

July is New Rotary Year Month

Spartan Wheel Chariots

More than 50 Thomasville Rotarians participated in last week's virtual club meeting where they got to meet Mr. Ben Huntzinger, founder of Spartan Wheel Chariots. Spartan Wheel Chariots was borne out of Mr. Huntzinger's passion for the outdoors and to fill a need for an affordable wheelchair built especially for the rigors of outdoor life and sport.

Paralyzed in an accident 11 years ago, Ben had in mind the kind of chair that would allow him to once again enjoy the outdoors despite his disability. He taught himself to weld and started piecing together basic supplies from Lowe's and The Home Depot. Eventually, the chair he had envisioned was a reality.

Ben's chair design has two unique features: a sturdy rear suspension and large 10" by 3" front wheels which enable the chair to be ridden over gravel, on fine sand and even in the water. Although there are no known competitors with the exact features of his chair, the starting price for other chairs that a disabled person might consider for rugged outdoor use is \$2,500. Mr. Huntzinger's chairs sell for just \$500.

While attending Southern Regional Technical College, Mr. Huntzinger was encouraged to enter a statewide competition among technical college students. The \$25,000 grand prize that he won served as the seed money for Spartan Wheel Chariots, and he has been making, selling and shipping chairs all over the country ever since. Social media has been the main marketing tool for Spartan Wheel Chariots. Facebook, for example, has a sizeable 'spinal injury group,' and that has been the source of 85% of the company's sales of about 120 chairs per year. Currently, Spartan Wheel Chariots is a one-man operation that keeps Ben busy when he's not studying at Thomas University to become an educator. However, Mr. Huntzinger hopes to have a full-scale production facility one day, possibly employing others who would share his passion. The large number and variety of questions and comments from participants in the meeting suggest that Thomasville Rotarians strongly admire Mr. Huntzinger's passion, and many seem eager to offer guidance and support as he considers the future of his business.

Striving to Be Better

As we enter our 100th year, the Rotary Club of Thomasville is placing renewed focus on Rotary's code of honor—the Four-Way Test. To define those efforts and bring the Test to life, we gathered input from members of the executive board and from members of the club.

President John Brown and his board are making the Four-Way Test part of its Code of Conduct. They also hope to weave the Test into the very fabric of our club and our individual members' lives. The intent is to strengthen our club and to encourage our members to apply the Four-Way Test to their work, family, social, and community lives. "The result will be a better club, serving our community in more meaningful ways," said President John. "I firmly believe that as our members commit more fully to living the Four-Way Test, we'll also become better people—in our businesses, our families, our friendships, our churches, and in every other way we connect to the community."

What is the Four-Way Test? It's twenty-four words. Only twenty-four words. But, taken to heart and put into action, they are powerful words that form a foundation for truth, justice, friendliness, and helpfulness. At its core, the Test focuses on doing what is right.

The Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

1. Is it the truth?
2. Is it fair to all concerned?
3. Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
4. Will it be beneficial to all concerned?

Created in 1932 by Chicago Rotarian Herbert J. Taylor when he took charge of a company facing bankruptcy, the Four-Way Test became a guide for that company and its employees. Their ultimate business success is credited to the simple philosophy.

In 1943, Rotary adopted Taylor's Four-Way Test as watchwords for Rotarians worldwide. The Test has been translated into more than a hundred languages and published in thousands of ways. It is one of the world's most widely quoted statements of business ethics. Rotary Clubs around the world have worked through almost eight decades to ingrain the Four-Way Test in members' daily lives. The Thomasville club is no exception. A silk-screened banner of the Test hangs behind the speaker's podium at every meeting—it's been a tradition for at least 40 years. Wallet cards and desk placards, discussions at fireside chats, reciting the Test at club meetings, special speakers and an annual award honoring a club member with the Four-Way Test Award are methods the Thomasville Club has used to encourage an understanding of and adherence to the Test.

Nathaniel "Without the preamble of the things we think, say or do there is no value in a recitation of the 1,2,3,4 of the Test. An example of someone who lived the Four-Way Test is John Lewis with his 80 years of service to others without scandal, moral missteps, or the acquisition of wealth via his position—only service to others above self."

Ed "It lays down not only the way Rotarians should conduct their business, but the way they should conduct their lives."

Cameron "The essence and the core foundation of the Four-Way Test is truth and fairness. When those core ideals are enacted, the remaining values of the Test occur naturally. At a personal level, following the Test is a self-check on an individual's character. Living by the Four-Way Test builds an ethical business culture and cultivates personal and meaningful relationships."

Andy "Truth matters. Truthfulness is next to Godliness. My Mother taught me and my siblings to treat all people the same. We need to help each other no matter what or who they are. That's the essence of the Test."

