



ROTARY REPORTER

February 10, 2026

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

Action Item - Each meeting in February, bring nonperishable protein for Scouting for Food.

Tues., Feb. 17 - Weekly Meeting: Ben Kinney, Publisher at Business North Carolina and SouthPark Magazines

Tues., Feb. 24 - Weekly Meeting: Max Siegel, CEO, USA Track & Field

Sat., Mar. 14 - Interact Event: St. Patrick's Day Parade, Parade begins at 11 a.m. **Join the Green Parade!** Support the Myers Park Interact Club by walking with their homemade float in the St. Patrick's Day Parade. See details below.

Sat., April 11 - Rotary Peace Center: 23rd Annual Rotary Peace Center Conference – Research presentations by graduating Fellows from the Duke-UNC Rotary Peace Center on global peace and conflict issues. **Click here for more information.**

Fri., May 29 - Sun., May 31 - District Conference: District Conference 2026, Renaissance Asheville Downtown Hotel, 31 Woodfin St. Asheville, NC. **Click here for more information.**

July 16-19 - District Event: Rotary's Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) is a leadership camp for incoming high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, held July 16–19, 2026 at Gardner-Webb University. See details below.

This Week's Meeting



THE MAN OF THE HOUR ~ RICHARD A. VINROOT

by Marilynn Bowler

Each year Charlotte Rotary honors an individual who has earned the club's prestigious **Excellence In Leadership Award** and during the course of the Award presentation the honoree is given the microphone to address the membership. And so it was on Tuesday when the superb **Richard Vinroot** was named winner and was given an enthusiastic/rousing standing ovation by the ballroom filled with Vinroot fans.

David Zimmerman, as Chair of the Selection Committee, began the program by thanking his committee and The Business Journal (sponsor of the annual Award) and then recognizing former Award winners in attendance, including **Dr. Tony Zeiss**, **Tony Marciano**, **Luther Fincher**, **Dena Diorio** and Jane McIntyre. Although former Award winner, Pat McCrory was unable to join us, he sent a heartfelt note of congratulations to Richard referring to him as "an ultimate leader whose name should be on the Charlotte Convention Center."

As a special treat, Matt Doherty ~ UNC basketball great who helped Dean Smith win his first national championship in 1982 and then became assistant coach under Davidson's Bob McKillop, followed by his head coaching jobs at Notre Dame, UNC, Florida Atlantic and SMU ~ took the MIC to introduce his close friend who happens to be this year's recipient ... Richard A. Vinroot. **Click here for more.**

Below are the recordings of the meeting:

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1163797867?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1163798150?fl=pl&fe=sh>

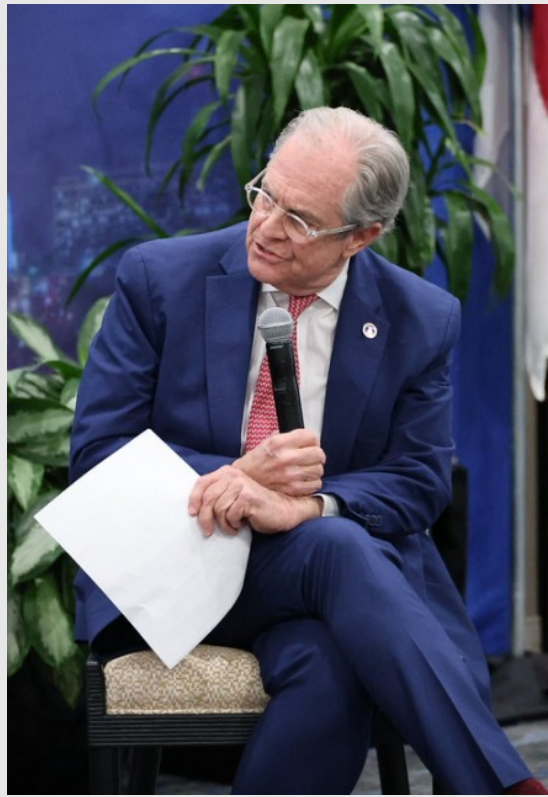
Introduction of the Excellence in Leadership Award Program begins at approximately 12 minutes and 20 seconds.

Photos of the event can be found here: <https://flic.kr/s/aHBqjCKtd1>

Information on the Excellence in Leadership Award Program can be found on our webpage here: **Excellence in Leadership Award | Rotary Club of Charlotte**











Click here to see the full photo gallery.

Club News



Service in Action

On Wednesday, Rotarians supported the Charlotte Rescue Mission – Hope for Charlotte luncheon, an inspiring event highlighting the power of community and compassion. Rotarians had a strong presence and continue to stand alongside organizations doing life-changing work in our community – a meaningful reminder of the impact we can make when we show up together.

