

ROTARY REPORTER

April 7, 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 14 - Weekly Meeting: Dr. R. Glenn Gaston, Program Director, OrthoCarolina Hand & Upper Extremity Fellowship

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



*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. **Click here for more.**

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.





Club News

Condolences Our Rotary family extends heartfelt condolences to Past President **Carol Hardison** on the passing of her beloved brother and best friend, Paul Hardison. Paul lived a life defined by compassion, connection, and service to others. A gifted musician and dedicated nurse, he touched countless lives through both his profession and his genuine care for people. Above all, he cherished his family and shared a special lifelong bond with Carol. Please keep Carol and her family in your thoughts and prayers during this difficult time. [Click here to read Paul's full obituary.](#)



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.









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




Hats, Horses & Happy Hour

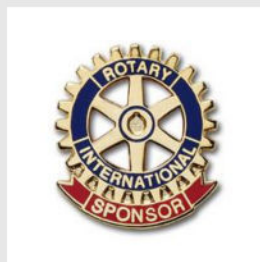
You're set for the fashion and ready for the horses—but are you prepared for the cocktails?

Join James Beard–nominated mixologist **Shannon Healy** as he guides us through a handpicked selection of signature cocktails and mocktails from the Triple Crown horse races, including the Kentucky Derby, Preakness Stakes, and Belmont Stakes.

All proceeds from this event will support our club's contributions to the **CART Fund** (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust).

How It Works:

- Sign up using **Jotform** and complete your \$25 donation
- Recipes and a grocery list will be provided well in advance of the event
- Prepare your home bar and have your phone or laptop ready
- Click the Zoom link 5 minutes before the event—and get ready for a very happy hour with your fellow Rotarians



New: A simple way to support Charlotte Rotary—and share your business with fellow members

We are pleased to introduce a new way for members and their companies to support the Rotary Club of Charlotte while gaining meaningful visibility among fellow Rotarians.

Our new **Luncheon Sponsorship Recognition Opportunities** provide a simple, tasteful way to be recognized during a weekly meeting—with an optional opportunity for additional exposure through our club newsletter.

This initiative was thoughtfully designed to align with the tone and traditions of our meetings, ensuring recognition remains brief, respectful, and member-focused.

In keeping with Rotary's spirit of supporting one another, priority will be given to Charlotte Rotary members and their companies.

We look forward to growing this opportunity in a way that continues to strengthen both our club and the relationships within it. Please contact Executive Director **Christine Cipriano** to learn more or reserve a date.



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 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

How to Talk About Rotary: Don't Overthink It, Just Tell Your Rotary Story

Summarized from an article by Heather Kellen – Zone 34 (D-6920)

We've all met them; that person who would be perfect for Rotary. And then... we overthink how to explain it. Here's the secret: don't.

Start with what matters most: connection. Rotary is where you find your people. It's a community of leaders, doers, and genuinely good humans who become your network and your friends.

Then talk about impact. Rotary takes what you want to do to help others and multiplies it, locally and around the world.

Don't forget growth. Rotary stretches you in the best ways: leadership, confidence, and trying things you might not raise your hand for anywhere else.

And purpose? It's built in. You're part of something bigger than yourself, alongside 1.4 million people working toward real change.

When it's time to invite them, keep it simple:

"This isn't just another meeting; it's something you get to be part of."

No script needed. Just your story and an open invitation.

For the full article: [How to Talk About Rotary: A Member's Guide](#)

Beyond the Club



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

Rotary 
 District 7680

Reserve Your Spot



[https://tinyurl.com/
 DistrictConf2026](https://tinyurl.com/DistrictConf2026)

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
 04/07/2026 204

Considered for membership:
 Ben Moses, CEO, Aurora Solutions Group
 Sponsor: Bill Gill

Meeting Attendance - April 7, 2026: 80

This week's Guests: Tosin Ayedebinu ([Bill Gill](#)), Jack Helmers, Riley Mehaffey ([Tish Atkins Charles](#)), Atabek Nazirov, Craig Scharton, Dee Schwab ([Bill Gill](#)), Libby Simonini ([Alan Simonini](#)), Alice Womack ([Bill Bartee](#))

Milestones

(April 14 - 20)

Birthdays

14 – Catherine Bracey
16 – Will Barnhardt
19 – Kathi Knier
19 – Maggie Mitchem-Flanigan
20 – Tchernavia Montgomery
20 – Jonathan Justice

Rotary Anniversaries

24 years: Ken Samuelson
23 years: John Armistead
2 years: Reid Beaver
2 years: Marcia Colson

Wedding Anniversaries

17 - Elizabeth & Bill Bartee
20 - Trish & Craig Field

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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