

ROTARY REPORTER

March 3, 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.

Help Needed:

Charlotte Area Chamber Business Expo - Wednesday, March 25th

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.

Help Needed! Wed., March 25 - Expo Event: Charlotte Area Chamber Business Expo 2026, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., The Park Expo and Conference Center, Liberty Hall. **Click here to sign up to volunteer at the booth.** 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.**

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.

This Week's Meeting

State of the Club

by Paul Bartholomy

This week at the Rotary Club of Charlotte, members gathered for an important "State of the Club" update led by **President Patrick Baker** and members of the Board. The presentation highlighted insights from a recent member survey, financial updates, and the club's strategic vision for the coming years. The survey, completed by approximately half of the membership, provided valuable feedback about engagement, programming, service opportunities, and the overall member experience. Encouragingly, a strong majority of members expressed positive feelings about the club and its impact in the community, while also identifying areas where the club can grow stronger. **Click here for more.**

The recording can be found here:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1170394977?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1170395382?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The program begins at about 24 minutes and 10 seconds.

Club Visioning Pillars

As we discussed in Tuesday's meeting, the board has been working hard on creating a strategic plan for the next 3 years of the club. We have taken all of your feedback from the survey and worked hard to create focus areas for our club.

Now, we need your help. The first step will be to put together small groups to begin the discussion on how to implement each initiative.

Then, we'll begin creating committees to carry out the work.

If you're willing to be part of the initial discussions or part of the committees, **please fill out this 1-question survey** to let us know where your areas of interest lie. We'll reach out in the next two weeks to let you know who will be part of the initial planning phases and what the next steps will be.

We're so excited to watch this club continue to grow and fulfill its role as one of the leading organizations in Charlotte!





Club News

With Sympathy Heartfelt condolences to Rotary Club of Charlotte **President Patrick Baker** and his wife, Rae Ann Baker on the passing of Rae Ann’s mother, Clarice O’Neill, who died this week. Patrick shared that Clarice’s passing was sudden, though not entirely unexpected. During this difficult time, please keep Patrick, Rae Ann, and their family in your thoughts. Please join in offering support and compassion to the Baker family in the days ahead.

Wishing Tom Cottingham a Smooth Recovery Charlotte Rotary member **Tom Cottingham** recently underwent back surgery to repair spinal stenosis at L5–S1 and L4–5, likely the result of more than 40 years of running. The good news is that Tom reports the surgery went well and he is already experiencing significantly less pain than before the procedure. Tom will be taking it easy for the next few weeks and may be away from Rotary meetings for a little while as he recovers. He sends his warm regards and looks forward to being back with the club soon. Please join us in wishing Tom a comfortable recovery and a speedy return to Rotary fellowship.



Welcome to Rotary! Charlotte Rotary is pleased to welcome William M. “Bill” Herndon, Jr., MD, FACC to the club. A Charlotte native—famously born in the elevator at Charlotte Memorial Hospital—Bill grew up in Kings Mountain and graduated from The Asheville School before attending UNC Chapel Hill, where he earned both his undergraduate degree and his MD from the UNC School of Medicine. After completing his residency in Internal Medicine and a fellowship in Cardiology at UNC, he went on to a distinguished 36-year career with Sanger Heart & Vascular Institute. Mostly retired since 2023, Bill now serves as Medical Director of the Cardiovascular Technology Program at Central Piedmont Community College and previously held a role as Clinical Professor of Medicine

at UNC. Bill is a Leadership Charlotte Class 15 graduate and past president of the NC Affiliate of the American Heart Association. He and his wife, Barbara "Bobbie" Herndon, will celebrate 51 years of marriage in April, and they have two sons, Alexander and Andrew. Bill joined Rotary to connect with others who share a civic-minded spirit. In his free time he enjoys reading, travel, golf, fly fishing, and following foreign affairs. *Please join us in giving Bill a warm Rotary welcome!*

The
Charlotte Ledger's
FORTY **over**
40

A Charlotte awards program honoring difference-makers in our community who are in their 40s and beyond.

