Club approves projects, asks Foundation grants

The club’s Board of Directors has approved seven project proposals from among ten submitted to the Grants Committee in May. Those approved are funded with grants from our non-profit foundation, supported by our annual wine tasting fund-raiser and member donations. Additional funding has been requested through District 7730’s grants fund.

Those projects, and the amounts requested from the district, are:

- **NourishNC**, support for its backpack and “Nourish Box” programs to provide food to low-income families during weekends and school breaks, $2,000.
- **Phoenix Hometown Hires**, support for its “life skills” project to help job-seekers better manage their finances, work habits and relationships, $1,250.
- **Cape Fear Literacy Council**, support for its program to help immigrants prepare for their citizenship exam, $1,000.
- **The Good Shepherd Center** for its Lakeside Reserve project, providing affordable housing for chronically homeless people with disabilities, $2,000.
- **The Hill School** of Wilmington, to acquire educational technology, $2,000.00.
- **Williston Middle School**, support for the Science Olympiad team, $1,500.
- **Rotifunk, Sierra Leone**, initiative, for a “waterbagger machine,” $2,000. The machine is an economical way to provide safe, easily portable drinking water in developing countries.

Funds for several of these projects have also been distributed; for more, see news briefs and photo on pages 5 and 7.
Above the site of the new community water-supply well in Old England, Guyana.

Rotary grant rules required that before work could begin, a hydrogeological survey had to be conducted. Rock samples at left are from that study.

Drilling work under way, at right, in July with volunteer help from the town. The well is 365 feet deep. A dedication ceremony is planned for mid-October.

Georgetown Rotarians, below, with members of the Old England Community Development Council. Club President Clyde DeHaas is at far left; Rotarian and water-supply expert Aubrey Roberts is at right.

Toy Library opens

Another joint project with Georgetown Rotarians is the toy library in Linden, the nearest sizeable town to Old England and Coomacka. Modeled after a similar Rotary project in the capital, it opened Aug. 15, 2017.

Our club’s 2015-16 budget allocated funds for a Red Cross convalescent home in Georgetown, but the funds were redirected to the Linden library and literacy center. Equipping the Toy Library cost $5,000.

Below left: Rotary volunteers from Georgetown club set up the space. Right: at dedication.
During his last several weeks in office, Past President Mike Beaudoin presented his RISE award to three Rotarians. The name stands for “Rotarian inspiring service excellence.”

Steve Yates received a RISE pin on May 23 in recognition of his service chairing the Legacy project at Williston Middle School, and many other contributions to Rotary projects. Those include working on the program committee and the weekly raffle, and helping to plan the 2017-18 District Conference.

Shannon Sandlin was honored on June 13 for her work with the International Projects Committee, which has partnered with Rotarians in Guyana to develop a village water supply system and funded a community literacy project. (See opposite page.)

On June 20, just before handing over the presidential gavel to Elaine Andrews, Mike presented a RISE pin to Don Adkins. A past president and past district governor, Don has been active as the club’s Foundation chair, presiding at Paul Harris Fellow presentations, and keeping track of members’ contributions to the Rotary Foundation.

Perfect attendance awards for the 2016-17 Rotary year were presented at the Sept. 5 meeting. Those attending to accept their pins were, from left, Chris Hoening (attendance chair), President Elaine Andrews, Past President Joe Augustine, Diane Karr, Past President Donna Shiro, Melissa Gott, Past President Steve Yates, President-Elect Cathy Barlow, Past President Albert Corbett, Jane Birnbach, Ken Bishop, Past President Mike Beaudoin, Bo Dean, Nancy Bullock, Nick Rhodes, Jim Edge, Secretary Elliott O’Neill, Henry Brown, Janet Monterose and President-Nominee Eric McKeithan. McKeithan is the club’s champion, with 37 years of perfect attendance.

Yates, Sandlin, Adkins honored for club service

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This photograph of a rainbow over Wrightsville Beach was donated by our May 16 speaker, Sean Ruttkay, and raffled off. Rotarian John Cheshire, a good friend of Ruttkay’s, won it and donated it to District Attorney Ben David’s office. The photo was taken Sept. 16, 2016, which was the day Sheriff’s Deputy Sean Dixon and dog Bain tracked down a kidnapped girl, for which they won our “Service Above Self” award.

Club meets exchange students

Rotary District 7730 is sending two high school students to Europe through the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Those students came to visit on June 13, introduced by the district’s RYE chair Jean Hall.

Emma Tracy, sponsored by Wilmington East Rotary Club, is headed to France and Sophie Hall, sponsored by Wilmington West is going to Denmark.
Recent club programs have featured a wide range of topics ranging from fun and games to deadly serious problems. A good number of the presentations came from fellow Rotarians.

