



## Upcoming Events

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

**Last Week! December Volunteer Opportunity: The Salvation Army Bell Ringing and Red Kettle Campaign.** Ring the bell for The Salvation Army and participate in the raffle drawings. See full details below.

**Sun., Dec. 15 - Rotary International Convention: Last Day for early-registration discount**

**Tues., Dec. 17 - Weekly Meeting: Holiday Program** with an Ugly Christmas Sweater Contest

**Tues., Dec. 17 - Volunteer Opportunity: Blood Drive! Join Charlotte Rotary and the American Red Cross Blood Drive**, 10 a.m. - 2:30 p.m., [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org) and use sponsor code Charlotterotary or call 1-800-redcross to make your appointment.

**Tues., Dec. 24 - No Weekly Meeting**

**Weds., Dec. 25 - Volunteer Opportunity: Christmas Morning Breakfast at Charlotte Rescue Mission**, 6–8:30 a.m., 907 W. 1st St., Charlotte, NC 28202. Dress Attire: Black pants and white shirt. 30 volunteers are needed. Please confirm your attendance by signing up at <https://vhub.at/charlotterotaryclub> or email **Tracy Reading** at [treading1@mac.com](mailto:treading1@mac.com). See details below.

**Tues., Dec. 31 - No Weekly Meeting**

**Tues., Jan. 7 - Weekly Meeting: Jen Thompson, 11-time I.P.F. World Powerlifting Champion and Influencer**

**Sat., Jan. 11 - RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute) Event: RLI**, 8:15 a.m., Rowan Cabarrus Community College, 399 Biotechnology Lane, Kannapolis, NC. All Parts (I, II, and III) offered as well as two Graduate Courses. See details below.

**Fri., Jan. 31 - District 7680 Event: Charlotte Hornets Game**, 7 p.m., Spectrum Center, Discounted tickets for members to sit together. See details below.

**SAVE THE DATE! Thurs, Feb. 20 - Event: CART Event**, The Village on Morehead, 5-7 p.m..

## This Week's Meeting



**"HOW NOT TO BECOME A VICTIM"**  
(Per the wisdom of FBI Agent David Katkowski)

by Marilynn Bowler

If we had surveyed the audience at Charlotte Rotary on December 10th and asked for a show of hands on how many of us had been victims of scams, computer fraud, or unwanted emails and texts almost every hand would have been raised. So, it was most appreciated that our speaker was none other than FBI agent David Katkowski who is a cybercrime specialist and investigates cases involving online fraud, hacking, and digital crimes.

David brings a superb background to his assignment with the FBI since he spent his earlier career as an Industrial and

He began his presentation by outlining three specific actions we all should take to help ward off cybercrime:

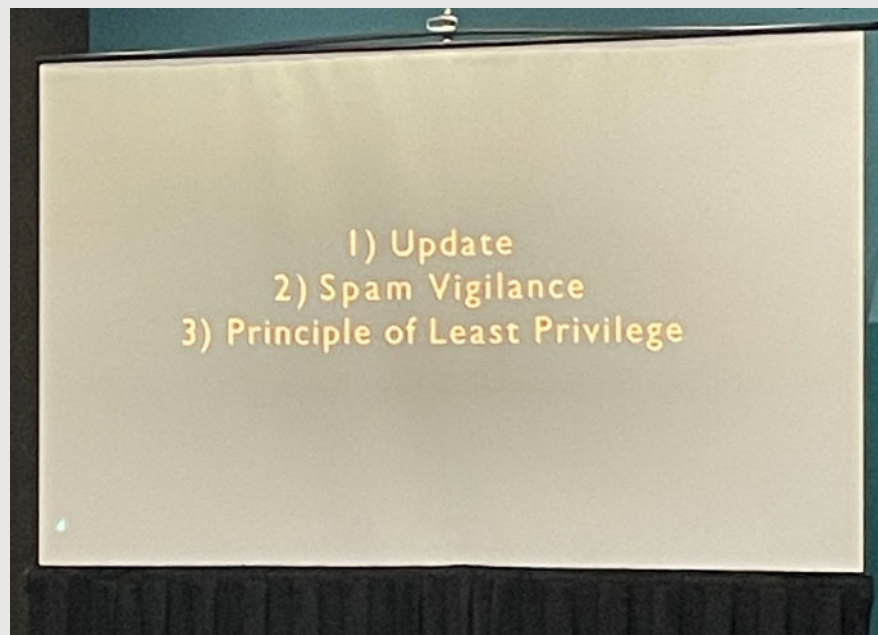
- Update our computers.
- Be Vigilant of Spam (do NOT hit the Link; simply "delete.")
- Be aware of the Principle of Least Privilege (administrative or regular user accounts.)

