

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Wednesday, December 11, 2024



Today's Meeting - December 12, 2024 - "Silver Tsunami"

By Richard T. Devereaux on Friday, December 6, 2024

Club Meeting

Asheville
Meets at TUTION HALL,
TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH. To request a
Zoom simulcast link email
avrotary1915@gmail.com.
60 Church St
Asheville, NC 28801
Time: Thursday at 12:30
PM

Speakers

December 12, 2024

Dr. William McLean
Silver Tsunami

December 19, 2024

Paul Keckley
Landscape of Healthcare
Today

January 09, 2025

Tom Hartye
Metropolitan Sewerage
District



Good morning fellow Rotarians! Today we'll hear from MAHEC's Dr. Will McLean. His topic: Health Care for an Aging Population otherwise known as the "Silver Tsunami." You won't want to miss it!

Will McLean, MD is a family physician specializing in the care of older adults who works for [Mountain Area Health Education Center \(MAHEC\)](#). He is co-director of MAHEC's Center for Healthy Aging and the Medical Director of Deerfield Episcopal Retirement Community. His practice encompasses the outpatient clinic setting, community home visits, nursing home, and the hospital. An Asheville native, he is married to his wife, Caroline. When not working he joyously wrangles his 7 year old son, Lee, and 3 year old daughter, Virginia, and loves getting outside.

Join us in person and enjoy a great lunch, or [via Zoom by clicking here](#).

Click below to electronically contribute Happy Dollars, Fines, and donations to our Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation, Inc.

Donate



Coming Events

December 18th

Thirsty Third
Wednesday

January 1st
Urban Hike

"We Still Need Your Help!"

By Eva-Michelle G. Spicer on Wednesday, December 11, 2024

Club Leaders



Eva-Michelle G. Spicer
President



David Mans
President-Elect



Michelle Daniels
President-Nominee
Club Director
International



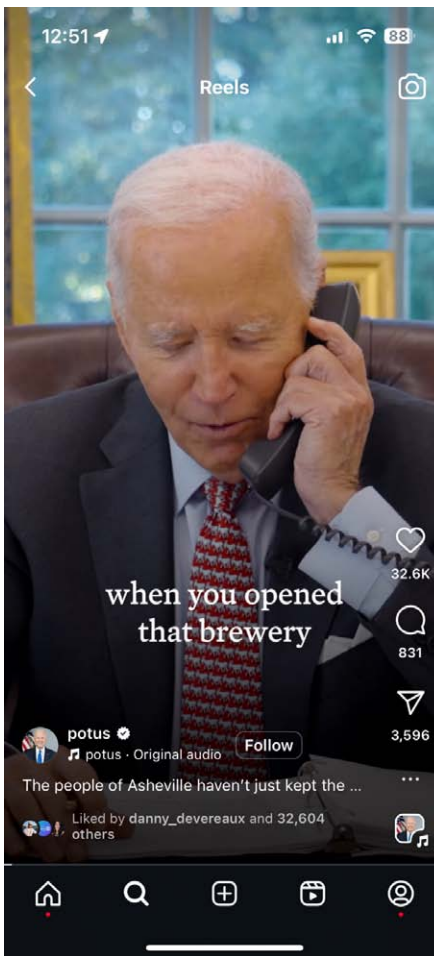
Helene Aftermath: Thanks ... but we Still Need Your Help!


Rotary Club of Asheville
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Asheville Rotarian Takes Call from POTUS!

Friday, December 6, 2024

A PROUD Moment for Highland Brewing, Oscar Wong, and Rotarians everywhere! Click on the pics below to watch this amazing call from President Joe Biden!



Holiday Party Spreads Goodwill and Friendships

By Katherine Carmichael Morosani on Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Service Chair
[Betty A. Doll](#)
 Secretary

[Cathy Early](#)
 Treasurer

[Anthony D Lynch](#)
 Attendance Secretary
 Sergeant-at-Arms

[Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.](#)
 Club Director
 Membership Chair

[Janet L. Whitworth](#)
 Treasurer

[Timothy L Owings](#)
 Club Director
 Rotary Foundation Chair

[Steven Shreiber](#)
 Sergeant-at-Arms

[Tracy Fames](#)
 Club Public Image Chair

[Alexander P. Pence](#)
 Club Director
 Community Service Chair
 Club Service Chair

[Zachary F. Lamb](#)
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[Marcia Whitney](#)
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[Richard T. Devereaux](#)
Diversity Equity & Inclusion Webmaster



[Dwayne Richardson](#)
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[Chris Werte](#)
Diversity Equity & Inclusion



