



## 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. 4 - Weekly Meeting:** Club Business Meeting & Leadership Election

**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.](#)

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

## This Week's Meeting



**Mike Causey, North Carolina's Commissioner of Insurance**  
by [Bill Bartee](#)

Mike Causey is in his third term as NC's Commissioner of Insurance. He shared that his usual question when speaking to groups like the Rotary Club of Charlotte is, "What is the responsibility of the Commissioner of Insurance?"

The answer to Causey's rhetorical question was in-depth. The Commissioner covered the many categories under his care & oversight. They regulate insurance & the collection agencies, fight insurance fraud, and lead the charge within the state with Medicaid & Medicare investigations.

Commissioner Causey also runs the Office of the State Fire Marshall in NC. This office is in charge of fire prevention & code in the state. This includes inspections of buildings and facilities for fire hazards. They are also in charge of education, training and compliance in the fire safety category. Plus coordination with local fire departments for emergency preparedness and response. [Click here to read more.](#)

Here is the recording:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1131459031?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1131458905?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The introduction begins at about 25 mins and 05 secs.



## Club News

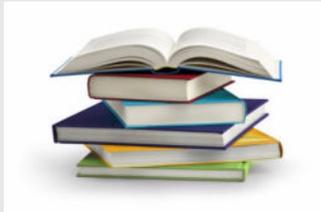
***Prayers for Luther Moore*** Please keep **Luther Moore** in your thoughts and prayers as he is in the hospital. He's on the road to recovery and hopes to be home soon, though he's not sure exactly when. Luther said it's OK to call or message him if you'd like to reach out.

***Prayers and Well Wishes for Harriett Porter*** - Please keep **Harriett Porter** in your thoughts as she recovers from a surgery to relieve nerve pressure in her elbow and hand. We wish her a smooth recovery and a quick return to full strength.



***Congratulations, InReach!***

We're thrilled to congratulate club nonprofit member, **InReach** as the Silver Winner for Best Nonprofit Organization! Thank you to everyone who voted and for your ongoing support of this incredible organization.



***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!*



***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*

# Rotarians in Action

*Rotary Club of Charlotte Monument Garden Ribbon Cutting*





### *Rotary Wheel Garden: A Vision in Bloom*

Following COVID, Past President [Carol Hardison](#) and her Board challenged the Foundation Committee to create a lasting, visible project that would showcase Rotary’s impact in Charlotte. With help from Past County Manager [Dena Diorio](#) and her team, a committee of [Carla DuPuy](#), [Joel Ford](#), [Margaret Marshall](#), [Laura Meier](#), and [John Tabor](#) selected the idea of a public garden.

Parks and Recreation members Greg Clemmer and Phillip Clarkson proposed several sites, and one near St. Mary’s Chapel stood out for its visibility and beauty. Designed in the shape of a 62-foot Rotary Wheel, the garden was approved by the Board and supported by the nearby Loonis McGlohon project.

Alicia Morris Rudd, PDGs Bob and Ineke Wilson, [Elly Clary](#), and [Christine Cipriano](#) prepared the grant, which was approved in August 2025 for \$17,680 toward a \$50,000 project. Thanks to [Dr. Tony Zeiss](#), [Stuart Hair](#), and 47 generous Rotarians, the remaining funds were raised—with help from Mecklenburg County-South Rotary’s [Debb Corbett](#) and [Kelly Gaines](#).

Champions of the project, Phillip Clarkson and Immediate Past President [Kim Brattain](#), ensured its success through expertise, persistence, and leadership. The Rotary Wheel Garden will stand as a lasting symbol of Rotary’s service and presence in our community.

*Nourish Up Thank you!*





### *Nourish Up - THANK YOU!!!*

Thank you Charlotte Rotarians for your "over the top support" of the October "Grits & Oats" drive that benefitted Nourish Up. Club members donated 75 lbs of oatmeal and 34 lbs of grits which is already on pantry shelves and will provide 1,200 individual nutritious breakfast servings. Additionally, an anonymous Rotarian donated \$1,000 to Nourish Up through the club's October food drive.

Special shout out to [Tish Atkins](#), Scott Anderson, [Patrick Baker](#), [Catherine Bracey](#), [Jerry Coughter](#), Stephanie Guffin, [Layne McGuire](#), [Jim Rogers](#), [Robert Shaw](#), [Elizabeth Teagarden](#), [Kevin Utsey](#), [Bob Wilhelm](#), and Lynda Wilhelm for volunteering at the Nourish Up warehouse to pack food that will be distributed to local pantries this week. Together, the crew packed 468 7-day boxes. Through the work crew and the food drive, Rotarians have made a difference to their community.

## 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](https://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

10/28/2025 217

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, Oct. 28, 2025: 71

Guests in attendance: Jessica Helms (Michael Orzech), Mason Kochel, Matthew McDonough, Carrie Nelson (Thomas Moore)

## Milestones (Week of Nov. 4 - 10)

### Birthdays

5 – Travis Vance

7 - Rob Thomas

### Rotary Anniversaries

*28 years:* Robert Freeman

*25 years (41 total):* Rob Kimble

*3 years (8 total):* Chad Lloyd

*3 years (43 total):* Ken Shortridge

### Wedding Anniversaries

5 – Page & Ed Kizer

5 – Vanessa & David Stolen

5 – Rae Ann & Patrick Baker

6 – Patricia Shafer & Daniel Hagt

7 – Anne & Lloyd Russell

9 – Karen & Jim Gilligan

10 – Jan & Ron Kimble

## 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**, 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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