



July 7, 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

President Jerald Coughter

Pres Elect Carol Hardison

Past Pres John Lassiter

Secretary Bill Bradley

Treasurer Edwin Peacock

Exec Sec Sandy Osborne

### Directors 2020-2021

Colleen Brannan

Kandi Deitemeyer

Stuart Hair

Stephanie Hinrichs

Chris Kemper

Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

### Directors 2020-2022

Patrick Baker

Bill Barte

Suzanne Bledsoe

Kim McMillan

Rex Reynolds

Ranjay Sarda

John zumBrunnen

Membership Clyde

Robinson

Foundation John Tabor

Programs Elly Clary

Jeff Atkinson

Cheryl Banks

Bill Barte

Bill Bradley

Kim Brattain

David Tobin

## ROCIO GONZALES Latin American Chamber of Commerce Charlotte



The Latin American Chamber of Commerce Charlotte (LACCC), under the leadership of Rocio Gonzales, Executive Director, was originally created in 1995 as the Latin American Business Council. In 2001 it received its charter as the Latin American Chamber of Commerce Charlotte and since then has grown to a membership of over 400 members. Largely comprised of small business owners, the LACCC has as its primary mission to foster the economic development and growth of the Latin American business community in our region. It

provides a bilingual array of programs and services to business owners and professionals in the Latin American community, enabling them to grow their businesses, form private and public strategic partnerships and become an engine of economic development in the Charlotte community. Three focus areas of the LACCC include creating opportunities for employment and professional development for emerging leaders, providing resources to fuel small business growth and viability, and creating a talent pool for diversification of the corporate workforce.

Charlotte's Latino community, the fastest growing Latino community in the United States, is fueled by what attracts many to Charlotte: affordable cost of living and a wide array of employment and entrepreneurial opportunities. As of the last census in 2015, the Latino buying power in Mecklenburg County was over \$4.2 billion, which is about 16% of the total. Latino owned businesses were 8.5% of total businesses in 2012 and the total sales receipts of those same entities was close to \$9B. There is no doubt that 2020 census results will show significant growth in all of these metrics.

To accomplish its mission, the LACCC organizes and hosts a variety of monthly and annual events including job fairs, seminars and workshops, small business expos, networking events and other similar activities. They also provide a variety of business and leadership development programs partnered with their corporate sponsors that include topics such as Business Development for Start-ups (in both English and Spanish), Latino Leadership Development Program, and Latino Youth Empowerment Summit. Sponsorships in the broader Charlotte community are widely publicized and

partnership participation and sponsor involvement is customized to meet the sponsors' requirements.

Rocio acknowledged that the Latin American community has suffered disproportionately during the Covid 19 crisis. Many Latinos are essential workers, and only 1 in 6 are able to work remotely, largely due to the nature of their work or lack of access to technology. The LACCC has been particularly focused during this time on providing support and assisting with access to resources available to small businesses and families. She encouraged us to seek ways to help and, in so doing, consider participating in the annual LACCC Mid Year Conference 2020 to be held on Tuesday, July 21. For more information, refer to [LACCCCharlotte.com](http://LACCCCharlotte.com).

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. The Reporter can be used to share what your company is doing to get through the pandemic, what your family is doing, send me your How I Got Where I'm At....anything to keep our members in the know.*

**JERRY WALTERS:** Jerry has been elected to a three-year term for the North Carolina Bar Association.

**DALE HALTON:** On the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Division 1 athletics at UNC Charlotte, Dale will be included in the inaugural athletics hall of fame as a Contributor.

**ROCK MIRALIA:** Rock joined Charlotte Rotary in 1976 and due to health issues, dropped out in November, 2019. He passed away June 30, 2020 at his home in Charlotte and is survived by his wife and three children. Herb Harriss recounted although he and Rock were fierce competitors in the warehousing business, Rock still endorsed Herb for membership. The club will make a donation to Charlotte Rescue Mission in his memory. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charlotte/obituary.aspx?n=rocco-joseph-miralia&pid=196448371&fhid=5889>

**OPPORTUNITY:** Kristen Petrizzo is a member of a research team in the Sociology Department at the University of North Carolina Charlotte. Her research team is currently working on a project that investigates the effects of debt on the career experiences of workers. Specifically, they want to explore how perceptions about debt and debt related stress and/or anxiety impact an individual's career choices. They are seeking individuals from several different employment sectors and individuals who are members of your professional network are ideal candidates for participation in this study. They are looking for individuals who have at least a bachelor's degree, who are currently employed in the greater Charlotte region, and who fall within the age range of 18 to 40.

They hope to be able to conduct both semi-structured interviews and a brief survey with individuals who are members of your professional network. Interviews can occur either in person or virtually through an online telecommunication platform, such as Google Hangouts or Zoom. Interviews will be approximately 1-2.5 hours long. The survey portion of the study will last approximately 10 to 20 minutes. The data gained from these interviews and surveys will primarily be used for scholarly publication and may also be used in further work analyzing economic uncertainty and debt related stress and/or anxiety.

All names and other identifying information of the participants will be kept confidential and all papers and presentations will be summarized in such a way that participants cannot be identified. The principal investigator of this study is Dr. Scott Fitzgerald (Chair of the Department of Sociology at UNC Charlotte). His C.V. and research publications are available at <https://pages.uncc.edu/scott-fitzgerald/>.

If you would be willing to allow participate or have any questions or concerns, please contact Kristen Petrizzo at [kpetrizz@uncc.edu](mailto:kpetrizz@uncc.edu)

## MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2020 260 *New Members:*  
07/07/2020 260  
Net Increase -16 *Resignations:*

60 members on today's Zoom call

## CELEBRATIONS

### **BIRTHDAYS** (07/15/2020 – 07/21/2020)

07/16 – John Snyder  
07/17 – Tom Cottingham; Peirce Ward  
07/21 – Bob Brietz; John Phillips

### **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** (07/15/2020 – 07/21/2020)

07/19 – Joy & Ken Poe  
07/21 – Judith & George Gabel

### **ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES** (07/15/2020 – 07/21/2020)

01 year – Jim Deas (7 years in previous club)  
01 year – Robert Daughtridge  
01 year – Clayton Woodard  
03 years – Howard Hoyle

## UPCOMING PROGRAMS (utilizing Zoom)

07/14 – Tom Barkin, President, Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond  
07/21 – Panel: Dr. Jessica Saxe, Dr. Presley Gilbert, Elly Clary – Single payer health insurance  
07/28 – David Mildenburg, Editor, Business North Carolina  
08/04 – District Governor Mike Walker  
08/11 – Bill Russell, president & CEO, Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce  
08/18 – Firoz Peera & Carl Davis, Rotary Million Dinner  
08/25 – Debbie Rabinovich, Research into the old Brooklyn neighborhood