



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1063

95th YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"  
Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>

November 1, 2017

Volume LXXI, Number 12

President Skip presided. Guest: our speaker, Brent Buswell. Visiting Rotarians:None. Attendance: 19 members and 1 guest for a total of 20. Meeting held at Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. "Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is an effective way to educate your Rotarians about Rotary. We are promoting RLI throughout the District and offering additional sessions in areas where we have never held training. There are several sessions this year: November 3 - Harrisonburg; February 2 - Blacksburg. RLI is a great way to introduce Rotary to new members and train your upcoming leaders. This year DG Dick is providing a \$45 scholarship to each club!"
2. Items of note from the November 2017 issue of *the Rotarian* magazine:
  - What is your club doing to reinvent itself? – article on page 17
  - Sam Owori of Kampala, Uganda and President-Elect of RI, has died; Barry Rassin of the Rotary Club of Nassau, Bahamas, has been selected to succeed him.
  - Mark Daniel Maloney of the Rotary Club of Decatur, AL, USA, has been selected as President Nominee.
  - November is Rotary Foundation month.
  - Ned Lester (deceased) of the Christiansburg-Blacksburg Rotary Club was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Rotary Foundation.
3. Julia Van de Water announced that a check for \$99.19 had been received from the Kroger Company as our club's most recent share from their rewards program.
4. Kent McMichael, Chair of the Planning Committee of the latest Rockbridge Community Festival (RCF) and Brent Buswell, President of the Lexington-Rockbridge Jaycees, jointly presented our club a check for \$4500 as our share of the net proceeds from the 2017 edition of the RCF. Kent said another check for about \$500 should be forthcoming soon. He also thanked all who helped on this very successful project and asked for a volunteer to serve as vice-chair of the 2018 event who will automatically become chair of the 2019 edition.
5. Mark your calendars for the 2017 Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program on Saturday, December 16, 2017. Sign up for basket delivery with Julia Van de Water at the November 29 club meeting. Your participation in this club project is appreciated!

## Minute for Rotary:

President Skip announced that our club raised over \$1000 for the Pints for Polio project. Betty and Kent McMichael and President Skip attended the event which was held at Great Valley Farm Brewery on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Skip thanked all for donating so generously.

## Program:

President Skip introduced Brent Buswell, a member of the Group Study Exchange (GSE) team who will depart the USA for India on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Brent currently resides in Lexington but is originally from Oklahoma City, OK. He has been employed with Kappa Alpha Order for about 3.5 years as their Director of Communications. Brent is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing. He enjoys hiking, photography, drinking beer, and solving Rubik's cubes.

20 persons were interviewed earlier this year for two outgoing GSE teams. Brent and Laura Clark (Stuart), Trae Vickers (Winchester), and Kayla Payne (Staunton) were selected for the team traveling

to the western part of India. Their Rotarian Team Leader is Tara McCall who was a member of an earlier outgoing GSE team. She is now a member of the Bristol VA/TN Club and is currently Assistant Governor of Area 12.

The team will fly into Mumbai on November 25<sup>th</sup>. Their itinerary has already been mapped out but won't be mentioned here because you wouldn't recognize any of the cities by name. While in India, they will stay with Rotarians, each usually with a different family. The host Rotarians will lead them on an educational tour of their region, hopefully tailored somewhat to their occupations and/or interests. The team will depart Mumbai on December 24<sup>th</sup> and return home in time for Christmas.

Our club is sponsoring Brent so we expect him to present an illustrated lecture on his experiences some time early in the new year. And don't miss an opportunity to encourage him to join our club upon his exodus from the Jaycees.

To follow the team on its journey, go onto Facebook at [Facebook.com/Rotary7570GSE](https://www.facebook.com/Rotary7570GSE).

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Mary Huger highly recommended two Rotary Fellowship programs: (1) contacts made in Chip's Fellowship of Canoeing Rotarians earlier led them to a fascinating trip to South Africa; and they plan another trip to Alaska next Fall through the same contacts; and (2) while at the International Convention in Atlanta, they signed up for a Hosting Fellowship through which they recently hosted a delightful couple from Victoria, Canada; they hope to make a reciprocal visit in the future.
- Julia Van de Water was grateful for the commanding voice of Jim McCoy in leading us in "God Bless America" at the beginning of our meeting; members concurred with applause.
- Nick Cuzzimano was glad to be back, he is no longer riding horses, and is thankful for Joe Williams providing him transportation to our meeting.
- Chip Honsinger made three points: (1) Rotary Fellowships provide excellent opportunities to become acquainted with Rotarians from other countries; (2) Brent will be impressed with India where Rotary is on the rise while it is declining in this country; and (3) a local committee has been formed to bring 4-6 persons in the culinary field from Puerto Rico to Lexington for 2-3 years where they will study culinary arts at DSL Community College; anyone interested would be welcome to join the effort.
- Linda Krantz announced a songwriters workshop at her residence next Friday; contact Linda for more information.
- Joe Milo was happy/sad – he gave his daughter away at her wedding last weekend, the same daughter who spent a year of high school in Brazil.
- John Tucker was happy to announce that our club's tax returns for the year had been filed, even though the process was so complicated he had to consult a CPA.

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries in November:**

Happy Birthday to: Betty McMichael on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Shane Gonsalves on the 4<sup>th</sup>; Mary Honsinger on the 15<sup>th</sup>; Allan Somerville Brown on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; Barbara Risser on the 25<sup>th</sup>; Nancy Cuzzimano on the 26<sup>th</sup>; and Maryann Fleming on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

No wedding anniversaries among members in this month.

### **Raffle:**

Kent McMichael won the raffle but not the pot which now totals \$63.50.

### **A Little Humor:**

From the Forgetful Folks Seminar: Hi! folks, my name is Ken.  
Audience: Hi!, Larry.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

- Nov 08: Wednesday, Distribute Flags on Veteran's Graves in Cemeteries, Start at 4:00 pm, RoD Kent McMichael**
- Nov 13: Monday, Collect Flags from Veteran's Graves in Cemeteries, Start at 4:00 pm, RoD Kent McMichael**
- Nov 15: NO MEETING, substitute projects on 11/8 and 11/13**
- Nov 22: NO MEETING, Thanksgiving Holiday**
- Nov 29: Election of New Officers and Board of Directors plus Talk on RI Foundation by Jim Cook; RoD Betty McMichael**
- Dec 01: District 7570 Foundation Banquet; Inn at VA Tech and Skelton Conference Center; Register by November 24; Cost: \$60/person**
- Dec 06: Club Assembly, LGCC, RoD Skip Ravenhorst**
- Dec 16: Pack and Deliver Christmas Baskets, RCBP, RoD Bill Lowe**
- Dec 20: Annual Club Christmas Party at Sweet Treats hosted by Shane Gonsalves; RoD Betty McMichael**

**END**



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November 29, 2017

Volume LXXI, Number 13

President Skip presided. Guests: None. Visiting Rotarians: Dana Guthrie, Treasurer of the Forest Club and District Annual Fund Chair; Kathy Bogacz of the Lynchburg Morning Club; and Jim Cook of the Rotary Club of Lexington Lunch. Attendance: 23 members and 3 visiting Rotarians for a total of 26. Meeting held at Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

- Items of note from the November 2017 issue of *the Rotarian* magazine:
  - What is your club doing to reinvent itself? – article on page 17
  - Sam Owori of Kampala, Uganda and President-Elect of RI, has died; Barry Rassin of the Rotary Club of Nassau, Bahamas, has been selected to succeed him.
  - Mark Daniel Maloney of the Rotary Club of Decatur, AL, USA, has been selected as President Nominee.
  - November is Rotary Foundation month.
  - Ned Lester (deceased) of the Christiansburg-Blacksburg Rotary Club was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Rotary Foundation.
- Mark your calendars for the 2017 Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program on Saturday, December 16, 2017. Packing is scheduled from 8:00 am until noon or until completed. If you didn't sign up with Julia Van de Water at our meeting to help, contact Betty McMichael and volunteer. Reporting times are staggered throughout the morning so we don't get in one another's way. Your participation in this club project is appreciated!
- President Skip urged us to contribute to the "Blue Buckets" on each table to support Alzheimer's research.
- Joe Milo reported four items of concern regarding the 2018 version of the Leprechaun Leap: (1) location of the banner which was stretched across the street is unknown; (2) permission must be secured from VMI for the course to wrap around the Parade Ground; (3) a Co-Event Coordinator is needed; and (4) a communication has been received from the City of Lexington indicating that our sponsoring club will be charged a fee to help defray the City's expenses in staging the event.
- Treasurer John Tucker announced that members will be charged \$60 next month for semi-annual dues to Rotary

## Program:

RoD Betty McMichael introduced our speaker, Jim Cook. Jim, a member of the Rotary Club of Lexington Lunch, is Director of Medical Outreach and International Medicine in the College of Osteopathic Medicine at Liberty University. He spoke to us tonight in his role as Area 6 Foundation Advocate.

