



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

November 4, 2025

## OUR CLUB – NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

by **Marilynn Bowler**

### 2025-2026 Board Members

President Patrick Baker

Pres Elect Bill Bartee

Past Pres Kim Brattain

Secretary Bill Gill

Treasurer Craig Field

Exec Dir Christine Cipriano

#### Directors 2024-2026

Benton Bragg

John Cantrell

Tish Atkins Charles

Dena Diorio

Jesse Hite

Virginia Owen

#### Directors 2025-2027

Byrd Bergeron

Karen Calder

J Hill

Ayo Johnson

Lori Keeton

Michael Orzech

Elizabeth Teagarden

Mike Wollinger

#### Membership Co-Chairs:

Linwood Bolles &

Shelley Dean

#### Programs

Elizabeth Teagarden

It's not unusual for any club or organization to host an annual "State of the Club" presentation but on Tuesday, Charlotte Rotary's version was especially significant. It was interesting, informative, insightful, energizing, and even FUN! It centered on Membership, Strategic Planning, and Financial Considerations.

Following the re-introduction of **Bill Bartee** as incoming President (2026-2027), Past President **Carol Hardison** presented the roster of new Board members which included **Craig Field**, **Catherine Bracey**, **Jesse Hite**, **Trina Fullard**, **Robert Shaw** and **Chris Thomas**. All were immediately approved as presented.

Next on the agenda was the introduction of **Mark Norman** as the 2027-28 President, with **Herb Harriss** making a motion that the nominations be closed. That motion was met with enthusiastic applause. Charlotte Rotary will be in superb hands for the future.

President Patrick began his remarks with heartfelt thanks to our members for the support he has enjoyed to this point in his Presidential term. He stressed the importance of openness and transparency in all matters relating to the running of our club. Our current membership stands at 216 with 121 members who pay "full dues" and a handful of those who fall under the "Rule of 85" as well as corporate memberships, memberships pertaining to non-profits and members of the Leadership Impact Group. It's no secret that our club's numbers are down from where we were prior to COVID and we share that status with most (if not all) organizations. Our goal is to reverse that trend.

**Patrick Baker** spoke of the importance of "engagement and opportunities" ... We want to be a club that everyone wants to be a part of" which is key to driving membership numbers upward.

He shared both internal and external feedback from the recent Survey indicating that we use grading numbers 1 & 2 to represent negativity; 4 & 5 to represent

positive responses; and 3 as a group which doesn't feel connected but which would go one way or the other to become a negative with a 2 or a positive with a 4. We happily had no 1's or 2's on the majority of questions asked. Our target was 4's or 5's, and fortunately, the Survey came in with an 80% majority of positive responses. (Our meeting location, for example, was graded 4's and 5's.) The area we'll be targeting to improve upon is "connection with others." We should all work toward making those numbers increase. Active, connected members make for a very successful Rotary club.

Patrick gave huge kudos to **Luther Moore**, our Program Chair for last year, and asked each of us to be thinking of possible speakers and/or topics that would be of special interest to our club and to potential members.

**Elizabeth Teagarden**, who is our current Program Chair, took the MIC to, again, give a huge shout-out to Luther for mentoring her and suggesting/lining-up speakers for the first quarter of her term as Program Chair. Elizabeth is currently booking programs through February of 2026, so members with good program recommendations should share those ideas with her asap. On hand to help in that important area are Think Tank members headed by **Chase Saunders** and include: **Luther Moore, Bill Barteo, Tony Zeiss, Kim Brattain, Chris Thomas, Mike Hawley, Catherine Bracey, and Joel Ford**. Or Any of us may join the new WhatsApp group online which focuses on programming discussions (see a QR code below).

Areas to be explored include 1) why members leave our club; 2) membership dues/cost discussion; 3) any pertinent areas not stated within the Survey.

Patrick assured us that Charlotte Rotary is moving in a positive direction and all comments within the Survey will be taken seriously and discussed by the Board of Directors.

In closing his remarks, Patrick reiterated what an honor and privilege it has been for him to serve as President of the "strong and impactful" Charlotte Rotary Club and he thanked us sincerely for our support. That was followed by a rousing standing ovation for Patrick, the current Board of Directors, and our Administrator.

With a reminder that the newly installed Rotary Wheel Garden was officially dedicated on October 30th (and it's absolutely gorgeous and will be enjoyed by thousands), Patrick closed the "State of the Club" meeting.

Charlotte Rotary is special ... in its mission; in its leadership; in its function in our community and world-wide; and in its inclusiveness.

Here is the recording:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1133945904?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1133991461?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The introduction begins at about 25 mins and 05 secs.



# Charlotte Rotary Programs

WhatsApp group