[Virginia Lawrence](#)
Bulletin Editor
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr
Club Director



[David T. Kaverman](#)
Club Director
Youth Protection Officer
Youth Services Chair



[Carol E. Bornstein](#)
Club Fund Raising Chair



[Albert Davis](#)
RYLA Point of Contact



[Patrick A. Snyder](#)
iPast President



Thanks to all who attended the Rotary Holiday Party on Sunday, December 8. We were able to TripleF - Food, Fellowship and FUN! To re-cap: the Ugly Sweater theme was a big hit! Julie Adams awarded six prizes for Ugliest Sweater, Prettiest Ugly Sweater, Best not Christmas Ugly Sweater, Best Sparkling, Best non-Sweater ugly sweater, and other?? We also reflected on our favorite thing about Rotary and people read each other's thoughts. Thank you to David McCartney and his Arras Hotel Team for their warm hospitality!



Birthdays

- Margot Baron
December 11th
- Glenn W. Wilcox
December 11th
- Paul Hyler
December 12th
- Carol C. Hensley
December 13th
- David K Snider Sr.
December 13th
- Lawrence E. Thompson III
December 14th
- Edward Broadwell Jr.
December 17th
- Mark E Chase

December 18th
 Robert C. Kendrick
 December 20th
 Donald K. Reback
 December 25th
 Carolyn Cronin
 December 26th
 Eva-Michelle G. Spicer
 December 27th
 Anna Peddy
 December 28th
 Kyle Parks
 December 28th
 Edward L. Bleynat Jr.
 December 31st
 Robby Cusic
 January 1st
 Colleen S. Dieterly
 January 4th



Wedding Anniversaries

Tanya N. Fletcher
 December 12th
 Bruce L. Waller Jr.
 December 18th
 Lucian Undreiu
 December 29th
 David Mans
 December 29th
 R. Scott White
 January 6th

Spreading Warmth and Holiday Cheer

By Alan L. West on Friday, December 6, 2024



A few days ago, one of our own--Alan West--sprung into action to address an emerging need for Helene victims brought on by the recent frigid cold temperatures.

Alan says, "I had the privilege of delivering much-needed heaters to a family in the Old Fort area through our Rotary Club of Asheville. Sylvia (pictured here), a dedicated mother of four beautiful children—a six-year-old boy, three-year-old twins (a boy and a girl), and a one-year-old boy—has been facing challenges many of us can't imagine, especially as the colder months set in.

When I asked Sylvia about her Christmas wishes, her heartfelt response truly moved me: "We want love in our hearts, a Christmas tree, and some clothes and shoes for the kids."

Many thanks to Alan for demonstrating why Rotarians are called "People of Action"!

Club Tops Over \$250K in Donations for Helene Relief

By Lee Scott on Thursday, December 5, 2024

At our December 5 Rotary meeting, Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation treasurer Lee Scott gave a report on funds received from all over the country in response to our club's Hurricane Helene recovery efforts. Here are the numbers:



- **\$256k of donations received to date ... and counting**
- \$131k of relief has already been used for supplies or grants within the region
- 245 donations in total (as of today) ... averaging around \$1,000/donation
- Funds have been received from 38 states (top ranked states below)
- North Carolina = 37 donations
- California = 31 donations
- New York = 23 donations
- Ohio = 18 donations
- Funds have even been received from 2 foreign countries
- Funds received from 43 Rotary Clubs

The stats are important, but the sentiments expressed in accompanying letters and notes have

been even more intense and meaningful. Here's one example from a couple in California.

Gentlemen,

A few years ago we were members of Rotary in Santa Rosa, CA. We had some very large fires and received many funds from other Rotary Clubs everywhere.

Though no longer in Rotary, we personally wanted to help. Please find enclosed a couple of checks. Good luck with all your efforts.

This was one of the first checks we received. The

note is simple and sweet, yet somewhat prophetic stating in the past this couple had "received many funds from Rotary clubs everywhere." We are receiving exactly that level of impact today from Rotarians near and far. It is a great feeling! It really personifies what it means to be a Rotarian.

December 5, 2024 Meeting Summary

By Richard T. Devereaux on Friday, December 6, 2024

We enjoyed three wonderful **new member talks** from **Sarah Cockman, Beverly Jurenko, and Danielle Kwasnik**. As always, it was a definite crowd-pleaser. In case you missed the meeting, [click here for a summary provided by our talented Zoom AI Assistant :-\)](#)





Helene Volunteer Opportunities

By Alan L West on Friday, December 6, 2024

Rotary

PEOPLE OF ACTION



As "People of Action," we embody "Service

Above Self" in all we do. Our community needs us now, and we have meaningful opportunities for you to make an impact. One of these opportunities is urgent—we need volunteers tomorrow, Saturday, December 7, for Hearts with Hands at Owen Middle School.

