



Upcoming Events

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

Tues., Jan. 14 - Weekly Meeting: Todd D. Smith, Executive Director, Bechtler Museum of Modern Art

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

Thurs, Feb. 20 - Club Event: Minds Matter! Event to Support Alzheimer's Research, Thurs., Feb. 20 at The Village on Morehead, 5-7 p.m. See below for details.

This Week's Meeting



*Jennifer "Jen" Thompson,
11-time International Powerlifting Federation World
Powerlifting Champion*

by Bill Barte

Strength. Its genesis, purpose, and cultivation were all on display during Jen Thompson's conversation with Charlotte Rotary Executive Secretary, **Christine Cipriano**. The two have been friends and acquaintances since the Cipriano children had Thompson as a teacher. She has been a teacher for 28 years. The first portion as a math teacher, but now teaching electives. However, the evolution of Jen Thompson into one of the top powerlifting athletes in the world was the amazing personal story that she brought to our audience.

Thompson is an 11-time International Powerlifting Federation (IPF) World Champion and recognized globally for her accomplishments and advocacy for strength, health, and fitness. The mother of two was introduced to weight-lifting by her future husband and his invitation to lift and work-out in their home gym.

The sport has grown in popularity with the advance of CrossFit across the country. However, many CrossFit athletes seeking to escape the aerobic portion of the workout are drawn to Powerlifting. Powerlifting includes the three disciplines: Squat, Bench Press, and Deadlift. **Click here to read more.**

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

With slides: <https://vimeo.com/1044795053>

Without slides: <https://vimeo.com/1044801659>

The introduction started at 23 minutes and 50 seconds.





Club News



Living the Rotary 4-Way Test in the New Year

As we step into a new year, it's the perfect time to reflect on Rotary's guiding principles: the Object of Rotary and the 4-Way Test. These timeless ideals challenge us to uphold high ethical standards, foster goodwill, and serve our communities with purpose.

The Object of Rotary encourages us to view our professional and personal lives as opportunities for service. It inspires us to build meaningful relationships, apply service ideals in all areas of life, and advance peace and understanding through fellowship.

The 4-Way Test reminds us to consider:

1. Is it the TRUTH?
2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?
3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?
4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

These questions guide Rotarians in making decisions that align with our commitment to integrity and service above self.

Let's embrace these principles in 2025, ensuring our actions reflect the best of Rotary in our homes, workplaces, and communities. Together, we can make a positive difference and live the values we hold dear.

Congratulations to Dena Diorio, Cornerstone Award



Honoree!

Congratulations to Charlotte Rotarian, **Dena Diorio** on receiving the Cornerstone Award from the Charlotte Region Commercial Board of REALTORS. This honor recognizes her remarkable contributions to Mecklenburg County and her outstanding leadership in fostering collaboration between public service and community development.

Dena's visionary leadership has been instrumental in driving meaningful progress and creating a stronger, more connected Charlotte. Her dedication to serving the community exemplifies the Rotary spirit of service above self.

Please join us in celebrating Dena's well-deserved recognition and her continued commitment to making a difference in our region.



Charlotte's Better Business Bureau Wins National Recognition

The Better Business Bureau of Southern Piedmont, led by Charlotte Rotarian and BBB President **Paul Bartholomy**, has earned a prestigious accolade, being named the recipient of the National 2024 Outstanding Operations Achievement Award by the International Association of Better Business Bureaus.

This award, a significant national honor, highlights the exceptional work and dedication of Charlotte's BBB in fostering trust between businesses and consumers. Congratulations to Paul and his entire team for this well-deserved recognition and for continuing to set the standard for excellence in service and operations.



Carolina Ascent Scores Big with National Awards

Charlotte's own USL Superleague women's professional soccer team, the Carolina Ascent, continues to make waves both on and off the pitch, earning two significant honors.

First, Sydney Studer, the Ascent's standout defender, was named to the Super League's Team of the Month, showcasing her exceptional performance and impact on the field.

Second, the team received the GOAL CHAMPION "Kit of the Year" Award, a recognition celebrating not only excellence in soccer but also outstanding efforts in sales, marketing, and fan engagement. These achievements highlight the Ascent's growing influence on

women's sports, energizing fans in the Charlotte region and beyond.

A special shout-out to Charlotte Rotarian and Past President **Marilynn Bowler**, who is leading public relations for the Carolina Ascent and playing a key role in their success. Congratulations to the team and all who support their journey!

A BRAIN HEALTH WORKSHOP EVENT



Minds Matter!

A CART Benefit for Alzheimer's Research



February 20, 2025
5-7 PM



The Village at Morehead
727 E Morehead St
Free Valet Parking

Unlock the secrets to caring for your brain
while benefiting Alzheimer's Research.



\$40 Individual Tickets

Sponsorships Available: Contact Tish Atkins,
Margaret Donovan or Mike Wollinger for details.



\$250 "Thanks for the Memories"

*Profits benefit the Rotary CART Fund

Register At

www.CharlotteRotary.org

704-375-6816

Minds Matter! Event to Support Alzheimer's Research

Thurs., Feb. 20, 5-7 p.m. at The Village at Morehead, 727 E. Morehead St.

