



ROTARY REPORTER

June 2, 2026

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

Upcoming Club Events:

Tues., June 9 - Weekly Meeting: Ike Belk, Co-Founder of the United States Performance Center and Co-Chair of the 2027 Military World Games

***RSVP Required!* Tues., June 23 - Weekly Meeting:** Presidential Transition with a visit from our Rotary International President, Francesco Arezzo. [Click here to RSVP on DACdb.](#)

Thurs., June 25 - Club Social: End of Year Social, 6-8 PM., Jesse Browns Outdoors, SouthPark. Free. Bring a shareable hors d'oeuvres and your favorite beverage.

Sat., June 27 - District Governor Installation: Join us to honor our own, [Jerry Coughter](#), at the District Governor Installation Celebration on Saturday, June 27 | Noon-2 PM at the Mount Holly Municipal Complex, 400 E. Central Avenue, Mount Holly, NC. [Click here to register for the event!](#) Details below.

Tues., June 30 - Weekly Meeting: Special America 250 Event. Details below.

***Save the Date!* Thurs., July 30 - Club Social:** Rotary Summer Social at NoDa Brewing Company. Details to come.

***Save the Date!* Sun., Sept. 20 - Club Social:** Panthers Away Game Watch Party on at SMS Catering. More details and ticket information will be shared in June.

This Week's Meeting



LARRY KEITH
Former Sports Illustrated Writer and Editor

by [Paul Bartholomy](#)

This week's Rotary meeting felt a little like stepping into a time machine as Charlotte native and former *Sports Illustrated* writer and editor Larry Keith shared stories from more than three decades covering some of the biggest names and moments in sports history. From Hank Aaron and Magic Johnson to Dean Smith and Al McGuire, Larry reminded us that behind every iconic photograph and magazine cover is often an even better story.

A gifted storyteller with a great sense of humor, Larry had the room laughing as he recounted everything from accidentally missing out on putting Michael Jordan on a preseason cover, to being arrested in New Orleans the night before the Sugar Bowl (a misunderstanding that eventually earned him a letter of apology from the mayor). He also shared the humbling tale of a baseball autographed by Mickey Mantle—not to him, but to his wife, with the inscription, "Thanks a lot, Mickey." [Click here to read more.](#)

The following is a recording of the meeting:
Video with Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1198153201?fl=pl&fe=sh>
Video without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1198154274?fl=pl&fe=sh>
Larry's introduction begins at about 22 minutes.

Club News



Welcome New Member Dr. Riley Mehaffey

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Riley Mehaffey to the Rotary Club of Charlotte.

Originally from the Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania area, Dr. Mehaffey was an accomplished athlete who faced significant health challenges following multiple sports-related injuries and concussions. After being told his brain would never fully recover, he experienced a remarkable recovery through upper cervical chiropractic care—an experience that inspired his life's work and passion for helping others.

Dr. Mehaffey earned his Bachelor of Natural Science degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania before attending Life University, the world's largest chiropractic college. Following

graduation, he practiced in both Charleston, South Carolina, and Charlotte, North Carolina, before opening his own practice serving the Fort Mill, Tega Cay, and Lake Wylie communities.

Today, Dr. Mehaffey is dedicated to helping patients overcome the lasting effects of injuries and trauma, with a special focus on maintaining active, healthy lifestyles through all stages of life. He and his wife, Jenna, along with their dog Winnie, are proud to call the Charlotte region home.

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Mehaffey to Charlotte Rotary and look forward to the impact he will make through our club and throughout the community.



Welcome New Member Jack Helmer!

Charlotte Rotary is pleased to welcome Jack Helmer as our newest member.

A 2025 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, Jack earned a Bachelor of Science in Finance with a concentration in Real Estate. He currently serves as a Financial Advisor with 49 Financial, helping families and businesses with financial planning, retirement readiness, tax and estate strategies, and long-term financial goals.

Jack also brings an entrepreneurial spirit to the club, having founded Rinse N Repeat Power Washing while in college, building the business from the ground up and securing major clients including the JW Marriott and Westin Hotels.

Service has been an important part of Jack's journey. As Service & Philanthropy Chair for Alpha Sigma Phi at UNC-Charlotte, he led volunteer initiatives benefiting organizations such as The Salvation Army and organized community clean-up projects. He also competed on UNC-Charlotte's Club Wrestling Team and mentored local high school wrestlers.

Please join us in extending a warm Charlotte Rotary welcome to Jack!

