

ROTARY REPORTER

April 14, 2026

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



April Community Partner:
CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust)

Tues., April 21 - Weekly Meeting: Daniel Fogarty, CEO, First Tee of Greater Charlotte

Sip for a cause! Weds., April 29 - Club Social: Virtual Triple Crown Happy Hour benefiting the CART Fund, 7:00 p.m.. Details below. [Click here to join the fun.](#)

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.](#)

Sat., June 6 - Volunteer Event: Nourish Up, 9 - 11 a.m., 901 Carrier Drive. Details to follow. Space is limited so [sign up early](#). Contact [Catherine Bracey](#).

Sat., June 27 - District Governor Installation: Join us to honor our own, [Jerry Coughter](#), at District Governor Installation Celebration on Saturday, June 27 | Noon–2:00 p.m. at the Mount Holly Municipal Complex, 400 E. Central Avenue, Mount Holly, NC. [Click here to register for the event!](#)

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

Dr. R. Glenn Gaston
Program Director, OrthoCarolina Hand & Upper Extremity Fellowship

by [Elly Clary](#)

Amputees who struggle with prosthetics now can operate fingers independently with a prosthetic hand, can feel touch and are free of phantom limb pain.



Such a transition is possible through what Dr. Glenn Gaston calls translational medicine, which entails "getting an idea, researching it and putting it into practice."

Dr. Gaston is a nationally recognized leader in hand and upper extremity surgery. He practices at Charlotte's OrthoCarolina Research Institute and is program director for the OrthoCarolina Hand & Upper Extremity Fellowship.

"Ours is physician-led research," Dr. Gaston told Rotarians. "We publish papers on how we make people better and get them back to their lives."

The OCRI team took on opioid addiction by creating a substitute for the narcotic's pain-killing properties. Dr. Gaston called it a multi-modal pain pathway – replacing opioids for surgical patients with a mixture of many different medicines. Patients find the medicinal cocktail works better and more than half opt out of opioids. [Click here for more.](#)

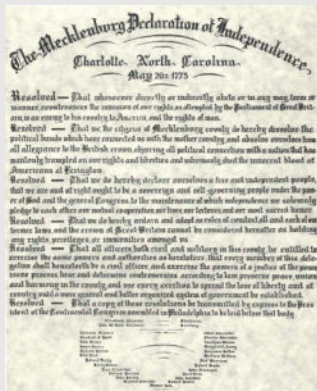
A recording of the meeting can be found here
With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1183522240?fl=pl&fe=sh>
Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1183522407?fl=pl&fe=sh>
The program introduction begins at approximately 29 minutes.

Club News

Condolences Let us remember the life and service of Maj. Gen. (Ret.) Gerald "Rudy" Rudisill, Jr., a former member of our club from 2013 until 2023. General Rudisill was a respected leader, mentor, and friend whose distinguished career reflected a deep commitment to the men and women of the North Carolina National Guard. Serving as The Adjutant General from 1993 to 2001, he provided steady leadership across all formations and was instrumental in advancing the State Partnership Program, fostering a lasting relationship between North Carolina and Moldova. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to the Rudisill family as we honor his legacy of service and leadership. [Click here for Gerald Rudisill's Obituary](#)



Congratulations to Charlotte Rotarian **Tchernavia Montgomery** on receiving the Legend Award presented by Faith in Action Community and Educational Transition Services (FACET)



Do You Have a Mecklenburg Declaration Connection?

At our May 19 Rotary meeting, we have a special opportunity to celebrate a unique piece of Charlotte's history—the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence (Meck Dec).

As part of our Health, Happiness, and History segment, **Dr. Tony Zeiss** is hoping to spotlight members who may have a personal connection to this historic moment. Specifically, we are hoping to identify anyone in our club who is a descendant of a signer of the Meck Dec.

If you believe you may have a family connection we would love to hear from you! Those identified will be acknowledged in this special and meaningful portion of the program.

Please reach out to Dr. Zeiss at zeiss.tony@gmail.com or Executive Director, **Christine Cipriano**, at christine@charlotterotary.org if you'd like to be included or to learn more.



A club member, who wishes to remain anonymous, has graciously offered to match direct April CART donations from club members, up to \$3k (raffle purchases do not count). If you are interested in having your contribution matched, just make your check payable to CART, put it in the blue CART bucket or give it to ED, [Christine Cipriano](#). CART donations are tax deductible.



