

## **ROTARY REPORTER**

### **January 6, 2026**

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

**Tues., Jan. 13 - Weekly Meeting: Jenni Gaisbauer, Main Library  
Project**

**Sat., Jan. 24 - District Meeting - Mid-Year Assembly, 9 a.m. - noon, Unity  
Center, 1145 Salisbury Road, Statesville, NC.**

## **This Week's Meeting**



### ***HIGWIA***

***featuring Charlotte Rotarians:  
Tchernavia Montgomery, Bob Wilhelm, Jim  
Gilligan***

by **Layne McGuire**

We kicked off the new year with one of the Club's favorite event. We learned a bit more about three of the members that make the Rotary Club of Charlotte what it is.

**Tchernavia Montgomery, CEO, Care Ring** shared her inspiring journey of resilience, service, and leadership. She spoke about becoming a mother at 15, persevering through school, and the pivotal role Rotary played by awarding her first scholarship which helped launch her path in higher education and social work. Now CEO of CARE Ring, Montgomery leads efforts providing healthcare to more than 10,000 uninsured and underserved Mecklenburg County residents each year, emphasizing authentic leadership, fiscal responsibility, and *Service Above Self*.

**Bob Wilhelm, Consultant, Engineering, Leadership, Innovation, & Economic Development** reflected on a career shaped by curiosity, engineering, and service. With experience spanning manufacturing, aerospace, academia, and university leadership, he emphasized the importance of building community through service wherever life leads. A former Rotary Foundation Scholar, Wilhelm highlighted Rotary's global impact and expressed enthusiasm for deepening his involvement and contributing his experience to future service initiatives.

**Jim Gilligan, Retired Founder/President** shared a fascinating account of his life and career, from growing up on a Kansas cattle ranch to founding and leading American Price Mark Company, a successful bar-coding and retail technology business. After a career that spanned the globe including military service in the U.S. Air Force and international business experiences Jim and his wife have made Charlotte home. Now retired, Gilligan expressed appreciation for service driven organizations and his excitement about becoming active in Rotary in Charlotte.

## Club News



Please remember our Executive Director, Christine Cipriano, while she recovers from an ice skating accident with her family. Currently she's under a Do Not Disturb sign. She's going to make a full health recovery but we can help with medical expenses.

Check out the **link & give: Give Here:**

## More Club News

Past President **Herb Harriss**'s son, Drew was on the Price is Right. He made it to the Showcase on December & won a trip to Belize. Congratulations!



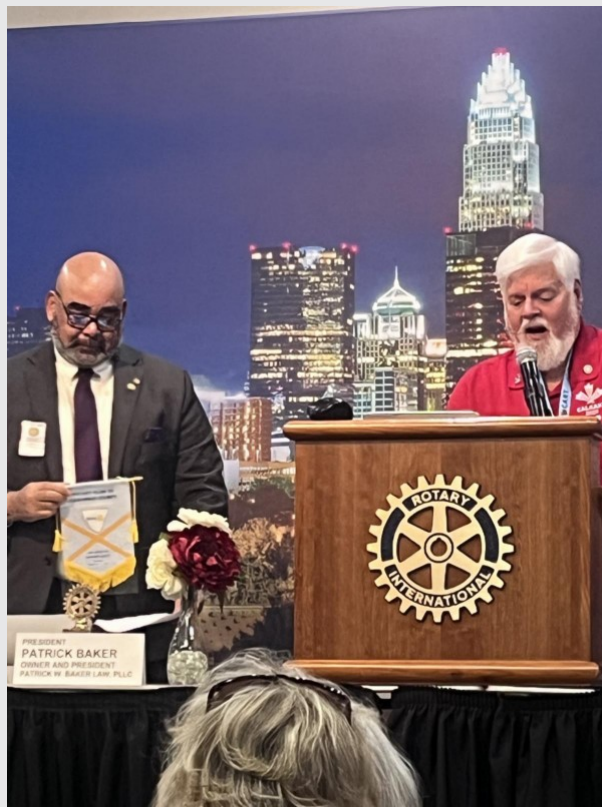
## & More News

### CART Banner Awarded to Charlotte Rotary

CART Recognition:

- Luther Moore
- Michael Wollinger
- Joe Morris

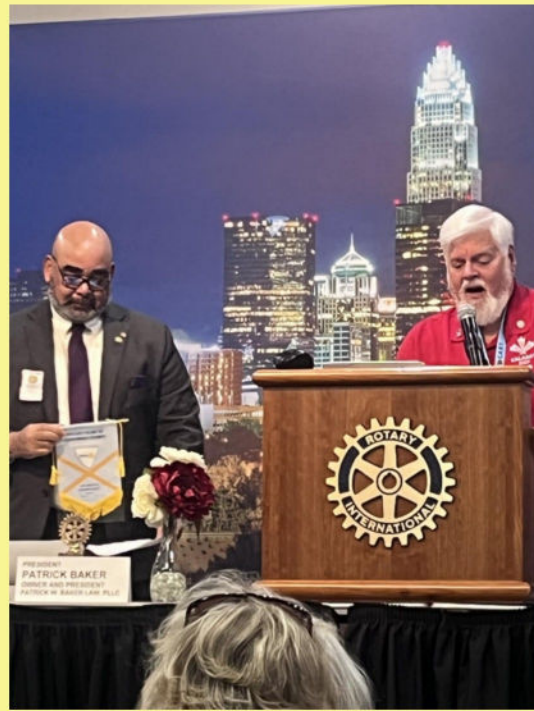
Charlotte Rotary was recognized with the CART Banner Award, honoring the club's commitment to service, leadership, and community impact.



Member, **Sarah Yost**, has new puppies. Her German Shorthair Pointer recently gave birth to 12 puppies



Photos from the Meeting



## Rotarian's in Service

Charlotte Rescue Mission Christmas Breakfast: Thanks to all the Served

## Insider Tips

**Insider Tip:** the new year!

Be sure to check out the latest **District 7680 newsletter** for updates, opportunities, and Rotary news from across the district. It's a quick read and full of great info!

# Membership Update

07/01/2025 224

12/31/2025 206

(Resigned: Ronald McDonald House (Denise Cubbedge, Darrell McGill, Leslie Teiro, Shaketa Wright, and Kristin Young), Julian Hall, Tashara Brown (LIG), PJ McAfee (LIG), Ugo Oriaku (LIG), Hillary Southworth (LIG), Josh Wood (LIG))

01/06/2026 206

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, Jan. 6, 2026:

Guests in attendance:

## Milestones (Week of Jan. 6 - 19)

### Rotary Anniversaries

36 years: Jim Woodward

### Birthdays

25 – Pender McElroy

### Wedding Anniversary

24 – Maryl & John Galles

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



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