



ROTARY REPORTER

March 17, 2026

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



March Community Partner:

Care Ring Volunteer Opportunity

Donating to Moms and Babies in need!
A Charlotte Rotary Baby Shower.

Mon., Mar. 23 - Volunteer Opportunity: Care Ring, 10 a.m. - 12 noon, 1514 N. Graham St, 10 volunteers needed. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Tues., Mar. 24 - Weekly Meeting: Community Lifeline: Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, Dr. Heather Hill, Dr. Chris Nesbitt, and Catherine Butler

Weds., April 1 - Quarterly Invoicing: Be sure to sign up for Recurring Payments. [Click here for step-by-step instructions.](#)

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. 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.](#)

Save the Date! 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](#).

Save the Date! Sat., June 27 - District Governor Installation: Join us for the 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 28120. [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



DAVID ERDMAN
"Geography of Charlotte"

by **Paul Bartholomy**

The Rotary Club of Charlotte enjoyed a fascinating and engaging program this week from fellow Rotarian **David Erdman**, who presented on the "Geography of Charlotte." Drawing on his deep knowledge of local history, development, and civic life, David gave members a fresh perspective on how geography has shaped Charlotte's growth, character, and future. His remarks reminded us that the story of our city is not just about people and progress, but also about land, water, transportation, and the natural features that helped guide its path.

David walked members through a wide-ranging and highly visual presentation that explored Charlotte's location, watersheds, climate patterns, transportation corridors, and the many geographic factors that influenced the city's evolution over time. From the importance of the Catawba River basin and the creation of Lake Norman to the role of rail lines, roads, and annexation in Charlotte's expansion, the program offered a thoughtful look at why Charlotte developed the way it did. His ability to connect technical details with local stories made the presentation especially enjoyable. **Click here for more.**

The recording can be found here:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1174806635?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1174852529?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The program introduction begins at about 30 minutes.

Club News



Serve with fellow Rotarians

Care Ring on Monday, March 23 (9:30 a.m.–12:00 p.m.) — tour the facility and help families in need. Sign up: **Care Ring: Uptown Charlotte Rotary Volunteer Day - Care Ring Food Pantry**



Rotary Friendship Exchange: Welcoming Sri Lanka to Charlotte

This spring, our Rotary family has a special opportunity to bring the world a little closer to home.

Through the Rotary Friendship Exchange Program of Rotary International, we will be welcoming 13 Rotarians from District 3220 (Sri Lanka) to the United States from May 20 – June 1, 2026—with their time in Charlotte taking place May 26 – June 1.

This visit is especially meaningful. Earlier this year, Rotarians from Districts 6440 (Chicago) and 7680 (Charlotte) traveled to Sri Lanka as part of this same exchange. Now, we have the privilege of returning that hospitality and strengthening the global connections that make Rotary so unique.

The Friendship Exchange program is open to all Rotarians and offers a powerful way to build international understanding through home hosting, cultural experiences, and shared fellowship.

How It Works

Our visiting Rotarians are covering their own airfare, insurance, and personal expenses. As hosts, we step in to provide lodging, transportation, meals, and meaningful local experiences during their stay.

How You Can Get Involved

There are so many ways to be part of this unforgettable experience:

- Open your home (or assist with lodging) for one or more guests
- Help with transportation, meals, or entertainment
- Host a cultural outing or vocational/business tour
- Invite guests to a sporting event or local experience
- Provide sponsorship support at the \$500, \$250, or \$100 level

Not sure what fits best? That's okay—there's a place for everyone in this effort.

Learn More / Get Involved

If you'd like to participate or explore options, please reach out to:

Dena Diorio – denadio@man.com

This is more than a visit—it's a chance to build friendships across continents, share our community, and live out Rotary's mission of international connection.

Let's show our guests the very best of Charlotte.

BABY SHOWER

to benefit: **CARE RING**
THE HEART OF COMMUNITY HEALTH

hosted by: **Rotary**
Club of Charlotte

Lifting Up Moms and Babies in Need

How to Support!

- Scan the QR code to visit Care Ring's [Amazon Wish List](#).
- Bring donated items to any Rotary meetings in March, **OR**
- Have items from the Amazon Wish List shipped directly to Care Ring

For more information, contact Elizabeth Caspers at ecaspers@shgltld.com.

