



Charlotte Reporter The Rotary Club of Charlotte February 19, 2013

Charter Date December 1, 1916 Club 6006 District 7680
www.charlotterotary.org

HOW I GOT WHERE I'M AT

Doug LaBrosse, Nick Whitenburg, Tom Robertson

By: Ed Wadsworth

Always our club enjoys this delightful program. It's a time for members to reflect on their lives, why we are Rotarians, and why we



chose to serve others. Bill Gill's opening remarks playfully set the stage for our speakers. From age 30 to 82, we were reintroduced to relatively recent member Doug LaBrosse, newest member Nick Whitenburg, and a past President and veteran of our club, Tom

Robertson.

Doug LaBrosse continues his family traditions carried over from every generation since the 1700's, all have lived in Mecklenburg County and have provided entrepreneur's services. A descendent at that time of the Hezekiah Alexander family, among his descendants was his grandfather who had a home heating business with the slogan "Our friends are warm friends." He attended Hampton Sidney, where like Davidson, Williams, Furman and a very few other distinguished liberal arts institutions, most exams are taken independently because of a strictly respected Honor Code. As he has followed his Dad into a career in the financial services industry, he carries forward that ethical standard in his customer service. Doug lives in Charlotte with his wife, Tory, a Spanish teacher who he met while in college.

Four weeks ago Nick Whitenburg was introduced to our club at a Myers Park Country Club meeting. Already she is off and running as a member of the Golf Committee. Nick owns the consulting firm, *Optimism Matters*, and they are engaged by companies and organizations who want to improve internal and external communications to enhance profitability and effectiveness. She just turned 30, achieving one of her goals which were to publish "*Executive Decisions*," available at Amazon.com. Born to teenage parents, Nick was brought up in a peer environment from which most of her acquaintances have not escaped. Early in life she chose not to become a "self-made victim," instead focus on new opportunities she can pursue. In her quest to serve, she has been inspired by many, including the early 20th century author, James Allen, "As A Man Thinketh," and the similar path from modest beginnings of Condoleezza Rice. She makes every effort to live by 6 principles: (1) people look for those who can add value (2) wisdom and understanding are my two best friends (3) never too proud to start at the bottom (4) find people who use unfair circumstances to get to where they want to go (5) do all with enthusiasm and (6) change my mental diet – the music I listen to, the TV I watch, etc.

Tom Robertson was brought up in a similar, modest environment. In rural southwest Virginia, born at home in 1931, he attended a two room school house without electricity or plumbing. Thanks to his mother, he was encouraged to attend VPI (now Va. Tech), where he earned his Engineering degree before joining the military and Core of Engineers during the Korean War. He served in France and then assigned to teach Engineering at Fort

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

FEBRUARY 2013

26th **Heath Morrison**
Superintendent, CMS

MARCH 2013

5th **Keith Larson**
Radio Host, 1110 WBT-AM

12th **Cecil Newton**
Cam Newton Foundation

19th **Wayne Cooper and
Carlos Florez**
Consul for Mexico

12:30 Tuesday

Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/42974089870/>

Belvoir. It was while he was there that he met his wife, Barbara, who at the time was a Home Economist for Virginia Electric Power. When he married Barbara and finished his military service, he teased “Virginia Power gave me a job because they did not want to lose Barbara.” That was the start of his distinguished career in the utility business. Subsequently he was hired by Mill Power Supply, the purchasing arm of Duke Power. When Tom Garrett retired, he became President. Throughout the rest of his career, that role carried him into many other Duke Managers reporting to him and thousands of employees. He concluded his remarks by thanking Rotary for what it has meant to his life. Except for his family, his alma mater, VPI, and Rotary are what have brought passion to his life. He lives by the motto “that I may serve”, and often rereads our Four Way Test to keep his life on track.

