

# ROTARY REPORTER

## May 12, 2026

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



**May Community Partner:**

Throughout May, Charlotte Rotary is hosting a diaper drive to support the NC Diaper Bank - support our neighbors in need by providing essential hygiene items. Details below.

**Tues., May 19 - Weekly Meeting:** David Nelson, VP of Premium Partnerships Sales & Services, Tepper Sports & Entertainment

**Tues., May 19 - Board of Directors Meeting** immediately following our weekly meeting

**Thurs., May 21 – Club Social: Rotary Happy Hour Social**, 6-8:00 p.m., **The Auto Pour** 5033 South Blvd. Unit 0 Charlotte, NC 28217. Open to Rotary members & guests.

***Important!* Tues., May 26 - R85 Member Meeting:** Important Membership Update immediately following the regular meeting. All current Rule of 85 members are encouraged to stay for a brief, important discussion regarding potential membership structure updates and future planning for our club. Please plan to attend.

**Fri., May 29 - Sun., May 31 - District Conference: District Conference 2026**, Renaissance Asheville Downtown Hotel, 31 Woodfin St. Asheville, NC. **Click here for more information.**

**Sat., June 6 - Volunteer Event: Nourish Up**, 9 - 11 a.m., 901 Carrier Drive. Details to follow. Space is limited so sign up early. **Click here to register.**

***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**, 6-8:00 p.m., 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 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!**

***Mark your calendar!* Tues., June 30 - Weekly Meeting:** Special America 250 Event during our weekly meeting. Details below.

**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. See details below.

# This Week's Meeting



## *Juliet Kuehnle* *"Name It To Tame It."*

by [Marilynn Bowler](#)

Tackling the topic of mental health during a twenty-five-minute speech can be best described as "complicated," and yet Juliet Kuehnle ~ National Board Certified and Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor, author, keynote speaker, business owner, and podcast host ~ took it on her shoulders ... and what she told us at our Charlotte Rotary meeting made all 100+ of us sit up and listen.

Introduced by [Dr. Elizabeth Teagarden](#), we learned that Juliet is a premier mental health professional who - on the side - dyes her hair blue during her beloved Duke University's basketball season; has recently competed on our local Dancing With The Stars fundraiser; and grew up in Pinehurst which, in Elizabeth's words, "is why Juliet is precise, has great follow-through, and is unbothered by difficult terrain." She's a Wake Forest grad and earned her master's in Clinical Mental Health Counseling from UNC-Greensboro.

Juliet began her remarks with the startling statement that 1 in 4 adults experience mental health issues, a topic which makes most people uneasy about discussing mental health ~ their own, their family members', and their friends'. And yet, mental health is closely connected to physical and spiritual health which she describes as the "ultimate trifecta of well -being." [Click here for more.](#)

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1192009839?fl=pl&fe=sh>

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1192038895?fl=pl&fe=sh>

The program introduction begins at approximately 27 minutes and 30 seconds.

## Club News



### *Congratulations are in order for the Backus family!*

We are delighted to share that Maisie Jo Backus arrived in the middle of the night on March 15, 2026, weighing 7 pounds, 11 ounces.

According to her proud father, Leadership Impact Group Member, [Austin Backus](#), Maisie may already hold the title of "most chill baby ever," only fussing during diaper changes or when it's time to eat.

Mom Meghan is doing great and is fully healed, and everyone is settling into life with their newest little blessing. We send our warmest congratulations and best wishes to the entire Backus family as they enjoy this special new chapter together!



### *Charlotte Rotary Diaper Drive – Supporting NC Diaper Bank*

Throughout the month of May, Charlotte Rotary is proud to host a Diaper Drive in support of the NC Diaper Bank—an organization dedicated to ensuring that families in our community have access to essential hygiene products.

We invite you to join us in making a meaningful difference by donating needed items:

- Baby diapers
- Period products
- Adult incontinence supplies
- Formula\*
- Baby wipes\*

(\*Please note: formula and baby wipes must be unopened and not expired.)

High-need baby items include:

- UnderJams (S/M)
- Size 5 diapers
- 3T–4T pull-ups

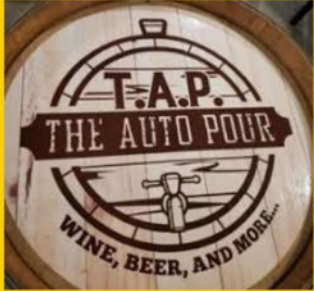
Other high-need items:

- Tampons
- New black leggings (all sizes, M–XXL)
- Disposable adult pull-ups/underwear

Every donation—big or small—helps provide dignity, comfort, and care to individuals and families who need it most. Thank you for your generosity and for supporting this important effort in our community.

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## Rotary Social



May 21st 6–8pm PIC-COLLAGE

### ***Pour Decisions & Rotary Connections***

There's one Rotary event where "Service Above Self" gets a temporary timeout... because this time, you get to serve yourself!

Join your fellow Rotarians on **Thursday, May 21 from 6–8 PM at The Auto Pour** for an evening of fellowship, laughs, and self-pour taps. Whether you're catching up with old friends or meeting new ones, this is the perfect chance to relax and enjoy a fun night together.

Members and guests are welcome — so bring a friend, raise a glass, and enjoy the only Rotary gathering where self-service is highly encouraged!

The Auto Pour is located at 5033 South Blvd, Suite O, Charlotte, NC 28217.

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### ***R85 Members: Your Input Matters***

Following our regular meeting on **Tuesday, May 26**, we invite all current Rule of 85 members to stay for an important conversation about upcoming membership changes.

