

Rotary Club of Alamance

Gold Club

Rotary International Presidential Citation
100% Rotary Foundation Sustaining Member Club

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Club News

January 6th, 2015 Meeting

President Sang Ho Lee opened the meeting. Cliff Parker gave the invocation and led the pledge of allegiance to the flag.

Guests and Visitors

- Visiting Rotarians Don Cox and Phil Lennon from the Greensboro Coliseum Rotary Club
- Amy and Katherine Segosyan
- Tanya Feagins, Rotary District Youth Exchange Director

General Announcements

- Next Tuesday twenty South Korean students and two adult advisors will be visiting our meeting. They will be here for two weeks as part of the Sister Cities Program with Gwacheon City, South Korea. Barbara Shepherd, the Sister Cities State Coordinator, will be speaking at our meeting.
- Micah Fox will have the program on the 20th. Julian Griffin will have it on the 27th.
- Randy and Rita Perkins will be going to India as part of the upcoming Rotary International Immunization Program. They will participate in immunizing children for one day. The rest of the trip will be spent visiting various tourist sites and past and present Rotary projects. The District plans to purchase a number of \$100 sewing machines to equip some of the Indian women with a means of making a livelihood. Randy will be asking for contributions toward this goal.

Happy Clams

- Micah Fox paid his dollar to tell the club that he passed out copies of Northstar Marketing's annual belated Christmas card which graced each table.

Katie Dukeshire: Hospitality Professional, Rotarian, Devoted Daughter

and Sister, Dog Owner, and our Next Club President

Before introducing our speaker, Katie wished us all a Happy 2015. She claimed that most everyone knows who she is; so, she gave a very brief bio before introducing our guest speaker. She is from Greensboro, attended Peace University and UNC. Her Mom is at Twin Lakes. She has two sisters, and a dog. In the past she served as our Public Relations Chair, taking that department of the club to a new level. She is the kind of person who does all things well, and we look forward to having her as our next president.



Program: Tanya Feagins - The Rotary Youth Exchange Program

Tanya is the Rotary District 7690 Youth Exchange Program Officer. She visited our club last May when we were just getting started with the process of sponsoring Katherine Segposyan beginning this Fall for a long-term exchange to Croatia. Tanya is a member of the Airport Rotary Club in Greensboro. She is now retired from working in the Guilford County School System where she first became interested in Rotary's exchange program. She and her husband David endowed a scholarship program to assist students who wish to participate in such enrichment opportunities.

Tanya opened her remarks by saying that she was excited to hear that our club is also involved in the Sister Cities exchange program with Gwacheon City, South Korea. She mentioned that a Rotary Club in Kernersville is looking into doing such an exchange with a city in Taiwan and may be contacting us for any help we can give them.

Each year, Rotary Youth Exchange provides about 8,000 young people with the opportunity to experience the cultures, problems, and accomplishments of people in other countries. Through this Rotary program, students are given the opportunity to grow as individuals while their concept of the world is growing too. Participants return with a broader view of the world and a deeper understanding of themselves. As a result, Rotary's Youth Exchange program is a powerful force in the promotion of world understanding and peace. Through Youth Exchange, Rotarians seek to provide the best possible environment for students. The program enjoys the advantages of over 46 years of experience and a network of more than 1.2 million Rotarians around the world. This experience and support system ensures the best possible exchange for participants in the program.

The United States State Department works with Rotary International to provide structure, safeguards, policies, and procedures that will insure that participating youths will be as safe as possible during their overseas adventure. Both RI and the State Department run audits, which can make the process complicated. Our District has a small group which handles all applications at that level. ESSEX (Eastern States Student Exchange) makes the actual assignments of students to countries and host families. Each of the 80 host countries must be a member of ESSEX, which oversees both inbound and outbound

exchanges. Our district shares trips, orientations, and opportunities with District 7710 (Raleigh and Wake County) as a partnership in NC. District 7710 has four Youth Exchange Students: one each from Brazil, Argentina, Italy, and Iceland. Our district currently has two inbound exchanges, one from France and another from Thailand.

