



## 2019 - 2020 Board Members

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

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## How I Got Where I'm At Bryce Chambliss, Mary Grace Lostetter, Charlie Bones

Cheryl Banks briefly introduced Bryce Chambliss, Mary Grace Lostetter, and Charlie Bones; and thanked them for being willing to share their stories and experiences with us.



**Bryce Chambliss** observed that it was good to stop and contemplate what caused him to get to where he is today. He decided that three factors were primary—decisions, chance meetings, and travel. His father was a Georgia Tech-trained engineer; his mom was born in a small town in Georgia and lives in Columbia, and his younger sister Blair lives here in Charlotte. He is very proud of his sister for recently donating a kidney to a high-school friend that she had not seen in over 15 years (both are recovering nicely).

Bryce was born in Savannah, and after a few years the family moved to Chicago. After two winters there, the family decided that warmer climates would be better, and the family moved to Palatka, FL, which he considers to be his hometown, and where he first reached an age where he could make decisions that would impact the course of his life. He joined the Boy Scouts and earned his Eagle Scout Award, and then decided to attend the Boy Scout World Jamboree, held in Norway that year. There he chanced to meet Peter Robertson, a British Boy Scout, who has now been his friend for 45 years, and become like a brother to him. This taught him both the importance of relationships and the level of effort required to sustain one over an extended time period, and that it is worth it.

When he was in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, the family moved to Hartsville, SC, where he graduated from High School, and went on to the University of Richmond. While there, he made two important decisions: (1) He did not want to work in the insurance industry; and (2) He absolutely did not want to be in insurance sales. He then took a job in insurance sales and moved to Dallas. While there he learned to work independently in the business; and also learned to be adaptable, as things in Odessa Texas were done quite differently from the way they were done in Richmond. After a time he moved to Charlotte, which became his home for the next 30 years.

In 1995, he quit his job, and spent the next six months traveling around the world, including time in Thailand, Indonesia, and India. The clarity and fresh perspective that resulted from that trip have served him well in his career. He has worked with some of the best people in the industry, living in London and New York, an amazing experience, but the amount of travel kept him from getting involved in the communities where he lived. Desiring to change that, he took early retirement and embarked on a two-month

RV trip around the National Parks, primarily in the West.

After the trip and spending time at the beaches of South Carolina, he decided that retirement was much more quiet than he had expected, and was pulled into Rotary by Edwin Peacock, who decided that Bryce needed to “get out of the house!” Not only has Rotary provided him with the opportunity to get involved in the community, but also to meet many of the members of the Club that have been committed to this for many years. Ultimately he failed at retirement, and went back to work for Farmers Insurance, where he manages operations in Texas, Oklahoma, and Arkansas. While all of these decisions, meetings and travels have contributed to getting him to where he is, there was one key event that allowed him to be here.

His father was flying a single-engine plane with Bryce, his mother and his sister about 8,000 feet over central Florida, when the engine stopped. His dad told Bryce to call out the altitude as the plane descended, told his sister to look out for other aircraft, and told his mother to be quiet—he was busy. A few minutes later they were safely on the ground in a field beside I-75 without injury. So, in point of fact, his dad’s flying skills are how he got where he’s at.



**Mary Grace Lostetter** grew up in Aliquippa, Pennsylvania, a small town on the Ohio River just northwest of Pittsburg that was the home of the Jones and Laughlin Steel Company from 1905 to 1984. At its peak in 1940, the mill was one of the largest steel producers in the world and supported a population of over 27,000; but after it closed, many people were forced to leave, and the population is now about 10,000.

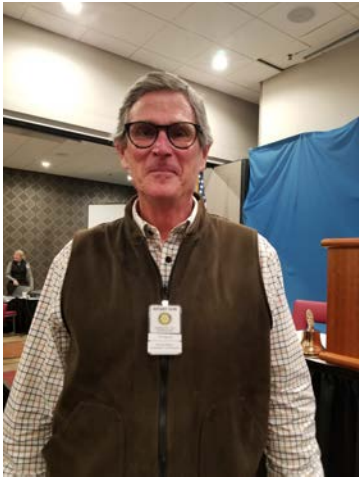
In addition to its prowess in making steel, western Pennsylvania is known for its football programs, and Aliquippa is no small part of that, having produced such greats as Mike Ditka, Tony Dorsett, Sean Gilbert, Ty Law, and Darrelle Revis, among others. The Aliquippa football coach and the program based in a failing steel town was the basis of the 1983 sports film *All the Right Moves*. All of Mary Grace’s ancestors on both sides of the family worked in the mill, and she attributes her work ethic to that background, being surrounded by hard-working people.

