



Southwest Cabarrus Rotary Newsletter

August 29, 2006

Volume 1, Number 1

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Doing Your Part

On August 22nd, Dick Lewis held his first official Board Meeting. As we begin our new term, we are focusing on growth and service. As we come into this new year, we need to take into consideration how we as individuals would like to serve our community, both locally and internationally. It is your opportunity to decide how your assets can help our club grow and serve. Within the next few weeks, please decide which committee you would like to be apart of and advise the committee chair. Dick's goals revolve around Membership(Keith Barbee), Service Projects(Dale Gentle), The Rotary Foundation(Rick Hoffarth), Public Relations(Kristel Swayze) and Club Administration(Dana Ritchie).

Youth Exchange - Megumi "Meg" Aritomi

As American's, we often forget to appreciate the small things in life. On Tuesday evening, Meg and I went to dinner and went on several adventures. In one evening with Meg, she was introduced to several things that we take for granted - all within a block of each other.



First of all we walked around the University lake and visited one of my favorite childhood pastimes, the paddleboats. I remember weekends at Franke Liske Park with my family riding the paddleboats and playing putt-putt. Yet for Meg, it was a whole new experience. Unfortunately, the boats weren't running so we took pictures of the water fountains and I made plans to hopefully take her to Franke Liske in the near future.

Next, we saw the Morris Costume Halloween Store across the parking lot and had to go take a peak. Once again, for Meg this is a new concept. She loved all the different costumes, masks, and noises. Luckily for me, she wasn't too scared of all the boos, screeches, and screams. I cannot wait to see Meg, Dale, and Pixie's costume picks. I think Halloween will be as exciting for Meg, as it will be for her parents.

Sgt. At Arms

Keith Barbee

Foundation Chair

Rick Hoffarth

Public Relations

Kristel Swayze

Interact Liaison

Jeff Rush

Contact Us

Meet Tuesdays 11:45AM

Speedway Club

Concord, NC

www.swcabarrusrotary.org

Our final adventure, was quite tasty. We went to Meg's very first Ice Cream Shoppe. You would never imagine how big of a smile the TCBY sign can bring to 17 year old face. What did she pick? She wanted the most colorful one of them all, the Rainbow Swirl in a cup.

Moral of the Story – As you go through your day, don't take any of your blessings for granted, because our most common things are adventures for someone else.

As you plan out your year, please do consider asking Meg to come along. She is such a delight and she loves trying new things.

Rotarian Spotlight - Kelli Tremblay

I was born in Canada. My mother was from California and my father from Alberta, Canada. My father, Larry Tremblay, ran away from his foster home when he was 12 and joined the rodeo. On his rodeo tours through the US, he met my mother and eventually wisked her off her feet and convinced her to marry him and move to Canada. That was in 1953. He later joined the National Parks Service and in 1972 was promoted to Chief Warden of Kluane National Park in Yukon, Canada. I grew up there from age 6 until I graduated highschool and eventually went off to live in Victoria, British Columbia, where I obtained a Bachelor of Arts Degree. I met my husband in 1997 and eventually decided to move to North Carolina where he was living. He had just been transferred to a local 84 Lumber store in the area. He has been with that company for over 11 years. My husband was born in Ohio. After the events of September 2001, we both were challenged to do something to make a difference. The American military wasn't about to send me off to Iraq, so we decided to do something locally. Just by accident we overheard someone discussing adoption classes. We decided to delve into this idea further and thought this was the answer to our concerns about doing something to make a difference on the ground here in America. They told us it could take up to two years to get a child through social services. We took our classes in February, met my then 8 year old daughter, Breana, on March 28 in the Rutherford County DSS office and she moved in on May 26, 2002. We didn't have the usual months of pregnancy to prepare! Two years later after saying we would only adopt one, we adopted another 8 year old girl, named Savannah from Iredell County. They are the best thing that ever happened to us.

I am an independent agent with MassMutual Financial Group. I assist business owners who are concerned about the increasing cost of health insurance, frustrated by losing key employees to competition, confused about how to save money on the most tax favored bass for them and not limited based on what they do or don't do for their employees or are overwhelmed by the tax impact on the sale or transfer of their business. I also help families to know how they can maintain their standard of living if the one of the breadwinners died or could not work anymore, how they can save for their children's college and options for planning for retirement.