Volunteer Opportunities

1. URGENT NEED: Hearts with Hands

- **What:** Supply unload and sort.
- **When:** Tomorrow, Saturday, December 7, 5:30 PM – 8:30 PM (approx.)
- **Where:** 730 Old US Hwy 70, Swannanoa, NC.
- **Sign Up:** [Click here to register](#) (You'll receive a confirmation email with exact timing).

2. Hearts with Hands – Warehouse Support

- **What:** Receive, sort, and pack donated supplies or prepare for Christmas events.
- **When:** Monday–Friday, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
- **Where:** 850 Warren Wilson Rd., Swannanoa, NC.
- **Sign Up:** [Complete Volunteer Form](#) | [Sign up for shifts](#).

3. La Milpa

- **What:** Distribute supplies or warehouse support.
- **When:** Wednesdays, Fridays, Sundays (through December 20). - Please call Alan Ramirez at 828-808-7311 for confirmation
 - Shift 1: 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM.
 - Shift 2: 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.
- **Where:** Likely 21 Westside Dr., Asheville, NC. - Please call Alan Ramirez at 828-808-7311 for confirmation
- **Sign Up:** [First Time Volunteer Form](#).

4. Energy Savers Network

- **What:** Provide energy-saving solutions and critical repairs to those in need.
- **When:** Most days, two shifts available:
 - 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM.
 - 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM.
- **Where:** Varies by assignment.
- **Sign Up:** [Event Calendar](#).

Let's Make a Difference

We encourage you to seize these opportunities to serve. For those volunteering, please wear your Rotary apparel, proudly represent our Club, and remember to capture lots of photos. Share your moments of service to inspire others and show the strength of our Rotary family.

Your service makes a profound difference in the lives of those we touch. Together, let's continue to build a stronger, more compassionate community. If you have any questions at all please call me at 832-458-6227.

Yours in Service,
Alan West
Disaster Relief Volunteer Coordinator
Rotary Club of Asheville

Rotary Club of Asheville Offers Disaster Relief Grant

Friday, November 22, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Kyle Parks
Parks PR, (813) 352-1325
kyle@parkspublicrelations.com

Rotary Club of Asheville Offers Disaster Relief Grant to Support Recovery Efforts in Western North Carolina

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (November 22, 2024) — The Rotary Club of Asheville has launched a Disaster Relief Grant program to aid in the recovery and rebuilding efforts following the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Helene.

Rotary Clubs and individuals in the United States and Canada have contributed more than \$150,000 in donations to help support this initiative, which will provide financial assistance to eligible organizations in our community.

Nonprofits, schools, and government agencies with 501(c)(3) status are invited to apply for grants of up to \$5,000. The Rotary Club of Asheville Disaster Relief Committee will evaluate applications on a bi-weekly basis, ensuring that funds are distributed efficiently to those with the greatest need.

"Our mission is to support recovery and rebuilding efforts for those affected by Tropical Storm Helene," said Janet Whitworth, chair of the Rotary Club of Asheville's Disaster Relief Committee. "We are proud to collaborate with Rotary Clubs across North America to help Western North Carolina."

Interested organizations are encouraged to submit a project budget, their most recent IRS Form 990 or year-end financial statements, and any supplementary materials. Applications can be [submitted online](#) or emailed directly to Janet Whitworth at jwhitworth711@gmail.com.

The Rotary Club of Asheville will continue the grant process until the funds have been fully utilized, to make sure that the community receives the necessary support to rebuild and recover.

For more information or to submit an application, visit www.rotaryasheville.org

About the Rotary Club of Asheville:

The Rotary Club of Asheville is a service club of engaged and passionate members who desire to do good in the community and world while honoring shared ethics and core values. The club, which has over 165 members from a wide range of backgrounds, finds ways to help the community at local, national, and international levels. This can involve anything from doing volunteer projects overseas to finding ways to support nonprofits in Asheville and Buncombe County. For more information, visit <https://www.rotaryasheville.org/>.

Rotarians Serve Thanksgiving Cheer to the VRQ

By Thomas G. Leavesley on Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Ten members of our club got up early Thanksgiving morning to serve breakfast to dozens of Veterans at ABCCM's Veterans' Restoration Quarters (VRO). Many



thanks to Tom Leavesley, President Eva-Michelle, and their team of Rotarians for demonstrating "Service Above Self" on this special day. Here's an excerpt from the thank you note from the VRQ's Volunteer Coordinator:

Just want to express our thanks for the beautiful hot breakfast you brought on Thanksgiving morning! What a great way to start the holiday!

