

Rotary Club of Hickory presents awards

From staff reports

HICKORY — Awards Day, installation of new officers and charitable giving updates were the focus of a special meeting of the Rotary Club of Hickory on June 27. Linda Lutz, outgoing president, celebrated with the club what was probably one of the most successful Rotary years in recent memory.

The first order of business was special memorial recognition of former Rotarian Charles M. Snipes with wife Katherine and daughter Robin Snipes Hager, who were in attendance. A longtime member of the Rotary Club of Hickory, Charles Snipes had more than 50 years of perfect attendance at club meetings before he died on Feb. 24, 2019. Sixteen Rotarians received Charles M. Snipes Perfect Attendance Certificates by the club secretary, Leslie Ferrell, for perfect attendance this year.

Bonita Ferretti was recognized as 2019 New Rotarian of the Year. Ferretti co-chaired, with veteran Rotarian John Rambo, the 10th anniversary Rotarian Idol competition, the proceeds from which fund the club's charitable giving throughout the following year.

Many individuals who are not Rotarians serve Rotary, participating and supporting the club's endeavors by lending their talent and time to further the mission of Rotary. Hickory photographer Bob Huffman accepted the 2019 Friend of Rotary Club of Hickory award for his support of Rotarian Idol and for contributing his talents as a photographer to photo document this year's Rotarian Idol auditions, "meet and greet" contestant socials and the successful competition that took place on May 17.

The Rotary Club of Hickory strives to make a positive difference in the community through volunteer participation in Rotary-sanctioned projects as well as local community endeavors. Rotarian Thomas Griffis received the 2019 Rotarian in the Community Award for his leadership as chair of the Service Above Self Scholarship Committee. This year the number of scholarship recipients was doubled by awarding scholarships to a student from Hickory Career and Arts Magnet School in addition to a student from Hickory High School. Additionally, the award also includes non-



Shown in the front row (from left) are Linda Lutz, Jan Bohmuller, Anne Williams, Bonita Ferretti. In the second row are Gerry Knox, Lynn Loehr, Bruce Bumbarger, John Bates. Not shown are Bob Huffman, Thomas Griffis.

Rotarian related service. For many years, Griffis has served as a tutor at Patrick Beaver Memorial Library with the Augustine Literacy Project. This Rotary year alone, he volunteered more than 70 hours which included preparing for the tutoring sessions and the sessions themselves. Additionally, he shares his talent in the community as a member of the Hickory Choral Society and a volunteer with Habitat for Humanity.

Club officers and elected board members comprise the club's board of directors. Board member and past club president, Lynn Loehr, received the 2019 Board Member of the Year award for her role as club treasurer. In addition to managing the day-to-day finances of the club, Loehr's achievements included the research and selection of a more robust financial application to more effectively manage club finances and obligations going forward.

The 2019 Heart of Rotary award was awarded to two Rotarians for the first time in recent memory. Foundation Chair John Bates and Public Image Chair Bruce Bumbarger were recognized as co-winners of the award.

Board member John Bates developed an action plan that resulted in Rotary Club of Hickory receiving recognition as a 100 Percent Foundation Giving club. This designation is awarded to clubs that achieve an average of \$100 in per capita giving and 100 percent participation, with every dues-paying member contributing at

least \$25 to any or all of the following during the Rotary year: Annual Fund, Polio Plus Fund, approved global grants, or endowment. Achieving that level of Rotary Foundation support allowed the Rotary Club of Hickory to be awarded the Governor's Distinguished Club Citation at the June District 7670 Conference for the first time in club history. The mission of The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International is to enable Rotarians to advance world understanding, goodwill, and peace through the improvement of health, the support of education, and the alleviation of poverty.

Board member Bruce Bumbarger served as club public image chair, his 10th year in that role. His responsibilities include managing the club website www.hickoryrotary.org, managing local media and District 7670 communications as well as publically documenting club events, service projects, fund raisers and club charitable giving donations. At the June District 7670 conference, the Rotary Club of Hickory received the Governor's Award for Best Public Image: Large Club. District 7670 represents 50 Rotary Clubs in 22 counties in western North Carolina.

