



## Upcoming Events

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



**November Service Focus - Thank you for your donations!**  
**Holiday Book Drive.** Bring new books for preschoolers through 12th graders (ages 4–18) benefiting **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Carolinas**. [Click here for the organization's wishlist link.](#)

**Tues., Nov. 18 - Weekly Meeting:** Kendall Kendrick, America 250 / NC 250, Executive Director, Trail of History Charlotte-Mecklenburg

**Tues., Nov. 25 - Excellence in Leadership** Nominations due. See details below.

**Tues., Nov. 25 - Weekly Meeting:** Barbara Bleiweis, Chair of the North Carolina Soil & Water Commission

**Tues., Dec. 2 - Weekly Meeting:** William McKee, CEO, Knowmad Digital Marketing

Save the Date! Mark your calendar for Giving Tuesday, December 2, and support The Rotary Foundation with your generous gift.

**Upcoming December Service - The Salvation Army Bell Ringing.** See details below.

**Thurs., Dec. 25 - Volunteer Opportunity:** Christmas Morning Breakfast at Charlotte Rescue Mission, 6:00–8:30 a.m., 907 W. 1st St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Dress Attire: Black pants and white shirt. 20 volunteers are needed. Please confirm your attendance by signing up at <https://vhub.at/charlotterotaryclub> or email [Tracy Reading](mailto:Tracy Reading at treading1@mac.com) at [treading1@mac.com](mailto:treading1@mac.com). Tracy will sign you up. He will need the following from you. Full Name, Home Address, Email Address, DOB. It's imperative we officially sign up all volunteers prior to the event.

**Date Change! Tues., Jan. 6 - Club Event:** American Red Cross Blood Drive

## This Week's Meeting



**Commemorating Veterans Day with The Butterfly Project - Lessons in Positive Outcomes**  
by Elly Clary

At a Veterans Day meeting that recognized Rotarians for military service, the program appropriately dealt with the Holocaust.

Nazi Germany murdered six million Jews during World War II, and 1.5 million were children. Charlotte is a strong participant in The Butterfly Project, an effort that originated in San Diego to remember those children through education, the arts and memorial making.

Lori Semel is the Butterfly Project supervisor at Charlotte's Levine Jewish Community Center. The movement encourages

youths to paint ceramic butterflies, with a goal to create 1.5 million brightly colored insect shapes, one for each child who died.

"The project was founded to educate about the dangers of hatred and bigotry," Semel said, "and cultivate

empathy and social responsibility.” [Click here to read more.](#)

Here is the recording:

With slides: **Commemorating Veterans Day with The Butterfly Project – Lessons in Positive Outcomes**

Without slides: **Commemorating Veterans Day with The Butterfly Project – Lessons in Positive Outcomes**

The introduction begins at about 37 minutes.



## Club News

***With Sympathy to Past President Marilyn Bowler*** We extend our deepest condolences to Marilyn and her family on the passing of her daughter, Julie Bowler Duke, who passed away Friday afternoon surrounded by her loved ones. At Julie’s request, services will be private. An obituary will be shared soon. Please keep Marilyn and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time.

***With Sympathy to Rick Handford*** We are deeply saddened to learn of the passing of William Parker South, grandson of our fellow Rotarian **Rick Handford**. Our thoughts and heartfelt condolences go out to Rick, Beth and their family during this profound time of grief.

***Prayers for Tom Blocker*** - Please keep Tom in your thoughts and prayers as he recovers from his recent knee replacement surgery. We are happy to share that Tom is doing well and healing nicely. We look forward to seeing him back with us soon and wish him a smooth and steady recovery.



### *Honoring Our Charlotte Rotary Veterans*

In recognition of Veterans Day and with deep gratitude for those who have served, on Tuesday we proudly honored our Rotary Club of Charlotte members who have worn the uniform of our nation. Their commitment, sacrifice, and leadership, in times of war and peace, embody the very best of service above self.

We thank the following veterans for their dedication to protecting our freedoms and strengthening our country:

- William "Will" Barnhardt – U.S. Army, Captain, Chemical Corps
- Linwood Bolles – 6 years combined service in the U.S. Army National Guard, Army Reserve, and Naval Reserve
- Henry Cantrell (1966–1969) – U.S. Army; Company Commander
- Tim Chappell (1966–1969) – U.S. Army, First Lieutenant; Purple Heart recipient
- Elly Clary (1968–1970) – U.S. Army; military intelligence specialist, 35th Engineering Group, Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam
- Dr. John Clarkson (1969–1971) – U.S. Army Medical Corps
- Tom Cottingham (1969–1973) – U.S. Army, Captain
- Charles "Chuck" Dahlgren – U.S. Coast Guard
- Jim Hintz (1966–1992) – U.S. Air Force, Colonel; F-15 Eagle team
- Jesse Hite – U.S. Army
- Larry Hyatt – Veteran
- Harriman Jett (1953–1961) – U.S. Naval Reserve, Petty Officer, Sonar
- Ed Kizer (1961–1963) – U.S. Army, First Lieutenant
- Chad Lloyd – U.S. Navy, Lieutenant; Naval Intelligence
- Pender McElroy (1962–1965) – U.S. Army; Russian linguist in West Germany
- Luther Moore (1971–1973) – U.S. Army; First Lieutenant, Infantry
- Jim Gilligan (1966–1970) – U.S. Air Force
- Chuck Lew – Veteran
- Joe Morris – U.S. Navy, Lieutenant Commander
- Jim Rogers (1967–1969) – U.S. Air Force
- Tod Thorne – U.S. Air Force
- Ken Shortridge – Commander (Ret.), U.S. Naval Reserve
- Martin "Marty" Waters – U.S. Navy, WWII

We thank each of you for your courage, your service, and the example you continue to set within our club and community.



