



Charlotte Reporter

The Rotary Club of Charlotte

October 30, 2012

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

Major Sherie Pearsall

By: Jill Santuccio

We had the overwhelming joy of hearing Major Sherie Pearsall of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD) “tell her story” at the behest of Rotarian and fellow Leadership Charlotte classmate Colleen Brannan.



Although she wouldn’t divulge any stories as she did “around flame and spirituous beverages” during Leadership Charlotte, she had previously visited our club and found it to “not be a hostile environment” and agreed to address us.

A Charlotte native, Sherie grew up in the Brookhill neighborhood near Clanton Road then moved to the Greenville community. After graduation from East Mecklenburg High School in 1989, she spent her freshman year at Queens which proved frustrating because her “mother had too much access to me.” And although transferring to Salisbury to attend Livingstone College may not have been far enough away, she earned her degree and came back to Greenville.

A Charlotte police captain who patrolled her neighborhood hounded Sherie to become a police officer, telling her she “would be a good fit.” Despite the fact that she was “more afraid of my mother than any gun-toting officer,” she enrolled in recruit class #114 and became an officer in 1994. She rose through ranks of street patrol and bike patrol before spending six years on the SWAT team, where she was amused by her colleagues’ intrigue with her manicured nails and “always smelling good after being in the field for hours and hours.” She appreciated that the SWAT vests had all kinds of pockets and pouches, where she could tuck away a bottle of perfume or a Slim Jim that lasted 10 hours.

While undercover as a prostitute during one period of her career, her mother (who is a preacher) would receive calls from fellow church-goers inquiring if Sherie had left the police force in favor of working the streets. They let her mother know that if Sherie needed the “prayer warriors” they were available, not knowing Sherie actually was still an officer, and working on prostitution reversals.

In 2000 she became a sergeant, then captain in 2007 and major in 2008. She now oversees the recruitment and training division where she, like that police captain on her doorstep years ago, tries to find recruits who are “the right fit” for CMPD. She says they don’t look for supermen or superwomen, just people who are good with people.

The latter is a challenge in today’s tech-savvy world especially as young graduates are used to communicating through their thumbs on electronic devices. She emphasized that one-on-one communication, especially face-to-face and looking people in the eye, is the key to being a good police officer. “You can’t text someone to tell them that they’re under arrest; it just doesn’t work,” she quipped to the room, which erupted in laughter.

The academy usually spans 30 topic areas over more than 900 hours of training and again, interpersonal communication is focused on heavily. Many recruits start the academy thinking “it’s all about them,” but are much different and focused on others when they finish. The current class has 11 female recruits and is comprised of 40 percent minorities.

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

2012-2013

Program Chair: Ed Driggs

1Qtr Edwin Peacock

2Qtr Colleen Brannan

3Qtr Bob Freeman

4Qtr Bill Constangy

NOVEMBER 2012

6th **CANCELLED so
Members can attend
District Foundation
Banquet on 11/8/12**

13th **Cheryl Richards**
Dean, Northeastern University’s
Charlotte Campus

20th **Thanksgiving
Program**
Colleen Brannan, Tim Newman,
Meg McElwain

27th **How I Got Where
I’m At**
George Cochran, Ty Hands,
Martin Waters

12:30 Tuesday

Crowne Plaza – 201 S. McDowell Street

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

Head Table: Bill Stegelmeyer, Bill Kinney, Marilyn Bowler, Colleen Brannan, Ravi Thakkar, Steve Montgomery; Invocation: Alice Harrison
 Visitors & Guests: Ken Poe, Health, Happiness & History: Jessica Graham; Song: Pam Jepsen; AV: Nikki Keith; Photos: Bert Voswinkel

ELECTION OF CLUB OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

The Nominating Committee (Marilynn Bowler, John Tabor, Pender McElroy, Steve Meckler and Ron Kimble) met October 25, 2012 and below is the recommended slate of Directors and Officers. At the November 13, 2013 meeting, the floor will be open for additional nominations for Director/Officers. Before any member is nominated from the floor, that member must have stated to the nominator that he/she is willing to serve in the office or position.

