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Wilhelmenia I. Rembert, PhD North Carolina Census 2020



By the time you read this Rotary Reporter, you may likely have received by mail the subject of the of the club's speaker on March 10 – your household's invitation to participate in the 2020 federal decennial census.

As speaker Wilhelmenia I. Rembert, PhD, a partnership specialist for the U.S. Census Bureau, noted: on or between March 12 and 20, ninety-five percent of U.S. households will begin receiving invitations to respond to the 2020 Census – online for the first time this census.

“The goal of Census 2020 is to count everyone once, only once, and in the right place. Everyone counts!” said emphasized. ‘Our job (as partnership specialists) is to

engage with community leaders with influence to achieve our goal of a complete and accurate county of everyone living in our community once, only once, in the right place.”

The census is mandated by the US Constitution, said the former member of the Mecklenburg County Commission and Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education. It has been conducted every 10 years since 1790, as required by the U.S. Constitution. Article I, Section 2. “Representatives and direct Taxes shall be apportioned among the several States which may be included within this Union, according to their respective Numbers . . .”

“As citizens, we are required to respond,” she said, “It’s our civic duty. The first census counted 3.9 million inhabitants in the US. “Fast forward to today and there are an estimated 329 million people in the country.”

“Why the 2020 census is important?” the veteran educator and retired clinical social worker asked. “Political power and money and economic impact,” she answered.

The census is constitutionally mandated for re-apportionment of Congress. The results are also the basis for redistricting at national, state, and local levels. She noted the impact of the 2010 census on the states in the seven states in the Atlanta region which includes North Carolina. Florida gained two congressional seats. Georgia and South Carolina each gained a seat. Alabama, Mississippi and N.C. stayed the same, while Louisiana lost a seat.

“You can lose seats; you can gain seats,” Rembert said. N.C. may gain one maybe two seats because since 2010 the estimated growth of state’s population is about a million.

The Winthrop alumnae explained that more than \$675 billion a year is distributed to state and local governments using census data. More than \$4 trillion for the decade. “For the next 10 years, that’s huge so we want to get it right. We want to get our fair share of political power and federal dollars.”

There are many other ways census data is used:

- Forecasting future transportation needs,
- Determining areas eligible for housing assistance and rehabilitation loans,
- Assisting tribal, federal, state and local governments in planning, and implementing programs and services in education, healthcare, transportation, social services, emergency response,
- Designing facilities for people with disabilities, the elderly and children.

“We all know that we benefit from census data and how they are used,” Rembert said. It’s imperative we get the most accurate count we can possibly get.”

In 2000 Mecklenburg response rate was 75 percent; N.C., 69 percent. In 2010 the county’s response rate again was 75 percent while the state’s grew to 76 percent. The goal this year is around an 80 percent response rate.

“The governor noted that if we can get a response rate of 80 percent or better our chances of getting another congressional seat is greatly improved,” she said. The governor appointed a statewide Complete Count Committees to facilitate the count supported by local committees across the state. The one in our county is MeckCounts2020.Com headed by County Manager Dena Diorio, a club member. Ultimately, the success of the 2020 census depends on everyone’s participation, Rembert emphasized,

Special efforts by local committees and Census Bureau partnership specialists are directed to improve the counting of hard-to-count or under-counted target populations: children 5yrs and under, veterans, people with disabilities, persons experiencing homeless, people living in rural areas, low income and underserved, senior citizens, migrant farm workers, immigrants, persons with limited English proficiency, renters and those displaced by natural disasters.

Technically, the census taking began in January in Alaska because of special weather conditions there, said the 500th Fellow of the N.C. Institute of Political Leadership in Raleigh.

Between March 16 – 24, 2020 every household will receive a reminder by mail to respond to the census. There are three ways:

- Internet – respond anytime, anywhere,
- Phone – call if there is no online access,
- Mail – some households will receive questionnaire with their invitation.

“Most people we expect, and hope, will respond online,” she said.

March 12 – 20: households will receive an invitation to respond online. Areas that are historically less likely to respond online will receive a paper questionnaire along with their invitation.

March 16 – 24: Every household receives a reminder letter.

March 16 – April 3: every household that hasn’t already responded will receive reminder letters and postcards.

April 8 – 16: reminder letters and questionnaires will be sent to every household that hasn’t responded.

April 20 – 27: final reminder postcards will go out before the Census Bureau begins follow up in person’

“The 2020 census questionnaire is easy, safe and important,” Rembert said. A copy of it is available online. The questionnaire is for a household. Each member in the household will not receive one. One person can answer the questions for everyone in the household.

