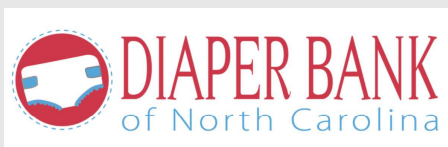


ROTARY REPORTER

May 5, 2026

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



May Community Partner:

Throughout May, Charlotte Rotary is hosting a diaper drive to support the NC Diaper Bank - support our neighbors in need by providing essential hygiene items. Details below.

Tues., May 12 - Weekly Meeting: Elevating the Conversation on Mental Wellness with Juliet Kuehnle

Tues., May 19 - Board of Directors Meeting immediately following our weekly meeting.

Save the Date! **Thurs., May 21 – Rotary Happy Hour Social**, 6-8:00 p.m., **The Auto Pour** 5033 South Blvd. Unit 0 Charlotte, NC 28217.

Important! **Tues., May 26 - R85 Member Meeting:** Important Membership Update immediately following the regular meeting. All current Rule of 85 members are encouraged to stay for a brief, important discussion regarding potential membership structure updates and future planning for our club. Please plan to attend.

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!**

Mark your calendar! **Tues., June 30 - Weekly Meeting:** Special America 250 Event during our weekly meeting. Details below.

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

*Henry Batten, President & CEO,
Concrete Supply Co.*

by [Paul Bartholomy](#)



This week, the Rotary Club welcomed fellow Charlotte Rotarian and Concrete Supply Co. President & CEO **Henry Batten** for a fascinating and engaging presentation on the evolving world of concrete, sustainability, and innovation in construction. Introduced by past president **Edwin Peacock**, Henry shared insights from his decades of leadership experience and highlighted how an industry rooted in ancient history continues to shape the future of our communities today.

Henry explained that concrete is the single most widely used building material in the world and plays a critical role in nearly every aspect of the built environment - from roads and bridges to skyscrapers, water treatment facilities, and sports venues. Using examples ranging from the Roman Pantheon to Charlotte's

modern skyline, he demonstrated how advancements in concrete technology have dramatically improved durability, strength, and performance over time. He also gave members a behind-the-scenes look at how modern concrete plants operate and how innovation continues to transform the industry. **Click here for more.**

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1190492606?fl=pl&fe=sh>

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1190507955?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The program introduction begins at approximately 25 minutes and 50 seconds.







Club News

As a reminder... The service to celebrate **Chris Thomas'** life will be held on:
Wednesday, May 13. 11:00 a.m. (Visitation at 10:00 a.m.)
at Carmel Baptist Church, 1145 Pineville-Matthews Road, Matthews
Chris's complete obituary is now available **here**. *Chris will be deeply missed and fondly remembered.*

Prayers - Please keep former Rotary Club of Charlotte Executive Secretary, **Sandy Osborne** and her family in your thoughts following the passing of Sandy's sister, **Debbie Stroup**, on May 8. A memorial service was held on May 9 at Third Presbyterian Church in Charlotte, followed by burial at Evergreen Cemetery. We extend our deepest sympathy, prayers, and support to Sandy and her family during this time.



Welcome Welcome Agnish "Nish" Chakraborty, to the Rotary Club of Charlotte family.

Nish is a corporate finance associate attorney with Moore & Van Allen, specializing in private credit and debt transactions. He also serves as a Visiting Research Fellow with the Cordell Institute and is co-founder of the Article 1 Foundation.

Originally from Oklahoma City, Nish earned both his undergraduate and law degrees from Washington University in St. Louis. Inspired by his parents' careers in public service after immigrating from Kolkata, India, service has always been central to his life. An Eagle Scout, Nish has served through internships with the U.S. Departments of State and Commerce, volunteer

work with a crisis hotline, and most recently as a law clerk for the Court of Federal Claims in Washington.

This October, Nish will attend Officer Candidate School as he commissions into the United States Army JAG Corps Reserves. He shared that he was drawn to Rotary to connect with others who share his values and to build roots in service within the Charlotte community.

Welcome to Rotary, Nish!



Welcome Welcome Ben Moses, whose contagious smile and enthusiasm for service made an immediate impression during his new member orientation.

Originally from the United Kingdom, Ben moved to Charlotte in 2022 with his wife, Rosanna, and their daughter, Nina. In 2025, he founded Aurora Solutions Group, a human capital, governance, and executive search firm serving clients in the United States and Europe. Prior to launching Aurora, Ben spent more than a decade building and scaling international recruitment businesses across multiple continents.

