



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

November 28, 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

Mark Norman

Diego Ramon

Robert Shaw

Directors 2023-2025

Patrick Baker

Linwood Bolles

Terri DeBoo

Andy Dinkin

Donna Dunlap

David Head

Joel Ford

Membership Terri DeBoo

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Andy Dinkin



Give Us A "MILES" And We'll Take Him

by **Marilynn Bowler**

It was "ATKINS DAY" at Charlotte Rotary on Tuesday when we were honored to have the popular and esteemed Mayor of Mooresville, Miles Atkins, address our club. His sister, our own fabulous **Tish Atkins Charles**, introduced him. And, as a happy surprise to all - including Tish - we watched and listened as their father, Robert ("Bob") Atkins called in from Tampa, FL to share the secret that he had just made Tish a Paul Harris Fellow. Bob is a thirty-year Rotarian as well as a Paul Harris Fellow, and Miles is one, also, so the Atkins family now boasts THREE Paul Harris Fellows. It was a touching moment when **Christine Cipriano** put her cell phone to the MIC so we could all hear Bob tell Tish of his poignant and meaningful gift. Congratulations, Tish, and thank you, Bob!

In introducing Miles, Tish spoke with great pride of her brother ... of his background and his roster of accomplishments beginning with serving as Student Body President in their high school in Tampa; graduating with a degree in Political Science from the very excellent Auburn University; being elected Town Commissioner for Mooresville; and - in 2011 - stepping into the role as Mayor of thriving Mooresville. Our meeting was, he told us, his last "official duty as Mayor of Mooresville" since he had chosen not to run for re-election. There are exciting new objectives and interesting new challenges in his vision for the next chapter of his life.

Miles leaves a highly successful history of leadership in his tenure as Mayor. He is considered a visionary, a leader who focuses on accountability and transparency, and a proponent for a strong economy and accountable governance. Most recently he collaborated with the mayors of Troutman and Statesville to support the BULLY project which seeks to eradicate bullying in schools throughout the United States. Add to that, his current involvement with the Iredell Health System for which he serves as Director of Corporate Affairs and Government Relations.

Miles caught our attention as soon as he stepped to the MIC. He began by referencing the classic "mistake" Charlotte had made by not electing our superb Charlotte Rotary President **Edwin Peacock** as mayor a few years ago and we all chuckled at Edwin's reaction to that statement. Miles was then candid in his positive review of Vi Lyles as our Mayor, calling her a "visionary who works so well with other mayors."

Miles Atkins is extremely well-spoken, authentic, and knows his "stuff" about Mooresville. He asked us, "What's so great about Mooresville?" and then answered his own question with a long roster of facts to prove it. His list of that city's accolades was topped off by several impressive facts inclusive of: Mooresville is in the Top Ten of Best Small Cities in which to live; it's the fastest growing city in North Carolina; it has the lowest tax rate in the Charlotte region; and there were many more!

With pride he described Mooresville as charming, rich in traditional values, vibrant and bustling, and with access to one of the most gorgeous and user-friendly lakes in the Carolinas. (And, P.S.: It's within an easy drive to Charlotte-Douglas Airport.) Downtown Mooresville is thriving with its shops and restored signs, which makes for fantastic shopping experiences. Indeed, the city is considered a regional destination for shoppers galore. There are parks and great schools and antique malls and coffee shops. Plus, Mooresville is not only the home base of many race car drivers and the sport of racing, it's also the home base of sixty+ motorsports and automotive-related businesses and it's the corporate headquarters for LOWE'S and a variety of other businesses (think NASCAR and Pensky) ...all of which drive employees of those companies as well as visitors and residents to that beautiful town. (Did we know, he asked, that professional and amateur bobsleds are actually made in Mooresville?) He spoke of the enormous talent base of skilled and diversified workers which add to the economic impact of the Mooresville area.

By the time Miles concluded his remarks we were all eager to head to Mooresville to enjoy those parks, that lake, the scenery and the shopping and job opportunities. And to just have fun in Mooresville!

Congratulations to the awesome "ATKINS THREE" ... Tish, Miles and Bob. A pretty impressive trio.

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/889231683>
The speaker's introduction begins at approximately 36:00 minutes.