



Upcoming Events

*Speaker schedule and upcoming events can also be found on
Charlotte Rotary's website under "Events / News"*

Tues., March 25 - Weekly Meeting: *State Senator Woodson Bradley*

Tues., April 1 - Club Event: *American Red Cross Blood Drive*. Sign up [here](#). Sponsor Code is : CharlotteRotary. See details below.

Sat., April 12 - Club Social: *Hyatt Farms Sporting Clay Rotary Day*. Details below. Details below. Sign up [here](#).

Thurs., April 17 - Club Event: *Rotary Means Business*. 5:30 - 7:30 p.m., Gilde Brewery, 3530 Dewitt Lane, Charlotte. Details are below. Click [here](#) to sign up.

Thurs, April 24 - Club Event: *Minds Matter! Event to Support Alzheimer's Research*, Thurs., April 24 at The Village on Morehead, 5-7 p.m. More details below.

May 2-3 - District 7680 Conference. Details below.

July 17-20 - District Event: *Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL)*, Gardner-Webb University. Volunteer and Scholarship Opportunities and open to High School rising Juniors and Seniors. See below for details.

This Week's Meeting



Dr. Crystal Hill, CMS Superintendent
by Elly Clary

Improved performance through focus on student achievement is a picture the superintendent of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School System painted for Rotarians.

Dr. Crystal Hill delivered 2023-24 highlights. These include 33 schools with improved state performance grades and a system graduation rate of 84 percent, with notable increases for Hispanic students. For literacy in kindergarten through 2nd grade, the achievement gap between white, Black and Hispanic students shrank.

Hill lauded a CMS partnership with the Charlotte Executive Leadership Council, whose advice led to four student outcome goals for 2024 through 2029. These include a

concentration on early literacy in kindergarten through 2nd grade and on literacy skills in grades 3-8, plus a strengthened math foundation.

"We want to ensure that all students who graduate from CMS schools finish enrolled, enlisted or employed," Hill said in explaining an emphasis on post-graduate readiness. [Click here to read more.](#)

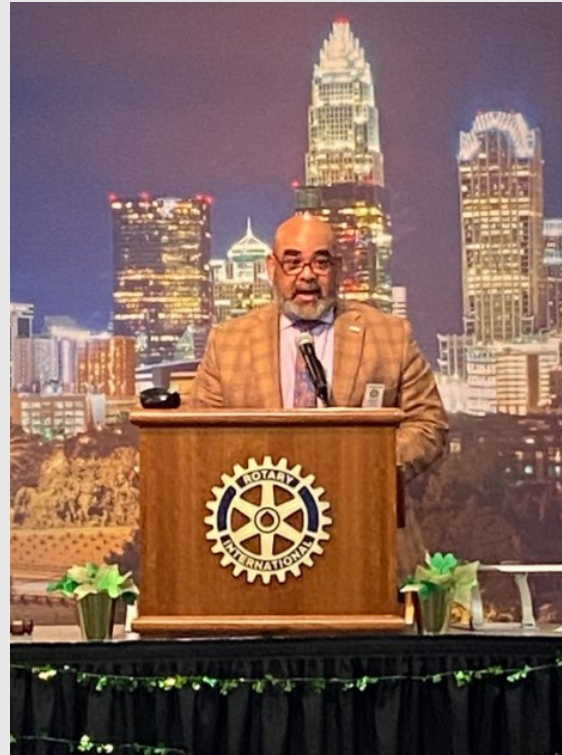
A recording of the meeting can be found [here](#):

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1067121062>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1067128475>

The introduction begins at about 28 minutes and 30 seconds.

Thank you to James Farrell and WFAE on the coverage of Dr. Hill's appearance. Read the story [here](#):





Club News



Rotarians Recognized in Charlotte's 40 Over 40 Awards

The Charlotte Ledger's Forty over 40 Awards celebrate individuals who continue to use their wisdom, strength, and experience to make a meaningful impact in their communities.

This year, we are proud to share that several Rotarians have been recognized among the honorees!