When her father wanted a job in the mill, a friend arranged for him to get one, but ensured that it was one of the worst jobs available. When her dad wanted to know why he had been given such a crappy job, his friend explained that it was to show him the value of completing his education and finding a better life outside of the mill. He quit the job and finished high school, and was told that Carnegie Mellon University was recruiting football players. Having no better plans, he went with some friends to try out, and was accepted to the school, where he played football while getting his degree. Later, Mary Grace would attend Carnegie Mellon and become a cheerleader, performing on the same field where her father had played.

After a brief stint with JP Morgan, she went to work for Merrill Lynch and Prudential Securities and worked as a financial advisor for eight years. During this time she met her husband, and as he got a good job offer at the Mayo Clinic (where he completed his fellowship), they decided that she would stay at home and raise their children. The children are now 14, 16, 18, and 20, and Mary Grace has decided to return to work. She is now working as a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch, her same job with her old company, although it is now owned by Bank of America.

Her son now plays football for MIT, and it turns out that MIT and Carnegie Mellon decided to play each other (for the first time in history) in 2019 and 2020. This year the game will be at Carnegie Mellon, so her son will be playing on the same field where his grandfather and mother did.

After eighteen years out of the work force, Mary Grace decided to join Rotary as a way to help her reconnect with the business world and to be able to do good things for the community at the same time.



**Charlie Bones'** parents met while working at the Savannah River Plant, 25 miles southeast of Augusta, GA, and Charlie was born in Augusta, although he considers himself a South Carolina Sandlapper. As he says, "It may say Georgia on my birth certificate, but if I was born in a garage would that make me a car?"

His father worked for DuPont, which was running the Savannah River Plant at that time. He was transferred to Columbus Ohio in 1964, when Charlie was 6. Living in Columbus, he learned to be a Buckeye fan, and about sledding and ice skating. On the first day of school, his father took him to the principal's office, and expressed that if he got into trouble, the principal should "wear his rear end out," and he would get double when he got home. And that was a true statement, and it only took three weeks for him to confirm that.

In 1969, his dad was transferred to Wilmington, Delaware, which was headquarters for DuPont. During the 18 months there, Charlie got started in Scouting, which he continued when the family moved to Charlotte, earning his Eagle Scout Award in 1974. He played football and basketball in school, starting at Carmel Junior High where the principal was Pop Miller, who went on to become principal at East Mecklenburg HS.

In 9<sup>th</sup> grade, there was an assembly to honor the 1-13 basketball team (their one win was a forfeit by the other team), and Charlie was "goofing off pretty good" on stage, and when he got back to class after the assembly was called to the principal's office to get a paddling. He didn't mind the paddling so much, but was not happy to learn that the microphone in the office was live, and the paddling was broadcast throughout the school.

Charlie moved on to South Meck, which did not at that time have their own football field, so the team played some of its games at Myers Park. His first game there, he took a hit that knocked him out and cracked two of the vertebrae in his neck, which ended his athletic career.

Coming from a very strict household, when he went to the University of South Carolina and was not under his parent's control, he got out of control, and had a rocky time. It took him 5 years to graduate, in part because he took some time off from school. Working in menial jobs for \$4/hr helped improve his motivation to get a degree, and he returned to school and graduated with a degree in journalism. His first job was working for Oscar Mayer in route sales; and at one point he had possession of the Oscar Mayer Wienermobile for six weeks, which he described as being better than owning a boat on a lake.

He then went to work in group insurance and employee benefits for Pilot Life in Columbia, which became Jefferson Pilot; and he moved with them from Columbia to Raleigh to Richmond to Charlottesville. He was married in 1987, and then he "sobered up." While in Charlottesville he worked for the University of Virginia and helped them start an HMO. He "worked extremely hard and played even harder." Rick Dobson with Consolidated Planning offered him the opportunity to move back to Charlotte and start his own business within the firm.

