

Christine Cipriano

From: Christine Cipriano
Sent: Thursday, August 1, 2024 10:15 AM
To: Christine Cipriano
Cc: President 2024-2025 Kim Brattain
Subject: A message from President Kim

Hi fellow Rotarians,

If you missed the meeting Tuesday, it was a packed house to see former Governor Pat McCrory, with news coverage in The Charlotte Ledger and on WBTV. [Luther Moore](#) – great job with programming!

At the meeting, we also addressed the state of our finances along with a preliminary path forward to balance our budget while accommodating growth. Past Presidents [Herb Harriss](#), [Marilynn Bowler](#), [Edwin Peacock](#), and [Jerry Coughter](#) touched on some items identified in a recent report from our Financial Committee, which stated:

1. Both our dues and lunch prices have stayed the same for about a decade and we are now at the point where we need to raise both due to considerable inflation and we can no longer take a loss. We were \$72,000 over budget last year while continuing to only charge our historical \$25 charge for lunch. This is no longer sustainable.
2. We also have to take into account our steady growth in attendance and an increase in membership, which is a good problem but nonetheless has increase our food and beverage expenses.

The Club also considered switching to another venue; however, after [Christine Cipriano](#) and [Bill Gill](#) looked exhaustively at other venues, frankly it is hard to beat what the Fairfield offers us. Free parking, guaranteed meeting days (which is a big deal for a hotel uptown that caters to tourists and conventions), and they're always receptive to our food requests. (We are saving \$4 per meal per person by dropping one of the entrees.)

So, moving forward and to balance the budget, we are going to temporarily suspend the over \$50,000 that we give every year in charitable contributions. Instead of writing checks this year, we will rely more on group service projects and fundraising. [Tish Atkins](#), [Terri DeBoo](#), and [Donna Dunlap](#) are being super creative with this and have some really cool, fun projects planned. This will not affect our scholarship fund for emergency workers' children, which is self-funded this year by the luncheon.

Still, with all this effort to reduce costs, we need to raise our weekly dues by \$5.00.

In the words of [Woodson Bradley](#), who spoke after the past Presidents: "We are more than a lunch club. We are the most civic-minded, connected group of leaders in Charlotte. Being a member of Charlotte Rotary is a privilege."

I couldn't agree more. See you Tuesday,

Kim Brattain

2024 – 2025 President
Rotary Club of Charlotte

Yours in Rotary Service,
Christine

Christine Cipriano

Executive Secretary

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