



2020- 2021 Board Members

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David Tobin

Dr. Michael Bitzer Nationally recognized political expert



“This is the most competitive 10-point advantage nationally I have ever seen,” a renowned political scientist from this area said in paraphrasing a Republican pollster.

His meaning, explained Dr. Michael Bitzer of Catawba College, is that former vice president Joe Biden often outpolls President Donald Trump by as many as 10 percentage points in this presidential election. But the race is much tighter in many individual states and it’s the states and their electoral votes that matter.

Bitzer chairs the political science department at his Salisbury institution. He regularly offers election insights for media such as CNN, MSNBC, Fox News, The Washington Post and The Charlotte Observer, among a host of others.

“It’s a unique year,” said Bitzer in his Charlotte Rotary presentation. “We have this election in the midst of a pandemic. What in the world is going on?”

Bitzer offered several variables that he and other political scientists are watching in Tuesday’s national and state races. And he offered comments on them.

It’s all about the states and 270. That’s the number of electoral votes needed to win the presidency. North Carolina is one of a few key states that could go either way. Biden appears to have a slight Electoral College advantage, but that may depend on carrying Pennsylvania or Michigan.

Incumbent versus open seat. When an incumbent president is running, the election turns into a referendum. Trump’s approval factor is 45 percent, “which is in that slight danger zone.”

Economic dynamics. Most research indicates the country's gross domestic product matters more than unemployment rates. This summer, the GDP fell more than 30 points, "something we've never seen before."

Right or wrong track. How does the electorate feel? "Sixty-one percent are saying the country is on the wrong track."

Partisanship. Tip O'Neill, former speaker of the House, used to say "All politics is local." With polarization, "We can say all politics is now nationalized." Democrats are true blue and Republicans are vivid red. Pure independents, voters who might swing either way or go for a third party, are not even 10 percent of the electorate.

Location matters. Regionalism dominates politics in North Carolina. Democrats are strong in big cities like Charlotte but they are in a dead heat with Republicans in the near suburbs. Outlying suburbs such as in Union County are almost a mirror image of the central cities and rural areas are strong Republican. "The battlegrounds are suburbs within urban counties."

Voter intensity. Early voting occurred at levels never before seen. "We could have 70 or 80 percent of the votes already banked by today."

In response to a question, Bitzer speculated about the future of the Electoral College. "Since we have seen two presidential elections within the past 20 years where the popular vote recipient failed to achieve the Electoral College victory, certainly questions are coming into this dynamic," he said. "It will be interesting," Bitzer added, "to see if this year we have a similar situation as 2016 and if (sentiment to alter or abolish the Electoral College) grows in momentum."

Written by: Elly Clary

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.*

Club Elections: At the November 3rd Zoom meeting, a business meeting was called to order by Past-President John Lassiter to vote on the Nominating Committee's recommended slate of officers and directors. Following a motion duly made and seconded, the below were elected to serve the club. *Congratulations!*

President-Nominee 2022-2023: Bill Bradley

Treasurer 2021-2022: Edwin Peacock

Secretary 2021-2022: Colleen Brannan

Director 2021-2023: Ann Clark, Ellison "Elly" Clary, Jesse Hite, Christopher "Chris" Jackson, Warren Kean, Vanessa Stolen, Travis Vance

The Rotary Four-Way Test: In the Oct. 23rd edition of South Charlotte Weekly, Charlotte club member [Tony Marciano](#) published an article on The Rotary Four-Way Test. [Click here for a link to that article.](#) Adopted by Rotary in 1943, The Four-Way Test has been translated into more than one hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. We offer printed wallet cards with The Four-Way Test on one side and the Object of Rotary on the other. Contact [Christine Cipriano](#) at christine@charlotterotary.org if you would like one.



Surveying Your Rotary Experience (Deadline Nov. 9): As we look ahead to 2021, we want to hear from you about everything from corona concerns and committee work to Zoom calls and member engagement. Please take this two-minute survey by Monday, Nov. 9 so we can factor your feedback into Club planning. Email [Colleen Brannan](mailto:colleen@branstorm.com) colleen@branstorm.com with any questions. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9CNF8G6>

Congratulations to all!

Rotary Club of Charlotte has earned the Rotary Citation for 2019-2020. The Rotary Citation is the most significant award a Rotary club can achieve. During a year that was challenging for many Rotarians around the world, our club demonstrated a commitment to achieve its goals, which ultimately helps strengthen Rotary and shape our future.

The image is a certificate for the 2019-2020 Rotary Citation Silver award. It features the Rotary logo and the 'Rotary Connects the World' logo. The text reads: '2019-2020 ROTARY CITATION SILVER', 'Awarded to the Rotary Club of Charlotte', and 'for helping Rotary connect the world.' The certificate is signed by Mark Daniel Maloney, President of Rotary International. The background has a decorative blue and white floral pattern.

