



September 3, 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

William Bradley

Dena Diorio

Carla DuPuy

Bill Loftin, Jr.

Clyde Robinson

Rudy Rudisill

Directors 2019-2021

Colleen Brannan

Stuart Hair

Stephanie Hinrichs

Chris Kemper

Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

Edwin Peacock, III

Membership John Tabor

Foundation William Bradley

Programs Mac McCarley

1st Qtr Edwin Peacock

2nd Qtr Ron Kimble

3rd Qtr Jeff Atkinson

4th Qtr Karen Price

MAC LACKEY The Man Who Dares To Disrupt



His presentation should have rightfully been called “The Wit and Wisdom of an Entrepreneurial Genius.” Mac Lackey stood before Charlotte Rotary today in casual clothes, sporting a warm, wide smile and a bit of a self-deprecating manner, and shared the most thought-provoking and enlightening peek into the mind of a really, really smart young man. A man who dares to take risks; who doesn’t accept “that’s not such a good idea;” and who has the gumption to forge ahead with the motto, “In Disrupt, I trust.” (I made that part up but it fits him.)

His bio tells us that he’s a native Charlottean who played soccer at Wake Forest University and Berry College where he was a collegiate All-American. HE describes himself further as “a public school kid with arguable intelligence who never took a computer course or a class on entrepreneurship, was kicked out of Wake Forest, and is informal, an extrovert, and a goofball.” WE ~ having heard his brilliant presentation ~ describe him as creative, smart, intuitive, daring, smart, inspirational, profound, and - did I say *smart*!?

Given his commitment to furthering the cause of entrepreneurship in Charlotte, he shared his experiences with starting, developing, selling and/or losing millions of dollars on his road to making big money and investing in mega startups. He talked to us about the major role failure has played in his success; how much he has learned from some of his biggest failures. That’s the secret, of course ... to LEARN from failure rather than be disillusioned by it.

Beginning his presentation to us by explaining Artificial Intelligence which leads to its three significant partners: Innovation; Creativity; Engagement, Mac cited the example of *airbnb* relevant to its founders’ idea being scoffed at initially, and then it’s immediate, euphoric success ... surpassing other major hotels such as Marriott in terms of fewer years to amass massive amounts of rooms in multiple countries across the globe.

“What’s the point?” he asked us. The point is that “Entrepreneurs drive seismic shifts which can change our lives ... often overnight.” Dare to disrupt, he challenged. Dare to ignore the naysayers. Don’t accept the obvious. Take a look at Blockbusters ... where *they* were and where the folks who developed Netflix are now. Take a peek at Borders Books ... where *they* were and where the folks who came up with Amazon are now. Think about taxi cabs ... which covered the streets of every city, and now think of Uber. In each case ideas were spurred by entrepreneurs who dared to disrupt with newer, more innovative, more creative, and more engaging ideas.

What strategies do we take - or encourage others to take - to foster entrepreneurship? Risk-Taking leads to innovation. Lack of resources (or NO resources) leads to (in Mac’s words) “scrappy, creative, succeed-anyway” thinking. Purpose drives engagement

which leads to “why” ... the reason for the vision or goal of the proposed business. In the end, Entrepreneurship means GROWTH. Growth for new mindsets, new ideas, new businesses, and better, more successful communities.

Well-done and well-presented, Mac Lackey. Failures clearly taught you well and you learned valuable lessons. You wisely suggest that smart entrepreneurs hire people who are smarter than they and once you find those people, hang onto them. Value them. Keep them.

We wish you well, you public school kid who never took a computer class or a class on entrepreneurship, who was kicked out of Wake Forest, who has “arguable intelligence, is an extrovert, is informal and a goofball.” We think you’re brilliant and we KNOW you’ll continue to disrupt and be even more successful.

Reporter: Marilyn Bowler; *Head Table:* Colleen Brannan, John Lassiter, Edwin Peacock, Marcus Lee; *Invocation:* Charlie Bones; *Introduce Visitors:* Bill Bradley; *Greeters:* Lori Giang, Andy Ross, Bryce Chambliss

CLUB NEWS



Membership chair [John Tabor](#) introduced [Bobby Stochl](#) as a new member on Tuesday. Bobby is Director of Sales for the Homewood Suites in Aysley with over 12 years in the hospitality industry. He originally comes from the food and beverage world and wanted to branch out to learn different areas of the hotel and achieve his current goal of owning and managing a hotel. At the age of 29, Bobby has already gone through two different heart surgeries and believes in being your best self every day. He’s lived in five different states all across the country and has found you always have time to help your community. Bobby holds a Bachelor’s Degree from Western Illinois University and has trained in the culinary arts while achieving his level one Cicerone certification. President John has asked Bobby to serve on the Greeters committee and extended his welcome to Charlotte Rotary! bobby.stochl@hilton.com

[Neal Triampo](#) was glad to introduce his friend, [Jensen Caudle](#). Jensen grew up just north of Charlotte in Harrisburg, running around the farms and woods surrounding his childhood home. He attended Central Cabarrus High School, where he met his now wife, Mallory. They dated through high school and college and were married in 2006. Jensen went to UNC Wilmington, earning a degree in business administration. After college, he and Mallory moved back to Cabarrus County and he started a new career at The Scottish Bank – now South State Bank – and manages the Providence Road branch. Along with son Benjamin (4) and foster son Kamden (3), the family are active members of Providence Baptist Church in Harrisburg. Jensen will join the Greeters committee and can be reached at jenson.caudle@southstatebank.com. Welcome!



Thanks to all that supported the effort to donate school supplies and cash for Classroom Central’s back to school drive.