As part of the Club's ongoing efforts to strengthen long-term sustainability, the Board has recently approved new membership categories that will take effect July 1.

Your perspective, experience, and continued engagement are incredibly important to the future of Charlotte Rotary. We hope you will join us for this discussion.

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## 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.

### ***Weekly Meeting. A Historic Day. RSVP Required!***

#### Did you see the news?

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is preparing for a truly historic and exciting day on **Tuesday, June 23**, as we welcome 2025–2026 Rotary International President Francesco Arezzo and his wife, Anna Maria, to our Charlotte Meeting during their official visit to Rotary District 7680.

This rare opportunity to host Rotary's highest elected officer is a tremendous honor for our club and District and will showcase the strength, fellowship, and international connections of Charlotte Rotary.

The special meeting will also include the Presidential Changeover of the Rotary Club of Charlotte as **President Patrick Baker** passes the gavel to incoming **President Bill Barte**.

Francesco Arezzo is a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy, and is an orthodontist, entrepreneur, olive oil producer, and longtime Rotary leader who has served Rotary International in numerous leadership roles around the world. He and Anna Maria are passionate supporters of The Rotary Foundation and international service.

Because of anticipated attendance and limited venue capacity, **RSVPs will be required** for this meeting only.

Tuesday, June 23, 2026 during the weekly meeting, 12:00 Noon – 1:30 p.m.

Fairfield Inn & Suites Charlotte Uptown

201 S. McDowell Street, Charlotte

✓ **RSVP Required on DACdb**

Guest lunch cost: \$30

We hope you will join us for what promises to be one of the most memorable meetings in the history of the Rotary Club of Charlotte.



### **Presidential Kickoff & End-of-Year Social**

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is closing out the Rotary year with laughter, fellowship, and a little friendly fun.

Join us **June 25 from 6–8 p.m. at Jesse Brown's Outdoors in SouthPark, 4732 Sharon Road, #2m, Charlotte** for our Presidential Kickoff & End-of-Year Social.

This casual potluck-style gathering is a chance to thank **President Patrick Baker**, welcome incoming **President Bill Bartee**, and enjoy some entertaining "Rotary Superlatives," including awards like "Most Likely to Steal the Microphone."

Bring a favorite hors d'oeuvre to share and your beverage of choice for a fun evening celebrating another great Rotary year.



### **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.**

## **Insider Tip**

### **Rotary Has A LOT of Websites**

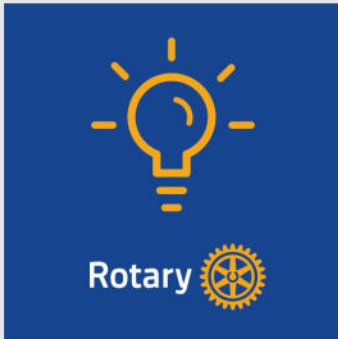
If you're ever confused about where Rotary information lives... you are definitely not alone! Here's a quick cheat sheet to help:

- **Rotary.org** – Rotary International's main website with global Rotary news and club search tools for when you travel.
- **MyRotary.org** – The members-only portal where you can:
  - View your Rotary Foundation giving history
  - Make Foundation donations (including recurring gifts)
  - Register for events
  - Take Rotary learning courses
- **Rotary Zones 33 & 34** – Regional Rotary news, leadership resources, and training opportunities.
- **Rotary District 7680 Website** – District events, grants, youth programs, and district-wide announcements.

- **Rotary Club of Charlotte Website** – Your source for club meetings, speakers, events, and committee information.
- **DACdb** – Rotary’s database system used for registrations, directories, calendars, attendance, and club records.
- **Ignite App** – A mobile app that works alongside DACdb and MyRotary to help you stay connected on the go.
- **Constant Contact** – The system that delivers many of our newsletters, announcements, and event emails.

Rotary may be built on fellowship and service... but behind the scenes, it also runs on passwords, logins, and about 8 websites.

# Beyond the Club



### *Keeping up with Rotary has never been easier!*

If you haven't already, be sure to download the Rotary Learning Center mobile app. The app allows you to access courses and training directly from your phone or tablet, making it easy to learn on the go — whether you're traveling, waiting between meetings, or relaxing at home.

To avoid sign-in problems and ensure the best experience, remember to install app updates whenever they become available. If you prefer using the Learning Center on a desktop or laptop computer, make sure your web browser is updated to the latest version as well.

Rotary offers a wealth of training opportunities through the Learning Center, from club leadership resources to Rotary Foundation education and more. It's one of the easiest ways to grow your Rotary knowledge anytime, anywhere!

## District Conference 2026

# May 29-31

Renaissance Center | Asheville, NC  
Creativity and Community | Innovating for Impact



**Keynote Speaker:**  
Dr. Isabel Scarinci  
Polio survivor and  
global health leader

### Be Part of Something Special

*What You'll Experience*

- Hands-on service project supporting Helene Recovery
- Steps from downtown Asheville shops, galleries, & dining
- Celebrate your club's impact
- Share ideas and projects with fellow clubs

**Reserve Your Spot**



<https://tinyurl.com/DistrictConf2026>



# Membership Update

07/01/2025 224  
04/30/2026 203  
05/12/2026 203

Meeting Attendance - May 12, 2026: 69

# Milestones (May 19 - 25)

## Birthdays

21 - Ann Clark  
22 - Rick Handford

## Rotary Anniversaries

23 years: Emmy Lou Burchette  
18 years (29 total): John Cantrell  
4 years: Ben Goebel

## Wedding Anniversaries

20 - Angela & Keith Powley  
22 - Lisa & Chuck Dahlgren  
25 - Woodson & William Bradley

# 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](mailto: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)**



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