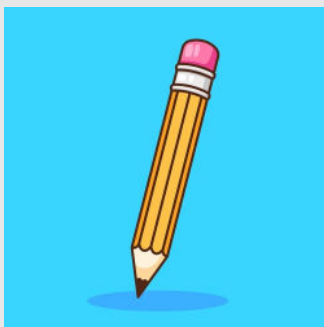




ROTARY REPORTER

September 1, 2026

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



Back to School Drive - It Starts With a Pencil!

Something as simple as a pencil can help a student start the school year ready to learn. Charlotte Rotary is collecting pencils for Classroom Central, and every donation makes a difference.

Help us put pencils and possibilities into the hands of local students.

See below for details on how you can help!

Upcoming Club Events:

Tues., Sept. 8 - Labor Day Tuesday | No Weekly Meeting

Fri., Sept. 11 - See below for details on the **Charlotte Symphony's 9/11 Memorial Concert**, Charlotte Rotary's involvement, and the special first responder ticket discount.

Tues., Sept. 15 - Weekly Meeting: Chancellor Kelli R. Brown, Western Carolina University

Thurs., Sept. 17 - Rotary International Convention registration opens! Rotary goes to Barcelona!

Sun., Sept. 20 - Club Social: Panthers Away Game Watch Party at Angry Ale's on Montford, 1 PM kickoff (12:30-4:30ish). Drop in or stay the entire time!

Thurs., Oct. 15 - Club Social: Wing Haven, 6-8 p.m. Join us for a relaxed fall evening of Rotary fellowship at Wing Haven's Elizabeth "Pepper" Dowd Education Building. More details coming soon!

Sat., Nov. 7 - Club & District Volunteer Event: Thanksgiving Packing Event | 3:45–5:00 PM. Join fellow Rotarians at Nourish Up to pack 7-day Thanksgiving food boxes for Mecklenburg County families in need. We need 80 Rotarians—spouses and friends are welcome, too! **Click here to register now.**

Sat., Nov. 7 - District 7680 Foundation Celebration: Hunger2Hope | 5:00–8:00 PM. Celebrate Rotary's impact at Nourish Up with a reception, seated dinner, keynote speaker Greg Podd, inspiring District Grant stories and special music by Tosco Music. **Tickets are \$50 per person.**

Thurs., Dec. 10 - Club Social: Rotary Christmas Party, Celebrate the season with your Rotary friends at Premier Sotheby's International Realty, 6–9 p.m. Save the date — more details coming soon!

Last Week's Meeting

Brian Cole, Chancellor,



By **Elly Clary**

A Grammy Award winner from Wilson, NC, was prominent on a list of standouts from the North Carolina School of the Arts delivered by its leader.

Brian Cole has served since 2020 as the ninth chancellor of the Winston-Salem institution.

Music alum Mary-Mitchell Campbell is the Wilson native honored with a Grammy for producing the Broadway musical "Some Like It Hot." She accepted a career achievement award at the 2026

Tonys.

Prominent alums and faculty abound, Cole said as he listed many.

"Every year UNCSA is ranked among the very top arts institutions in our country," Cole added. "Currently, that includes, from the Hollywood Reporter, the number-eight-ranked School of Filmmaking in the United States and the number-three-ranked School of Drama in the world." **Click here to read more.**

The recording can be found here:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1223139283?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1223140023?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Chancellor Cole's introduction begins at about 25 minutes.

Club News



No Meeting on Labor Day Tuesday

Just a friendly reminder that there will be no Rotary meeting on Tuesday, September 8, as we take a break for Labor Day.

We hope everyone enjoys the long weekend and a well-deserved day off! We'll be back together the following Tuesday, refreshed and ready for another great Rotary week.

Enjoy your Labor Day!



Charlotte Symphony Honors 9/11 and Supports Our First Responders Scholarship Fund

On Friday, September 11, the Charlotte Symphony, Opera Carolina and the Charlotte Master Chorale will come together for a special 9/11 Memorial Concert featuring Mozart's Requiem at Knight Theater.

The concert marks the 25th anniversary of September 11 and will offer an evening of remembrance, reflection and unity through music. Most meaningful to Charlotte Rotary, a portion of ticket sales from the concert will benefit our 9/11 Scholarship Fund, which provides four-year college scholarships to the children of Charlotte-Mecklenburg first responders.