All exchange students must agree to keep five rules during their exchange: no drinking, driving, drugs, dating, or derogatory remarks (on social media). They go through a thorough orientation and are selected based on their ability to properly represent Rotary and its mission. Our district also does a summer exchange which lasts eight weeks and does not require school attendance. These exchanges take place between Rotary families and are reciprocal. Pairings are always made with persons of the same gender.

The cost to parents is the round trip airfare, a Rotary approved insurance policy, and registration with a Rotary approved travel agency. Of course, other expenses will include the students' personal needs. The receiving Rotary club provides housing through a host family and a stipend of \$100 per month. Other Rotarians and support families usually kick in extra amounts to help cover costs. Our district partners with District 7710 in Raleigh and Wake County to conduct inbound student orientations. Tanya said that social media plays a big part in maintaining connections and relationships which usually last a lifetime. Parents are not allowed to visit their children until after the official exchange is completed and when Rotary's liability is ended. Students are expected to work through their homesickness on their own. The exchange program is open to children of Rotarians and scholarships are available. Tanya encouraged members of our club to get the word out to the community about this great life enrichment opportunity.

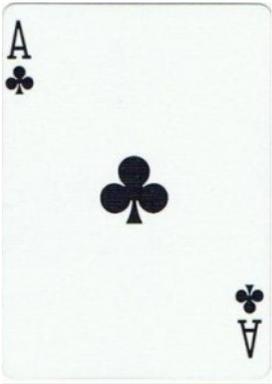
Tanya asked Katherine Segposyan, our sponsored student who is picture on the right after being given a Rotary mug by President Lee, to share a few words. She said that she began the process last March. She wanted to do something special during what will amount to a "gap" year in her education, due to the fact that she skipped a grade. Her mother, Amy, discovered the Rotary Exchange Program and contacted our club in September. She completed an extensive application, met with members of our club and the district, and submitted all the additional paperwork in late November. ESSEX notified her on December 22 that she would go to her first choice, Croatia. She does not yet know who her host family will be. Katherine said she selected Croatia because she believes she will be able to undo some of the misconceptions about that region and be able to have a higher degree of immersion into the culture there, since it is not such a well known tourist spot. She believes she has a greater chance of experiencing true assimilation into the culture in that country. Although she does not know Croatian (yet), she said most of the young people are fluent in English. Tanya added that there were only two available slots for Croatia last year. Katherine committed early and is outstanding; so, she was selected for one of the slots this year. Her reason for doing the exchange matches Rotary's commitment to peace making in the world.



Katherine's mother, Amy, commented that participating in an exchange program seems natural for her daughter; although, it has been a little nerve wracking for her and her husband. She said it has been a learning process and that Katie Dukeshire and Tanya Feagins have been a great help. She and her daughter have met other Rotary Exchange students, which has made the world seem smaller.



For more information, simply click on the Rotary Youth Exchange button on the menu on the left of this page. [You can also click here to view a PowerPoint presentation on the subject.](#) As is our tradition, President Lee presented our speaker with a plaque commemorating her visit to the club. The photo is on the left.



Card Drawing

The irrepensible Peter Barcus did the honors today since Dick O'Donnell is vacationing still. The winning ticket was #054, which was held by our guest speaker Tanya Feagins. She selected one of the 23 remaining cards, but drew the 8 of Diamonds instead of the elusive Ace of Clubs. The kitty remains at \$750.

Closing

As is our custom, we all stood to say aloud the Rotary Four Way Test, and the meeting was adjourned by President Lee. Until we meet again...

Club Related Dates

District and Club Business

- **2nd Tuesday of Each Month** - For officers and committee chairs, 11 am until Noon.
- **March 31, 2015** - Club Assembly
- **April 30 - May 3, 2015** - District Conference in Roanoke, VA
- **June 30, 2015** - Installation of New Officers and Board

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Jan	Birthdays	Jan	Wedding Anniversaries
14	Debbie Porch		None This Month
17	Tom Manning		
20	Carolyn Rhode		
29	Cliff Parker		

Want to see when you have program speaker responsibilities? Simply click on the Programs link below or the same link on the menu on the left above.

Programs Schedule



Meets on Tuesdays from Noon until 1 PM at 40 West Grill in the Ramada Inn in Burlington, NC

Club 6090, District 7690 Piedmont NC
Chartered March 31, 1981

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