"The Rotary Foundation is a philanthropic multiplier for our local clubs to remain Community Change Leaders. The Lexington Rotary Club is at the tip of the spear in making a positive difference in our community. Chip's desire to help with displaced Puerto Rican Refugees is an excellent example of how the club can engage with district and receive a grant to help educate them in the culinary arts. I am available to help the Club reach its philanthropic and service goals in the community and worldwide."

Jim urged us to consider donating directly to the Foundation online by going to [www.rotary.org/en/donate](http://www.rotary.org/en/donate).

**Birthdays and Anniversaries in December:**

Happy Birthday to Bill Lowe on December 1.

Happy Anniversary to: Laura and Bill Stearns on the 21<sup>st</sup>; and Barbara and Scott Risser on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Happy Bucks:**

- David Ryan was happy to announce that Meghan did not eat too much turkey last week but is expecting a second addition to their family, a boy!!
- Betty McMichael was happy to report on two events: (1) she and Kent attended the Bath County Community Thanksgiving dinner at the Fire House -- delightful, over 140 people attended -- cost by voluntary donation; The Homestead donated the turkey, potatoes, and gravy, Hospital donated the ham; everyone else brought a dish for a wonderful meal; and (2) Kent is absent tonight because he fell while blowing leaves and separated his shoulder; to compound matters, he contracted shingles as a result and is home feeling sorry for himself with his arm in a sling.
- President Skip added that, "if you thought Kent was ornery before, ....."
- Mary Honsinger was happy to report that "sweet" husband Chip took her to Boston, at her request, to celebrate her birthday; there, she spent a day watching the octopuses at the Boston Aquarium; a "great way to grow older."
- Dana Guthrie was happy to be with us again; feel free to contact her anytime with questions about RI Foundation and/or Annual Fund; and she commended Jim Cook for his presentation.
- Dick Minnix was happy to wish another 39<sup>th</sup> birthday to Bill Lowe on December 1st.

**Raffle:**

Scott Risser won the raffle but not the pot which now totals \$83.00.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Dec 06: Club Assembly, LGCC, RoD Skip Ravenhorst**

**Dec 16: Pack and Deliver Christmas Baskets, RCBP, RoD Betty McMichael**

**Dec 20: Annual Club Christmas Party at Sweet Treats hosted by Shane Gonsalves; also Election of New Officers and Board of Directors; RoD Betty McMichael**

**Jan 10: First Meeting of the New Year**

**END**



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**December 6, 2017**

**Volume LXXI, Number 14**

President Skip presided. Guest: sweet Anna, 16-month old daughter of Meghan and David Ryan and, we hope, a future Rotarian. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 22 members and ½ guest for a total of 22½. Meeting held at Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## **Announcements and Business:**

1. Mark your calendars for the 2017 Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program on Saturday, December 16, 2017. Packing is scheduled from 8:00 am until noon or until completed. If you didn't sign up help, contact Betty McMichael and volunteer. You're more than welcome to come and help pack but our members will concentrate on delivering the Lexington South area, that area south of Nelson Street. Their reporting times are staggered throughout the morning so we don't get in one another's way. Your participation in this club project is appreciated!
2. Last meeting, Joe Milo reported four items of concern regarding the 2018 version of the Leprechaun Leap: (1) location of the banner which was stretched across the street is unknown; (2) permission must be secured from VMI for the course to wrap around the Parade Ground; (3) a Co-Event Coordinator is needed; and (4) a communication has been received from the City of Lexington indicating that our sponsoring club will be charged a fee to help defray the City's expenses in staging the event.
3. Treasurer John Tucker distributed bills for the month of November; included was a charge of \$60 for semi-annual dues to Rotary.
4. Our Board of Directors held its regular monthly meeting following our regular meeting.

## **Program:**

Our program was a club assembly. Two major issues were discussed:

1. Our abbreviated schedule, adopted last summer, was discussed. A proposal was made to adopt a new, regular schedule that would include two dinner meetings per month, possibly on the first and third Wednesdays. These would be supplemented by projects during the intervening weeks.
  - A. One of the arguments in favor of not meeting every week was the cost of membership for new members. Our past policy has been to charge members for 50 meals per year whether present or absent. At \$16 per meal, that amounts to \$800 per year; when annual dues of \$120 are added that brings the cost to \$920 yearly, and that doesn't include additional charges for spouses' nights or other special events. This cost is prohibitive for young prospects with families.
  - B. Meeting on the first and third Wednesdays is simply a target. Holidays and other events may require a shift in days, but the target would still be a regular schedule of two dinner meetings per month. Some members have felt adrift from the club with the present schedule.
2. Some of our members are Sustainers, contributing a minimum of \$100 per year to the Rotary Foundation. In the past, Treasurer John has deposited these funds to the Lexington Rotary Club Foundation and not reported them to RI until the goal of \$1000 was reached by each individual. These were then transmitted to RI and used to name Paul Harris Fellows. Some of these recognitions were for individual donors but often, non-members were named by our club for their community service. According to John, many members were not seeking individual recognition for their contributions.
  - A. Jim Cook, Area 6 Foundation Advocate, recommended earlier transfer of these funds to RI where they would earn a larger return and subsequently benefit our club and district with more available funds for grants to support projects, both local and international.

- B. President Skip announced that, after almost 40 years of service, this may be Treasurer John's last year in that role because of failing eyesight.
- C. Separation of Rotary Foundation funds from the Treasurer's job description will reduce her/his work load and may make it easier to recruit a replacement.
- D. Julia Van de Water has volunteered to take on the job of administering our club's Rotary Foundation funds if it is decided to go that route.

Our Board of Directors will continue these discussions at their meeting.

### **Happy Bucks:**

You won't believe what transpired. Dick, your editor, misplaced his portfolio and was unable to take notes during the meeting. And Allan got so wrapped up in the club assembly that he forgot to record Happy Bucks as he usually does. So what follows is strictly from Dick's memory, which you all know is flawed.

- Betty McMichael was happy to contribute \$5 in honor of John's long service as club treasurer.
- George Piegari asked if anyone remembered who served as club treasurer before John; and then admitted it was he.
- Chip Honsinger was happy to point out that, although Jim Cook's records show our club with no Sustainers, about 60% of our members were Sustainers when he was club president.
- Joe Milo was happy on multiple counts, one of which was John's exemplary service as treasurer.
- Nick Cuzzimano recommended Wes Cannon, a handyman who has done some work for him; he can be reached at 461-6941 or cannonwesley2@gmail.com.
- And Linda Krantz had another story:

Boudreaux's daughter thinks she is expecting. Very worried, they go to the drug store to buy a pregnancy kit. The test result shows that the girl is pregnant. Shouting, cursing, and crying, Boudreaux says "Who 'dat pig what did you like 'dis? I wanna know!"

The girl picks up the phone and makes a call. Half an hour later a Ferrari stops in front of Boudreaux's house. A mature and distinguished man with gray hair, impeccably dressed in a very expensive suit, steps out of the car and enters the house. He sits in the living room with Boudreaux, the mother and the girl and tells them, "Good morning, your daughter has informed me of the problem. I can't marry her because of my personal family situation, but I'll take responsibility.

"if a girl is born, I will bequeath her 2 retail stores, a townhouse, a beach villa and a \$1,000,000 bank account. If a boy is born, my legacy will be a couple of factories and a \$2,000,000 bank account. If it is twins, a factory and \$1,000,000 each. However, if there is a miscarriage, what do you suggest I do?"

At this point, Boudreaux, who had remained silent, places a hand firmly on the man's shoulder and tells him, "Den you try agin, Okay?"

### **Raffle:**

President Skip won the raffle but not the pot which now totals \$96.00.

### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- Dec 16: Pack and Deliver Christmas Baskets, RCBP, RoD Betty McMichael**
- Dec 20: Annual Club Christmas Party at Sweet Treats hosted by Shane Gonsalves; also Election of New Officers and Board of Directors; RoD Betty McMichael**
- Jan 10: First Meeting of the New Year**

**END**





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**December 20, 2017**

**Volume LXXI, Number 15**

President Skip presided. Guests: Sweet Anna, 17-month-old daughter of Meghan and David Ryan; Josh Kerski, nephew of Derek and Connie Carter; and Partners Connie Carter, Maryann Fleming, Nancy Lowe, Jane McCoy, Sue Milo, Melou Piegari, Margaret Sayre, Laura Stearns, Lynn Williams, and Melissa, Partner of Shane. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 22 members, 10 Partners, 1 guest, and Sweet Anna (½) for a total of 33½ members and guests. Meeting held at Shane Gonsalves' Sweet Treats Restaurant.