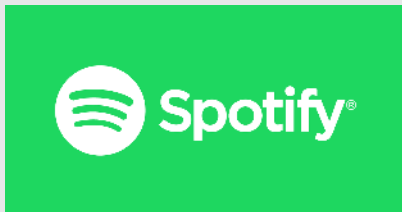
This Rotary year, our Club is proud to be providing \$10,000 in scholarship support to a child of a first responder, continuing a tradition that allows us to honor the service and sacrifice of those who protect our community.

Charlotte Rotary will also have a presence in the Knight Theater lobby before and after the concert, giving us an opportunity to share more about our Club and the First Responders Scholarship with concertgoers.

Mozart's Requiem — A 9/11 Memorial Concert
Friday, September 11, 2026
7:30–9:00 p.m.
Knight Theater

Special First Responder Discount: Firefighters, EMS personnel, and police officers may receive 10% off tickets with code RESPONDER10. A valid first responder ID is required when picking up tickets at Will Call.

We are grateful to the Charlotte Symphony for including Charlotte Rotary and our scholarship in this meaningful community remembrance. **Learn More & Purchase Tickets**



Don't forget!

We need your music suggestions for the Spotify channel that we are creating. Categories include: patriotic, encouragement, selections from the 60's and early 70s, and hymns. Your suggested title can be sent to [Catherine Bracey](mailto:csbracey704@gmail.com) at csbracey704@gmail.com.

ROTARY CLUB OF CHARLOTTE x CLASSROOM CENTRAL

SEPTEMBER 1–30

**It starts
with a
pencil.**

**A fresh start.
A clean page.
Endless possibilities.**



SCAN TO GIVE

It Starts With a Pencil

A pencil may seem like a small thing. But in the hands of a student, it's the beginning of a math problem, a book report, a drawing, a new idea, and sometimes, a little more confidence walking into the classroom.

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is collecting pencils for Classroom Central to help provide local students with one of the most basic tools they need to learn and succeed.

The need is significant. Thousands of students in our community begin the school year without the supplies they need, and teachers often reach into their own pockets to help fill the gap.

This is one simple way we can help.

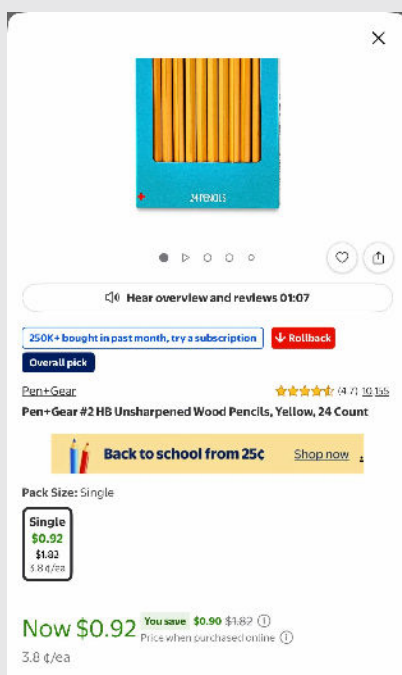
Scan the QR code above or **click here to use our Amazon registry** to donate pencils. Your donation will go directly toward putting pencils into the hands of students who need them.

And please help us spread the word! Share the drive with friends, family, coworkers, and colleagues. A few boxes of pencils may not seem like much—but together, those pencils add up.

Because possibility can start with something as simple as a pencil.

Scan. Donate. Share.

Help Charlotte Rotary support Classroom Central and local students as they head back to school. Reach out to chair, [Lori Keeton](#) with questions.



Pencil Drive Deal Alert!

Looking for an easy way to support our "It Starts with a Pencil" Back-to-School Drive?

We found a great additional option! Walmart.com currently has **24-count boxes of Pen+Gear #2 pencils for just 92¢!**

Our Amazon Wish List is still available, but this gives Rotarians another convenient and very affordable way to help us stock up for Classroom Central.

At 92¢ a box, a little can go a LONG way!

Thank you to [Michael Orzech](#) for sharing this link.

Registration for the Nov 7 Foundation Events are open. There are two separate reservations: one for the packing event (link: [DACdb](#)) and one for the dinner (link: [DACdb](#)). Club member and District Governor [Jerry Coughter](#) hosts the events.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

SERVICE TODAY.
HOPE TOMORROW.
STRONGER TOGETHER.

Rotary

PEOPLE OF ACTION

Hunger2Hope

FEEDING HOPE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BEFORE WE CELEBRATE!