First of these was Wilmington Fire Chief Buddy Martinette, who spoke about the fire department on May 23. A member of Wilmington Central Rotary, Buddy served as that club’s president in 2015-16.

On May 30, the author Randall White spoke. He wrote *Breaking the Glass Ceiling: Can Women Reach the Top of America’s Largest Corporations*.

The opioid epidemic in the Wilmington area was the subject for Dr. Philip Brown on June 6. Brown is a Wilmington native and chief physician executive for New Hanover Regional Medical Center.

The new executive director of Wilmington Chamber of Commerce, Natalie English, spoke on June 13. She is a former president of the Charlotte Rotary Club.

The June 20 lunch meeting was pre-empted by that night’s installation banquet, at which President Elaine Andrews took the gavel for 2017-18.

No meetings were held June 27 or July 4. Pierre Naude, chief executive of Wilmington-based nCino, talked July 11 about his company’s creation and its development of banking software.

Our own District Governor R.B. Richey made his official visit to the club on July 18.

The July 25 program was on the process by which immigrants become citizens, presented by Daniel Knutson of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Adam Johns, associate professor of economics at UNCW, presented his annual assessment of the region’s economic outlook on Aug. 1.

Rotarian Gary McNair, general manager of television station WECT, spoke Aug. 8 on the state of TV in the age of online video streaming.

On Aug. 15, Philip Tarte, director of the Cape Fear Public Utility Authority, discussed what’s known about GenX and other industrial chemicals in the region’s water supply.

C.B. McGrath, UNCW’s new men’s basketball coach, spoke Aug. 22 about the team’s prospects, and his experience with the Kansas and North Carolina basketball programs.

Our own John Cheshire presented the Aug. 29 program about his experiences living in a tent and surfing in New Zealand in the year after his college graduation.

Cape Fear Community College’s current

Continued on page 5
Programs

Continued from page 4

status and job-training programs were the subject for the Sept. 5 program, presented by Rotarian Amanda Lee, the college’s president.

Shelley Morse, director of the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at UNCW, addressed the club on Sept. 12.

Have a program idea? Please suggest it to Program Committee Chairman Cleve Callison or to any other committee member.

Upcoming programs are listed on Page 8.

Morse: Adult learning

Lee: Community College

Larry Anderson, Elaine Andrews and Elliott O’Neill with an Indian Rotarian who came to Wilmington to see his daughter, Roopwant Kaur of Greenville, NC, become a U.S. citizen.

Rotary news briefs

* Our club was deemed the most productive and active civic organization for the Salvation Army during Christmas 2016. We helped raise nearly $13,000 for the Red Kettle campaign, well above our winning total from last year. We received a trophy for this on May 30.

* In honor of District Governor R.B. Richey’s official visit on July 18, the club presented him with a check to The Rotary Foundation amounting to $15 per member. This amount will be credited to each member’s account, toward their Paul Harris awards.

* The Attractions Books, an annual fund-raiser for the club, quickly sold out as of Sept. 5. Ty Frederick and Bret Paterson took the lead in selling 89 of the books, The $1,100 this raised will be used for our Rookie Teacher of the Year awards.

* The 2017-18 Mid-Atlantic Rotary Leadership Institute has begun. Anyone interested in attending should contact President Elaine Andrews. Sessions are presented throughout North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, and Maryland; the nearest site is Jacksonville. The fee for participants will be covered by the district and the club. The courses are beneficial for anyone considering a leadership role in the club, including board members and committee chairs.

* Because the 2017 Rotary International Convention was so close by, ten of our club’s members attended, in addition to President Elaine Andrews, who went at the club’s expense. The others who went to the sessions in Atlanta between June 10 and 14 were: Cathy Barlow, Mike Beaudoin, Cleve Callison, Mary Martin, John Meyer, R.B. Richey, Shannon Sandlin, Mollie Shiflet, Vicki Scott and Dale Smith.

* The club was notified on June 28 that it has earned the 2016-17 Presidential Citation. This recognition from Rotary International is based on the club’s accomplishments in membership growth and retention, projects, public outreach, support for The Rotary Foundation, and other goals.

* The club donated another $2,000 this year to UNCW’s Randall Library for its Special Collections Library. That will support the work of digitizing the Herman Blizzard Rotary Archives, which holds records, photographs and artifacts from the club’s 102-year history.

Socials draw Rotarians after hours

Our club’s effort to create new social opportunities beyond the weekly lunch meetings has paid off with several after-hours events in recent months.

