

# ROTARY REPORTER

## March 24, 2026

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

**Last Week!** March Community Partner: Care Ring Baby Shower  
Donate to Moms and Babies in need! A Charlotte Rotary Baby Shower (details below).

**Tues., Mar. 31 - Weekly Meeting:** Women's History Month Panel | Women's Leadership Across Generations, moderated by **Maira Quinn, Chief Operating Officer and Senior VP of Communication, Charlotte Center City Partners** featuring **Catherine P. Bessant, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation for the Carolinas, Tracey Greene-Washington, President, Indigo Innovation Group** and **Charolette Obring, Chief Operating Officer - Corporate, Medi-Weightloss**

**April - Community Partner:** CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) is the April Community Partner.

**Wed., April 1 - Quarterly Invoicing:** Be sure to sign up for Recurring Payments. Click here for step-by-step instructions.

**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.**

**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 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



**COMMUNITY LIFELINE**  
*Strengthening Public Safety Through Workforce Development*

by **Paul Bartholomy**

This week our club welcomed an outstanding panel from Central Piedmont Community College for an inside look at the college's ambitious "Community Lifeline" initiative, a transformative workforce development effort centered at the Levine Campus in Matthews. President Dr. Kandi Deitemeyer, Provost Dr. Heather Hill, Associate Vice President Dr. Chris Nesbitt, and Vice President Catherine Butler shared how Central Piedmont is expanding its impact across Mecklenburg County while preparing the next generation of public safety professionals. Their presentation was both informative and inspiring, highlighting the college's continued growth and deep commitment to serving our community.

The panel explained that Community Lifeline is designed to strengthen emergency response training for firefighters, EMS professionals, law enforcement officers, and emergency management teams. The project includes a major new training facility with classrooms, simulation spaces, flexible real-world training environments, residential and commercial response settings, live-burn areas, and a critical response driving course. What stood out most was the collaborative vision behind the project, bringing multiple public safety disciplines together so they can train as they often respond in real life: side by side. **Click here for more.**

The recording can be found here:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1178218718?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1178216098?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The program introduction begins at about 26 minutes 40 seconds.

## Club News

**Condolences** We extend our heartfelt condolences to **Keith Nowokunski** on the passing of his father, Edward Daniel Nowokunski. Keith shared that his father was truly a force of nature—a fighter pilot, business owner, salesman, dedicated citizen, and fellow Rotarian. While he will be deeply missed, his influence is woven throughout Keith's life, including his introduction to the Rotary Club of Charlotte. For that lasting legacy, Keith shared his deep gratitude. Edward passed away peacefully, leaving behind a life defined by faith, family, love of country, and service to others. You can read his full obituary here: **View Obituary**

***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.

**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@shgltd.com](mailto:ecaspers@shgltd.com).

**Last week!**

### **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.

### **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@msn.com](mailto:denadio@msn.com)

Phil Volponi – [volponipc@gmail.com](mailto:volponipc@gmail.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.*



#### **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](http://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

#### **Get the Most Out of Ignite (DACdb App)**

If you haven't explored **Ignite** (DACdb smartphone's app) lately, you're missing out on one of the easiest ways to stay connected and engaged with Rotary—right from your phone.

Whether you're brand new or just need a refresher, this is your chance to level up your Rotary experience.



### Join the Training

When: Monday, March 30, 2026 at 7:00 PM

Register: [Register now to receive the Zoom link](#)

### What You'll Learn

- Profile Basics: Keep your info current—photo, address, and social links
- Member Finder: Instantly call, text, or email fellow Rotarians
- Service Tracking: Log your hours and capture "service selfies" in real time
- New Features: Discover Rotary Resources, RAGs & Fellowships, and Impact Partners
- Rotary on the Go: View the calendar or even pay dues

### Insider Tip

Before the session, download the app and make sure you can log in so you're ready to jump right in. When logging in for the first time, be sure to select DACdb (not Member Minder).

*This is one of those tools that, once you start using it, you'll wonder how you ever managed without it.*

## Rotarians In Action

### Care Ring Volunteering

A smaller crew showed up for the Care Ring Volunteering, but the impact was big—hard work, great teamwork, and the job got done.





### **Charlotte Area Chamber Business Expo**

Rotary's presence at the 2026 Charlotte Area Business Chamber Expo was a fantastic success! The Rotary booth was vibrant and welcoming—beautifully led by **Bill Gill** and **Jason Otte**—and powered by the energy of our incredible volunteers. It was especially fun to collaborate with the Charlotte Dilworth South End Rotary Club and showcase Rotary together.

A special thank you to **Michael Orzech** for the opportunity to represent the Rotary Club of Charlotte. We made meaningful connections, generated strong leads, and truly showcased the impact and spirit of Rotary in our community. The outreach was outstanding, and the photos capture it all—take a look!





# Beyond the Club



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

Meeting Attendance - March 24, 2026: 84

This week's Guests: Anna Carpenter ([Woodson Bradley](#)), Mike Feneis ([Woodson Bradley](#)), Lucas Gatterman ([Woodson Bradley](#)), Vicki Lloyd ([Chad Lloyd](#)), Ken McCool ([Woodson Bradley](#)), Sammy Minsk, Daniel Redford ([Woodson Bradley](#)), Dee Schwab, Jessica Trosch ([Kim Brattain](#))

## Milestones (March 31 - April 6)

### Birthdays

31 - Sarah Martin Yost

### Wedding Anniversaries

4 - Debbie & Bill Constangy

### Rotary Anniversaries

46 years: George Rohe

35 years (45 total): Jesse Hite

25 years: Bryan Adams

24 years: Warren Kean

23 years: William Bradley

2 years: John Clarkson

## 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](mailto: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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