



the PENWHEEL



June 2020

President: Jeff Brittain

100% Paul Harris Fellow Club

100% Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member Club

100% EREY Club

(Every Rotarian, Every Year)

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Jeff Brittain
Club President
2019-20210

The 2019-2020 Rotary year has been one like no other in our history. We started off the year with some proposed goals, changes and great expectations of what the year could look like.

Fast forward twelve months and we've taken advantage of the opportunity to move to an amazing location, have had the best Tennis Ball in our club's history as well as continued to serve our community through various projects. Unfortunately, we've also had to forge our way through the loss of three amazing members as well as manage through a pandemic.

Throughout all those ups and downs, one thing remains the same, the power of Rotary to impact lives locally and internationally. It's why we do what we do. I've enjoyed serving as your President during these challenges and look forward to serving the club for many years ahead. Thank you all for your support of Rotary, our club and me over the past twelve months. The best is yet to come and Mike is going to do a great job getting us there!

Mike Nelson
President Elect
2020-2021

What a year 2019-2020 has been, we have seen some great things and some challenges. We had the best year ever for the Tennis Ball, we moved to an amazing new location, we had a great time packaging the most meals yet with Rise Against Hunger, and deeply impacted the local Boys and Girls Club. Service above self! Then our world transformed, we are meeting in a virtual space, volunteering with facemasks and gloves, and canceling the in-person Rotary Convention in Hawaii. But we have a bright future, we will come back together in person, we will package more meals for Rise Against Hunger, we have already packaged over 800 family meal kits for the Food Bank, and we will have a virtual Rotary Convention in just a matter of weeks. All this says one thing about this great organization, we will adapt to any and all challenges!

I am excited as I will begin my year as President for 2020-2021 I am looking forward to a focus on service above self, we are a vital part of the community and the world. I think about all the good we can do but I also think about all of the good that would go undone without us. I am asking for your commitment to making 2020-2021 a year of new energy for our club. We need all of the Virginia Peninsula Rotary club members to come together and live the passion we have for this club. Many of you have been around for a long time, and even though I have only been in the club for 4 years I feel like this is my club and that is because of the welcoming spirit you all express. We need to continue to be the best versions of ourselves as we move forward, continuing to have a focus on being an active vital club. Service above self! We are a membership organization that is focused on service and we need to live into that reality so I am issuing a challenge to all of the club, make it a priority to attend at least 50 percent of our service efforts for 2020-2021. If you have ideas for service projects make sure to share them, but also be ready to get in there and serve too! This coming year is not really my year as President, it is all our ours year to allow our club to shine in the community, everyone should want to be a part of our club, not for membership numbers, not for networking, but for the legitimate impact we make on the community. Service above Self!

Board Meeting June 3, 2020

The Board met via ZOOM on June 3rd.

This was Jeff Brittain's last Board meeting since his term will end at the end of June and Mike Nelson's will begin the beginning of July. Jeff really did not have an easy year considering all of the challenges. We experienced decreasing membership, sadly in part due to the passing of three loved members. Our location changed from Sentara CarePlex to Embassy Suites. Just as we settled in to the routine of a new place, Covid-19 hit and we were all isolated at home. Fortunately, we learned about ZOOM and we have gotten back to regular meetings (if you have not attended a ZOOM meeting—try it and you may be pleasantly surprised!).

Jeff was able to implement on-line payments for dues and increasing our presence on Social Media. This has improved the receipt of dues in a timely fashion. Bill Blanchard reported we have a current balance of Liabilities and Equities of \$33,613. Once we get back to "normal" we will be in a great location again with delicious food. Thanks to Elizabeth McCoury and Charlie Edmondson, we continue to have interesting speakers.

Jeff started the Red Badge program to encourage involvement in all aspects of the club. With the coordination of Ned Spencer and Karanita Fuller, community service did not stop with our club.

