



THIS WEEK'S SPEAKER

July 6, 2021

2021- 2022 Board Members

President Carol Hardison
Pres Elect William Bradley
Past Pres Jerry Coughter
Secretary Colleen Brannan
Treasurer Edwin Peacock
Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2021-2022

Patrick Baker
Bill Bartee
Suzanne Bledsoe
Kim McMillan
Rex Reynolds
Ranjay Sarda
John zumBrunnen

Directors 2021-2023

Ann Clark
Ellison Clary
Jesse Hite
Christopher Jackson
Warren Kean
Vanessa Stolen
Travis Vance

Membership Laura Little

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Elly Clary



Presidential Changeover from President Jerry Coughter to President Carol Hardison

by Elly Clary

A toast from new District Governor Nico Iannelli ended a champagne and hors d'oeuvres reception and kicked off a plated luncheon. Charlotte Rotary shook off a year of pandemic plunder and ushered in an aspiration for a reenergized, in-person year.

New President Carol Hardison accepted the gavel and presidential Rotary pin from outgoing chief executive Jerry Coughter. Quoting Edwin Peacock, Carol told Jerry, "You kept us out of ditches and on smooth pavement" during the COVID-19 era.

When she joined Charlotte Rotary, Carol said, "I saw who was here and I knew this was a group of people dedicated to 'service above self,' even before I knew it was our motto."

Quoting Jerry Garcia from The Grateful Dead, out-going President Jerry mused on the "long, strange trip" of this largely virtual Rotary year. But referencing the motto of soccer's FC Barcelona, Jerry reminded that Charlotte Rotary is "more than a club."

"The opportunity to serve this great club, to give back just a bit of what the club has given me, has been extraordinary," Jerry told the audience of more than 100, almost all of whom attended in-person at the Fairfield Inn. The assemblage included District 7680 officers both current and past as well as an honor roll of

former Charlotte Rotary presidents.

“We’re here, in person, ready to bounce back,” Jerry told the assemblage that included many members whose presence was scarce or non-existent during the last year.

President Carol signaled readiness to lead Charlotte Rotary back to full-fledged community presence. She announced three 2021-22 focus areas:

- **Member engagement**, including club socials, service projects, new friendships and networking opportunities.
- **The Rotary Foundation**, with emphasis on the polio eradication effort, whose infrastructure was employed to help control coronavirus spread. Carol shared that her father contracted polio in the 1940s. Groundbreaking treatments at Duke University Hospital saved his life.
- **Service projects**, with deeper commitment and results through shared interests, passions and talent. Carol promised to send every member a list of club and community service opportunities.

In closing, Carol called for a moment of silence “in recognition of all who have endured unimaginable hardships this past year – loss of income, illness and even lost friends and family.”

Then she announced the speaker for next week – Julie Janson, EVP and CEO of Duke Energy Carolinas – and encouraged everyone to return in person.

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/572695787>