



Upcoming Events

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



Last Week!

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.

NEXT WEEK! 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

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

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.

Tues., Dec. 9 - Weekly Meeting: Panel: Good Friends and Good Fellows moderated by Nancy McNealis

Thurs., Dec. 18 - Club Social: Swing Into the Season at the club Holiday Party, 6–8 p.m., InTown Golf Club, 4425 Sharon Rd, Suite M200A, \$45/person (plus-ones welcome). See below for details.

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@treading1@mac.com) at 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

*Kendall Kendrick, Executive Director, Trail of History &
Charlotte Liberty Walk*
by Susie Masotti

In keeping with the Charlotte Rotary Club's love of history (especially in and around Charlotte and Mecklenburg County), the Club welcomed Kendall Kendrick, Executive Director of the Trail of History and Charlotte Liberty Walk. She also serves as Chair of the America 250 Mecklenburg County Commission.

Dr. Tony Zeiss introduced Kendall by calling her a real dynamo who has steeped herself in our area's history. In the past, she



hosted a radio show for many years while living in Atlanta. Kendall is a dedicated historian focused on the 1800s of the Carolinas. She is the founder of “The Beginner’s Guide to the 18th Century” YouTube channel.

Kendall took the lectern dressed in full 1800s attire and teased the crowd that when she is dressed “authentically” she always hopes not to be pulled over or involved in an accident to then have to explain her attire. Kendall explained that her mother is a native of Charlotte which she felt a calling to focus on building her family here.

Kendall began her comments reminding us of all that there are multiple historical walking trails throughout Charlotte. There is an online guided audio tour of the Charlotte Trail of History which is home to 11 statues currently with three more expected

soon. The Charlotte Liberty Walk has a total of 19 markers including the Meck Dec and other historic events in our County. **Click here to read more.**

Here is the recording:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1138635461?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1138647887?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The introduction begins at about 31 minutes and 30 seconds.



Club News



Thank You for Powering Rotary's Impact

Thank you for supporting **The Rotary Foundation's** Annual Fund–SHARE. Your generosity truly fuels Rotary's work at home and around the world.

Annual Fund–SHARE is more than a funding model — it's a partnership. Through SHARE, Rotarians help guide which projects and priorities move forward. Your contributions become District Designated Funds (DDF), empowering clubs to bring meaningful projects to life, support scholarships, fund vocational training teams, and deliver vital humanitarian service.

Every gift you make becomes part of something bigger: transforming communities, elevating opportunities, and strengthening Rotary's ability to Do Good in the World.

Celebrating Those Who Leveled Up

We're proud to recognize members who reached new giving levels this year. Please join us in congratulating:

Catherine Bracey, Will Barnhardt, John Clarkson, Shelley Dean, Carol Hardison, Chuck Howard, Matt Joyner, Chuck Lew, Chad Lloyd, Roger Sarow, Tod Thorne, David Tobin, and Mike Wollinger

Your continued generosity and commitment to Rotary's mission are deeply appreciated.

In a world filled with urgent needs, thank you for choosing to share your resources, your trust, and your commitment with **The Rotary Foundation**



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 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 ½" 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



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. Final sign-ups for the bell ringing will take place in the lobby during next week's Rotary meeting.

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

- Since 1904, The Salvation Army has provided Christmas assistance in Charlotte.
- TSA believes that every child should have the opportunity to experience the joy of Christmas. Through its programs, such as Angel Tree, the organization connects willing donors to families in need to provide toys and necessities.
- In mid-December, families return to pick up the gifts that have been graciously provided.
- Last year, TSA served around 2,000 Charlotte families (nearly 6,000 children), in addition to more than 1,700 low-income seniors.

Rotary
Club of Charlotte



*Swing Into
the Season!*

HOLIDAY PARTY

Thursday, December 18

6:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

Intown Golf Club

4425 Sharon Road, Suite M200A
Charlotte, NC 28211



\$45-per person

Plus-ones welcome!



