



Upcoming Events

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

Tues., July 22 - Weekly Meeting: Tracy Dodson, COO, Charlotte Regional Business Alliance

July 22 - Board of Directors Meeting

*July 22 and 29 - Electronics Donation Drive: Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont Electronics
Donation & Recycling. Details below.*

Save the date! Tues., Oct. 7 - Club Event: Rotary Club of Charlotte Garden Ribbon Cutting

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

This Week's Meeting



Kim Brattain
President 2024-25



Patrick Baker
President 2025-26

A Celebration of Leadership and Legacy

by Layne McGuire

This week's meeting was a heartfelt celebration of Rotary leadership as past presidents gathered to offer wisdom, humor, and encouragement to incoming President **Patrick Baker** and a thank outgoing President **Kim Brattain** for her wisdom and leadership.

We honored President Brattain for her dedication to Rotary, and she, in turn, acknowledged all the Board Members, Committee Members, and volunteers who make our club so impactful. Then she asked the numerous past presidents to introduce themselves and offer a word to our incoming president. We started with Ruth Shaw, the first woman to lead our Club.

Each shared personal reflections and advice, ranging from “walk softly and carry a big stick” to “don’t start a meeting until you know what you want to be different when it ends.”

Welcome, President **Patrick Baker**

Patrick Baker officially stepped into his role as President with a moving address that blended personal history, Rotary values, and a vision for the year ahead. He shared stories of his upbringing, career in public service, and deep appreciation for the Rotary community. **Click here to read more.** A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/110228546?fl=pl&fe=sh>

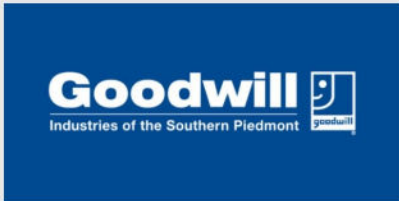




Club News



Congratulations to Charlotte Rotarian **Ayo Johnson**, Executive Director of Mental Health America of Central Carolinas (MHA), on her recent recognition as a **Charlotte Business Journal "Person on the Move."** Ayo's leadership continues to shine as MHA prepares to host the inaugural Southeast Regional Conference on Mental Health on October 30, 2025, at the UNC Charlotte Marriott. The event will bring together advocates, educators, and professionals to reimagine mental health through the lenses of advocacy, education, and access. We're proud to celebrate Ayo's well-earned recognition and her impact on our community.



Used Electronics Donation Drive: Let's Fill the Bin! Two more dates left: July 22 & 29

Thanks to your generosity, we filled half a bin during our July 15th collection... A great start! Let's keep the momentum going and aim to fill the entire bin this Tuesday!

Bring your used electronics! Goodwill accepts nearly anything with a cord, even if the cord is missing! Items are securely wiped (DoD-Level 3) or responsibly recycled, then sold at The GRID, Goodwill's tech store, to fund Goodwill's life-changing employment programs.

Visit goodwillsp.org or [click here](#) to learn more. What a great opportunity to change lives and clean out our homes.



**Time to commit to a committee!
Group your spot today!**

Make Charlotte Rotary Happen — Join a Committee!

Committees are where the action starts. They're your chance to build connections, grow as a leader, and make a real impact in our club, our community, and the world.

There are Five Ways to Serve:

- **Club:** Help meetings shine and build club spirit
- **Community:** Make life better right here in Charlotte
- **International:** Promote peace and global service
- **Vocational:** Share your skills and lift your profession
- **Youth:** Shape future leaders through Rotary programs

—sign up today! We'll match you where you'll thrive.

Let's make great things happen—together!

Beyond the Club

Francesco Arezzo Selected as 2025-26 Rotary International President

Francesco Arezzo, a longtime member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy, has been selected to serve as Rotary International



President for 2025-2026. He will be the third Italian—and the first from southern Italy—to lead the global service organization.

With over 30 years of Rotary service, Arezzo currently serves as President of Fondazione Rotary Italia, supporting Rotary's humanitarian impact across the globe. Professionally, he is an orthodontist in Sicily and actively involved in national and international dental associations.