Familiar Face on Jeopardy!

While watching Jeopardy! on May 29, a familiar name was spotted: Lili Driggs, daughter of Caroline and past Charlotte Rotarian Ed Driggs. The Driggs family's intelligence and accomplishments clearly span generations. Congratulations to Lili on her appearance and for making her family and Charlotte proud!



A HISTORIC MEETING

Welcoming
Rotary International President

Francesco Arezzo

TUESDAY, JUNE 23, 2026
12:00 Noon - 1:30 P.M.

FAIRFIELD INN AND SUITES - CHARLOTTE UPTOWN
201 S. McDowell Street

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is honored to welcome
2025-2026 Rotary International President **Francesco
Arezzo and his wife**, during their official visit to
Rotary District 7680.

This special meeting will also include the
Presidential Changeover of the Rotary Club of Charlotte.



RSVP REQUIRED

RSVP on DACdb ([Click here.](#))

FOR THIS MEETING ONLY

Because of anticipated attendance and venue capacity, we will require advance registration for the June 23 meeting. The meeting is included in Charlotte Rotary membership. The guest's lunch cost \$30.

A special invitation extended
to Past District Governors



A meaningful day of **Rotary**
fellowship, leadership, and
international connection.

HAVE YOU HEARD THE NEWS?

On June 23, Charlotte Rotary will welcome **Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo** for a historic club meeting.

This is a rare opportunity to hear from Rotary's highest elected officer as President **Patrick Baker** passes the gavel to incoming President **Bill Bartee**.

You must RSVP to ensure we have a space for you.

Attendance is expected to be significantly higher than a typical club meeting, and space is limited.

All attendees — including Charlotte Rotary members — must RSVP in advance through DACdb.

Click here to reserve your seat today. Guest Lunch: \$30

Charlotte Rotarians, use promo code "**CLTRotary**" to ensure this meeting is included in your dues.

We encourage all Charlotte Rotarians to come out and support Jerry and the District Leadership Team as they begin their year of service leading Rotary across our district. The celebration is **free**, family-friendly, and open to all Rotarians.

Let's show District 7680 the strength and support of the Rotary Club of Charlotte by turning out in force for one of our own!

- Saturday, June 27, 2026
- 12:00–2:00 p.m.
- Mount Holly Municipal Complex
- Free to attend (RSVP requested to help with head count)

We hope to see a sea of Charlotte Rotary faces there! Come as you are and bring your family!

This free, family-friendly event is a wonderful opportunity to support Jerry and represent our club as he begins his year of service to Rotary across the district.



America 250 Event on Tuesday, June 30th

Make history with us by attending our 250th celebration meeting on June 30th. Invite your spouse and those you would like to recruit to Rotary to attend with you.

Through the powerful words of the Mecklenburg Declaration, the Halifax Resolves, and the U.S. Declaration of Independence, this program will trace the growing call for freedom in early America. As these historic voices unfold, their words and witness will remind us that

the fight for liberty was carried by a rising generation of people who embraced liberty.

Preregister your guests here.

Get ready for a summer full of Rotary fellowship and fun!

Mark your calendars and plan to join your fellow Rotarians at several exciting social events in the months ahead.

Rotary socials got kicked off at The Auto Pour this past week and that was just the beginning!

- Next up, on **June 25** we will have our Presidential Transition Party at **Jesse Brown's** from **6:00–8:00 PM**. Bring your favorite beverage and a shareable hors d'oeuvre as we celebrate leadership, friendship, and the start of a new Rotary year together.
- Then, on **July 30**, join us for a casual Rotary Summer Social at **NoDa Brewing Company** — a perfect opportunity to relax, reconnect, and enjoy a summer evening with fellow members.
- And don't miss our Panthers Away Game Watch Party on **September 20** at **SMS Catering!** More details and ticket information will be shared in June.

We look forward to seeing everyone for great fellowship, laughs, and memorable summer fun!

Rotarians Out and About



Three Past Presidents of the Rotary Club of Charlotte gathered at the WFAE 45th Anniversary Gala to celebrate WFAE's lasting impact on our community.

Carol Hardison (2021-2022), **Edwin Peacock** (2023-2024), **Kim Brattain** (2024-2025) enjoyed a great evening recognizing 45 years of trusted journalism and community engagement in the Charlotte region.





Charlotte Rotarians Set the Pace at Nourish Up

A dedicated team of Charlotte Rotarians rolled up their sleeves for a recent community service project at Nourish Up, helping sort canned goods to fill specific food orders for neighbors facing food insecurity.

