



# FLYWHEEL

Weekly Online Newsletter  
of The Rotary Club of Franklin, NC



Chartered November, 1927 - District 7670 - Club 6013

July 17, 2019

## Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center

by John Hubsch

John Short introduced today's program speaker, Mike Barres, Executive Director of the Teen Challenge of the Smokies Men's Center. Barres was a pastor for 36 years before taking this position. When he took the job there was no program and no facility here in Franklin. They opened up at the former Camp Cullasaja off of Highlands Road and have done extensive renovations (\$250K) to the property. They are closing on the purchase of the property tomorrow.



**Mike Barres, Executive Director**

Teen Challenge in Franklin is a non-profit, faith-based Addiction Recovery Program for men. They currently have a staff of 7 and 14 male participants in the year long program. Participants live on site and are asked to pay \$300 per month. Included in the program are group studies, personal studies, one on one counseling, church twice weekly, work details and outdoor activities such as hiking.

Barres told stories about some of the men who have struggled with crime and addictions, who have completed this program and turned their lives around. Teen Challenge teaches men how to deal with issues such as anger and temptation. They do not receive any funding from state or the federal government. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this great program you can go online to [www.mtcots.com](http://www.mtcots.com). They also do accept referrals.



Members of the Rotary Club of Franklin  
celebrated at the Lazy Hiker.  
Patrick Betancourt, was crowned  
President of Franklin Rotary.



## Just A Few Reminders:



Remember to get your silent auction  
items turned in to Patsy. No item is too  
big or too small.

Volunteers are needed to pick up cakes &  
pies on Friday, July 26th.

If you can help, contact Susie Ledford.



**5th**  
Wednesday

Discover Rotary  
Rathskeller - 5:30 PM  
Bring the family & prospective Rotary members



**Kim Angel, director of Macon Transit**, was introduced to the club by our new President Patrick, or should we say President King Patrick as he was wearing his crown?

Ms. Angel is a native of Macon County with 26 years of public service, 22 at Macon County Transit (MCT). She is not only the only director of MCT, but she is also the **ONLY** director MCT has ever had. You might even say she's the "best director ever."

Macon County Transit receives funding from several sources: Federal, state and local grants, local agency contracts, and, of course, the paying riders. From these funds, Ms. Angel employs 20 employees, a mixture of full and part-time.

The creation and development of MCT came from the realization of a need to transport residents for medical care. For example, 20+ years ago, the closest dialysis center was in Sylva and using EMS for transport was not the ideal solution. Veterans needed transportation to the V.A. Hospital in Asheville. Not everyone needing transportation had family members who were available, or in some cases, willing to do the transport.

Data from 2018 states that MCT logged over 48,000 trips over 400,000 miles. This year they may make the half-million mark. On any given day there are 3-4 residents needing to go to Asheville—primarily for medical visits, but there is the occasional shopper. And ridership grew 23% in the last three years.

Macon Transit is not just for the elderly or the disabled; they transport young workers to jobs and bring the hikers into Franklin where they spend their money and time, thus contributing to the local economy.

The fee to ride the bus is described as "it depends." Some residents qualify for free transportation due to a particular grant program for which they qualify; paying riders' fees are determined by where they are going. For the veterans, the VA will reimburse the veterans their fees for transportation.

The mission statement states "efficient, coordinated, cost-effective transportation services"--MCT works to coordinate riders going to the same area and they request a 2-day reservation. They have converted their fuel source to bio-fuel propane and vehicles can run on gasoline or propane. This is not only saving costs, but is also reducing the carbon footprint.



## Rotary program for Wednesday, July 26

One of our own Rotarians was the program for today, Danny Antoine, the owner of the Danny Antoine Martial Arts & Fitness Academy. Jimmy Villiard introduced Danny and noted that he was the 2002 World Karate Champion, but even more, a valued friend.

