



Upcoming Events

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

Tues., Oct. 14 - Weekly Meeting: *Inside Charlotte's New Family Justice Center* presented by Laura Lawrence, President & CEO, Safe Alliance, and Andrew Oliver, MSSW, CEO, Pat's Place Child Advocacy Center



October Service Focus:

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.](#)

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





*Ann Marie Williams, JD, CPA/PFS
President of XPX Charlotte
Williams Advisory, PLLC*



*Adam Petricoff
XPX Immediate Past President
NXTChapter Advisors, Managing Partner*



*Michael Stier
XPX VP & Community Outreach Chair
FocusCFO, Area President*



*Michelle Fritsch
XPX Educational Events Chair
Propel Comprehensive Wellness*



*Dr. Elizabeth Teagarden, Moderator
XPX Board Member
Rotary Club of Charlotte Program Chair
Owner, The Teagarden Group*

Exit Planning Exchange (XPX) Panel Discussion

by Susie Masotti

Charlotte Rotary Club was pleased to have [Elizabeth Teagarden](#) (principal of XPX and proud Charlotte Rotary Member) lead a panel discussion from XPX (Exit Planning Exchange). The panel included Ann Marie Williams, President of XPX Charlotte, Adam Petricoff, Immediate Past President of XPX, Michael Stier, XPX VP & Community Outreach Chair, as well as Michelle Fritsch, XPX Educational Events Chair.

Elizabeth began the panel discussion by explaining that XPX began 5 years ago as a service organization serving lower middle market companies on how to prepare your company for your exit. XPX is currently in 20 cities around the United States, with another chapter coming soon. **Click here to read more.**

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

XPX Charlotte Hosts Expert Talk on Maximizing Your Business Exit - From Michelle Fritsch:

Dear Rotarians,

First, thank you for your warm welcome and interaction with our XPX representatives today. We have an event this coming Wednesday, 10/15, and want to extend a warm invitation to you to join us. If you are interested, please reach out to [Elizabeth Teagarden](#). As an XPX member, she can register you to attend.

XPX Charlotte is an association of professional advisors who assist business owners with growing value, preparing for exit, acquiring or transferring their businesses, and life after an exit.

I invite you to a special event that we are hosting in October. William Curtin, former owner of Curtin Co., LLC who recently exited his business, will share insights about selling his business. Please find details for this event below:

- WHEN: Wed., Oct. 15, from 3:00 - 5:00 p.m. with networking following the event;
- WHERE: Capitol Towers Training Center, 4250 Congress Street, Suite 150; Charlotte, 28209

The mission of XPX Charlotte, a North Carolina 501(c)6 non-profit organization of business professionals, is to help area business owners achieve optimal exit outcomes by educating them on the importance of early planning and preparation. XPX Charlotte members also educate one another on the ways we each contribute to the exit success of our clients. In our view, exit success is measured based on the owner's overall satisfaction with the timing and terms of their exit, and their ability to enjoy a happy, healthy and fulfilling life after exit.

Whether you envision a business ownership transition in the next 5 or 10 years or haven't even considered the idea of a future exit, this information is vital to your future success. We are pleased to invite you to be our guest at this special event.

Michelle Fritsch, PharmD, BCGP
704-891-8871

Club News

In Memoriam: Helmut Deussen:

The Rotary Club of Charlotte mourns the passing of Helmut Deussen, a beloved member since 1962, who died peacefully on October 4, 2025, at the age of 100. Born in Moenchengladbach, Germany, Helmut served in World War II and went on to build a distinguished career in the textile industry, co-founding the American Schlafhorst Company. A dedicated philanthropist and lifelong supporter of education, Helmut established endowments benefiting students at Catholic high schools, Davidson College, and Belmont Abbey College. His decades of service, generosity, and leadership leave a lasting legacy. **Read his full obituary here.**



Congratulations to Charlotte Woman of the Year 2024 and Charlotte Rotarian, Dena Diorio

Dena R. Diorio, retired Mecklenburg County Manager, has been named the 2024 Charlotte Woman of the Year. This annual honor recognizes a woman who exemplifies civic leadership and outstanding community service.