David advised us that the percentage of organizations affected by cybercrime is growing exponentially, which means more and more companies are finding themselves victims as are their customers. Current threats and trends include data breaches, e-skimming, ransomware, and business email compromises. (A typical email may say something like, "While I'm gone this week, I need you to pay this for me" ... as if coming from a relative, friend or coworker. Don't fall for it!) The ask will be for either money or something that involves money, i.e.; gift cards. David's mandate: DON'T DO IT! **Click here to read more.**

The presenter requested that this week's presentation not be recorded. A recording of the meeting announcements can be found:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1039228367>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1039234645>





*Thank you* to Kevin Ellis and our friends at *Business North Carolina Daily Digest* for a featured new member, [Byrd Bergeron](#). [Click here to read the article.](#)

## Club News



### *Congratulations to Scott Gakenheimer!*

A big shoutout to club member [Scott Gakenheimer](#) for completing his 10th marathon in Honolulu, Hawaii! Scott says this will be his final marathon. His incredible dedication and endurance over the years are truly inspiring.

*Well done, Scott!*



### *Honoring Long-time member, Henry Bostic, Jr.*

A beautiful tribute to our long-time member, [Henry Bostic Jr.](#), was recently featured by our friends at [The Charlotte Ledger](#). Henry, who passed away on December 18, 2023, at the age of 77, was remembered not only for his professional accomplishments but also for his vibrant and unique spirit.

Henry dedicated 19 years to Presbyterian Hospital and its foundation, making a lasting impact through his work in marketing and communications. Known for his cheerful personality and ability to connect with anyone, he brought joy to every room he entered. He was also a man of character and resilience, celebrating 36 years of sobriety.

His love for Wake Forest University ran deep, inspiring him to donate his body to the university's School of Medicine to help others. In an emotional twist, Henry's ashes were returned to his wife, Ann, just before Thanksgiving last month—and poignantly, the day before what would have been their 34th wedding anniversary.

Henry's life was one of service, joy, and deep connections, reflecting the values we hold dear as Rotarians. Let us honor his memory by remembering the kindness and dedication he shared with all of us.

To read the full tribute, visit [The Charlotte Ledger](#) **Ways of Life: The unpredictable timing of a husband's gift**



***Join Us for a Festive Holiday Program with a Twist on December 17th!***

Help spread some holiday cheer at Charlotte Rotary's Holiday Program on Tuesday, Dec. 17th! This year, we're adding a fun and festive twist: an ugly sweater contest!

Dust off your most outrageous holiday sweater—or create a new masterpiece—and come ready to compete for a special prize. Whether it's adorned with tinsel, lights, or a quirky holiday design, your sweater could be the showstopper of the event. Let's celebrate the season together with laughter, fellowship, and a little friendly competition. Don't miss out on the fun!

We look forward to seeing everyone's creative (and perhaps slightly ridiculous) holiday attire!



***Charlotte Rotary Red Kettle Campaign***

The Charlotte Rotary club enters its 30<sup>th</sup> year of support to The Salvation Army's annual Red Kettle Campaign. This support has included volunteer bell ringers at Uptown locations, a raffle, and a **virtual red kettle (online)** to help with fundraising efforts.



