

2008-2009 Club Officers

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RI Web Site: www.rotary.org

District Web Site: www.rotarydistrict7680.org

CNR Web Site:
www.charlottenorthrotary.org

AUGUST 25TH MEETING

Presiding: **Ed Jackson**

Pledge, Song & 4 Way Test: **Jim Pugh**

Invocation: **Neil Brown**

Health, Happiness & CART: **Jeff Morgan**

Introduction of Guests: **Art Jones**

Attendance:
 CNR **35**
 Visitors **0**

Birthdays:

Ralph Bostian **Sept 14**

Anniversaries:

Ken Miller **Sept 9**

NEW GENERATIONS MONTH

TODAY'S PROGRAM

September 8th – Erica Ellis-Stewart,
 Executive Director – Johnston YMCA

FUTURE PROGRAMS

September 15th – Mike Jette, Charlotte North Rotarian – Carroll Financial Associates
September 22nd – Club Assembly

AUGUST 25TH MEETING

Our vocational speaker today was **Brooke Dunwoody**. **Brooke** is the General Accounting Manager for Allen Tate Realtors in their Residential Operations Division.

Brooke joined Allen Tate Realtors 1995 when the firm had 300 sales agents. Today Allen Tate has

More than 1,800 employees with offices in Charlotte, Raleigh, Greensboro, Winston Salem, and South Carolina with more than \$6.7 in sales.

~

Ed Jackson introduced our speaker, **Riley Fields**, VP of Public Relations with the Carolina Panthers.

Riley spoke about the excitement surrounding this year's Panthers. There have been many players changes, a new score board and the stadium exterior is being refreshed.

The Public Relations department is the outreach to the community. They coordinate events and activities that benefit the community including youth programs. The 70 programs support and serve over 200,000 people throughout the Carolinas.

Charitable initiatives include Classroom Central, cancer research, Levine Children's Hospital, Make A Wish Foundation and Youth Homes. The Panthers also support youth football and sports activities.

Riley talked in detail about the Challenger Flag Football League, a program that serves children with disabilities. The program enables children to experience athletic success while increasing their self-confidence and improving their quality of life over all.

Riley also spoke about Highlight Heroes. Highlight Heroes are the best youth football highlights selected from North and South Carolina. The highlights are shown on PantherVision at every Panthers home game at Bank of America Stadium during the third quarter, and are posted on Panthers.com.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"Top of the marnin' to you!" Greetings from Dun Laoghaire (pronounced Done Leery), Ireland! I've been over here for about a week on a consulting assignment. Dun Laoghaire is a quaint little harbor town south of Dublin where the big ferries shuttle

travelers and their cars to and from Wales across the Irish Sea. The weather's been mild and sunny and the view of the sea and scores of sail boats has been inspirational. And, I thoroughly enjoy being in a country that serves beer in pints rather than in small glasses.

Last Wednesday, I had the opportunity to have lunch with the Dun Laoghaire Rotary Club. The club meets at the National Yacht Club, a classic Georgian-style facility, built in the 1880s. There are 30 members, all of whom reside in the Dun Laoghaire area. You can visit the club's Web Site at <http://www.dunlaoghairerotary.org/index.php>. I found the club's meeting style intriguing for several reasons.

Normally, the club meets for lunch on Thursday, at 1:00 p.m. at the National Yacht Club. From October through March, they alter the routine, meeting every first Thursday of the month at 6:30 p.m. for dinner. While the luncheons are casual and informal, the dinners are more elaborate affairs. Members "dress-up" (i.e., blazers and ties for the men and evening dresses for the women) and bring along their spouses and friends. Occasionally, they have music and other forms of entertainment at these dinners.

A second practice I found distinctive was that members paid for their lunch right before it was served. If you did not want lunch, you did not pay for it and if you were absent, you did not have to pay for that day's lunch. Club dues consist entirely of Rotary International and District charges.

The one downside of visiting Ireland is the poor exchange rate for dollar. The charge for the Rotary Club lunch which consisted of fish & chips and a salad was €20 or US \$31. Having dinner out in Charlotte looks a whole lot more affordable to me now!

Service Above Self,

President Jim Narus