



2020- 2021 Board Members

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Ranjay Sarda

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Programs Elly Clary

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David Tobin

Ely Portillo, Assistant Director, UNC Charlotte Urban Institute



Kim Brattain introduced fellow journalist, Ely Portillo, with the comment that she has admired him and his writing from afar for a long time. Ely is currently Assistant Director of the UNC Charlotte Urban Institute, after having been with the Charlotte Observer for about 10 years, writing about and following the growth and development of our beloved Queen

City. He described the Institute as “think tank” of sorts, following and documenting the economic, social and environmental challenges facing a growing Charlotte and surrounding communities. In a short but interesting walk down memory lane, Ely shared some commentary from old periodicals and publications that described Charlotte with the tag line “a good place to live and do business.” He discussed how Charlotte has grown both geographically and demographically, with our population increasing significantly through annexation of surrounding communities and an influx of businesses that attracted workers. And, the growth and people keep on coming.

Ely detailed three trends to watch as we consider the potential for continued growth:

1. Urbanization of surrounding small towns and suburbs. Charlotte is still very much a suburban city, with 84% of the land dedicated to residential development. With over 60% of that zoned for single family housing, the density needed to house incoming residents is not sufficient.
2. Best laid plans. Plans are in place to add infrastructure for parks and recreation, transportation, multiple housing options, and other amenities that will attract a broader demographic, as population continues to grow. These plans are expected to not only attract businesses and workers to our community but also enhance quality of life for those of us who are already here.
3. Internationalization. Currently, one in six residents of Mecklenburg

County are born outside the U.S. Our immigrant population increased by almost 19% from 2012-2017, while the overall population increased by about 11%. Mexico and India, first and second, respectively, are the top countries represented in people migrating to Charlotte. This component of growth brings with it tremendous implications for jobs, politics and culture.

Forces at work that will impact our growth and success economically hinge on several factors: COVID-19 related impacts on transportation, office space, jobs overall but especially those that are hard hit, including hospitality, entertainment, and travel, and education. The long-term implications for all of these are unknown. It will take a lot of money to pay for the planned improvements—transportation, parks and recreation and affordable housing—the source of which will likely be a combination of higher taxes, increased bond referendums, to mention a few. The current challenge of finding affordable housing is exacerbated by the lack of housing inventory of any kind in the market at present. Prices are up and apartment supply is challenged. Given an expected influx of close to 400,000 people over the next 20 years, overcoming the housing challenge may be the biggest threat to our continued growth.

Charlotte remains a great place to live and work. Let's hope in the coming years, through thoughtful and innovative planning and implementation, we will continue to enjoy a great quality of life. I expect it will, given the time, energy and expertise expended by Ely and others, through the Institute and the broader community.

Written by: Suzanne Bledsoe

A recording of the program is available [here](#).

*This link will only be available for one month from the recording date.

CLUB NEWS

STAYING IN TOUCH with our Rotary members is important. Please take a moment to check on your friends. To help us stay connected, report updates and humorous stories to Christine Cipriano at christine@charlotterotary.org

Club Survey Results: Thanks to the 96 club members who answered the survey about your Rotary Experience and COVID-related concerns. [The full 10-page results are found by clicking here.](#)

Some headlines include:

- 58% worried about COVID impact on them personally
- 65% attend Rotary Zoom meetings once or twice a month
- Even mix working from home, back at office or hybrid. 23% back in office.
- 48% said open to a holiday gathering depending on location and social distancing practices.
- 76% read The Reporter weekly!

Questions about survey? Email Colleen Brannan at colleen@branstorm.com

The Salvation Army Empty Stocking Fund (*Deadline December 16th*):

In all, 8,092 children from 3,691 families are registered to receive toys and clothes through the angel tree program, which matches children in need with anonymous donors who buy the gifts. Some 1,737 senior citizens will also receive gift cards they can use to buy whatever they need — that's a 12% increase for seniors from last year.

And 812 gift cards will be distributed to agencies serving foster children and children and adults with disabilities.

