



Upcoming Events

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

IMPORTANT NOTE! *Tues., May 13 - Weekly Meeting at SMS Catering, 1764 Norland Rd. with Kerri Murray, President, ShelterBox USA*

Wed., May 21 - Leadership Impact Group (LIG) Meeting: 5:30–7 p.m., Lost World Brewery, 1100 Metropolitan Ave., Charlotte, NC, featuring Spencer Lueders, Founder, 24 Foundation

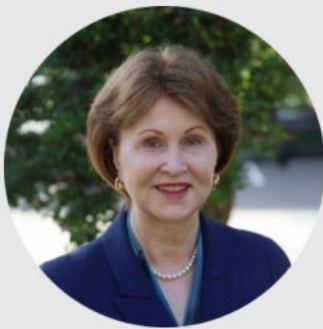
June 7 - Club Event: Nourish Up Service Project 9–11 a.m., 901 Carrier Drive. Limited to 20 volunteers. See details below. [Click here to sign up.](#)

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



NC Independent Colleges and Universities by Rick Handford

Dr. A. Hope Williams has served as President of North Carolina Independent Colleges and Universities (NCICU) since 1992. NCICU represents the state's 36 private, non-profit colleges and universities, advocating for policies that support students, affordability, and access to higher education.

Dr. Williams is a leading voice in North Carolina's education landscape, collaborating with state and federal leaders—including the Governor's Education Cabinet—and working in partnership with the public university and community college systems. Her advocacy has helped shape policies related to need-based scholarships, teacher education, tax issues, and federal financial aid programs such as Pell Grants.

She also leads initiatives that benefit students directly, such as the NCICU Ethics Bowl and the statewide Undergraduate Research and Creativity Symposium, and is instrumental in securing funding for scholarships and enrichment programs through corporate and foundation partnerships.

Nationally recognized for her leadership, Dr. Williams has held key roles on the boards of major education organizations, including the National Student Clearinghouse and the Council of Independent Colleges. She holds degrees from Duke University, NC State, and UNC-Chapel Hill, and has received multiple honorary doctorates for her service to education. [Click here to read more.](#)

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1082620847>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1082640957>

The program begins at 24 minutes and 10 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 on Tuesday day will be **Kerri Murray, President of ShelterBox USA.**

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



Congratulations! to announce that club member, **Karen Calder**, ED, Classroom Central, has been named one of just ten recipients of the prestigious **2025 Women's Impact Fund SPARK Grant!**

This \$5,000 unrestricted grant honors women in Charlotte who are making a meaningful difference in their communities. Designed to provide rest, renewal, and recognition, the SPARK Grant helps "fill the cup" of those who give so much of themselves to others. Congratulations, Karen—your Rotary family is proud of you!

Charlotte Rotary Club President Kim Brattain Named Assistant Public Image Coordinator for Zone 33!

Our next Rotary year (beginning July 1st) is off to a dynamic start, and our club has reason to celebrate! Club President **Kim Brattain** has been named an Assistant Public Image Coordinator (APIC) for Rotary Zone 33—a role that puts her at the forefront of shaping how Rotary is seen across a large area of the eastern United States.

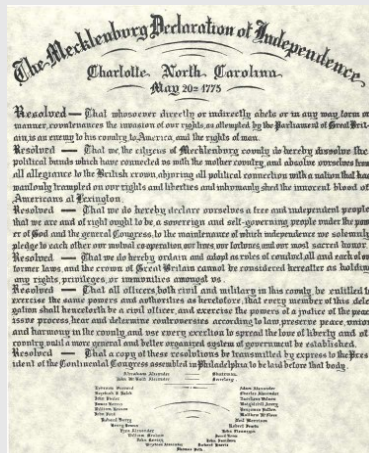
Joined by District leadership at a conference this weekend, Kim helped energize the start of the 2025-26 Rotary year with a high-impact virtual kickoff event. The event introduced the Zone 33/34 Public Image Team and launched a new year of support, innovation, and collaboration across clubs. Kim joins Rotary Public Image Coordinator Ashley Waters and fellow APICs Lisa Hazlett and Hamilton Holloway in leading efforts to amplify Rotary's message and strengthen its brand presence in our communities.

This virtual session kicked off a year-long series designed to equip clubs with the latest strategies, tools, and storytelling best practices. As a media professional and storyteller herself, Kim brings deep experience and creative energy to this role, helping clubs engage the public and promote Rotary's impact more effectively.

So proud to see one of our own step into a leadership role on the Zone level! Congratulations, Kim—and thank you for representing our club with excellence!



(above) Club President [Kim Brattain](#) is joining Rotary Zone 33 as Assistant Public Image Coordinator for the 2025-26 Rotary year! Joined by District leadership at a conference this weekend, they helped energize the start of the 2025-26 Rotary year with a high-impact virtual kickoff event!