- Easy – nine basic questions (number of people living in household, additional people staying in household not included in question #1, is dwelling owned/rented with or without mortgage/rent payment, phone number, name, sex, age/date of birth, ethnicity, race.)
- Safe – protected by law (Title 13, U.S. Code)
- Important – responses will influence political power and billions of dollars returned to communities for the next 10 years

Rembert said the process is confidential. The Census Bureau goes to great lengths to protect confidentiality. “We never ask for social security numbers, bank or credit card numbers, money or donations, never send requests on behalf of a political party, and we never request pin codes, passwords, or similar access information.

“Our work is not partisan, apolitical even though it has political implications,” she emphasized.

Reporter: Henry Bostic; *Head Table:* Lori Giang, Jerry Coughter, John Galles, John Nicolay; *Invocation:* Mike Rash; *Introduce Visitors:* Jeff Atkinson; *Photos:* Sandy Osborne; *Greeters:* Robert Daughtridge, Bryan McAllister, Bryan Zeiss

CLUB NEWS

The club extends sincere sympathy to Maude and [Henry Cantrell](#) and family on the death of Henry’s sister, Carolyn Ruth Cantrell. <http://www.sossomanfh.com/obituary/9165-carolyn-ruth-cantrell>

[Jill Santuccio’s](#) father, John Arthur Santuccio, passed away peacefully under hospice care on March 3, 2020. Jill moved out to Denver, CO in 2017 to be with family and she continues to keep close tabs with her Charlotte Rotary family. Throughout the years, John was a member of several Rotary clubs across the country and shared his passion for music through decades of membership by playing the piano at Rotary club meetings. He was vice president and CEO of the Charlotte Symphony Orchestra during his years with Charlotte Rotary (1990 - 1993). Jill Santuccio: 7630 W. 24th Ave, Lakewood, CO 80214

Update for [Boyd Coggins](#): First Horizon, 4725 Piedmont Row Dr., Ste 400 (28210); 980-819-6244; boyd.coggins@firsthorizon.com.

[Susan Evans](#) joined the club in 2016 and took a short break in 2018 to take care of getting a couple kids into college. She is delighted to be back in the club and you can reach her at suelitt97@gmail.com. Susan is development director for Wing Haven Foundation, where she is busy with membership development, special events, marketing and grant writing. She earned her BA in English at The University of The South, Sewanee and it’s good to have her back.

March Madness: Next Tuesday is your last chance to participate in the NCAA March Madness while supporting your Rotary Foundation. Brackets are \$20. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finishers.

Lifespan Casino Night: March 14 – 7PM – till; Banquet Room at NC Music Factory; Details and ticket here www.lifespanservices.org/casino-night-2020/

WomenGiveCLT: #WomenGiveCLT on April 1, 5:30-7:30pm at Norfolk Hall, [RSVP here!](#) or email colleen@branstorm.com for more details.

Charlotte Providence Rotary Club: Annual Oyster Roast; BBQ, and Silent Auction March 21st from 5-8PM, William R. David Park (4623 Pineville-Matthews Rd). Tickets: www.charlotteprovidencerotary.org.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019	276	<i>New Members:</i> Susan Evans
03/10/2020	272	
Net Increase	-4	<i>Resignations:</i> Terence Gordon

Visitors	10
Club Members	111
Total	121 (48.9%)

Thanks for bringing a guest: Lo'An Lake, guest of [Kevin Loux](#); Graham Treakle, guest of [Jennifer Creegan](#); Caleb Gass, guest of [Joe Gass](#); Allen Tate, IV, guest of [Tony Zeiss](#); Andre' Collins, guest of [Catherine Bracey](#); Stephanie Boscheu, guest of [Carol Hardison](#)

Approve for Membership (comments to Rotary office by 03/17/20)

Robert Spence (Bob)

AeroMed Group (*Classification: Entrepreneur: AeroSpace & Defense Industry*)

Sponsor: Luther Moore

Endorsed: Ken Fuquay and Jeff Atkinson

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS (03/18/2020 – 03/25/2020)

03/18 Ed Pickett

03/23 Jon Hannan

03/24 Matt Joyner

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (03/18/2020 – 03/25/2020)

03/21 Kristin & Todd Arnold

03/24 Amy & Mark Norman

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (03/18/2020 – 03/25/2020)

04 years – Elizabeth Teagarden (in this club)

05 years – Wil Bosbyshell and Peirce Ward

12 years – Alan Simonini

15 years – Bob Finley

17 years – Chris Thomas and Jerry Walters

22 years – Roger Sarow

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

03/17 – Brent Cagle, Charlotte Douglas International Airport

03/24 – Associate Justice Mark Davis, N.C. Supreme Court

03/31 – Phil DuBois, Chancellor, UNC Charlotte

04/07 – Bo Thompson, Entercom Communications

04/14 – Adam Sperling, Executive Director, PGA Tour

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