View *Rescue Christmas* here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NCXl0fMJlji>



The Rotary Club of Charlotte is participating in The Salvation Army #REDKETTLECHALLENGE in two ways:

1. **Pennies from Heaven****: Donate the contents of your coin jar(s) (pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and paper money if you choose) to help The Salvation Army. Donating the coins in your coin jar or volunteering to collect coin jars from others is easy. See the Pennies from Heaven form [here](#). Contact [David Zimmerman](mailto:DavidZimmerman@southernshows.com) at dzimmerman@southernshows.com or call at 704-965-3653 for more information.
2. **Red Kettle Campaign****: Thank you to Team Captain [Mark Norman](#) for leading our club in one of our favorite projects – The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign. This week's donors were: [Tom Blocker](#), [Herb Harriss](#), [Carla Dupuy](#) and [Lynn Johnson](#).

[Lynn Johnson's](#) page was this week's Weekly Winner raising \$392 this week for a total of \$546. Congrats Lynn!

Our Team has raised is \$4,478 on our new goal of \$5,000. Donate to any of the Rotary Club of Charlotte Team members at: <https://give.salvationarmycarolinas.org/team/316985> For those who prefer to write a check, please make it out to The Salvation Army and mail it to [Mark Norman](#), 9806 Deer Spring Ln, Charlotte 28210.

The Red Kettle campaign will conclude on December 16 (just two short weeks from today!).

**Every \$50 raised for the Red Kettle Campaign or Pennies from Heaven gives you a chance to win a raffle prize. Raffle to be held in January.



**NORTH CAROLINA
OUTWARD BOUND SCHOOL**

Outward Bound and the Unity Program: As a follow up to Alexys Taylor's program on Outward Bound and the Unity program, [Will Barnhardt](#) is pleased to invite you to sample an Outward Bound virtual event. During this virtual event, you will be able to experience some of the excitement that you heard about in her presentation. The date for the virtual program is Thursday, December 17th at 12:00 noon. This 1-1/2 hour interactive experience will challenge and invigorate. You will see how North Carolina Outward Bound teaches leadership, communication skills, compassion and teamwork in their program. As an alumni of the 26 day NC program and having participated in the virtual events, I know that you will find the program to be valuable and provide insights for self-reflection and growth. If you are interested, please send an email to Will at: TecTextiles@aol.com and he will confirm your interest and send details as we approach the date. We look forward to seeing you then.



**Linwood
Bolles**

Congratulations to [Linwood Bolles](#)!

Linwood was recognized as one of November's Top Producers in the Charlotte Region at Premier Sotheby's International Realty.

Weekly Meetings via Zoom:

When was the last time you attended one of our weekly meetings?

If you are not regularly attending the weekly meeting via Zoom, here are the top 10 things you may have missed!

10. A tribute to [Sandy Osborne](#) on her retirement.
9. [Herb Harriss](#) in a Santa-inspired chimney hat. (I see you Herb!)
8. A tip from [Pete Brunnick](#) on how to be isolated.
7. Elections for your future Board of Directors
6. Bo Thompson revealed the answer to "Who is David from Asheville?"
5. Grooving with [Ed Pickett](#)
4. The answer to the location of the old "Coffee Cup" restaurant sign.
3. [Herb Harriss](#) attending a meeting from his hospital room
2. An appearance on Zoom by [Mr. Martin Waters](#)



And... The #1 thing you will miss by not attending the weekly meetings:

1. Our new Breakout Rooms prior to the start of the meeting. 😊

You are correct! It isn't the same. But what is this year?... And we are finding ways to make it fun! Make sure to join us weekly so you don't miss out!

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2020 259
11/10/2020 235
Net Increase -24

Meeting Attendance, Tuesday, Dec. 1, 2020: 64 members participated in the Zoom meeting. We welcomed Kim McMillan's guest, Kim Walker.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY (12/9/2020 – 12/15/2020)

Dec. 9 – Elly Clary
Dec. 11 – Russell Peck
Dec. 13 – Brooke Reddington

Happy Birthday to each of you! And many more!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (12/9/2020 – 12/15/2020)

Dec. 13 – Jessica and Ben Mallicote

Happy Anniversary to you!