Mike Nelson will be taking the reins in July and looks forward to growing membership and more importantly, getting back to the fundamentals (i.e. the Four Way Test) in order to increase our relevance in the community.

From Cathy Miller

This is my last year serving as the Club Communications liaison. It has been a pleasure keeping members informed and reporting on the many positive aspects of the Rotary Club of the Virginia Peninsula. Danny Carroll will be taking the lead in July, so I look forward to many exciting and positive changes to club communications. Thank you to all who have taken the time to contribute to the newsletter and more importantly, those who have taken the time to read the newsletter.

Bill Ziglar
District 7600 Area
Governor 2020-2022

I will be stepping into the role of Area Governor on July 1. I am responsible for supporting the Rotary Club of the Virginia Peninsula & the Rotary Club of Hampton and being the line of communication with upcoming District Governor, Judy Cocherell. As with everything in Rotary I have attended multiple training events. I got to spend a weekend at a retreat in Surry with the other incoming Area Governors, and I was fortunate to spend 3 days with Mike Nelson and this year's other Club Presidents Elect. I attended this event in the past as President Nominee and President Elect, and it's a great opportunity to meet Rotarians from all over the Mid-Atlantic region. As things open back up I hope you will participate in all the opportunities, service and social, that we are planning as a Club and District Events such as the Polio Plus Baseball game, when it is rescheduled, and hopefully the District Conference at the new oceanfront Marriott in Virginia Beach in November.

Karanita Fuller
Vocational Service

It has been a great privilege to serve on the board this year. I truly enjoyed seeing Rotarians serve our community. In spite of Covid-19, our club continues to persevere and I look forward to seeing what our club accomplishes next year!

Ned Spencer Club Service

2019-2020

Our primary community service projects for the last year included helping the YMCA with their **Bright Beginnings**, Back to School shopping effort. We joined many area volunteers by assisting underprivileged children choose and buy clothes for school. Each child has a budget (provided by Bright Beginnings) and as volunteers we pick out the items needed (confirmed by parents), in the correct size, and help the child stay on their budget. We've enjoyed participating in this effort for multiple years.

This past year's **An Achievable Dream Tennis Ball** was a great success. As our club's primary fund raiser it has its own committee, but it certainly counts as a community service project for us. 2019's event broke records for those in attendance and sponsorships generated by our club. Almost all of our members support the event in three ways: sponsor a table, donate an auction item, and work at the event.

Per tradition, we rang the bells for the **Salvation Army** again during the holiday season. We rang at both the WalMart in Hampton and the Sam's Club in Newport News.

We once again teamed with the Warwick at City Center club to apply for, receive, and execute two **District Grants**. Locally, we refurbished the art room and weight room at the **Greater Hampton Roads Unit of the Boys and Girls Club** in downtown Newport News. This work included creating a dance studio in half of the weight room, providing new furnishings for the art room, providing new art supplies, providing and assembling new cardio equipment for the weight room, and providing mirrors to create the dance studio. Internationally, our two clubs teamed with a club in San Bosco, Costa Rica to provide a new playground for a school there. All together our two clubs provided \$11,000 in funding and over 100 man hours to complete these two worthy projects.

2020-2021

Though this Rotary year has not technically started yet, we are already performing community service for it! Specifically, we are currently active in fulfilling our **District Grant** for next year. Given the unique circumstances and needs created by the COVID-19 pandemic, the district grant committee has allowed clubs to apply for Emergency Grants before the year begins. The idea being to help address acute and timely needs of our communities near the height of the pandemic. Once again, we have teamed with the Warwick at City Center club and have applied for, received approval for, and begun executing our emergency grant. Also unique to this grant is that we have teamed with the 757 Rotaract club to increase the amount of funding available and to begin to work with them more. We identified the **Virginia Peninsula Foodbank** as a more than worthy recipient of our service and funding. With more people needing their services and less food being available from their typical sources, the Foodbank is clearly in an emergency situation. With a total grant of \$13,750 we have been able to purchase a conveyor system for packaging food and an electric pallet jack for moving food, both within the warehouse. Both these items will help the Foodbank serve more people, more efficiently both now and for years to come. Part of our grant has also bought enough food to feed 852 community households. Volunteers from our clubs have already packaged the food and will be distributing it the second week of June.