President 2014-2015	P. Anthony Zeiss
Secretary 2013-2014	Thomas M. Bartholomy
Treasurer 2013-2014	Paul C. Schmidt
Directors 2013-2015	Karen Bentley, Bill Gill, Marcus Lee, Russell Ranson, Jenn Snyder, Phil Van Hoy, Biff Virkler

HELP NEEDED

- ➔ TreesCharlotte’s community partners Mecklenburg County and Charlotte Public Trees Fund are seeking volunteers for Creek ReLeaf on Saturday, November 17 from 9am to 12noon, with a free lunch following. This project will plant 1,900 trees along Irwin Creek at the intersection of Andriell Terrace and Oaklawn Avenue in Charlotte. Registration is available at www.creekreleaf.com. This opportunity is being brought to you by Environmental chair, *Chase Saunders*.
- ➔ Charlotte South Park Rotary is collecting bicycles you are no longer using. The Club is working with Trips For Kids, which trains and exposes underprivileged and at-risk children to all aspects of biking – safety, maintenance, exercise, confidence & respect and the kids must earn the bike through a highly organized program. To arrange pickup, contact Michael Camp, 704-400-2865 or mpczo27@gmail.com.
- ➔ *John Cantrell* and *John Tabor* are working on a wine tasting to promote all the ways we can participate with the Rotary Foundation. The tentative date is the 3rd week in January at Dilworth Neighborhood Grill. Four or five club members are needed to plan and implement the event. Contact John Cantrell: jcantrell@carolina.rr.com; John Tabor: john.tabor@taborarchitecture.com.

CLUB NEWS

- ➔ Sympathy and prayers are extended to Imogene and *Bill Kinney*. Imogene’s brother, Francis B. Williamson, passed away and funeral services were held in Memphis this past week.
- ➔ *Scott Nolan* has resigned from the club and will be moving to Tampa, Florida; *Brad Picot* invites you to participate in the November 9 Ballot Ball, which is in connection with the “Vote for Art” project at the Mint Museum Uptown. Visitors to the Mint Museum have been casting ballots for their favorite works of art and the winning work of art will be announced at the Ball. Online tickets are available at: <http://www.mintmuseum.org/happenings/133/vote-for-art-ballot-ball> or by calling Martha Loftin directly at 704.337.2011.
- ➔ Charlotte West Rotary will host a social beginning at 5:30 pm on November 15 at the Dilworth Neighborhood Grille, 911 E. Morehead St. \$15 includes drinks and appetizers; *Marc Bogan* discussed strategies that are working for NewDominion Bank in a recent Business Journal article; Golf co-chairs *Wes Clark & Bill Gill* presented a check for \$42,000 raised at the year’s Rotary Scholarship Golf Classic!

ROTARY FOUNDATION DONORS RECOGNIZED

Several existing Foundation supporters had the chance to present the designation of Paul Harris Fellow to their spouses on Tuesday. *Floyd Davis* awarded Ann; *Charlie Bones* awarded Penny; *John Cantrell* awarded Ashley, *Sheila Bacon* awarded Todd. Other’s achieving Paul Harris Fellow – *Bill Griffin*; Helmut Deussen named *Buddy Chatfield* Paul Harris Fellow. Moving up in levels - *Floyd Davis* Level 3; *John Cantrell* Level 1, *Helmut Deussen* Level 5, *Pender McElroy* Level 7 and *Ron Campbell* Level One.

Attendance	<u>10/30/2012</u>	<u>11/01/2011</u>	Membership	New Members: Kelly Mirt
Visitors & Guests	21	20	07/01/2012 316	
Club Members	153	185	10/30/2012 316	
Total Attendance	174	205	Net Increase	Resignation: Pat Gray, John Howman, Curtis Watkins
Percentage	53.9%			Scott Nolan
Birthdays November 6-12			Anniversaries November 6-12	
07 Joel Walters	07 Rob Thomas		06 Michelle and Marc Bogan	07 Anne and Russell Ranson
08 Phil Van Hoy	08 Ron Mikels		10 Jan and Ron Kimble	
09 Martin Grable	10 Mike Rash			

ROTARY’S MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of Rotary International is to provide service to others, promote integrity, and advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through its fellowship of business, professional, and community leaders.