Are You a Descendant of a Meck Dec Signer?

As we approach the 250th anniversary of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence, our club would like to recognize any members with a personal connection to this historic moment.

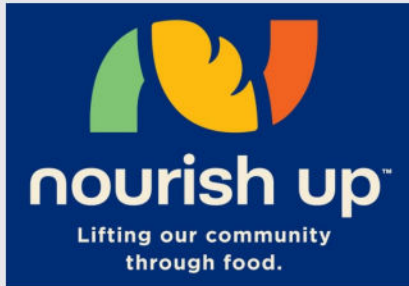
The "Meck Dec," proclaimed on May 20, 1775, is a proud symbol of Charlotte's revolutionary spirit and is believed by many to be the first declaration of independence made in the American colonies. With its semiquincentennial anniversary on the horizon, we're curious—***how many of our fellow Rotarians are descendants of Meck Dec signers?***

If you know (or think) you might be descended from one of the original signers, we'd love to hear from you. Whether it's a well-documented lineage or a family story passed down through generations, please let us know. We plan to recognize these connections as part of our club's celebration of this important milestone in Charlotte's history. Contact Catherine Bracey at csbracey704@gmail.com if you have a family link to the Meck Dec. Let's celebrate our shared history together!



Leadership Impact Group - Wednesday, May 21 | 5:30–7:00 p.m. | Lost World Brewery

Join us for the next Leadership Impact Group (LIG) meeting on Wednesday, May 21, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. at Lost World Brewery, located at 1100 Metropolitan Ave. in Charlotte. This month's featured speaker is Spencer Lueders, founder of the 24 Foundation — an organization dedicated to changing the course of cancer navigation and survivorship. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with fellow leaders and hear from one of Charlotte's most inspiring changemakers. All members and guests are welcome.



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!

District Conference





Charlotte Rotary Shines at District Conference -

Fun, Fellowship, and a Lot of Rotary Inspiration

Last weekend's District Conference was a big deal for Charlotte Rotary—and we brought home top honors to prove it! Several of our members attended the fun, inspiring, and educational weekend, and our club was recognized for outstanding achievement in not just one, but two major categories.

Charlotte Rotary won:

- **Public Image/Public Relations Award** – A testament to our ongoing efforts to share Rotary's story, and especially meaningful as President [Kim Brattain](#) steps into a leadership role in the Zone's PI/PR initiative. Special thanks to [Kim Brattain](#) and [J Hill](#) for their exceptional work in this area! We also owe a big thank-you to those who have helped make our club programs stand out this year. Under the leadership of [Luther Moore](#) and with the support of a strong committee—including [Chris Thomas](#), [Chase Saunders](#), [Bill Barte](#), [Keith Nowokunski](#), and our Executive Director [Christine Cipriano](#)—we've brought in an impressive lineup of speakers. As members, we've leaned into our connections and brought fascinating people to the podium.
- **Best Foundation Initiatives Award** – Earned in large part thanks to [Patricia Shafer](#)'s global peace initiatives and [Luther Moore](#)'s leadership in identifying and supporting Peace Fellow applicants.

These awards are a huge honor for our club, and speak volumes about the strength of our programs and our people.

The District Conference also serves as a reminder of our club's deep roots and ongoing legacy. The award presented to a small club for outstanding progress on Action Plan goals is named in honor of our own Charlotte Rotarian and Previous District Governor [Mark Makanda](#). This award and honor was

launched in 1990.

The conference itself was centered around The Rotary Action Plan, focusing on how clubs can increase impact, expand reach, enhance participant engagement, and increase our ability to adapt—all goals that Charlotte Rotary is actively advancing.

Want a glimpse of the weekend's energy? Check out photos and more at <https://app.kululu.com/km9znb>



Past Charlotte Rotary President and now District Governor Nominee [Jerry Coughter](#) took the mic as auctioneer and raised \$2,000 to be evenly divided between The Rotary Foundation and CART on a vintage bottle of liquor—cheers to that kind of talent!







Beyond the Club

YOU ARE INVITED!

30TH 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

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).

Membership Update

07/01/2024 249

04/30/2025 239

05/06/2025 238 (Resigned: Tony Marciano)

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, May 6, 2025: 88

Guests in attendance: Phyllis Gill ([Bill Gill](#)), Gina Hubbard ([Bill Gill](#)), Tommy Lee Hayes-Brown ([Mark Turner](#)), Kresimir Klenovic ([Chad Lloyd](#)), Ranjay Sarda ([Kim Brattain](#)), Issa Smith (previous Rotarian), Brian Springman (Club Guest)

Milestones

(Week of May 13 - 19)

Birthdays

15 - Al Allison

Wedding Anniversaries

13 - Angela & Reggie Johnson

14 - Liz & Dave Caspers

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



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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