## **Announcements and Business:**

1. Only order of business was election of officers for the 2018-19 Rotary year. President Skip reviewed the slate:

President:	Betty McMichael
President Elect/Vice President:	Kent McMichael
President Nominee:	Stewart Fleming
Secretary:	Shane Gonsalves
Treasurer:	David Ryan
Board of Directors:	Skip Ravenhorst, as Immediate Past President Julia Van de Water: Joe Milo Joe Williams Bill Lowe

When Skip asked for nominations from the floor, none were forthcoming. By motion, the slate was elected by acclamation. CONGRATULATIONS!

2. Lacey, jill-of-all-trades at Sweet Treats, was called out of the kitchen and recognized for her work in preparing our meal this evening AND for helping deliver Christmas Baskets last Saturday.

## **Actions of Board of Directors:**

Our Board held its regular monthly meeting following our club assembly on December 6. They took the following actions:

- To give Olivia Fleming (our LGCC wait-person) a \$50 tip for Christmas.
- To make a \$350 donation to the YMCA for the purchase of gifts for the Manor House at Natural Bridge; the other local Rotary clubs are also making similar donations based on the number of members per club.
- To begin meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of each month in addition to one service project/business tour per month; this is subject to the limitations of the calendar by holidays etc. For example, the Country Club is closed the first two weeks of January so we already have to adjust accordingly.
- Despite Shane's offer to provide all the consumables for the annual Christmas Party at Sweet Treats, the board voted to reimburse him \$15 per attendee.

## **Program:**

None, as this was our annual Christmas Party. Shane and his crew served a delicious dinner of tossed salad, pasta salad, green beans, mashed potatoes, breaded chicken breasts, and pie, accompanied by rolls and a selection of wines. Thanks to Shane and Lacey for a terrific meal.



### **Happy Bucks:**

- Joe Milo, not a usual fan of green beans, thought tonight's were the best he had eaten.
- President Skip was happy to acknowledge Betty McMichael: he was regarded as a hero when he agreed to step up for a second year and replace incoming President-Elect Joe Pagnam when Joe accepted a new job out-of-state, but Skip said Betty has done all the work and deserves our praise.
- Bill Lowe was happy to thank our club for all our efforts in packing and delivering Christmas Baskets last Saturday.
- Jim McCoy was happy to announce the eminent arrival of their second grandchild on Christmas eve.
- Dick Minnix had 5 Happy Bucks in appreciation of Betty McMichael's fine work in organizing and conducting delivery of 79 baskets in the Lexington South area by our club last Saturday; the delivery was completed the earliest in his memory.
- Betty McMichael contributed 5 Happy Bucks as thanks for all those members who showed up on time or early to deliver Christmas baskets last Saturday.
- Skip Ravenhorst was happy to recognize Julia Van de Water who helped in early organization of deliveries of baskets but was wise enough to be in England on the delivery date.
- Bill Stearns donated \$5, one for each decade (?) John Tucker has served as our club treasurer.
- Chip Honsinger called our attention to an effort to bring some young people from Puerto Rico for culinary training, a joint initiative with DSLCC; this will be the topic of our January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting program; the next night there will be a fund-raising dinner at Lexington Presbyterian Church; all members are urged to attend and support this program as part of hurricane relief.
- Shane Gonsalves was happy to have us here at his restaurant and hoped he could do it again next year.
- Joe Milo has a Happy Buck for little Anna Ryan, the President of Rotary International in Training.
- Mary Honsinger was happy to recommend to Bill Lowe that Christmas baskets be lighter next year, and easier to lift.
- Betty McMichael explained that we already had to deviate from our planned schedule of first and third Wednesday meetings because the LGCC will be closed the first two weeks of January.

### **Future Programs & Activities:**

**Jan 03: NO MEETING**

**Jan 17: BARC Update on Broad Band Initiative, RoD Betty McMichael**

**Jan 24: Jerry Nay and George Huger on Puerto Rico and DSLCC Joint Initiative, RoD Betty McMichael**

**Feb 07: TBD**

**Feb 21: Annual Awards Night and Celebrate Founding of Rotary, RoD Betty McMichael**

**Feb 28: Tour of Beechenbrook Chapel, RoD Skip Ravenhorst**

**END**

**HOPE YOU HAVE A KOOL YULE  
AND A FRANTIC FIRST  
PEACE TO ALL**



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January 24, 2018

Volume LXXI, Number 16

President Skip presided. Guests: George Huger and Jerry Nay for our program; and Rotary Ann Nancy Lowe. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 14 members and 3 guests for a total of 17. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. Julia Van de Water presented our club a check for \$73.76 from The Kroger Company as our 5% share of purchases made by our members at their stores. (This is minuscule compared to the \$300-400 checks we used to receive. This reduced sum is probably because many of our members have not taken the trouble to qualify for the program. SHAME!)
2. Joe Milo brought our club greetings from former member Joe Pagnam. Milo had contacted him about background info on the Leprechaun Leap Project that Pagnam initiated in March, 2017. Joe Milo has taken charge of this year's event planned for Saturday, 10 March. Net proceeds will go to the Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program. Planning for this year's event is well underway, but Joe will need lots of help to carry out the project.
3. President Skip read excerpts from a letter of thanks received from Ab Hammond, President of the Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program: "The 2017 Christmas season marked the 69<sup>th</sup> year of this community effort and provided 1080 families 1725 baskets of food and toys to brighten the holidays and offer hope for the New Year. Approximately 3037 people, including 1088 children, appreciated your gift and celebrated a happier holiday because of your generosity... Please accept our deepest gratitude for your generous support, both physically and financially."
4. Our next regular dinner meeting will be on 7 February when Brent Buswell, a member of the GSE Team Rotary sent to India, will speak about his experience.

## Program:

PE Betty introduced our speakers: Jerry Nay, retired USAF officer and community activist, and George Huger, Chef and Owner of the Southern Inn Restaurant.

Puerto Rico and other areas are still struggling to recover from the disaster of hurricane Maria. George Huger had the bright idea to bring Puerto Rican culinary students, whose school was destroyed by Hurricane Maria, to Rockbridge County where they could continue their studies at Dabney S. Lancaster Community College (DSLCC) and gain experience in some of Lexington's restaurants.

A fundraiser dinner to support this program will be held at Lexington Presbyterian Church on Thursday, 25 January. The dinner will feature authentic Puerto Rican dishes including beans and rice, plantains, roast pork and chicken, rice pudding and more. There will be presentations by George Huger, chef/owner of the Souther Inn, Ben Worth, Vice President of Academic Affairs at DSLCC, and Aly Colón, W&L journalism professor. They plan to Skype with Juan Rivera, president of the Asociación Gastronómica y Culinary de Puerto Rico. The dinner is free, but expect to be hit on for a contribution. For more information, contact Jerry Nay at [JerryNay@jerrynay.US](mailto:JerryNay@jerrynay.US).

## Happy Bucks:

- PE Betty McMichael thanked everyone who delivered Christmas baskets last month. It went very smoothly. Not only that, everyone returned their copies of the routing slips with comments, probably the first time ever.
- President Skip commended Betty for her fine work and Julia for early arrangements before departing the country for England.

- Allan Somerville Brown had a stroke late last year that left him with a serious blood clot that was apparently inoperable. However, at a check-up recently he got the terrific news that the clot had DISAPPEARED! It cleared itself somehow!!! Our members applauded his news!!!!
- In separate news, Allan announced that his daughter had gotten engaged to be married! When it rains, it pours!!!!

**Raffle:**

No sale of tickets or raffle tonight; POT remains at \$96.00.

**So True:**

Five surgeons from big cities are discussing who makes the best patients to operate on. The first surgeon from New York says "I like accountants. When you open them up, everything inside is numbered."

The second surgeon from Chicago responds. "Yeah, but you should try electricians. Everything inside them is color coded."

The third surgeon from Dallas says, "I really think librarians are best, everything inside them is in alphabetical order."

The fourth surgeon from Los Angeles chimes in. "You know, I like construction workers... those guys always understand when you have a few parts left over."

But the fifth surgeon from Washington DC shut them all up when he observed. "You're all wrong. Politicians are the easiest to operate on. There's no guts, no heart, no balls, no brains, and no spine... Plus the head and ass are interchangeable."

(Thanks to Scott Risser for this contribution!)