The Rotary Club of Charlotte is excited to host "Minds Matter!", a special benefit event supporting the CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) Fund.

Individual tickets are \$40, and sponsorship opportunities are available to honor a loved one. Thanks to a generous donor, we have already secured a \$2,500 matching grant, ensuring your contributions make an even greater impact.

All profits from the event will directly benefit the Rotary CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust) Fund, advancing research to find a cure for Alzheimer's disease. Click here to register for this meaningful evening of community and support for a vital cause! Together, we can make a difference! **Click here to sign up!**

Rotarians in the Community



Christmas Morning at Charlotte Rescue Mission – A Heartwarming Success!

Charlotte Rotary continued its cherished tradition of serving breakfast at the Charlotte Rescue Mission on Christmas morning, bringing joy and holiday cheer to the community.

With over 30 dedicated volunteers stepping up, the event was a tremendous success. Rotarians, friends, and family served a delicious breakfast, coffee, and juice, spreading warmth and smiles to everyone who attended.

Thank you to all who participated in making this special morning unforgettable. Your efforts truly embody the spirit of Rotary and the meaning of the holiday season!

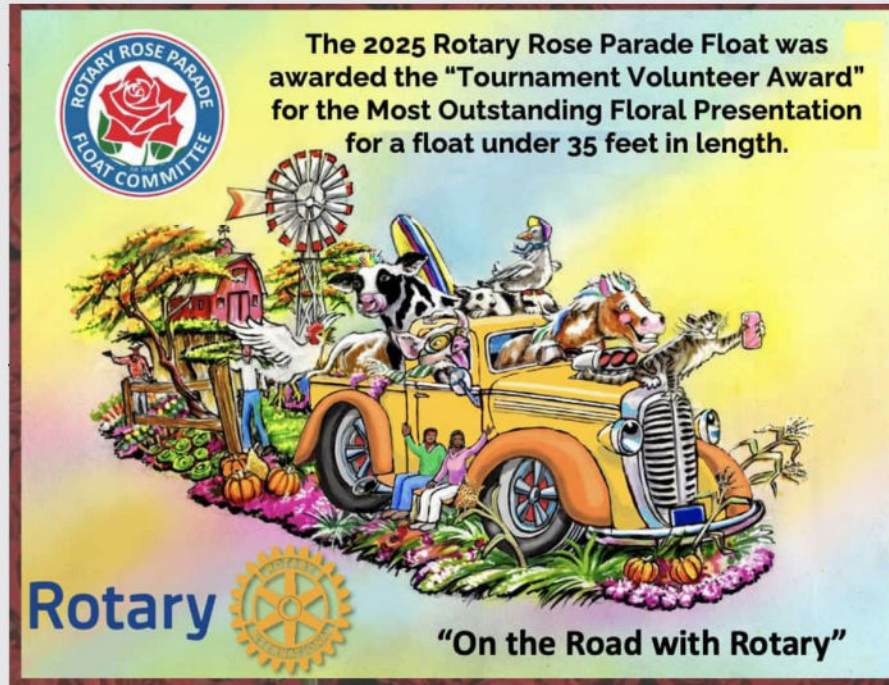


Rotarians in action!

Our District recently received a \$25,000 disaster relief grant from the Rotary Zones 33-34 Foundation to support Bounty and Soul, a food bank serving the Black Mountain and Swannanoa areas. As part of this grant, three Charlotte Rotarians, Past President **William Bradley**, Charlotte Past President and District

Governor Nominee **Jerry Coughter**, and **Mark Norman**, rolled up their sleeves for hands-on volunteer work. Rotarians stepped in to pack food and lend support. This incredible teamwork showcases the Rotary spirit of service above self!

Beyond the Club



Rotary Shines at the 2025 Rose Bowl Parade

If you have not already seen the Rotary International float at the Rose Parade, click on the photo above to see the float in action. As RI kicked off the New Year in grand style by participating in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena, CA, this year's Tournament of Roses Parade theme, "Best Day Ever," was beautifully represented with Rotary International's 2024-25 theme, "The Magic of Rotary." The float, "On the Road With Rotary," captivated audiences as it celebrated the power of service, goodwill, and friendship.

Rotarians came together with creativity and dedication to design and build a spectacular float that showcased our commitment to uplifting communities worldwide. Positioned at #46 in the lineup, the float was a vibrant symbol of Rotary as People of Action, inspiring viewers with our shared mission of making a difference.

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.
DG Kevin Kendrick hopes to see you there!

Membership Update

07/01/2024 249
12/31/2024 244
01/07/2025 240

(Resignations: Jim Barnhardt, Don Carmichael, Chris Jackson, Diego Ramon)

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, January 7, 2025: 105

Guests in attendance: Carla Carlisle (J Hill), Julie Dibella (Christine Cipriano), Wally Olson (Christine Cipriano), Colin Pinkney (Byrd Bergeron), Salim Uqdah (Rotary Peace Fellow)

Milestones (Week of Jan. 14 - 20)

Birthdays

14 – Joe Morris
16 - Joel Ford
18 - Chuck Howard
19 - Greg Reagan
20 - Tony Zeiss

Wedding Anniversaries

17 – Ella & Howard Hoyle

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



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 \(jotform.com\)](#)



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