

ROTARY REPORTER

May 19, 2026

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



Last week!

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.

Upcoming Club Events:

Tues., May 26 - Weekly Meeting: Mary Lou Bourne, Senior Director, Charlotte Regional Innovation Network, NCIInnovation

***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.

Sat., June 6 - Volunteer Event: Nourish Up, 9:00 - 11:00 AM, 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, 6:00-8:00 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 District Governor Installation Celebration on Saturday, June 27 | Noon–2:00 PM 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.

***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

THE MAN WITH THE PLAN

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. **Click here to read more.**

Here is the recording for the meeting:

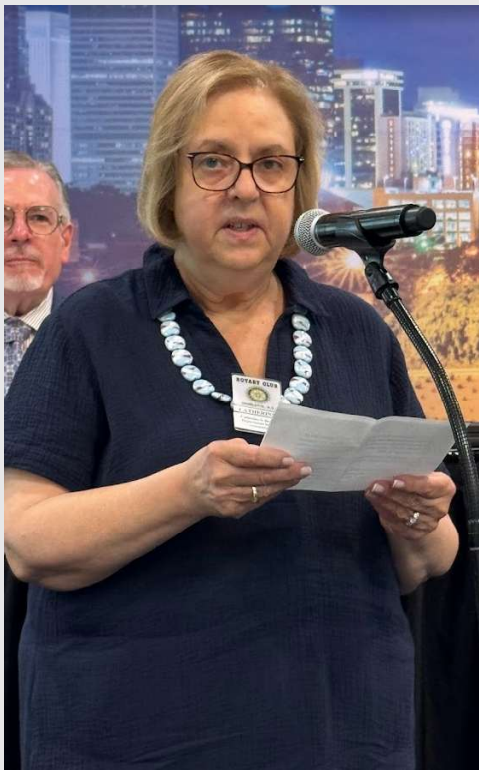
Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1193986040?fl=pl&fe=sh>

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

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







Club News

Prayers for Charlotte Rotarian **Mark Erwin** in your thoughts as he continues recovering from surgery. Mark shared that he is doing well and appreciates the support and encouragement from his Rotary family during his recovery. We wish him continued strength and healing in the weeks ahead.



Congratulations to Bill Gill — Our Distinguished Rotarian of the Year

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is proud to recognize **Bill Gill** as our 2025–2026 Distinguished Rotarian of the Year.

During a recent club meeting, **President Patrick Baker** shared that selecting this honor is never easy because “all of you are Distinguished Rotarians” through your generosity, spirit, time, and dedication to the club. However, he noted that one Rotarian stood out this year for his exceptional commitment to membership growth and member engagement.

Patrick shared that one of his primary goals this year was strengthening membership with welcoming new members into the club and ensuring they feel supported and connected once they join. Bill went above and beyond in that effort and helped create a welcoming Rotary experience for both new and longtime members alike.

Bill will be formally recognized at the District Conference in Asheville next weekend.

Congratulations, Bill, and thank you for your continued Service Above Self!

The Rotary District 7680 Distinguished Rotarian Awards were first awarded at the 1994 Rotary District 7680 Conference. Each club in District 7680 can honor a member of their club for distinguished tenure as a Rotarian. The award is presented to a Rotarian who has exemplified “Service Above Self” in his/her daily life as a Rotarian and as a member of his/her community. Each club is invited to select a Distinguished Rotarian from their membership on an annual basis, submitting that name with supporting documentation to the District Governor. The District Governor presents each recipient an appropriate plaque at the District Conference.



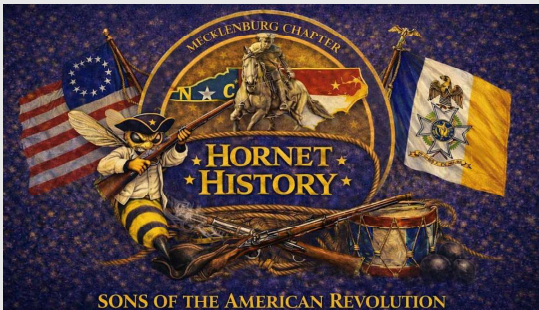
Welcome Dr. Riley Mahaffey Dr. Mahaffey is an Associate Doctor with The Upper Cervical Spine Center in South Charlotte, specializing in Upper Cervical Chiropractic — a highly specialized field focused on the relationship between the upper neck and neurological health. Through precise upper cervical adjustments, he has worked with patients experiencing complex conditions including migraines, vertigo, dizziness, chronic pain, fibromyalgia, and other neurological challenges.

Originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, Riley earned his Bachelor of Science degree from Indiana University of Pennsylvania before moving to Atlanta to attend Life University, where he received his Doctor of Chiropractic degree in 2018. He has since worked in upper cervical practices across North and South Carolina before ultimately choosing

Charlotte as home.

