



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. 11 - Weekly Meeting: Lori Semel, Butterfly Project Coordinator and Veterans Day Celebration

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

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.

Thurs., Dec. 25 - Volunteer Opportunity: **Christmas Morning Breakfast at Charlotte Rescue Mission**, 6:30–8:30 a.m., 907 W. 1st St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Dress Attire: Black pants and white shirt. 30 volunteers are needed. Please confirm your attendance by signing up at <https://vhub.at/charlotterotaryclub> or email **Tracy Reading** at treading1@mac.com. See details below.

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

This Week's Meeting

Rotary
Club of
Charlotte



Rotary Club of Charlotte Business Meeting
by Marilynn Bowler

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. **Click here to read more.**

Here is the recording:

With slides: [Charlotte Rotary Club Business Meeting & Election with slides on Vimeo](#)

Without slides: [Charlotte Rotary Club Business Meeting & Election without slides on Vimeo](#)

The introduction begins at about 35 mins and 40 secs.

Club News

Prayers for Immediate Past President Kim Brattain and Family Our thoughts and heartfelt prayers go out to our Immediate Past President, [Kim Brattain](#), and her family on the passing of her father, Daniel Webster Brattain, Jr. As a Rotary family, let's stand together beside Kim, offering our support and compassion as she navigates this difficult season. **Dan's obituary can be found here.**

Keeping Robert in Our Thoughts Please keep Rotarian [Robert Shaw](#) in your prayers. He recently faced an unexpected medical situation that required surgery. The good news—he's doing well and on the mend. We send him our best wishes for a smooth recovery!

Honoring Our Veterans – November 11

On Tuesday, November 11th, we will celebrate and honor the veterans among us in recognition of Veterans Day. If you have served in the U.S. Armed Forces, please contact Executive Director [Christine Cipriano](#) to let her know which branch you served in and when. We look forward to recognizing your service and sacrifice during this special program.



Special Thanks to Joe Morris

A special note of appreciation goes to [Joe Morris](#), our 2024–2025 Rotary Foundation and Grants Chair, whose steady leadership and attention to detail were instrumental in moving the Rotary Wheel Garden Project from concept to approval. Joe's coordination with District leaders, understanding of the grant process, and commitment to Rotary's mission ensured the project stayed on track and met every requirement.

Thanks to Joe's efforts—and the generosity of so many Charlotte Rotarians—the Rotary Wheel Garden will stand as a beautiful, lasting symbol of Rotary's presence in our community.

Thank you, Joe!

***November Service Project -
Holiday Book Drive Returns!***



As we wrap up our “Grits & Oats” collection, get ready to support our next project: the Holiday Book Drive benefiting **Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Central Carolinas**.

Building on last year’s success, our club will once again collect brand-new books for preschoolers through 12th graders (ages 4–18). These 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!

Holiday Book Drive Fun! A Shout-Out to Kerin Hughes!

A round of applause for **Kerin Hughes** and her unforgettable announcement for the Holiday Book Drive at Tuesday’s meeting! With dramatic flair and poetic charm, Kerin delivered “A Call to Pages: A Rotary Soliloquy,” rallying Rotarians to support the drive for Big Brothers Big Sisters.

"Hear ye, noble Rotarians of Charlotte fair,
Whose hearts do beat for service rich and rare.
A call rings out across our merry band—
Bring forth the books! Let learning grace the land!
...
We give not gold, nor jewels, nor royal creeds—
We gift imagination—and plant noble seeds."

Thank you, Kerin, for reminding us that the spirit of Rotary can shine through rhyme, laughter, and love of service!



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 11, 18 and 25.

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

- The Salvation Army of Greater Charlotte help families overcome homelessness through emergency shelter, transitional housing and case management that leads to long-term stability.
- As the largest emergency shelter for women and children in our community, The Center of Hope on Spratt Street, serves more than 275 individuals every night, provides shelter, meals and support. During times of inclement weather (including extreme heat or cold), additional space is

- made available to bring individuals in for overnight shelter.
- Through its various housing programs, The Salvation Army will provide over 700 people per night with a place to stay. The goal is to move people quickly into permanent housing.
- Starting in November, TSA will be breaking ground on an expansion project to extend the dining room and add additional space for critical programming and extreme weather sheltering.
- Meanwhile, TSA has also purchased an extended stay hotel with efficiency units able to house intact families. A campaign to raise funds for this renovation is ongoing, with hopes of launching the project in 2026.