Danny prefers to be known not as a Karate instructor, but rather as a person who changes lives. After moving here in 1998, he says that God gave him his opportunity to work, and this summer he works with 60-70 kids daily. His summer camp runs Monday-Friday from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm and the students come from varied backgrounds: those with broken homes as well as those who are in well-adjusted homes. He sees “miracle after miracle as God works beside him.”

And as a Rotarian, Danny uses the 4-Way test with his “kids,” or his “family” as he calls them. “The 4-Way test is applicable to everything we do and we do everything in love.”

- Is it the truth (whatever has happened)? And the answer is “yes.”
- Is it fair to all concerned or have I dealt with the situation so that all feel the discipline is fair? And again the answer is “Yes, it makes us better.”
- Will it build goodwill and better friendships? Here Danny described the school’s atmosphere as being like a loving family, and loving families look after one another, never leaving anyone alone or left out.
- Is it beneficial to all concerned? Again, working with love as one’s basis, everyone, even the one in trouble, benefits from the intervention and the discipline.



**Danny Antoine**  
**A Person Who Changes Lives**

Danny's staff is mostly his family/his daughters along with some graduates of the Academy. And Danny credits his wife as being the real hero, sacrificing her husband for the kids. Danny is available 7 days/week, 24 hours/day to any of his kids who may need intervention at home or school or wherever. "I will be there unless I am not in town, even at 2 am."

Many of the issues parents have today come from the changes in society: single parent family, grandparents raising children, young parents with few skills, selfish parenting, lack of a work ethic. Danny, however, believes that there are NO bad kids and that Love changes everything. He does feel that while there are some basic differences between young boys and girls, his philosophy comes down to being with children, talking with children and loving those children.

Several Rotarians attested to the work and the changes Danny has done with our local students; one noted that from the current FHS graduating class , the #2, #12 and #19 ranked students are also graduates of the Danny Antoine Martial Arts Academy.

"Life skills translate into academic success. You do a great job."

by **Lee Berger**

##

### **Rotary Next Week:**

#### **Greeter:**

John Yermack

#### **Prayer/Pledge/4WT:**

Lee Berger

### **Upcoming Programs:**

#### **July 24:**

Rickman Roundup

#### **July 31:**

No Meeting - 5th Wednesday

# Fred's Funnies

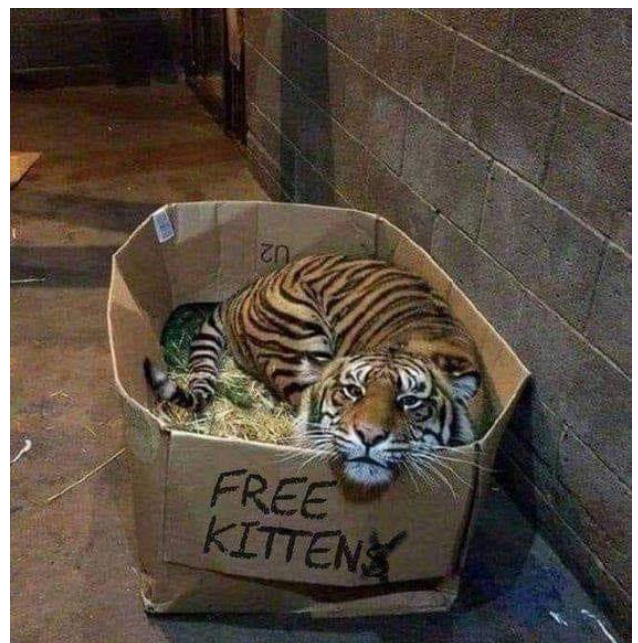


Ruthe Phoenix  
@RuthePhoenix



Took the batteries out of the carbon monoxide alarm because the loud beeping was giving me a headache and making me feel sick and dizzy.

1:55 AM · 07 Dec 15



## You left the toilet seat up



**I'M SO EXCITED !**

**I just got this model of the  
Starship Enterprise from Ebay  
for only \$100 !!**

