

ROTARY REPORTER

May 26, 2026

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

Upcoming Club Events:

Tues., June 2 - Weekly Meeting: Larry Keith, Former Sports Illustrated Writer & Editor

Sat., June 6 - Volunteer Event: Charlotte Rotary - Nourish Up, 9-11 AM, 901 Carrier Drive. At this time, the shift is filled (thank you Rotarians!). Need to adjust your Sign-Up Genius? **Click here.**

***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 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!**

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



MARY LOU BOURNE

**Senior Director, Charlotte Regional Innovation
Network, NCInnovation**

by **Catherine Bracey**

The Rotary Club of Charlotte was pleased to welcome Mary Lou Bourne, NC Innovation Senior Director, Charlotte Regional Innovation network, to its podium for the May 26th meeting. Club member **Robert Shaw** introduced Ms. Bourne and highlighted her earlier career work at James Madison University, where she led the technology transfer and commercial realization efforts. She started the James Madison non-profit for commercial

realization and intellectual property management, as well as an investor network to build up entrepreneurship in the region. Ms. Bourne is passionate about connecting people and resources to facilitate innovation and entrepreneurship.

Ms. Bourne explained that NC Innovation is a statewide organization created by the state with a \$500 million reserve. State funding for NCInnovation comes from the earnings of the corpus. The organization focuses on bridging the gap between university research and commercialization, aiming to create jobs, growth, and companies. The approach is different from other economic development organizations in that it focuses on university research as the foundational element. The strategy involves grants, mentorship, and partnerships to speed up commercialization.

Mary Lou highlighted the unique business model used by NCInnovation. The model includes 15 public universities across the state, seven hubs, and four regions. Ms. Bourne works out of the UNC-Charlotte hub. The focus is on addressing the "valley of death" gap, where grant funding dies off, and the market is not ready for innovation. This is where the organization steps in with its model, bringing together the lab, private sector, and public sector to create a pipeline of growth. **Click here to read more.**

Here is the recording for the meeting:

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1195815538?fl=pl&fe=sh>

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1195813682?fl=pl&fe=sh>

Dave's introduction begins at approximately 23 minutes and 50 seconds.

Club News

Wonderful News! We are thrilled to share wonderful news from longtime member **Bill Constangy**: following her annual mammogram and latest doctor visit, Debbie has officially been declared cancer free! Please join us in celebrating this joyful update and keeping Bill and Debbie in your thoughts as they continue forward with gratitude and good health.

Club member Kim McMillan to Retire

After 40 years of doing what she loves, **Kim McMillan**, Vice President of Marketing and Communications for Canopy Realtor® Association/Canopy MLS, is excited to share that she will be joining her husband Bill in retirement as of July 31. Recruiting is underway for this senior-level position which provides executive leadership for all marketing, branding, and communications that advance the mission, visibility, and value of Canopy Realtor® Association and its related entities: Canopy MLS, Canopy Housing Foundation, and Canopy Real Estate Institute (CREI). This role is responsible for shaping organizational strategy across communications, digital marketing, public relations, media relations, events, and broker engagement while leading a four-person team and managing agency and vendor partnerships. If you know of anyone who is ready and interested in stepping into this role, please send a resume to **Lcuddy@canopyrealtors.com**, Vice President of Human Resources.

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**.

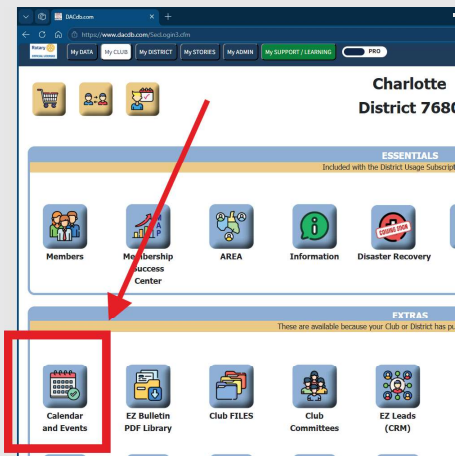
Francesco Arezzo is a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy, and is an orthodontist, entrepreneur, olive oil producer, and longtime Rotary leader who has served Rotary International in numerous leadership roles around the world. He and Anna Maria are passionate supporters of The Rotary Foundation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

Insider Tip



DACdb Calendar and Events!

Did you know that **DACdb** can do much more than just register you for meetings? One of the most helpful (and underused!) features is the club calendar.

Inside DACdb, members can view upcoming weekly meetings, volunteer opportunities, socials, committee meetings, District events, and special club programs all in one place. Even better — you can sync the Rotary calendar directly to your personal calendar on your phone or computer so events automatically appear alongside your work and family schedule.

No more digging through old emails trying to remember dates! To access the calendar:

- Log in to **DACdb**
- Click on “Calendar” from the main menu
- Look for the sync/export option to connect it to Outlook, Google Calendar, or Apple Calendar

Once connected, you'll always know what's happening in Charlotte Rotary at a glance.

Pro Tip: Check the calendar regularly because new service opportunities and special events in the District are added throughout the year!

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.





Highlights from District Conference

Rotarians from across the district gathered in Asheville this past weekend for the District Conference, and our club showed up in a big way! We had the largest attendance the first night of the conference and tied for the largest attendance the second night.

The conference included important education and discussion about Asheville's recovery efforts following Hurricane Helene, as well as several volunteer projects highlighting both the challenges that remain and the resilience of the community.

It was wonderful to recognize the great work happening across Rotary and celebrate this year's Distinguished Rotarians — including our very own **Bill Gill**.

Thank you to everyone who attended and represented our club so well!

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

05/26/2026 206

Consideration for Membership

Gabe Llewellyn, Llewellyn Financial

Sponsor: Bill Gill

Endorsers: Mark Norman and Christine Cipriano

Meeting Attendance - May 26, 2026: 70

This week's Guests: Ella Hoyle ([Howard Hoyle Jr.](#)) and Bob Morgan ([Fred Wagner](#))

Milestones (June 2 - 8)

Birthdays

5 – George Rohe

6 – David Zimmerman

7 – Patricia Van Pelt

Wedding Anniversaries

2 – Margaret & Harrison Marshall

3 – Lori & Randall Mountcastle

5 – Beverly & John Lassiter

6 – Sarah & Tony Lathrop

7 – Jean & Al Allison

8 – Julie & John Armistead

8 - Eileen Keeley & Pat Millen

Rotary Anniversaries

28 years: Tony Lathrop

13 years (49 total): Mark Markanda

7 years (21 total): Patrick Baker

11 years (18 total): Travis Vance

1 year: John Nesbitt

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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