The “Fellowship Wednesday” socials are meant to provide an opportunity for members of this club, as well as Wilmington’s other Rotary clubs, to get together in a more casual atmosphere that at our regular meetings. On May 24, 18 of us convened at the new Smoke on the Water restaurant in the River Lights development along the Cape Fear River. At least a couple of Rotarians from other clubs joined us.

Then the evening of Aug. 23, a special Rotary social, this time with something of an agenda, was held at the Dixie Grill downtown. Most of the 40-plus attendees were from our club. In addition to food, drink, a silent auction and a raffle, the event featured the unveiling of plans for a new park on the northern riverfront. Mayor Saffo was there to present this proposal. Several of the city’s Rotary clubs are considering sponsoring this project.

A more specialized social event took place on June 28, when the 20 most recently inducted members were invited, along with the sponsors and the club’s board, to a get-together at Henry’s Restaurant. This is an annual event of our new member committee.

More Fellowship Wednesdays will be scheduled in coming months. All such socials, whether sponsored by our club or by others, are considered official Rotary events and count for make-up credit.

Club offers help with citizenship ceremony

At the May 31 naturalization ceremony at UNCW, sponsoring Rotarians met a Rotarian from India who traveled here to attend his daughter’s citizenship ceremony. One of 37 participants in the naturalization ceremony, Roopwant Kaur is a clinical assistant professor at East Carolina University’s School of Dental Medicine.

Our club helped organize the event and Rotarians served as volunteer greeters and ushers. Wilbur Jones and Larry Sackett took charge of the club’s participation.

At the ceremony, UNCW Chancellor Jose Sartarelli, a Rotarian and a naturalized citizen himself, welcomed the new citizens and their guests.

As a follow-up, our July 25 program was about how the naturalization process works.
Club welcomes new members

Membership growth continues at a steady pace, with several new Rotarians inducted in recent months. The club gained a second-generation member on May 23 when Kristen McKeithan joined. She is the daughter of long-time Rotarian Chris McKeithan, who died March 2. Chris was president in 1991-92. Kristen works in residential construction; her sponsor is Donna Shiro.

Inducted on May 30 was Scott Betz, with the occupational classification “media, video.” Diane Karr is his sponsor.

Tyler Newman also joined on May 30, sponsored by Donna Girardot. He is president of the Business Alliance for a Sound Economy, a real-estate lobbying organization.

Russell Nugent became a member on Aug. 15, sponsored by Mollie Shiflet. He is an intellectual-property lawyer.

Betty Carter was inducted on Aug. 22; her sponsor was Jim Summerlin. A retired newspaper publisher, she has been a Rotarian and a club president in Arkansas and Wisconsin.

Also joining Aug. 22 was Cameron Moore. He is the new administrator of the Wilmington Cape Fear Homebuilders’ Association. He was sponsored by his predecessor in that job, Donna Girardot.

On Sept 12, Craig Picken and Regina Petty joined the club. Craig is a former Navy fighter pilot and an executive recruiter in the aerospace industry. Mimi Cunningham sponsored him. Regina is a retired educator. Her sponsor was Mike Beaudoin.

Two members inducted earlier introduced themselves in new-member talks.

Don Britt spoke on Aug. 8. He had been inducted Dec. 2, 2016. Don is an investor, semi-retired from pharmaceutical industry. He has the same name as another Rotarian, the attorney and past president Don Britt, Jr.

Laurie Taylor, the director of development for Lower Cape Fear Hospice and a former member of this club, spoke Aug. 15. She was inducted on March 14.

Foundation gifts earn members Paul Harris honors

Recent donors of $1,000 to The Rotary Foundation, recognized as Paul Harris Fellows, were two Rotarians and three Rotarians’ family members:

New member Kristen McKeithan on May 23; Rob Zapple and George Gates’ daughter Laura Gates on June 6; Lisa Rich, presented by her husband, Rotarian Gabe Rich, at the June 20 presidential induction banquet; and Angie Jones, presented by her husband, Rotarian Pete Jones, also June 20.

Along with her induction as a Rotarian, Kristen McKeithan became a Paul Harris Fellow on May 23, a posthumous bequest from her mother, Mary McKeithan (left) and father, the late Past President Chris McKeithan. Kristen’s sponsor is Donna Shiro.
The new school year has begun at Williston Middle School and our club is already supplying weekly treats for the faculty and staff, tutoring students, and preparing for the first Student of the Month award ceremony. That is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Oct. 18.

**Reward for students**

At the end of the previous school year, on May 22, nine Rotarians escorted 70 previously honored students of the month on a field trip to the N.C. Aquarium at Fort Fisher.

Each month, our club recognizes five students from each grade who have been identified by their teachers as living by the Four-Way Test.

