



## 🌴 Tropical Topics 🌴

**January 13, 2024** was our annual planning meeting. An outline of what was discussed follows.

**Deena Perillo**, our 2023 president, gave an overview of the Club's activities for 2023 and reported on the final numbers for 2023. We can be proud of the 390 volunteer hours, in part due to the Loseys contribution to their son's school band (Thank, Jeff & Liz!).

We were finally able to set up a date with Ronald McDonald House for the presentation of our 2022 donation of \$4,500, a collaboration of monies collected from our annual fundraiser MargaRaleighville and our monthly 50/50s. Donnie Howard chaired this charity.



- Among our other charities were **FOOD BANK OF CENTRAL & EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA**. Along with a portion of the 50/50 funds, Tim & Katie Gillespie, spearheaded this charity and transported over 850 pounds of food that was brought to our meetings each month.



- Our efforts also supported the **A STATE OF CARING** at their Walk in 2023. We have been manning their raffle booth since 1999.
- Kim Kirk was our liaison with the **Animal Disaster Recovery Coalition (ADRC)** and thanked everyone for their contributions through the 50/50 raffle and the dog and cat food, towels and blankets they supplied.



- Toys for Lil Troops, sponsored by **AMERICAN LEGION** was the recipient of our toy collection at the Christmas Party at the American Legion this year. I think we did a pretty good job as Santa's Helpers!



Along with all of the above credits, the 2023 year-end Report to our parent organization, Parrot Heads in Paradise (PHiP), included our dues for 74 members – an ever growing number. The plan is to make that number grow even larger. At one time, we had over 170 members. Without a Buffett Concert, that may be difficult to achieve, but let's see what we can do in 2024!

Deena introduced the new 2024 Board and turned the meeting over to the new president, Art Markart.

**Art Markart**, the incoming president, started off by announcing that 2024 marks our 30<sup>th</sup> Birthday, a time to celebrate our longevity as well as actively live the new theme, **Keep the Party Going**.

Art is doing his part to bring our membership up, and asked all members to do the same. He has already sent a personal e-mail to several lapsed members inviting them to come back and become part of the fun again. Several of those he contacted responded to his invitation at attended this meeting, so we're already headed in the right direction. Increasing our membership in an ongoing goal for the club.

**Chloe Barnett**, who is staying on as the Finance Chair, reported that our available balance is \$3263.87, with an outstanding check from US Veterans Corp of \$120.

Our Charity total from Margaraleighville, which will go to Ronald McDonald House, was \$3,129. Our 50/50 funds amounted to \$371, which will be shared by our 2023 designated charities.

Next up were the new Activities and Events Co-Chairs, **Laura-Leigh and Steve Rowlette**. Laura-Leigh went through a broad list of planned events scheduled in the year ahead. Her comprehensive list will be included later in this newsletter. There was much input, discussion and interest in these fun activities – our own activities and events, those hosted by other clubs around the country, House Concerts, PONDAPALOOZA gigs, and Meeting of the Minds. It was noted that House Concerts are not sponsored by PHofNC, but the Club will help promote them. Check the *EVENT* tab on our private Facebook page, **PHofNC Phlocking**, where many functions will be highlighted, to see who else plans on attending, and ask any questions that you may have about it.

Laura-Leigh also announced that, although our **Margaraleighville** fundraiser has always been held on our usual Saturday meeting date, the second Saturday of the month in September, this year, because The Coast of Carolina Parrot Head Club, Myrtle Beach, is holding the ever popular Throwback Shell Beach Party that day, we have rescheduled ours for **September 7**. She also pointed out that September 7 is NOT Labor Day weekend, so no worries about vacations or BBQ plans. More details will follow.

As a result of member input, we are looking for ideas on what we might do or go after our monthly meeting. Things like axe throwing and bowling were mentioned, but we know there's so much more too. Please talk to Laura-Leigh and Steve if you have any ideas or connections about this.

**Jean & Greg Erlemann** are our new Membership and Merchandise Co-Chairs. Jean asked our new members to submit good quality headshots to so that badges could be made for them. Every attempt will be made to you leid at the meeting following the receipt of your photo.

Please be sure to add your name to the sign-in sheet at each meeting or event you attend.

Also, there is a *Volunteer Hours* sign-in sheet where you and the club get credit for the time you put into outside charities, like the PTA, church, scouts, etc. These numbers are included in our annual Parrot Heads in Paradise (PHiP) report.

Art introduced **Ginny Markart** as the incoming Communications Chair / VP. She went over the various mediums available for information concerning the club. ALL now need updating, which will be done ASAP.

Among these are our two *Facebook* Pages, one (**PHofNCPhlocking**) private for members only and the other (**Parrot Heads of North Carolina**) is public for information and awareness about who we are and what we do. Also available are e-mail and our website.

PHofNC Officer **Emails** are:

Art Markart	<b>phofncpres@gmail.com</b>
Ginny Markart	<b>phofnccomm@gmail.com</b>
Chloe Barnett	<b>phofncfinance@gmail.com</b>
Jean & Greg Erlemann	<b>phofncmembership@gmail.com</b>
Laura-Leigh & Steve Rowlette	<b>phofncevents@gmail.com</b>

Our website is **phofnc.com**

Our new **Club Mailing Address:**

Parrot Heads of North Carolina  
P.O. Box 553  
Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

New monthly **Meeting and Social Location:**

Rally Point Sports Grill  
837 Bass Pro Lane, Cary, NC 27513

**Parrot Heads in Paradise:**

Instagram: [#parrotheadsinparadise](https://www.instagram.com/parrotheadsinparadise)

Twitter: @parrotheadsIP

PHlockers Magazine: [PhlockersMagazine.com](http://PhlockersMagazine.com)

At this point, Art asked for nominations of 2024 charities. He explained that the board had voted at their meeting earlier that week and decided that, with our limited funds, and relatively small membership, we could only support three charities in the coming year.

