



## Upcoming Events

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

**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.

**Tues., Dec. 10 - Weekly Meeting:** *FBI Special Agent David Katkowski*

**Fri., Dec. 13 - Club Social:** *Rotary Club of Charlotte Holiday Party*, 6–9 p.m., 1115 East Morehead St., Charlotte, 28204. Look for the invitation in your email. Details below.

**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.

**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](mailto:Tracy.Reading@treading1@mac.com) at [treading1@mac.com](mailto:treading1@mac.com). See details below.

**Fri., Jan. 31, 2025 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, 2025 Event:** *CART Event*, The Village on Morehead, 5-7 p.m..

## This Week's Meeting



***Byrd Bergeron***



***Hallie Rojascki***



***Isabella Warner***

***HIGWIA - "How I Got Where I'm At"  
program featuring new members  
Byrd Bergeron, Hallie Rojascki, and Isabella Warner***

**by Elly Clary**

Three women wearing red-bordered new member tags delivered HIGWIAs that revealed a shared trait: A drive to succeed and make a difference.

Their "How I Got Where I'm At" Rotary presentations detailed how they pursue their goals in decidedly different ways.

**Isabella Warner** helps others through her insurance profession and her values. **Hallie Rojascki** teaches "students who learn differently." **Byrd Bergeron** finds stability with her leisure travel company where she helps her female team members create a foundation like the one she has fashioned. **Click here to read more.**

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1037021409>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1036729954>

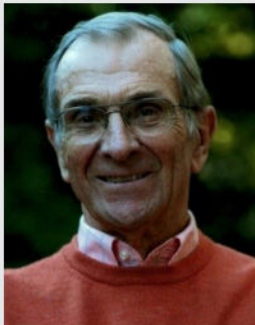
The presenter's introduction begins at approximately 8 minutes and 55 seconds.







## Club News



### *Condolences to the family of Bob Culbertson*

Bob Culbertson, a long time member of Charlotte Rotary, passed away on December 2, 2024, at the age of 92, just three weeks after the death of Peggy, his wife of 70 years. Bob joined Charlotte Rotary on March 1, 1978. After graduating from Auburn University and UNC-Chapel Hill, he co-founded The Morehead Group in Charlotte, building it into a nationally recognized business. Bob was preceded in death by his daughter, Ruth Samuelson, who was also the late wife of long time Rotary member [Ken Samuelson](#). A celebration of Bob's life will be held on December 19, 2024, at Christ Episcopal Church. [Click here to read the full obituary.](#)



### *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 Exceeds Book Donation Goal for Big Brothers Big Sisters!***

A huge round of applause to all Charlotte Rotary members for stepping up in a big way! Not only did we meet our original goal of collecting 125 books for Big Brothers Big Sisters, but we exceeded it by donating 150 books—and they're still coming in! These books will play a vital role in supporting the 165 children that Big Brothers Big Sisters is helping this holiday season. They will go a long way in fostering academic growth, development, and a lifelong love of learning for these kids.

Thank you for showing once again what Rotary is all about—service above self. Together, we're making a difference in the lives of our community's youth.

### ***Update on Good Fellows Luncheon***

Unfortunately, we were unable to secure a table for the Good Fellows Luncheon next week. Thank you to everyone who expressed interest, and we look forward to supporting this important event in the future!



### *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.

Raffle tickets will be sold at Rotary meetings on Dec. 10 and 17 with raffle prizes drawn each week. 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).



Thank you to [Carla DuPuy](#) and [Catherine Bracey](#) for their service to The Salvation Army.



***Rotary Club of Charlotte Holiday Party***  
Hosted by Past President [Edwin & Amy Peacock](#)  
Let's celebrate the season together!

Drop in, mingle, & enjoy an evening of:  
Hors d'oeuvres, Festive Wine & Beer, Great Local Art for Sale

Come as you are, leave when you please, and let's toast to the holidays!