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Feb 07: Brent Buswell, GSE Team Member to India, RoD Betty McMichael**

**Feb 21: Annual Awards Night and Celebrate Founding of Rotary, RoD Betty McMichael**

**Feb 28: Tour of Beechenbrook Chapel, RoD Skip Ravenhorst**

**END**



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**February 07, 2018**

**Volume LXXI, Number 17**

President Skip presided. Guest: Our speaker, Brent Buswell. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 20 members and 1 guest for a total of 21. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## **Announcements and Business:**

1. **Note our date of chartering above. So we now enter our 96<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community of Lexington and Rockbridge. KUDOS TO US!!!!**
2. President Skip urged us to contribute to the "Blue Buckets" on each table to support Alzheimer's research.
3. Communique from David Ryan: "Just wanted to share the news with the club that our son Daniel David Ryan (Danny) was born Saturday, Jan 27th at 5:10 am weighing 6 lb 14 oz. We are all doing well and home from the hospital. Anna is very attentive and concerned when Danny cries, already an awesome big sister." CONGRATULATIONS to the Ryan family! These days, it is not often that our club experiences this kind of event!
4. Chairman Joe Milo brought us up to date on arrangements for the second edition of the Leprechaun Leap 5K Race, Run, and Walk scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 10, 2017. Entry Fee is \$25 for age 12 and older, \$15 for age 11 and under. Race fee will increase to \$30 on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Course takes in VMI, WLU, and historic downtown. T-shirts to all participants. Medals awarded to age group leaders. LIVE MUSIC! All proceeds benefit Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program. For full information and to register, go to <http://leprechaunleap.com>. Scott Risser volunteered to handle all publicity for the event.
5. Our Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting tonight following our regular meeting. Other than the Awards Night arrangements, no other actions meriting publication were taken.

## **Awards and Partners Night:**

Our next meeting will be our Annual Awards and Partners Night on Wednesday, February 24, at 6:00 pm at Lexington Golf and Country Club. Please urge your Partner to accompany you – they immeasurably improve the view across the table!! Dress is usually a little more formal. Our Board of Directors voted to charge members \$25 per person for a meal upgraded to the "All-American Buffet," which includes grilled chicken, sliced pork with a bourbon apple chutney, greens, green onion mashed potatoes, southern succotash, country-style green beans, and pecan pie. Wine service (red and white) will also be provided. At our last meeting, President Skip circulated a sign-up sheet for the event in order to give the club an accurate attendance figure. Please contact Skip ASAP if you were not present or unable to specify your attendance at our meeting.

## **Minute for Rotary:**

PDG Rae Carpenter related an unusual Rotary experience he had this afternoon. He was contacted by PDG Dick Ray and asked if he had any old Rotary neckties. Dick plans a custom Rotary quilt complete with four-in-hand ties as spokes of the Rotary wheel. Rae told Dick he thought he had a couple but by the time he came by Rae had found 8 four-in-hand ties and one bow tie. He kept the bow to wear and gave the rest to Dick along with information about the year each tie was adopted and motto of the year, determined from RI Directories. No other info is available at this time, but keep an eye out for the Rotary quilt in the future.

## **Program:**

President-Elect Betty McMichael introduced Brent Buswell, a member of the Group Study Exchange (GSE) team who departed the USA for District 3060 in India on the Saturday following Thanksgiving. Brent resides in Lexington but is originally from Oklahoma City, OK. He has been employed with Kappa Alpha Order for about 3.5 years as their Director of Communications. Brent is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Marketing. He enjoys hiking, photography, drinking beer, and solving Rubik's cubes. Brent was sponsored by our club.

Brent and Laura Clark (Stuart), Trae Vickers (Winchester), and Kayla Payne (Staunton) were selected for the team that traveled to the western part of India. Their Rotarian Team Leader was Tara McCall who was a member of an earlier outgoing GSE team. She is now a member of the Bristol VA/TN Club and is currently Assistant Governor of Area 12. They flew into Mumbai on November 25<sup>th</sup>.

Excerpts from Brent's remarks which were illustrated with slides:

- Many banners from clubs he visited were circulated around the room among our members.
- Team traveled in excess of 1,000 miles in their visits; and visited numerous cities whose names we couldn't pronounce or recognize.
- Saw many, many temples of several faiths.
- Visited birthplace of Ghandi.
- People there are very civic minded, pitching in to solve problems, not waiting for government.
- People very hospitable, sometimes offering food and drink too often.
- Was interesting with a bus driver who didn't speak English.
- One of the more unusual visits was to a club-owned-and-operated crematory.
- Another was to a cattle sanctuary.
- When Brent got sand in his eye at a beach, he was taken to a Rotary-operated Eye Institute for free treatment.
- Attended an Indian wedding with huge number of guests.
- He loved the food which was eaten from communal bowls with fingers.
- Toured an Arabic College.
- Visited a diamond factory where imported diamonds were cut and polished.
- Their Rotarian Team Leader actually administered polio drops to children in one location.
- Visited large religious caves actually carved out of rock.
- Concluded visit by attending their District Conference where they met their counterparts who will visit our District in the Spring and attend our District Conference.

Brent noted the following cultural difference between our two countries:

- Compared to our country, the amount of traffic, number of people, live stock, and stray dogs is unbelievably large, yet he saw no indication of road rage or impatience.
- Toilets are not equipped with tissue paper (he carried his own with him).
- Water is so precious that you "shower" in a bucket.
- Temples are everywhere.
- Wages are so low that all families seem able to afford home help: maids, cooks, chauffeurs.

Brent noted the following characteristics of the people he came into contact with:

- They are a very humble, peace-loving people,
- They are extremely hospitable.
- And they take great pride in their country.

Thanks, Brent, for a very interesting program. (Note that GSE is no longer a program of RI, but has been picked up by our District. Members may want to commend District Leaders for doing so.)

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Chip Honsinger related some highlights of a recent trip he and Mary made to Panama and the Canal; he recently received a photo of the two of them taken in Thailand years ago by a GSE team member from that country who had visited our District earlier; they also visited a very active small club while in Panama; he was most impressed with a hydroponic operation growing lettuce from seed to maturity in 1 month.
- Mary Honsinger was happy to describe their recent visit to the Kennedy Space Center in Orlando; they were unable to get near the Heavy Falcon nearing launch; most inspiring thing she saw was the display of rockets used to transport supplies and personnel to the Space Station.
- Dick Minnix was reminded by speaker Brent of disturbing information he came by in high school; he had read that punishment for serious crimes in the far East was amputation of the right hand; that was a lifetime punishment because people only ate from the communal bowl with the fingers of their right hand – their left was used to wipe themselves; so they were forever prevented from eating from the communal bowl – what a punishment!
- Betty McMichael was multiply happy: she thanked Brent for going on the GSE trip and representing us; she is delighted that a new industry has purchased the old HDT facility in Fairfield and is hiring a number of the folks she had worked with there; and was very happy to announce that she had begun part-time employment with Kappa Alpha National Headquarters but she won't work for Kent.
- Kent McMichael said Betty's work will involve records out of his vault, so if she becomes troublesome, he'll just shut the door and spin the wheel. SURE, WE ALL BELIEVE THAT!
- Scott Risser noted "Fly Eagles Fly!"

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries in February:**

Happy Birthday to: our Club on the 1<sup>st</sup>; and President Skip on the 21<sup>st</sup>.

Happy Anniversary to Mary and Chip Honsinger on the 18<sup>th</sup>; and Maryann and Stewart Fleming on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

### **Raffle:**

Shane Gonsalves won the raffle but not the BIG pot which now totals \$110.50.

### **Future Programs & Activities:**

**Feb 21: Annual Awards Night and Celebrate Founding of Rotary, RoD Betty McMichael**

**Feb 28: Tour of Beechenbrook Chapel, RoD Skip Ravenhorst**

**END**





# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1063

**96th YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"**  
**Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>**

**February 21, 2018**

**Volume LXXI, Number 18**

President Skip presided. This was our Annual Awards and Partner's Night which was held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club and included nicely decorated tables and attractive Partners. A very nice "All-American Buffet" dinner featuring mushroom soup, spinach salad with lots of additives, grilled chicken, sliced pork with a bourbon apple chutney, Southern succotash, mashed potatoes, and hot bread. Both red and white wines were served along with iced tea and coffee. This very nice meal was topped off with chocolate pecan pie.

It was an impressive gathering. Most of the men wore coat and tie and the ladies were dressed similarly. Paul Harris Fellows recognized in earlier years wore their medallions and/or pins. And with all the Partners present, the view around the tables were vastly improved from the usual. Not only that, but the singing was also much better. And President Skip's Partner, Rita, kindly provided live plants to spruce up the tables..

Visiting Rotarians: AG Marc Hudson, and former member Easley Moore. Guests: Dr. And Mrs. William Sayre, and 8 Partners. Attendance: 20 club members, 11 Partners, and 4 other guests for a total attendance of 35.

## **Announcements and Business:**

1. **Note our date of chartering above. So we now enter our 96<sup>th</sup> year of service to the community of Lexington and Rockbridge. KUDOS TO US!!!!**
2. David Ryan was present representing the recently expanded Ryan Family. Our heartiest congratulations to 4-week old Danny and Proud Mom Meghan and big sister Anna. By the way, if you haven't heard, David is now the Director of Operations at Devil's Backbone Brewery and Restaurant (coming). Congratulations!
3. Don't forget the second edition of the Leprechaun Leap 5K Race, Run, and Walk scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on Saturday, March 10, 2017. Entry Fee is \$25 for age 12 and older, \$15 for age 11 and under. Race fee will increase to \$30 on March 3<sup>rd</sup>. Course takes in VMI, WLU, and historic downtown. T-shirts to all participants. Medals awarded to age group leaders. LIVE MUSIC! All proceeds benefit Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program. For full information and to register, go to <http://leprechaunleap.com>. Scott Risser is in charge of all publicity for the event.
4. **Joe passed around a sign-up sheet to work on race-walk day. ALL MEMBERS WILL BE NEEDED ON THAT DATE. Contact Joe directly (463-7665) to sign up if you haven't already done so.**
5. It is with great sadness that we report that Sunrise Rotarian Chip Schram passed away Friday morning.