Dena receives the award as the Charlotte Woman of the Year program celebrates its 70th anniversary. She was publicly honored this past week at the Civic Leadership Forum hosted by the organization.



William and Woodson Bradley made up a missed Rotary meeting the old-school way; personally visiting another club to keep their attendance streak alive!



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!

Thank you, Rotarians, for the 16 lbs of grits and 17 lbs of oatmeal that you donated at our Oct. 7th meeting. Your donations equated to 313 servings and will soon be on the shelves of Nourish Up's warehouse. The shortage of these basic breakfast items is real.

Please consider donating "Grits and Oats" at any of the October meetings. Together, we can make a difference for a Mecklenburg family. If you'd like to make a cash donation and have someone shop on your behalf, please contact Catherine Bracey at csbracey704@gmail.com.

Sign Up Now! Our club will culminate our October partnership with Nourish Up with a Nov 1 packing/sorting project on Sat/. Nov 1, 9-11 a.m., 901 Carrier Dr., Charlotte. The crew is limited to 20 individuals. Spouses and adult children are welcomed. **Sign up here.**





Charlotte Rotary Sharpened Up for Success!

Did you know pencils can write underwater, upside down, and in extreme temperatures? Turns out, Charlotte Rotarians are just as reliable... and just as sharp!

Our goal for the Push for Pencils campaign was 4,531 pencils... but Charlotte Rotary doesn't stop at "good enough." We collected a whopping 16,600 pencils — that's more than 356% of our goal! Add in \$1,450 in donations (enough to buy another 14,500 pencils!) plus notebooks, sharpeners, crayons, and glue sticks, and you've got one seriously stocked classroom.

Thank you to **Karen Calder** for leading the charge and to everyone who donated, volunteered, and joined in the fun at **Classroom Central**. Our efforts even earned Charlotte Rotary a Nine School Tools Excellence Award!

We may not have set a Guinness World Record (yet!), but the stories these students will write with those pencils are just getting started.

Rotary Insider Tips



Two Rotary Websites – What You Need to Know

Did you know there are two different websites that keep Rotary running smoothly? Each serves a unique purpose to help you stay connected, informed, and involved.

Rotary International (RI): my.rotary.org

This is the global hub for all things Rotary. Here you can:

- Access Rotary training and learning resources
- Donate to The Rotary Foundation
- Track your personal giving history and impact
- When traveling: Find clubs in different parts of the world so you can connect with Rotarians wherever you go!

District and Club Database (DACdb): dacdb.com

This is your go-to site for local club and district information. You can:

- Look up contact information for fellow Rotarians
- Update your headshot, email, and mailing address
- View upcoming events and district communications

On the Go? Download the Ignite app, which connects directly to DACdb so you can easily access member contact information, update your profile, and stay engaged anytime, anywhere.

Emails You Receive:

You may notice Rotary emails coming from different sources:

- Rotary International: Global Rotary news and Foundation updates

- DACdb: District and Club announcements
- Constant Contact: Our club's newsletters and meeting invitations

Take a few minutes to log in or download the app and explore both. You'll be surprised how much information and connection you'll find!

Beyond the Club



New to Rotary?

Join one of Rotary International's virtual New Member Orientation sessions on October 15 and 16. These sessions are a great opportunity to learn more about Rotary - our history, mission, vision, and values - and discover the many ways to get involved.

Register here!



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.



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
10/07/2025 217

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, Oct. 7, 2025: 83

Milestones

(Week of Oct. 14 - 20)

Birthdays

14 – Boyd Coggins
15 - Angelece Cook
18 - Henry Cantrell

Wedding Anniversaries

19 - Cheryl & Will Hadley
19 - Diana & Mark Turner
20 - Shelley & Chris Kemper
20 - Marcia & Kerry Colson

Rotary Anniversaries

10 years: Rex Reynolds
6 years: Jason Otte

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



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