RSVP Required - check your email for the invitation or contact [Christine Cipriano](mailto:Christine.Cipriano@charlotterotary.org) at [christine@charlotterotary.org](mailto:christine@charlotterotary.org)

\$15 per person – Spouses welcome!  
(you'll be billed on your next invoice)

Friday, December 13, 6:00PM – 9:00PM EST  
Art on East Morehead, 1115 East Morehead Street, Charlotte, NC 28204

# 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.**



#### *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: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>





## Doing Good in the World



Peacebuilding  
and Conflict  
Prevention



Disease  
Prevention  
& Treatment



Water,  
Sanitation  
& Hygiene



Maternal &  
Child Health



Basic Education  
& Literacy



Community  
Economic  
Development



Environment

### *Plan Ahead: Make Your Year-End Donations now for Tax Benefits*

As the calendar year comes to a close, now is the perfect time to make your donations to The Rotary Foundation. Contributions made before December 31 are eligible for this year's tax deductions, allowing you to support meaningful causes while also benefiting your financial planning. Your generosity helps fund programs locally and globally, aligning with Rotary's mission of service above self. To donate or learn more, see below, visit <https://my.rotary.org/en/donate> or contact [Christine Cipriano](mailto:christine@charlotterotary.org) at [christine@charlotterotary.org](mailto:christine@charlotterotary.org). Thank you for your continued support!

## Beyond the Club



Click here for the November issue of the District 7680 Newsletter



Friday | 7:00pm

January  
31

Charlotte Hornets vs. Los Angeles Clippers

Spectrum Center

The Charlotte Hornets are delighted to welcome Rotarians from all over District 7860 for a special Rotary Club ticket offer!

Join us on Friday, January 31<sup>st</sup>, 2025 as the Hornets take on the Los Angeles Clippers at the Spectrum Center!

Discounted tickets for members to sit together are available below.

*\*All who purchase are welcome to join us for a special experience 2-hours pre-game to watch a portion of pre-game warmups from the Lower-Bowl seats from 4:45 - 5:30 PM! Details to be delivered by email used at purchase closer to date.*

**You must purchase through this link to be included in any group experiences.** If you have an existing Ticketmaster account, please use the email associated with that account at purchase for faster ticket access.

For any questions or accommodations, please contact Nick Bowe at (704) 688-9057 or [nbowe@hornets.com](mailto:nbowe@hornets.com)

LINK TO PURCHASE TICKETS

<https://hornets.spinzo.com/?group=rotary-international--y5et>

DG Kevin Kendrick hopes to see you at this game, and plan on having a meal at one of their great food vendors.

Corona Bar Area

- Corona Beach Bar (Full-service bar with Beach-inspired options)
- Brixx Pizza (Personal Pizzas)
- House Concession Options (Traditional Stadium Food options: Hot Dogs, Chicken Tenders, Popcorn, etc.)

Food Options also around the Upper Level, and in close proximity to endzone locations:

- Chick-Fil-A personal stand
- Grab & Go food stands with traditional and specialty food & drink items, closer to the sidelines (Joan's Deli Pastrami sandwich, Nashville Hot chicken, BBQ, etc.)



Arrive at the Spectrum Center at 4:45 for our pre-event, Tip-Off is at 7 PM.

Know before you go info  
<https://www.nba.com/hornets/>

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

The Charlotte Hornets invite Rotarians from District 7860 to a special Rotary Club Night on Fri., Jan. 31, 2025, 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

12/03/2024 246 (Resignation: Bob Culbertson, Clayton Woodard)

**Recommended for Membership** (*comments to Rotary office by Dec. 9, 2024*):

**Leslie Fisher, Broker, Premier Sotheby's International Realty**

**Sponsor:** Chris Thomas

**Endorsed:** Bill Barte

**Recommended for Membership** (*comments to Rotary office by Dec. 9, 2024*):

**Ayo Johnson, Executive Director, Mental Health America of Central Carolinas**

**Sponsor:** J Hill

**Endorsed:** Christine Cipriano

**Recommended for Membership** (*comments to Rotary office by Dec. 9, 2024*):

**Robert "Bob" Wilhelm, Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Engineering Science**

**Sponsor:** Jerry Coughter

**Endorsed:** Elly Clary and Bill Gill

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, December 3, 2024: 84

Guests in attendance: John Bauer (Rotary Club of Milwaukee), Kevin Ellis ([J Hill](#)), Jason Field ([Craig Field](#)), Angela Gala ([Karen Calder](#))

## Milestones

### (Week of Dec. 10 - 16)

#### Birthdays

11 - Craig Field

13 - Brooke Reddington

16 - Jim Rogers

#### Member Anniversaries

*18 years:* Bill Constangy

*1 year:* Tara Terry and our friends at The Fletchers School

## 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](https://www.flickr.com/photos/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

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!