



August 25, 2020

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

## 2020- 2021 Board Members

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## DR. WILLIE GRIFFIN Levine Museum of the New South Brooklyn Neighborhood – A City within a City



Dr. Willie Griffin, a Charlotte native, is a civil rights scholar and educator. He holds a doctorate in U. S. history from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, as well as master's and bachelor's degrees in history and African American studies from Morgan State University and Morehouse College. He currently serves as staff historian for the Levine Museum of the New South. He, along with JC Cousar and Peggie Muhammad, Charlotte natives and former residents of the

Brooklyn neighborhood in Charlotte, shared the history and background of the community as well as personal stories of growing up there.

The Brooklyn community in Charlotte, known as Logtown until around 1917, was located in the area that comprises Second Ward today. In its heyday, Brooklyn was the largest all black community in the Carolinas; it was self-sustaining and thriving with its own schools, churches, and over 200 black owned businesses. Often described as a “city within a city”, the community boasted of many “firsts” for Charlotte’s black residents: first all-black public schools in Charlotte, first free library for black citizens in NC, and the first black owned and occupied office building, to name a few. Residential areas were populated with stately and well-appointed homes owned by well-to-do and prominent local businessmen while nearby, within the borders of Brooklyn, there were also shanty towns with homes that were downtrodden, plagued by poverty and crime. In its heyday, over 7,000 people, comprising about 1,000 families, lived in Brooklyn.

JC Cousar and his sister, Peggie Muhammad, grew up in Brooklyn and shared fond memories of their childhood there. Peggie spoke of Saturday afternoons at the movies (there were two movie theaters), Sunday mornings at church, followed by afternoons spent roaming the neighborhood and playing in the nearby creeks. They knew that when the streetlights began to glow, it was time to go home. They looked after and cared for each other while their parents worked; everything they needed was in and around Brooklyn. When Peggie returned to Charlotte as an adult in the 1960s she taught at both of the schools that she had attended in Brooklyn as a child. JC remembered lemonade stands,

his job as a shoe shine boy and his desire to learn and do more. He learned from many in the Brooklyn business community lessons of independence and responsibility. He was an important resource for the community during the era of urban renewal when the Brooklyn neighborhood was effectively eliminated through relocation and repurposing.

Dr. Griffin contends that the sense of social capital for the black community that thrived in the original Brooklyn community has been lost. As the area faces the probability of yet another repurposing and revitalization, the history of Brooklyn and what it meant to the development of Charlotte must be preserved. He encouraged us to see the exhibits at the Levine Museum and learn more about this important era of Charlotte's history.

ZOOM LINK TO THE PRESENTATION: <https://vimeo.com/451575974>

Written By: Suzanne Bledsoe

## 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.

**GOLF TOURNAMENT:** September 28, 2020 at Pine Island Country Club. Golf spots and sponsorships are available. Remember to get your foursome names into the Rotary office and make sure your payment is being processed.

**HENRY BOSTIC:** Still need a couple volunteers for the Reporter committee.

**NOELLE CULLER:** The financial hit of \$27M to the parent company of WFAE has resulted in the cancellation of Rotary membership for Noelle and she hopes to be able to return to Rotary one day.

**SUGAR CREEK INTERACT CLUB:** Thanks to [Linwood Bolles](#) for stepping into the role of Interact Club Advisor for the students at Sugar Creek Charter School.

**PROCESS IMPROVEMENT:** Transitioning the role of the club's executive secretary is underway and [Colleen Brannan](#) is spearheading the effort to think about how areas of importance to the club will be handled - the Reporter, how we welcome guests, keeping in touch with members, the new member orientation process, or any other part of the job – please pass your thoughts along to Colleen – [colleen@branstorm.com](mailto:colleen@branstorm.com).

**BLOOD DRIVE:** Members of Dilworth SouthEnd Rotary will host a blood drive Friday, August 28 from 2PM – 6:30PM. Location is Hankins & Whittington Funeral Service, 1111 East Boulevard. Schedule online at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org), code HankinsWhittington. Questions to Emma Hale, [emma.hale@hankinswhittington.com](mailto:emma.hale@hankinswhittington.com).

**AFRICA DECLARED POLIO FREE: ROTARY MEMBERS PLAYED INVALUABLE ROLE IN ERADICATION CHARLOTTE, NC- (July 8, 2020)** — Rotary members in the 14 county Charlotte region join others worldwide in celebrating this achievement. This paralyzing and potentially deadly disease is most commonly contracted by children under the age of five. The eradication of Polio has been a top Rotary priority since 1979, and worldwide, cases have dropped more than 99.9% since Rotary became involved. Since 2012, more than 60-North Carolina Rotarians have raised awareness and over \$200,000 for polio eradication by climbing Mount Kilimanjaro. **Rotary District 7680** Spans **14 counties** in North Carolina **Rotary International** Connects **1.2 Million** members **35,000** Rotary Clubs in **200** Countries Lead Worldwide Fight to End Polio Since

the 1980s, Rotary has led the worldwide effort to eradicate polio. Over 400 million children are still vaccinated each year. Rotarians are proud the extensive polio infrastructure of laboratories, polio workers and an extensive surveillance network is being used to slow the spread of COVID-19, in addition to serving countless other health needs. Rotary is one of six organizations world wide that are part of the Global Polio Eradication Initiative, including the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. *Join us doing this great work at <https://rotary.org/en/get-involved/join> and go to <http://rotary7680.org> for more information about Rotary.*

## MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2020 259 *New Members:*

08/25/2020 254

Net Increase -5 *Resignations:* Rex Welton, Catherine Browning, Frank Martin, Robert Salmon, Noelle Culler

92 members on today's Zoom call

## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS (09/02/2020 – 09/08/2020)

Driggs, Edmund H. (ED)	03 September
Waters, K. Martin Jr. (MARTIN)	04 September
Lassiter, John W. (JOHN)	05 September
Freeman, Raymond R. III (ROBERT)	05 September
Kuo, Kimberly Ann (KIM)	05 September
Evans, Susan Little (SUSAN)	07 September
Blocker, Thomas A. (TOM)	08 September
Shafer, Patricia A. (PATRICIA)	08 September
Jones, Wes (WES)	08 September

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (09/02/2020 – 09/08//20)

Lankes, Kasey L. (KASEY)	Paul (PAUL)	09/03
Forest, Gregory A. (GREG)	Regina	09/04
McMillan, Kimberly A. (KIM)	Bill	09/05
Head, David (DAVID)	Marti	09/05
Barnhardt, William M. (BILL)	Harriet (HARRIET)	09/07

### ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (09/02/2020 – 09/08/2020)

Caudle, Jensen M. (JENSEN)	09/03/19	1	0	1
Rudisill, Gerald Alton Jr.(RUDY)	09/03/13	7	0	7
Coughter, Jerald P. (JERRY)	09/06/11	9	0	9
Reagan, Gregory T. (GREG)	09/08/15	5	15	20
Clary, Ellison (ELLY)	09/08/09	11	0	11

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS (utilizing Zoom)

09/01 – Mike Hill, Athletic Director, Charlotte 49ers

09/08 – Courtney Layne & Ed Hawes, The Mayflower Society

09/15 – How I Got Where I'm At (*Kevin Poet, Reggie Johnson, Michael Norton*)

09/22 – Michael Kahn, Charlotte Checkers

09/29 – Will not be meeting – golf tournament will be held 09/28