



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

May 19, 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

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Tish Atkins Charles

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### Membership Co-Chairs:

Linwood Bolles &

Shelley Dean

### Programs

Elizabeth Teagarden



## *THE MAN WITH THE PLAN*

*Tepper Sports & Entertainment's  
DAVID NELSON*

by **Marilynn Bowler**

As soon as David Nelson stepped to the MIC to address Charlotte Rotary Club on Tuesday, the babble in the packed ballroom quieted. All eyes and ears were focused on what the Vice President of Premium Partnerships for Tepper Sports & Entertainment was sharing. We wanted the inside scoop on what the Panthers, Charlotte FC and concert/live entertainment events will offer in the near future ... and excitement took over as David spoke of Tepper Sports' aggressive new projects.

He outlined the steps for the multi-billion-dollar renovation of Bank of America Stadium, noting that although the massive project will occur in phases during a two-year period beginning in 2027, the venue will continue to host Panthers and Charlotte FC games during construction. Upgrades will include new stadium seats as well as audio/visual and digital expansions.

The newly announced Atrium Health Training Facility ~ already under construction ~ is situated close to the stadium. It's planned to open next year and will include offices for football operations, plus training and locker rooms, which means not only will all Tepper Sports operations stay within uptown Charlotte, but the community will also have access to the property for social gathering programs, which will benefit the entire area.

Highlighting the successes of the Panthers' most recent season, David spoke proudly of the excitement the team has generated as a result of the number of WINS and their playoff performance, as well as noteworthy individual players' achievements, i.e.: Luke Kuechly's induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame

and Tetairoa McMillan (aka "TMAC") winning AP NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year. (We'll all be ready to march into BofA Stadium on Sept. 13th for the first game of the new season and we'll cheer loudly as our Panthers beat the Chicago Bears!)

Soccer has surely taken hold in Charlotte thanks to Charlotte FC and the excitement that erupts at every home game. Between the talented starting lineup and the addition of new key players, Charlotte FC promises to become one of the leading major soccer towns in America. To hype this forecast, the U.S. Men's National team will play Senegal at BofA on 5/31 *and* our city will host Scotland during the World Cup and the MLS All-Star game in summer 2027.

For fans who love big-time concerts and music festivals, BofA Stadium will be the go-to place for entertainment. From Post Malone to AC/DC to Ed Sheeran and Usher, the roster of top entertainers will perform in a soon-to-be constructed 4,500-seat venue with all the bells & whistles that make an evening with the stars an incredible experience.

In closing, David confirmed that Tepper Sports & Entertainment is committed to our community and will continue to host, support, and promote events to benefit many worthwhile community programs, including Special Olympics, Habitat for Humanity, food banks, youth literacy, Title 1 school projects, and soccer clinics for kids. "Community engagement is deeply woven into the organization's mission," he said.

During the following Q&A session, topics such as traffic and parking challenges during games and entertainment events at BofA Stadium, the potential of hosting a Super Bowl and the NFL Draft, and consideration of mass transit options were discussed.

All-in-all, our Rotary members and guests embraced David and applauded enthusiastically at the conclusion of his presentation. Tepper Sports has the right man overseeing best-in-class facilities and strategic planning for an excellent fan experience.

We hope he comes back soon ... and often.

Here is the recording for the meeting:

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1193986040?fl=pl&fe=sh>

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1193986516?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Dave's introduction begins at approximately 31 minutes and 15 seconds.