



Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

October 2, 2012

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

Bill Diehl
By: Jill Santuccio

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

OCTOBER 2012

9th **Climb to Kilimanjaro**
John Tabor and Macon
Dunnagan

16th **Chris Jones**
District Governor
Rotary District 7680

23rd **Pat McCrory**
Republican Gubernatorial
Candidate

30th **Major Sherie Pearsall**
Head of Police Academy

12:30 Tuesday

Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

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



Rotary Club of Charlotte President Marilyn Bowler and past president Pender McElroy shared the joy of introducing attorney Bill Diehl of James, McElroy and Diehl as our speaker. Marilyn bragged about her and Bill sharing a hairdresser, while Pender spoke fondly of his law partner of 43 years, recalling that their office that is now comprised of 38 attorneys and 40 staff began in 1969 with a receptionist, three secretaries and four attorneys in addition to him and Bill.

Diehl, who will celebrate his 68th birthday Thursday, is the son of a newspaper/sports editor who moved his family from Norfolk, Va. to Kinston, N.C. when Bill was in his teens. Bill recounted both recent 50th high school reunions he attended, although at the one in Norfolk he didn't recognize anyone who he grew up with: "I didn't know who the hell they were or why I should know them."

Besides loving his work as a trial attorney, he is most proud of his two grandchildren, especially his fourteen-year-old grandson who is a no-handicap golfer. He is a huge advocate for Charlotte and doesn't plan on leaving.

Although he couldn't recall the elements of the Rotary Four-Way Test, and referred to them as "Be a Good Boy, Be a Nice Boy, Be a Good Boy..." he bemoaned the perception that lawyers "have a horrible reputation for not being all those things" in the Four-Way Test.

The rest of Bill's speech is best summarized in the following quotes:

On being a basketball coach (including for Rotarian Edwin Peacock): "When they're four or five (years old), you can dribble a ball, and they can't, so they think you're a genius. But then when they get to be 10 or 11, they think they know everything and that you're a nincompoop. So I stuck with coaching the younger ones."

On the uptown baseball stadium, which he fought against on behalf of his client Jerry Reese: "I am looking forward to having baseball uptown, although at the time I was not employed to further that interest."

On Bruton Smith bursting into his office the first time they met: "He had a fire poker in one hand and a destroyed picture (of his wife at the time) in the other. He was ready to go to war... and that began a very nice friendship."

On defending George Shinn against false claims made by a female acquaintance: "We were fortunate in prevailing. He is an interesting person. I thought he was a lot better than he got credit for. But he helped finance the rest of my life."

On his age and trademark long hair: "I can't believe I'm going to be 68. I certainly don't *act* like I'm 68 and I sure hope I don't *look* like I am 68 ... I'm still hanging on to the theory that so long as I have long hair I'll be young."

On defending the right for Charlotte Rep to hold performances of Angels in America: “It was about the First Amendment and our freedom of speech. Besides, a little nudity here and there never hurt anyone.”

On defending Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh: “They wouldn’t let him fly, I defended his right to fly, then they (the prosecutors) flew him out of the country.”

And in closing: “The only lawyer who never loses a case is the one who never sets foot in a courtroom.”

Head Table: Pender McElroy, Phil Van Hoy, Marilyn Bowler, Bryan Adams, Chase Saunders; Invocation: Carol Hardison
Visitors & Guests: Tom O’Brien; Health, Happiness & History: Edwin Peacock; Song: Pam Jepsen; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

CLUB NEWS

→ **Karen Bentley** touched on the work done by Crisis Assistance Ministry on a daily basis to help juggle the lives of those struggling to pay utilities or rent. Tables will be set up in the hotel’s parking lot each Tuesday during the month of October. Your donations of warm clothing for men, women, children; sheets & towels; pots & pans; gloves, hats, etc are much needed and appreciated. Last year’s collected surpassed all others with donations of 1200 pounds. The goal is to do even more this year.

→ Jim and Gloria Hintz dropped by to introduce Victor Galdos, who is the manager of Serving Alto Cayma Peru. Those attending the Foundation Banquet on November 8th will have the opportunity to hear Victor’s story and learn of his experiences while traveling in the U.S.

→ Thanks to **Catherine Browning** for arranging the Flu shot clinic on Tuesday; add **Dumont Clarke** to the list of those recognized by Lawyers of the Year for 2013 by Best Lawyers in America; WTVI’s (**Elsie Garner**) re-launch is set to return to carrying PBS’s primary schedule this week; **Sheila (Cottringer) Bacon** is scheduled for a second set of eye surgeries on Friday to help complications of cataract surgery. She will have to keep both eyes closed for 24 hours following the surgery and is expected to be out of commission for a week – not able to drive, read, watch TV, etc.

→ Foundation Chair **John Tabor** recognized several for their support of The Rotary Foundation: Paul Harris Fellow: **Lisa Mask, Marty Waters, Marcus Lee, Eric Davis**; Level One: **Benton Bragg, Doug Bean, Denise Hallett, Terri DeBoo**; Level Two: **Carol Jordan, Martin Waters, Biff Virkler**; Level Three: **Bill Allen**; Level Five: **Leland Park**; Level Six: **Bill Kinney**; Level Seven: **Mac McCarley, Katie Tyler**; Benefactor: **Fred Brown**.

→ Group Study Exchange (GSE) candidates for team leader or team member should be discussed/directed to Paul Schmidt, schmidt@paulschmidtcpa.com.

→ Everyone enjoyed the champagne toast over the news that we’re staying at the Crowne Plaza! The renovation schedule was revamped and upgrades should be accomplished while working around their clients.

CLUB SOCIAL - OCTOBER 4 - N.C. MUSIC FACTORY

Seventy-five have signed up to attend Thursday’s club social at VBGB, located in the NC Music Factory, 6:00PM – 8:00PM. Those that pre-registered and have not yet pay need to bring cash or check with them on Thursday night! Click here for directions: <http://vbgbuptown.com/directions/> <http://ncmusicfactory.com/visit/>

FOUNDATION BANQUET – NOVEMBER 8, 2012

Charlotte Rotary is CANCELING the November 6 meeting to give everyone a chance to attend the District’s Foundation Banquet, November 8th at the Embassy Suites (near Concord Mills). Charlotte Rotary will pick up the cost (\$45 per person) for ROTARIANS planning to attend. Contact Sandy if you plan to attend.

Attendance	<u>10/02/2012</u>	<u>10/04/2011</u>	Membership	New Members:
Visitors & Guests	15	11	07/01/2012 316	
Club Members	172	169	09/25/2012 317	
Total Attendance	187	180	Net Increase +1	Resignation: Pat Gray, John Howman
Percentage	59.3%			

Birthdays October 9-15

13 Saeed Moghadam 14 Boyd Coggins
14 Stephanie Hinrichs 14 Scott Nolan

Anniversaries October 9-15

10 Laura and Charlie Pitts 10 Denise and Jeff Payne
10 Tracey and Rich Campbell 11 Jane and Chris Thomas
12 Amy and Edwin Peacock 12 Tammy and Gray Langley
12 Amanda and Tom Stowe 13 Samara and Anthony Foxx
13 Martha and Jim Woodward