

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

November 30, 2021

2021- 2022 Board Members

President Carol Hardison
Pres Elect William Bradley
Past Pres Jerry Coughter
Secretary Colleen Brannan
Treasurer Edwin Peacock
Exec Sec Christine Cipriano

Directors 2021-2022

Patrick Baker
Bill Bartee
Suzanne Bledsoe
Kim McMillan
Rex Reynolds
Ranjay Sarda
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Directors 2021-2023

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Ellison Clary
Jesse Hite
Warren Kean
Vanessa Stolen

Membership Laura Little

Foundation Joe Morris

Programs Elly Clary



Rotary District 7680 Governor Nico Iannelli

By Jim Kelley

Luther Moore introduced our speaker, District Governor Nico Iannelli.

Nico was born and raised on Long Island, N.Y. Both of his parents immigrated from Italy. Growing up he saw the sacrifices they made by moving to the U.S. He was so grateful for all of the opportunities he had growing up, that it prompted him to enlist in the U.S. Army as a Combat Medic. Nico spent 10 years in the financial industry. Later, he found his passion in commercial insurance & risk management for the last decade. He is a Business Consultant at Marsh & McLennan – serving the risk prevention and commercial insurance needs of middle market companies in the United States.

After meeting Chuck DeMund, Nico became a member of The Rotary Club of Waxhaw-Weddington in 2010. He served as the Club's President in 2014-15, District Membership Committee in 2016 and Assistant Governor for 2017-19. In December 2016, Nico chartered Rotary Means Business District 7680, which encourages Rotarians to support the success of their fellow Rotarians by doing business with them. Additionally, he served as an Advisor for the engagement of Young Professionals for Rotary International's Zone 33/34. Most recently, Nico is humbled to be the President & Flight Director for Queen City Honor Flight, Inc. (501c3). He continues the mission of the Rotary District 7680 Flight of Honor by recognizing the bravery and patriotism of our war veterans with a one-of-a-kind journey to Washington D.C. for a day of Honor-Thank-Inspire. Nico is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow of The Rotary Foundation, a Bequest Society member and member of the Paul Harris Society.

Nico received his Certification from the global leader in executive training, Center for Creative Leadership, to facilitate Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders, a RYLA initiative for Rotary District 7680. The program has transformed the lives of students by delivering a research-based, empowering, leadership development program at the Charlotte Regional Universities.

Nico married his wife Christina on October 10, 2020 on the beaches of Oak Island, N.C. He and his bride live in Waxhaw and together they have five kids.

Nico thanked the members of Charlotte Rotary for all we do to serve. We join 54 other Rotary clubs in District 7680 and over 2,500 Rotary members in 14 counties who learn, serve, network and develop friendships. Nico said it was exciting to have Shekhar Mehta as our honored guest for 11/19/21 District 7680 Rotary Foundation Dinner. Shekhar is our Rotary International President for 21-22.

In honor of the visit from President Shekhar Mehta, Rotary District 7680 and the Rotary Club of Charlotte planted and dedicated a tree at The Mint Museum on Randolph Road, Charlotte. This continues a long-standing Rotary tradition that started in 1939 when Rotary Founder Paul Harris planted a tree in Charlotte. In the 105 history of Charlotte Rotary, we have planted thousands of trees.

Rotary continues to take actions that change lives in Charlotte, across our district and across the world. We work to eliminate polio. We work to empower women and girls. We work to stop human trafficking. With Project RUSH (Rotarians United to Stop Hunger), Rotarians in the district helped provide 24,000 meals.

We support the Peace Fellows program with other Rotary clubs around the world. Each year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers. Through academic training, practice, and global networking opportunities, the Rotary Peace Centers program develops the capacity of peace and development professionals or practitioners to become experienced and effective catalysts for peace. The fellowships cover tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all internship and field-study expenses. Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,400 fellows who now work in more than 115 countries. Many serve as leaders in governments, NGOs, the military, education, law enforcement, and international organizations like the United Nations and the World Bank.

We support The CART Fund with giving in the blue buckets. CART is dedicated to raising funds to provide "seed" money for cutting-edge, high-impact research in hopes of finding prevention and ultimately a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Our district has raised \$1 million for CART.

Nico said it is all about impact and making a difference. In closing, Nico reminded us about the 7680 district conference on February 25 and 26, 2022 at the Grand Bohemian Hotel in Charlotte and he left us with quotes from three inspirational leaders:

Gandhi – **"The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others."**

Martin Luther King - "Life's most persistent and urgent question is: **'What are you doing for others?'**"

Mother Teresa – “I alone cannot change the world but I can cast a stone across the waters to create many ripples.”

Nico asked us to continue casting stones.

*A recording of the program is available here: <https://vimeo.com/651772776>

DG Nico’s introduction begins at 26:05 minutes.