Arezzo is committed to advancing Rotary's legacy of peace, understanding, and opportunity. As President, he will lead the organization's continued efforts to eradicate polio and promote sustainable, community-driven projects worldwide. He and his wife, Anna Maria Criscione, are Major Donors and Benefactors of The Rotary Foundation.



Watch Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo's inspiring message from the 2025 Rotary International Convention - his vision for the year ahead starts here.



Start Planning Now: Rotary International Convention 2026 – Taipei, Taiwan

It's not too early to start making plans for an unforgettable Rotary experience!

Mark your calendars for the **2026 Rotary International Convention**, to be held June 13–17, 2026, in **Taipei, Taiwan**, a vibrant, modern city that blends rich culture, world-renowned cuisine, and breathtaking landscapes.

Each year, the Rotary International Convention brings together thousands of Rotarians from across the globe to celebrate fellowship, service, and the power of Rotary to create lasting change. Whether you've been before or it's your first time, this event is a unique opportunity to connect with fellow members, be inspired by global speakers, and experience the energy of our international network.

Why start planning now?

- Travel logistics: International flights and accommodations will fill quickly. Booking early ensures better rates and availability.
- Group coordination: Interested in traveling with fellow members? Let us know so we can explore group packages or pre/post-convention travel opportunities.
- Extend your stay: Taiwan offers everything from bustling night markets and historic temples to scenic mountains and hot springs—plenty to explore before or after the convention.

Registration is open! Click here to find out more! Let's represent Charlotte in Taipei in 2026!



Get a Global Perspective - Read the Rotary 360 Blog

Looking for fresh inspiration, innovative ideas, and real stories from Rotarians around the world? Take a few minutes to explore Rotary 360, the official blog of Rotary International.

This dynamic resource offers a behind-the-scenes look at Rotary's impact across the globe, told by the people living it. From service project success stories to leadership lessons, personal reflections, and updates from the RI President, Rotary 360 connects you with the heart of our mission: People of Action making lasting change.

Whether you want to learn from a club halfway across the world, gain ideas to energize your own service, or simply feel more connected to Rotary's global family, Rotary 360 is a must-read.

Visit the blog at <https://blog.rotary.org> and see what's happening across Rotary—360 degrees of impact.

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224
06/30/2025 234
07/15/2025 223

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, July 15, 2025: 88

Guests in attendance: Rae Ann Baker ([Patrick Baker](#)), Kyle Booker ([Dr. Tony Zeiss](#)), Anupam Bose ([Kim Brattain](#)), Natalie English, Past President, DGN Sharon Heinrich ([Jerry Coughter](#)), Gregory Jackson, Kevin Kendrick (Immediate Past District Governor), Eric Law ([William Bradley](#)), Mac McCarley, Past President, District Governor Donna Moffett, Dominick Mortarotti ([Kim Brattain](#)), David Reboloso, Ruth Shaw, Past President, Namrata Yadav ([Kim Brattain](#)), Sarah Martin Yost ([Tish Atkins Charles](#))

Milestones (Week of July 22 - 28)

Birthdays

26 – Fred Monroe
26 – Bill Nichols
27 – Sadler Barnhardt

Wedding Anniversaries

23 – Christianna & Warren Kean
24 – Denise & Alan Cubbedge
26 – Courtney & Rex Reynolds

Rotary Anniversaries

17 years: Will Hadley
11 years: David Head
10 years: Kim McMillan
4 years (33 total): Helen Verkamp

2025 - 2026 Board Members

- President Patrick Baker
- President-Elect Bill Barte
- Immediate Past President Kim Brattain
- Secretary Bill Gill
- Treasurer Craig Field

Current Directors: Benton S. Bragg, Byrd Bergeron, John F. Cantrell, Karen N. Calder, Tish Atkins Charles, Dena R. Diorio, Stuart P. Hair, J Hill, Jesse G. Hite, Ayo M. Johnson, Lori Keeton, Michael B. Orzech, Elizabeth Teagarden, Virginia Owen, Michael Wollinger

Contact Us

For more information about how to get involved, volunteer opportunities and meeting topics, contact **Christine Cipriano**, Executive Director, 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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