



THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

September 22, 2026

2026-2027 Board Members

President Bill Bartee

Pres Elect Bill Gill

Past Pres Patrick Baker

Secretary Catherine Bracey

Treasurer Craig Field

Exec Dir Christine Cipriano

Directors 2025-2027

Karen Calder

J Hill

Lori Keeton

Michael Orzech

Robert Shaw

Elizabeth Teagarden

Mike Wollinger

Directors 2026-2028

Will Barnhardt

Trina Fullard

Jesse Hite

Mark Norman



Rotary 7680 District Governor Jerry Coughter

By Catherine Bracey

The Rotary Club of Charlotte welcomed current Rotary 7680 District Governor **Jerry Coughter** (2026-2027) to its September 22 meeting. Club member and Past Rotary District 7680 Governor (PDG 2013-2014), **Luther Moore**, introduced Coughter, who is also a member of our club. The introduction highlighted our club's long history, noting that it has produced numerous district leaders over its 110-year history, and highlighted that DG **Jerry Coughter** is the Rotary Club of Charlotte's 18th member to serve the office of District Governor.

PDG Moore highlighted DG Coughter's stellar Rotary credentials that include: 15 years of membership, service as club president (2020-2021), recognition as a Distinguished Rotarian (2022-2023), Major Donor status, Benefactor status, a Bequest Society member, international convention attendance, district chair of the Paul Harris Society, and district assistant governor. Coughter has been active in water sanitation and hygiene projects and serves on the International Ambassador Committee for Water Sanitation and Hygiene. He has also been involved with Hand Wash, which is a Rotary project in Haiti that works to bring clean water to Haitians.

In his remarks, DG Coughter presented himself as an ordinary person who kept saying "yes" to opportunities to serve. He reflected humorously on becoming a district governor, then explained that his Rotary journey grew out of simply "showing up", volunteering, and doing whatever task needed to be done. DG Coughter used his 2013 six-day climb of Tanzania's Mount Kilimanjaro and its fundraising for polio eradication as an example but emphasized that the point of Rotary is not personal achievement; rather, it is the impact on others, such as the

children and families helped through vaccination and service.

A major theme of DG Coughter's presentation was membership and belonging. He suggested that Rotary's strength comes from giving people a place where belief, belonging, and behavior align: specifically for Rotary clubs it is the belief in service above self, the belonging through fellowship, and the behavior guided by the Four-Way Test. He stressed that Rotary is a membership organization and that growth is essential, both because attrition is inevitable and because more members mean more capacity to serve. He encouraged our club to connect members with causes they care about and to create an experience that makes new members want to stay.

DG Jerry Coughter ended his presentation with a call to action to support his administration theme of local food insecurity. DG Coughter reminded club members that hunger remains severe across North Carolina and Charlotte, and he urged Rotarians to respond through hands-on work and financial support. He highlighted the upcoming November 7 District Foundation event that will be held in the Nourish Up warehouse as a concrete opportunity for service, volunteering, fellowship and fundraising.

Overall, Coughter's message to our club portrayed Rotary as a vehicle through which friends can work together on meaningful problems and create lasting change in their communities and beyond.

Jerry's favorite phrases:

- Showing up is my superpower.
- Ordinary people get to do extraordinary things.
- Do things you love with people you love, to help people you may never meet.
- Let's get to work!

The recording of the meeting can be found here:

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1229720136?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1229720020?fl=pl&fe=sh>

DG Jerry Coughter's introduction begins at about 26 minutes.