



November 24, 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 Christine Cipriano

Directors 2020-2021

Colleen Brannan

Kandi Deitemeyer

Stuart Hair

Stephanie Hinrichs

Chris Kemper

Chad Lloyd

Alexandra Myrick

Directors 2020-2022

Patrick Baker

Bill Bartee

Suzanne Bledsoe

Kim McMillan

Rex Reynolds

Ranjay Sarda

John zumBrunnen

Membership Clyde

Robinson

Foundation John Tabor

Programs Elly Clary

Jeff Atkinson

Cheryl Banks

Bill Bartee

Bill Bradley

Kim Brattain

David Tobin

George “Mr. C” Couchell A “Quintessential American Success Story”



Ellison Clary introduced George “Mr. C.” Couchell as the “quintessential American success story.” A graduate of East Mecklenburg High School and Duke University, George is best known as the founder and owner of a local gem, Showmars.

In his opening remarks, George surprised us with a special guest: his long-time cherished friend and our fellow club member, [Martin Waters](#). He also shared a recent message from [Edwin Peacock](#), a card

embossed with the word GRATITUDE—clearly a word full of meaning and practice for George.

George immigrated to the United States from Greece with his family when he was a child. He remembers vividly the arrival of the ship in New York Harbor and the way the Statue of Liberty seemed to rise magically out of the water. While in Greece, his family survived unmentionable atrocities during World War II at the hands of German and Communist soldiers—some of which he shared with us. Good health, a loving and supportive family and generous and caring friends, along with the opportunity to start over in America are the blessings that he is grateful for every minute of every day.

George shared that, while his first love was the restaurant business, his parents hoped that upon graduation from Duke he would go to law school. Instead, George entered the service as a Naval Officer and, from there, began his career at Reynold’s Tobacco Company. In 1982, with his brother as a partner and using their combined savings, they founded Mr. C’s (now Showmars) in Charlotte. It was the first of its kind: a hybrid between fast food and formal dining, what is generally referred to as “fast casual” in today’s vernacular. Thirty-eight years later, Showmars serves its delicious and unique brand of southern, fresh, and Greek in 30 locations around the Carolinas. George attributes the success of the business to having great partners and team members and greeting every day with determination, perseverance and—that word again—gratitude.

When asked his definition of success, George quoted a friend of his: “Success is the progressive realization of predetermined worthwhile goals.” He added, if you love what you are doing, you will want to do it forever.

What a wonderful Thanksgiving message for us today—to see and hear George’s testament, through the telling of his inspirational life story, of the power of gratitude. For all things, good and bad.

Thank you, Mr. C., for sharing.

Written by: Suzanne Bledsoe

[Click here for a recording of Mr. C’s presentation.](#) Passcode: BGNs6=SR

*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

Excellence in Leadership Award - *Deadline Tuesday, Dec. 1!* Submit your written nomination for the Excellence in Leadership Award to [David Zimmerman](mailto:dzimmerman@southernshows.com) at dzimmerman@southernshows.com or Southern Shows Inc., PO Box 36859, Charlotte, NC 28236 by Tuesday, December 1. The club will recognize the recipient of this year’s award on Tuesday, February 16, 2021. [Click here for details.](#)



Scan. Pay. Go.

PayPal Now Accepted: In addition to accepting credit cards, the club is now set up to accept member dues and The Rotary Foundation donations via PayPal. Future invoices will provide the option to “Click Here” to take you to the payment gateway for credit cards and our PayPal.me, which is [PayPal.me/charlotterotary](https://www.paypal.com/charlotterotary) (or scan the QR Code to the left). For previous invoices, contact [Christine Cipriano](mailto:ChristineCipriano@charlotterotary.org) at christine@charlotterotary.org or call the office at 704-375-6816.

Side note: The credit card and PayPal payment options will have an additional convenience fee. This convenience fee is a percentage of your payment.



