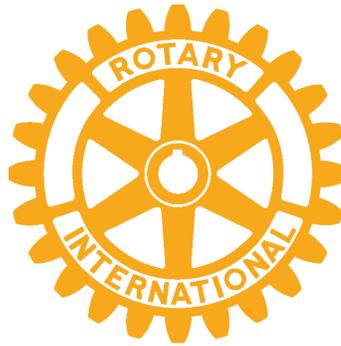


Rotary



Spoke

Rotary Club of Hickory
Chartered 1921 – Hickory, NC - USA

May 30, 2019

Today's Program: Haiti and the Lights for Learning Project: Delivering Solar Lamps to School Families



Eleven people from Rotary Club of Asheville-Biltmore, Rotary Club of Arden, Rotary Club of Hickory, and others from Texas and Asheville took off on January 29 for Port-Au-Prince. Actionnel Fleurisma was at the airport with his wife Yolande to welcome us. We rode in a spacious North Carolina school bus converted with OFCB markings for local transportation. The ride is around 4 hours, and the last hour was rough-going through the washed mountain roads. We forded the river a few times and made a quick stop to salute the engineer that was working on bridge construction, something Actionnel had been anticipating for a long time.



Arriving at the compound, immediately surrounded by children, we unloaded and were assigned to our bedrooms. The bunk beds were quite comfortable but not so easy to climb for our elders. Everyone showed a lot of gratitude, and we were immediately enveloped with the school and the people. We had hall showers and bathrooms, and the cooks were fantastic (Rosalind and Yolande). The only limitation was sporadic electricity. We had to have flashlights to walk around

at night.

Actionnel told us that we had a time delay in the delivery of lamps, and he was working on it. Although he spent several days battling the administration and the customs agents, we were not able to distribute the solar lamps ourselves. This is going to take place later, as soon as customs releases them. The Rotary Club of Bayonnais will complete the task. We introduced the lamps to the children, explaining the delay and the reason of our trip. The kids are eager to receive one lamp *per* household. They will be able to do their homework in the evening! (**Note** – As reported in the last minutes from the Rotary Club of Hickory's April board meeting and since this article was written, the lamps have now been delivered!)

Since we had more time than expected, we made a 1.5 hours walk to the mountains to another school (St. Nicolas) that was built recently. The other days we visited the medical clinic, the chicken coop, the bank, and the garden. We had wonderful experiences with children, parents, and young adults.

The school hosts 2200 students across three village. Classes are from kindergarten all the way to 13th grade with a high-school diploma. Many students start late in school, so we find students age 23 or more graduating. After high school, their level of competency is high and sanctioned by an exam that allows many of them to attend a university in Port-Au-Prince, Gonaives, or overseas. Patrice Bertrand and Suzanne Trollan participated in teaching some classes: one lecturing about France (in French) and the other one on social sciences (in English). Teachers and students were thrilled to have foreigners talking to them. Students study in French (school curriculum), learn English as a second foreign language, and speak/write Creole as their native language.

We will keep a vivid souvenir of this trip. We would like to go back; there are more projects in sight. These people need help. They are educating their children and have to build an economy that is so far behind more developed countries.



Club Business and Announcements



Also today, we'll have a presentation from the Hickory High School students who attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) this spring. Rotarian Deaton Smith will introduce Madison Yount, the students' Rotary Interact sponsor. This year's participants are highlighted in the biographies below.

Aaliyah Deaton (photograph at left) is a senior at Hickory High School. She has been a member of Interact since her freshman year and

currently serves as an officer of the club. She is a member of numerous service and academic clubs such as the BETA club, National Honor Society, National English Honor Society, and several others. She is an AP, IB, and dual-enrollment student. In the fall, Aaliyah will attend Belmont Abbey's Honors College. She received an athletic scholarship to play lacrosse there. She plans to become a nurse because she wants a career that focuses on helping others.



Andrea Hernandez-Garcia (photograph at right) is a junior at Hickory High School. She has served in Interact since her freshman year. Andrea is a service-minded individual who is involved in numerous clubs such as HOSA, National Honor Society, Science National Honor Society, National Technical Honor Society, Latino Cultural Club, and BETA Club. She takes a rigorous course load of AP and college-level classes. After graduating, she plans to attend a four-year university in order to become a pediatrician.

Rotary Club of Hickory Officers and Board of Directors

Officers	July 2018 – June 2019	Board of Directors	Terms Expiring
Linda Lutz	President	John Bates	June 2019
Gerry Knox	President-Elect	Hank Guess	June 2019
Tara Bland	President-Nominee	David Williams	June 2019
Leslie Ferrell	Secretary	Michael Blackburn	June 2020
Jan Bohmuller	Assistant Secretary	Bruce Bumbarger	June 2020
Lynn Loehr	Treasurer	Cliff Moone	June 2020
Kelly Farr	Assistant Treasurer	Philip Reed	June 2021
		Anne Williams	June 2021

Last Week



Last week's meeting was held at Groucho's Deli. It was a polio fundraiser as well as a club social. Cliff Moone made a short presentation at the meeting about our club's involvement in the upcoming polio anniversary. We're grateful that Groucho's Deli donated 10% of the proceeds that day for the eradication of polio worldwide.



BE THE INSPIRATION

2018 – 2019
Rotary Theme



Rotary International
Barry Resin
President

Rotary District 7670

Isaac Owolabi
District Governor
Jason Herman
Assistant D.G.