### *Congratulations to Past President Pender McElroy: Major Donor!*

We're proud to celebrate Past President **Pender McElroy** for achieving the honor of **Major Donor to The Rotary Foundation!** This distinction recognizes exceptional generosity to The Rotary Foundation, which funds life-changing projects in education, health, clean water, and peace building worldwide. Pender's commitment reminds us that giving—whether through time, talent, or treasure—creates lasting impact. His example inspires all Rotarians to consider how we, too, can make a difference in communities near and far.



### *Excellence in Leadership*

The Excellence in Leadership Award Committee is now accepting nominations for this year's award.

Established in 1988 by the Rotary Club of Charlotte, Charlotte Business Journal, and the Charlotte Chamber, the Management Excellence Award celebrates outstanding leadership in the Charlotte-area business community. Inspired by Rotary's commitment to "high ethical standards in business," the award highlights the role of professionals who exemplify integrity, fairness, and service. As always, we will honor someone who exemplifies visionary leadership in their profession or organization. Nominees should demonstrate remarkable professional success, visionary leadership, civic involvement, and a reputation for integrity that aligns with the Four-Way Test.

Nominations are due November 25. Submit nominations to Committee Chair, Past President [David Zimmerman](#) at [dzimmerman@southernshows.com](mailto:dzimmerman@southernshows.com) or mail them to Southern Shows, PO Box 36859, Charlotte, NC 28236.

#### **NOMINATION PROCESS**

Review the qualities of excellence and consider nominating a regional leader who exhibits those qualities. Explain why the nominee meets the criteria and why you feel he/she should receive this recognition by providing your comments on one 8 1/2" X 11" sheet or similar size. Please attach a brief biographical sketch of your nominee as well. Your nominee does not need to be aware of your submission. Note that politicians are typically not considered unless their non-political activities warrant consideration.

#### **QUALITIES OF EXCELLENCE**

When nominating your choice, list extraordinary achievements, citing examples of leadership and how they reflect credit to the leader and his/her organization. Consider the following:

- Success in the nominee's profession and business or organization
- Visionary leadership and execution
- Significant contributions for the good of the Charlotte region
- Civic mindedness and community involvement
- Humble in their success
- A reputation for character in keeping with the values of the Four-Way Test



#### *Good Fellows Christmas Luncheon – December 3, 2025*

If you are interested in attending the annual Good Fellows Christmas Luncheon, please contact [Mike Wollinger](#).

This 108-year Charlotte tradition raises funds to support families in need—last year reaching \$2.15 million, with a goal of \$2.5 million this year. The luncheon features inspiring presentations, stories from families helped by Good Fellows, and music from the Moravian Brass Choir. Sponsorships are also available and include reserved seating and event recognition.

Date: Wednesday, December 3, 2025

Time: 11:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Location: NASCAR Hall of Fame Crown Ballroom

Reach out to Mike at [Michael.Wollinger@TowneBank.net](mailto:Michael.Wollinger@TowneBank.net) if you would like to attend or learn more.



#### *November Service Project: Holiday Book Drive!*

Building on last year's success, our club will once again collect brand-new books for preschoolers through 12th graders (ages 4–18). The Holiday Book Drive is benefits **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Carolinas**.

The books will be included in the holiday gift packages for about 100 children, along with grocery store gift cards — a special way to encourage reading and spread cheer during the holiday break.

To make giving easy, you can purchase books directly from the [Amazon Wish List](#).

*Let's help make the season brighter — one story at a time!*



For the 31st year, Charlotte Rotary will support The Salvation Army by ringing bells on Trade & Tryon and also at Truist Ballpark on Dec 3, 4, 5, 6 and 10. Sign-ups for the bell ringing will take place in the lobby during Rotary meetings on Nov 18 and 25.

The Salvation Army provides services for homelessness, emergency response, Christmas assistance and youth programs. Below is a highlight of emergency disaster services.

- When disaster strikes, The Salvation Army is often among the first to respond – providing meals, water and emotional support for families in crisis.
- TSA-Charlotte has a mobile feeding unit, ready to deploy at a moment's notice to local disasters, such as flooding events, or regional responses, such as hurricanes.
- Last year, TSA was among the first on the ground in many of the hardest hit areas from Hurricane Helene. Moreover, after the response fades from the news cycle, The Salvation Army remains, providing critical long-term support.