The Rotary Foundation: *Congratulations* and a *sincere thank you* go to two of our club’s members who recently became Major Donor’s (\$10,000+) to The Rotary Foundation: [President Jerry Coughter](#) and [Sandy Osborne](#) have reached the remarkable milestone of contributing \$10,000+. Both members tell of gradually making contributions which added up to this considerable amount. Contact [Christine Cipriano](mailto:ChristineCipriano@charlotterotary.org) or [John Tabor](mailto:John.Tabor@hdrinc.com) at John.Tabor@hdrinc.com to find out how to start your path to Major Donor.



The Salvation Army: The Rotary Club of Charlotte has been ringing bells in Uptown Charlotte for over 25 years. The pandemic may have redesigned the way Charlotte Rotary connects with The Salvation Army this year, but you are enthusiastically contributing! Keep up the excellent work!

DOING THE MOST GOOD™

There are two ways to participate:

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 Pennie's from Heaven form [here](#). Contact [David Zimmerman](#) at dzimmerman@southernshows.com or call at 704-965-3653 for more information.

Red Kettle Campaign** / #REDKETTLECHALLENGE:

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is currently the Top Team in the #REDKETTLECHALLENGE with \$3,542 raised. The following individuals contributed this week: [Fred Brown](#), [Marilynn Bowler](#), [Jennifer Kendrick](#), [Joseph Morris](#), [Jerry Bryson](#), [Jim Hintz](#), [Mike Harley](#), [Mark Norman](#), [Christine Cipriano](#)

So far, we have 29 Rotarians who have participated on a goal of 50.

- [Mark Norman](#) is leading the Rotary Club of Charlotte Team having raised \$2,558 (85% of his goal).
 - You can donate to Mark's online page by clicking on this link: [Mark's Red Kettle](#) 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.
- Because of your amazing response this week, [Christine Cipriano](#) raised \$906 this week. I'm the "Weekly Winner!" Thank you! I am very grateful. And that will teach Mark to challenge me!
 - You can donate to Christine's page by clicking this link: [Christine's Red Kettle](#)

*Thankful
&
Grateful*

**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.

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 inviting you to sample an Outward Bound virtual event to experience some of the excitement that you heard about in her presentation. The date for the virtual program meeting will be 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. If interested, please send Will an email at: TecTextiles@aol.com He will confirm your interest and send details as we approach the date. I look forward to seeing you then.

Congratulations! to three of our club members who have been recognized as **2020 Most Admired CEO's** by the *Charlotte Business Journal*



Dan Rajkowski,
COO Charlotte Knights



Dena Diorio,
Manager, Mecklenburg County



Karen Calder,
CEO Classroom Central

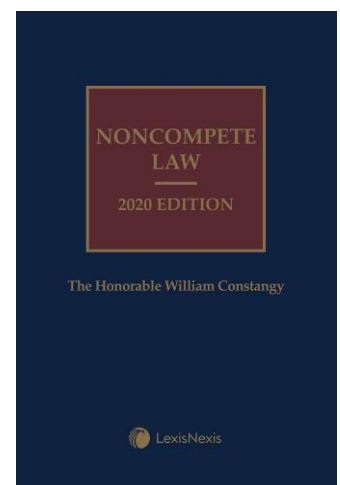


Dena Diorio has also been named the 2020 Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year by Queens University. Established in 1986, this award honors the achievements of exceptional businesswomen based on their contributions to the business, civic and cultural communities in the Charlotte region. Recognized for its longstanding history and prestige, the Charlotte BusinessWoman of the Year kicks off the spring award season. With ample professional development and networking opportunities, this event reaches 275 of the area's business and thought leaders.

Congratulations Dena!

Bill Constangy is the author of the Second Edition of his national law book, **NONCOMPETE LAW**, 2020 Edition, published by Lexis Nexis/Matthew Bender on November 17, 2020. *Noncompete Law* is a comprehensive national law book about employment and sale of business noncompete agreements and related restrictive covenants, including nonsolicitation, nondisclosure, forfeiture and non-rehire agreements.

