



Rotary Club of Dalton Newsletter

<http://www.daltonrotaryclub.org>



This Week:

August 1st
Smitty Barnett
The GreenHouse

Upcoming Meetings:

August 8
High School Football
Coaches

August 15th
TBA

August 22nd
Greg Dent and Zac Taylor
Early Cognitive
Development

August 29th
Zac Taylor
GRSP Student
Introduction

Domestic Violence Court

By Kathryn Sellers

Judge Cindy Morris, who been on the Superior Court since 2002, Attorney Susan Beck who has been with the District Attorney's office for ten years, and Jim Sneary who is the Coordinator for the RESOLVE Project, a certified Family Violence Intervention Program, were introduced by Rotarian Celeste Creswell.

Judge Morris stated that a CDC study found that of over ten thousand female homicides between 2003 and 2014, over 55 percent were a result of domestic violence. Ninety three percent were killed by current or former intimate partners: boyfriends, husbands, and lovers. Mass shootings (four or more fatally shot) often involve domestic violence. Many could have been alleviated by some intervention. Still, the courts realized that what they were doing wasn't working. They had to change their methods of intervening in the early eighties. The courts have now provided both advocates for victims and investigations to find the truths involved.

In Whitfield County in May 2011, an accountability partnership was created with law enforcement (police and sheriff departments), probation, drug court, mental health, DA office, and judges. They are the only court in the state that deals with both felonies and misdemeanors. Both male and female defendants are involved, but the males are the majority. In 2014 their monthly meetings increased to bi-weekly and the domestic violence court became mandatory – not a choice. Most perpetrators are sentenced to a 12-month RESOLVE program for accountability where they learn to avoid offenses. Compliance is essential to the program, so they also deal with alcohol and drug issues, partnering with the Drug Court. In the program, participants also learn to read and get a GED. Judge Morris stated that the program's goal is to help these people get along with family, neighbors and work associates. "We just want to put people back on the right track."

Susan Beck spoke about the lack of accurate reporting of injuries and incident facts, although 911 calls and officer video cams often provide accurate evidence. There is an advocate and a dedicated investigator to interview every defendant, to provide services, and to provide information for other professionals involved in the case. If not prosecuted, after the "honeymoon" or the time of the cooling down, the violence cycle starts again. The RESOLVE program is not an alternative like the Drug Court but is mandatory to avoid repetition of offenses.

Jim Sneary stated that our community is creative, offering these exceptional services. The RESOLVE program is 24 – 26 weeks long, creating what some call "therapeutic jurisprudence." But he says this is accountability and is an educational process, not therapeutic, where they look at their own behavior and choices and see the consequences. The purpose is to make changes in this behavior.

What can we do to help? Judge Morris suggested that we can talk with our legislators to have this program included in the accountability court funding along with the Drug Court. With more funds they could enlarge the program and provide more services.

Announcements and Recognitions

The Family Crisis Center needs board members and youth volunteers. Rotarians are encouraged to consider this.

On August 8, the program will be the high school football coaches and the Kiwanis Club will be joining us.

Greg Dent was installed as the President Elect. Scott DeLay moved from blue badge to the permanent red badge.

August 1st Birthdays and Anniversaries

Member Birthdays

McDonald, David L (DAVID)
Brunson, Kevin M (KEVIN)
Robertson, Cherri L (CHERRI)
Bundros, Thomas A (TOM)

Birthday

2-Aug
2-Aug
2-Aug
7-Aug

Club Officers:

Kevin Brunson
President
Greg Dent
President-Elect
Frank M. Hogshead
Secretary, Treasurer
Bruce Satterfield
Immediate Past President
Vallarie Pratt
Club Administration Chair
John Hutcheson
Public Relations Chair
Cherri Robertson
Membership Chair
Amy Messick
Community Service Chair
Ricky Robertson
Youth Service Chair
Chris Cooke
Vocational Service Chair
Archana Srivastava
International Service
Chair
George "Smitty" Barnett
Foundation Chair

Partner Birthdays

Robertson, Cherri
Chandler, Susan

Member Name

Robertson, Ricky N
Chandler, Robert M.

Birthday

2-Aug
4-Aug

Member Anniversaries

Didier, John M. (JOHN)
Kelehear, Leon S. (SPARKY)
McCoy, Norman D. (NORMAN)
Underwood, Michelle (SHELL)

Start Date

8/1/1994
8/1/1988
8/1/1967
8/2/2016

Years

23
29
50
1

Wedding Anniversaries

Bronson, William III(WILLIAM)
Chappell, William J. (WILLIAM)
Pierce, Sara C. (SKEETER)

Partner's Name

Erica
Bennieta
Lamar

Anniversary

5-Aug
6-Aug
7-Aug

Years

22
62
52

Four Way Test

