.

- *100 Gardens* - \$2000

Works with the aquaponic program at Myers Park High School. Their program is the cultivation of fish and plants together in a constructed, re-circulating ecosystem.

- *Rocky River Chapter of Trout Unlimited* - \$3500

Trout in the Classroom is a program that offers students of all ages a chance to raise Salmonids in a classroom setting and then release them into a nearby stream or river.

- *TreesCharlotte* - \$5000

Partner with District 7680 to plant trees throughout Charlotte Mecklenburg.

International Service

- *ShelterBox* - \$1500

ShelterBox plays a big part to house millions of displaced families living in overcrowded settlements where sanitation is poor, social distancing is impossible, and access to basic services is severely limited. Their tents contain all essential tools people need to start repairing and rebuilding homes.

- *The Rotary Foundation* - \$12,000

Annual donation to The Rotary Foundation to support Polio Eradication.

Youth Services

- *Interact Service Awards* - \$10,000

Awarded four scholarships to deserving high school seniors involved in Interact clubs.

- Queens Rotaract: Operation Sandwich

Volunteers helped members of the Queens University of Charlotte Rotaract club to make sandwiches for clients served through Urban Ministries. Over 1000 sandwiches were made in just one hour.

- NewGen Peacebuilders - \$1500

Financial support to enhance the NewGen Peacebuilders training program.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019 276 *New Members:*

06/30/2020 260

Net Increase -16 *Resignations:* Travis Barnes, Charlie Greer, Rhonda York, LJ Stambuk, Mort Wise, Rick Fogle, Tom Turpin, Clayton Wood, Tom Bartholomy, Paul Wyche

64 members on today's Zoom call

APPROVE FOR MEMBERSHIP (comments by July 7, 2020)

Amarja Chhapwale Webb

Archchrysalis Architects/Allen Tate Real Estate (Classification: Designer/Realtor)

Sponsor: John Tabor

Endorsed: Rejendra Chhapwale

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS (07/08/2020 – 07/14/2020)

07/09 – Charlie Bones; Rex Reynolds

07/10 – Ron Kimble

07/12 – Randall Mountcastle

07/13 – Herb Harriss

08/14 – Jerry Bryson

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (07/01/2020 – 07/07/2020)

07/09 – Sherry & Jason Otte

07/10 – Cynthia & Tom Marshall

07/11 – Anja & David Zimmerman; Terri & Paul Haddock

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (07/01/2020 – 07/07/2020)

01 year – Terri Guthrie; Russell Peck

03 years – Chris Jackson

10 years – Brian Huber

18 years – Matt Joyner

29 years – John Snyder (19 yrs in this club)

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

 (utilizing Zoom)

07/07 – Rocio Gonzales, ED, Latin American Chamber of Commerce Charlotte

07/14 – Tom Barkin, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond

07/21 – Panel: Dr. Jessica Saxe, Dr. Presley Gilbert, Elly Clary – Single payer health insurance

07/28 – David Mildenburg, Editor, Business North Carolina

08/04 – District Governor Mike Walker

08/11 – Bill Russell, president & CEO, Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce

08/18 – Firoz Peera & Carl Davis, Rotary Million Dinner

08/25 – Debbie Rabinovich, Research into the old Brooklyn neighborhood