



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

October 24, 2023

2023-2024 Board Members

President Edwin Peacock

Pres Elect Kim Brattain

Past Pres William Bradley

Secretary John Cantrell

Treasurer Craig Field

Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2022-2024

Will Barnhardt

Glenn Bouley

Margaret Donovan

Laura Little

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Joel Ford

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Andy Dinkin



Josh Stein ~ A Hero To Consumers

by **Marilynn Bowler**

It was "there" in the room on Tuesday when North Carolina Attorney General - and NC Democratic Gubernatorial Candidate - Josh Stein spoke to a full ballroom of Charlotte Rotary members. What was "there" was audience focus and interest in hearing his platform and his "take" on relevant current issues. And Josh Stein delivered.

From the moment he stepped to the speaker's mic until he answered every question from the audience following his address, he gave smart and well-thought-out responses.

He was introduced by his good friend and Charlotte Rotary member **Tony Lathrop** who shared a long and impressive bio, highlighting the AG's roster of accomplishments from what he's done for our State to what he's done on a national level. A graduate of Dartmouth College with a law degree from Harvard University, Josh Stein grew up in North Carolina and has spent his career working to protect consumers from all matters of fraud.

AG Stein began his remarks by asking how many of us love North Carolina and, responding to the room of applause, ran through a list of reasons WHY we all should love this State. He cited his own father's achievements, noting that his Dad joined Julius Chambers and James Ferguson to form North Carolina's first integrated law firm, so his dedication to working on justice for ALL is genetic.

His overriding theme was "protection." Protecting people of all backgrounds from those who exploit, pollute, threaten and harass. Protecting people of all ages, nationalities and backgrounds who receive

less than they've earned and deserve. Protecting people because it's the right thing to do.

Josh Stein is a fighter for justice. He has a record of spearheading laws to enforce protection against those who exploit consumers, young people, and senior citizens. He has taken on major corporations like DuPont, Chemours, Duke Energy, Juul and others to force them to comply with regulations and laws. He is a staunch advocate for voting rights, health care, a fair criminal justice system, prison for opioid trafficking and loan shark predators, and more. The list is long, and he is vigilant in his efforts to protect us all. "Attack the crises" is his rallying cry.

It was at our very meeting that he announced that he's leading the lawsuit which he and forty-one other attorneys general have filed against Meta, the social media company that owns Facebook and Instagram, regarding Meta's efforts to hook young people under thirteen without their parents' consent simply to make money. In fact, the investigation is ongoing and there are plans to include TikTok as well as other social media.

During the Q&A session, he addressed the topic of urban versus rural community needs as posed by Susie Masotti. "How," she asked, "do we bridge the divide?" Josh Stein listed his agenda to resolve that divide, citing the need for strong educational institutions, hospitals in every community, investment in kids, and transportation networks.

During and following Josh Stein's remarks the affirmation in the ballroom was palpable.

We wish him the best of luck in his quest to become North Carolina's next Governor.

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/877728503>
The speaker's introduction begins at approximately 17:05 minutes.