Both our club and the Warwick at City Center Club have planned to participate in another **Rise Against Hunger** food packaging event next fiscal year. We are currently determining what that will look like in the current environment and its timing.

We will likely participate in the **YMCA's Smart Beginnings** shopping effort again, assuming it takes place. We already have our date to ring the Salvation Army bells on December 23rd. Mark your calendars! This year we are only planning to ring at the Sam's Club in Newport News.

Diane Hagemann

As another Rotary year comes to a close, I look back on the challenges our Club faced – and I am proud of how our club has met those challenges with resourcefulness and determination. President Jeff has done a fabulous job in shepherding our club through rough seas and avoiding the rocky shoals!

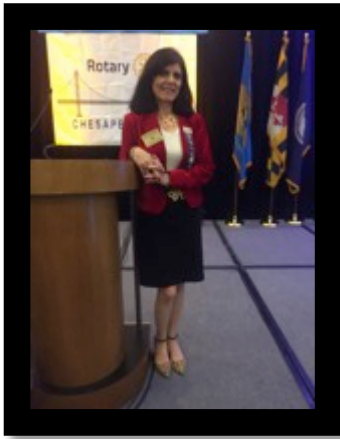
Sadly, we lost three members of our Rotary family this past year –Rotarians who exemplified Service Above Self. Even though they are no longer with us – their legacy will live on and we will not let their service to our community be forgotten.

As the District Pre-PETS and Chesapeake PETS trainer for DGE Judy Cocherell, I had the honor of helping to train and prepare the Presidents Elect in our District to lead their clubs confidently with the knowledge and resources that will position the clubs for success in the coming Rotary year. Serving on our Board again this year, I observed our club planning and executing our collaboration with the Warwick at City Center Club on District on numerous grant projects, moving forward with our Costa Rica grant, celebrating yet another successful Tennis Ball, supporting our Rotaract 757 and CNU Rotaract Clubs receiving the District award for best newsletter, moving to a new venue, ringing the bell for the Salvation Army, enjoying unique and fun socials...and on and on I could go. I am honored to be part of a proactive, creative, and generous Board...and a fun club and to be able to bring a District perspective to our plans and goals.

Next year's Rotary theme is "Rotary Opens Opportunities".... asking Rotarians to create opportunities that strengthen their leadership, help put service ideas into action, and improve the lives of those in need. But is a way that is what our Rotary Club has always done and I know we will enter the new Rotary year with enthusiasm, hope, new ideas....and as always using as the foundation to our actions The Four Way Test.

Member Birthdays	Birthday
Carmines, Robert W. (ROBERT)	22 June
Klutts, Adam (ADAM)	15 June
Richman, Louis J. Jr. (L.J.)	13 June
Spencer, Raymond F. (RAY)	08 June

