



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

July 5, 2022

2022-2023 Board Members

President William Bradley

Pres Elect Edwin Peacock

Past Pres Carol Hardison

Secretary Kim Brattain

Treasurer Patrick Baker

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2021-2023

Ann Clark

Ellison Clary

Jesse Hite

Warren Kean

Vanessa Stolen

Directors 2022-2024

Will Barnhardt

Glenn Bouley

Margaret Donovan

Laura Little

Mark Norman

Diego Ramon

Robert Shaw

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Elly Clary



A Beautiful Year in Review

by **Marilynn Bowler**

This presidential transition was peaceful and without rancor or political ramifications. Following a gracious and all-inclusive “Thank You” to the members of our club ~ specifically paying tribute to individuals who spearheaded our varied committees as well as our dedicated Board of Directors, new members, and Paul Harris Fellows ~ outgoing President, Carol Hardison, called out names, directors committees, and special guests, asking those people to stand and be recognized. Smiling broadly, Carol then acknowledged our entire membership with a sweeping gesture of having everyone in attendance today stand up. That provoked a burst of appreciative laughter. Carol, our 2021-22 Charlotte Rotary President, turned over the gavel to 2022-23 President, William Bradley, and along with the gavel, Carol shared her most treasured memories of this past year as our leader. William stepped toward her and presented Carol with the prized President’s Pin ~ complete with a tiny diamond in the center which symbolizes so poignantly the leadership and dedication a Rotary President makes to his/her club as well as to Rotary International. William also presented Carol with a prized Rotary Foundation scarf and a gift card to Jesse Brown’s Outfitters compliments of Bill Bartee.

Standing on the shoulders of the 105 Charlotte Rotary Presidents who preceded her, Carol Hardison did a magnificent job as our leader during a year plagued with COVID, economic challenges, and a plethora of issues requiring her to utilize all of her experience and all of her instincts to keep our club moving forward and keep membership numbers stable. Bolstered by an incredibly strong Board of Directors; supported by superb Committee Chairpersons and members of those committees; assisted by

our Executive Secretary, Christine Cipriano; and strengthened by 220+ members who staunchly and repeatedly responded to her calls for action, Carol voiced a message of encouragement, hope, and gratitude.

We are united in expressing our gratitude to Carol and we look with eager anticipation to William's year as our new President. He stepped to the podium and addressed our club first by an outstanding revisitation of the history of Rotary, going back to its founding in 1916 and segueing to Rotary in Charlotte today. He honored past presidents of Charlotte Rotary as well as city leaders who have so dramatically impacted the Charlotte we know today. He shared his personal journey to this date as well as his own history in our club and then spoke boldly and thoughtfully of his plan for our Charlotte Rotary during the coming year of service focusing on increased membership, website advances, and new community projects. (The possibility of reintroducing singing to Charlotte Rotary had an extra nudge today. William invited the talented and beloved Thomas Moore to sing *God Bless America* before asking the rest of us to join in! We did and the room was filled with the joy of song.)

Carol left big shoes to fill but Charlotte Rotary has a person in William Bradley who is accomplished and dedicated enough to fill those shoes.

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/727786526>
The speaker's presentation begins at 14:50 minutes.