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 30 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: 6:30 AM – 8:30 AM
- Location: 901 W. 1st St., Charlotte, NC 28202
- Dress Attire: Black pants and a white shirt

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

Rotarians in Action





Polio Plus	
Top 3 Giving Clubs in Total Dollars	
1 Charlotte	\$19,373
2 Mecklenburg South	\$7,753
3 Charlotte South	\$6,035



Charlotte Rotarians Shine at District 7680 Foundation Banquet

Members of the Charlotte Rotary Club had a wonderful time at the District 7680 Rotary Foundation Banquet, a night filled with celebration, fellowship, and recognition for the incredible impact of The Rotary Foundation. Members from clubs across the district gathered to share stories, enjoy camaraderie, and celebrate the spirit of service.

The Charlotte club was honored for its top giving to PolioPlus, a testament to our commitment to ending polio worldwide as well as Top Total Giving by a club, \$466,438. Our own [Patricia Shafer](#) spoke during the program, sharing insights and inspiration with fellow Rotarians. Past Club President and incoming District Governor [Jerry Coughter](#) also played a major role in planning and presenting the evening's program.

It was a joy to connect with other Rotarians throughout the district, strengthening friendships and celebrating the collective impact we achieve together. Missing in the group photo were Sally and [Joe Morris](#), who were also part of this special night.

November is Rotary Foundation Month — a perfect reminder of the power of giving and how each contribution helps make lasting change in communities near and far.



Rotarians Hit the Trails in Blowing Rock

A group of Charlotte Rotarians recently gathered in Blowing Rock for a refreshing hike filled with beautiful scenery and great fellowship. Members enjoyed connecting outdoors, sharing stories, and strengthening the bonds that make Rotary special. It was a wonderful way to combine friendship, fun, and a love of nature. Thank you to Past President [William Bradley](#) for organizing.

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 or grants@rotary.org. Donations can be made [here](#).

Thank you for supporting Rotary's relief efforts!

Rotary



Friendship Exchange



Join the Rotary Friendship Exchange Trip to Sri Lanka!

Exciting news! The district is organizing a **Rotary Friendship Exchange** Trip to Sri Lanka in January 2026, and there's space for 4 more Rotarians to join this unforgettable adventure.

Trip Details:

- Dates: Arrive on Saturday, January 10, 2026 – Depart Wednesday, January 21, 2026
- Flights: From New York to Colombo, Sri Lanka, approximately \$1,000–\$1,250, with a flight time of about 20 hours including a stop in Abu Dhabi, Qatar, or Hong Kong.
- Itinerary Highlights:
 - 1 night in Colombo (near the airport)
 - 2 nights in Kandy
 - 2 nights in Matale
 - 2 nights in Anuradhapura or Trincomalee
 - 2 nights in Pasikuda or Arugam Bay
 - 2 nights in Badulla or Nuwara Eliya
 - 2 nights in Colombo
- Optional Extension: After the main trip, participants can explore the southern beaches of Sri Lanka or even the Maldives at their own expense.

This is a wonderful opportunity to experience Sri Lanka's culture, history, and natural beauty while connecting with fellow Rotarians.

Interested? Contact Rotary Friendship Exchange Chair PDG Ineke Wilson at 704-905-5002 or for.ineke@gmail.com to reserve your spot or learn more.

convention.rotary.org

Rotary

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](#).

Rotary Insider Tips



November is Rotary Foundation Month

Did you know November is Rotary Foundation Month? It's the perfect time to learn how your giving fuels Rotary's life-changing work around the world and right here at home. The Rotary Foundation transforms your donations into service projects that promote peace, fight disease, provide clean water, support education, grow local economies, and protect the environment.

Every contribution—big or small—makes a lasting impact. You can make your donation directly online at [rotary.org/donate](#) or see [Christine Cipriano](#) for help with your contribution or to learn more about becoming a Paul Harris Fellow.

Your generosity helps Rotary turn compassion into action. Together, we're doing good in the world!

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224

09/30/2025 217

11/04/2025 217

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2025: 78

Guests in attendance: Theresa Hecht ([Chad Lloyd](#)), Bob Morgan ([Fred Wagner](#)), Marilyn Sarow ([Roger Sarow](#))

Milestones (Week of Nov. 11 - 17)

Rotary Anniversaries

2 years: Brian Moor

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](#) 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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