



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

March 25, 2025

2024-2025 Board Members

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Past Pres Edwin Peacock

Secretary Bill Gill

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Sergeant at Arms

Mike Wollinger

Exec Dir Christine Cipriano

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Stuart Hair

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Lori Keeton

Virginia Owen

Membership John Cantrell

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Luther Moore



North Carolina State Senator Woodson Bradley

by Elly Clary

Newly minted State Sen. **Woodson Bradley** described her victory thusly:

“Through the campaign, people instilled the courage to just be myself. Many of us might not have had the same philosophy about a lot of things, but you knew my heart and I knew yours, and I listened to you. I thank you.”

She ended her presentation to her Charlotte Rotary home club with that and received a standing ovation.

Democrat Bradley won her south Charlotte district by about 200 votes. She survived multiple recounts and court hearings. She was unsure of her seat until she entered the Senate in January and saw her name on an electronic roster.

Making up for lost time, she got a security badge and clearance. She found a cubby hole office and filled it with discarded furniture – all with good cheer.

“If I started off with a bitter attitude, where would I be right now?” she asked.

The ever-quotable wife of Charlotte Rotary Past President **William Bradley** delivered other nuggets, starting with her desk location. “I like sitting on the back row. I get to see what everybody’s doing.”

On her political views: “I’m the most moderate (Senate member) there. They don’t know what to do with me. They love me, they hate me, they want me to go away. It’s great. I’m having fun.”

Charlotte school children visit her in Raleigh. “I’m very flattered they ask me to give them personal tours. The kids love it, and they ask incredible questions.”

Adults afford similar experiences. “My office has become a pretty interesting place for people to meet. It’s like going into a cool guidance counselor’s office. We discuss ideas, we talk about problems, and we figure out solutions.”

Though sometimes hard, she tries to connect. “People put this distance between you. I’m still Woodson. I’m still your friend. I still want to know what you like. I want to know what you don’t like. I like being approachable.”

Drafting legislation was “a foreign language” to her, but she went to work. She’s composed 26 bills and sponsored others, working with Democrats and Republicans alike.

Answering a question, Woodson recounted “a big loss on the Senate floor.” It concerned legislation that eliminates a required firearm permit.

“I’ve stared down the barrel of a loaded gun,” said Woodson, who is a victim of domestic violence and who owns a concealed carry permit.

She advocated restricting gun access for those serving under a Domestic Violence Protective Order. It went nowhere. The bill passed on a party-line vote.

“I learned a hard lesson,” she said. “I learned what partisan politics are all about. I’m stronger for it.”

Opposition to the bill is swelling, she said, adding that it could turn into a public awareness victory.

“That’s just one example of standing up for something you feel is right, even though you might lose the battle,” she said, and won more applause.

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1069638744>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1069643510>

The speaker introduction begins at about 27 minutes and 55 seconds.