Rotary
Club of Charlotte



Rotary is about Service

Scouting is about Leadership, Character and build strong Community Citizens

Nourish Up is about fighting food insecurity and feeding our neighbors.

SCOUTING FOR FOOD

Each Tuesday during the month of February, **Charlotte Rotary** is supporting the 2026 **Scouting For Food** drive that supports their partner agency **Nourish Up**.

Call it **PROTEIN TUESDAY!**

Bring non-perishable protein items like: (Set your goal to bring 10 pounds of protein!!)

- Canned Tuna
- Canned Chicken
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Salmon
- Canned Beans
- Canned Chili

Questions? Contact **Mark Turner** at mark.turner@scouting.org



Celebrate St. Patrick's Day with Myers Park Interact and Charlotte Rotary!

Myers Park High School's Interact club, along with its advisers, Anne and Robert Cullip, are working to create a Irish-festive parade float for the Charlotte St. Patrick's Day Parade... and are encouraging Rotarian participation.

With nearly 100 Interact students marching alongside Rotary members, this is a great opportunity to celebrate service, fellowship, and a little Irish luck. Wear your **green** and walk with us as we represent Rotary and Interact in one of Charlotte's most spirited events.

Parade Details:

Date: Saturday, March 14th

Parade Time: 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Assembly: Begins at 9:00 a.m. on Tryon Street between 9th and 11th Streets, with possible overflow to 12th Street. Assembly areas will be marked, and event personnel will be on hand to assist.

Reach out to ED, Christine Cipriano at christine@charlotterotary.org for more information.

Let's make this a memorable celebration! *Sláinte!*

Insider Tip

"What is Rotary?"

Do you need a one-sentence answer to "What is Rotary?"

In 1976, Rotary leaders were asked to do something hard: define Rotary in a single sentence. After many drafts, they landed on 31 words that have stood the test of time:

"Rotary is an organization of business and professional persons united worldwide who provide humanitarian service, encourage high ethical standards in all vocations, and help build goodwill and peace in the world."

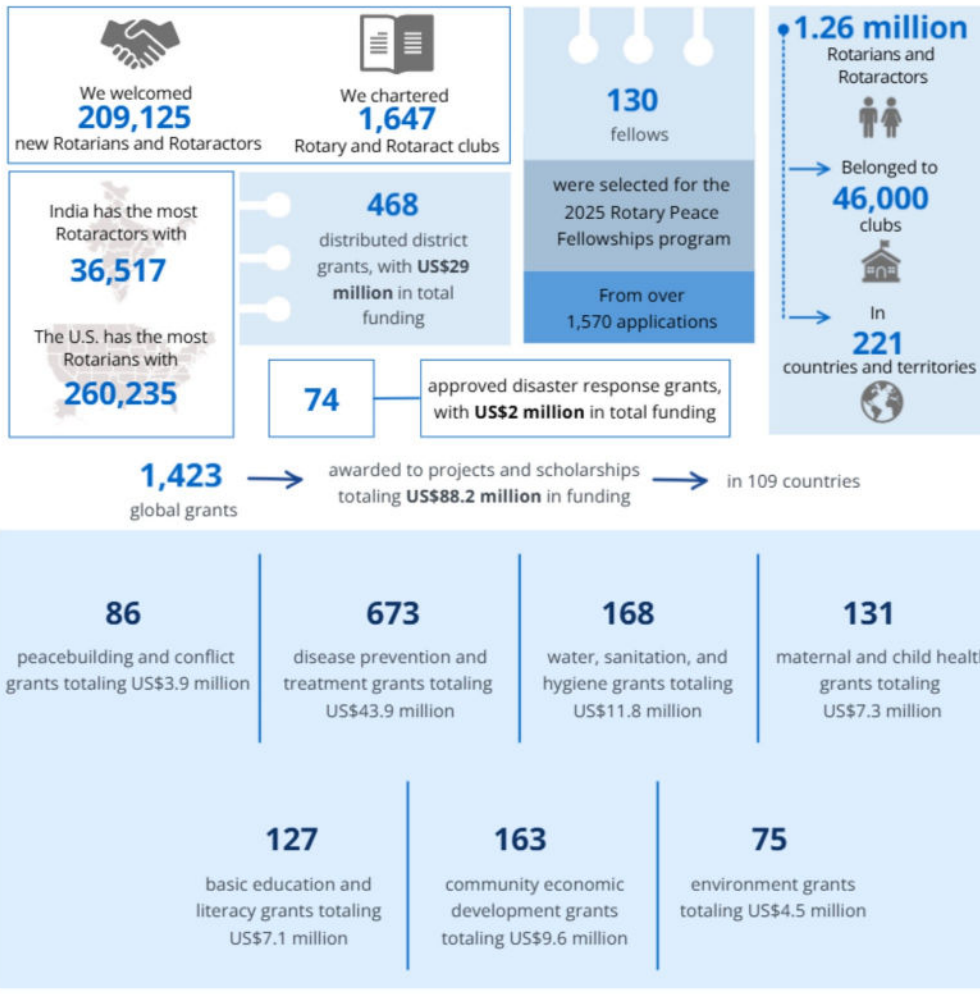
Those 31 words are worth keeping in your back pocket—especially when someone asks what Rotary is all about.