Join fellow Rotarians and friends as we pack 7-Day food boxes to support Nourish Up's distribution for Thanksgiving. Together, we can turn hunger into hope.

3:45pm – 5:00pm
SERVICE PROJECT
PRIOR TO DISTRICT 7680
FOUNDATION CELEBRATION
Saturday, November 7, 2026

VENUE
Nourish Up
Hunger Hub
901 Carrier Drive
Charlotte, NC 28216

WHAT WE'RE DOING
Packing 7-Day food boxes to support Nourish Up's distribution for Thanksgiving.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

- Volunteer for this Food Packing Event
- Clubs and Members Donate Canned Meat and Fruit Items

VOLUNTEERS
Secure Your Place – Capacity Limited to 80

WHAT TO WEAR
Casual attire recommended. Closed toe shoes required if participating in the packing event.

CHANGE AVAILABLE
Lockers are available for a change of clothes.

REGISTRATION
Separate registration on DACdb.

SERVE TODAY. CHANGE LIVES. SPREAD HOPE.

LET'S PACK HOPE. TOGETHER.

Pack With Us to provide food for Thanksgiving!

District Governor and Charlotte Rotarian **Jerry Coughter** has made food insecurity a focus of his Rotary year, and Charlotte Rotary has a special opportunity to support that mission right here in Mecklenburg County.

On Saturday, November 7, from 3:45–5:00 PM, we need 80 Rotarians to gather at Nourish Up to pack 7-day Thanksgiving food boxes for local families in need.

As Jerry's home club, we would love to see Charlotte Rotary turn out in a BIG way! Spouses and friends are welcome, too.

The packing event will take place before the District Foundation Dinner at Nourish Up. Separate registration will be required for the dinner, and more information will be coming soon for the dinner. You do not have to attend the dinner to participate in the packing event.

Click here to sign up now and come help us make Thanksgiving a little brighter for our neighbors!

Help Us Fill the Shelves for Hunger2Hope

This fall, Rotary District 7680 is collecting food to support Nourish Up's Thanksgiving food distribution, helping ensure local families have nutritious meals during the holiday season.

Nourish Up has identified two of its greatest needs:



- Canned meat (tuna, chicken, beef, etc.)
- Canned fruit (packed in juice or light syrup)

Please bring your donations to any Tuesday Rotary meeting between now and Saturday, November 7, when volunteers will pack Hunger2Hope food boxes at Nourish Up.

Every donation helps provide nourishment, stability, and hope to families in our community. Together, we can make a meaningful impact this Thanksgiving.

Thank you for helping us serve our neighbors and **Create Lasting Impact** one can at a time.

Community Spotlight

Looking for a way to get involved outside of Rotary?

Here are opportunities that may interest our members.

Charlotte Rescue Mission Golf Classic - Join Charlotte Rescue Mission for its Golf Classic on Wednesday, September 16, from 8 a.m.–2 p.m. at Tega Cay Golf Club. Proceeds benefit the Recovery Living Program, helping men and women achieve lasting freedom from addiction and homelessness. Gather a foursome or explore sponsorship opportunities. For details, contact Jeff Glenn at Jeff.Glenn@charlotterescuemission.org.

Instant Impact Customer Appreciation - Rotarian [Jason Otte](#) invites fellow Rotarians to Instant Impact's Customer Appreciation Event on Wednesday, September 23, from 4–7 p.m. at their Clanton Road location. Enjoy food, wine, networking, giveaways and a 10% discount on orders placed during the event. Stop by, connect with friends, and support a fellow Rotarian's business!

Food Sustainability Summit - Join District 7680 Rotarians and their families for the 3rd Annual Food Sustainability Summit on Saturday, September 26, from 1–4 p.m. at Elevation Church University Campus, 8105 IBM Drive, Charlotte. This family-friendly event combines learning about food insecurity and sustainability with hands-on service, as volunteers work to assemble more than 50,000 meals for local communities. **Learn more and register.**

Braille Trail Walk - The Charlotte International Rotary Club invites all members of the Rotary Club of Charlotte to join in the Braille Trail Walk for Blind Independence on October 3, 2026. Details and registration at the following link: **Braille Trail Walk for Independence**            Select Charlotte International Rotary Club from the list of existing teams, and use the password "Rotary7680" to join.