Members Nominated for Charlotte Ledger's 2026 "40 Over 40" Awards

Several members of the Rotary Club of Charlotte have been nominated for The Charlotte Ledger's 2026 "40 Over 40" Awards, an annual program recognizing individuals age 40 and above who are making a meaningful impact across the Charlotte community.

This year, 137 leaders from across the region were nominated by their peers and colleagues for their service, leadership, and dedication to strengthening the community. An independent panel of judges selected 40 honorees, announced in a special edition of the Ledger and celebrated at an awards event on April 23 at Project 658 near Plaza Midwood.

We are proud that several Charlotte Rotary members are among this impressive group of nominees:

- **Kim Brattain**, CEO and Founder, Kim Brattain Media
- **Lori Gougeon**, President/CEO, InReach Inc.
- **Carol Hardison**, Chief Executive Officer, Crisis Assistance Ministry
- **Eugene (Kip) Kiser**, President and Owner, Kip Corporation

Now in its seventh year, the Charlotte Ledger's 40 Over 40 Awards celebrates individuals who are using their experience, leadership, and passion to make Charlotte a better place.

Congratulations to our fellow Rotarians on this well-deserved recognition for their contributions to our community!



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

Habits of Highly Effective Rotarians

The Rotarians who get the most out of the club tend to share a few simple habits:

- **Show up.** Regular attendance keeps you connected and in the loop.
- **Meet someone new.** Fellowship grows when you reach beyond your usual table.
- **Bring your vocation.** Your professional perspective is part of what makes Rotary work.
- **Pitch in.** Committees, projects, events—small efforts add up to big impact.
- **Give what you can.** Time, energy, or resources—every contribution matters.
- **Lead with empathy.** Service starts with understanding others.
- **Be a great ambassador.** A positive attitude reflects well on Rotary everywhere you go.

Rotary isn't just about the meeting — it's about the habits we bring to it.

(Inspired by "7 Habits of an Effective Rotarian," by Niels Colov, Rotary Club of Pattaya, Thailand.)

Volunteer Opportunities in the Community

Saturday, March 7th | 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM | Lenoir, NC Help Catawba Riverkeeper restore and enhance sections of shoreline that are prone to erosion in the Catawba River basin! **Click here** to learn more!

Friday, March 20 | Love Our School Day @Pineville Elementary - a community-wide volunteer event dedicated to uplifting Pineville Elementary. Together we will enhance the campus (indoors and out) with beautification projects and strengthen connections between our communities. **Click here to sign up.**

Saturday, May 9 | Diaper Bank. To repackage diapers and other products for distribution.

- 9:30 am to 11:30 am
- 3418 Vane Court, Suite D, Charlotte, North Carolina, 28206
- Registration link: <https://x.gldn.io/e/JY4Gy5eSs0b>
- Volunteer waiver: <https://form.jotform.com/202125631919048>
 - Families can all go on one waiver.
 - If you have done the waiver in the past, no need to complete it again!
- Closed-toe shoes required! Dress comfortably, as the warehouse is not climate-controlled.

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
02/28/2026 204
03/03/2026 203 (Resignation: Shelley Dean)

Meeting Attendance - March 3, 2026: 78

This week's Guests: Tosin Ayedebinu, Lori Keller, District Governor Donna Moffett ([Phil Volponi](#)), Rodney Holtzmuller ([Phil Volponi](#)), Jackie Shimko ([Phil Volponi](#)), Past District Governor Bob Wilson ([Phil Volponi](#))

Milestones (March 3 - 9)

Rotary Anniversaries

15 years: Angela Broome Powley

10 years: Kim Brattain

1 year: Kerin Hughes

Birthdays

11 - Scott Gakenheimer

11 - Tim Chappell

12 - Bill Bartee

12 - Jim Martin

12 - Vernon Goode

14 - Fred Wagner

15 - Tony Lathrop

16 - Bill Loftin

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



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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