



Upcoming Events

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

Rotary Office Closure Notice: The Rotary office will be closed on Wed., April 9, Thurs., April 10, and Fri., April 11, as Executive Director **Christine Cipriano** will be on vacation during these days. Regular office hours will resume on Monday, April 14.

Tues., April 8 - Weekly Meeting:

"Global Thinkers Panel" - International Relations and Implications for Rotarians with panelists:

Leandre Adifon, CEO, Pyramid Base Technologies

PDG Firoz Perra, Board Member and past Chair, World Affairs Council of Charlotte

Chase Saunders, Saunders Law, PLLC

moderated by Past President Mike Hawley

with "The Last Word" from Ambassador Mark Erwin

Sat., April 12 - Club Social: Hyatt Farms Sporting Clay Rotary Day, 10:30 a.m., 990 Burnsville Church Rd., Polkton, NC. Details below. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Thurs., April 17 - Club Event: Rotary Means Business. 5:30–7:30 p.m., Gilde Brewery, 3530 Dewitt Lane, Charlotte. Details are below. [Click here to sign up.](#)

Updates below! Thurs, April 24 - Club Event: Minds Matter! Event to Support Alzheimer's Research, Thurs., April 24 at The Village on Morehead, 5-7 p.m. See details below. [Click here to sign up.](#)

May 2-3 - District 7680 Conference. Statesville Civic Center, 300 S. Center St., Statesville. [Click here for the agenda.](#) Or details are below

May 13 - Weekly Meeting will be held at SMS Catering, 1764 Norland Road, Charlotte.

New Event! June 7 - Club Event: Nourish Up Service Project 9–11 a.m., 901 Carrier Drive. Limited to 20 volunteers. See details below. [Click here to sign up.](#)

July 17–20 - District Event: Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) Gardner-Webb University. Volunteer and Scholarship Opportunities and open to High School rising Juniors and Seniors. See below for details.

This Week's Meeting



Cathy Bessant,
CEO, Foundation For The Carolinas
by Susie Masotti

Charlotte Rotary Club was pleased to have Catherine B. Bessant, CEO, Foundation for the Carolinas, serve as our speaker this week. This program featured a conversation-style presentation led by Rotary legend, **Dr. Tony Zeiss.**

Tony began by sharing some of Catherine's notable background. She became a leader when she arrived here in Charlotte to work with Bank of America in 1982 until she retired in 2023 as Vice Chair. She came up with a mission to make Charlotte a better place to live and work, and included volunteerism in many areas to achieve that mission. She was voted the Most Powerful Woman Banker three years in a row,

is a member of the American Banker Hall of Fame, and was the Chair of U.S. Steel's Board of Directors. Catherine did all this while raising a family and has been voted one of the 50 Most Powerful Moms. She now heads the Foundation of the Carolinas!

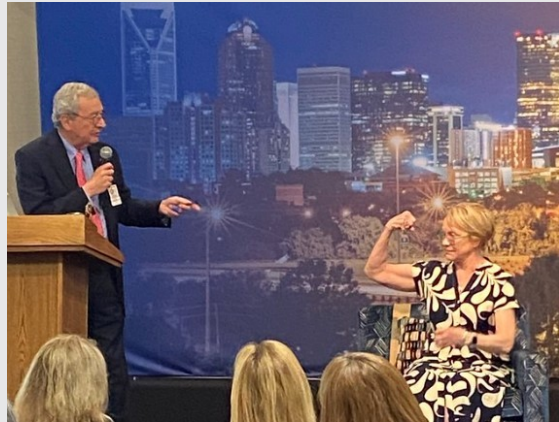
Tony began their conversation by asking her about her life growing up. Catherine grew up in Jackson, Michigan, which is a town with only about 25,000 people. Everything she did in her life came from the supportive environment she received growing up, both by her family and by her schools, teachers, and community. Her first job out of college was at a bank that failed a week later. Catherine said that what shaped her the most is adversity, not the good or easy times. Her father was a 45+ year public school teacher, and her mother was a staunch community volunteer who taught her to make the world a better place. She is the oldest of four children and has the least degrees among all of them, but all were instilled with the same work ethic. **Click here to read more.**

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1071576091>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1071577582>

The speaker introduction begins at about 26 minutes and 42 seconds.