The Big Toast at Middle C Jazz - Raise a glass to mentorship at The Big Toast on Tuesday, October 13, from 6–9 p.m., benefiting Big Brothers Big Sisters of Central Carolinas! Enjoy an evening of live jazz, inspiring stories and meaningful connections while supporting programs that help young people build confidence and discover opportunities. Tickets and sponsorship opportunities are available. **Register or learn more.**

Strides for Shelter 5K - Join Canopy Housing Foundation for its 10th Annual Strides for Shelter 5K on Saturday, October 17, at McAlpine Creek Park in Charlotte. This year's race benefits Crisis Assistance Ministry, with proceeds supporting improvements to its Free Store, helping families access clothing, shoes and household essentials with dignity and ease. **Learn more and register.**

Know of a community event that may interest fellow Rotarians? Send it to christine@charlotterotary.org for possible inclusion in an upcoming Community Spotlight.



Salvation Army Youth Center Reopens in East Charlotte

Led by Charlotte Rotarian Major **Andrew Wiley**, The Salvation Army celebrated the reopening of its Oak Forest Red Shield Youth Center on Milton Road on August 31, restoring an important after-school resource for east Charlotte families. The center offers children and teens a safe, supportive place for homework help, recreation and life-skills mentoring. After closing last year due to financial constraints, its return is welcome news for the neighborhood and the many families who rely on its programs. Thank you to our Rotary member for sharing these photos of this wonderful community milestone!

Upcoming Club Socials



Panthers Away Game Watch Party!

Join your fellow Rotarians for an afternoon of football, fellowship, and Panthers fun at Angry Ale's on Montford!

Sunday, September 20
12:30–4:00ish | 1:00 PM Kickoff
Angry Ale's | 1518 Montford Drive

Come cheer on the Panthers, grab some food and drinks, and enjoy a casual Sunday afternoon with Rotary friends. Come and go as you please — drop in for a little while or stay for the whole game!

No speeches. No agenda. Just football and fellowship.



Save the Date: An Evening at Wing Haven

Join your fellow Rotarians for a fall evening of fellowship at Wing Haven!

Thursday, October 15 | 6:00–8:00 p.m.
Wing Haven
Elizabeth "Pepper" Dowd Education Building
248 Ridgewood Avenue, Charlotte

Step away from the usual routine and spend an evening connecting with Rotary friends in the beautiful surroundings of Wing Haven. It's a wonderful opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet someone new, and simply enjoy being together outside of our regular Tuesday meetings.

Mark your calendar now — more details to come!



Save the Date: Rotary Christmas Party!

It's never too early to save the date for one of our favorite evenings of the year!

Thursday, December 10 | 6:00–9:00 p.m.
Premier Sotheby's International Realty

Join your Rotary friends as we celebrate the holiday season together! Mark your calendar now for an evening of Christmas

cheer, fellowship and fun. *Save the date — more festive details to come!*

Beyond the Club



The latest District 7680 Newsletter is here—and there's a lot happening across our District!

This issue is filled with opportunities to **serve, connect, and make an impact**, including upcoming community events, club news, Foundation updates, and ways for Rotarians to get involved beyond their own clubs.

One of the best things about being part of District 7680 is seeing the incredible work happening throughout our Rotary community—and finding new ways to join in.

Take a few minutes to catch up on what's happening, mark your calendar, and see where Rotary might take you next!

Read the latest District 7680 Newsletter here: [August 2026 Newsletter - Rotary District 7680](#)

DISTRICT 7680 FOUNDATION CELEBRATION

Hunger2Hope

FEEDING HOPE ONE FAMILY AT A TIME

Join us for an inspiring evening of service, connection, and impact as we come together to fight hunger and grow hope in our community.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
NOVEMBER 7, 2026

- 3:45pm – 5:00pm
SERVICE PROJECT
- 5:00pm – 6:15pm
RECEPTION – MAJOR DONORS & SERVICE PROJECT VOLUNTEERS
- 6:15pm – 8:00pm
SEATED DINNER
Special performance by Tosco Music

VENUE Nourish Up Hunger Hub
901 Carrier Drive
Charlotte, NC 28216

ATTIRE Rotary/Business Casual

TICKETS \$50 per person

Sponsorship Opportunities Available

Enjoy a meal that reflects the experience of those served through our community initiatives.
Where PDGs Become your Personal Waitstaff
Bring cash for tips!

KEYNOTE SPEAKER
Greg Podd
Vice Chair 2025-2026,
The Rotary Foundation

BENEFICIARY FOCUSED EVENT
Clubs. Camera. IMPACT!
Clubs unleash their creative talents to produce inspiring video stories that bring District Grant projects – and their lasting impact – to life.

