



Upcoming Events

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

*Month of February service focus:
Scouting for Food. See below for details.*

Tues., Feb. 18 - Weekly Meeting: *HIGWIA featuring President-Nominee Bill Bartee, JD DuPuy, J Hill, and Robert Shaw*

Wed., Feb. 19 - Leadership Impact Group (LIG) Monthly Meeting, 5:30 p.m., Lost World Brewing, 1100 Metropolitan Ave., Suite 165, Charlotte. See details below.

***This week!* 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.

Sat., Mar. 15 - Interact Event: St. Patrick's Day Parade, 10:45-11:30 a.m. Details to come.

Tues., April 1 - Club Event: American Red Cross Blood Drive. Sign up here. Sponsor Code is : CharlotteRotary. See details below.

Save the Date! May 2-3 - District 7680 Conference. Details to follow.

July 17-20 - District Event: Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) Gardner-Webb University. Volunteer and Scholarship Opportunities and open to High School rising Juniors and Seniors. See below for details.

This Week's Meeting



SUPERWOMAN spoke to Charlotte Rotary on Tuesday

by **Marilynn Bowler**

For this year's prestigious Excellence In Leadership Award presentation, the meeting ballroom at Fairfield Inn & Suites was packed full. The program of recognition for incredible service to Charlotte-Mecklenburg and its surrounding areas is always something special because we are fortunate to have in our city and county a wealth of smart, dedicated, generous, wise, and savvy leaders who are committed to bettering our entire region.

The list of past recipients is an astounding tribute to this Award and what it means to Charlotte Rotary and our community-at-large and Tuesday's presentation defined that and MORE because this year's winner is truly "Excellent" with a capital "E."

Dena Diorio is self-made, and she took us on her journey looking back to her childhood when a Guidance Counselor commented to Dena's mother that Dena was "not college material." Much to her mother's credit, her inspirational comeback was, "My daughter *is* going to college." She could not have said it more strongly which took hold in Dena's brain and set off a determination to live up to her Mom's confidence in her. **Click here to read more.**

A recording of the meeting can be found here:

With Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1056050955>

Without Slides: <https://vimeo.com/1056467604>

The presenter's introduction begins at approximately 27 minutes and 35 seconds.





Club News



Welcome to Jim Gilligan!

Jim Gilligan is a retired leader, military veteran, and dedicated community volunteer. A Kansas native, Jim built an impressive career in business and international management. After earning his undergraduate degree at Emporia State University, he pursued graduate studies at Arizona State University and earned an MBA in International Management from Thunderbird Graduate School. His career path took him through key roles in marketing and international projects before he founded and led American Pricemark Company, a national and international distributor of barcoding and inventory control systems. For 26 years, he successfully ran the company before selling it to a private equity group. Before his business career, Jim served in the U.S. Air Force, spending three years in Europe with the 49th Tactical Fighter Wing and completing assignments in Africa, Vietnam, and the Middle East. After his honorable discharge, he pursued his education while working in the banking industry. An aviation enthusiast, Jim is a licensed private pilot who owned and flew his own aircraft. His passion for sports includes years of competitive

baseball and basketball in college, as well as 12 years of senior league softball in Florida. A dedicated fisherman and golfer, he remains active in both hobbies. Beyond professional and recreational pursuits, Jim has a strong commitment to community service. He has served on the Naples Airport Authority's Noise Compatibility Committee, volunteered in hurricane recovery efforts, and contributed to the "Al's Pals" charity supporting migrant farmworkers. He and his wife are also engaged in Charlotte's cultural scene as season ticket holders at the Blumenthal Theater and members of the Learning Society at Queens University.

