



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

March 19, 2024

2023-2024 Board Members

President Edwin Peacock
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Past Pres William Bradley
Secretary John Cantrell
Treasurer Craig Field
Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

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Donna Dunlap
David Head
Joel Ford

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Andy Dinkin



Tim Boyum, Political Anchor, Spectrum News 1

by **Bill Barte**

Tim Boyum began his remarks to Charlotte Rotary with his personal journey and the recognition of taking risks in life.

His journey included an idyllic childhood in Minnesota that erupted into fear when his mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Although she survived, it forever changed his family. His hardworking father and his stricken mother left a lasting legacy for Boyum. It was a legacy of pursuing excellence.

That pursuit included taking risks, which began for Boyum as a teenager. First, he registered for a journalism class unexpectedly, which led to garnering employment at a local television station when he lived in Ft. Smith, Arkansas. He eventually worked his way up within the station and fell in love with broadcast television.

Upon graduation from high school, Boyum again took the risk of applying to a university with an excellent Mass Communications degree, St. Cloud State University. This path was different from others in his high school. Many of his classmates chose to attend UW-Eau Claire.

When he graduated from St. Cloud State, Boyum decided to leave for the West. In fact, he landed a job in Eureka, CA (four hours north of San Francisco), and 36 hours from his home. Another risk in life that helped Boyum reach his next goal.

September 12, 2001, he interviewed with Time Warner Cable in North

Carolina. Although it was just after the terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon, he received a job offer and decided to move to North Carolina. He became one of the original members of the Spectrum News 1 North Carolina team in January 2002.

During this time, he has covered every national convention and interviewed more than a dozen presidential candidates and moderated several U.S. Senate debates. When the 2015 merger between Time Warner and Charter Communications was announced, he decided to take another risk at age forty to receive his Master's Degree. Although it took three years while he was working, he accomplished it.

He currently hosts the Spectrum News 1 nightly political show, Capital Tonight, and the award-winning weekly podcast Tying It Together with Tim Boyum. He is recognized as delivering a fair and objective look at politics which was echoed by members of Charlotte Rotary. Charlotte Rotary President **Edwin Peacock** met Boyum during a Mayoral debate when Peacock was a candidate. Club director, **Joel Ford**, has been a frequent contributor and guest on his show.

His Front Porch Politics show began in 2020 as another risk in his life and career. He developed it, produces it, and hosts the monthly magazine show where, instead of focusing on combative bickering, it has a focus on storytelling, communicating with one another, and helping reconnect people.

Boyum recognized the tension that exists in our country regarding politics but stated that “we are more alike than we are different.”

Recent and upcoming subjects that have been impactful and received recognition include the people of Canton, NC, after the closing of the 115-year-old mill, the topic of gun violence and solutions in Maine, and the increasing influence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) on us as individuals and our society. He warned, the guests, visitors, and members of Charlotte Rotary, that the threats (“China and Russia”) to the U.S. are to have the American citizen disengage.

Boyum spoke about what matters to most people locally like affordable housing and food issues, are the things that immediately affect us locally. However, North Carolina’s races are going to be “nationalized.” The debates will be on national issues like the border and abortion instead of local ones like affordable housing and food. This will possibly affect down-ballot candidates pursuing lesser offices through no fault or action of their own.

Since 2019, Boyum has won six regional Emmy awards and is recognized for his signature bowties. This has become a part of his identity and originated when he was encouraged by a group of professors who appeared on his show. Now viewers complain if he’s seen without one.

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/925139329>
The program introduction begins at approximately 22 minutes and 30 seconds.