Also, Congratulations go to Bill and his wife, Debbie, are the proud grandparents of their 3rd grandchild, Eloise, a 7 pound baby girl, born to their daughter, Mary and her husband Eric Darrenkamp, on November 10, 2020.



Giving Tuesday is December 1, 2020: Giving Tuesday happens once a year, but your gift of Rotary will make a difference for a lifetime. This Giving Tuesday, consider making a special gift to The Rotary Foundation and together we can continue doing good in the world. [Click here for a one-time donation.](#)

GIVING TUESDAY

December 1, 2020

Seven reasons to donate to The Rotary Foundation:

1. Fight disease around the world
2. Teach people to read
3. Build Peace
4. Provide clean water and sanitation
5. Grow local economies
6. Save mothers and children
7. Protect the environment

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

Rotary Youth Exchange: John Luebke, RYE Outbound coordinator, District 7680 and Karen Steffens, District 7680 RYE Chair, invite you to participate in interviewing potential Outbound students and their parents/guardians for RYE 2021-22. These in-person interviews are mandatory for the student applicants and their parents/guardians. The interviews will take 60-90 minutes and will be coordinated in a socially-distanced manner. Face masks will be required of all participants. 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.

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2020 259

11/10/2020 235

Net Increase -24

Resignations: Mike Ranson, Wil Bosbyshell, Sandy Osborne (honorary), Bill Gill, Helen Verkamp, Van Hall

Meeting Attendance, Tuesday, Nov. 24, 2020:

68 members participated in the Zoom meeting. In addition to Mr. C., we were able to visit with [Mr. Martin Waters](#). It's been way too long since we were about to see you Mr. Waters!

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY (12/2/2020 – 12/8/2020)

Dec. 3 – Steve Meckler
Dec. 5 – Don Carmichael
David Head
John Scharer
Kyle Woodruff

Happy Birthday to each of you! And many more!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (12/2/2020 – 12/8/2020)

Dec. 5 – Catherine and Bob Finley

Happy Anniversary to you!

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (12/2/2020 – 12/8/2020)

20 years, Dec. 5 – Cynthia Marshall
18 years, Dec. 3 – Floyd Davis
4 years, Dec. 6 – Ranjay Sarda

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

UPCOMING PROGRAMS (utilizing Zoom)

12/01 – Eli Portillo from the Urban Institute
12/08 – How I Got Where I'm At (Paul Haddock, Joe Gass)
12/15 – Holiday program – Choir School at St. Peters
12/22 – Holiday – Not Meeting
12/29 – Holiday – Not Meeting

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL



As we all know, Nicaragua has been battered by 2 hurricanes in 2 weeks. First, Hurricane Eta hit as a Category 4, then Hurricane Iota, the strongest storm ever to hit Nicaragua, as a Category 5 with 160 mph winds & dropping 12" of rain over 24 hours in some areas. That tiny country has been dealt a catastrophic blow with 18 deaths, tens of thousands of homes lost, and hundreds of millions of dollars in damage to infrastructure. Devastatingly, food crops have been lost around the country.

The Rotary Club of Ciudad Sandino is partnering with farmers who can plant within the next 2 weeks to a crop of beans (a crucial source of protein) this year. \$4,500 will support 100 families to plant 1.6 acres each. The cost per family is \$45, yielding 700-1200 lbs. of beans within 90 days, enough for the families to eat as a staple food for the year. Each family will contribute 100 lbs. from their harvest back to the community in order to create a revolving seed bank for future planting cycles, to help in food security going forward. If you are interested, you can donate at: <https://donatenow.networkforgood.org/jhc-cdca> and designate "Rotary Beans."

Happy Thanksgiving to you and yours!

Happy Thanksgiving



Rotary