We have currently filled all available bell ringing slots for December. If you and your family/friends would still like to ring the bell for The Salvation Army, you can go to [www.registertoring.com](http://www.registertoring.com) to look at other options.

The next week (Dec. 17th) is the last week that raffle tickets will be sold at Rotary meetings for raffle prizes. You can also purchase raffle tickets online by contributing to our **Virtual Red Kettle**. Just click on the QR code below to make your contribution directly. You will receive one raffle ticket for each

\$20 contribution. (i.e. \$100 gift = 5 raffle tickets)

The efforts of Charlotte Rotary will contribute to serving thousands of youth this holiday season and in the coming year. If you have any questions, you can contact [Mark Norman](mailto:Mark.Norman@jwu.edu) at [mark.norman@jwu.edu](mailto:mark.norman@jwu.edu).



**Leaders Save Lives**  
*Make your mark.*  
 HUMANkind

**Rotary Club Of Charlotte  
 Blood Drive**  
**Fairfield Inn & Suites  
 Charlotte Uptown**  
 Ballroom  
 201 S McDowell Street  
 Charlotte, NC 28204  
**Tuesday, December 17th  
 10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.**

American Red Cross



***Christmas Morning at Charlotte Rescue Mission***

Join Charlotte Rotary in continuing its cherished tradition of volunteering at the Charlotte Rescue Mission Christmas morning breakfast! Help serve breakfast, coffee, and juice and spread joy to residents and the community on this special morning.

At least 30 volunteers are needed to make the morning unforgettable. If you're interested, please confirm your attendance by signing up at the link below, or email [Tracy Reading](mailto:Tracy.Reading@treading1@mac.com) at [treading1@mac.com](mailto:treading1@mac.com) directly so he can help you sign up.

Here are the details:

- Date: December 25, 2024
- Time: 6:00 AM – 8:30 AM
- Location: 907 W. 1st St., Charlotte, NC 28202
- Dress Attire: Black pants and a white shirt

Sign Up Here: <https://vhub.at/charlotterotaryclub>

# Beyond the Club

*Find Your Passion in Rotary*



**Mid-Atlantic RLI**

MD • DE • DC • WV • TN • VA • NC • SC

*Discover Your Rotary Passion at the Rotary Leadership Institute*

The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) is a dynamic, multi-district program designed to engage and educate Rotarians through activity-based learning in small group settings. Facilitated by trained RLI faculty, the program offers an excellent opportunity to connect with fellow Rotarians, share ideas, and strengthen your club.

RLI consists of three progressive parts:

- Part 1 introduces the basics of being a Rotarian.
- Part 2 enhances your effectiveness within your Rotary club.
- Part 3 focuses on leadership, club engagement, and international service.

Graduate courses provide a deep dive into Rotary's history and ethical foundations.

Each course is a full-day session (9:00 AM to 3:30 PM) with coffee, snacks, and lunch provided. The next RLI event will be held on January 11th in Kannapolis, NC at Rowan Cabarrus Community College.

Don't miss this opportunity to grow as a Rotarian! Sign up [HERE](#).

# ROTARY DISTRICT NIGHT WITH THE CHARLOTTE HORNETS

IT'S  
GAME  
TIME



Friday, January 31, 2025

Arrive at 4:45 PM for Pre-Game warmups

Tip-Off at 7 PM

Spectrum Center

Charlotte Hornets vs. Los Angeles Clippers

Group Tickets:

[https://hornets.spinzo.com/?  
group=rotary-international--y5et](https://hornets.spinzo.com/?group=rotary-international--y5et)



KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

[HTTPS://WWW.NBA.COM/HORNETS/VISITING](https://www.nba.com/hornets/visiting)

QUESTIONS: NICK BOWE: (704) 688-9057 OR  
NBOWE@HORNETS.COM

## *Charlotte Hornets Rotary Night – January 31st!*

The Charlotte Hornets invite Rotarians from District 7860 to a special Rotary Club Night on Fri., Jan. 31, as they take on the Los Angeles Clippers at the Spectrum Center. Discounted group tickets are available, and all attendees will enjoy a special pre-game experience, watching warmups from Lower-Bowl seats from 4:45–5:30 p.m. Tip-off is at 7 p.m.