Andre' "Character that is authentic. My husband Walter is my living example of the Test. Walter's life reflects JOY, or J-Jesus, O- others, and Y- yourself. He always put our family first and every day he works in service to others in the ministry."

Fran "It's the core value for Rotary and life. I negotiate in my professional life and I apply all four questions to my negotiating, especially, 'Is it fair to all concerned and is it the truth.'"

Scott "It is an honor code for adults. In high school my daughter wrote an essay about how important it was to always tell the truth. She said I was the one who instilled that belief in her. She got an 'A'!"

Nate "'North Star' comes to mind. It's how I separate the noise in the echo chamber of life. When confronted with confusion, I pull out my North Star, the Four-Way Test. The Test always corrects and focuses my thinking. During a difficult time in my career, when assaults were made to undermine the hard work of loyal and dedicated fellow employees, the Four-Way Test guided me as I spoke truth to power."

Angela "To me it means trust. Honesty allows me to trust someone no matter the situation. I knew Nathaniel had a document shredding business, but thought it was for businesses only. When my sister told me to call Abrams to shred my mother's items, I called Nathaniel and he explained the process. I simply told Nathaniel I knew he would do the right thing and handle things appropriately because I know he lives the Four-Way Test."

Herbert Taylor said in 1943 when summarizing the impact of the honor code he created and applied to his business: "We found that you cannot constantly apply the Four-Way Test to all your relations with others in business without getting into the habit of doing it in your home, social and community life. You thus become a better father, a better friend and a better citizen."

For more about the Four-Way Test, visit the Rotary International website or open these links:

<https://rotary5630.org/history-of-the-four-way-test/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sktFp2OYTo>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kjlc0sVX-og>

Thank you to the contributors of this article: Nathaniel Abrams, John Brown, Ed Elam, Cameron Jahnke, Andy Jones, Andre' Marria, Fran Milberg, Nate Tyler, Scott Rich, Angela Williamson

This Week's Program

Rotarian Chief Troy Rich will present an overview of policing in Thomasville.

Thursdays, 12:15 pm
The Plaza Restaurant
217 South Broad Street
Thomasville, GA 31792

July 28, 2020

Meetings

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- 7/30 Cheif Troy Rich
- 8/6 Mellinda Piller - Covid and the impact on Small Business
- 8/13 Danillo Pistelli - A History of Mom and Dads and the Pistelli Family
- 8/20 Regular Meeting

Our Rotary Family BIRTHDAYS

- 7/8 George Stephens, Jr.
- 7/11 Matt Brown
- 7/12 Gerhard Sommer
- 7/19 Coy Irvin
- 7/21 Dale Hodges
- 7/28 Bryant Beadles
- 7/28 Stuart Jackson
- 7/30 Ed Elam, III

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

- 7/9 Tom Callaway, III (43)
- 7/12 Paul Hancock (45)
- 7/12 Debbie Quinton (34)
- 7/12 Donald Sims (51)

YEARS OF SERVICE

- 7/1 Jay Flowers (10)
- 7/1 Scooter Grubbs, III (33)
- 7/1 Donald Sims (31)
- 7/1 Warren Stafford (40)
- 7/1 Jeff Zoller (11)
- 7/1 Mary Beth Donalson (6)
- 7/1 Sharon Patrick (16)
- 7/1 Lauren Vann (4)
- 7/2 Bill Dickey (5)
- 7/4 Erik von Hellens (8)
- 7/4 Alexzandria Bighams (1)
- 7/4 Nic Rahming (1)
- 7/6 Ronnie Godwin (3)
25 years in Rotary
- 7/6 Kim Walden (3)
9 years in Rotary

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1. Is it the truth?

7/11 Ben Wilds (7)
 7/12 Eric Ward (8)
 7/14 Frederick Buechner (4)
 29 years in Rotary
 7/16 Brett Jenkins (0)
 7/17 W. Clay Campbell (8)
 24 years in Rotary
 7/18 Andre Marria (15)
 7/22 David Lewis (10)
 7/30 Charles Hill (1)
 47 years in Rotary
 7/31 John Glenn (23)
 24 years in Rotary

Rotary Online

<https://thomasvillerotary.org>
<https://rotary6900.org/>
<https://rotary.org/>

ROTARY CLUB OF THOMASVILLE

Thursdays, 12:15 pm
 The Plaza Restaurant
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 Thomasville, GA 31792

LEADERSHIP

President	John Brown
President-Elect	Wayne Newsome
Immediate PP	Kim Walden
Treasurer	Teri White
Secretary	Angela Williamson
Foundation	Fran Milberg
Membership	Janet Liles
Public Image	Mike Bixler

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