Although I wasn't there for it, I have heard a number of comments from the men about how good it was. They don't get hot breakfasts very often, so this was a treat.

Please pass on our thanks to everyone who helped. Taking the time and effort to organize that breakfast and come out early in the morning on Thanksgiving to serve it is a gift not lost on the men - they are most appreciative. Your efforts made them feel loved and cared for. Thank you!!!

God bless you!

Ruth Lolo

*Volunteer Coordinator
Veterans' Restoration Quarters (VRQ)*



Songwriters in the Round Hits the Jackpot!

By Marvin M. Thomas III on Wednesday, December 4, 2024

Last month's Nashville Songwriters in the Round fundraiser at Highland Brewery was a huge success. Longtime event co-chair Marvin Thomas summed it up well:

*"We hope those of you who were able to attend had a great time! Our efforts produced **\$47,750** that will provide scholarships to a number of Buncombe County students who now, more than ever, need a hand to make their dreams come true. THANK YOU ALL!"*

[Here's a link to the event program](#) with all the details on those amazing Nashville performers.



Owen Middle's Flood Damaged Library Holds Book Fair

By Janet L. Whitworth on Tuesday, December 10, 2024

Update: Rotary-sponsored free book fair at Owen Middle empties the shelves!

Thank you so much for helping me put this together for our community. We've been through so much and I am glad to be able to give something positive to them during the holiday season. I really could not have done this without the support of all of you. Thank you so much ?? I will send more pictures at the end of the Fair to show all our empty shelves!

- Alicia Rogers, Media Specialist



Our Rotary club has an opportunity to help children in the Swannanoa community. Owen Middle School needs to replenish their books. See message below from the school's resource coordinator:



1. We are replenishing books that students had checked out from our school library, but were lost or damaged by the storm.
2. Building up our school library (we had a bit of a mold issues a couple years back, so we're slowly stocking up the shelves again)
3. We had to cancel our Scholastic Book Fair this year, but through these donations and some support from a couple other schools, we will be doing a FREE book fair for all our kids the week of Dec. 9th. This way kids can still have the same fun of a book fair, but without any cost to them or their families.

A registry of books their media specialist would like is on [Bookshop.org](https://www.bookshop.org) and titled Owen Middle Helene Book Fair. [Here is link to go there directly.](#) Books will ship directly to Owen Middle School in Swannanoa.

Thank you!
Rotary Club of Asheville Disaster Relief Committee

Christmas Angel Opportunity

By Eva-Michelle G. Spicer on Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Tis the season to help our neighbors! The ABCCM Christmas Angel Christmas Shop is set up at Abernathy United Methodist Church (1418 Patton Ave) and they need volunteers! If you find yourself with a little bit of free time and can help them package up Holiday gifts for children in need, please email jordan.linkston@abccm.org. Shifts are from 10a-1p, 1p-4p and 4p-6p. **They especially need volunteers this Thursday, December 5!** I was there today and it's tons of fun to "shop" for kids and fill their wishlists with donated toys!

If you have treasure but not time to donate, you can also shop the most requested items on this [Amazon wishlist](#) or feel free to bring a toy to the meeting on Thursday and I'll take it to the Christmas Shop!



With Holiday Cheer, Mrs. Claus (aka Eva-Michelle)

Sign Up for Salvation Army Bell Ringing

By Alexander P. Pence on Tuesday, November 26, 2024



It's time to sign up for Salvation Army Bell Ringing! We'll be looking for members to sign up for 2-hour shifts from 10am to 8pm on Thursday, December 19 at Sam's Club. If you'd like to volunteer, [click on this link to email Alex Pence](#). Thanks!!

People of Action Nominations

By Patrick A. Snyder on Wednesday, December 4, 2024



Help us with the 2025 People of Action Gala by nominating your hero before Jan 8th!

Nomination Form Link: [https://forms.gle/](https://forms.gle/9eTsujrNGzPknUya6)

9eTsujrNGzPknUya6

Please also share this link with your community of friends and other local influences who might know others that embody our "Service Above Self" mindset, so that we can recognize people of action in our community across all seven Areas of Focus.

Thank you,
Pat

Now that we've completed the successful annual songwriters in the round event to raise funds for our annual scholarship program, it's time to redirect our focus to the People of Action Gala to honor our regional heroes in the seven areas of focus and raise funds for our other annual projects!