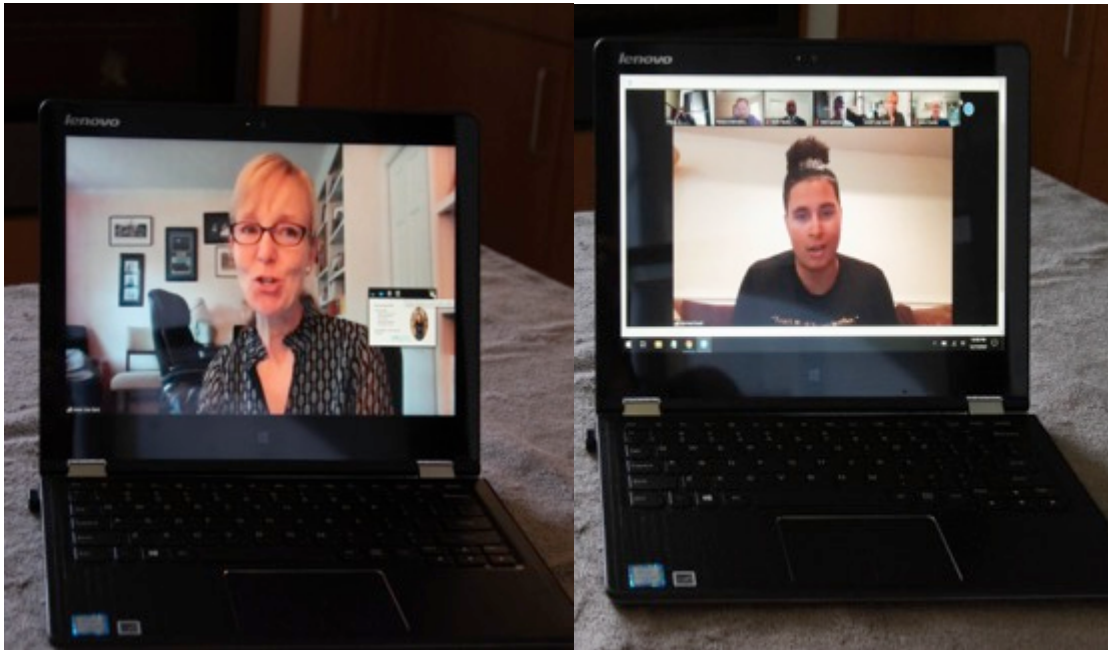
Rotary is about friendships



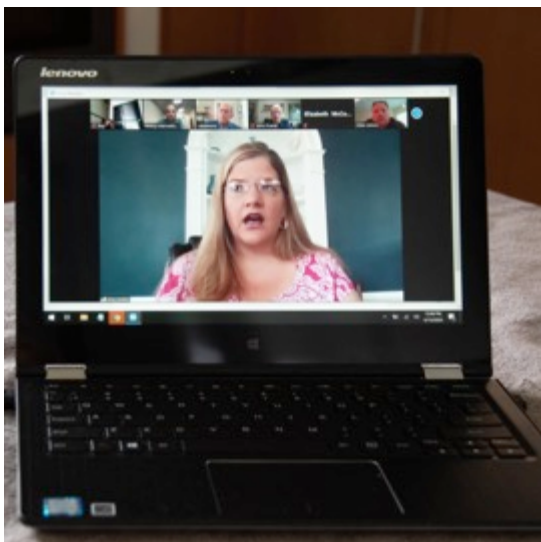
Rotary Habitat For Humanity June 18th



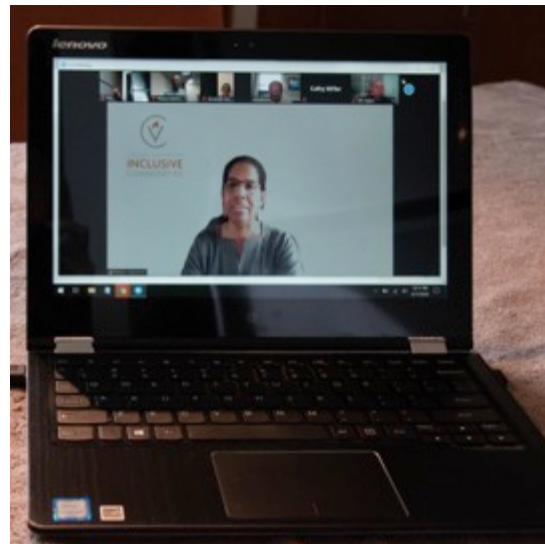
Club Zoom Meetings
In Pictures



May 27th: Anne-Lise Gere and Michael Bush



June 10th: Amy Jordan



June 17th: Paula Bazemore

Congratulations to
Steve Adams
41 years as a member of Rotary!