Riley is also a former member of the Summerville Rotary Club, an Eagle Scout, and is excited to become involved in the Charlotte community through Rotary.

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



Charlotte Rotarian **Chad Lloyd**, who also serves as President of the Mecklenburg Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution, is helping lead local efforts to commemorate America's upcoming 250th anniversary through **Hornet History**, a new YouTube series focused on Revolutionary War history in Charlotte and the Carolinas.

The series explores the people, places, and stories that shaped the American Revolution in our region, with videos filmed at historic sites across the Carolinas. As the nation celebrates our Semiquincentennial, Hornet History aims to increase awareness of Charlotte's important role in the founding of the United States.



Charlotte Rotary Diaper Drive – Supporting NC Diaper Bank

This is the **final week** of Charlotte Rotary's Diaper Drive benefiting the NC Diaper Bank! Donations of diapers, period products, adult incontinence supplies, and other essential hygiene items help provide dignity and care to families in our community.

from you makes a difference.

Thank you for supporting this important effort. Every donation



Volunteer Opportunity: Serve with Nourish Up on June 6

Join your fellow Rotarians for a meaningful morning of service at **Nourish Up** on Saturday, June 6, from 9:00–11:00 a.m. at 901 Carrier Drive. This hands-on volunteer event is a great opportunity to make a direct impact in our community while enjoying fellowship with fellow members.

Space is limited, so be sure to sign up early! Register today: [Click here to register](#)


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.

Rotary 
Club of Charlotte

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 Bartee**.

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

District Conference 2026
May 29-31
 Renaissance Center | Asheville, NC
 Creativity and Community | Innovating for Impact

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>

Rotary
 District 7680



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

Why Should I Attend a District Conference Anyway?

If you've never attended a **District Conference**, here's the insider truth: this is often where Rotary really "clicks" for people.

District Conference is designed to connect Rotarians beyond the club level while you experience the energy and excitement of Rotary. From incredible stories of service to learning what neighboring clubs are doing, all while meeting Rotarians from across our district, you will come away with fresh ideas and a renewed enthusiasm for Rotary.

There are speakers, fellowship, celebrations, project showcases, Youth Exchange stories, leadership insights — and yes, a lot of fun along the way.

Most Rotarians leave the conference saying they didn't fully understand the power of Rotary until they attended a District Conference.

Currently, Charlotte is leading the district in registrations for Asheville. Let's keep it that way.

Rotary Around Town

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!



Beyond the Club

Upcoming District Events

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.](#)

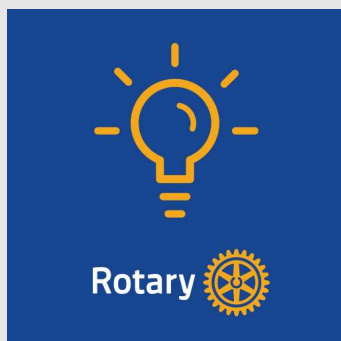
Sat., June 27 - District Governor Installation: Join us to honor our own, **Jerry Coughter**, at District Governor Installation Celebration on Saturday, June 27 | Noon–2:00 p.m. at the Mount Holly Municipal Complex, 400 E. Central Avenue, Mount Holly, NC. [Click here to register for the event!](#)

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.



Don't miss the May District 7680 Newsletter

It's filled with inspiring stories, district updates, upcoming events, and reminders of the incredible impact Rotarians are making across our communities. Take a few minutes to connect with the bigger picture of Rotary in action.



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!

Membership Update

07/01/2025 224
04/30/2026 203
05/19/2026 206

Consideration for Membership

"Dee" Marjorie Moses Schwab, Retired

Sponsor: Velva Woolen

Endorsers: Catherine Bracey and Carla DuPuy

Meeting Attendance - May 19, 2026: 82

This week's Guests: Agatha Bisbikis ([Jim Mannix](#)), Bo Coggins ([Boyd Coggins](#)), Jeffrey Desvignes (Charlotte SouthPark Rotary), Alexander Herndon ([Bill Herndon](#)), Laura Little (Rotary Club of Gastonia), Kathryn Payne ([Tish Atkins Charles](#)), Emma Tant ([Sarah Yost](#)), Davina Thorpe ([Tish Atkins Charles](#))

Milestones (May 26 - June 1)

Birthdays

28 – Susie Bunch-Masotti

29 – John Galles

29 – Brad Crotts

Rotary Anniversaries

39 years: Phil Volponi

33 years: Bill Loftin

23 years: Henry Cantrell

8 years (33 total): Tony Zeiss

Wedding Anniversaries

26 - Justine & David Tobin

27 - Mariana & Mike Orzech

27 - Sandra & Luther Moore

28 - Karen & Doug Bean

28 - Jessica & Devin Dupree

29 - Claire & Brent Trexler

30 - Byrd & Joseph Bergeron

31 - Fran & Rob Thomas

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](#) 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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