## **Awards Night:**

Annually, the Lexington Rotary Club recognizes outstanding club and/or community service with special awards: Paul Harris Fellowships (PHF) and William E. Skelton Endowed Scholarships (SES).

**Paul Harris Fellowships:** Named in honor of Rotary's founder, PHF represent one of Rotary's most prestigious awards. Rotarians recognize with PHF those who donate \$1,000 to the Rotary Foundation, or by a sponsor who has done so in their name in recognition of the extraordinary service they render to our community.

**Melissa Gladwell Sayre:** (Presented by Robert Sayre.) Melissa is well known locally for matching caregivers to senior citizens. She was formerly Director of Marketing at Kendal at Lexington, now



Director of Home Instead services in the Lexington area; both involve matching caregivers with seniors.

She holds a Master's Degree from Virginia Tech. She is the mother of two daughters – one in fourth grade and the other in kindergarten. Most importantly, from our personal standpoint, she is the helpmate of fellow PHF Bill Sayre, our son.

For these and other reasons, Margaret and I are happy to present her a Paul Harris Fellowship.

**John R. Tucker, Sr.:** (Presented by Dick Minnix.) Our next honoree is a newcomer to our club, having only joined in 1971! Let me first give you some background information about him.

A son of a career Army officer, John R. Tucker was born in Buffalo, NY. He graduated from Union College in NY state with a degree in Electrical Engineering. Met his first wife, who was from Lexington, on a blind double date arranged by his Mother in which his future wife was the other guy's date.

After graduation, John worked for IBM on the guidance system for the Titan missile. This was a transistorized system before the days of integrated circuits. Enrolled in ROTC at Union, he was called to active duty and attended Communications Officer training at Scott Air Force Base near St. Louis. From there he served at Lake Charles, LA. His first daughter was born there.

After service he returned to IBM for a while but then came to Lexington and VMI, where he taught physics with club members Rae and Dick for about 10 years. During that time, he earned a Masters degree in physics at VA Tech. From VMI he joined the Rockbridge County Health Department and remained with them for about 25 years.

John retired with credit for his years at VMI and the Health Department, In the meantime, he had met his second wife Anne at a Faith at Work Conference in Gatlinburg to which he had been taken by Matt and Mary Raine Paxton. He and Anne were married almost 40 years. He was saddened by her loss in 2016 after 17 years at Kendal.

John has four children: Alexander, the oldest, is in the computer industry, she lives in Raleigh and has two children. Her husband is the CFO for a women's college in Raleigh. Ann is Commissioner of the Revenue in Winchester; she has two children, her husband deals with stocks and bonds; Jack and his wife are missionaries for the Baptist church in the Philippines, they have four daughters; son Wilson is a building contractor here in Rockbridge County, he and his wife have two children. In addition, he says he has "three great grandchildren."

We honor John this evening for his outstanding service to our club. He has been active in many club projects: he could always be found working at the Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program, Rockbridge Community Festival, Bonnie Blue National Horse Show, and putting out and picking up flags on veteran's graves at Stonewall Jackson Cemetery. He was a faithful participant in Highway Pick-up until President Skip barred him after he fell into a metal culvert and had to be taken to the hospital by ambulance. Also active in the community, he is only one pint short of achieving his 22 gallon pin for blood donations to the Red Cross. As Club Treasurer he has been responsible for ordering presentation materials for our Annual Awards Nights. So I must admit to you that he is well aware of this award tonight because our officers couldn't figure out how to keep him in the dark.

But despite all this service, it is not our primary reason for honoring John tonight – primary is his long and exemplary service as an officer of our club: he was Club Secretary from 1978 until 2015, a period of 38 years, inclusive; and Club Treasurer from 1977 through this year, a total of 42 years. THAT'S WHAT I CALL PERSEVERANCE! And he is only retiring because of his failing eyesight. Please join me and our Club in honoring John R. Tucker as a Paul Harris Fellow for this unbelievable record of service.

**William B. Lowe, Jr.:** (Presented by Skip Ravenhorst.) A native of Auburn, Alabama, our next awardee graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Air Force Academy in 1967; and received a master's degree from North Carolina State University in 1968.

He served 28 years in the United States Air Force, where he was a pilot, instructor pilot, educator, and commander. He retired as a Command Pilot with over 3000 hours in fighter and trainer aircraft. In his last military assignment, he served as Commander of the Air Force ROTC detachment at the Virginia Military Institute.

In 1995 he joined the faculty of Southern Virginia University where he is an assistant professor of mathematics. He was instrumental in SVU's transition from a two-year women's college to a four-year co-educational institution. At Southern Virginia University, he has taught calculus, finite mathematics, statistics, and college algebra. Additionally, he serves as the Faculty Athletics Representative. He is also an adjunct instructor in mathematics at Virginia Military Institute.

He is active in service to the community and church, having served on the board of directors of the Lexington Rotary Club and as a faithful member of Trinity United Methodist Church. He is also co-chair of the Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program, which provides food and toys to the less fortunate families in Rockbridge County.

He and his wife, Nancy, have four children and seven grandchildren. It is a great privilege for the Lexington Rotary Club to award a PHF to Colonel William B. Lowe, Jr.

**William E. Skelton Endowed Scholarship:** Skelton Scholarships were established to honor former RI President Bill Skelton of the Christiansburg-Blacksburg Club. A Scholarship enables either American students to study abroad or foreign students to come to our district for study. Tonight we honor one of our members with a SES.

**Richard B. Minnix:** (Presented by PDG Rae Carpenter) I first got to really know Dick Minnix in the mid-1950s when we both worked in the same physics lab for the same research professor at UVA. (Before that, I got to know him vaguely while jerking sodas with his older sister in a drugstore in Salem.) He was working on an MS degree while I was working toward my PhD. I brought him over to VMI for an interview when he was looking for a job. He joined the faculty in 1956; three years later Rae joined Lexington Rotary. It wasn't until 1972 that Dick joined this club, after serving with the Jaycees.

That early club had several ways for new members to become well-acquainted: newest members served coffee refills for dessert at meetings; and members manned the concession stand at Lexington's Recreation Field for Summer softball and Fall football – slinging hot dogs and pop corn is a good way to get to know one another.

In the early 1970s, Dick and Rae began a series of two-week summer workshops in classroom science demonstrations, primarily for high school physics teachers. A total of 25 such workshops culminated in publication of the **Dick and Rae Physics Demonstration Notebook** for teachers. To date, over 3500 copies have been sold, some on every continent except Antarctica.

I retired in 1992 but had a part-time appointment. When the opportunity came for me to lead a GSE Team to Australia for about six weeks, Dick stepped up and took on the additional load of my classes so I could go. Not only that, but during my tenure as DG in 1997-98, he served as Annual Conference Chair at the Homestead Resort.

Dick has been heavily into club projects over the years such as the Rockbridge Community Festival; placing flags on graves on Veteran's Day, and Highway Clean-Up. But he is proudest of his 19 years as Co-Chair of the Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program. And, oh yes, he has edited our Club Bulletin for years – not sure when he began but probably before 2000.

Our Club is pleased to award Dick a SES.

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Betty McMichael pointed out our Rotary “triumvirate” of Rae Carpenter, John Tucker, and Dick Minnix: club leaders and inspirations over the years; and, oh yes, she got emotional while doing it!
- Joe Milo seconded Betty’s comment.
- Dick Minnix recognized club members with most years of service: Robert Sayre joined (WV) in 1958; Rae joined our club in 1959, John Tucker joined our club in 1971, and Dick Minnix joined our club in 1972.
- Mary Honsinger observed (emotionally) that many of her fond club memories involve Rae and Dick.
- Robert Sayre observed “it is a nice evening.”
- Jim McCoy was glad to announce that his seven-week old granddaughter’s suspected bacterial blood infection turned out to be a false alarm! YAY!
- Rita Ravenhorst pointed out that today is hubby Skip’s birthday -- we sang Happy Birthday – and happily announced he would always be 3 months older than she.
- Easley Moore recommended we invite Gene Williams to speak to us about the COW Program at VMI (College Orientation Workshop); a pre-college program, it teaches prospects all kinds of things from manners to personal behavior.
- David Ryan thanked everyone for their words of encouragement and congratulations on the arrival of little Danny Ryan.
- Dick Minnix was happy on two counts: he always looks forward to this annual meeting because the view across the table is so much better; and for Jim Mayo who has dramatically affected the quality of our singing, better than ever tonight with the additional voices.
- Betty McMichael noted that John Knapp, attending an adjacent meeting several weeks ago, complimented our singing. WOW!
- Melou Piegari was happy to admit she stole our idea of Happy Bucks for another organization she is in.
- President Skip reminded us of our tour of Beechenbrook Chapel next week and cautioned us about the steep incline and many steps.

