

Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

June 18, 2013

Charter Date December 1, 1916 Club 6006 District 7680
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Tony Almeida

Senior Advisor to the Governor

By: Elly Clary



A key official in Gov. Pat McCrory's administration outlined steps North Carolina is taking to reverse unhealthy economic trends. In his remarks to Rotary of Charlotte Tuesday, he relayed optimism such efforts will pay off.

Tony Almeida is the governor's senior advisor on jobs and the economy. Former club president Ron Kimble introduced Almeida, referring to him as the governor's old boss.

Almeida, who retired in 2011 from a 32-year career at Duke Energy, acknowledged he was Mayor McCrory's supervisor for a time, smilingly as he added that "payback is hell." Turning serious, Almeida enumerated several worrisome economic benchmarks. The state's unemployment is 8.9 percent and – more troubling, Almeida contended – underemployment is 17 percent compared to 15 percent for the United States. Since the turn of this century, per capita income has risen in the southeast and nation, but shrunk for Tar Heels.

North Carolina lost upwards of 350,000 manufacturing jobs in the last decade, yet more people still are moving in. To deal with the obvious challenge, Almeida outlined what Gov. McCrory and Commerce Secretary Sharon Decker, also a Duke Energy alumnus, are doing on several fronts.

Tax reform is a top priority. There is a strong push to lower the North Carolina personal income tax and corporate income tax rates to levels competitive with South Carolina and Virginia. The McCrory Administration wants to eliminate tax loopholes to help make up lost revenue. It is working with the General Assembly on tax reform that is fair, simple and pro-growth, Almeida said.

Regarding regulatory reform, state government needs "to establish a culture of customer service," he said. "We need to ensure that current and new regulations do not stifle growth of our small businesses."

Businesses with 500 employees or fewer create two-thirds of North Carolina jobs. "We need to enable entrepreneurs to start small businesses," he said, "and help them export product, too." He'd like to see an easy-to-use web portal to aid small businesses with forms, permits and licenses. Virginia operates a good model, he added.

Promoting venture capital is another key, he said. The governor recently hosted a working lunch for 18 venture capitalists from across the state. The result was more than a few solid suggestions for improving access to investment.

Many business people tell Almeida they can't find qualified workers. "We must ensure our high school, community college and university graduates are equipped with training and skills they need to secure employment," he said. "We must provide multiple pathways to high school graduation, including career technical education and training."

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

JUNE 2013

25th **Sharon Decker**
Secretary
N.C. Department of Commerce

JULY 2013

2nd **Meeting Cancelled
For Holiday**

9th **President's
Changeover**
Marilynn Bowler/John Tabor

16th **Dan Murrey**
CEO, Ortho Carolina

12:30 Tuesday
Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

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

Finally, Almeida praised public-private partnerships. States including Virginia, Florida and Indiana are emphasizing such cooperation, resulting in a strong culture of performance, he said.

Rotary of Charlotte member and former city councilman John Lassiter chairs an effort to leverage dollars from the public sector with their more plentiful private counterparts. Almeida's desired bottom line: "Creating an outstanding sales and marketing team for North Carolina."

Almeida also took a moment to remember James E. Holshouser Jr., who died Monday. Gov. Holshouser became North Carolina's first Republican chief executive of the 20th century when he was elected in 1972.

Head Table: Tom Burgess, Ralston Pound, Marilyn Bowler, Ron Kimble, Martin Waters, Harry Daugherty; Invocation: Angela Broome
Visitors & Guests: Joe Gass; BBB Minute: Tom Bartholomy; Song: Bill Griffin; AV: Jessica Dupree; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

CLUB NEWS

→ **Mike Rash** continues to show improvement and is happy to hear from his friends through cards. It has been a year since Baby Mitchell (**Meg McElwain**) was diagnosed with leukemia. Mitchell continues chemo at home this week before checking into the hospital June 24 for three weeks. **Steve Meckler's** father is in critical condition – no other details at this time. Continued prayers for all.

→ **John Tabor** recognized several members for their support to The Rotary Foundation: Paul Harris Fellow: **Chris Kemper, Bill Constangy, Steve Meckler**; Level One: **Chris Thomas**; Level Two: **Steve Meachum, Arch McIntosh, Davan Cloninger**; Level Three: **Dave Zimmer**; Level Four: **Nancy Roberson**; Level Five: **David Anderson**; Level Six: **Tom Cottingham**; and Benefactor: **Catherine Browning**.

→ **Bill Griffin** has been appointed to The Governor's Council on Aging; Julie and **John Armistead's** daughter, Margaret McCrory Armistead, will be presented at the Charlotte Assembly Debutante Ball in December; **Colleen Brannan** and **Jerry Coughter** have been named to the Board for the Metro Chapter of the Charlotte Chamber; Several photographed in Society Charlotte's June edition: Natasha and **L.J. Stambuk** at the World Affairs Council awards; Cheryl and **Will Hadley** at McColl Center for Visual Arts Studio Party; Kay and **Bobby Lancaster**, Barbara Roberson at the Salvation Army Women's Auxiliary Festival of Tables; **Tom Burgess** and **Jenn Snyder** at the Bethlehem Center's Laughs, Lunch & Lasting Legacies event; Greater Charlotte Biz did an article **Greg Sizemore** and the Charlotte U.S. Export Assistance Center; **Chase Saunders** photographed at the Business Journal's Global Charlotte event; **Jessica Graham** commented on Kelly Clarkson performing at the 125th Anniversary celebration for Belk; and **Bob Webb** and **Rick Handford** discussed how Myers & Chapman survived the Great Recession.

