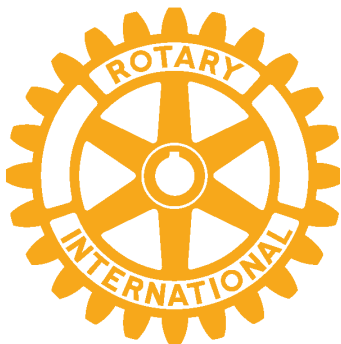


Rotary

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



Spoke

November 2, 2017

Today's Program: Hickory Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau



Our featured speaker today is Mandy Pitts Hildebrand (pictured at left). Mandy began working for the Hickory-Conover Tourism Development Authority (TDA) in October, 2015, and is the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the TDA that oversees the Hickory Metro Convention Center and the Hickory Metro Convention and Visitors Bureau. Prior to her current position, she served the City of Hickory for more than 17 years as the Communications Director/Brand Manager.

Her main responsibility now is to bring visitors to Hickory with the loose motto being to “put heads in beds and bottoms in seats.” The Hickory Metro Convention Center turned 20-years-old this year, and discussions are underway to update and add on to the facility. In addition, she works with tourism partners in the area to promote all of the community assets including furniture, arts and cultural events, historical sites and events, sporting facilities and teams, and parks and recreational venues, as well as the area’s lively music, craft beer, and farm-to-table scene.

Mandy is a Hickory native, and married to Lt. Scott Hildebrand of the Hickory Police Department. She is the daughter of Bill and Sherry Pitts of Hickory. Her brothers and their families live in Hickory as well. She has her Masters of Public Administration degree from Appalachian State University in Boone, her Bachelor of Science degree from East Carolina University in Greenville, and an Associate of Arts degree from Peace College in Raleigh. She is also a member of the Rotary Club of Lake Hickory.

We're pleased to welcome Mandy Pitts Hildebrand to our Thursday club today!

PAYMENT UPDATE: The club has a credit-card swiping machine in place! You may now pay for lunch each Thursday by credit card. In addition, you may use a credit card to pay club dues and buy Rotarian Idol tickets. Please note that if you pay for lunch by credit card, there is a \$.50 service charge so that lunch will be \$12.50.

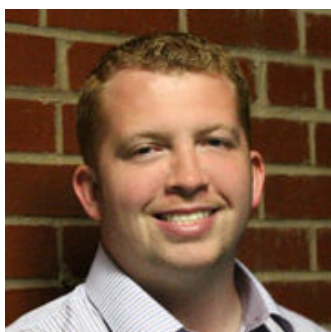
Club Business and Announcements

Board Meeting Highlights – October 19, 2017

- 2 new members were approved by the board: Patrice Bertrand and Gabriel Sherwood.
- Mark your calendars! Rotarian Idol is scheduled for March 24, 2018.

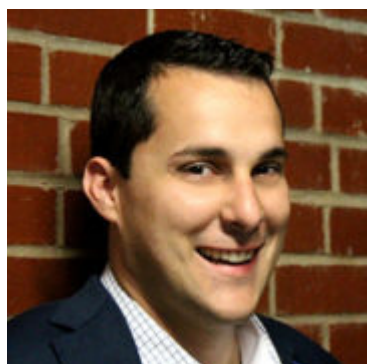
New Rotary Members Michael Roper and Josh Shampo Inducted into Club

At the October 19 meeting, Michael Roper and Josh Shampo were inducted into club membership.



Michael Roper is a Hickory native and an Appalachian State graduate. He was the only two-time finalist at the time for the entrepreneurship competition during his time in college, and today owns three different companies. Illuminatus Marketing serves clients with branding, creative design, and surveying to identify how clients need to position themselves in a market. He has consulted for clients ranging from Universal Records to congressional candidates. Ad Royale, with a partner in Sweden, serves clients all over the world for SEO - ranking websites on Google for profitable keywords. His newest company, PageBuilders, partnered with Josh Shampo, is an easy-to-use managed website hosting platform with load times breaking the 0.5 second barrier. Michael and his wife, Tiffany, spend free time with their dog, Gizmo, and nerd out on video games. He plays guitar and piano, and has a

black belt in Tang Soo Do.