### *Christmas Morning at Charlotte Rescue Mission*

Join Charlotte Rotary in continuing its cherished tradition of volunteering at the Charlotte Rescue Mission Christmas morning breakfast! Help serve breakfast, coffee, and juice and spread joy to residents and the community on this special morning.

At least 20 volunteers are needed to make the morning unforgettable. If you're interested, please confirm your attendance by signing up at the link below, or email [Tracy Reading](mailto:TracyReading@treading1@mac.com) at [treading1@mac.com](mailto:treading1@mac.com) directly so he can help you sign up.

Here are the details:

- Date: December 25, 2025
- Time: 6:00 AM – 8:30 AM
- Location: 907 W. 1st St., Charlotte, NC 28202
- Parking is at Community Matters Cafe, then you will walk down the Parking Lot to the CRM Beatty Center.
- Dress Attire: Black pants and a white shirt

Sign Up Here: <https://vhub.at/charlotterotaryclub>

## Rotarians Out and About





### *Spotlight on Mark Markanda*

We mistakenly left him out last week, but **Mark Markanda** more than deserves his own recognition—especially after delivering an excellent and insightful speech at the Rotary District 7680 Foundation Banquet. Mark’s depth of Rotary knowledge is unmatched; if you ever have a question about Rotary, he is truly the one who can answer it.

A dedicated Rotarian since 1976, Mark has an incredible 49 years of perfect attendance and a Rotary résumé that spans both local and international service. Born in India, he earned his Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Civil Engineering from the University of Kentucky, later serving as a Professional Engineer and Chairman/Treasurer of a Charlotte architectural-engineering firm. He now works as a Financial Advisor with Wells Fargo.

Mark’s Rotary leadership includes serving as District Governor, chairing numerous district committees, leading a GSE Team to the Philippines, participating in National Immunization Days, and representing his districts three times at the Council on Legislation. Internationally, he has served as a Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator, International Training Leader, and member of the PolioPlus Speaker’s Bureau.

His honors include the Service Above Self Award, Citation for Meritorious Service, Distinguished Service Award, and multiple recognitions for his work toward global polio eradication. He and his late wife Uma are Arch Klumph Society Members, Major Donors, and Bequest Society Level III Members—a family deeply rooted in Rotary service.

We are proud to highlight Mark this week and grateful for the wisdom, history, and heart he brings to our club and the entire district.

## Beyond the Club



### *Rotary Responds: Hurricane Melissa Relief*

The Rotary Foundation has declared a Disaster of Magnitude and launched the Hurricane Melissa Response Fund to aid communities devastated by this powerful storm. Grants can provide water, food, medicine, shelter, and clothing, with contributions accepted through January 31, 2026.

You can help by donating, transferring District Designated Funds, applying for disaster grants, or fundraising through Raise for Rotary. Questions? Email [disaster.responsefund@rotary.org](mailto:disaster.responsefund@rotary.org) or [grants@rotary.org](mailto:grants@rotary.org). Donations can be made [here](#).

Thank you for supporting Rotary's relief efforts!



### *Join Us in Taipei! Register for the Rotary International Convention*

Rotarians from around the world will gather in Taipei, Taiwan, for the 2026 Rotary International Convention, and you won't want to miss it! This is your chance to connect with fellow Rotarians, attend inspiring sessions, and experience the rich culture, cuisine, and energy of one of Asia's most vibrant cities.

From networking with global leaders to discovering innovative service ideas, the Convention is an unforgettable opportunity to celebrate Rotary's impact while exploring new ways to make a difference in your community and beyond.

Don't wait—register today and be part of this extraordinary global gathering! Registration cost increases on Dec. 15. For more information and registration details, visit [Rotary International Convention](#).

## Volunteer Opportunity

TreesCharlotte - Lend a hand and help grow Charlotte—volunteer for TreeDay plantings. TreesCharlotte is looking for volunteers.

- They are planting 173 trees at RC Bradford Park on Saturday, November 22. **Registration information can be found [here](#).**
- They will also plant 41 trees in the McKee Ridge community on Saturday, December 6. **Registration information can be found [here](#)**

## Membership Update

07/01/2025 224  
09/30/2025 217  
11/04/2025 217

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, Nov. 11, 2025: 75

Guests in attendance: Sandy Bell ([Peter Keane](#)), Alexander Herndon ([Pete Keane](#)), Nicola Main ([Elizabeth Caspers](#)), Eden Moore ([Kerin Hughes](#)), Chris Orr ([Linwood Bolles](#)), Julian Underwood ([Pete Keane](#)), Miriam Young-Moore ([Kerin Hughes](#))

## Milestones (Week of Nov. 18 - 24)

### Birthdays

19 – Pat Millen  
20 – Keith Nowokunski  
22 – Floyd Davis  
22 – Kim McMillan  
23 - Terri DeBoo  
24 – Jim Woodward

### Wedding Anniversaries

21 - Christal & J Hill  
21 - Tchernavia & William Montgomery

**Rotary Anniversaries**  
2 years: Chris Brigman  
2 years: Deanna Dycus  
2 years: Kathi Knier

## 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, 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:christine@charlotterotary.org), 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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