→ The Jesse Helms Center will conduct a five day educational camp for rising high school sophomores, juniors and seniors July 21-25 at Campbell University. Contact lindsay@jessehelmscenter.org for additional information/registration.

→ Remember to support Dine Out For Kids tonight (June 18), which benefits programs at Communities In Schools – www.cischarlotte.org

→ **Tom Bartholomy** pointed out this week's scam, which is playing out on Facebook. Con artists are impersonating church pastors and once they gain a following, they use their influence to drum up donations for non-existent causes. Beware!

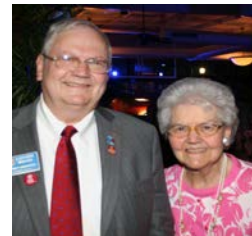
Attendance	<u>06/18/2013</u>	<u>06/19/2012</u>	Membership	New Members: Mason Alexander, Mark Markanda
Visitors & Guests	17	club	07/01/2012 316	
Club Members	158	social	06/18/2013 316	
Total Attendance	175	no mtg	Net Increase	Resignations: Elsie Garner, Ed Ruff, Scott Anderson, Nick Whitenburg, Jack Smylie
Percentage	56.4%			
Birthdays June 18 – July 2		Anniversaries June 18 – July 2		
18 Todd Stevens	22 Bill Gill	18 Gayle & Luther Fincher	18 Peggy & Dale LeCount	
25 Bill Bradley	26 Emmy Lou Burchette	19 Gloria & Vernon Anderson	19 Laura & Charlie Greer	
27 Gail Norman	29 Dick Reiling	20 Jennifer & Arch McIntosh	20 Liz & Dick Reiling	
01 Todd Owens	02 Phil Volponi	20 Dot & Tony Marciano	20 Pam & Wes Clark	
		21 Karen Steffens & Todd Porter	21 Brenda & George Rohe	
		23 Lotta & Harriman Jett	23 Anne & Boyd Coggins	
		23 Kathryn & Pender McElroy	24 Kristen & Frank Watson	
		25 Nan & Bill Loftin	25 Maude & Henry Cantrell	
		25 Mary Beth & John Scharer	29 Judy & John Mahaffey	
		01 Lila & Mike Rash		

IN MEMORY

Dr. John Edwin Smylie (Jack) passed away June 13 at The Cypress of Charlotte. Jack was president of Queens University from 1967 to 1974 and served as an associate professor and chaplain at Occidental College, Los Angeles, from 1962 to 1967. After leaving academia, he founded Smylie Educational Enterprises to provide educational tools to enhance learning at secondary schools and colleges through North and South Carolina. Although his health has kept him from attending meetings for some time, he had been a member of Charlotte Rotary since 1967, where he and his wife, Cornelia, were faithful and generous supporters of The Rotary Foundation. He is survived by his wife and three children. Services will be private and the family requests memorials in Jack's memory be made to the local charity of your choice. The Club will send a donation to The Rotary Foundation.

CONGRATULATIONS LUTHER MOORE!

Luther Moore officially becomes District Governor July 1st. All that attended his installation at SMS Catering on June 14 will attest to the fact that he's ready to go! Approximately 180 gathered to enjoy the festivities, fellowship, inspirational words, and induction of District 7680's leadership team. Thanks to Bob and Robert Freeman for the always fantastic hospitality and food at SMS Catering; to Marilynn Bowler for welcoming everyone by asking them to recite The Three-Way Test – you should have seen the look on DG Chris Jones' face!; to John Tabor for his role recognizing the dignitaries; to the members of Charlotte Rotary on hand to celebrate; to Bill Loftin for providing the printing; to Sandra Moore and family for all they will do during Luther's year; to Charlie Williams for sponsoring Luther in Rotary; to Bert Voswinkel for the photos (which will be on the website shortly); and to Sandy Osborne for making sure it all came together.



Duties of a District Governor.....

Organize new clubs and strengthen existing clubs

Promote membership growth

Support The Rotary Foundation

Promote cordial relations among the clubs and between the clubs and RI

Plan and preside at the district conference

Make at least one official visit to every club in the district

Issue a monthly letter to each club president

Ensure continuity with the district

Encourage participation in a district leadership plan

Inspire and motivate clubs in the district

Furthering the Object of Rotary by providing leadership and supervision of the clubs in the district

Assure district nominations and elections are conducted in accordance with RI constitution

AND somehow find time to serve as Senior Vice President, Assistant Secretary, and Assistant General Counsel at Belk Stores Services!