Jan Bohmuller and Anne Williams were recognized as co-winners of the 2019 Rotarian of the Year award. Their leadership as co-chairs of Club Public Service included overseeing more than 50 Rotary events and activities, which included Rotarian Idol, Rotary Service Day at Cooperative Christian Ministry,

Rise Against Hunger, Career Day with the Interact Club, Hickory Museum of Art Paul Whitener Art Contests, Teacher of the Year for Hickory Public Schools, Service Above Self Scholarship Recipients, Blood Drive, Christmas Bureau Book Drive, to name only a few. Both served on the board of directors, with Bohmuller serving as assistant secretary.

Gerry Knox was sworn in as club president for the July 2019 — June 2020 Rotary year. Tara Bland assumes the role of president nominee and will serve as president July 2020 — June 2021 when Rotary Club of Hickory celebrates 100 years of service.

Also recognized were 11 Paul Harris Fellowship award recipients for contributions to the Rotary Foundation: Doug Auer, Andy Cote, Bethany Delaney, Kelly Farr, Leslie Ferrell, Bonita Ferretti, Hank Guess, Gerry Knox, Rick Seay, David Williams and Kathy Wood. Four non-Rotarians were recognized by club members with Paul Harris Fellowship awards: Charles Reeves III (recognized by club member Charles Reeves Jr.), Clark Allen and Cameron Allen (Dan Kirby) and Jonathan Waters (club). Donors of \$1,000 or more to the Rotary Foundation Annual Fund, Polio-Plus, or an approved Foundation grant, or people, who have that amount contributed in their name, can be recognized as Paul Harris Fellows.

During the year the Rotary Club of Hickory distributed more than \$80,000 for educational and other

charitable needs in the Hickory area:

» Catawba County Partnership for Children received a \$25,000 contribution to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library Program.

» Two SAS (Service Above Self) Scholarships were awarded to Sidney L. Brockenborough from Hickory High School and Marlet Gisel Castillo from Hickory Career and Arts Magnet High School. Each student will receive a \$12,000 scholarship payable over four years to the university they attend.

» Wilmer Jenkins Teacher of the Year Awards — A total of \$5,000 was presented to nine outstanding Hickory Public School teachers on May 9, 2019.

» The Salvation Army received a \$2,500 donation for the Christmas Bureau to purchase books for children and other humanitarian efforts.

» Hickory Community Theatre received a \$2,000 contribution for Rug Bug Theatre which puts on shows using young actors and actresses for young audiences and their families.

» Hickory Museum of Art received a \$1,200 contribution for the annual HMA Paul Whitener Art show and an additional \$1,000 Bronze Sponsorship donation.

» RYLA scholarship — \$600 was donated for Rotary Youth Leadership Awards scholarships.

» Madison Yount, Hickory High Interact Club, received a \$1,000 annual stipend for her role as adviser. Interact is a Rotary International sponsored

club for young people.

» Rise Against Hunger received a \$1,000 donation for its mission to end hunger in our lifetime.

» Hickory Public Schools received \$500 to purchase musical instruments, a gift that was matched by Rotarian Charles Young and wife Elaine Young

» The YMCA received \$2,500 to continue its mission to build healthy spirit, mind and body and to replace and upgrade necessities for child care.

» Hickory Landmarks Society received a \$1,000 gift for Heritage Days at Maple Grove.

» The Catawba Science center received \$1,500 for its continued mission of science education for students and the public.

» Lenoir-Rhyne University received a \$3,000 donation for the "Forever 46" campaign to build a new sports performance center named in honor and memory of former LRU Athletic Director and Rotarian Neill McGeachy.

» A donation of \$5,000 for The Light Foundation's "Lights for Learning" project to purchase 1,000 solar lamps to be placed in the homes of students in the Bayonnais area of Haiti. Rotarians Suzanne Trollan and Patrice Bertrand went to Haiti in order to help facilitate distribution of the lights.

» A \$1,000 donation for the United Way Invitational which celebrated 25 years of cross-country competitions in Hickory under the leadership of Rotarian John Hall.

» ShelterBox USA received \$1,000 to purchase a ShelterBox which provides humanitarian relief to victims of worldwide disasters.

» Patrick Beaver Memorial Library received \$1,000 to support the Augustine Literacy Project which works to improve the reading, writing and spelling abilities of economically disadvantaged children who struggle with literacy skills.

» The Ridgeview library received a donation of \$1,500 for 10 Playaway Launchpad learning tablets.