Beyond the Club

Now Available: 2024–2025 Annual Report

The 2024–2025 Annual Report is now available from Rotary International. Take a few minutes to see highlights, impact, and insights from Rotary leaders around the world.

2024 - 25 Fast Facts



Rotary
District 7680



SFTL

Rotary
District 7680



SEMINAR FOR
TOMORROW'S
LEADERS



SUMMER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Unlock your potential this summer with the ROTARY 7680 leadership program!

OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- ✓ For Rising Juniors and Seniors in High School
- ✓ July 16-19, 2026
- ✓ Gardner Webb University



APPLY
HERE



MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

<https://rotary7680.org/sftl/>



Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL): Applications Now Open Gardner-Webb University | July 16-19, 2026

Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) is a Rotary-sponsored leadership camp designed to help high school students grow in character, confidence, and citizenship. Each participant is selected by a local Rotary Club to take part in a dynamic experience focused on leadership development, service, and Rotary's role in building strong local and global communities.

SFTL emphasizes the fundamentals and ethics of good leadership, including problem-solving, teamwork, and positive self-confidence. Through carefully selected programs and activities, students are placed in situations that intentionally challenge them and strengthen their leadership skills.

Along with meaningful learning opportunities, SFTL also offers fun activities and social events that make the experience engaging, memorable, and rewarding.

Who is eligible? SFTL accepts students who are incoming high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, with preference given to incoming juniors and seniors. Applications are now being accepted! Learn more and apply here: <https://rotary7680.org/sftl/student-application-instructions/>

If you know a student who is ready to grow as a leader and connect with other motivated students, SFTL may be the perfect next step.

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224
01/31/2026 206
02/10/2026 206

Considered for membership:

William Herndon, Physician, Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute
Sponsor: Peirce Ward

Meeting Attendance - Feb. 10, 2026: 114

This week's Guests: Tosin Ayedebinu, Taylor Batten (Media), Ann Caulkins ([Edwin Peacock](#)), William Clementi ([Fred Wagner](#)), Mike Daisley ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Pamela Davies ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Steven DeGeorge ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Bobby Drakeford ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Luther Fincher ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Chasidie Glover ([Mark Turner](#)), Robert Griffin ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Fred Griffith ([Edwin Peacock](#)), William Herndon ([Peirce Ward](#)), Flore Jean Louis, Elena Ji, Jeff Kahl, Graham Kaplan ([Tish Atkins Charles](#)), Larken Lancaster ([Bill Gill](#)), Haynes Lea ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Vi Lyles ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Tony Marciano ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Jane McIntyre ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Tim Misner (Richard Vinroot), Thomas Mitchell ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Ben Moses ([Bill Gill](#)), Amanda Nitto ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Jennifer Roberts ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Barrett Shannonhouse ([Susan Evans](#)), Caroline Sink ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Robert Sink ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Michelle Thomas-Bush ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Curt Walton ([Edwin Peacock](#)), John Wester ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Marshall Williamson ([Edwin Peacock](#)), Beth Zeiss ([Tony Zeiss](#))

Milestones (February 17 - 28)

Rotary Anniversaries

28 years: Luther Moore
23 years (46 total): Pender McElroy
11 years: Fred Wagner
10 years: Andy Dinkin
7 years: Chuck Dahlgren
3 years: Virginia Owen
2 years (18 total): Mark Erwin

Birthdays

17 – Ben Goebel
17 – Ken Poe
19 – Warren Kean
20 – Brian Gibson
23 – Dena Diorio
25 – Cynthia Marshall
26 – Will Hadley
27 – Jerry Coughter
28 – Margaret Marshall

Wedding Anniversary

20 – Terri & Mark DeBoo
20 – Harriett & Steve Porter
23 – Joy & Hunter Widener

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, Lori Keeton, Michael B. Orzech, Robert Shaw, Elizabeth Teagarden, 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 \(jotform.com\)](#)

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

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