



Upcoming Events

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

Please note: The Rotary office will be closed Monday, Oct. 20–Wednesday, Oct. 22 as Executive Director [Christine Cipriano](#) and President-Elect [Bill Barte](#) travel to Dallas, TX, for the Large Club Conference for lots of training.

Tues., Oct. 21 - Weekly Meeting: *The Great Transit Debate*. The Rotary Club of Charlotte is hosting a Transit Tax Referendum Panel. Arrive early - This program is expected to draw significant interest.



October Service Focus - Donate and Volunteer!

Oatmeal + Grits + You = Happy Families

During October, Charlotte Rotary's focus is **breakfast** — bring oatmeal or grits to every Tuesday meeting!

Sat., Nov. 1 - Club Volunteer Event: *Nourish Up Service Event*, 9–11 a.m., 901 Carrier Dr., Charlotte. [Sign up here](#).

Thurs., Oct. 30 - Club Event: *Rotary Club of Charlotte Monument Garden Ribbon Cutting*, 11 a.m., 1129 East 3rd St., Charlotte (near St. Mary's Chapel). See details below. [RSVP Here](#).

Sun., Nov. 2 - Club Social: *Rotary Hike*, Blue Ridge Parkway, Cone Manor Trailhead, Blowing Rock, 9:30 a.m. for a 2.1-mile hike up and down, followed by brunch at Embers. [Sign up here](#).

Thurs., Nov. 6 - Leadership Impact Group: *Pints & Possibilities: Leadership Impact Kickoff*, 6 p.m., Lost World Brewing, 1100 Metropolitan Ave, Charlotte. See details below. [Sign up here](#).

Sat., Nov. 8 - District Event: *The Rotary Foundation Celebration*, 5:30 p.m., Rowan County Community Center, 1965 Jake Alexander Blvd West, Salisbury featuring the Rotary International President-Nominee Larry Lunsford. See details below. [Click here to register](#).

Tues., Dec. 16 - Club Event: *American Red Cross Blood Drive*

This Week's Meeting



Laura Lawrence
President & CEO
Safe Alliance



Andrew Oliver, MSSW
CEO
Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center

*AND AT THE END, RON KIMBLE EMPHATICALLY IMploRED:
"REMEMBER, IT CAN HAPPEN TO ANYONE!"*

by Marilyn Bowler

We were honored to have Past President **Ron Kimble** introduce the co-speakers at Charlotte Rotary on Tuesday. The topic was *domestic violence* and that topic hit close to home for Ron whose own daughter, Jamie, was a victim thirteen years ago as she left her abuser and was creating a new life for herself without him. Her murder inspired Ron and Jan Kimble to take on this cause and they created the **Jamie Kimble Foundation For Courage** which is now allied with Safe Alliance.

Our two speakers today are both uniquely qualified to address the need and solution to remedy the nightmare that is so prevalent in society today ... even in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Laura Lawrence, President & CEO of Safe Alliance, and Andrew Oliver, CEO of Child Advocacy Center Pat's Place, are partnering to develop the Family Justice Center (based on a national model) to be officially named **The Umbrella Center**. The words "impactful" and "transformational" describe how superb this new facility will be and what it will mean to individuals and families who are/have been victimized by domestic violence and abuse.

The need is great. The challenges are overwhelming. **The Umbrella Center** will be a proven demonstration of our city's and our government's commitment to helping survivors know safety, experience healing and feel empowered once again. The non-profit partners include Safe Alliance, Pat's Place, City of Charlotte, Atrium Health, the legal community and law enforcement. Together, they will offer family support services, education, legal counsel, basic needs, and other support-related programs. **Click here to read more.**

**Due to technical difficulties, this week's meeting was not recorded.*

Club News



Congratulations to Angelece Cook!

We're thrilled to share the joyful news that **Angelece Cook** welcomed her third grandson, Shilo Rodney Neely, born on Sunday, October 5, 2025, weighing 7 lbs. 15 oz. Shilo joins big brothers DeJaun (4) and Legend (3) in the growing Neely family. Angelece says she feels "blessed and honored to have my children and grandchildren in my life."

(Photo: Baby Shilo)



Your Voice Matters!

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is conducting a brief Membership Survey to help guide our leadership team in planning meaningful programs, projects, and fellowship opportunities for the year ahead.

It takes about 10 minutes to complete, and your feedback will directly shape our club's direction and priorities.

Click here to take the survey now.