» Southwest Elementary School received \$2,500 to build an outdoor interactive learning space.

All of these contributions were made possible by the Rotary Club of Hickory's successful fundraising activities, highlighted annually by the Rotarian Idol fundraiser.

On the Net: www.hickoryrotary.org

There are many ways to celebrate local foods

NEWTON

The summer heat is on our minds, but farmers have been hard at work and are ready to show off the fruits of their labor. There are many ways to buy local whether you visit a farmers market, a farm stand, join a CSA (community supported agriculture program) or visit one of our fine restaurants who source directly from farmers.

While we are lucky to live in a region with a rich farming community, sometimes it can be hard to keep up with what local farms have to offer and where you may buy their products. To address this problem, NC Cooperative Extension — Catawba Center and Catawba County have developed a Local Foods Guide available in print, interactive and printable pdf and a mobile friendly website. The guide features a list of farmers markets, CSA programs, farm stands, U-pick operations,

restaurants and food artisans who buy local. This being the first year, we know the list is not exhaustive and if you are a farm or business who grows or sells in Catawba County or sources from farms, which grow from within 50 miles, please contact us for an application.

The farmers markets are in full swing. The Hickory market is open on Wednesdays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and Saturdays from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. The market has moved down the street to the parking lot next to Lowes Foods Park while the downtown area is under construction. Many of the same vendors are there, as well as some new faces, so stop on by to pick up some strawberries, salad mixes, greens, radishes, goat cheese, meats, eggs, breads, mushrooms, freshly roasted coffee and much more.

The Conover Farmers Market, located in the Conover post office parking lot, opens Saturday 8 a.m. to noon. The market has expanded this year to include some new farmers, crafts and booths and has developed a new program called The Junior

Entrepreneurs to help young people learn business skills by giving them the space and mentorship to sell products they have grown or developed. My daughter had developed a baking business in high school and sold at the farmers market. The experience was very rewarding and helped her learn many life skills. If you have not already, please visit this market, which has been an important opportunity for many new farmers and enterprising youth as well as a strong market for many seasoned farmers.

The other market you should know about is the Public Health Market on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. located in the parking lot of Public Health at 3070 11th Ave. Drive SE. This market was the first to accept EBT cards, credit and debit as well as WIC coupons to help expand access to fresh fruits and vegetables in the community. This is a great mid-week, mid-county market with a great selection of fruits and vegetables and a dedicated staff. All three markets accept EBT, credit and debit cards.

If you have a hard time getting to the farmers markets, joining a CSA with a weekly pick up, visiting a farm stand or trying out one of our local foods cooking classes may be more convenient. These classes will meet once a month, alternating between the NC Cooperative Extension office at 1175 S. Brady Ave., Newton and The Hickory Soup Kitchen at 110 Second St. Place SE, Hickory. For \$10, you will learn three or four recipes, get to try samples and take home a bag of produce sourced from local farmers. The recipes will be quick and easy and are designed to help people become more familiar with available local products. Dates in Newton are July 17, and Sept. 18 and dates in Hickory are Aug. 21 and Oct. 16. You can register by visiting our local foods cooking class webpage at <https://catawba.ces.ncsu.edu/local-foods-cooking-class/>. To find other farm contacts, pick up a Local Foods Guide around town or visit <https://catawba.ces.ncsu.edu/catawba-county-small-farms-and-local-food-program/> for an interactive and printable pdf. A

mobile friendly version is also available.

Our annual Eat, Drink and Be Local Festival will be July 14-20 this year. There will be farm tours, cooking demos, a beer-making workshop and the Farm Feast on July 20. For more details and schedule updates, please visit <https://catawba.ces.ncsu.edu/eat-drink-and-be-local/> or follow us on Facebook and Instagram. For more information call 828-465-8240 or email April Vigardt at alvigardt@ncsu.edu.

To help you get started this season, here is a recipe of a dish we enjoy often in the Extension office.

Radish Toast

Toast some nice whole grain bread and allow to cool a bit so the butter doesn't melt. Spread with butter, top with sliced radishes, and your choice of salad mix, baby kale or microgreens. Not being a lover of un-melted butter on toast or radishes, I had a hard time believing how good this could be. It is one of those dishes that the ingredients just seem to work together and now is one of my favorite recipes.



April Vigardt