Josh Shampo has been in Catawba County for most of his life. He attended Appalachian State University and is founder of Shampo Enterprises and Co-Founder of PageBuilders. Josh is quick on his feet and always finds a way to take care of his clients' problems and get them more business. Whether it's finding security holes in GoDaddy's system, consulting on political races (25-2 record), or throwing out a 135mph speeding ticket as improper equipment without a day in law school, Josh finds a way. Josh's background consists of politics and sports. He served as chairman of the North Carolina Young Republicans and was the youngest in the history of the country. He was also Catawba County Young Republicans' Chairman and Regional Director for Thom Tillis' Senate campaign. In baseball, Josh was awarded team MVP and achieved 2-Time First-Team All-State NCCSA, Class AA.

Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory Officers and Board of Directors

Officers	July 2017 – June 2018	Board of Directors	Terms Expiring
Mark Teague	President	Jennifer Clark	June 2018
Linda Lutz	President-Elect	Dana Killian	June 2018
Gerry Knox	President-Nominee	John Ross	June 2018
Leslie Ferrell Middleton	Secretary	Andy Cote	June 2019
Jan Bohmuller	Assistant Secretary	Tara Bland	June 2020
Brian Setzler	Treasurer	Bruce Bumbarger	June 2020
Andy Cote	Assistant Treasurer	Robert Locke	June 2020
John Rambo	Past President	Cliff Moone	June 2020

Last Week



Last week, our club met jointly with the Tuesday Club on Tuesday, October 24 to celebrate World Polio Day. Two weeks ago, we heard from Mitzi Gellman and Richard Greathouse about the terrific work that Habitat for Humanity and Habitat Repairs! are doing in the Hickory community. A picture of Mitzi and Richard is at the left.



Also two weeks ago, Josh Shampo and Michael Roper were inducted into club membership. Their biographies and photos are on page 2. At left, President Mark inducts Josh and Michael into membership while their sponsors, Philip Reed and Gerry Knox, look on.

Next Week



During his talk, Rod will be discussing the company, its history, and its involvement globally and locally.

Rod Poole, President of United Sourcing Alliance and Vice-President of Strategic Partnerships, will be our featured speaker at the November 9 meeting. Prior to joining Transportation Insight's sister company, United Sourcing Alliance, Rod held purchasing, business development, and executive management positions with Alice Manufacturing Company, Cone Mills, and Hanes Industries.

Club Member Weekly Assignments				
Date	11-02-2017	11-09-2017	11-16-2017	11-23-2017
Greeter	Marvin Qualls	Cliff Moone	Linda Lutz	NO THURSDAY MEETING
Invocation	Bethany Delany	Anne Williams	David Williams	
Visitors	Kathy Greathouse	Lynn Loehr	Tony Reed	HAPPY THANKSGIVING!!!
Rotary Moment				
Program	Tara Bland		Tara Bland	
Speaker	Mandy Pitts	Rod Poole	Jeff Cline	
Topic	Hickory Metro Convention and Visitors' Bureau	Transportation Insight	Trip to Chernobyl	No SPOKE
Raffle	Tony Reed	Tony Reed	Gerry Knox	



2017 - 2018
Rotary Theme



Rotary
International
Ian H.S. Riseley
President

District 7670
William Taylor Biddle Jr
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?

The *Rotary Spoke* is published weekly by the Thursday Rotary Club of Hickory, PO Box 2628, Hickory, NC 28603.
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e-Mail: seayrh@charter.net

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

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SUSAN ALLSHOUSE PHF
Health Care Marketing
DOUG AUER
Clothing, Custom Design
JOHN W. BATES PHF •
University Teaching
PATRICE BERTRAND
Manufacturing
ROBERT A. BISANAR †PHF
MICHAEL BLACKBURN †PHF
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TARA BLAND PHF
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ROSEMARY B. YOUNG PHF
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Bold = Past-President

• = Benefactor

† = Senior Active Member

PHF = Paul Harris Fellow

LOA = Leave of absence

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Phil N. Carter †PHF