

THE SPROCKET NEWSLETTER

Rotary Club of New Bern Breakfast Chartered May 9, 1985
District #7720 – Club #22802 - P. O. Box 14625, New Bern, NC 28561 -
www.NewBernRotary.org - Follow us on Facebook/NewBernBreakfastRotary

Now on Instagram at RotaryNewBernBreakfast

Meets every Thursday morning from 7:30-8:30 and
2nd & 4th Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30

Governor: Brownie Futrell - 2025-26 Area 8 Assist.Dist.Gov.: Melonie Wray



MORNING MEETING SUMMARY – June 18, 2026

Thanks to Joni Bass (Greeter), Wayne Hauck (Pledge), and Anne Marie Devanney (Invocation) this morning.

Morning Program:

We began this morning with a check presentation to Charles Wethington, Director of the Craven Community College Foundation, representing the VOLT Center of Craven Community College. Thanks to \$800 raised by Ramona's "Dinner To Donate" events, and a \$200 donation from member Carolyn Perrigo, the club presented a check for \$1,000 to support students enrolled in the vocational training programs at the VOLT Center to be distributed at the College's discretion. Charles shared examples of how the Craven Community College Foundation helps students with basic as well as academic needs and he offered a few examples of how this kind of support has a huge impact that can be truly life changing. Attending also for the check presentation was Christina Bowman, Assistant Director of the Foundation.



Our program this morning was a Micro-Project of stuffing 100 snack bags with candy that we will be distributing at the Juneteenth Parade on Saturday. These kinds of meetings allow for hands-on tasks with lots of fun, laughs, and social interaction among members. It also can involve any guests and even our speakers! Once again, thanks to Community Services Chair, Gretchen Derda for keeping us organized and focused on community involvement!





Program Calendar:

June 25 – AM & PM mtg – No regular meetings; it's our Annual Installation Dinner

July 2 – AM mtg – No meeting – enjoy the July 4 holiday weekend!

July 9 – AM mtg – Taylor Seijo, Sound Rivers

PM mtg – Jasyn Griffith, Founder of Supporting Peace, a local nonprofit

July 16 – AM mtg – John Barnes, New Bern Preservation Foundation

July 23 – AM & PM mtg – Dave Super, Rotary video from 2026 President-Elect Training Seminar

July 30 – AM mtg – To be announced

Club announcements

- Annual Installation Dinner, Thursday, June 25, Chelsea Restaurant. You already know about this!

Community Service Chair, Gretchen Derda –

- June 20, Saturday – Juneteenth Parade – Henderson Park on Chapman Street at 9:30 to decorate the trailer. Wear your Rotary shirt and/or hat! We are just one of the 37-40 organizations expected to be in the parade!



Oktoberfest Co-Chair, Rodger Allison –

Rodger Allison noted that sponsorships and member donations are coming in, and since some of our sponsors have had to downgrade this year because of the economy, we need to generate \$4,000 in new dollars! Doing his best take on the famous "Uncle Sam Needs You!" from WWII posters, Rodger encouraged all sponsor team members to get out there and close the gap!

Ramona and others will be working on and hoping you will check out our webpage for www.newbernrotary.org/fundraisers/oktoberfest with updates and representative photos of this important club event. The QR block is there to pay for sponsorships, member

donations, and as of late July, order tickets!

CART:

CART Champion, David Whitley, led us in two FTTs – Finger Tapping Tests – one for each hand. This exercise measures our motor skills, an indicator of susceptibility to decreasing brain function. We were encouraged to tap and count our forefinger and thumb for 10 seconds. Results: between 45-50 is "normal"; 30-45 is mild concern; 20-30 is indication of brain kinesia; and less than 20 suggests further testing would be advisable. Support Alzheimer's research with your coins, cash, checks, or online donations to CART (the Blue Buckets on the tables each week!)



Health & Happiness:



“Happy Thursday, everyone!” began the Health & Happiness report from Bette Morris this morning with only one member date to share:

Member Birthdays – George Brake (6/20) – we’re even having a parade!

Although we won’t be having a regular meeting for two weeks, she needs to have volunteers letting her know if they will be at RCS on Friday, July 3, to prepare and serve lunch! There are two shifts: 8:30-10:30 for lunch prep, and 10:30-12:30 for serving and clean-up. There are now children coming for lunch since school is out, so we need a good First Friday at RCS turnout! PLEASE contact Bette if you can be there for one or both shifts!

Email: bettekaymorris@verizon.net or call/text to 214-883-7516.

Happy Dollars:

Rodger Allison collected Happy Dollars this morning – and a not so happy dollar from Diane Vandersall, to announce she and Tim will be moving in July to Hilton Head, SC. Lunch money came to \$15 and although the Queen is at \$146, Birthday Boy George Brake missed drawing the red Queen card.



In case you missed all the photos on our Facebook or Instagram pages, and were not participating or viewing the parade, I thought I’d share some of these pics of our showing up for this day of celebration for the holiday celebrating Freedom From Slavery in the U.S.A on June 19, 1865.

Members Dre’ Nix, Sharon C. Bryant, and Tara Bailey are major players in the leadership of the Juneteenth committee who have organized the very impressive and expanded month-long schedule of events for New Bern’s Juneteenth celebrations, activities, festivals, parade, and so much more! Congratulations to each of them for all their hard work to bring history to life in our community!