The poster features a central illustration of a young girl and a young boy sitting together, with the girl holding a baby bottle. The background is a light blue circle with a white border. Logos for Care Ring and Rotary Club of Charlotte are at the top. A QR code is located on the right side.

Rotary Baby Shower for Care Ring

During the month of March, the Rotary Club of Charlotte is hosting a Rotary Baby Shower to benefit **Care Ring**, a Charlotte nonprofit serving families who are uninsured or underserved. Each year, Care Ring supports more than 1,600 maternal health families, providing essential services and supplies for mothers and newborns.

Rotarians can help by bringing baby items to Rotary meetings in March or purchasing items from the Care Ring Amazon Wish List. Even simple necessities like diapers, car seats, and Pack-and-Plays make a meaningful difference for families welcoming a new baby.

Let's help give Charlotte's newest neighbors a healthy start.

WE'RE EXHIBITING AT

CHARLOTTE AREA
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

BUSINESS EXPO 2026

Wednesday
March 25, 2026

More information:
www.CharlotteAreaChamber.com

BOOTH #117

The graphic is a blue rectangle with white text and a white outline of a city skyline. A calendar icon is next to the date. The text is centered and uses various font sizes and weights to create a hierarchy of information.

Charlotte Rotary Booth for the Charlotte Area Chamber Business Expo, Wed., March 25, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., The Park Expo and Conference Center, Liberty Hall. Charlotte Rotary will be participating in the Charlotte Area Chamber Business Expo on Wednesday, March 25 at The Park Expo & Conference Center.

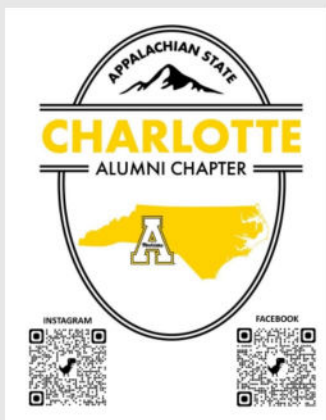
This is a great opportunity to introduce Charlotte Rotary to hundreds of business and community leaders from across the region. Our goal is simple:

- share what Rotary does in the Charlotte community
- meet potential members
- make great connections for our club

We will staff the booth in short shifts so volunteers can still walk the Expo and network.

Volunteer shifts are filled but let us know if you are still interested. Shifts are available throughout the Expo on Wednesday, March 25 (10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.). A small team will also assist with booth setup on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday morning. [Click here to sign up to volunteer at the booth.](#)

Let's show Charlotte what Rotary is all about!



App State Alumni Gather for Giving Day Celebration in Charlotte

All Appalachian State alumni are invited to join fellow Mountaineers for a lively Giving Day Happy Hour on Thursday, March 26, 2026, at Angry Ale's Montford from 6–8 p.m. Hosted by the Charlotte Alumni Chapter, the evening will feature complimentary appetizers, and alumni who show proof of a Giving Day donation (minimum \$5) will receive their first drink on the house.

Appalachian State Giving Day is a nationwide effort that brings alumni together to support the experiences that shape every Mountaineer. Charlotte will also join in a friendly competition with alumni chapters across the country to see who can inspire the most donors—so be sure to give through the chapter's link and be part of the impact.

Wear your black and gold, reconnect with fellow alumni, and help move App State forward. For more information, contact [Robert Freeman](mailto:Robert.Freeman@rotary.org) at 704-534-7575.



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

District Governor: Leading Rotary at the District Level

Each Rotary district is guided by a District Governor, the official representative of Rotary International within a region that typically includes about 45 clubs. Carefully selected and extensively trained, the District Governor plays a vital role in maintaining the strength, consistency, and impact of Rotary around the world.

Rather than serving as an inspector, the District Governor is a supportive leader—visiting each club as a trusted advisor, encouraging collaboration, and helping clubs thrive. They bring experience, insight, and a deep understanding of Rotary's mission to support club leaders, strengthen programs, and advance the Object of Rotary.

