



## Upcoming Events

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

**Tues., July 15 - Weekly Meeting:** *Presidential Transition from President Kim Brattain to President Patrick Baker*

**July 15-29 - Electronics Donation Drive:** *Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont Electronics Donation & Recycling. Details below.*

**Weds., July 16 - Leadership Impact Group:** *Happy Hour at Lost World Brewery. 5:30–7 p.m., Lost Worlds Brewery, 1100 Metropolitan Ave.*

**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.*

**July 22 - Board of Directors Meeting**

**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



*Amy Burkett, General Manager,  
WTVI PBS Charlotte*

by **Susie Masotti**

Charlotte Rotary Club was pleased to have Amy Burkett, General Manager of **WTVI** PBS Charlotte, serve as our speaker this week.

Amy was introduced by the enthusiastic **Dr. Tony Zeiss**. Tony shared that in 2012, Central Piedmont Community College agreed to take over WTVI/PBS Charlotte to keep the station alive. In 2013, he hired Amy Burkett to lead the station. Tony shared that when he hired Amy, he knew he was hiring someone with passion for Public Television. At the time, WTVI

had only 800 donors and was more than \$3 million in debt (which he chose not to share with her before hiring her). Her credentials were impeccable – she served as a news anchor in commercial television before spending 14 years as EVP at WLVT PBS 39 in Pennsylvania. Today, WTVI is proudly the most locally produced channel in our area. She has authored two books on leadership and has the distinction of being mentored by John Maxwell. Amy is married to her husband, Rob, and has one son, RJ.

Amy thanked Tony for his kind introduction and reminded him that on her first day at WTVI, he told her they had a meeting to attend – he brought her to this same room for a Rotary Club of Charlotte meeting where then-**Governor Pat McCrory** was speaking. Governor McCrory now has a show – *Unspun* – on WTVI. She admits her job was challenging at the beginning – she began her new position by working to create a platform based on service first. Today, WTVI boasts 14,960 donors, of whom just 150 people give more than \$1,000 each year. **Click here to read more.**

A recording of the meeting can be found here:  
With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1100004503?p=0s>



## Club News



Shoutout to Charlotte Rotarians [Ayo Johnson](#) and [Trina Fullard](#) for completing Level II of the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI)!

Their commitment to growing as leaders is inspiring, and now they're showing off their Rotary pride with some brand-new swag!





**Used Electronics Donation Drive: July 15, 22 & 29**

Donate your old electronics to Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont and support career and employment programs that change lives.

Goodwill accepts nearly anything with a cord—even if the cord is missing! Items are securely wiped (DoD-Level 3) or responsibly recycled through trusted partners like DELL.

Donated electronics are sold at Goodwill's tech store, The GRID, with proceeds funding job training and tech employment programs. Trusted by organizations like the City of Charlotte and Coca-Cola, Goodwill makes e-waste disposal easy and impactful. Visit [goodwillsp.org](http://goodwillsp.org) or [click here](#) to learn more.



**Leadership Impact Group (LIG) Meeting**

**Happy Hour!** Wed., July 16, 2025 | 5:30 – 7:00 PM  
Lost Worlds Brewery, 1100 Metropolitan Ave, Charlotte

The Leadership Impact Group is a dynamic organization designed for growth-oriented individuals, offering a platform to create lasting relationships among emerging leaders from many backgrounds and industries to help build the ideas of tomorrow. By tapping into Rotary International's extensive network, and conducting meetings that blend service, networking, and socializing, we empower ambitious leaders to drive meaningful change that positions Charlotte as a beacon of innovation and leadership worldwide. Service. Social. Networking.

Make plans to join LIG on Wednesday for great conversation and networking fun!



**Rotary runs on the energy and heart of its members—and we need YOU!**

### *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!

## Rotarians Out and About

### *Rotarians Gather for Fellowship at Noble Smoke*

Although there was no official Rotary meeting on Tuesday, July 1, the spirit of fellowship remained strong. Past Presidents **David Anderson** and **William Bradley** organized a social lunch gathering at Noble Smoke, offering members a chance to stay connected over great food and conversation.

Rotarians filled the private dining space, sharing stories, laughter, and plenty of barbecue. Many thanks to David and William for coordinating the event. It was a great reminder that Rotary is about more than just meetings—it's about meaningful connections and shared community.











## 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.

## Membership Update

07/01/2025 224

06/24/2025 234

07/08/2025 224

(Resignations: Greg Hatcher, Harry Blondell (LIG), Owen Burkard (LIG), Bryan Butler (LIG), Lemuelle Claud (LIG), Daniel Cunningham (LIG), Oscar Joyner (LIG), Dillon Kosofsky (LIG), Andrii Spivak (LIG), Michael Woodard (LIG), Abigail Weinshel (LIG)

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, July 8, 2025: 88

Guests in attendance: Mercedes Hintz ([Jim Hintz](#)), Stefanie Myer ([Susan Evans](#)), Kimberly Owens ([Kim Brattain](#)), Linda Shell ([John Shell](#)), Reece Wagner ([Fred Wagner](#)), Namrata Yadav ([Kim Brattain](#)), Beth Zeiss ([Tony Zeiss](#))

## Milestones (Week of July 15 - 21)

### Birthdays

17 – Tom Cottingham

17 – Peirce Ward

21 – John Phillips

### Wedding Anniversaries

19 – Joy & Ken Poe

20 – Sally & Joe Morris

### Rotary Anniversaries

8 years: Howard Hoyle

4 years: Donna Dunlap

1 year: J Hill

## 2025 - 2026 Board Members

- President Patrick Baker
- President-Elect Bill Bartee
- 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](mailto:ChristineCipriano), Executive Director, 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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