Rotaract Advisor (Still needed): We are still in need of a new advisor to replace Lee Tabor as Advisor for the Rotaract Club at Queens University of Charlotte. Rotaract is a service club for young men and women ages 18 to 30 who are dedicated to community and international service. Its membership totals over 184,000 in more than 8,000 clubs worldwide. Rotaract clubs are self-governing and self-supporting and can be either university- or community-based. Individual Rotary clubs sponsor Rotaract clubs and offer guidance and support, making the Rotaract clubs true “partners in service” and key members of the family of Rotary. If you would be interested in working with this group, please contact [Jerry Coughter](#).

The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign:** After two weeks, [Mark Norman's](#) Charlotte Rotary page is the second highest fundraising team in the Red Kettle Campaign. So far, donations have been made by [Mike Hawley](#), [Terri Deboo](#), [Chris Thomas](#), [Mike Wollinger](#), [Mark Norman](#), [David Anderson](#), [Wes Sturges](#), [Luther Moore](#), [Ed Kizer](#) and an anonymous donor. The total raised to date is \$1,080, 36% of our goal. Let's get him to that first-place spot! 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.

Pennies from Heaven:** Rotarians can also help The Salvation Army Red Kettle Campaign by donating your coin jar(s) or volunteering your time to collect coin jars from others. If interested, please contact [David Zimmerman](mailto:DavidZimmerman@southernshows.com) at dzimmerman@southernshows.com

**Remember, every \$50 raised for the Red Kettle Campaign or Pennies from Heaven will give you a chance to win a raffle prize to be held in January.

Excellence in Leadership (Deadline Dec. 1, 2020): Nominations are now open for the Excellence in Leadership Award. Each year, the Rotary Club of Charlotte, in combination with the Charlotte Business Journal, selects and recognizes the accomplishments of a leader of an area business or non-profit. Your help is needed in identifying the recipient for this year's award. We are currently accepting recommendations. [Click here for details](#) on the nomination process as well as the qualities of excellence. Nominations will be accepted through **December 1, 2020**. All nominations should be submitted to [David Zimmerman](mailto:DavidZimmerman@southernshows.com) at dzimmerman@southernshows.com or Southern Shows Inc., PO Box 36859, Charlotte, NC 28236. Presentation of this year's award will be Tuesday, February 16, 2021.

Join ShelterBox online for “An Evening to Experience ShelterBox”

Thursday, Nov. 12, 2020, 8:00 - 9:00 PM ET

Join an hour of inspiration, highlighting the lifesaving work you have enabled and the lives you support through a paddle raise with **over \$70K in available matching funds**. Take advantage of this dollar for dollar opportunity! This event is free; registration is required. <https://www.ShelterBoxUSA.org/Virtual>

ShelterBox 20 YEARS CELEBRATION

YOU'RE INVITED

An Evening to Experience ShelterBox

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2020
8:00 - 9:00 PM ET

Join our virtual benefit from the comfort of your own home.

Register at [ShelterBoxUSA.org/Virtual](https://www.ShelterBoxUSA.org/Virtual)

Join ShelterBox for an hour of inspiration, highlighting the life-saving work you've enabled and the lives your support has transformed.

2020 Global Humanitarian Service Award Recipient

Rotary

This event is free, however, registration is required.

Visit [ShelterBoxUSA.org/Virtual](https://www.ShelterBoxUSA.org/Virtual)

MEMBERSHIP

07/01/2020 259 *New Members:*

11/03/2020 237

Net Increase -22 *Resignations:* Mike Ranson, Wil Bosbyshell, Sandy Osborne (honorary), Bill Gill

81 members and guests participated on the Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2020 Zoom call. Guests are always welcome.

CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAY (11/11/2020 – 11/17/2020)

Nov. 17 – Todd Arnold

Happy Birthday to you! And many more!

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES (11/11/2020 – 11/17/2020)

Nov. 13 – Kasey and Michael Norton

Nov. 14 – Sherry and Van Hall

Nov. 15 – Dale Halton and Fred Wagner

Nov. 17 – Ann and Henry Bostic

Happy Anniversary to the both of you!

ROTARY ANNIVERSARIES (11/11/2020 – 11/17/2020)

There are no member anniversaries during this time.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS (utilizing Zoom)

11/10 – Bo Thompson, WBT Radio

11/17 – Pete Brunnick, Hospice and Palliative Care Charlotte Region

11/24 – George Couchell, Showmar's Restaurants

12/01 – Eli Portillo from the Urban Institute