Serving as District Governor is a significant volunteer commitment. These seasoned Rotarians dedicate a full year to guiding their district—supporting the growth of new clubs, strengthening existing ones, and ensuring alignment with Rotary International's goals and initiatives.

We are especially proud to share that our incoming District Governor, [Jerry Coughter](#), is a member of our club—*Congratulations, Jerry!*

Save the Date!

Join us for the 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 28120.

[Click here to register for the event!](#)

Rotarians Out and About

Fresh photos of the St. Patrick's Parade just dropped for this week—check them out below!

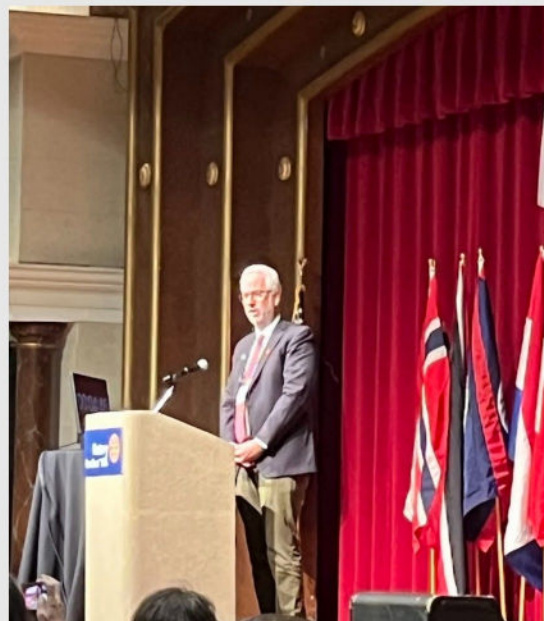




Carolinas PETS

Part of our leadership team spent the weekend at Carolinas PETS (Presidents-Elect Training Seminar), joining Rotarians from across North Carolina and South Carolina for a time of learning, collaboration, and connection. PETS provides an important opportunity for incoming leaders to exchange ideas, discuss shared successes and challenges, and strengthen relationships across our District.

We are especially proud to be there alongside our own **Jerry Coughter**, who will serve as our incoming District Governor—an exciting honor for our club. Good work was done this weekend, and we look forward to bringing that energy and insight back to our members in the months ahead.





Volunteer Opportunity

Join Creek Week (March 21–28) and The Big Spring Clean on March 28—volunteer with neighbors to remove litter from local creeks and help protect our community's waterways. (City of Charlotte)

Sign up for a cleanup site near you and make a hands-on impact in just a few hours! (City of Charlotte)

Beyond the Club

MARCH 2026

Rotary 

District 7680

NEWSLETTER

#PeopleOfAction #ServiceAboveSelf #ProudRotarian

Don't miss the latest District newsletter—there are lots of great updates inside!
 Click here to be directed to the newsletter.

District Conference 2026
May 28-31
 Renaissance Center | Asheville, NC
 Creativity and Community | Innovating for Impact



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>

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

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
- 03/17/2026 206

Meeting Attendance - March 17, 2026: 90

This week's Guests: Tosin Ayedebinu (Bill Gill), Felicia Barnes (Tchernavia Montgomery), Joe Culik (Tony Zeiss), Taylor Gloyd (Sarah Martin Yost), Ella Hoyle (Howard Hoyle Jr), Mary Hoyle (Howard Hoyle Jr), Howard Hoyle Sr (Howard Hoyle Jr), Howard Hoyle III (Howard Hoyle Jr), Jon Kaye (Charlotte South), Dana Klein (Charlotte South), Penny Parker (Charlotte South), Victoria Schweizer (Charlotte South), Benjamin Spitzer (Fred Wagner), Beth Zeiss (Tony Zeiss)

Milestones (March 24 - 30)

Birthdays

24 - Kerin Hughes
24 - Matt Joyner
26 - Jim Mannix
28 - Alan Simonini
30 - Mark Erwin
30 - David Tobin

Rotary Anniversaries

28 years: Roger Sarow
23 years: Chris Thomas
23 years: Jerry Walters
11 years: Peirce Ward
10 years (37 total): George Edmiston
9 years: Carla DuPuy

Wedding Anniversaries

24 - Amy & Mark Norman
26 - Kit & Peirce Ward

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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