Of the things we think, say, or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build good will and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

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Rotarians, please e-mail information on your upcoming program or other Rotary event to the editor two weeks in advance of publication. (E-mail text or a Word document; please—no fax.) Visit us on the web at www.hickoryrotary.org

The previous week, Thomas Griffis and committee presented the Service Above Self Scholarship to both Sidney L. Brockenborough of Hickory High School and Marlet Gisel Castillo of Hickory Careers and Arts Magnet School. Marlet is pictured below on the left, and Sidney's mother, Suzanne, who accepted the award for her, is pictured on the right. Also at the May 16 meeting, Mark Seaman (top, left photo) won the Rotarian Idol board, splitting a total award of \$2000 with Rotarian Idol. On page 4 of this *Spoke* edition, there is a special write-up by Bruce Bumbarger about the excitement of Rotarian Idol All-Stars 2019.

Next Week

Next week's meeting will feature our own Mark Seaman as speaker. Mark will be talking about the Hickory Crawdads' current season.



Club Member Weekly Assignments

Date	5-30-2019	6-06-2019	6-13-2019	6-20-2019
Greeter	Mary Burritt	Deaton Smith	Sandi Hood	Anna Schuszler
Invocation	David Williams	John Hall	John Hall	John Hall
Visitors	Tony Reed	Tony Reed	Tony Reed	Tony Reed
Sunshine				
Program	Suzanne Trollan and Patrice Bertrand	Mark Seaman	Tara Bland	
Speaker	Suzanne Trollan and Patrice Bertrand	Mark Seaman	Lindsay Keisler	
Topic	Rotary Haiti Project	Hickory Crawdads	Catawba County Chamber of Commerce	TBD
Raffle	John Olson	Juliet Good	John Olson	Bonita Ferretti

Rotary Idol All-Stars 2019

On May 17, 2019 an enthusiastic crowd at Lenoir-Rhyne University's P.E. Monroe Auditorium greeted contestants competing in the Rotary Club of Hickory's 10th Anniversary All-Stars Rotarian Idol fundraiser for local educational initiatives.

This year's event format featured previous winners who competed to advance to a second round of competition where the field was narrowed to five contestants competing for the All-Star title.

The special commemoration of Rotarian Idol's 10th Anniversary featured 9 past winners from the events nine previous contests. Contestants competing in the 2019 All-Star event included: Jennifer Canterbury – First Place 2014; Caroline Collins – Second Place 2017, Audience Favorite 2017; Joshua Costello – Third Place 2017, Audience Favorite 2015; Carol Anne Hartman – First Place 2010; Courtney Chay Hopkins – First Place 2016; Kendra Kitler –Third Place 2018, Third Place 2016; Sara King – First Place 2018; Savannah Spencer – Third Place 2015; and Johnny White – First Place 2017.

Three judges, LaKeisha Ross-Johnson, Kurt Sigmon, and Brittany Suttles, were faced with the difficult task of selecting five contestants to advance to the second round of competition and from that group, the ultimate winner. Patrons who attended the event selected the audience favorite.

After the first round featuring all contestants performing, Carol Anne Hartman, Courtney Chay Hopkins, Sara King, Kendra Kitler and Johnny White advanced to the second round of performances to compete for the All-Star title. All contestants remained eligible for the Audience Favorite award.

Final deliberations complete, the prize winners were announced and presented checks by Rotary Club of Hickory President Linda Lutz and Rotarian Idol Co-Chairs Bonita Ferretti and John Rambo. First prize of \$2,500 was awarded to Carol Anne Hartman. Jennifer Canterbury received a check for \$500 as the winner of the "Audience Favorite" vote.

The real winner again was education. This year's contest is expected to raise around \$70,000, bringing the total raised for ten years of Rotarian Idol competitions to well over half a million dollars. Proceeds raised go toward scholarships for area students, Hickory City Schools Teacher of the Year awards, and other local educational initiatives in Catawba County, as well as Rotary International humanitarian efforts. Event proceeds also support the Catawba County Partnership for Children's Imagination Library program, which was created by Dolly Parton and provides children who live in Catawba County one free book in the mail each month until their 5th birthday. The Rotary Club of Hickory has contributed \$162,000 to the Imagination Library, making the purchase of 81,000 books possible. Imagination Library currently serves about 5,200 children *per* month.

The Rotary Club of Hickory was honored to have Rotary District 7670 Governor Isaac Owolabi in attendance. Rotary District 7670 Governor-Elect, Tiffany Ervin, spoke to the audience about how Rotary benefits the local communities served and participates in global-wide initiatives such as the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation to eradicate polio worldwide. Rotary District 7670 includes fifty clubs in Western North Carolina.

The Rotary Club of Hickory would again like to acknowledge and thank this year's title sponsor, Lenoir-Rhyne University and stage sponsor Café Rule. Other major sponsors include Exodus Works, A Sign Co., Mike Johnson Hickory Toyota, and media sponsors: *Focus* Newspaper, WHKY 1290 AM/102.3 FM and Kicks Radio 103.3 FM.

Hal Row, local radio personality, served as master of ceremonies.

Bob Huffman of Bob Huffman Photography documented the event with photos.

(Article courtesy of Rotarian Bruce Bumbarger)