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (12/9/2020 – 12/15/2020)

14 years, Dec. 12 – Bill Constangy
6 years, Dec. 9 – Glenn Paton

Happy Rotaversary! We are delighted you are in our club!

UPCOMING PROGRAMS (utilizing Zoom)

Dec. 8 – How I Got Where I'm At (Paul Haddock, Joe Gass)
Dec. 15 – Holiday program – Choir School at St. Peters
Dec. 22 – Holiday – Not Meeting
Dec. 29 – Holiday – Not Meeting
Jan. 5 – Nikia Davis-Green, Recycling Charlotte

DISTRICT EVENTS

ROTARY OPENS OPPORTUNITIES. *Our club is part of District 7680.*

Our District offers Volunteer Opportunities beyond our club. Here are just a few possibilities.

- **NC MedAssist** – 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month: [Sign up here.](#)
- **Second Harvest Food Bank** – opportunities through December: [Sign up here.](#)
- **TreeCharlotte** is looking for individuals or groups to plant trees. [Check dates here.](#)
- **Operation Christmas Child** – volunteer in the warehouse with Charlotte Providence. Contact Mary Ellen Shuntich at mshuntich@carolina.rr.com

(Change of Plans) Rotary Youth Exchange will now be via Zoom: John Luebke, RYE Outbound coordinator, District 7680 and [Karen Steffens](#), District 7680 RYE Chair (and a member of our club), invite you to participate in interviewing potential Outbound students and their parents/guardians for RYE 2021-22. The times and dates are: Saturday, Dec. 5, 10 – 11:30 a.m. and 12 – 1:30 p.m. and Saturday, Dec. 12, 10 – 11:30 a.m. and 12 – 1:30 p.m. [Complete this Google Form if you are interested.](#) Or contact John Luebke at 980-422-3574 or john.n.luebke@live.com with questions or for additional information.

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

INFINITE POSSIBILITIES VIDEOS

District 6960 on the west coast of Florida has produced 4 fascinating videos of senior female Rotary leaders talking about their experiences and the future of Rotary. Take a look:

<https://www.rizons33-34.org/infinite-possibilities-videos/>

ROTARIANS IN SERVICE

The Rotary Mission: "We provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through our fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders."

Classroom Central:

On Tuesday, December 1st, [Paul Wyche](#) and [Karen Steffens](#), along with six other Rotarians packed 54 orders for teachers at Classroom Central. While [Bill Bradley](#) gave his time on an afternoon prior to Thanksgiving.

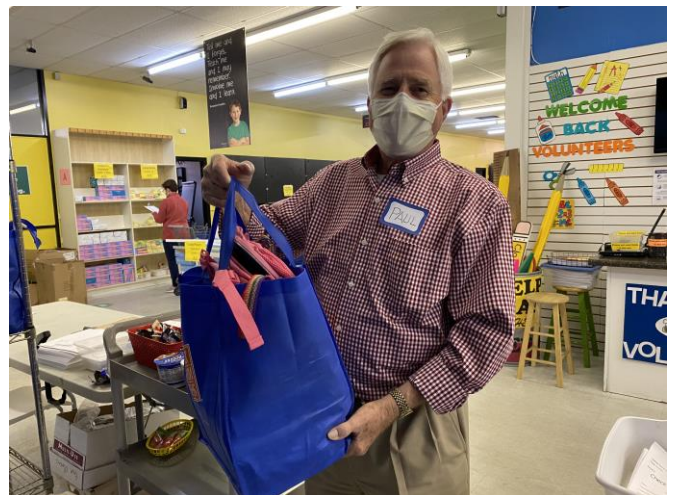
The Classroom Central demand continues to remain high. Teachers place their orders at the beginning of each month. This past Tuesday, there were so many orders received by 12:00 noon, ordering had to be shut down until January.

The next available opportunity to help is Tuesday, January 5 from 2-5pm. Reach out to Catherine Bracey at csbracey@aol.com for information.



Can you see [Karen Steffens'](#) smile under that mask? It comes from knowing she is helping our teachers.

A completed bag by [Paul Wyche](#) supplies another classroom with much needed materials.



[Bill Bradley](#) gives a thumbs up to donating his time to help to our educators!