



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

April 7, 2026

2025-2026 Board Members

President Patrick Baker
Pres Elect Bill Bartee
Past Pres Kim Brattain
Secretary Bill Gill
Treasurer Craig Field
Exec Dir Christine Cipriano

Directors 2024-2026

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John Cantrell
Tish Atkins Charles
Dena Diorio
Jesse Hite
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Directors 2025-2027

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Karen Calder
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Mike Wollinger

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Linwood Bolles &
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Programs

Elizabeth Teagarden



Ending Alzheimer's One Coin at a Time: The CART Fund Story with Donald Seitz

by **Susie Masotti**

The Charlotte Rotary Club was pleased to welcome Don Seitz from CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust). Don serves as liaison for the greater Charlotte area and beyond. Rotarian **Mike Wollinger**, Senior Vice President at TowneBank, introduced Don to the large crowd.

Mike began by telling everyone that Don was raised in Cleveland, Ohio. He moved to Charlotte in 1994 and then retired in 2017. Since Don's retirement, he has been a very busy man. He has been a Van Assist Drive for Charlotte Motor Speedway, a poll worker in Cabarrus County, and worked hard for the Boys and Girls Club and Speedway Charities. Don has a special place in his heart for Veterans and has been a Guardian on five Queen City Honor Flights to Washington, DC, carrying veterans to see the various memorials and sights in the area. His focus is now on the CART Fund, including attempting to bring the CART Fund to international cities in Canada. He has twice been recognized as a Distinguished Rotarian by different clubs.

Don thanked the club for having him. His work with CART focuses on ending Alzheimer's one coin at a time. Don stated that he believes the CART fund is the missing piece to finding both prevention and a cure for Alzheimer's and Dementia. His Mother had Dementia before her passing, his cousin passed from Dementia in October, and his Sister-In-Law is currently battling Alzheimer's. CART is personal for Don.

All funds to CART are 100% donated to Alzheimer's and Dementia research and care.

While it is a separate entity from Rotary, they work together. In 2025, they had a record of 92 requests for grants. So far, this year (2026), they have had more than 200 requests. Selection for a grant can depend on how much money is being requested and how much money the fund has in its reserves. In 2025, \$2,000,000 was awarded, and CART was rated a 4-star charity by Charity Navigator.

Seed grants are vitally important in medical research currently because of the uncertainty of Federal Funds. Individuals can enroll through online donations for either monthly giving or a one-time donation.

The Spirit of CART Award is given to clubs that collectively donate \$20,000 or more a year. The leading clubs that donated in 2024-25 are Albemarle, Concord, and Cabarrus Counties. Salisbury's club is currently in the lead in fundraising for CART for 2026

CART made two \$500,000 donations in 2025! Recipients were Dr. Vivian Cheung (Brown University), who is studying Alzheimer's using an RNA-based approach, and Dr. Ted Sway (Harvard University), who utilizes advanced imaging to track brain cells over time to track warning signs before neurons begin to die. This approach hopefully leads to a way to protect brain cells before they start to deteriorate.

CART hosts a Lunch Ala Carte lunch and learn via a Zoom meeting with an update on research with actual grant recipients. The plastic buckets for CART fundraising are still around and provided to all Rotary Clubs free of charge, and were used in CART's original efforts to raise funds.

Don was informed that just last night, there was a non-Rotarian \$1,000,000 anonymous donation made.

The public and Rotarians can sign up for the newsletter, attend an online lunch, make pledges, donations, and even legacy gifts. Information can be found about all of their programs at their website - <https://www.cartfund.org/>.

Don thanked the crowd for having him after reminding everyone to drop their change into the buckets on each table, and then took questions from the gathered crowd.

One member asked about any matching donations – Don let everyone know that there is currently an anonymous challenge for up to \$3,000 to match any donation. Ultimately, the goal for 2026 is to raise \$5,000,000 for grants.

Another member asked how many rotary districts participate in the CART program. Don stated that 40 districts plus 6 individual clubs are currently supporting CART. Most are east of the Mississippi. Don is reaching out to Vancouver for Rotary clubs there when he visits this summer. Although CART is a registered 501©3 in the US, it is not yet international for donors to be able to claim their donations as tax deductible. Don is personally hoping that he can bring Canada into the fold one club at a time.

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/1181407917?fl=pl&fe=sh>
The program introduction begins at approximately 31 minutes.