Helping make the trip possible was Peggy Sloan, the aquarium’s director, who is president of the Cape Fear Rotary club.

**Support for teachers**

Two weeks later it was the faculty’s turn. In appreciation for their work, our club provided a lunch for teachers and staff on June 8.

Teacher-appreciation efforts continue, with our ongoing project to supply snacks for the faculty every Tuesday morning. JoAnn Daley is coordinating this project, and asks that anyone who wants to participate contact her or sign up online.

jdaley@thestmaryparish.org
www.signupgenius.com/go/1000a4da8a92dab9-williston

Participants are asked provide two dozen cookies, brownies or doughnuts — or a cake — as a treat for the Williston staff. Whether these are home-made or store-bought is unimportant, and up to the volunteer. Delivering a snack counts as a makeup.

**Cash for music and books**

Financial support for Williston continues, with the latest contributions from our club’s foundation being delivered on Aug. 22. Gwen Fitzpatrick, the band director, and Kim Loye, the librarian, were invited to lunch and presented with checks for $750 for the band and $1,000 to buy books for the library and the “battle of the books” program.

School ends with celebrations, resumes with cash donations

Volunteers do rehab work at Wheel garden

Work to rehabilitate the Rotary Wheel Garden at Greenfield Lake advanced on Aug. 19 with a morning of volunteer work. Rotarians helped to complete modifications to the garden’s irrigation system, including back-filling trenches and clean-up.

Plans to upgrade the garden, originally built by this club in 1965 and periodically improved since then, were proposed by board member Al Hight.

First step in the $10,000 master plan was spending $3,000 to make the irrigation system fully functional.

The garden’s brick walls form the outline of the world’s largest Rotary Wheel symbol. A central gazebo and radiating walkways form the hub and spokes. The garden was the club’s gift to Wilmington in honor of our 50th anniversary.
Upcoming programs & events

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 19
Veterans Administration services, with Fred Roche, administrator of Wilmington VA Health Care Center.

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., LS3P office, 101 N. Third St.

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 26
Presentations by recipients of the club’s recent grants.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 3
Lowes’ Home Improvement, with Bob Tillman, retired chief executive officer.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10
Wilmington Star-News Publisher Mike Distelhorst with Jeff Hidek, the paper’s entertainment editor.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 17
The Coast Guard Cutter Diligence with Commander Robert S. Mohr, commanding officer.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 18
Student-of-the-Month ceremony, 9:30 a.m., Williston Middle School, 401 S. 10th St.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 24
Vocational Fellowship Day, 12 noon at assigned sites to be designated. NO REGULAR LUNCH MEETING.

MONDAY, OCTOBER 30
Board meeting, 5:30 p.m., LS3P office, 101 N. Third St.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 31
North Carolina in World War I, with Dr. Taylor Fain, associate professor of history, UNCW

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7
Program to be announced

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 14
Contemporary Russia, with Dr. Susan McCaffrey, professor of history, UNCW

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 15
Student-of-the-Month ceremony, 9:30 a.m., Williston Middle School, 401 S. 10th St.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21
New Hanover Regional Medical Center, with John Gidzik, chief executive officer

Boys and Girls Home gets drums, needs volunteers for tree work

Rotarian Chuck Wilson had a drum set he wanted to donate and it turned out Williston Middle School didn’t need the drums, so he took them to the Rotary Cottage at the Boys and Girls Home at Lake Waccamaw. This isn’t our club’s first musical contribution for the boys’ benefit; the cottage also has a piano that Marty Conley donated last year.

This month, the Boys and Girls Home needs more help. Volunteers are asked to help plant more than 100 pecan trees on the grounds Sept. 30. Sale of nuts has provided income for the home, but its trees are past their prime. The new trees were donated by Alabama Pecan Nursery of Franklin, Ala.

The work day begins at 10 a.m. Lunch will be provided. For more information, contact Michelle Hardee, or sign up directly online using this link: www.signupgenius.com/go/60b044fiaeac22a64-rotary

Help hurricane victims through Rotary

Rotarians who wish to help with recovery from hurricanes Harvey and Irma in Texas, Florida and the Caribbean have opportunities to do so through The Rotary Foundation, and with Rotary districts in the affected areas.

One option, recommended by District Governor R.B. Richey, is to donate directly online through PayPal. www.paypal.com/us/fundraiser/107638597766619098/

Rotary does not primarily offer immediate disaster relief but does help communities to rebuild. As the needs are assessed, District 7730 will work with individual Rotary clubs and districts in the affected areas to supply money and other support.

The Rotary Foundation’s online payment system is at: www.your-fundaccount.com/rotary/HowToContribute.asp

Use “Gulf Coast Disaster Relief Fund,” account 608.