

# ROTARY REPORTER

## February 24, 2026

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

**March Donations:**

A Charlotte Rotary Baby Shower... Donating to Moms and Babies in need! Details to come.

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**Tues., Mar. 3 - Weekly Meeting:** State of the Club, Charlotte Rotary's Visioning Process

**Tues., Mar. 10 - Weekly Meeting:** Kenny Kahn, Co-Founder & Chair Musicland Gift Foundation

**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.

**SAVE THE DATE! Mon., Mar. 23 - Volunteer Opportunity: Care Ring**, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, 1514 N. Graham St, 10 volunteers needed. Details to come.

**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.**

**Tues., May 5 - Volunteer Event:** American Red Cross Blood Drive, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., Fairfield Inn & Suites. **Click here to reserve your space** or call 1-800-redcross to make your appointment. Use sponsor code "Charlotterotary".

**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.

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## This Week's Meeting

*MAX SIEGEL*  
*CEO, USA Track & Field*

*A Man with A Mission*

by *Marilynn Bowler*

**Joel Ford** said it perfectly when he introduced his very good friend. "Max Siegel is not only a builder of organizations, but a builder of people." That was confirmed by our speaker as he took us through his journey from childhood to ~ again, in Joel's words ~ "CEO of USA Track & Field, the governing body for one of America's most successful Olympic sports."



Imagine the trauma young Max and his little sister experienced when they were kidnapped by their father and were told their mother was dead. (She was not.) They were kept away from their mother for the next seven years until their father died of cancer when Max was twelve years old. Imagine then receiving an unexpected phone call from their mother, who took Max and his sister to a home filled with chaos, drugs, and alcohol. Somehow, Max dug down deep into his own soul and committed to make a better life for himself and his sister.

Max had a dream and he worked hard to make it come true. Sports, part-time jobs throughout high school, and a firm determination to live a life far different than the one he had grown up in, brought Max the chance he worked so hard for and deserved. He went to Notre Dame University on scholarship, but

even then, lingering challenges found Max almost flunking out. He buckled down, and his grades slowly improved. To pay for his student loans he signed on to work for General Motors in its College Graduate Training Program, and it was during this time that a friend's wise counsel bore fruit. She had convinced him to find his passion. "Go back to school and make a difference in the community," she told him, and he listened. **Click here for more.**

The recording can be found here:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1167885190?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1167886550?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The speaker's introduction begins at about 28 minutes and 15 seconds.



## Club News

**Welcome, Larken Lancaster!** A Charlotte-area native from Concord, Larken has witnessed firsthand the remarkable growth of our city. As he shared in his introduction, he has been fascinated by Charlotte's transformation into a major metropolitan hub and sees tremendous opportunity for Rotary to make an



impact through community service, business leadership, and civic engagement. Larken is a Real Estate Consultant with The Lancaster Company, specializing in real estate appraisals and property analysis. A graduate of Wheaton College in Chicago, he has returned home and is currently pursuing graduate studies at Queens University's McColl School of Business. His professional experience keeps him closely connected to the region's development and economic growth. Born and raised in the Charlotte area, Larken is eager to learn from Rotarians who have long served the community. He shared that his first year will be focused on listening, learning, and following the lead of experienced members as he grows into community leadership and service. Please take a moment to introduce yourself and give him a warm Charlotte Rotary welcome!

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The Salvation Army shared its gratitude for the funds raised through our December raffle—thank you to everyone who participated and made a difference.

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### **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](mailto:christine@charlotterotary.org) for more information.

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

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### ***Spring Into Saving Lives with Charlotte Rotary!***

Give a gift. Get a gift. Save a life.

Fairfield Marriott Uptown

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

11:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

When you donate blood, you're not just rolling up your sleeve; you're showing up for someone in our own community who needs you.

Let's turn an ordinary Tuesday into something extraordinary!

#### **Make Your Appointment Today:**

- Visit [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code Charlotterotary
- Call 1-800-REDCROSS

Let's show Charlotte what Service Above Self looks like. See you on May 5!

## Insider Tip

### ***Sponsorship Is More Than a Signature***

A new member can't join Rotary without a sponsor, but sponsorship doesn't end with the application.

A great sponsor:

- Invites before proposing
- Attends orientation
- Makes introductions
- Includes them in socials
- Encourages district involvement
- Stays connected

We don't just sponsor members. We sponsor belonging. And that's how Rotary grows stronger — one relationship at a time.

## Beyond the Club



**2026 District Conference in Asheville!**

Make plans to attend the **District 7680 Conference, May 29–31, 2026, at the Renaissance in Asheville, NC.**

Connect with Rotarians from across the district for inspiring speakers, club success stories, breakout sessions, fellowship, and hands-on service opportunities. Together, we will also support ongoing Hurricane Helene economic recovery efforts across Western North Carolina — a powerful reminder that Rotary’s service never stops.

Optional service projects begin on Friday during the day. The official conference runs Friday evening through Sunday morning, concluding with our memorial service, district recognition, and business meeting.

Details can be found [here](#) on DACdb.

Come ready to reconnect and return home inspired. We hope to see you in Asheville!

# 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/>

# Membership Update

07/01/2025 224  
01/31/2026 206  
02/24/2026 204 (Resignation: Roger Young)

Meeting Attendance - Feb. 24, 2026: 89

This week's Guests: William Herndon ([Peirce Ward](#)), Penny Hollenbech (Speaker Guest), Larry Keith ([Christine Cipriano](#)), Daniel Korn ([Shelley Dean](#)), Roger Purgason ([Bill Bartee](#)), Marjorie Schwab, Andrew Stiffel ([Jim Mannix](#)), Jossalyn Wilson

## Milestones (March 3 - 9)

### Rotary Anniversaries

16 years: Brad Crotts  
10 years: Pete Brunnick  
3 years: Chuck Lew

### Birthdays

4 - Byrd Bergeron  
5 - Ken Samuelson  
6 - Edwin Peacock

### Wedding Anniversary

9 - Rachel & Reid Beaver

## 2025 - 2026 Board Members

- President Patrick Baker
- President-Elect Bill Bartee
- President-Nominee Mark Norman
- 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, Joel Ford, 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](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 \(jotform.com\)](#)

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