Bring an unwrapped toy
for entry – all toys will be
donated



Ugly
Sweater
Contest

RSVP by December 11 to:

CHRISTINE CIPRIANO



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 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>

Insider Tips



If you want to impress a past district governor at your table, casually drop this: "Did you know our club's Foundation giving returns exactly 47.5% to the district as DDF after three years?" Then pause, sip your coffee, and let them register that you know your way around the Annual Fund-SHARE matrix. Instant street cred.

How to Give to The Rotary Foundation The Rotary Foundation Cheat Sheet

Your Member ID Matters!

- Find it on your Rotary magazine label, in DACdb, or MyRotary profile.
- Always include it to ensure proper credit.

The Best Fund to Support:

- Give to Annual Fund - SHARE
- Supports local and global grants and counts toward your Paul Harris Fellow and the club's grant credit

Ways to Give:

- Add your donation to your Charlotte Rotary invoice (quarterly or annually)
- Give online at <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate>
 - Create an account
 - You can also check your donation balance at this site
- Mail a check to The Rotary Foundation with your Member ID and fund name. Include your Member ID Number, the **contribution form** for more detailed information included

If You're Using a Donor Advised Fund or IRA Distribution:

- Have your provider mail directly to The Rotary Foundation.
- Include your Member ID and fund name.
- Or ... if allowed... send to the club office to ensure proper credit.

Important Distinction:

- The Rotary Foundation (501c3) = Tax-deductible+ PHF + grant credit
- Charlotte Rotary (501c4) = Not tax-deductible
- Charlotte Rotary's Donor Advised Fund (DAF) = Tax-deductible but no PHF or grant credit.

Need Help?

Contact: Mike Wollinger, Club Foundation Chair, Michael.Wollinger@TowneBank.net

Or Christine Cipriano, Executive Director, christine@charlotterotary.org

<https://www.rotary.org/en/get-involved/ways-to-give>

Beyond the Club

NOVEMBER 2025

Rotary

District 7680

NEWSLETTER



#PeopleOfAction #ServiceAboveSelf #ProudRotarian

Be sure to check out the latest **District 7680 newsletter** for updates, opportunities, and Rotary news from across the district. It's a quick read and full of great info!



District 7680 Announces Governor for 2028–29

We're delighted to share that the District 7680 Nominating Committee has selected Cindy Brown Fink, Rotary Club of Salisbury, as the Governor-nominee for Rotary Year 2028–2029.

Following a thoughtful selection process and interviews with candidates submitted by clubs across the district, the committee determined that Cindy's leadership experience, deep Rotary engagement, and commitment to service make her an exceptional choice for this role.

Unless a club submits a challenge by November 28, Cindy will become the Governor-nominee-designate, officially stepping into the Governor-nominee role on July 1, two years ahead of her term.

Please join the District in congratulating Cindy on this well-earned honor!



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**.

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224
10/31/2025 217
11/18/2025 215 (Sharon Dowell (LIG), Trevor Melito (LIG))

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, Nov. 18, 2025: 84

Guests in attendance: Chris Decent ([Lori Keller](#)), Jennifer Frey ([William Hadley](#)), Steve McKee ([Tony Zeiss](#)), Robert Schleusner ([Richard Malnati](#)), Lynne Smith ([Tony Zeiss](#))

Milestones

(Week of Nov. 25 - Dec. 1)

Birthdays

25 – Hallie Rojeski
26 – John Shell
30 – Bob Freeman
30 – Carolyn Carlborg
1 – Marcia Colson

Wedding Anniversaries

26 - Debbie & Sadler Barnhardt
30 - Sarah & Josh Yost

Rotary Anniversaries

33 years: Pat Millen
31 years: Herb Harriss
23 years: Carol Hardison
18 years: Dan Rajkowski
15 years: Henry Batten
3 years: Susie Bunch-Masotti
3 years: Pete Kean
2 years: Vernon Goode

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



Photos from our luncheons, historical photos, and other events and projects can be found on the club's Flickr site. Click here [charlotterotary6006](https://www.flickr.com/photos/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 \(jotform.com\)](https://www.rotary.org/usa/charlotte/charlotterotary6006/visitor-pre-register)

Rotary Club of Charlotte | 1850 E 3rd St, Ste 220 | Charlotte, NC 28204 US

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