

The Mecklenburg Missile

Comin' Atcha

Kiwanis Club of Mecklenburg, Charlotte, Inc.

Organized August 5, 1952

P. O. Box 33573, Charlotte, NC 28233-3573

Missile Launcher: Bob Swanson

Meeting: Monday, August 6, 2012

Next Meeting: Monday, August 20

Today's Program

Birthday Party! 60 years!!!!

Mecklenburg Kiwanis is now a rather small Club. But it was not always so. There was a time when we had more than 150 members. And we were a real force in the community.

President Jenn called upon long-time members Sam McMahon and Bob Swanson for some remarks about Mecklenburg Club and Kiwanis International history.

Your Club has a varied past in both fund-raising and charitable projects. Foremost of the latter was undoubtedly the concept - and ultimate building - of Boys Town. A Juvenile Court clerk, Fred Kennedy, came to us in 1969 and outlined his idea for a facility similar to the famous Boys Town in Nebraska. It would have several residential cottages, each of which would house "cottage parents" and 12 boys. The boys would be referred by the court system, but would NOT be bad boys due for punishment. They were to be referred if, for whatever reason, they had no natural - or surrogate -parents who could - or would - care for them. We were so excited about the idea that we voted on the spot to appropriate \$5,000.00 to study the feasibility of the project. And later pledged \$75,000.00 to build the first cottage (the Kiwanis Cottage).

The Boys Town campus has moved from near Pineville to a site inside Charlotte, and now houses boys and girls who might be there for different reasons. But still it sports a "Kiwanis Cottage."

We have funded numerous other projects; but in recent years our efforts have been directed toward helping children afflicted with cancer (Kiwanis Pediatric Cancer Fund).

We have tried several means of raising funds, but the most successful and longest-lasting was the Travelog Series. Contracting through Ralph Windoes Travelogs, of Grand

Rapids, Michigan, we sponsored a series of six programs at Ovens Auditorium spaced approximately a month apart, from September through April each year - for 38 seasons. Travelogs eventually, nationally, not just in Charlotte, began to feel the competition of free promotional programs, not to mention television. In its heyday we had numerous standing-room-only audiences in Ovens. But time caught up with us and we finally had to abandon the project. For several years running we cleared close o \$30,000.00 per season.

Then there was the Wally Fowler Gospel Sing; door-to-door light bulb sale; the Tweetzie Railroad; and a few other abortive attempts at making money. But none were nearly as successful over the long-haul as the Travelogs.

Mecklenburg Club Member Directory

is now available through our web site:

www.mecklenburgkiwanis.org

To access it you will need to log in - which requires you to pre-register with your email address and a unique password of your choosing. The home screen has a "Member Login" tab. This will take you to the KiwanisOne login page. Once you have registered, you can simply log in from this page and use the various tabs there - one of which is simply titled "Member." Click on "View Members" - and, guess what? - you have it!

Just follow the instructions to edit your own page, and/or to download a printable version of the whole directory.

Club Secretary Frank Shepherdson is now your webmaster. Our page is still very new and far from complete. As Frank has time, he will be updating it periodically.

You will also find ready access to the wealth of information on the entire web site of Kiwanis International.

Meets 12:00 Noon, 1st & 3rd Mondays: Villa Antonio Ristorante, 4707 South Boulevard
Web Site: <http://www.mecklenburgkiwanis.org>