These awards highlight leaders who prove that age is a superpower, and we are thrilled to see fellow Rotarians being honored for their dedication to service and leadership. Their contributions align with Rotary's mission of service above self, and their recognition is well deserved.

Congratulations to all the nominees, and especially to our Rotarian honorees—we celebrate your achievements and the positive change you continue to inspire in Charlotte!

And now, without further ado, here are the nominees who are also Charlotte Rotarians:

- **Bryan Adams**, Partner, Van Hoy, Reutlinger, Adams, Pierce & Tisdale
- **Jennifer De La Jara**, Director of Philanthropy, Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont
- **Lori Gougeon**, President and CEO, InReach, Inc.
- **Carol Hardison**, CEO, Crisis Assistance Ministry
- **Greg Hatcher**, Managing Director, Hatcher Law Group
- **Michael Orzech**, COO and Co-Founder, Charlotte Area Chamber of Commerce

Spotlight on Bill Bartee: A SouthPark Sit-Down

Charlotte Rotary's President-Nominee, **Bill Bartee**, was recently featured in **SouthPark Charlotte Magazine**. In the extensive article titled **SouthPark Sit-Down with Bill Bartee**, Bill shares insights into his remarkable career and personal journey, offering a glimpse into the experiences that have shaped him into the leader he is today.

Bill's story serves as a testament to his dedication, vision, and commitment to making a positive impact in our community. Be sure to check out the full article through the link [here](#) to learn more about Bill's journey and what drives him.

We're fortunate to have Bill's leadership and experience as part of our Rotary family, and we look forward to his continued contributions to our club.



Congratulations to JD DuPuy on Receiving the Community Leader Award!

Congratulations to club member **JD DuPuy** on receiving the Community Leader Award at the Mecklenburg Metropolitan Interfaith Network's (MeckMIN) annual breakfast. This honor highlights JD's outstanding dedication to fostering compassion and justice in our community.

Since its founding in 1987, MeckMIN has worked tirelessly to bring together people from a wide range of faith traditions to build bridges across differences. Originally formed as Mecklenburg Ministries, the organization has been an advocate for interfaith understanding, and today represents nine different faith traditions in Mecklenburg County. MeckMIN's commitment to working across cultural and religious divides has played a crucial role in our community's growth and healing. Through their work, MeckMIN continues to address the challenges our region faces, while striving to eliminate hatred and encourage dialogue among diverse groups.

Congratulations once again to JD for this well-deserved recognition!

Stuart Hair on the River: A Fly Fishing Adventure

During Jesse Brown's recent fly fishing workshop in Greensboro, our very own Stuart Hair took to the river for a weekend expedition. The workshop offered hands-on experience for enthusiasts, and Stuart's time on the water exemplified the skills and knowledge shared throughout the event. It was a perfect opportunity for fellow Rotarians to connect while enjoying the great outdoors and learning the art of fly fishing.



Tree Planting Opportunity with TreesCharlotte

Looking for a way to give back to the community and help grow Charlotte's urban forest? TreesCharlotte has an upcoming weekday tree-planting event that was rescheduled due to weather.

Ascent-Pineville TreeDay

Wednesday, March 26 | 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

Ascent-Pineville

[Register Here](#)

Volunteers should wear long pants and sturdy shoes. All planting tools will be provided. Sign up through the link above to participate!



**American
Red Cross**

Tues., April 1, 2025

10 a.m. – 2 p.m.

**Fairfield Inn & Suites by Marriott
during our weekly meeting.**

Click here to sign up and help save lives!