[Catherine Bracey](#) sat at a table with [Bob Finley](#) a few weeks ago and learned that Bob’s wife, Catherine had a book coming out (not her first) entitled Charlotte’s True Crime Stories. Catherine writes under the name Cathy Pickens: <https://www.arcadiapublishing.com/Products/9781467142458>.

From [Terri DeBoo](#): The Carolinas Freedom Foundation will host the Patriotism Bowl this Friday, September 6th at Southpoint High School in Belmont. This true Bowl style game between Southpoint and Clover SC high schools is one not to miss...military bands, parachutists and military equipment on site.

[17th Annual Rotary Scholarship Classic - September 10, 2019 - Ballantyne Resort](#)

REMINDER that the club’s golf tournament is next Tuesday and we will not have our usual meeting. If you are able to drop by for BBQ (provided by SMS Catering – Bob and Robert Freeman) around 5:30pm, please do so. Thanks to all that have worked on this event and hope to see you at Ballantyne Resort.

The next Rotary Means Business event will be held September 11th, 4:30pm-6:30pm, TechWorks Gaston (52A Ervin St, Belmont). Free event includes appetizers & cash bar. Registration: 4:30pm-4pm; structured networking: 5pm-6:30pm.

[Click to RSVP on Eventbrite](#)

SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES COMING UP....

- Start gathering your warm clothing donations to benefit Crisis Assistance Ministry. Items may be dropped off at club meetings throughout the month of October, 2019
- Sign-up to ring the bell for The Salvation Army begins in late October/early November, 2019
- Opportunity to serve breakfast to clients served by Charlotte Rescue Mission on Christmas morning.

In addition to the above, [Chad Lloyd](#) announced new service opportunities with [The Independence Fund](#), an organization dedicated to “empowering our nation’s severely wounded, ill, and injured veterans.” There are 5 Caregiver retreats and reunions in Charlotte from July 2019 to June 2020. These are four day events that require numerous volunteers from picking folks up at the airport, to setting up for dinner & events.

The first volunteer opportunity is an event for the Mothers and Daughters of Wounded Veterans.

09/17/19 – help pack and prepare welcome packages for retreat (4-6 volunteers)

09/18/19 – assist with welcome and transport from airport to hotel (10-15 volunteers)

09/19/19 – set-up and serve lunch from 12-2 (6-8 volunteers)

09/22/19 – transport participants to airport (6-8 volunteers)

Chad is happy to answer your questions and needs your help: chad.lloyd@mihomes.com. The location will be finalized shortly and a registration link will be provided.



Want to Clown Around on Thanksgiving Morning?

As President John announced at Tuesday’s meeting, Charlotte Center City Partners has invited our Club to provide a “Distinguished Clown Corp” to march in the Parade that takes place on Tryon Thanksgiving morning. We need a minimum of 30 participants so currently gauging interest. CCCP will provide everything from costume and wigs to makeup and training. All participants get a commemorative volunteer jacket and parade pin. Time commitment is 7:30-10:30AM. Your kids, 12 and up, can join the fun and younger ones can cheer you on as spectators. If you are interested in participating, please email colleen@branstorm.com. Based on responses, we’ll make a decision in the coming weeks.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2019 276 **New Members:** Bobby Stochl, Jensen Caudle

09/03/2019 283

Net Increase +7 **Resignations:**

Visitors 16

Club Members 118

Total 134 (50.2%)

Thanks to our club members for inviting a guest: [Terri DeBoo](#) guest: Jason Otte and Bruce Walker; [Ben Pendry](#) guest: Diego Ramon; [Robert Daughtridge](#) guest: Michael Smith; [Charlie Bones](#) guest: Connie Bones; [Kim Brattain](#) guest: Lori Katzenstein; [Jeff Atkinson](#) guest: Woody Connette; [Edwin Peacock](#) guest: Atul Bhula; [Chris Kemper](#) guest: Rick Argo; [Jennifer Woods](#) guest: Nelson Sweezy; [Bill Loftin](#) guest: Isaiah Scott; [Greg Hatcher](#) guest: Maddy Thorn; [Howard Hoyle](#) guest: Ella Hoyle; [David Erdman](#) guest: Amelia Brown and Dan McCready; Olga Osipov

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS (09/11/19 – 09/17/19)

09/11 John Armistead
09/11 Bryan Adams
09/11 Brian Carn
09/12 Helen Verkamp
09/13 Cheryl Banks
09/15 Bryce Chambliss
09/15 Rich Campbell
09/15 Katie Tyler
09/15 Ron Campbell
09/16 Gray Langley
09/16 Mike Ranson
09/17 Tim Flanagan
09/17 Larry Hyatt
09/17 Dal Shefte
09/17 Mark Norman

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (09/11/2019 – 09/17/19)

09/11 Meg and Bryan Adams
09/12 Linda Gallehugh and Elly Clary
09/14 Elsie and Will Barnhardt
09/16 Renee and Chris Jackson
09/16 Kaye and Lamar Thomas
09/17 Sylvia and Larry Hyatt

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (09/11/2019 – 09/17/19)

02 years – Ann Clark
03 years – Parker Cains
14 years – Steve Meckler

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

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

09/10 – **GOLF TOURNAMENT (not meeting for lunch)**
09/17 – Chas Fagan, American Master Artist/Sculptor
09/24 – Bob Morgan, Director of Public Affairs, Robinson Bradshaw
10/01 – Dr. Ray Hodgson, The Nepal Grant
10/08 – Michael Smith, Charlotte Center City Partners
10/15 – Dena Diorio, Mecklenburg County Manager, Quarter Cent Sales Tax
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](#)