



## Upcoming Events

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

**Tues., May 6 - Weekly Meeting:** *Dr. Hope Williams, President, of North Carolina Independent Colleges & Universities*

**Tues., May 13 - Weekly Meeting will be held at** *SMS Catering*, 1764 Norland Road, Charlotte.

**Wed., May 20 - Leadership Impact Group (LIG) Meeting:** 5:30–7 p.m., Lost World Brewery, 1100 Metropolitan Ave., Charlotte, NC, featuring **Spencer Lueders, Founder, 24 Foundation**

**June 7 - Club Event:** *Nourish Up Service Project*, 9–11 a.m., 901 Carrier Drive. Limited to 20 volunteers. See details below. **Click here to sign up.**

**June 12-13 - District Event:** *CART Fund 2025 Annual Meeting & 30th Anniversary Celebration* Thurs., June 12 and Fri., June 13. See 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.

**Save the date!** *Tues., Dec. 16 - Club Event: American Red Cross Blood Drive.*

## This Week's Meeting



*"Pound-For-Pound, NC's Most Consequential University"  
(Just Ask Its President, Dr. Rhett Brown)*

by **Marilynn Bowler**

Dr. Rhett Brown, now in his tenth year as President of (as he described it) "one of the best kept secrets in higher education," brought Wingate University closer to our hearts and minds with his intriguing presentation to Charlotte Rotary on Tuesday, April 29th.

**Benton Bragg** proudly introduced our speaker, citing his long history with Wingate both as a graduate of the Class of 1989, and then his roles as

Associate Dean of Students, University Planning Officer, Dean of Enrollment Management and Vice President for Student Life and Enrollment Services.

With a nod toward PDG **Luther Moore**, **Benton Bragg** and **Chuck Howard** who each serve on Wingate University's Board of Trustees, Dr. Brown stepped to the MIC and jumped right into his message of why his school deserves the attention it's been receiving not only in our region but across the state of North Carolina and beyond. **Click here to read more.**

**A recording of the meeting can be found here:**

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1080043402>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1080045059>

The program begins at 29 minutes and 40 seconds.







## Club News



### *May 13th Weekly Meeting*

Due to scheduling constraints at our regular venue, we will be meeting at an alternate location on May 13th. The May 13th meeting will take place at SMS Catering, 1764 Norland Rd, Charlotte.

The speaker that day will be **Kerri Murray**, **President of ShelterBox USA**.

We're excited for a great gathering at this special location.

### *Charlotte Rotary's Marilynn Bowler Honored with City Proclamation*

Charlotte Rotary is proud to celebrate one of our own—**Marilynn Farrell Bowler**—who was recently honored by the City of Charlotte with an official proclamation naming April 26, 2025, as "Marilynn 'Queen Bee' Bowler Day." The proclamation, presented by Mayor Vi Lyles, recognizes Marilynn's outstanding contributions to the community and her tireless commitment to strengthening the fabric of our city. Held in collaboration with the original Charlotte Hornets franchise and its alumni, this special day offered the community a chance to celebrate a true champion of service and leadership. *Congratulations Marilynn! We are very proud of you!*



Charlotte Rotary's **Marilynn Bowler** proudly displays the official City of Charlotte proclamation naming April 26, 2025, as "Marilynn 'Queen Bee' Bowler Day," presented by Mayor Vi Lyles in recognition of her exceptional community leadership.

### ***LIFESPAN Services Featured on PBS Charlotte***

Non-profit club member LIFESPAN was recently highlighted on Carolina Impact on PBS Charlotte, showcasing the organization's work empowering individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities across North Carolina. The segment emphasized how community support helps create opportunities for meaningful employment and greater independence. This feature reflects LIFESPAN's ongoing mission to build brighter futures and celebrate abilities statewide. [Click here to see the video.](#)



Club Member **Shelley Dean** spotted another Rotary sign while visiting Kalamazoo—further proof that when you're a Rotarian, you have instant friends all around the world.

***Nourish Up Service Event*** - Mark your calendars for a meaningful Saturday morning!

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, we're teaming up with Nourish Up for a hands-on service project at their brand-new facility (901 Carrier Drive) from 9 to 11 a.m.





Whether we're sorting food donations or packing meals for distribution, it'll be two hours of impact and connection—plus, it's always more fun together!