Club News

Congratulations to Charlotte Rotarian, **Tony Lathrop**, New Chairman of the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

We are proud to celebrate a major milestone for Charlotte Rotarian, **Tony Lathrop**, who has been appointed Chairman of the North Carolina Board of Transportation. Governor Josh Stein selected Tony to lead the board as it continues its vital work on Hurricane Helene recovery and strengthens the role of NCDOT as a catalyst for economic opportunity and growth across the state. In his remarks, Tony expressed gratitude to the Governor for the trust placed in him and acknowledged outgoing Chairman Michael S. Fox



and the Board for their leadership and continued collaboration.
Please join us in congratulating Tony on this well-deserved honor and important responsibility!



Farewell and Congratulations to Julia Logan!

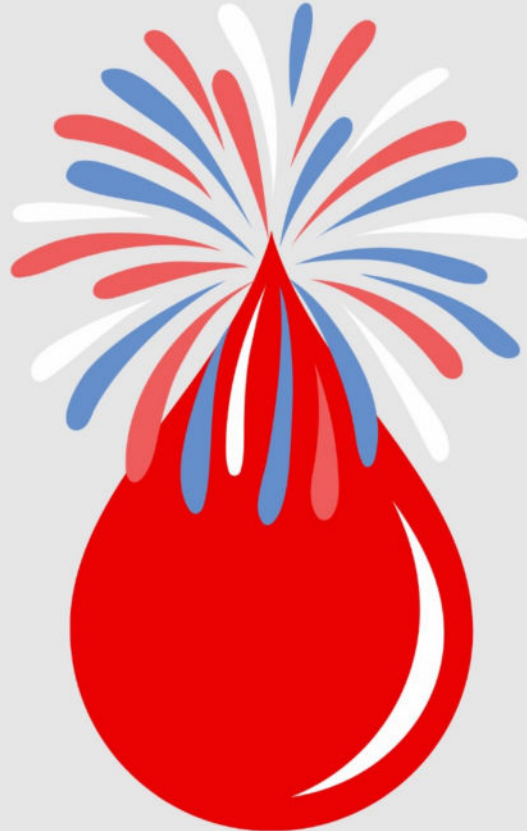
While we're sad to say goodbye to our beloved Leadership Impact Group (LIG) member **Julia Logan**, we couldn't be more excited for the joyful reasons behind her move. Julia recently landed a new job and got engaged! She'll be relocating to Arlington, VA to be closer to her fiancé, Caleb. Julia's energy, kindness, and leadership will be deeply missed—but we wish her all the best in this exciting new chapter!



**American
Red Cross**

Thank you to all who gave!

**19 units of lifesaving blood were donated
at our drive on Tuesday!**



Thank You for Supporting the Charlotte Rotary Blood Drive!

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make our recent Charlotte Rotary Blood Drive a success! Our goal was to collect 20 units of life-saving blood—and we came incredibly close with 19 units donated to help meet the critical patient need in our community.

Looking ahead, we're hoping to host our **next drive on December 16, 2025**. We're grateful to you!—thank you for supporting this life-saving mission!

Scam Alert: Protect Yourself from Email Fraud

We want to alert all members that fraudulent emails are being sent using District Governor Kevin's name and email address, asking for your support. Please know that this is a SCAM.

Do not reply, do not send money or gift cards, and do not engage with these emails. If you receive a suspicious message, pause and verify—reach out to Executive Director, [Christine Cipriano](#), other trusted Rotarians, or Club leadership before taking any action. It's always better to double-check than to fall victim to fraud. Below is an image of one of the scam messages circulating—please stay alert.

Re: Greetings to you Timothy

From Kevin Kendrick <bkkendrick7680@gmail.com>

Date Mon 3/31/2025 12:08 PM

To WBU Concord <wbuconcord@gmail.com>

Good to hear from you. Here is what I actually want you to do for me as I'm a little busy. I have been working on incentives and I aimed at surprising some of our diligent members with gift cards this week. This should be confidential until they all have the gift cards as it's a surprise, and you can keep one for yourself too. Can you get this done?



Sporting Clay Shooting Fundraiser

Sat., April 12 (rain date Sat., April 19)

Discover why sporting clay shooting is becoming the new favorite pastime!

Join us for Rotary Day at Hyatt Farms Shooting Complex in the beautiful hills of Polkton, NC. We're gathering at 10:30 AM for a fun-filled day of fellowship,

clay shooting, great food, and drinks (after the shooting, of course). Whether you're a seasoned shooter or a complete beginner, this event is perfect for all skill levels, with expert instructors guiding us through the course. Plus, a donation will go towards the club. It's a wonderful way to enjoy the day, bond with Rotary friends, and support a meaningful project!

- Date: April 12 (Rain date: April 19)
- Time: 10:30 AM
- Where: Hyatt Farms Shooting Complex, 990 Burnsville Church Rd, Polkton, NC

Questions? Contact Tod Thorne at todthorne@aol.com. [Sign up here](#).