Thank you for helping build a vibrant, engaged, and impactful Charlotte Rotary!



Introducing the Charlotte Rotary Garden

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is proud to unveil the Rotary Garden at Thompson Park, a lasting symbol of service, beauty, and community. Created in partnership with **Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation** and supported by a District 7680 Grant, the garden features a thoughtful mix of native, hardy, and pollinator-friendly plants, chosen to bloom throughout the year.

Plants for the garden were supplied by King's Greenhouses (Matthews), Site One Landscape Supply (Charlotte), Shepherd's Landscape Supply (Charlotte), and Saunders Brothers (Piney River, VA). Approximately 38% of the plants are pollinators, and an irrigation system ensures they thrive even in Charlotte's hot,

dry summers.

The garden's hard scape includes brick pavers kiln-fired in North Carolina and a stone pedestal sourced from the North Carolina mountains, featuring a plaque with the Rotary wheel in exact replica. It is located between St. Mary's Chapel and the Vietnam Memorial, forming a beautiful path for reflection and community enjoyment.

Come see the Rotary Garden, where service, nature, and history bloom together!

Rotary Garden Ribbon Cutting: Thursday, Oct. 30

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is excited to invite members and friends to the Ribbon Cutting Ceremony for our new Rotary Garden! This project, completed in partnership with Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation and supported by a District 7680 Grant and club fundraising, is a lasting symbol of our commitment to service and community.

Shaped like the Rotary wheel, the garden features landscaped walkways, engraved bricks, and a commemorative pedestal recognizing our club. The garden is located at Thompson Park, connected to St. Mary's Chapel (1129 East 3rd Street, Charlotte, NC 28204).

Join us as we officially cut the ribbon on this beautiful addition to our community:

Date: Thursday, October 30

Time: 11:00 a.m.

Location: Thompson Park – near St. Mary's Chapel

RSVP Here.



Let's Nourish Charlotte Together!

Your donated "Grits and Oatmeal" continue to pour in. Thank you for your contributions to help restock empty shelves at Nourish-Up. So far, Rotarians have donated 67 pounds of breakfast goodness! Thanks to your generosity, Nourish Up continues to feed Charlotte — serving 137,806 neighbors last year through groceries and meals.

We will be accepting donations at each October meeting. If you'd like to make a cash donation and let a Rotarian do your shopping,

reach out to Catherine Bracey at csbracey704@gmail.com.

Sign Up Now! Our club will culminate our October service event with Nourish Up with a Nov 1 packing/sorting event at the Nourish Up Warehouse (9-11 am, 901 Carrier Dr.). The crew is limited to 20

individuals. Spouses and adult children are welcomed. [Sign up here.](#)

Grits and Oats Factoids

- Did you know that there is archaeological evidence suggesting that oats were consumed by humans over 30,000 years ago?
- Did you know that grits have a history that traces back to Native Americans. It was the Muscogee tribe who taught European settlers how to process corn to make grits.



Service First, Scenery Second

Our club's focus this month is breakfast goods — plus we hope to see a strong showing for our Nourish Up volunteer event on Sat., Nov. 1st! We'll be packing and distributing much-needed food to local families, and every helping hand makes a difference.

For those who'd like to add a little fresh mountain air to their weekend, a casual Rotary Hike will take place Sunday, November 2nd along the Blue Ridge Parkway. The group will

meet at Cone Manor Trailhead (6570 Blue Ridge Pkwy, Blowing Rock, NC 28605) at 9:30 a.m. for a 2.1-mile trek up and back — followed by brunch at **Embers** in Blowing Rock.

Come for the cause on Saturday — and, if you wish, for the camaraderie and views on Sunday! [Click here to let us know you will attend.](#)



Pints & Possibilities: Leadership Impact Kickoff

Join the Leadership Impact Group for a fun and inspiring Social on Thurs., Nov. 6, 2025, at 6:00 PM at Lost World Brewing in Charlotte.

Connect, celebrate, and plan for an incredible year of programs, service projects, and networking. Share ideas, brainstorm initiatives, and toast to the impact we're making together!

Special Perk: Every member (and a guest!) receives two free drink tickets as a thank-you for all you do.