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

SERVICE TODAY.
HOPE TOMORROW.
STRONGER TOGETHER.

Rotary
PEOPLE OF ACTION

Hunger2Hope: An Evening of Service, Connection & Impact

Mark your calendars and time to register for the District 7680 Foundation Celebration on Sat., Nov. 7, at Nourish Up's Hunger Hub!

This year's celebration puts service front and center with the theme Hunger2Hope: Feeding Hope One Family at a Time. The afternoon begins with a hands-on service project from 3:45–5:00 p.m. (see above), as Rotarians work together to help fight food insecurity in our community.

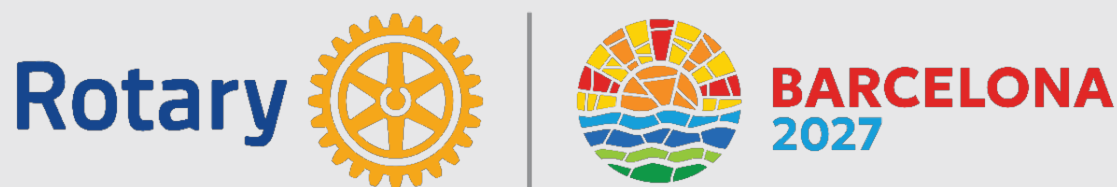
Following the service project, Major Donors and service project volunteers are invited to a reception from 5:00–6:15 p.m., followed by a seated dinner from 6:15–8:00 p.m.

The evening will feature Greg Podd, Trustee of The Rotary Foundation, as keynote speaker, special music provided by Tosco Music, and inspiring stories highlighting the impact of District Grant projects throughout our communities.

And there's a fun twist: PDGs will become your personal waitstaff! Bring cash for tips! All in the spirit of supporting Rotary's work.

Tickets are \$50 per person, and sponsorship opportunities are available. [Click here to register.](#)

Come serve. Come celebrate. And see what happens when Rotarians turn hunger into hope!



Save the Date: Rotary Goes to Barcelona!

There's nothing quite like a Rotary International Convention. There are thousands of Rotarians from around the world gathering for friendship, inspiration, new ideas, and connections that cross borders.

In 2027, Rotary is headed to Barcelona, Spain!

Registration opens September 17, with a special registration rate available for just five days, through September 21 at 11:59 p.m. Chicago time.

Whether you've experienced an International Convention before or Barcelona would be your first, this might be the perfect year to go!

Save the date, start dreaming about Spain, and watch for registration to open September 17!
Learn more about the 2027 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona

Membership Update

07/01/2026 201
08/25/2026 200
09/01/2026 201

Meeting Attendance - September 1, 2026: 86

This week's Guests: Matt Dobrowski, Shayne Doty ([Dee Schwab](#)), Emma Elliott ([Michael Orzech](#)), Stuart Garner ([David Anderson](#)), Iris Smalls Hubbard (Lorenzo McNulty), Lorenzo McNulty, Karthick Natarajan, Pat Riley ([Tony Zeiss](#)), Irvine Sloan ([Howard Hoyle Jr.](#)), Damon Stinson ([J Hill](#)), Shericka Usher (Lorenzo McNulty), Marc Yerry ([Angelece Cook](#))

Milestones (September 8 - 14)

08 – Tom Blocker
08 – Patricia Shafer
09 – Colleen Brannan
09 – Robert Shaw
10 – Ariel Hausman
11 – Bryan Adams
11 – John Armistead
12 – Helen Verkamp
13 – Mike Connor

29 years: Rob Thomas
26 years: Greg Reagan
23 years: Elly Clary
21 years: Steve Meckler
10 years: Parker Cains
9 years: Ann Clark

Wedding Anniversaries

10 - Libby & Alan Simonini
11 – Meg & Bryan Adams
12 – Linda Gallehugh & Elly Clary
14 – Elsie & Will Barnhardt

2026 - 2027 Board Members

- **President Bill Bartee**
- **President-Elect Bill Gill**
- **Secretary Catherine Bracey**
- **Immediate Past President Patrick Baker**
- **Treasurer Craig Field**

Current Directors: William B. Barnhardt, Karen N. Calder, Trina Fullard, J Hill, Jesse G. Hite, Lori Keeton, Mark Norman, 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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