### **Raffle and Drawing:**

None tonight.

### **Future Programs & Activities:**

**Feb 28: Tour of Beechenbrook Chapel, RoD Skip Ravenhorst**

**END**



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1063

96th YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"  
Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>

February 28, 2018

Volume LXXI, Number 19

President Skip presided. Guests: Partners Susan Barger, Nancy Lowe, and Barbara Risser. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 17 members and 3 guests for a total of 20.

## Announcements and Business:

1. Don't forget the second edition of the Leprechaun Leap 5K Race, Run, and Walk scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on **Saturday, March 10, 2018**. Entry Fee is \$25 for age 12 and older, \$15 for age 11 and under. **Race fee will increase to \$30 on March 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Course takes in VMI, WLU, and historic downtown. T-shirts to all participants. Medals awarded to age group leaders. LIVE MUSIC! All proceeds benefit Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program. For full information and to register, go to <http://leprechaunleap.com>. Scott Risser is in charge of all publicity for the event.
2. **Call Joe Milo (463-7665) to sign up to work at the Leprechaun Leap if you have not done so already. ALL MEMBERS WILL BE NEEDED ON THAT DATE..**

## Program:

We met off site for a tour of Beechenbrook Chapel, now nearing completion of its historic renovation..

President Skip briefly reviewed the history of Beechenbrook Chapel and showed slides (accompanied by appropriate music) of the various stages of its partial demolition and reconstruction.

"Beechenbrook Chapel, located at 711 Stono Lane in Lexington, Virginia, was built in 1873 by the Lexington Presbyterian Church, as a mission chapel for the laborers at Jordan's Point. This was a time before the advent of electrical power or the arrival of railroad service to Lexington, and Jordan's Point was a beehive of activity. Mills and forges located there took advantage of water power from the North (now Maury) River, and the Point was the northwestern terminus of the canal system, which provided efficient transportation for passengers and material between Lexington and Richmond.

"The man assigned by the church with the responsibility for the design and construction of the mission chapel was none other than Col. John T. L. Preston, a prominent local attorney, the founder of Virginia Military Institute, and a Trustee of the church. Preston designed the building in the Carpenter Gothic style, which was a popular motif for ecclesiastical architecture at the time (the Lexington Presbyterian manse was also constructed in that style). In recognition of Preston's promised financial backing of the chapel, it was named in honor of the renowned and successful book-length poem "Beechenbrook; A Rhyme of the War", written during the Civil War by Preston's wife Margaret Junkin Preston.

"Within twenty years of the chapel's completion, the railroad supplanted the canal system (with its tracks laid on the former canal tow path), and not long after that alternate sources of energy (such as electricity) eliminated the need for water power. With those considerations, punctuated by periodic flooding of the North River, the level of activity at Jordan's Point faded. However, Beechenbrook Chapel continued to be used as an ecumenical Sunday School shared by the churches of Lexington until the 1940's.

"Lexington Presbyterian Church sold the chapel in 1956. Over time, much of the building had deteriorated (including its signature gothic windows and the rear wall of the building), and in 1972 it was purchased and drastically remodeled by recent Washington & Lee University graduates, who subdivided the space and converted it into apartments. It continued to be used as student housing (and to deteriorate) for 40 years, when Beechenbrook LLC purchased the property with the intention of restoring its historical integrity and finding a compatible use for the building. Since the acquisition of the chapel in September 2012, the interior (including all the code-violating construction installed in

1972) has been removed, leaving just the shell of the original structure. After careful scrutiny of the remaining structure, a plan was developed for rehabilitating the building in a form that was sensitive to its storied past. In addition to respecting the history of the property, Beechenbrook LLC committed to using state-of-the-art materials and techniques to achieve high levels of sustainability, ensuring that the building will last for many future generations.”

The chapel and the Miller’s House are the only intact original structures remaining within the Jordan’s Point area. The accessibility challenges at the site affect not only the construction costs, but also the range of ultimate uses for the property. Because of this, and because the present zoning of the property is Residential, the most reasonable use is as a single family residence, ideally as a dwelling for a visiting professor at VMI or WLU. The design for the rehabilitation reflects this thinking, leaving the interior largely open with minimal kitchen, bedroom, and bathroom provisions.

Thanks to Skip (President of Beechenbrook LLC) for a most interesting tour.

**Happy Bucks:**

A few, but didn’t get them. Sorry.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries in March:**

Happy Birthday to: Gabriella Somerville Brown on the 4<sup>th</sup>; and Laura Stearns on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

No Anniversaries to celebrate in March.

**Raffle and Drawing:**

None tonight. POT remains at \$110.50.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Mar 07: Final Prep for Leprechaun Leap, RoD Joe Milo**

**Mar 10: Leprechaun Leap, RoD Joe Milo**

**Mar 16-18: Annual District Conference at The Omni Homestead Resort**

**Mar 21: TBA**

**END**



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March 07, 2018

Volume LXXI, Number 20

President Skip presided. Guests: None. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 21 members.

## Announcements and Business:

1. Don't forget the second edition of the Leprechaun Leap 5K Race, Run, and Walk scheduled to begin at 9:00 am on **Saturday, March 10, 2018**. Entry Fee is \$30 for age 12 and older, \$15 for age 11 and under. Course takes in VMI, WLU, and historic downtown. T-shirts to all participants. Medals awarded to age group leaders. LIVE MUSIC! All proceeds benefit Rockbridge Christmas Basket Program. For full information and to register, go to <http://leprechaunleap.com>. Scott Risser is in charge of publicity for the event.
2. President Skip read a letter of thanks to our club for donating to the project to provide Christmas Gifts for Natural Bridge Manor.
3. A regular monthly meeting of our Board of Directors was held immediately following our regular meeting.
4. Don't forget the Annual District 7570 Conference at the Omni Homestead Resort scheduled for March 16-18. You learn a lot about Rotary in the 3 day conference. You might try day-tripping on Saturday if you are unable to attend the full event.

## GSE Team Visit:

Our Area 6 will host a visiting GSE Team from District 3060 in the Western part of India during April 2-5. They are expected to arrive around lunchtime on Monday and depart on Thursday afternoon. Mary and Chip Honsinger will host the Team Leader; other clubs will do so, too. But Kent still needs a family from our club to host another member of the team. He noted that all team members are vegetarians and may be leery of cats and dogs. Our club will host a joint meeting with the Buena Vista, and Lexington Sunrise and Lunch Clubs on Wednesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> to hear the Team's report. He also needs drivers to transport team members to various sites during their visit. Contact Kent at 463-5218 or [sgmekm@yahoo.com](mailto:sgmekm@yahoo.com) to volunteer for any of these tasks.

## Program:

Our last meeting was Partners and Awards Night when we presented Paul Harris Fellowships (PHF) and William E. Skelton Endowed Scholarships (SES). One person to be recognized was unable to attend that meeting so President Skip did the honors tonight.

First, some background information about the awardee:

**Julie C. Goyette:** Classification: Public Libraries. Born in Richmond; grew up in Abingdon. She holds a BA in English from UVa and MS in Library Science and Information Studies from UNC. She previously served as Chief Librarian at the Throckmorton Library at Ft. Bragg, NC. She assumed the position of Director of the Rockbridge Regional Library in early June of 2013. A widow, she has two children, a daughter, 26, and a son, 22.

She is being recognized this evening for serving as Club Secretary since July of 2015 and for her wonderful job of developing and maintaining our club website.

President Skip called Julie forward and presented her an award certificate. Our club heartily applauded this well-deserved recognition.

President Skip also presented member Mary Honsinger with a PHF pin adorned with 3 rubies signifying reception of 3 PHFs earlier. Husband Chip was suspected of supplying the pin.

### **Leprechaun Leap Run – Walk Race:**

Chair Joe Milo reviewed preparations for the 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of this event. The schedule is as follows:

- 0700: Set up tables and chairs for registration – Julie/Joe/Chip
  - 0700: Open school for electricity and rest rooms.
  - 0700: Registration opens – Mary H./Dick M  
Park in School parking lot. Try to keep entrance area generally free of cars.
  - 0830: All marshals meet at Central Elementary to make sure everyone is present
  - 0845: Marshals proceed to assigned stations to be there by 0855  
Runners are to be instructed to keep to the right.
- Kent will handle the halfway water stop at VMI. Post the halfway sign  
Piper will be there at 0900 and will start playing in time for the first runners
- 0900: Run/Walk starts
  - 1030: Last entrant should be in
  - 1045: Medals presentation
- Rotarians: pick up trash as you leave your post.