Details:

- When: Thurs., Nov. 6, 2025, at 6:00 PM
- Where: Lost World Brewing, 1100 Metropolitan Ave., #165, Charlotte, NC
- Who: Leadership Impact Group members + guest
- [RSVP Here](#)

Raise a glass to a year full of service, leadership, and impact—we can't wait to see you there! —*Austin Backus, Chair, Leadership Impact Group*

Rotary Insider Tips



[Celebrate World Polio Day on October 24 – join Rotarians in the fight to end polio worldwide!](#)

Rotarians know the fight against polio is far from over, and October 24th is the perfect day to shine a light on this important cause. **World Polio Day** honors the tireless work of Rotarians and partners worldwide

who are bringing us closer to a polio-free world.

Here's a tip to make your day impactful: share a social media post, host a mini-awareness event at your workplace, or even organize a small fundraising activity to support the Global Polio Eradication Initiative. Every action counts, and as Rotarians, we lead the way in ending polio for good.

Remember, even small contributions—time, dollars, or spreading awareness—bring us one step closer to a world where no child ever suffers from polio again.

World Polio Day: 40 Years of Rotary's Promise

Why should Rotary members continue to care about polio eradication and World Polio Day?

The answer is simple: Rotary made a promise to the children of the world that no child should suffer from this vaccine-preventable disease.

On October 24, Rotary marks **World Polio Day**, a global call to action reminding us of our promise: no child should suffer from polio. Clubs worldwide host events, raise awareness, and support the **End Polio Now** campaign because a polio-free world is within reach.

This year is especially meaningful as Rotary celebrates 40 years of leadership in polio eradication.

We're asking every Rotarian to give \$40 for 40 years. As of August 31, District giving totals \$9,874 toward our \$100,000 goal. Leading clubs include Charlotte Dilworth, Charlotte, Cabarrus County, and North Wilkesboro.

Polio remains endemic only in Afghanistan and Pakistan, but outbreaks still occur in under-immunized areas. Your participation and support will help Rotary keep its promise to the world's children.

Beyond the Club



*** You're Invited ***

Rotary District 7680 Foundation Celebration

FEATURING SPECIAL GUEST

Larry Lunsford

Rotary International President Nominee 2027-2028

SATURDAY 8 NOVEMBER

ROWAN COUNTY COMMUNITY CENTER

1965 Jake Alexander Blvd West
Salisbury, NC 28147

Special Reception for Major Donors & Special Guests

5:00 p.m - 6:00 p.m. | *by invitation*

Gathering Reception

5:30 p.m.

Welcome & Dinner

6:30 p.m.

DETAILS

\$75 per person

*sponsorship opportunities from
\$100-\$1,500 available on registration form*

buffet dinner & cash bar
*vegetarian and gluten free
options provided upon request*

HOTEL ACCOMMODATIONS

Holiday Inn Express | 125 Marriott Circle, Salisbury NC 28144
Special Rotary Rate: \$179 King Room
Reserve at 833-320-9081 | Rotary block available until October 17th

CELEBRATION SERVICE PROJECT

scan for details



REGISTER

scan or visit
dacdb.org



Foundation Celebration with RI President-Nominee Larry Lunsford

Join the District in a Foundation Celebration on Sat., Nov. 8, 2025, at the **Rowan County Community Center** in Salisbury featuring **Rotary International President-Nominee (2027–28) Larry Lunsford**. A former Ambassadorial Scholar, club president, district governor, and RI director, Larry embodies Rotary service and leadership at its best.

- Saturday, Nov. 8
- 5:30 PM Gathering Reception • 6:30 PM Dinner
- **Rowan County Community Center**, 1965 Jake Alexander Blvd West, Salisbury
- \$75 per person. Buffet with beef, chicken, or vegetarian/gluten-free options.
- Register by Oct. 27.
- Bring an item to help restock Blessing Boxes through the Rowan Food and Farm Network as part of our Foundation Service Project (see details at registration)
- **Click here to register.**

Questions? Contact Cindy Fink (cindybfink@gmail.com) or Wally Olson (bikerwoe@icloud.com)

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224
09/30/2025 217
10/14/2025 217

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, Oct. 14, 2025: 62

Milestones

(Week of Oct. 21 - 27)

Birthdays

21 – Harriett Porter
22 - Vanessa Stolen
23 - Jim Gilligan
24 - Leslie Fisher
24 - Jerry Walters
25 - Jim Kelley

Wedding Anniversaries

22 - Tish & Jim Charles
23 - Sandy & Jim Osborne
27 - Leslie & Andy Dinkin

Rotary Anniversaries

20 years: Sandy Osborne
1 year: Byrd Bergeron
1 year: Velva Woollen

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: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 \(jotform.com\)](#)



Try email marketing for free today!