Now settled in Charlotte, Jim looks forward to joining Rotary for its opportunities in service, learning, and fellowship. *Welcome Jim!*



Rotary Club member [Mark Markanda](#) recently attended the International Assembly in Orlando, FL, where he had the opportunity to connect with Rotary leaders from around the world. In the first photo, Mark is pictured with Jennifer E. Jones, who made history as the first woman to serve as Rotary International President (2022-2023). The second photo features Mark with the currently Rotary International President Stephanie Urchick, who began her term as Rotary International President July 1, 2024, continuing Rotary's legacy of leadership and service.



Rotary Club member [Mark Markanda](#) also shared a proud moment as his daughter, Tina, was honored as an Arch Klumph Society Trustee Circle member at a special event. In the photo, Mark and Tina are joined by Gay, Past Rotary International President Holger Knaack (2020-2021) and his wife Susan, as well as Larry Lunsford, Vice Chair of The Rotary Foundation Trustees, and his wife Jill. The following day, Tina received further recognition in front of all incoming District Governors from over 200 countries during a general session of The Rotary Foundation, attended by past Rotary International Presidents and Foundation Trustees.

Scouting for Food

Each Tuesday during the month of February, Charlotte Rotary is supporting the 2025 Scouting for Food drive that supports their partner agency, **Nourish Up**.



Bring in non-perishable food items (minus items in glass or expired items) to each club meeting for collection.

Priority needs include:

- canned fruits
- canned meats
- canned pastas
- canned vegetables

Questions? Contact [Jonathan Russell](mailto:jonathan.russell@scouting.org) at jonathan.russell@scouting.org



Leadership Impact Group Monthly Meeting

Wed., Feb. 19 5:30-7 p.m., Lost Worlds Brewing

Join LIG for an evening featuring an expert panel of community leaders discussing the challenges and opportunities within Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools (CMS). Panelists include **Sonja Gantt** (Former News Anchor & Executive Director, CMS Foundation), **Ashelyn James** (Director, CMS Foundation), **Kristen Howard** (VP, Government & Community Relations, Novant Health), and **Raki**

McGregor (Chief Executive in Residence, CMS & Charlotte Executive Leadership Council). The discussion will cover the biggest challenges facing CMS, the role of the CMS Foundation, and why education should be a top priority for young professionals and families alike. Learn how you can make a meaningful impact through fundraising, volunteering, and advocacy.



Minds Matter! Event to Support Alzheimer's Research

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 with an opportunity to feature your loved one at \$250, as well as sponsorship opportunities. 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 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!

February 20, 2025 (5-7 pm)
The Village at Morehead
Click here to register.

Join us for an evening dedicated to benefiting Alzheimer's research! Let's come together to support an incredible cause, inspire hope, and take action for healthier minds.

Thank you to our sponsors:



Why attend Minds Matter! A Cause Worth Supporting

Who has been touched by Alzheimer's? Thank you to club member **Terri DeBoo** for sharing the story of her father-in-law, Robert DeBoo. Terri shared with us the story of a brilliant man—an engineer, a Navy officer, a devoted



husband and father of nine, and a pioneer in fiber optics. He stayed healthy, won senior Olympic medals, and took no medication except for Alzheimer's treatment at the end of his life. Despite everything, this disease still came for him.

Alzheimer's knows no boundaries. It steals the brightest minds, the strongest spirits. But we have a way to fight back—through CART. The Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust funds cutting-edge research, ensuring no time or resources are wasted in the search for a cure.

Join the fight. Here's how you can help:

1. Attend the **Minds Matter!** CART Event on Feb. 20 – Buy tickets, bring friends, and enjoy a fun evening including the extraordinary talent of Past President **Katie Tyler**.
2. **Donate** – **Click here to attend or donate**, drop cash in the buckets at the meetings, or become an event sponsor. Every \$250 donation includes two tickets to Minds Matter! and sponsor recognition.
3. Make a pledge – Any amount makes a difference. Contact Margaret Donovan at margaret@donovancoaching.com

There is a \$2,500 matching gift, and the fundraising goal for this event is \$10,000. Your generosity can change lives. *Let's fight for the minds that matter.*

American Red Cross

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive **Rotary Club of Charlotte** **at Fairfield Inn & Suites** **by Marriott**

Ballroom
201 S McDowell St
Charlotte, NC 28204

Tuesday, April 1, 2025
10:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

To make an appointment or for more information,
please call 1-800-REDCROSS (1-800-733-2767)
or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter
Sponsor Code "CharlotteRotary".