Let's have a blast—literally!



Rotary Means Business: Networking Opportunity for Rotarians

Join us for **Rotary Means Business**, a great opportunity to network and build mutually beneficial relationships with fellow Rotarians. This event will take place on Thurs., April 17, 2025, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at Gilde Brewery, located at 3530 Dewitt Lane, Charlotte.

Whether you're looking to grow your business or simply connect with others in the Rotary community, this relaxed event provides a perfect platform to foster new connections, exchange ideas, and collaborate. Come prepared to meet fellow Rotarians, share your expertise, and discover new opportunities for both personal and professional growth.

We look forward to seeing you there and building stronger connections within our Rotary network. For more information, contact [Glenn Bouley](#) or [Jason Otte](#).



A Special Evening Supporting Alzheimer's Research

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is excited to host "**Minds Matter!**", a special benefit event supporting the **CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) Fund**.

Individual tickets are \$40 with an opportunity to feature your loved one at \$250, as well as sponsorship opportunities. Thanks to a generous donor, we have already secured a \$2,500 matching grant, ensuring your contributions make an even greater impact.

Exciting Raffle Update! We've added some incredible new raffle items, including:

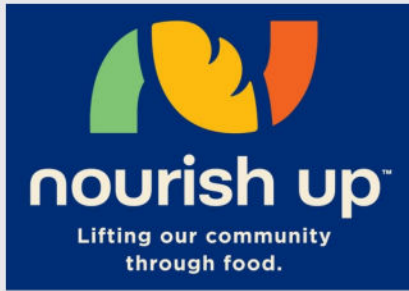
- Dinner for 6 at The Village on Morehead – generously donated by Cynthia (valued at \$600!)
- Fly Fishing Trip with Jesse Brown's, donated by our President-Nominee [Bill Bartee](#)

All profits from the event will directly benefit the Rotary **CART Fund**, advancing research to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. [Click here](#) to register for this meaningful evening of community and support for a vital

cause! Together we can make a difference!

April 24, 2025 (5-7 pm)
The Village at Morehead
5:00 – 7:00 PM
[Click here to register.](#)

Together, we can make a difference—because Minds Matter!



Nourish Up Service Event - Mark your calendars for a meaningful Saturday morning!

On Saturday, June 7, 2025, we're teaming up with Nourish Up for a hands-on service project at their brand-new facility (901 Carrier Drive) from 9 to 11 a.m.

Whether we're sorting food donations or packing meals for distribution, it'll be two hours of impact and connection—plus, it's always more fun together!

Space is limited to 20 volunteers, so grab your spot early: [Click here to sign up.](#) Spouses and significant others are welcome to join the fun, too!

Volunteer Opportunities

GIVE BACK, IMPACT WEEK ^{5:1} APRIL 2025

20 SUN 10:00 | EASTER HOLIDAY MEAL @ REBOUND & DOVE'S NEST

22 TUE 8:30 | TREE PLANTING, CLEANUP & POWERWASHING AT DOVE'S NEST

23 WED 9:30 | HUMBLE HOUSE RENOVATIONS AND DEEP CLEAN

24 THU 8:30 | COMMUNAL CLEAN-UP AND HUMBLE HOUSE PART 2

[Sign Up To Volunteer](#)

Please contact Martin Jackson if you have any questions.

 CHARLOTTE RESCUE MISSION

Serve with Purpose at Charlotte Rescue Mission

Rotary members have a meaningful opportunity to volunteer at Charlotte Rescue Mission, an organization deeply committed to transforming lives affected by addiction - Grounded in a faith-based approach to recovery, the Mission recognizes that overcoming alcoholism and drug addiction requires healing of the mind, body, and spirit. You are invited to give your time and heart on the dates above. Whether it's serving a meal, sharing a smile, or simply showing up—your presence makes a difference. Let's come together to serve our neighbors and support lasting recovery.

Click on the schedule above or [here](#) to see more **Volunteer Week Events**.



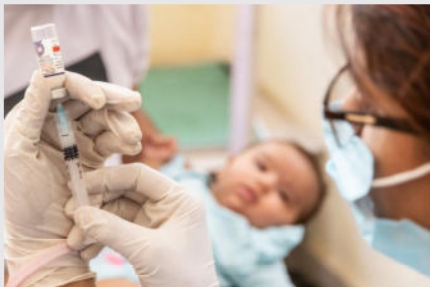
Rise Against Hunger Experience Rotary Club of Waxhaw Weddington

Be a Hunger Hero – Join the Rotary Club of Waxhaw Weddington to Make a Global Impact! They are organizing for a meaningful, hands-on volunteer experience with Rise Against Hunger, where they are going to work toward our goal of packaging **20,000 meals** for those in need around the world.