This year, the Gala will be held on Thursday, March 6th 2025 at the Renaissance Hotel in Asheville from 6pm - 9pm. Nominations are now open and will be accepted until January 8th. Tickets will go on sale in late January.

I need your help today in getting the word out to the community that nominations are open! Please share the link below AND fill it out yourself if you know any community members deserving of this recognition. Feel free to include achievements from prior to 2024 as well, even though the community response across the region from Helene has been amazing across every area of focus. Help us find those heroes and honor them!

Aligning with Rotary International's seven focus areas, the People of Action Gala (aka Heroes Hoorah Gala) will recognize individuals who embody the organization's "Service Above Self" philosophy within the Asheville area and around Western North Carolina. These heroes align with Rotary's vision to take action and create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.

[https://forms.gle/](https://forms.gle/9eTsujrNGzPknUya6) 9eTsujrNGzPknUya6

Please share this email with your influential circles, and if you see a call for nominees on social media, please also share those too! We want to have as many nominees as possible for this incredible event. And, if you have questions, let me know: Pat Snyder (psnyder@nationalland.com)

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat

Sign Up for the Honduras Medical-Dental Brigade



The Medical/Dental Brigade is headed to Honduras Jan 22-29 and has room for volunteers from our club. The estimated cost to the participant is about \$1500. Please [email Bob Haggard](#) with questions.

Beloved Asheville

On Saturday, November 9th, 36 Rotarians and friends gathered at Beloved Village to help clean up the site post-construction. We coordinated with the local non-profit, Beloved Asheville, on this community service project. Beloved Village provides a solution for those struggling in the housing crisis by providing affordable tiny homes situated in a village format with shared gathering spots. The homes are targeted for lower income families and are nearby to public transportation within the city of Asheville. Our group enjoyed



fellowship and service while helping our community. We included recycling efforts as well -- even for the styrofoam.





Ross Sloan Tapped as District Governor for Rotary District 7670 (2027-2028)

By Julie P. West



In a moment of excitement and anticipation, Ross Sloan has been officially named the District Governor (DG) for Rotary District 7670 for the 2027-2028 Rotary year. The announcement was made and celebrated in a special ceremony at his home club, the Rotary Club of Asheville, where fellow Rotarians gathered to mark this significant milestone in Sloan's Rotary journey.

Present to share the thrilling news were several distinguished members of the Rotary community, including District Governor (DG) Connie Molland, District Governor Nominee (DGN) Paige Scott, and Past District Governors (PDGs) Sean Gibson and Billi Black. Together, they joined in honoring Sloan's dedication to service and leadership within the Rotary organization.

As District Governor, Ross Sloan will play a key role in guiding the district's activities and initiatives during the 2027-2028 Rotary year, working closely with club leaders, Rotarians, and community partners to make a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve.

Ross has been an integral part of the Rotary Club of Asheville for 11 years, making significant contributions as a past president and chair of the club's RI Foundation Committee. Currently, he serves as the chair of the Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation Board. With 23 years of experience in Rotary, Ross has also been involved with the Asheville

Breakfast Club and the Hendersonville Club, reflecting his long-standing commitment to Rotary's mission of service above self.

Together with his wife, Martha, Ross is a major donor to the Rotary International Foundation. They are both members of the prestigious Paul Harris Society and the Bequest Society, demonstrating their strong dedication to supporting Rotary's global initiatives. Throughout his Rotary journey, Ross has participated in impactful projects, such as the District 7670 Wheelchair Distribution Project in the Philippines and a school project in Guatemala. He has also been an active participant in the 2022 RI International Convention and District Conferences and has completed all three levels of the Rotary Leadership Institute.

Professionally, Ross serves as Senior Vice President & Specialty Banking Officer for Dart Bank. He is a graduate of

Davidson College with a B.A. in History. Outside of Rotary, Ross has a deep commitment to community service, having served on the boards of Montreat Conference Center and MANNA FoodBank, and chaired United Way campaigns in Buncombe and Henderson Counties. He is also an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church U.S.A.

Ross and Martha reside in Fairview, NC, with their brown dog, Scout. They are proud parents to two adult children, a daughter in Pittsburgh and a son in the Asheville area. Ross' extensive service both in Rotary and his community is a testament to his dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

The Rotary Club of Asheville is proud to see one of its own take on this prestigious role, and the entire district looks forward to the leadership, vision, and passion that Ross Sloan will bring to his year as District Governor.

With the support of his Rotary colleagues and the inspiring work already underway, Ross is poised to lead District 7670 toward an even brighter future of service, fellowship, and impact.



Rotary Four Way Test



The 4-Way Test *of things we do and say:*

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?