



October 1, 2019

We meet on Tuesday at 12:30 pm at Fairfield Inn & Suites – Charlotte Uptown, 201 South McDowell St, Charlotte NC 28202

## 2019 - 2020 Board Members

**President** John W. Lassiter

**Pres Elect** Jerry Coughter

**Past Pres** Mike Hawley

**Secretary** Sandy Osborne

**Treasurer** Phil Volponi

### Directors 2019-2020

Cheryl Banks

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Stephanie Hinrichs

Chris Kemper

Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

Edwin Peacock, III

Membership John Tabor

Foundation William Bradley

Programs Mac McCarley

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

## DR. RAY HODGSON Life and Death in Nepal



Past District Governor David Hare introduced our speaker, Dr. Ray Hodgson. Ray is a Rotarian and a specialist gynecologist. He is an Associate Professor in Obstetrics & Gynecology at the University of New South Wales, Australia. Dr. Ray (as he is known) is International Director of the Rotary Club of Port Macquarie, NSW. He is also the Director of the Medical School of the University of NSW, and examiner of Obstetrics and Gynecology specialists for the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (RANZCOG).

For a number of years Dr. Ray worked as a medical volunteer in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh in India. In 2001 he provided voluntary aid to HIV

orphanages in rural Thailand, caring for infected children whose parents were victims of the disease.

In 2010 Dr. Ray founded the International Aid Organization, Australians for Women's Health (A4WH), focusing on the appalling state of maternal health and genital prolapse in Nepal. Since 2010, he and his teams of volunteers have been running regular surgical camps in remote areas of Nepal. Here, they perform challenging operations on over 200,000 women a year who are suffering from horrific effects of genital prolapse - a condition where the uterus and other organs protrude through the vagina. The prolapse leads to chronic pain, difficulty walking and sitting, and severe urinary incontinence. As a result, many are abandoned by their husbands. Facing those challenges, many of these young women commit suicide.

Another significant problem in Nepal is that each year thousands of Nepalese women and their babies die from complications of their pregnancy, in part because over 80% of them deliver at home. Dr. Ray and his teams are tackling this problem with regular teaching programs in rural and remote Nepal, training local surgeons, midwives and nurses. Over the last nine years, the work of Dr. Ray and his team of volunteers has led to a major improvement in the health of Nepalese women and their children. Ray mentioned if any of us knew any doctors or nurses who could give two weeks of their time to join his team, he would welcome them.

Dr. Ray's current focus is to build a Mothers and Babies Hospital in Dolakha eastern Nepal because they currently work in poor facilities with poor equipment. In this way he and his colleagues will be able to provide a modern, safe facility for mothers and babies with up-to-date operating facilities to treat many more suffering women. The top floor of the hospital will be entirely devoted to teaching local doctors, midwives and nurses. Fundraising activities continue for the Mothers and Babies Hospital construction. They have currently raised \$390,000 of the \$500,000 needed. The project is supported in part by District 9650 and a Rotary International Global Grant that will outfit the hospital.

Dr. Ray has just published a book called 'HEARTBREAK IN THE HIMALAYAS' describing the heart-stopping challenges he and his teams face during their surgical camps in remote Nepal. All profits from the sale of the book will go to fund the construction of the hospital. The book has recently become an Amazon Number One Bestseller. ([www.a4wh.org](http://www.a4wh.org)).

Ray closed by saying that some people, like us, are born with a chance and as a privileged people. Others like those he works with in Nepal, have the same hopes, the same desires, the same love for life and the same work ethic as we do but they don't have much of a chance. They need the help of us who are privileged.

*Reporter: Jim Kelley; Head Table: Jensen Caudle, John Lassiter, Vanessa Stolen, David Hare; Invocation: Frank Martin; Introduce Visitors: Colleen Brannan; Photos: Sandy Osborne; AV: Jessica Dupree & Katie Tyler; Greeter: Rick Fogle*

## CLUB NEWS

[Lynn Johnson](#) was selected as a Five Star Real Estate Agent for the 11<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Congratulations, Lynn!

[David Zimmerman's](#) mom, Joan, received the Lifetime Achievement Award at the Maya Angelou Women Who Lead luncheon to support the United Negro College Fund. The award was presented to Joan by Oprah Winfrey.

[Lori Giang](#) invites you to participate in the NC MedAssist RUN/WALK to Raise funds to benefit low-income, uninsured residents across NC...Saturday, October 26, 9AM race start – Olde Mecklenburg Brewery. [www.medassist.org](http://www.medassist.org).

[Chad Lloyd](#) invites you to the one-hour Serve & Learn for a chance to directly engage with guests served at the Men's Shelter. 30 minutes to help serve a meal and 30 minute tour of the shelter. October 18, 11:45am – 1pm.

**Foundation Banquet:** Everyone should have received an email from the District about the **Foundation Banquet**. Please consider supporting and attending this event that will be held at the Ballantyne Resort & Hotel on November 15. Additional details: 6PM fellowship & cocktails; 7PM dinner with keynote speaker Larry Lunsford (*Past RI Director and Current Aide to RI President*); program to conclude at 9:15PM; cocktail attire, \$65/person or \$120/couple. Registration available at [www.dacdb.com](http://www.dacdb.com) (or ask Sandy to register you). [Noelle Culler](#) and [Bill Gill](#) are working with the District Banquet committee – thanks to both!



The faithful crew at Classroom Central... Clyde Robinson, Catherine Bracey and Paul Wyche invite you to join the fun. Reach out to this group for additional information on how this club has supported Classroom Central since 2002.

17<sup>th</sup> Annual Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic results are in and we will net just over \$49,000 for our scholarship fund! Sincere thanks to all that participated in the tournament and those that worked hard to make it happen.

Your WARM CLOTHING donations to support clients served at Crisis Assistance Ministry may be dropped off at Rotary (table set up in the parking deck) October 8 through the 29. Thanks for your continued support of this project.

## MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019 276 **New Members:** Bobby Stochl, Jensen Caudle, Brooke Reddington, Diego Ramon

10/01/2019 282

Net Increase +6 **Resignations:** Brent Cagle, Courtney Ramey, Sam Ryburn

Visitors	3
Club Members	106
Total	109 (45.1%)

Thanks for bringing a guest: Bill Woodson with [Fred Wagner](#); Renea Robinson with [Biff Virkler](#); Jeremy Jacobs with [Mary Grace Lostetter](#)

## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS (10/09/19 – 10/15/19)

10/09 Mike Wollinger

10/10 Pete Brunnick

10/13 Vernon Menard

10/14 Stephanie Hinrichs, Boyd Coggins

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (10/09/2019 – 10/15/19)

10/10 Laura & Charlie Pitts; Tracey & Rich Campbell

10/11 Jane & Chris Thomas

10/12 Amy & Edwin Peacock; Tammy & Gray Langley

10/13 Betsy & Ken Samuelson; Martha & Jim Woodward

10/15 Denise & Diego Ramon

### ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (10/09/2019 – 10/15/19)

04 years – Larry Broome

09 years – Colleen Brannan

14 years – Ron Campbell

17 years – Ed Wadsworth

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

10/08 – Michael Smith, Charlotte Center City Partners

10/15 – Dena Diorio, Mecklenburg County Manager, County Priorities

10/22 – Dan Clodfelter, Utilities Commissioner

10/29 – Gene Woods, Atrium Health

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