He has two children, and his daughter Mary Catherine went to Croatia for 10 months as a Rotary exchange student. His other daughter is a graduate of South Carolina and is working for Vanguard in Arizona. While they are a great source of pride and joy, he believes that God gave him two girls to pay him back for his wild times in high school and college, and he has been paying penance since *they* got into high school.

Charlie says that he was raised in the church but did not resemble a Christian. His selfish behavior and pursuit of money have cost him relationships, a situation he is working to mend. He has been dealing with Leukemia for the last 12 years and has become a Christian. He urged us to accept Christ into our lives and accept salvation, and closed with a reading from John's Gospel, chapter 14, verses 5 and 6.

Our thanks to Bryce, Mary Grace, and Charlie for sharing their stories.

*Reporter:* Rick Handford; *Head Table:* Charlie Bones, John Lassiter, Cheryl Banks, Mary Grace Lostetter, Bryce Chambliss; *Invocation:* Mike Rash; *Introduce Visitors:* Paul Wyche; *Photos:* Sandy Osborne; *Greeters:* Lori Giang, Michael Norton, Paul Wyche

## CLUB NEWS

**March Madness:** David Zimmerman will be heading up a fun way to participate in the NCAA March Madness while supporting your Rotary Foundation. For the next 2 meetings, you can enter a bracket in Charlotte Rotary NCAA pool. Brackets are \$20. Prizes will be awarded to the top 3 finishers.

**Lifespan Casino Night:** Join friends and fellow Rotarians, and come looking your best for this dazzling affair. It's Monte Carlo – Charlotte style. We are requesting sponsors, prizes and attendees.

- March 14 – 7PM – till
- Banquet Room at NC Music Factory
- Details and ticket here [www.lifespanservices.org/casino-night-2020/](http://www.lifespanservices.org/casino-night-2020/)

Club member Colleen Brannan, 2020 Board Chair for Share Charlotte, would like to invite Rotary Women to #WomenGiveCLT on April 1, 5:30-7:30pm at Norfolk Hall. Co-hosted by [SHARE Charlotte](#), the [Women's Impact Fund](#) and the [Junior League of Charlotte](#), attendees will meet 50+ local nonprofits while networking during a fun, casual evening engagement, and have the opportunity to connect with other philanthropically-minded women in Charlotte. [RSVP here!](#) or email [colleen@branstorm.com](mailto:colleen@branstorm.com) for more details.



Karen Steffens brought her daughters along to help plant a few trees this past Saturday at Shuffletown Park. Thanks to all that came out to support this project. Volunteers included Phil Volponi, Luther Moore, Rudy Rudisill and grandson Ben, Will Barnhardt, Bryce Chambliss, John and Lee Tabor, Robert and Bob Freeman, Catherine Bracey, Colleen Brannan and son Nick (representing Providence Day Interact Club), Tom Blocker and members of the Queens University Rotaract Club.



The Charlotte Providence Rotary Club will hold their 19<sup>th</sup> Annual Oyster Roast; BBQ, and Silent Auction March 21<sup>st</sup> from 5-8PM, William R. David Park (4623 Pineville-Matthews Rd). Adults \$45 (in advance); Children under 10 are free. Tickets: [www.charlotteprovidencerotary.org](http://www.charlotteprovidencerotary.org).

## MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019 276 New Members:

03/03/2020 272

Net Increase -4 Resignations:

Visitors	4
Club Members	99
Total	103 (44.2%)

Thanks for bringing a guest: Darren Siler, guest of [David Tobin](#); Pedro Perez, guest of [Floyd Davis](#); Fran Fesmire, guest of Julie Haack, Allen Clark, guest of [Jerry Coughter](#)

## CELEBRATIONS

### **BIRTHDAYS (03/10/2020 – 03/17/2020)**

03/10 Luther Fincher  
03/11 Scott Gakenheimer, Devon Cains  
03/11 Ranjay Sarda, Tim Chappell  
03/12 Bill Bartee  
03/13 Dumont Clarke, Jim Deas  
03/14 Fred Wagner  
03/15 Tony Lathrop  
03/16 Bill Loftin

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (03/10/2020 – 03/17/2020)**

03/14 Sandi and Hank Donaghy

### **ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (03/10/2020 – 03/17/2020)**

04 years – Kim Brattain  
09 years – Angela Broome Powley  
17 years – Don Millen

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

03/10 – Wilhelmenia I. Rembert, 2020 Census  
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

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