**We urgently need volunteers for the Rotary Blood Drive!
Your commitment now will make our blood drive a success.
If you cannot give, bring someone who can.**

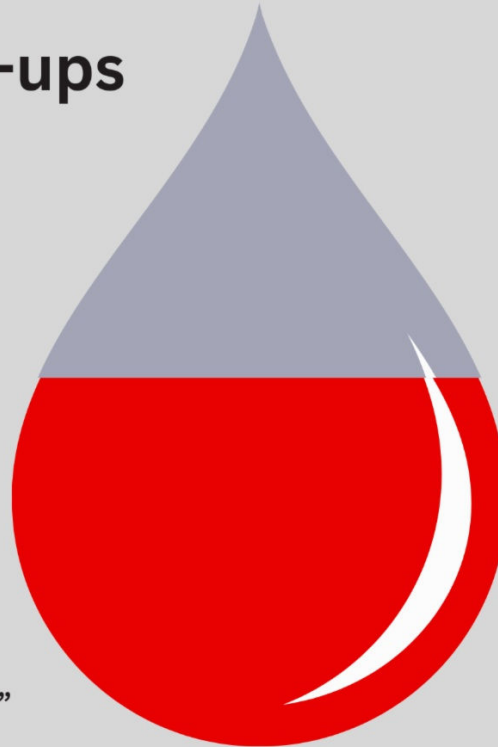
**9 more sign-ups
needed!**



1-800-REDCROSS

or visit RedCrossBlood.org

Sponsor Code “CharlotteRotary”



Sporting Clay Shooting Fundraiser

Sat., April 12 (rain date Sat., April 19)

Discover why sporting clay shooting is becoming the new favorite pastime!

Join us for Rotary Day at Hyatt Farms Shooting Complex in the beautiful hills of Polkton, NC. We're gathering at 10:30 AM for a fun-filled day of fellowship,

clay shooting, great food, and drinks (after the shooting, of course). Whether you're a seasoned shooter or a complete beginner, this event is perfect for all skill levels, with expert instructors guiding us through the course. Plus, a donation will go towards the club. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the day, bond with Rotary friends, and support a meaningful project!

- Date: April 12 (Rain date: April 19)
- Time: 10:30 AM
- Where: Hyatt Farms Shooting Complex, 990 Burnsville Church Rd, Polkton, NC

Questions? Contact Tod Thorne at todthorne@aol.com. **Sign up here.**

Let's have a blast—literally!

Rotary Means Business: Networking Opportunity for



Rotarians

Join us for **Rotary Means Business**, a great opportunity to network and build mutually beneficial relationships with fellow Rotarians. This event will take place on Thurs., April 17, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Gilde Brewery, located at 3530 Dewitt Lane, Charlotte.

Whether you're looking to grow your business or simply connect with others in the Rotary community, this relaxed event provides a perfect platform to foster new connections, exchange ideas, and collaborate. Come prepared to meet fellow Rotarians, share your expertise, and discover new opportunities for both personal and professional growth.

We look forward to seeing you there and building stronger connections within our Rotary network. For more information, contact [Glenn Bouley](#) or [Jason Otte](#).



Minds Matter! Event to Support Alzheimer's Research

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is excited to host "***Minds Matter!***", a special benefit event supporting the **CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) Fund**.

Individual tickets are \$40 with an opportunity to feature your loved one at \$250, as well as sponsorship opportunities. Thanks to a generous donor, we have already secured a \$2,500 matching grant, ensuring your contributions make an even greater impact.

All profits from the event will directly benefit the **RotaryCART Fund**, advancing research to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. **Click here** to register for this meaningful evening of community and support for a vital cause! Together, we can make a difference!

April 24, 2025 (5-7 pm)
The Village at Morehead
Click here to register.

Join us for an evening dedicated to benefiting Alzheimer's research! Let's come together to support an incredible cause, inspire hope, and take action for healthier minds.



Get the Rotary IGNITE App – Stay Connected, Engaged, and Inspired!

If you haven't downloaded IGNITE yet, now is the time! This free, easy-to-use app puts everything Rotary at your fingertips.

Here's why you'll love it:

- **Find Members Instantly** – Access contact details, addresses, and social media for any club member with just a tap.
- **Stay in the Know** – Check the club and district calendar, register for events, and never miss an important date.
- **Grow Rotary** – Inviting new members is effortless! Simply open the app, tap "Prospective Member", and send them an application link in seconds.
- **Pay Dues with Ease** – Use the "Pay/EZPay" feature to pay securely with a credit card or bank account.
- **Support the Foundation** – Instantly check your foundation points, status, and make donations with the "Foundation" button.

