

ROTARY REPORTER

March 31, 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 7 - Weekly Meeting: Donald Seitz, Ending Alzheimer's One Coin at a Time | The CART Fund Story

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.](#)

SAVE THE DATE! Weds., April 29 - Club Zoom Social: Triple Crown Cocktail Hour. Details to come.

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".

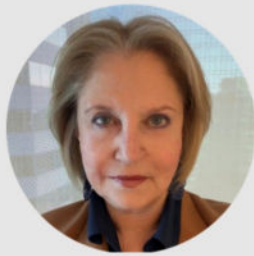
Fri., May 29 - Sun., May 31 - District Conference: District Conference 2026, Renaissance Asheville Downtown Hotel, 31 Woodfin St. Asheville, NC. [Click here for more information.](#)

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



Moderated by
Moira Quinn



Featuring
Cathy Bessant



Featuring
Tracey Greene-
Washington



Featuring
Charolette Orbinger

Women's History Month Panel: "Women's Leadership Across Generations"

WOMEN WHO LEAD AND HOW THEY DO IT.

by Marilynn Bowler

The program entitled *Women's Leadership Across Generations*, presented at the Charlotte Rotary meeting on March 31st, found a ballroom packed with women and an equal number of men. Not only the topic but the moderator and three-woman panel were the "draw," and that combination provided a fascinating conversation.

Well-known, highly respected, beloved, and skilled media personality and businesswoman Moira Quinn served as moderator. Currently serving as COO and Sr. Vice President of Communications for Charlotte Center City Partners, Moira used her prior career years of on-air media interviewing skills at WBTV to keep the discussion on-topic and moving.

Introducing the panelists and appropriately using words like "dynamic," "remarkable," and "talented," Moira referred to the "struggles and successes we all have ... and we have our villages to lift us up." The workplace is a true study of this poignant statement and the combination of Cathy Bessant, former Bank of America executive and now CEO of the Foundation for the Carolinas; Tracey Greene-Washington, President of Indigo Innovation Group and a leader in strategic philanthropy; and Charolette Obringer, COO-Corporate of Medi-Weightloss and founding investor behind Heron House, beautifully represented an expert and inclusive group to discuss how women navigate "second chapters and challenges." [Click here for more.](#)

The recording can be found here:

With slides: [Women's History Month Panel | Women's Leadership Across Generations with slides](#)

Without slides: [Women's History Month Panel | Women's Leadership Across Generations without slides](#)

The program introduction begins at about 26 minutes 40 seconds.

Club News

Prayers Many of you know fellow Charlotte Rotarian [Chris Thomas](#) for his steady presence and thoughtful spirit within our club so you may have noticed his absence this calendar year. During the 2025 holiday season, Chris learned that he was facing a serious health journey and quickly began treatments. He has shared that he deeply appreciates the thoughts and prayers of his Rotary family.

In Memoriam: We were saddened to learn of the passing of former member R. "Dale" LeCount, who was part of our club from 1998 to 2015. We are grateful for the time he spent with our Rotary family and extend our sincere condolences to his loved ones. His obituary can be found here: [Roscoe "Dale" LeCount Obituary - Charlotte, NC](#)

Did You See What's New in DACdb?!

Something exciting just dropped... and no, this is not an April Fool's joke.

To make it all happen, the system took a short "power nap" in the morning but now it's back up and better than ever.

So... *what does this mean for you?*

It's the perfect time to **log in**, click around, and rediscover all the tools at your fingertips. Whether you're:

- Looking for member info
- Registering for events
- Tracking service hours
- Or just seeing what's new...

There's never been a better moment to jump in and explore.

Pro Tip: If it's been a while since you've used **DACdb**, consider this your sign. A quick login today can save you time (and emails!) tomorrow.

We're excited about these updates and what they mean for making our club more connected and efficient—and we hope you will be too.

Go ahead... take the new **DACdb** for a spin. You might just like it.



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

A Life-Changing Opportunity You May Not Know About

Have you heard about the Rotary Peace Fellowship? It's one of Rotary's most powerful (and often underutilized!) opportunities. And it's not just for people halfway across the world; it could be for someone in your network.

Each year, Rotary International awards up to 170 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders to study at one of its prestigious Peace Centers around the globe. We're talking tuition, housing, travel, and field-study expenses... all covered.

Why it matters:

Since launching in 2002, more than 1,800 fellows across 140+ countries have gone on to lead in governments, NGOs, education, and global organizations like the United Nations and World Bank. These are people actively shaping a more peaceful, resilient world.

Two Paths to Make an Impact

Master's Degree Programs: Perfect for emerging leaders ready to dive deep into peace and development.

- 15–24 months of study
- Includes a customized field study
- Research-driven, global cohort experience

Professional Development Certificate: Designed for working professionals looking to level up their impact.

- One-year blended format
- Hands-on skill building
- Create and implement a real-world social change initiative

This Is the Good Part - You don't have to be the applicant to make a difference.

Think about your network: Is there a young professional, nonprofit leader, educator, or community advocate who stands out? Someone who gets things done and cares deeply about making a difference?

Click here to nominate them.

Rotary doesn't just fund education, it builds global change-makers, and you can be the connection that sets that in motion.

Bottom Line - This isn't just a scholarship. It's a launchpad for leadership, service, and global impact. And the best part? It starts with someone like you saying, "You should apply."

Beyond the Club



**CREATE
LASTING
IMPACT**

Rotary International President-elect Olayinka H. Babalola has unveiled his theme for the 2026–2027 Rotary year: **"Create Lasting Impact."** This powerful message challenges Rotarians to look beyond short-term change and focus on meaningful, sustainable results in their communities and within themselves.

Babalola emphasizes that impact begins with each of us, by making our clubs more welcoming, engaging in projects that truly transform lives, and allowing Rotary to shape us as leaders. He reminds us that while change is important, impact is what endures, inspiring Rotarians worldwide to take action that creates a better future locally and globally.

As we prepare for the upcoming Rotary year, this theme calls us to deepen our service, strengthen our connections, and ensure that the work we do today leaves a lasting legacy for generations to come.



District Conference 2026
May 29-31
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
03/31/2026 204

Considered for membership:

Ben Moses, CEO, Aurora Solutions Group
Sponsor: Bill Gill

Meeting Attendance - March 31, 2026: 84

This week's Guests: Isabel Baker ([Phil Volponi](#)), Anna Bryant ([George Edmiston](#)), Dianne Chase ([Dr. Elizabeth Teagarden](#)), Hannah Creech ([Elizabeth Caspers](#)), Charles DeLoach ([Laura Meier](#)), Timothy Hager (Speaker Guest), Kelly Hahn ([Dr. Elizabeth Teagarden](#)), Jack Helmers, Annie Keith ([Jim Mannix](#)), Birgitta Kruzan (Chamber Expo Guest), Tracy Montross ([Woodson Bradley](#)), Abraham Ng'hwani ([Alan Simonini](#)), Ana Perez ([Phil Volponi](#)), Victoria Reid ([Elizabeth Caspers](#)), Steve Shak ([George Edmiston](#))

Milestones (April 7 - 13)

Birthdays

7 - David Anderson
9 - Amy Peacock
10 - Russell Ranson
12 - Mark Markanda

Rotary Anniversaries

18 years: Jessica Dupree
7 years: Robert Shaw

Wedding Anniversaries

7 - Vicki & Pete Brunnick
12 - Bobbie & Bill Herndon

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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