Purchase tickets through this link to participate in group experiences: [Hornets Rotary Ticket Link](#)

For questions, contact Nick Bowe at (704) 688-9057 or [nbowe@hornets.com](mailto:nbowe@hornets.com).  
DG Kevin Kendrick hopes to see you there!

## Membership Update

07/01/2024 249

11/30/2024 248

12/10/2024 245 (Resignation: Clayton Woodard)

Guests in attendance: Andrew Bateman (Kim Brattain), Tamesha Hughes-Frazier (J Hill), Chad Frye, Dan Gelles (Roger Sarow), Jim Gilligan (Kim Brattain), Philip Josipovic (Kim Brattain), DG Kevin Kendrick (Charlotte Dilworth South End), Matthew King (Joel Ford), Sophie Lange (John Armistead), Eric Law (Charlotte Dilworth South End), Dan Nance (Tony Zeiss), Allison Rhodes (Margaret Marshall), Jim Stump (Charlotte Dilworth South End), Salim Uqdah (Luther Moore), Bob Wilhelm (DGN Jerry Coughter)

## Milestones (Week of Dec. 17 - Jan. 13)

### Birthdays

18 – John Tabor  
25 – Pender McElroy  
26 – Andy Dinkin  
26 – Carol Ransone  
28 – Kip Kiser  
29 – Clark Goodman  
30 – Ed Kizer  
3 – Anne Cullip  
4 – Doug Bean  
5 – Angela Broome Powley  
6 – Tracy Reading  
8 – Bob Finley  
10 – Shelley Dean  
12 – Tish Atkins Charles

### Member Anniversaries

*35 years:* Jim Woodward  
*33 years:* David Anderson  
*30 years:* Doug Bean  
*25 years:* Brian Gibson  
*24 years:* Benton Bragg  
*24 years:* Russell Ranson  
*20 years:* Tom Cottingham  
*19 years:* Karen Calder  
*16 years:* Gray Langley  
*15 years:* John zumBrunnen  
*9 years (11 total):* Stuart Hair  
*3 years:* Jim Mannix  
*2 years:* Tod Thorne

### Wedding Anniversaries

18 – Lori & Daniel Gougeon  
18 – Mercedes & Jim Hintz  
19 – Pamela & Vernon Goode  
20 – Kristi & Jerry Walters  
28 – Elizabeth Teagarden & Scott Anderson  
30 – Aice & Benton Bragg  
30 – Christine & Rich Duncan  
31 – Samantha & Ben Goebel  
5 – Carole & Kip Kiser

## 2024 - 2025 Board Members

- President Kim Brattain
- President-Elect Patrick Baker
- Immediate Past President Edwin Peacock
- Secretary Bill Gill
- Treasurer Craig Field
- Sergeant at Arms Mike Wollinger

**Current Directors:** Linwood Bolles, Woodson Bradley, Benton S. Bragg, John F. Cantrell, Tish Atkins Charles, Terri DeBoo, Andrew "Andy" B. Dinkin, Dena R. Diorio, Donna Y. Dunlap, Joel D. Ford, Stuart P. Hair, David Head, Jesse G. Hite, Virginia Owen

## Contact Us

For more information about how to get involved, volunteer opportunities and meeting topics, contact Christine Cipriano, Executive Secretary 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 \(jotform.com\)](#)

Rotary Club of Charlotte | 1850 E 3rd St, Ste 220 | Charlotte, NC 28204 US

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