Triple Crown Happy Hour - Don't Miss This One!

You've got the outfit. You've picked your horse. Now it's time to perfect your cocktail.

Join us for a lively, interactive Triple Crown-themed happy hour with James Beard-nominated mixologist **Shannon Healy**. This is more than a class. This is a chance to connect, laugh, and enjoy something different with your fellow Rotarians.

Even better? Every \$25 registration supports the CART Fund (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust), turning a fun evening into meaningful impact.

**Let's make this a strong showing for our club. Don't wait to sign up.
How It Works:**

- Click here to register via **Jotform** and complete your \$25 donation
- Receive recipes and a grocery list ahead of time
- Log on a few minutes early and join the fun

YOU ARE INVITED TO
Triple Crown Happy Hour
Zoom Party

Join your fellow Rotarians for an evening of delightful cocktails, elegant ambiance, and engaging conversations--without leaving the comfort of your home.

A \$25 Donation to CART = Event Access

WEDNESDAY **29** AT 07:00
APRIL

Click here to RSVP and receive the Link

Don't Miss the District Conference

Most Rotarians have never attended a district conference and that's a missed opportunity. It's one of the most enjoyable and rewarding parts of Rotary, and it's for everyone in our club not just officers. Partners are welcome, too.

The conference brings together fellowship, fun, and inspiration. You'll hear engaging speakers, gain fresh perspective on Rotary, and connect with members from across the district. Even better, it's a chance to spend relaxed, meaningful time with fellow members of our own club—the kind that turns acquaintances into lasting friendships.

Rotary International considers these gatherings so important that a representative of the RI President attends each one—reminding us we're part of something much bigger.

If you've never been, this is your year. If you have, you already know why you should go back.

Sign up now and let's have a strong showing from our club!

Beyond the Club



April 2026

Rotary 
District 7680

NEWSLETTER

#PeopleOfAction #ServiceAboveSelf #ProudRotarian

Be sure to take a few minutes to read this month's Rotary District 7680 newsletter. There's great information, updates, and opportunities you won't want to miss. It's a quick read that will keep you connected and in the know. **Click here to be directed to the newsletter.**



District Conference 2026
May 29-31
Renaissance Center | Asheville, NC
Creativity and Community | Innovating for Impact



Keynote Speaker:
Dr. Isabel Scarinci
Polio survivor and
global health leader

Be Part of Something Special
What You'll Experience

- Hands-on service project supporting Helene Recovery
- Steps from downtown Asheville shops, galleries, & dining
- Celebrate your club's impact
- Share ideas and projects with fellow clubs

Reserve Your Spot



<https://tinyurl.com/DistrictConf2026>

Rotary 
District 7680

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!

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224

02/28/2026 204

04/14/2026 203 (Nonprofit Holy Angels)

Meeting Attendance - April 14, 2026: 94

This week's Guests: Tosin Ayedebinu ([Bill Gill](#)), Christi Cadd (Guest of the Speaker), George Climer ([Benton Bragg](#)), Julie Dibella ([Christine Cipriano](#)), Wayne Dibella ([Christine Cipriano](#)), Pamela Glass ([Dena Diorio](#)), Sharon Heinrich (DGN - Gastonia Club), Julie Horanski (Speaker's Guest), Andrea Luehmann, Riley Mehaffey ([Tish Atkins Charles](#)), Ben Moses ([Bill Gill](#)), Blair Primis (Guest of the Speaker), Craig Scharton ([Tish Atkins Charles](#) and [Chase Saunders](#)), SaVion Smith, Marek Tengler (Rotary Club Plzen Beseda), Davina Thorpe ([Tish Atkins Charles](#)), Alice Womack

Milestones (April 21 - 27)

Birthdays

22 – JT Simpson
24 - Todd Herman
25 - Bill McNamara

Wedding Anniversaries

24 - Dianne & Jesse Hite
27 - Karen & Rob Calder
27 - Claire & Tom Blocker

Rotary Anniversaries

14 years (32 total): Boyd Coggins
12 years: Patricia Shafer
6 years (38 total): Joe Morris
4 years: Laura Meier
3 years: Fred Monroe

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 \(jotform.com\)](#)

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

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