



# THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

August 6, 2024

## 2024-2025 Board Members

**President** Kim Brattain

**Pres Elect** Patrick Baker

**Past Pres** Edwin Peacock

**Secretary** Bill Gill

**Treasurer** Craig Field

**Sergeant at Arms**

Mike Wollinger

**Exec Sec** Christine Cipriano

### Directors 2023-2025

Linwood Bolles

Terri DeBoo

Andy Dinkin

Donna Dunlap

Joel Ford

David Head

### Directors 2024-2026

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John Cantrell

Tish Atkins Charles

Dena Diorio

Stuart Hair

Jesse Hite

Virginia Owen

**Membership** John Cantrell

**Foundation** Joe Morris

**Programs** Luther Moore



## *Pat McCrory, 53<sup>rd</sup> Mayor of Charlotte & 74<sup>th</sup> Governor of North Carolina*

by **Bill Barte**

Chris William thanked **Ken Samuelson** for recognizing those who serve in political leadership during the Invocation. He fittingly did this as he welcomed Pat McCrory to the stage of Charlotte Rotary and referenced McCrory and others taking the “slings and arrows” during their time in public service.

William also referenced a quote that McCrory made over thirty years ago when running for Mayor that “it’s easy to just sit in the cheap seats.” Sitting in the cheap seats is not the former-Mayor and Governor’s style. His self-described “love of problem-solving combined with his love of people” has kept him active in the political arena.

Most recently he acted as the co-chair of the non-partisan group, No Labels. This group, under leadership that included McCrory, civil rights leader, Dr. Ben Chavis, and the late Senator Joe Lieberman. No Labels was organized to “help solve problems that needed solving,” according to our speaker. The group operated separately from the two major political parties and focused on thirty-two complex issues (including foreign policy, abortion, social issues, etc.).

In fact, No Labels, almost put forth two candidates with national name recognition. Although he would not share their names, he stated that surveys and research showed that these candidates could have won 38%

of the vote and the presidential election. The candidacy announcement failed due to pressure from both the Democrat and Republican parties and their shared monopoly of our country's political ecosystem.

McCrorry is still involved with No Labels but resigned from his leadership role when he felt that the group's standards were being lowered in candidacy recruitment. His association with the group has led him to not being invited to any Republican events in the past two years and caused Lieberman & Chavis to be "canceled".

Chris William's moderation brought forth the question of "what point do we reach a tipping point on a (political) re-set?" Which allowed McCrorry the answer, "All we can do is go by history. I believe our Constitution is stronger than anybody." He continued, "We're an imperfect union. But the goal is to make it as perfect as possible."

Governor McCrorry built a bi-partisan leadership team during his tenure in Raleigh but felt unfairly defined by the media. His goal as a change agent in Raleigh targeted him by both status quo Democrats and Republicans.

"Neither one of them liked me," he said with a knowing smile. McCrorry mourned the lack of political focus on issues by the political parties and their focus on personalities and compared it to radio stations of old when you could listen to Motown & the Beatles on one station. "Now we only listen to what we want to hear," he continued.

McCrorry showed immense pride in the many people who were a part of his team in Charlotte, Raleigh, and nationally. He mentioned several, including Charlotteans Boyd Cauble, Ed McMahan, and former Charlotte Rotary president, **John Lassiter**.

Pat McCrorry served as the longest-tenured Mayor of Charlotte in his seven terms and was elected the 74<sup>th</sup> Governor of North Carolina in 2012. He continues in the public eye as the television host of UNSPUN on PBS and his contributions on WBT Radio.

In closing, interviewer Chris William thanked the former governor for his leadership while McCrorry encouraged all of us to get involved in the solutions to problems.

A recording of the meeting can be found here: <https://vimeo.com/992308232>  
The program introduction begins at approximately 38 minutes.