Head Table: Saeed Moghadam, Buddy Chatfield, Marilyn Bowler, Bill Gill, Doug LaBrosse, Tom Robertson, Nick Whitenburg
 Invocation: Lisa Mask; Health, Happiness & History: Tony Zeiss; Song: Chris Kemper; AV: Jessica Dupree & Nikki Keith

CLUB NEWS

→ *Lots of Rotarians* in the newspapers....**Ron Kimble** is a finalist for the City Manager position; **Tony Marciano** will lead two free lectures on “Understanding the Difficult Relationships in your Life” this week; **Julie Haack** talks about the creative approach taken to keep Donald Haack Diamonds and Fine Gems going; **Mark Erwin** expressed his opinion on the Panthers’ request for funding; Courtney and **Fernando Ycaza** had a nice story on their relationship and marriage; **Pat Millen**, daughter Franny and wife, Eileen Keeley are making a difference in Davidson by helping bridge the digital divide with a plan to provide 50 computers to those families at Davidson Elementary School that don’t have one; **Bryan Adams** was selected for inclusion in the 2013 Super Lawyers in employment law; Southern Shows (**David Zimmerman**) will host the Charlotte Bridge Home luncheon at Federal Reserve Bank in Charlotte on February 27th. Featured guest speaker is Afghanistan veteran, Navy Lieutenant Brad Snyder.

→ **George Cochran** read today’s table top message that explained Interact is Rotary for high school.

→ **Benton Bragg** announced the annual Boy Scout Leadership Dinner will be held March 20 and asked anyone ever involved in scouting to stand. **Dr. Tony Zeiss** will receive The Distinguished Eagle Scout Award, which is the highest award an adult Eagle Scout can be given for career recognition and service at a national level.

TREESCHARLOTTE – UPTOWN ROTARY EVENT – FEBRUARY 23

Saturday, February 23, Charlotte Rotary will have twenty four volunteers participating in the effort to expand Charlotte’s tree canopy. Registration is at 8:30 am and kick off at 9 am sharp. Volunteers have received an email from Dave Cable with specific directions/instructions for arrival at Southside Park @ Toomey Avenue. Don’t forget to take pictures!!

CLUB VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

→ Junior Achievement’s Biz City, 8:30 am to 1:30 pm on March 6, 2013. Registration is available at www.charlotterotary.org (click on our projects/junior achievement) and questions may be directed to committee chair Jay Westmoreland (jay.westmoreland@morganstanley.com).

→ Big thanks to a team of volunteers that completed the dictionary bookplating in one day! **Angela Mauldin, Sandy Osborne, Tom Burgess, Jerry Caulder, Marilyn Bowler, Will Barnhardt, Charlie Williams, Nick Whitenburg, Jessica Dupree** and **Jill Santuccio**. If you are interested in helping deliver the dictionaries, please contact the Rotary office.

UPCOMING DISTRICT EVENTS

→ Inaugural New Generations Peace Conference, March 9, 10:00 – 3:00 at Bethel Presbyterian Church in Cornelius, NC. This event is targeted for members of Rotaract, Interact, Youth Exchange and SFTL Alumni; all Rotarians are welcome. On-line registration is available through the District Database (or call Sandy). \$10 on line; \$15 at the door.

→ 2013 District Conference, May 3-5 will be held at the Grandover Conference and Golf Resort, Greensboro, NC. Registration is available through the District Database (or call Sandy).

Attendance	<u>02/19/2013</u>	<u>02/21/2012</u>	Membership	New Members: Frank Watson, Todd Arnold, Laura Thomas
Visitors & Guests	10	18	07/01/2012 316	
Club Members	158	165	02/19/2013 314	
Total Attendance	168	183	Net Increase -2	Resignations: Lori Gougeon
Percentage	56.8%			
Birthdays February 26-March 4			Anniversaries February 26-March 4	
26 Steve Montgomery	26 Will Hadley		28 Jean and Joe Penner	02 Gail and Michael Norman
27 Jerry Coughter	28 Rob Wright		03 Caroline and Ed Driggs	
01 Charlie Ibach	02 Jeremy Canipe			