A sheet noting assignments for specific tasks was distributed; it was sent to all members by email and will not be included here. Come on out to assist even if you haven't signed up. Joe reported 42 entrants to date, more than at the same time last year.

It promises to be chilly on Saturday morning so dress warmly.

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Skip Ravenhorst was glad to donate in honor of Joe Milo's great work on the Leprechaun race.
- Stewart Fleming put up a Happy Buck in appreciation of all of Joe's hard work on the Leprechaun Leap.
- Dick Minnix donated a sad buck in memory of his wife who passed away one year ago this past Monday.
- Joe Milo had five ecstatic bucks in honor of daughter Amy who completed requirements for her PhD in Biology last Friday; Joe and Sue sat in (about 4 hours!!) on Amy's defense of her dissertation in mycology, the study of mushrooms; as an aside, Joe pointed out that mushrooms are neither a plant nor an animal; they have external digestion wherein they secrete enzymes that break down wood and then absorb it into itself. WOW! Congratulations to Amy!
- Kent McMichael illustrated the difficulty of securing sponsorships of Rotary projects by relating Joe's experience with a local branch of a national bank: your request must be accompanied with a completed questionnaire (~15 pages) with project details such as names, ages, races, etc., of all participants; after going to all this trouble of supplying some of the information, the bank declined to sponsor the race; Kent said he couldn't relate Joe's reaction in mixed company, but we could use our imagination.

### **Raffle and Drawing:**

Linda Krantz won the raffle but not the BIG pot that now stands at \$127.00.

### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- Mar 16-18: Annual District Conference at The Omni Homestead Resort**
- Mar 21: Blue Ridge Autism Center by Meghan Harding, RoD Betty McMichael**
- Apr 18: VMI "College Orientation Workshop" Program by Eugene Cox, RoD Betty McMichael**

**END**





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April 04, 2018

Volume LXXI, Number 21

President Skip presided. As usual, we began our meeting with a moment of silence, the pledge of allegiance to the flag, and singing of God Bless America. This was a joint meeting of all Area 6 Rotary Clubs in order to receive the visiting Rotary Group Study Exchange (GSE) Team from District 3060 in the Western part of India. Special guests were PDG Woody Sadler, District Chair for GSE, and Brent Buswell, member of the District 7570 Team that earlier made the reciprocal visit to District 3060 in India. Visiting Rotarians: 4 members of the Rotary Exchange Team and their Team Leader; 10 members of the Lexington Sunrise and Lexington Lunch and Buena Vista Rotary Clubs. Attendance: 20 LRC members and 15 other guests for a total attendance of 35.

## Announcements and Business:

1. Chair Joe Milo gave his final wrap-up on the Leprechaun Leap 5K Race, Run, and Walk held on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. We cleared about \$3K dollars, with about a 30% increase in pre-registrations over the internet over our initial effort last year. He recognized Linda Krantz and Kent McMichael, Sponsor Co-Chairs, as primarily responsible for the better financial result. He thanked Scott Risser for an excellent job with Publicity and Mary Honsinger and Dick Minnix for sitting out in the cold weather registering participants for almost 4 hours. Our Club showed its appreciation to Joe with a round of applause.
2. President Skip reviewed our Club's meeting policy: "We hold a dinner meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays of each month with a Club project or tour somewhere in the month."
3. Two month-old David Ryan was present again representing the recently expanded Ryan Family. Our heartiest congratulations to Danny and Proud Mom Meghan and Dad David – we are counting on Danny as a future club member. Our Club presented the new-born with a gift of a large piggy bank.
4. We were deeply saddened to learn of the death of former member John Arthur Furgerson on March 22 at the age of 87. John joined our Club in June 1977 and began to miss meetings several years ago due to poor health, finally resigning in December 2016. Our sympathy is extended to his Rotary Ann Alice and other members of the family. We shall not soon forget the number of hot dogs he slung and bags of pop corn he filled in his more than 39 years as a valued member of this Club.

## Program:

Our Club hosted the Inbound Team from District 3060 Gujarat-Maharashtra, India. The Team arrived in Lexington in the afternoon of Monday, April 2<sup>nd</sup>, and departed on the morning of Thursday, April 5<sup>th</sup>. President Nominee Kent McMichael served as chief planner of their visit to Lexington.

District GSE Chair and PDG Woody Sadler pointed out that Rotary International dropped the GSE program about 5 years ago, however, District Governor Dick Ray thought GSE was so important that our District picked it up again this year. President-Nominee Kent McMichael then called on Brent Buswell, a member of the Group Study Exchange (GSE) team from our district that visited Indian District 3060 right after Thanksgiving, to make a few remarks about his experience there.

As our program for the meeting, members of the team, all fluent in English, presented a wonderful, illustrated summary of their District and country:

**Tushar Shah (Team Leader):** Immediate Past President of the Rotary Club of Surat, one of the fastest growing cities in India. He is now serving as an Assistant Governor. Tushar and wife Nehal, also a Rotarian, have two children, a girl and boy. Tushar is a Chemical Engineer with his own business firm representing major firms known throughout the world. He spoke on Rotary activities in District 3060 and the nation of India.

**Manoj Jagtap:** Member of the Rotary Club of Dhule Cross Road. He holds a Master's Degree in Microbiology and successfully runs his own Pathology and Microbiology Laboratory. Married to Dipti, a Civil Engineer, they have two children, a girl and a boy. She is an architect, he is a senior in grade 12. A Past President of his club, he has also served as an Assistant Governor and in other District roles. He spoke to us about the educational system in India.

**Pankaj Naik:** A charter member of the Rotary Club of Gandevi, he is a Civil Engineer working as a building contractor, mostly for residential projects. He is married to Mamta, and they have two daughters, one with a Masters Degree in computer engineering and the other studying for a Masters Degree in Mathematics. A Past president of his Club, he has also served as an Assistant Governor and in other District roles. He spoke to us about the agriculture industry in India.

**Dr. Parag Shah:** A Psychiatrist, he is Professor and Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Surat. He is married to Sejal, a Dermatologist, and they have an eight year old daughter. He did his medical graduation and post graduation in Psychiatry at Veer Narmad South Central Gujarat University. Apart from providing services to clients with psychological issues, he teaches and trains undergraduate and postgraduate students in Medicine, Psychology, Nursing, and Social Work – in the field of Psychiatry. He is a member of various national and international professional organizations and is currently President-Elect of the Indian Psychiatric Society Gujarat State Branch. He spoke to us on medical tourism – the practice of foreign nationals coming to India seeking medical treatment in various forms.

**Deep Karia:** An International Service Director at the Rotaract Club of Rajkot, Deep also manages his family business, ibiixo Technologies Pvt. Ltd and Akarta Exports. Ibiixo Technologies is a mobile applications and web applications development company; Akarta Exports is an export company which exports pet food, clothing products, and agriculture products around the world. He holds a Bachelor of Technology Degree in Computer Science from Rajasthan Technological University. Unmarried, he lives with his extended family. He spoke to us on the many festivals celebrated in India and its culture.

Following the formal presentation, the Team opened the floor for questions. By far, the most interesting topic for their audience was medical tourism and the dramatically lower cost for medical treatment in India. All were impressed with the cost and wanted to explore the reason why.

Thanks to Tushar and his Team for an excellent, well-organized program. Interestingly, all members of the Team were vegetarians; LGCC came through with an excellent meal for them. An outstanding Team, we sincerely appreciate their visit to District 7570.

#### **Happy Bucks and Raffle:**

Neither tonight, given the length of the program.

#### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- Apr 18: VMI "College Orientation Workshop" Program by Eugene Cox, RoD Betty McMichael**
- Apr 25: Roadside Cleanup on Route 11S, RoD Skip Ravenhorst**
- May 02: Buffalo Creek Boys School by Lee Taylor, RoD Betty McMichael**
- May 16: Blue Ridge Autism & Achievement Center by Meagan Harding, RoD Betty McMichael**
- May 25: (Friday) Place Flags on Veterans Graves in Two Cemeteries for Memorial Day, RoD Kent McMichael**
- May 30: (Wednesday) Take Up Flags in Cemeteries; RoD Kent McMichael**

**END**



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1063

96th YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"  
Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>

April 18, 2018

Volume LXXI, Number 22

President Skip presided. Guests: Nancy Lowe, Rotary Ann of Bill; and Gene Williams, our speaker. Visiting Rotarians: Ben Worth, President-Elect of the Lexington Sunrise Club. Attendance: 18 LRC members and 3 guests for a total attendance of 21.