I joined the Rotary because I want to give to my community and rotary has a historical reputation for making a difference in the lives of people locally, nationally and internationally. I want to be a good example for my children, so they may lead good lives and affect the lives of others positively. – Kelli Tremblay

Bank of North Carolina Short Track Mountain Bike Race Series

Save the dates of Saturdays October 14, 21, 28 and November 11

We will all need to fill for AT LEAST TWO of these days to make this a

successful event. In the next few weeks, Rick will be passing along sign up sheets.

August 29 Meeting Notes

We welcomed our guest, Richard McDermott.

Bob did a very good job of giving us a little health and happiness.

Dale Gentle gave us an update on Meg. She has now started school at Jay M. Robinson. We were reminded that she is to have none of the 5 D's - no drinking, drugs, downloading, dating, or driving. She is taking 4 classes this semester – English, Math, Fitness, and Food.

Rick Hoffarth - announcements on bike trail – please save the dates we will need to spend several days out at the track volunteering. He is also looking for sponsorships if your business is interested.

Program – Big Brothers Big Sisters -- John Robbins, William Warren, and Molly Aiken

BBBS is all about mentoring what we would normally consider underprivileged children from often single parent families. The majority of the Little's are male. A lot about being a big or a little is about feeling good and the impact on kids with drugs, grades, etc. BBBS served approx. 120 kids this year. William is the site coordinator in the Logan Community. He reminded us of their mission. There are 2 site based work areas in Cabarrus County, as well as the direct Big Little Relationships. The Bigs and Littles usually see each other twice a month. BBBS has another program for kids with incarcerated parents. There are over 500+ families from Cabarrus County with incarcerated parents who have children that can be affected. These kids only have about a 30 percent chance to stay out of trouble. Through, BBBS 99 percent have avoided substance abuse and early parenting, and 84 percent say they have more self confidence. Molly Aiken, the wife of Paul, is a big, as is Garrett Jenio. Throughout the year, BBBS organizes days with the Bigs and Littles, for example, the Big Day at the Lake, bowling, and a day at the Panthers. When Molly first began, she wondered what her relationship will be with Gabby (her little) would be like. She learned more than anything that she was there to give unconditional love. She was reminded that she took for granted her family and what we have as a middle class family. Gabby is one of 5 children, so eating and getting to school on time are struggles. Gabby is now starting to think about her future and a career, previously she was thinking of going into construction like her father. Most importantly, she doesn't say I can't. BBBS has a backlog of children like Gabby, who are looking to be placed with a Big.

Big Brothers Big Sisters is the oldest, largest and most effective youth mentoring organization in the United States. We have been the leader in one-to-one youth service for more than a century, developing positive relationships that have a direct and lasting impact on the lives of young people.

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Charlotte serves children, ages five through 18* in communities across Mecklenburg and Cabarrus counties. BBBS has been operating in this area since 1972. In addition, we have two offices in Cabarrus County. Our first Cabarrus office opened September 2004 and is located in The Boys and Girls Club. The second Cabarrus office opened January 2005 and is located in The Logan Community Center. Big Brothers Big Sisters is a proud member agency of the United Way of Central Carolinas, Inc.

* Children must be enrolled in BBBS no later than age 14. Once matched, children can remain in our program until their 18 birthday. *

The Big Brothers Big Sisters Mission is to help children reach their potential through professionally supported, one-to-one relationships with measurable impact.

Our Mentoring Works

National research has shown the positive relationships between youth and their Big Brothers and Big Sisters have a direct and measurable impact on children's lives. Little Brothers and Sisters are:

- More confident in their schoolwork performance
- Able to get along better with their families
- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 52% less likely to skip school.¹

www.bbbscharlotte.org

For those interested, Wanda won \$8. The ACE is still in the deck!

Upcoming Events

Bank of North Carolina Short Track Mountain Bike Race Series

Saturdays October 14, 21,28 and November 11

Foundation Banquet

November 16, 2006 – 7:00PM

Renaissance Hotel, Charlotte

Mid Year Assembly

January 9, 2007

Charlotte, NC

January 18, 2007

Salisbury, NC

Rotary Institute Part I & II

February 17, 2007

Concord, NC

Carolinas PETS

March 15-17, 2007

Greensboro, NC

District Conference

April 13-15, 2007

Francis Marion Hotel, Charleston, SC

RI Convention

June 17-20, 2007

Salt Lake City, Utah