Join them on Saturday, May 10, 2025, at Waxhaw Elementary School (1101 Old Providence Road, Waxhaw). Stop by for an hour or stay the whole morning—any amount of time makes a difference! Event runs from 8:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. [Click here for the full schedule and to sign up](#).

Beyond the Club

WORLD IMMUNIZATION WEEK
24-30 APRIL



The Roots of Rotary's Fight to End Polio

Rotary's polio eradication journey began on September 29, 1979, when volunteers in the Philippines administered oral polio vaccine to children—marking the first Health, Hunger and Humanity (3-H) Grant project. Then-RI President James L. Bomar Jr. symbolically launched the campaign by giving the first dose, sparking a joint effort with the Philippine government to immunize **6 million children**. The project's success led to Rotary making polio eradication a global priority, launching PolioPlus in 1985 and co-founding the Global Polio Eradication Initiative in 1988. Since then, **over 2.5 billion children** have been vaccinated worldwide. [Click here to read more](#).

You Can Help End Polio

It costs just \$3.00 to fully protect a child from polio. Your support makes a lasting impact in the fight to eradicate this disease. For more information, contact Executive Director, **Christine Cipriano** or [donate here](#) to be part of Rotary's life-changing mission.

By the numbers

\$3

average cost to fully protect a child against polio

430 million

children in total vaccinated in 39 countries in 2017

\$100 million

cost to conduct polio surveillance worldwide



Hello Spring! Hello Rotarians!



🌸 **Spring Into Action** 🌸
🌿 **to Join Us for the District 7680 Conference!** 🌿

Spring is a time of renewal and growth—the perfect season to refresh your Rotary spirit! Join us in Statesville for the **2025 Rotary District 7680 Conference**, where ideas will bloom, friendships will flourish, and inspiration will take root.



🌱 Why Attend?

- 🌿 Connect with fellow Rotarians and cultivate meaningful friendships
- 🌸 Gain fresh ideas to grow your impact in your club and community
- 🌟 Be inspired by dynamic speakers and engaging breakout sessions
- 🌿 Enjoy a weekend filled with fellowship, fun, and Rotary magic!



Spring is calling, and so is Statesville!
Don't miss this opportunity to plant the seeds for a stronger, more connected Rotary.
🌸 Register today and watch your Rotary experience blossom!

📅 May 2 - 3, 2025

📍 Statesville Civic Center, 300 S. Center Street

Reserve your spot today! Register on DACdb



Membership Update

07/01/2024 249

03/31/2025 243

04/01/2025 238

(Resignations: Molly Collins, Austin Crotts, Julia Logan, Michael Norton, Daniel Peterson)

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, April 1, 2025: 129

Guests in attendance: Jan Boylston ([Lee Tabor](#)), Katrina Carney ([Tish Atkins](#)), Tawanna Denmark ([Ayo Johnson](#)), Amy Firth ([Lori Keller](#)), Wendy Hickey ([Maggie Mitchem-Flanigan](#)), Andrew Kramer ([Jim Mannix](#)), Pauline Langemann ([Chase Saunders](#)), Donna Mantooth ([Maggie Mitchem-Flanigan](#)), Leo Prashant-Shelley ([Mike Hawley](#)), Diego Ramon ([Jim Mannix](#)), Leo Shelley ([Mike Hawley](#)), Lauren Taylor (Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Charlotte), Vena Vaughn ([Jelani Hill](#)), Christina Wright ([Tish Atkins](#))

Milestones

(Week of April 8 - 14)

Birthdays

10 - Russell Ranson
12 - Mark Markanda
14 - Catherine Bracey

Rotary Anniversaries

17 years: Jessica Dupree
6 years: Robert Shaw
2 years: Shelley Dean

2024 - 2025 Board Members

- President Kim Brattain
- President-Elect Patrick Baker
- Immediate Past President Edwin Peacock
- Secretary Bill Gill
- Treasurer Craig Field
- Sergeant at Arms Mike Wollinger

Current Directors: Benton S. Bragg, John F. Cantrell, Tish Atkins Charles, Terri DeBoo, Andrew "Andy" B. Dinkin, Dena R. Diorio, Donna Y. Dunlap, Joel D. Ford, Stuart P. Hair, David Head, Jesse G. Hite, Lori Keeton, Virginia Owen

Contact Us

For more information about how to get involved, volunteer opportunities and meeting topics, contact **Christine Cipriano**, Executive Secretary 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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