

ROTARY REPORTER

April 21, 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 28 - Weekly Meeting: Chief Estella D. Patterson, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department (CMPD)

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



Daniel Fogarty
CEO, First Tee of Greater Charlotte



Isabella Mebane
Volunteer Assistant Coach, First Tee

*Daniel Fogarty, CEO, First Tee of Greater Charlotte
joined by Isabella Mebane, Volunteer Assistant Coach, First Tee*

by **Paul Bartholomy**

This week's Rotary program featured an inspiring and impactful presentation from Daniel Fogarty, CEO of First Tee - Greater Charlotte, alongside student leader and volunteer assistant coach Isabella Mebane. Together, they shared how First Tee is transforming lives across our region - not simply through the game of golf, but by developing character, leadership, and meaningful life skills in young people. With more than 2,500 youth served annually and a presence in over 200 schools, the Charlotte chapter has grown into the largest in the global First Tee network. **Click here for more.**

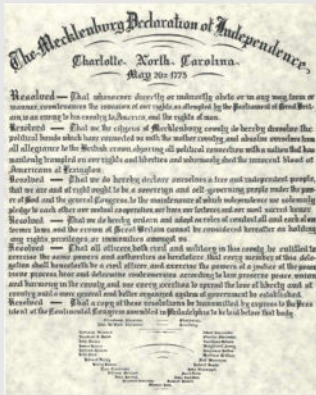
A recording of the meeting can be found here
With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1186521798?fl=pl&fe=sh>
Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1186521379?fl=pl&fe=sh>
The program introduction begins at approximately 22 minutes.





Club News

Congratulations to **Hallie Rojeski**, Head of School at The John Crosland School, on the school's exciting growth featured in the **Charlotte Business Journal**. With plans for new facilities and expanded programming for neurodiverse students, this milestone reflects the strength of Hallie's leadership. She has built an outstanding team and is helping drive both the school's success and its growing community support. We applaud Hallie for her vision and impact as she leads John Crosland School into its next chapter.



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.

Let's uncover and celebrate the living history within our own Rotary family!



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](#)




**GIVE HOPE
THIS SPRING.**

**Give
blood.**

 American Red Cross

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!



Charlotte Rotary Diaper Drive – Supporting NC Diaper Bank

Throughout the month of May, Charlotte Rotary is proud to host a Diaper Drive in support of the NC Diaper Bank—an organization dedicated to ensuring that families in our community have access to essential hygiene products.

We invite you to join us in making a meaningful difference by donating needed items:

- Baby diapers
- Period products
- Adult incontinence supplies
- Formula*
- Baby wipes*

(*Please note: formula and baby wipes must be unopened and not expired.)

High-need baby items include:

- UnderJams (S/M)

- Size 5 diapers
- 3T–4T pull-ups

Other high-need items:

- Tampons
- New black leggings (all sizes, M–XXL)
- Disposable adult pull-ups/underwear

Every donation—big or small—helps provide dignity, comfort, and care to individuals and families who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting this important effort in our community.

Insider Tip



One of Rotary's Highest-Impact Moves? Support Immunization.

Here's what seasoned Rotarians know: **few efforts deliver more impact per dollar than vaccines.**

During World Immunization Week (April 24–30), Rotary International reminds us that immunizations don't just protect individuals, they strengthen entire communities. Through Rotary's leadership in the **Global Polio Eradication Initiative**, polio cases have dropped by 99% since 1988, saving millions of children from paralysis.

The insider insight: the systems built to fight polio (local partnerships, delivery networks, and community trust) now help combat other diseases too. That means every investment in immunization goes further than you might think.

Bottom line:

If you want to make a meaningful difference with a simple action, **start here.** Support, share, and advocate because when immunization rates rise, communities thrive.

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!

Rotary
District 7680



SEMINAR FOR
TOMORROW'S
LEADERS



SUMMER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Unlock your potential this summer with the ROTARY 7680 leadership program!

OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- ✓ For Rising Juniors and Seniors in High School
- ✓ July 16-19, 2026
- ✓ Gardner Webb University



APPLY
HERE



MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

<https://rotary7680.org/sftl/>



Help Us Identify Tomorrow's Leaders – SFTL Registration Urgently Needed

Rotary District 7680 is currently behind on student registrations for the Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) and your help is essential.

SFTL is a powerful, life-changing leadership experience for high school students, focused on building character, confidence, teamwork, and a strong sense of service and citizenship. Each year, students leave this program more prepared to lead in their schools, communities, and beyond.

But participation starts with you. Rotarians play a critical role in identifying and encouraging students to apply. As we move closer to the end of the school year, it becomes increasingly difficult to secure commitments from students and their families so now is the time to act.

We encourage you to reach out to a student in your network and personally invite them (and their parents or guardians) to apply in the coming weeks.

Applications can be completed here: **SFTL 2026 Student Application**

Let's work together to ensure this impactful program reaches the students who need it most and continues shaping the next generation of leaders.

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224
02/28/2026 204
04/21/2026 204

Consideration for membership:

Dr. Riley Mehaffey, The Upper Cervical Spine Center

Sponsor: Tish Atkins Charles
Endorsers: Bill Gill and Ellen Priest

Meeting Attendance - April 21, 2026: 77

This week's Guests: Willie Bailey (Guest of the Speaker), Shawn Byrnes (Guest of the Speaker), Bo Coggins ([Boyd Coggins](#)), Jack Helmers ([Bill Gill](#)), Will Hull ([Ed Kizer](#)), Jamal Mebane ([Elizabeth Teagarden](#)), Jonathan Russell ([Alan Simonini](#)), Becky Santoro ([Alan Simonini](#))

Milestones (April 28 - May 4)

Birthdays

30 - Jessica Dupree
1 - Carla DuPuy
4 - Austin Backus

Wedding Anniversaries

2 - Devon & Parker Cains
4 - Holli & Keith Nowokunski
4 - Ridgely & John Phillips

Rotary Anniversaries

53 years: Bob Freeman
33 years: Bill Nichols
31 years: Ed Kizer
9 years (49 total): George Gabel
8 years (12 total): Linwood Bolles
4 years: Kevin Utsey

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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