



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

August 13, 2024

2024-2025 Board Members

President Kim Brattain

Pres Elect Patrick Baker

Past Pres Edwin Peacock

Secretary Bill Gill

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Sergeant at Arms

Mike Wollinger

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Terri DeBoo

Andy Dinkin

Donna Dunlap

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David Head

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Benton Bragg

John Cantrell

Tish Atkins Charles

Dena Diorio

Stuart Hair

Jesse Hite

Virginia Owen

Membership John Cantrell

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Luther Moore



Brian Norris, Director, Honeywell

by **Paul Bartholomy**

Brian Norris was welcomed to the stage of Charlotte Rotary by **Chris Thomas**, who recalled the exciting time in 2018 of learning that Honeywell's headquarters was coming to Charlotte, NC. Brian was quick to also recount the opportunity that this presented after he found out the news.

Being involved in designing this building was a "crowning achievement of my career so far" he stated. He explained that the design is a testament of people, space, and optimization of technology. It showcases Charlotte through art procured by local curated artists, minority groups, and vendors of the local Charlotte community.

However, this feat was made even more impressive given that it was accomplished during the pandemic. Brian explained that there was a "career's worth of lessons learned". They were given a two-year window to complete construction. There were three shifts of workers during each 24-hour period, and if any individual presented symptoms, that shift was shut down for two weeks. This coupled with supply chain issues merely added to the challenge. Yet, in the end, they successfully completed the project on time and under budget exactly two years and one day from breaking ground.

As a Marine Corps Veteran, Brian truly appreciated Rotary's commitment to time as he smiled and pointed out that we were right on schedule with the meeting. He also loved the inclusion of song at Rotary, as it reminded him of his comradery and how it brings people together.

Brian explained that Honeywell is a global leader in sustainability and has a commitment to carbon neutrality by 2035. In fact, he noted that Honeywell began their carbon neutral walk themselves about 20 years ago, and the company has decreased their carbon footprint by about 20 million metric tons during that time. As Director of Integrated Facilities Management with the Global Real Estate Team at Honeywell, Brian is tasked with helping make buildings and operations more sustainable. We strive to "leverage technology and data to help foster a better and brighter community", said Brian.

Brian noted that vacant space in buildings is a problem in Charlotte. He says it is likely that 2 in every 5 floors is unoccupied. Honeywell works to fix this vacancy issue by helping occupants enter the space and meet their carbon-neutral goals through more sustainable designs. Needless to say, Brian is a proponent of return-to-office for Charlotte's workforce, which he mentions would increase the activity of all the things that help make Charlotte thrive.

What seemed to be most important to Brian is making meaningful connections and trying to give back to the community. He touched on how action speaks louder than words. Brian suggested that initiatives around community engagement sometimes focus too much on talk. "Talk is good, but talk requires activity, and activity requires commitment" Brian eloquently stated. He pointed out how much he focuses on driving results through commitment, and how he feels this is aligned with our mission at Rotary.

Brian closed with a quote from "The Four Agreements" by Don Miguel Ruiz referencing one of the four pillars - "Be impeccable with your word". Community service, in particular, requires the commitment and dedication of people, Brian explained. He has made this his mission and he was excited to meet so many in Rotary with the same personal goals. The amount of new connections Brian seemed to already be forming as the meeting came to a close was an excellent reflection of these goals being put into motion.

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/998364311>
The program introduction begins at approximately 26 minutes 50 seconds.