## Announcements and Business:

1. PP Julia Van de Water presented our club a check for \$64.51 as our 5% share of purchases made at Kroger during the first quarter using Kroger Gift Cards. The amount is small because many of our members have not registered under Kroger's new scheme. Please contact Julia and learn how to register if you have not done so – this is such a painless way of raising club funds that it is a shame for us not to do better.
2. **Our next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2018. It will be a Roadside Clean-Up. Because of our reduced number of members, our Board earlier decided to limit this project to the Route 11S area. So we will have only one team and they will pick up trash along Route 11S from the intersection of Route 11S and Possum Hollow Road back towards Lexington to a point about 1 mile from the end of the Lexington Bypass. The plan is to meet and begin at 6:00 pm so the task can be completed before dark. The event will be rescheduled if it is raining hard enough that you need to activate your windshield wipers. Remember to wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves. Skip reminds us that our club policy is "Finders, Keepers."**
3. President Skip reminder us to contribute generously to the "Blue Buckets" to support Alzheimers research.
4. Our Board of Directors held their monthly meeting following our regular meeting.

## Minute for Rotary:

Betty and Kent McMichael visited Atlanta, GA, recently. She raved about a side trip to see Franklin D. Roosevelt's Little White House in Warm Springs, where he died. He had polio himself so he established a foundation there for polio victims so they could use the waters from the springs for rehab. The waters did not cure polio but did relax muscles. There is an iron lung in the museum which was donated by an Ohio Rotary club.

## Paul Harris Fellowship Award:

Our meeting on February 21, 2018, was Partners and Awards Night when we presented Paul Harris Fellowships (PHF) and William E. Skelton Endowed Scholarships (SES). One person to be recognized was unable to attend that meeting so President Skip did the honors tonight.

First, some background information about the awardee:

**Shane Gonsalves:** Shane followed the U. S. tradition and immigrated from British Guyana at the age of 17 in 1980. He initially worked in hotel management with Omni Hotels for over 14 years, the last 10 as a task force leader. He then decided to change directions and attended and graduated from Florida Culinary Institute, (now Lincoln Culinary Institute). He spent 7 years in Charlottesville before coming to Lexington. Starting from the bottom, he worked his way up the ladder and has held a number of senior chef positions before opening Sweet Treats, his own bakery, 15 years ago on West Washington Street.

Shane met his Jamaican wife while she was managing a restaurant in Florida. They have one child and three grandkids, but none reside nearby. His wife wanted to own a bed and breakfast so that's why they came to Lexington. That didn't work out which led to opening of the bakery. Cake baking has grown over the years until wedding cakes have become his major business.

He is being recognized this evening for service as our club's Sargent-at-Arms and general willingness to jump in and help wherever needed.

**Program:**

RoD Betty McMichael introduced Eugene (Gene) Williams who spoke to us about the College Orientation Workshop (COW) program at VMI which he founded in 1987 and has served as its Executive Director ever since.

A native of Thonotosassa, FL, Gene graduated from VMI in 1974 with a B.S. degree in mathematics and earned an MBA from Southeastern University in 1979. He was a scholarship athlete at VMI, receiving All Southern Conference and All-American recognition in football as a running back and was invited to play in the All-American Bowl in Tampa, FL in 1974. He attained the rank of Lieutenant in the Corps and was selected as the most valuable player on the football team in 1974. By the way, he turned down an appointment to the USMA in order to attend VMI.

Gene retired from Verizon Communications in 2012 after 38 years of service. His last assignment was Director of Engineering for Virginia and portions of West Virginia, responsible for all network planning and engineering functions in those jurisdictions. He earlier served in other locations, too numerous to mention, but mainly in the East and Northeast.

In addition to the COW Program, he has many other notable achievements and recognitions. Only three will be mentioned here: Youngest appointee ever to the VMI Board of Visitors in 1978; Recipient of the Bell Atlantic Spirit of Excellence & Chairman Award in 1996 (included a \$5000 award to the COW Program); and Keynote Speaker for the 2001 Virginia Commonwealth Games.

Gene resides in Marriottsville, Md with his wife Margaret and two adult children, Bradley and Chelsea.

“The College Orientation Workshop, Inc., is a 501c(3) charitable organization that provides at-risk minority males a challenging 4-week educational enrichment, self development, and mentoring program. COW places emphasis on discipline and hard work. All aspects of the program are coordinated in a way that continually reinforces responsible, success-oriented habits, and dissuades destructive behaviors.

“Objectives are to provide disadvantaged and “at-risk” youth from distressed areas across the US opportunities and tools that will prepare them to achieve success during their college careers, and beyond. COW motivates students to prepare for and seek admission to the college of their choice (not necessarily VMI), and exposes them to an environment significantly different from that in their home communities. They wish to reinforce the strengths of serious students and motivate marginal performers.

“Students eligible to participate in a COW session must be a male rising high school junior or senior. Those who completed COW as a rising junior, are eligible, and in some cases encouraged, to apply for a second consecutive session. Class size is approximately 30 students from across the US. Counselors at high schools across the country assist in identifying students who would benefit from the program.

“Between 1987 and 2017, COW has had over 731 participants from 25 states and the District of Columbia. Of those who were eligible to enter college, approximately 75% did so. A large percentage of the participants may be considered “at-risk” of failing to achieve their positive potential, absent some significant catalyst for change in their lives. For many, COW has been that catalyst.

“The cost of the 4-week COW is approximately \$5000 per student, which includes room and board, tuition, and all student-related program fees. There is no charge to the students selected to attend the program; neither the student nor his family has the resources to cover the costs... Lack of resources should not prevent a deserving student from participating in COW... The program is funded through gifts from several corporate contributors and many generous individuals. No governmental funds are sought for the conduct of this program.”

Gene concluded his presentation by showing a video showing some workshop activities; also included were endorsements by a few former participants. This impressive group included a USAF Colonel and pilot and a Commander in the USN.

Gene readily admitted that the program is designed to instill anger, fear, and fatigue among the students. The intent is to show them they are able to cope with much more than they might think they can. It also builds a spirit of competitiveness. Participants are not allowed to leave the program during the first two weeks. They are also expected to abide by the VMI Honor Code.

Fitness is a significant part of the program. Students who don't complete their assignments or misbehave are required to perform hundreds of pushups or run up and down the steps of the stadium many times. A few have been dismissed for violation of the Honor Code.

Our thanks to Gene for an outstanding program. This is a unique program, deserving of our support, just wish it was more extensive. They need financial assistance. Send your contributions to: College Orientation Workshop, c/o VMI Foundation, Inc., P. O. Box 932, Lexington, VA 24450.

#### **Board of Directors:**

Our Board met after our regular meeting and took the following actions:

1. Accepted with regret the resignation of Jim McCoy (submitted because he is moving out of the area).
2. Named Joe Milo to the board to fill the remainder of Jim McCoy's term.
3. Approved a leave of absence for Derek Carter.

#### **Happy Bucks:**

- Joe Milo was very surprised that a VMI Cadet could think of such a wonderful program while in school; he, himself, was in a similar program and was in shock for 4 years.
- Rae Carpenter was happy to acknowledge that John Tucker has a birthday tomorrow; he wouldn't tell us his age "cause John is old enough to know better."
- Scott Risser had 3 happy bucks: one for Gene, God Bless him, for what you are doing for these young folks; another for Nick Cuzzimano, whose 81<sup>st</sup> birthday is today; and the third for his wife, Nancy, who has been married to him for 50 years.
- Bill Lowe also had 3 happy bucks: for Gene and his program which supplied him one of his USAF ROTC cadets while at VMI; happy to announce that colleagues at Southern Virginia University gave him a party (with cake) in recognition of his retirement as a math teacher there after this semester; and proudly announced that his grandson, a junior at Auburn University and double major in physics and computer engineering, was recognized as the top junior in the physics program. Bill was in Auburn to attend his 55<sup>th</sup> high school reunion.
- Linda Krantz told a joke but it cannot be repeated here.
- President Skip had a happy buck of thanks for Scott Risser who assisted in providing transportation for our departing GSE Team to Wytheville, VA, and for buying his lunch on the trip.
- Visitor Ben Worth had a happy buck for the happiest Rotary club he'd visited in a long time; several members tried to get him to add best looking but he declined.

#### **Raffle:**

Not tonight.

#### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- Apr 25: Roadside Cleanup on Route 11S, RoD Skip Ravenhorst**
- May 02: Buffalo Creek Boys School by Lee Taylor, RoD Betty McMichael**
- May 16: Blue Ridge Autism & Achievement Center by Meagan Harding, RoD Betty McMichael**
- May 25: (Friday) Place Flags on Veterans Graves in Two Cemeteries for Memorial Day, RoD Kent McMichael**
- May 30: (Wednesday) Take Up Flags in Cemeteries; RoD Kent McMichael**
- Jun 06: Rockbridge Area Health Center by Suzanne Sheridan, RoD Dick Minnix**

**END**

#### **Laughing in Court:**

- ATTORNEY:** So the date of conception (of the baby) was August 8th?
- WITNESS:** Yes.
- ATTORNEY:** And what were you doing at that time?
- WITNESS:** Getting laid.