The IGNITE app is available for both Android and iPhone. Download it today and experience the future of Rotary at your fingertips!

Rotarians (and Interact) Out and About





Rotary and Myers Park Interact are Represented at the St. Paddy's Parade!

A few of our own took to the streets on Saturday to celebrate in true Rotary fashion at the St. Paddy's Parade! A shout-out to [Rory Wall](#) and [Jim Mannix](#), both club members who played key roles in organizing this fantastic community event.

Special thanks to [Anne Cullip](#), club member and the Myers Park Interact Advisor, for all her hard work in coordinating student participation, and to club member [Jason Otte](#) for stepping up to pull the float with his truck. Their efforts helped make the Rotary presence strong and proud!

With nearly 200 students from Myers Park Interact, National Honor Society, and the cheerleading squad joining in, the energy was high, the spirit was contagious, and the event was a tremendous success.



Rotary Leaders Attend Carolinas' PETS Training

Rotary Club of Charlotte was well represented at the Carolinas' President Elect Training Seminar (PETS) last weekend in Greensboro! District Governor Nominee **Jerry Coughter**, Past President **William Bradley**, President-Elect **Patrick Baker**, President-Nominee **Bill Barte**, LIG President **Mordecai Scott**, and Executive Director **Christine Cipriano** attended this leadership training event, preparing for their upcoming roles in Rotary.

Now in its 41st year, Carolinas' PETS is a program designed to equip future Rotary club and district leaders with the knowledge, skills, and inspiration needed to lead with confidence. With an emphasis on participation, fun, and fellowship, PETS brings together over 500 Rotary leaders for an engaging weekend of networking, collaboration, and leadership development.

Rotary leadership starts with preparation—and our club is ready for the future!





Leadership Impact Group Hosts Panel on Education and Legal Challenges in Low-Income Communities

The Leadership Impact Group (LIG) recently hosted an insightful Panel Discussion at Honeywell Headquarters to explore the vital work of Communities in Schools (CIS) and its role in supporting students in Charlotte's Title I schools. The conversation focused on the intersection of legal challenges and low-income communities, shedding light on the barriers students face and the collaborative efforts needed to drive change. The panel featured a distinguished group of leaders:

- Men Tchaas Ari, President & CEO of Communities in Schools
- Tom Mitchell, Chair at Moore & Van Allen
- Patrick Baker, Attorney
- Heather Johnson, Executive Director of Council for Children's Rights

Through this discussion, LIG members gained a deeper understanding of how legal and educational systems intersect in underserved communities and the role organizations like CIS play in breaking down barriers to student success. Thank you to all who participated in this important conversation, and to Honeywell Headquarters for hosting!

Beyond the Club



Grist Mill Service Day - Sat., April 5, 9a.m.

Charlotte Providence Club Rotarians and Myers Park High School Interact students will have a day of clean up at the Isaac Alexander Grist Mill site behind Myers Park High School and you are invited to help!

Click here to read more about the history of the Isaac Newton Alexander Mill.

The site location is behind Myers Park High School, **400 Colony Road, Charlotte, NC 28209** - Enter at the school's back entrance from Runnymede Lane to the back parking lot. Park at the far end by the Green House. The trail entrance is behind the Green House. Follow the trail downhill and to the left to get to the Grist Mill.



Join Charlotte South Rotary for the Perfectly Paired Wine Tasting & Auction!

The Charlotte South Rotary Club invites you to an exciting evening of food, wine, and fundraising on Thurs., May 1st, from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Olde Providence Racquet Club.

This exclusive event will feature a live and silent auction with fine wines, bourbons, and a variety of other unique items.

Tickets are \$75 and all proceeds will support local organizations such as Foster Village, The Relatives, and OurBridge, which provide essential services to underserved children and families in Charlotte. With only 100 spots available, be sure to register early! Catering by Something Classic will enhance your experience.

Help us make a difference while enjoying an unforgettable evening. Register now and join us for an evening of fun and philanthropy!



