

CLUB NEWS

KIWANIS CLUB OF MECKLENBURG COUNTY CHARTERED IN 1952

BOX 33573 --- CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA 28233
Internet Web Site – <http://mecklenburgkiwanis.org>

Four Points Sheraton - 201 S. McDowell St. – 1st & 3rd Mondays at Noon

VOLUME IX

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KIWANIS WEEK 23

GERALD BAYSDEN kicked off the meeting, and then asked *CHET HELT* to lead us in singing *America* and then in reciting our *Pledge of Allegiance*. *CHET* then delivered the invocation. *SAM MCMAHON* was recruited at the last minute to serve as our *Greeter*. We filled four tables with a total of 20 people, including prospective member, *ROD SMITH*, our speaker, and 18 club members.

THIS WEEK

Highly decorated Vietnam War hero *QUINCY COLLINS*, who served 7 ½ years as a prisoner of war, spoke with us about his ordeal at the hands of his Vietnam captors.

Born on July 4th 1931, *QUINCY* graduated from the Citadel and later became a pilot in the air force. While on duty in Viet Nam, he flew a huge F105 jet. On the day he was to crash and become incarcerated, he was flying close to the speed of sound trying to bomb a bridge.

After the plane was hit by ground fire, he ejected and parachuted into enemy hands. He regained consciousness surrounded by four squatting Vietnamese farmers who tried to use him as “bait” to lure in unsuspecting rescuers. Eventually, he was taken to a filthy hospital where his wounded knee was tended to.

After this, he was taken to the “Hanoi Hilton” section of the prison camp, where help was withheld for those with wounds. Here he was kept naked and handcuffed behind his back with one leg in irons. While jailed, the P.O.W.’s who could not see each other, communicated through a rudimentary system of tapping on their cell walls. *QUINCY* said that their main objective, like that of an alcoholic, was just to make it through the

ordeal one day at a time. Their prisoner’s creed while held captive, “Unity before Self.”

NEXT MEETING

RON LAW of the Carolinas Concert Association will be the speaker at our next meeting on Monday, March 21.

LITERACY MONTH PLANS

Plans are moving forward for the Club’s sponsorship along with the YWCA, Queens University and the Charlotte Public Library of Literacy Month beginning later this month. Members wishing to participate in the program by accepting a 20-30 minute reading stint with a group of children should contact President *GERALD* at 704/331-2220.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTED IN CLUB

MICHAEL HARRIS, CEO of the Bethlehem Center was inducted into the Club at this meeting. *MICHAEL* was sponsored by *JOHN JONES*, the elder. He and *MATT*, *GERALD*, and *FRANK* did the honors. *MICHAEL* lives in Gastonia with wife, *KATHY* and his four children. His e-mail address is: mharris@bethlehomecenter.org His business and home phone numbers are on the reverse side.

OFFICERS 2004-2005

PRESIDENT.....GERALD BAYSDEN (704/331-2220)
PRESIDENT ELECT.....MATT HAGLER (704/409-4732)
VICE PRESIDENT.....MARK MOGUL, MD (704/384-1900)

SECRETARY.....BILL CRAEMER, JR. (704/556-1625)
TREASURER ROBERT SWANSON (704/366-8427)
PAST PRESIDENT.....FRANK SHEPHERDSON (704/568-5657)

DIRECTORS CLASS OF 2006

QUENTIN ANDERSON (704/542-9623)
GASTON GAGE.....(704/334-3317)
JOHN JONES, SR.....(704/525-5717)

CLASS OF 2005

BOB ASHMORE.....(704/489-2123)
SAM MCMAHON(704/525-2177)
LOGAN PRATT.....(704/571-7812)

TABLE TALK

Celebrating birthdays this month are *BILL CRAEMER* 3/18 and *TERRY FRIDELL* 3/30. The Club is planning to have inter-club meetings during May and June....both Charlotte clubs and Shelby.