Space is limited to 20 volunteers, so grab your spot early: [Click here to sign up](#). Spouses and significant others are welcome to join the fun, too!

### *Share Your Voice—Help Improve Charlotte City Services*

The Smart Charlotte team is asking for our help! They've launched a City Services Resident Survey to better understand how people access and experience services in Charlotte—and how those services can be improved. They want to hear:

- What services you use
- How you access them
- What's working—and what's not
- Any tech challenges you face

Your feedback will help make city services more accessible, equitable, and user-friendly.

- Take the survey: <https://forms.office.com/r/hr3aUhdCCe>
- Deadline: Thursday, May 15

Please share the link and help spread the word!

## Beyond the Club

**YOU ARE INVITED!**

**30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY RECEPTION**  
**THURS, JUNE 12, 5:30–6:30PM**  
(NO CHARGE TO ATTEND)

**ANNUAL MEETING**  
**FRI, JUNE 13, 10AM–3PM**  
(\$50 PER PERSON INCLUDES LUNCH)

**HILTON CHARLOTTE AIRPORT (CHARLOTTE, NC)**

**REGISTER IN DACDB**  
**(MULTI-DISTRICT EVENTS CALENDAR)**  
**OR [WWW.CARTFUND.ORG](http://WWW.CARTFUND.ORG)**

### *Celebrate 30 Years of Impact at the 2025 CART Fund Annual Meeting*

Join us as The CART Fund marks “Thirty Years of Service” at its 2025 Annual Meeting, held at the Hilton Charlotte Airport (2800 Coliseum Centre Dr., Charlotte, NC). This special milestone event will recognize CART’s three decades of dedication to Alzheimer’s research and feature the awarding of a record-setting \$2 million in grants.

Thursday, June 12 | 5:30–6:30 PM

The celebration begins with a complimentary reception, generously underwritten by sponsors, to honor CART’s 30th Anniversary. All attendees will receive a commemorative gift. While the event is free and open to all, registration is required. Afterward, guests are invited to attend Dutch-treat group dinners with CART-funded researchers at local restaurants.

Friday, June 13 | 10:00 AM–3:00 PM

The Annual Meeting will feature the introduction of six groundbreaking researchers selected for 2025

CART grants. Attendees will enjoy special guest speakers and a panel discussion on current advancements in Alzheimer's research.

- Cost: \$50 per person, which includes lunch.
- **Registration: Must be completed in advance through DACdb.** Special links are available for non-Rotarians, or they may be added as guests to Rotarian registrations.
- Virtual Access: The event will be livestreamed free of charge via Zoom for those unable to attend in person (link provided the day before).

Additionally, the CART Board of Directors will hold its Annual Meeting from 8:30–9:30 AM, prior to the general session.

Business/Rotary attire is requested for all events.

With gratitude to our generous sponsors: District 7680 Governor Kevin Kendrick, CART President Carol Burdette, and the Rotary Club of Anderson (SC).



### *Be Part of Rotary's Biggest Event of the Year!*

The Rotary International Convention is more than just a gathering—it's where unforgettable moments happen, ideas take flight, and friendships flourish. Join fellow people of action from around the world to explore bold solutions, celebrate service, and show the world what Rotary is all about.

From inspiring general sessions and interactive breakout discussions to the bustling House of Friendship and lively host city attractions, there's something for everyone. Don't miss this incredible opportunity to network, learn, and connect.

Let's represent Charlotte and make our mark—join us at this year's Rotary International Convention. [Click here to register.](#)

## Membership Update

07/01/2024 249

03/31/2025 239

04/29/2025 239

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, April 29, 2025: 92

Guests in attendance: Ted Johnson ([Luther Moore](#)), John Nesbitt, Dee Schwab

## Milestones (Week of May 6 - 12)

### **Birthdays**

6 - Trina Fullard

11 - Paul Bartholomy

12 - Isabella Warner

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

6 - Katherine & Mike Hawley

7 - Patty McKernan & Tod Thorne

8 - Katheryn & Kyle Woodruff

11 - Randi & George Edmiston

### **Rotary Anniversaries**

26 years: John Tabor

1 year: Carolyn Calburg

1 year: Jonathan Justice

1 year: Carol Ransone

1 year: Rory Wall

# 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, Elizabeth Teagarden, 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](mailto: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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