Bring your Red Cross Donor Card or Photo ID.

Come give April 1 to 13 for \$15 Gift Card (email)
plus chance to win \$5K prize. See rcblood.org/hope



1-800-RED CROSS | 1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org | Download the Blood Donor App

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Beyond the Club

SAVE THE DATE!!



2025 CART
ANNUAL MEETING
FRIDAY, JUNE 13, 2025
CHARLOTTE, NC
DETAILS COMING SOON

SPECIAL THANKS TO ROTARY DISTRICT
7680 GOVERNOR KEVIN KENDRICK

Save the Date! Join CART in the "Queen City" as they celebrate their 30th Anniversary in a BIG WAY!

The event will be held on Friday, June 13, in Charlotte, NC. More details to follow but mark your calendars now!

Thanks to District 7680 Governor Kevin Kendrick and everyone in that district for their willingness to host CART in 2025!

Rotary District 7680



SEMINAR FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERS



APPLY HERE



SUMMER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE



Unlock your potential this summer with the ROTARY 7680 leadership program!

OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:

- ✓ For Rising Juniors and Seniors in High School
- ✓ July 17-20, 2025
- ✓ Gardner Webb University
- ✓ Designed by Center for Creative Leadership



MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION <https://rotary7680.org/sftl/>

Exciting Opportunities or the 2025 Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL)

Mark your calendars! The dates for the 2025 Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) have been set: July 17-20, 2025, with volunteers arriving on July 16.

This transformative leadership experience will take place at Gardner-Webb University and is open to rising high school juniors and seniors.

We are thrilled to offer several ways for you to get involved:

- **Scholarship Opportunities:** Support students by sponsoring their participation in this life-changing event.
- **Volunteer Opportunities:** Join our dedicated team and help make this event unforgettable for tomorrow's leaders. ([Click here to volunteer.](#))
- **Student Participation:** Encourage rising juniors and seniors in your community to apply and take part in this exceptional leadership development program. ([Click here to nominate your student.](#))

For more details on how to volunteer, apply, or sponsor a student, contact Scott Van Der Linden, Governor 2017-2018, Rotary Club of Charlotte South, SVanDerLinden7@gmail.com or 704.574.5000. The deadline is April 11.

Don't miss the chance to shape the leaders of tomorrow!

Membership Update

07/01/2024 249
01/28/2025 241
02/11/2025 243

Meeting Attendance - Tuesday, February 11, 2025: 107

Guests in attendance: Brittney Bogues ([J Hill](#)), George Dunlap (Club Guest), Luther Fincher (Club Guest), Arthur Griffin (Club Guest), Erik Haas ([J Hill](#)), Kerin Hughes ([Kim Brattain](#)), Mark Jerrell ([Dena Diorio](#)), DG Kevin Kendrick (Club Guest), Tony Marciano (Club Guest), Michael Marsicano (Club Guest), Pat McCrory (Club Guest), Suzette Nedrich ([Dena Diorio](#)), Pat Rodgers (Club Guest), Joan Zimmerman ([David Zimmerman](#))

Milestones (Week of Feb. 18 - 24)

Birthdays

19 - Warren Kean
20 - Brian Gibson
23 - Dena Diorio

Rotary Anniversaries

27 years: Luther Moore
22 years: Pender McElroy
6 years: Chuck Dahlgren
2 years: Virginia Owen

Wedding Anniversaries

20 - Terri & Mark DeBoo
20 - Harriett & Steve Porter
23 - Joy & Hunter Widener

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: 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 \(jotform.com\)](#)

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

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