DISTRICT 7680 CONFERENCE

If you've never attended a District Conference, this is the one you don't want to miss!

- ✓ Get Inspired!
- ✓ Level Up Your Leadership!
- ✓ Expand Your Network!
- ✓ Experience the Best of Rotary!
- ✓ Fun and awards!



Speaker:
Molly Grantham
Journalist.
Speaker.
Author.
Mom.

2-3

MAY 2025

Statesville NC Civic Center
300 S Center St
Statesville, NC

Don't Miss Out! Secure your spot today and be part of something truly special!

REGISTRATION: \$125 (INCLUDES MEALS)

Register in DACdb

For more information: www.rotary7680.org/2025-district-conference/

Exciting Opportunities or the 2025 Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL)

Mark your calendars! The dates for the 2025 Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) have been set: July 17-20, 2025, with volunteers arriving on July 16.

This transformative leadership experience will take place at Gardner-Webb University and is open to rising high school juniors and seniors.

We are thrilled to offer several ways for you to get involved:

- **Scholarship Opportunities:** Support students by sponsoring their participation in this life-changing event.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Join our dedicated team and help make this event unforgettable for tomorrow's leaders. ([Click here to volunteer.](#))
- **Student Participation:** Encourage rising juniors and seniors in your community to apply and take part in this exceptional leadership development program. ([Click here to nominate your student.](#))

For more details on how to volunteer, apply, or sponsor a student, contact Scott Van Der Linden, Governor 2017-2018, Rotary Club of Charlotte South, SVanDerLinden7@gmail.com or 704.574.5000. The deadline is April 11.

Don't miss the chance to shape the leaders of tomorrow!

Membership Update

07/01/2024 249
02/28/2025 244
03/18/2025 245

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, March 18, 2025: 104

Guests in attendance: Chelsea Davis ([Karen Calder](#)), Tamesha Hughes-Frazier ([J Hill](#)), Scott Gartlan ([Patricia Shafer](#)), Greg Jackson ([Patricia Shafer](#)), Deb Semmler ([Patricia Shafer](#)), Damon Stinson([J Hill](#)), Men Tchaas Ari ([Cynthia Marshall](#)), Senemeh Tolatunji ([Patricia Shafer](#))

Milestones (Week of Mar. 25 - 31)

Birthdays

26 - Jim Mannix
28 - Rich Duncan
28 - Alan Simonini
30 - Mark Erwin
30 - David Tobin

Rotary Anniversaries

22 years: Chris Thomas
22 years: Jerry Walters
9 years: George Edmiston
8 years: Carla DuPuy

Wedding Anniversaries

26 - Kit & Peirce Ward

2024 - 2025 Board Members

- President Kim Brattain
- President-Elect Patrick Baker
- Immediate Past President Edwin Peacock
- Secretary Bill Gill
- Treasurer Craig Field
- Sergeant at Arms Mike Wollinger

Current Directors: Benton S. Bragg, John F. Cantrell, Tish Atkins Charles, Terri DeBoo, Andrew "Andy" B. Dinkin, Dena R. Diorio, Donna Y. Dunlap, Joel D. Ford, Stuart P. Hair, David Head, Jesse G. Hite, Lori Keeton, Virginia Owen

Contact Us

For more information about how to get involved, volunteer opportunities and meeting topics, contact [Christine Cipriano](#), Executive Secretary at christine@charlotterotary.org



Photos from our luncheons, historical photos, and other events and projects can be found on the club's Flickr site. Click here [charlotterotary6006](#) to view pictures from recent meetings.



Recordings of weekly club luncheons can be found on the club's Vimeo site. Click here <https://vimeo.com/user24733153> to watch recent videos.



Guest Check-In If you have a guest who would like to preregister for the weekly meeting, a QR code is provided for easy scanning, or the link can be found here: **[Visitor Pre-Register \(jotform.com\)](#)**

Rotary Club of Charlotte | 1850 E 3rd St, Ste 220 | Charlotte, NC 28204 US

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