



THE GREENVILLE ROTARIAN

"Service above self"

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New Rotary president installed



Nell Stewart, left, was installed on July 9th as president of the Rotary Club of Greenville for 2002-2003. Here, she accepts the gavel from the outgoing president, Beth Padgett, who was the first woman elected president of South Carolina's oldest Rotary club, which is approaching 400 members.



Mitchell

In speech to Rotary
Mitchell calls for 'character'

A civic, community and church activist wants Greenville to be recognized as a "city of character."

Dianne Mitchell, who chairs the Community Character Council of Greenville County, spoke at Greenville Rotary's in-

augural meeting of the 2002-2003 year on July 9th.

She expressed her belief that America has a "character problem on its hands," and then asked Rotarians how many of them lock their doors before leaving home that day, and how many recently sealed a business deal with nothing more than a handshake.

She said there is truth in the old adage, "Character is caught, not taught," and followed that up by asking, "But who's doing the pitching?" She said that television, movies and music often leave young people with a distorted definition of true character, and that "these young people are going to be showing up at your places of work."

Character problems in the workplace range from low productivity and poor quality to absenteeism, stealing and lying. She said that 80 percent of problems in the workplace are related to character and only 20 percent to skill. She pointed out that good character in the workplace enhances morale, improves the quality of service, and increases profits.

Sen. Thomas pushes 'PalmettoPride'

Rotarians will be encouraged to show more "PalmettoPride" when South Carolina Senator David Thomas visits our club to "talk some trash" — actually, the absence of it.

Since 1999, the Greenville County senator has chaired The Governor's Council on Beautification and Litter. From the beginning of the PalmettoPride program, Thomas has envisioned developing a statewide campaign to further enhance the natural beauty of South Carolina while involving concerned citizens, state agencies, local and state delegations, existing grassroots organizations, and the private sector in this beautification effort.

PalmettoPride aims at the eradication of litter and the promotion of beautification in South Carolina.

Thomas was elected to the state Senate in 1984 from District 8. He chairs the Banking and Insurance Committee and is past chair of the Corrections and Penology Committee. He currently is a member of the Finance and Medical Affairs Committee.



The Family of Rotary

Two new additions to the Family of Rotary — **Charlie Champagne** and **Challin Logan** — were introduced at the July 9th meeting. It was announced at the

last meeting that 300 **American flags** had been sold, more than 70 of them in the Gower community. **Nell Stewart** had just returned from the Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain, when she was installed as Club President for 2002-2003. Alluding to a number of new projects being developed for the current year, she challenged every member to be involved in various Rotary activities. She encouraged Rotarians to put into practice the current RI theme, "Sow the Seeds of Love."

And in our larger Family of Rotary, the Rotary Club of Vancouver, Wash., club sponsors a mentoring program in which adults reach out to at-risk grade school students by taking them to lunch. The simple approach of the successful **Lunch/Reading Buddy program** is producing results for kids by providing them with positive role models and boosting their self-confidence. The program recruits and screens potential applicants. After parental consent, adult mentors are assigned one grade school student as their lunch buddy. More than 160 mentor-and-student pairs meet weekly to simply have lunch and talk about hobbies and interests at one of the participating local schools.

Presidential Pondering

What great opportunities there are for us this year in the Rotary Club of Greenville — our Rotary Club — your Rotary Club. We have the opportunity to work together to fulfill our mission of "service above self."

The international theme this year is "Sow the Seeds of Love." Our RI President Bhichai Rattakul is an exciting, soft-spoken man with a big heart. That is evident in the theme he has chosen, but even more when one meets this impressive gentleman face-to-face. He believes that the most effective and rewarding service comes from the heart. President Bhichai's wish — and mine — is for every Rotarian, every member of our Club, to experience firsthand the joy of true Rotary service this year.

You will have opportunities and challenges this year to enjoy service through giving of your means, as well as your efforts, expertise and time. Don't miss any of these opportunities to experience the joy of service as you give from your heart.

Thank you for letting me serve you as your President this year. Based on the great accomplishments under President Beth, we are poised to have the best year yet! As we "Sow the Seeds of Love," we will make our community and our world much better.

— Nell Stewart

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Bhichai Rattakul, RI President
Bruce Baker, District 7750 Governor

Nell Stewart, President **Frank Kolb, Acting Secretary**
Terry Weaver, President-Elect **David Karr, Treasurer**
Don Kirkland, Bulletin Editor

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Karr elected club treasurer

Greenville Rotary has a new treasurer, David Karr, who began duties this month. He succeeds Frank Kolb, who held the title of executive secretary-treasurer and who now serves as acting secretary.



Karr

Karr, a member of our club since 1980 and past chairman of Rotary Charities, is chief financial officer for Park Place Corporation and president of Comfortaire Corporation. Active with the United Way Community fund since 1978, he has been a trustee of the United Way in 1987-89 and since 1998. He has been an ex-officio member of the Rotary board of directors since 1983 and is a Paul Harris Fellow.

A native of Wadsworth, Ohio, Karr moved to Greenville when he was six years old.

He and his wife Katherine have three children — Scott, who was married in Pennsylvania on July 6th; and teenagers Stacy and Stephanie.

New Members Proposed _____

Richard Sturm, Senior Vice President of Commercial Operations, South Carolina Bank and Trust, under the classification of Commercial Banking, sponsored

by Dean Livingston and Pat Currie.

Geoff Wasserman, President, Showcase Now, under the classification of Marketing, sponsored by Dan and Kelly Wood.

RI president states 2002-03 Rotary mission

RI President Bhichai Rattakul took office on July 1st with a call to Rotarians to grow the organization through a renewed commitment to the four Avenues of Service — especially vocational service — and a return to the grassroots values that will empower clubs “to chart their own course, set their own goals, and fulfill their own dreams.”

In keeping with the 2002-03 Rotary theme, “Sow the Seeds of Love,” he encouraged Rotarians to devote their professional and business skills to rediscovering the principles that enabled Paul Harris and co-founders to build a new movement based on the human desire to share and serve.

A charter member of the Rotary Club of Dhonburi, Bangkok, Thailand, since 1958, Rattakul has served RI as district governor, trustee of the Rotary Foundation, and chairman of the Executive Committee of Rotary International. He is the recipient of The Rotary Foundation’s Distinguished Service Award and Citation for Meritorious Service for his support of its international humanitarian and educational programs.