



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

June 23, 2026

2025-2026 Board Members

President Patrick Baker
Pres Elect Bill Bartee
Past Pres Kim Brattain
Secretary Bill Gill
Treasurer Craig Field
Exec Dir Christine Cipriano

Directors 2024-2026

Benton Bragg
John Cantrell
Tish Atkins Charles
Dena Diorio
Jesse Hite
Virginia Owen

Directors 2025-2027

Byrd Bergeron
Karen Calder
J Hill
Ayo Johnson
Lori Keeton
Michael Orzech
Robert Shaw
Elizabeth Teagarden
Mike Wollinger

Membership Co-Chairs:

Linwood Bolles &
Shelley Dean

Programs

Elizabeth Teagarden



Presidential Changeover Featuring Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo

by **Paul Bartholomy**

The Rotary Club of Charlotte enjoyed a truly historic meeting as members welcomed Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo and his wife, Anna Maria, while celebrating the presidential transition from **Patrick Baker** to **Bill Bartee**. The meeting was filled with fellowship, distinguished guests from across Rotary, recognition of Paul Harris Fellows, and appreciation for Patrick's outstanding year of service before officially passing the gavel to Bill.

Outgoing President **Patrick Baker** reflected on what an honor it had been to lead the club over the past year, thanking members, volunteers, and staff for their support while encouraging everyone to continue building on the club's strong momentum. Incoming President **Bill Bartee** shared an inspiring vision centered on strengthening connections within the club, growing meaningful member engagement, and continuing Rotary's tradition of "Service Above Self." Drawing from his lifelong passion for outdoor adventures, Bill reminded members that, much like life and Rotary, the greatest rewards are found in the

journey and the relationships built along the way.

President Francesco Arezzo then delivered a powerful message encouraging Rotarians to think beyond their individual clubs and embrace the global impact of Rotary. Sharing moving stories from his travels around the world, he reminded members that Rotary is not simply something we attend each week – it is something we live every day. His challenge to “do Rotary” rather than simply “go to Rotary” resonated throughout the room, emphasizing service, unity, membership growth through strong retention, and Rotary’s remarkable work in areas such as polio eradication, clean water, peacebuilding, and humanitarian service around the globe.

The meeting concluded with excitement for the year ahead as President **Bill Bartee** officially began his term leading the Rotary Club of Charlotte. It was a memorable afternoon celebrating the incredible difference Rotarians continue to make—both here in Charlotte and around the world.

You can find the recording here:

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1205309398?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1205309291?share=copy&fl=sv&fe=ci>

President’s remarks begin at about 22 minutes and 50 seconds.