- Laura-Leigh and Steve Rowlette nominated **Ronald McDonald House**. Since we've been supporting this charity for several years, no further presentation was made.
- Tim & Katie Gillespie nominated the **Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina**. Since we've been supporting this charity for several years, no further presentation was made.
- Ginny Markart nominated Sleep in Heavenly Peace (SHP) and invited Lydia, a representative of the organization, to speak on its behalf.

Lydia explained how all children deserve a safe, comfortable place to lay their heads. Too many go without a bed, or even a pillow, to sleep on. They end up sleeping on couches, blankets, and even floors. SHP is a group of volunteers dedicated to building, delivering and assembling top-notch twin or bunk beds to children and families in need. While there is Corporate underwriting, SHP also accepts financial support to underwrite the cost of the bed builds and the purchase of mattresses and bedding to finish the job.

- Kim Kirk spoke on behalf of **Animal Disaster Recovery Coalition**, which we also supported in 2023. She described the work that was done this past year, how the donations of food and linens was so helpful for the continuation of the work they do, thanked everyone for their donations, and how she, herself, is an active volunteer of the group.

A vote was taken by a show of hands, Marc Pendergrass counted the results, and it was decided that Ronald McDonald House, the Food Bank of Central and Eastern North Carolina, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace would be the beneficiaries of this year's efforts. Although ADRC was not selected, Kim will be happy to accept any towels, sheets, toys, leashes & collars, or pet food that you are looking to pass on.

A second vote was taken with Marc counting that show of hands, and it was decided that all money collected for our charities (MargaRaleighville, 50/50s. etc.) would be divided equally among the three selected charities (1/3, 1/3, 1/3 each).

Art thanked everyone for their input and coming to the meeting. He ended the meeting by asking LaRue Mills to lead the Team Toast.

*There are cruise ships,  
And pirate ships,  
And ships that sail the sea,  
But the BEST ships are FRIENDships,  
And may they ALWAYS be!  
ARRRHH*

We love to hear from you...

- Has your Phone# or Email changed or need a club lanyard? If so, please email [PHofNCMembership@gmail.com](mailto:PHofNCMembership@gmail.com).
- Do you have something you want added to the Tropical Topics? Are there any errors or corrections to be made in the Tropical Topics?? If so, please email [PHofNCComm@gmail.com](mailto:PHofNCComm@gmail.com). Include the words PHofNC Tropical Topics in the subject line.
- Do you have a comment, complaint, or suggestion? If so, please reach out to our club president, or another board member. We care about what you think.

---

**2024 Events and Activities** (so many but certainly not all):

**MONTHLY PHofNC Meetings: 2nd Saturday of every month, 3:00 at Rally Point in Cary**  
[www.phofnc.com](http://www.phofnc.com)

JANUARY 11th-16th GOING ON NOW - Pardi Gras in New Orleans  
[Pardi-Gras](#)

January 19th-27<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the Mayans Week 1 – Belize (20 PHofNC, a few past now living in Punta Gorda, Florida, will be enjoying this excursion. Watch for photos on Facebook!  
[Meeting of the Mayans](#)

FEBRUARY 28th - March 3rd Music on the Bay – Tampa  
[Music on the Bay](#)

MARCH 9th-16th Atlanta Parrot Head Cruise – Changes in Latitude  
[Parrothead Cruise 2024 - Changes in Latitudes](#)

APRIL 19th-22nd ParrotHead Rendezvous - Panama City Beach, FL  
[Rendezvous - Panama City Parrothead Club \(panamacityphc.org\)](#)

JUNE 1st Donnie Brewer - Lone Palm House Concert, Wake Forest, Laura-Leigh & Steve's home  
[laura.leigh@duke.edu](mailto:laura.leigh@duke.edu)

JUNE 13th-16th A1A Beach Bash - Amelia Beach, FL  
[A1A Beach Bash 2024 | MyEvent](#)

June 22 – Here We Are... A Family Reunion Costume BBQ, Indianapolis, IN  
[HERE WE ARE... | June 22, 2024 \(eventcreate.com\)](#)

JULY 26th-28th Pirates in the Harbour, Hanover PA  
[Pirates in the Harbour 2024 Tickets, Fri, Jul 26, 2024 at 11:30 AM | Eventbrite](#)

August 2-4 PH Club of Richmond – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Party, Glen Allen, VA  
[30th Anniversary Party | Parrot Head Club of Richmond \(phcor.com\)](#)

AUGUST 30th-1st Keep the Party Going, Mansfield MA  
[Keep the Party Going! \(nerphc.org\)](#)

SEPTEMBER 7th \*\*MargaRaleighville, PHofNC Annual Party  
[More to Come](#)

SEPTEMBER 12-15th Throwback Shell Beach Party, Myrtle Beach - Coast of Carolina PH Club  
[THROW BACK SHELL BEACH PARTY – COFCPHC](#)

OCTOBER 12th Pondapalooza (Jackie Carter's home) - Jesse Rice  
[Pondapalooza NC](#)

OCTOBER 22nd-27th Meeting of the Minds, Gulf Shores AL  
[\(14\) PHIP, Inc. - IMPORTANT NEWS ABOUT MOTM 2024: Revised Dates The... | Facebook](#)

DECEMBER 14th \*\*PHofNC Christmas Party  
[More to come!](#)