Service has always been central to Ben's life. Locally, he volunteers with Nourish Up as a Meals on Wheels driver in Concord, has helped raise funds for Goodwill in Cornelius, and

supports the American Heart Association through fundraising events. In the UK, he volunteered at soup kitchens and taught children to swim.

Ben shared that Rotary has been part of his family for as long as he can remember, and joining Rotary in Charlotte feels like a natural step now that Charlotte is home.

Welcome to Rotary, Ben!



Recent Blood Drive

The Rotary Club of Charlotte recently partnered with the American Red Cross for another successful Blood Drive — and thanks to the generosity of our members and supporters, **the drive exceeded its goal!** While the original goal was 18 units, donors came together to collect an incredible 21 units of lifesaving blood for our community.

A special thank-you goes to **Terri DeBoo** and everyone who volunteered, donated, recruited friends, and helped make the day such a success. The club also extends its appreciation to the Fairfield Inn & Suites Charlotte Uptown for generously providing the space for this successful community blood drive.

Every unit collected has the potential to help save multiple lives, and this effort is a wonderful example of Rotary's commitment to Service Above Self.

Because of the success of this drive, the American Red Cross has already asked Charlotte Rotary to host another Blood Drive on January 5, 2027. Stay tuned for more details — and thank you again to everyone who helped make a meaningful difference!



America 250 Event on Tuesday, June 30th

Make history with us by attending our 250th celebration meeting on June 30th. Invite your spouse and those you would like to recruit to Rotary to attend with you.

Through the powerful words of the Mecklenburg Declaration, the Halifax Resolves, and the U.S. Declaration of Independence, this program will trace the growing call for freedom in early America. As these historic voices unfold, their words and witness will remind us that

the fight for liberty was carried by a rising generation of people who embraced liberty.

Preregister your guests here.



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.



R85 Members: Your Input Matters

Following our regular meeting on **Tuesday, May 26**, we invite all current Rule of 85 members to stay for an important conversation about upcoming membership changes.

As part of the Club's ongoing efforts to strengthen long-term sustainability, the Board has recently approved new membership categories that will take effect July 1.

Your perspective, experience, and continued engagement are incredibly important to the future of Charlotte Rotary. We hope you will join us for this discussion.

Rotarians Out and About

Rotary members were recently spotted supporting the Purple Promise Foundation-Fight to End Melanoma . Thank you for all you do to support our community beyond Rotary.



Insider Tip

Did you know Rotary is more than just our club meetings each week?

Rotary is actually part of a larger family of service organizations that help people grow as leaders and serve their communities at every stage of life.

Here's a quick guide to the Rotary "family tree":

- **Interact Clubs** are designed for young people ages 12–18, typically middle school and high school students. Interactors participate in community service projects, develop leadership skills, and learn the value of "Service Above Self" early in life.
- **Rotaract Clubs** are geared toward young adults ages 18 and older, often found on college campuses or in young professional communities. Rotaractors lead service projects, build professional networks, and often partner with local Rotary clubs on initiatives.
- **Rotary Clubs** are for established professionals, community leaders, and service-minded individuals who want to create positive change locally and around the world.

Many lifelong Rotarians actually began their journey in Interact or Rotaract before becoming Rotary members later in life. It's one continuous pathway of leadership, fellowship, and service.

One of the beautiful things about Rotary is that no matter your age or stage of life, there is a place for you to serve.

Beyond the Club

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



Membership Update

07/01/2025 224
02/28/2026 203
05/05/2026 203

Meeting Attendance - May 5, 2026: 79

This week's Guests: Natalie Batten ([Henry Batten](#)), Jordan Clark ([Tish Atkins Charles](#)), Campbell Graves (Expo), Jack Helmers ([Bill Gill](#)), Gabriel Llewellyn, Dillon Robbins ([Henry Batten](#)), Michelle Schaefer ([Sarah Yost](#)), Libby Simonini ([Alan Simonini](#)), Mike Skiba ([Mike Wollinger](#)), Josh Yost ([Sarah Yost](#))

Milestones (May 12 - 18)

Birthdays

12 – Isabella Warner
15 - Al Allison
17 - Chris Emery

Rotary Anniversaries

1 year (8 total): John Galles

Wedding Anniversaries

14 – Elizabeth & Dave Caspers

2025 - 2026 Board Members

- President Patrick Baker

- **President-Elect Bill Barte**
- **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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