The group worked so efficiently that they completed their assignment a remarkable 45 minutes ahead of schedule—a performance that has inspired a friendly challenge to other Rotary clubs throughout the Charlotte area to see if they can match Charlotte Rotary's pace and teamwork!

Thank you to the volunteers who participated: Rasikh Ali, **Tish Atkins-Charles**, **Linwood Bolles**, **Catherine Bracey**, **Elizabeth Caspers**, **Bill Gill**, **Jack Helmers**, Ella and **Howard Hoyle**, **Larken Lancaster**, **Layne McGuire**, **Joe Morris**, **Jim Rogers**, **Robert Shaw**, Najam Usmani, **Kevin Utsey**, Linda and **Bob Wilhelm**.

Not only did this AWESOME group get the job done, they got it done so quickly that we may have set the Charlotte Rotary standard for future Nourish Up volunteer teams. Other clubs have officially been put on notice!





Charlotte Rotarians recently took advantage of an opportunity to visit another club! Recent sightings included President-Elect **Bill Bartee** and Club Director and Membership Chair **Bill Gill** at the SouthPark Rotary Club meeting held at Jesse Brown's.

The featured speaker was Charles DeLoach, the unopposed candidate for the Mecklenburg County Commission seat currently held by our own member, **Laura Meier**.

And here's a fun fact: SouthPark Rotary meets each Friday morning at Jesse Brown's, the longtime outdoor retailer owned by President-Elect **Bill Bartee**. Talk about Rotary hospitality!

Insider Tip

Why Does the Rotary Year Begin on July 1?

Did you know the Rotary year runs from July 1 through June 30 rather than following the calendar year?

The tradition dates back more than 100 years. In Rotary's early days, clubs held annual conventions during the summer months. As the organization grew, it became practical for newly elected officers to take office immediately following the convention. By the 1910s, July 1 had become the official start of the Rotary year.

Today, Rotary clubs around the world continue this tradition with a leadership transition each July. Presidents, board members, and committee chairs pass the torch to a new leadership team, bringing fresh ideas while building on the previous year's successes.

That's why June is often filled with celebrations, year-end reports, and recognition of service, while July marks the beginning of a new chapter of Service Above Self.

So when you hear Rotarians talking about the "2026–2027 Rotary Year," remember—it all begins on July 1! Think of it as Rotary's version of New Year's Day—just with fewer fireworks and a lot more service projects.

Beyond the Club

Upcoming District Events

Sat., June 27 - District Governor Installation: Join us to honor our own, **Jerry Coughter**, at District Governor Installation Celebration on Saturday, June 27 | Noon–2:00 p.m. at the Mount Holly Municipal Complex, 400 E. Central Avenue, Mount Holly, NC. **Click here to register for the event!**

July 16-19 - District Event: Rotary's Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) is a leadership camp for incoming high school sophomores, juniors, and seniors, held July 16–19, 2026 at Gardner-Webb University.

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224
05/31/2026 206
06/02/2026 206 (Resignation: Brian Moor)

Consideration for Membership

Alice B. Womack, Managing Director, Oakworth Capital Bank

Sponsor: Bill Bartee

Endorsers: Catherine Bracey and Kathi Knier

Meeting Attendance - June 2, 2026: 84

This week's Guests: Gabe Llewelyn and Libby Simonini

Milestones (June 9 - 15)

Birthdays

9 – Layne McGuire

10 – Phillip Miller

Wedding Anniversaries

9 – Linda & John Shell

11 – Christine & Bill Cipriano

12 – Karen & Herb Harriss

13 – Deborah & Steve Meckler

14 – Tara & Thomas Terry

15 – Beth & Stuart Hair

Rotary Anniversaries

30 years: Marilyn Bowler

10 years: Susan Evans

9 years: JT Simpson

4 years: Craig Field

2 years: Paul Bartholomy

1 year: Richard Walker

2025 - 2026 Board Members

- **President Patrick Baker**
- **President-Elect Bill Bartee**
- **President-Nominee Mark Norman**
- **Immediate Past President Kim Brattain**
- **Secretary Bill Gill**
- **Treasurer Craig Field**

Current Directors: Benton S. Bragg, Byrd Bergeron, John F. Cantrell, Karen N. Calder, Tish Atkins Charles, Dena R. Diorio, Joel Ford, J Hill, Jesse G. Hite, Lori Keeton, 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](https://www.flickr.com/photos/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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