

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Wednesday, December 18, 2024



Good morning everyone! This will be our last meeting for 2024 so we hope you'll join us.

Today's Meeting - December 19, 2024

By Richard T. Devereaux on Sunday, December 15, 2024



This week we'll continue our December Rotary theme of "Disease Prevention and Treatment" with a talk by Paul Keckley titled, "The Landscape of Health Care Today."

Paul H. Keckley is managing editor of The Keckley Report, a healthcare policy analyst and widely known industry expert. He is a frequent speaker and advisor to healthcare organizations focused on long-term growth, sustainability and advocacy strategies. In addition to the weekly Keckley Report, he has published three books and 250 articles. During the period preceding the passage of the Affordable Care Act, he facilitated sessions between the White House Office of Health Reform and major health industry trade groups as private sector input was sought in the legislation. He is an advisor to Erdman, Sullivan Cotter, Lumeris, Western Governors University and the Lipscomb University College of Pharmacy. He is a member of the Health Executive Network and Healthcare Financial Management Association. Mr. Keckley completed his B.A. at Lipscomb University, his M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Ohio State University, and a fellowship in

economic policy at Oxford University. He resides in Nashville, Tennessee, and Asheville, North Carolina, and enjoys golf, jogging and the search for great coffee.

Join us in person and enjoy a great lunch, or [virtually via this Zoom link](#).

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



Thank You's on Tap for Thursday

By Betty A. Doll on Monday, December 16, 2024



At last week's meeting, many of us participated in writing thank you notes to the many Rotary Clubs and other donors who contributed to our disaster relief funds. We still have more cards to write, envelopes to stuff, stamps and mailing labels to affix. Can you help?

It's a busy time of year, but we all know that many hands make light work! And we know that it's fun to get together and do these projects while enjoying a brew at one of our favorite breweries. **Can you join us this Thursday, the 19th, at Highland Brewing at 5 pm to help with this project?** And if you wanted to take some envelopes home

from the Rotary meeting to work on before joining us at Highland that would also help!

Club Meeting

Asheville
Meets at TUTION HALL,
TRINITY EPISCOPAL
CHURCH.
60 Church St
Asheville, NC 28801
Time: Thursday at
12:30 PM

Speakers

December 19, 2024

[Paul Keckley](#)
Landscape of
Healthcare Today

January 09, 2025

[Tom Hartye](#)
Metropolitan Sewerage
District

January 16, 2025

[Shannon Vickery](#)
PBS North Carolina

Coming Events

December 18th
**Thirsty Third
Wednesday**

December 19th
Thank You's on Tap

January 1st
Urban Hike

January 15th
**Thirsty Third
Wednesday**

Club Leaders



[Eva-Michelle
G. Spicer](#)
President



[David Mans](#)
President-
Elect

[Michelle
Daniels](#)



President-
Nominee
Club Director
International
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](#)
Club Director
Vocational
Service Chair



[Marcia Whitney](#)
Club Admin
Chair
Club Director



[Richard T. Devereaux](#)
Diversity
Equity &
Inclusion
Webmaster



[Dwayne Richardson](#)
Diversity
Equity &
Inclusion

Please let me know if you'll be able to join us!! And this is a project your kids and friends can also easily participate in so bring them along.

Thanks!

Betty Doll
Club Secretary

"We Still Need Your Help!"

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



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



Rotary Club of Asheville
18 subscribers

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Meeting Summary - December 12, 2024

By Richard T. Devereaux on Sunday, December 15, 2024

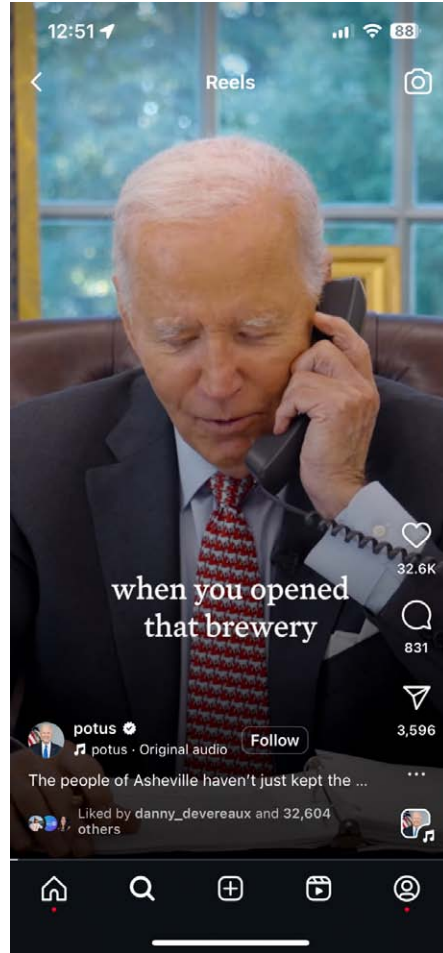
Great meeting this week! In addition to an informative program from MAHEC's Dr. Will McLean on the "Silver Tsunami," President Eva-Michelle inducted new member Jennifer Henson, sponsored by Dave Kaverman. Welcome Jennifer! If you missed the meeting, [click here for a short summary](#).



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!



[Chris Werts](#)
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

Birthdays

- 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 Bleyntat Jr.
December 31st
- Robby Cusic
January 1st
- Colleen S. Dieterly
January 4th
- Brandon Quinn
January 11th
- David N. Wilcox
January 13th
- David T. Kaverman
January 15th
- William K. Haggard
January 16th

Wedding Anniversaries

Holiday Party Spreads Goodwill and Friendships

By Katherine Carmichael Morosani on Tuesday, December 10, 2024



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!

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.

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

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 (VRQ). 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. 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/9eTsjrNGzPknUya6)

9eTsjrNGzPknUya6

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/9eTsjrNGzPknUya6) 9eTsjrNGzPknUya6

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

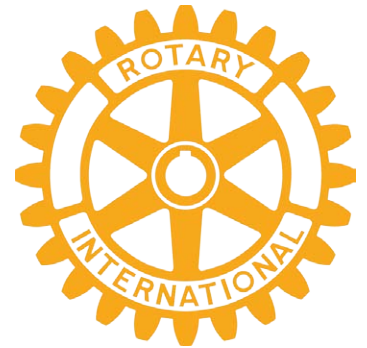


The Medical/Dental Brigade is headed to Honduras Jan 22-29 and has room for volunteers from our club. The estimated cost to the participant is about \$1500. Please [email Bob Haggard](mailto:Bob.Haggard) with questions.

From DG Connie

By Connie M. Molland

It's hard to believe that we are already into December – our sixth month of the Rotary year! We hit the ground running at the beginning of July with clear goals for us to hit, a strong leadership team, Club leaders who were trained and ready for their year, and high energy. As part of my Official Visits, I talk about how Rotary is a Leadership Development organization – one of the reasons why I joined Rotary was to learn new skills and develop my capabilities as a leader. In addition to world-class online courses, the training to become a District Governor was well-designed, sometimes intense, but definitely fun.



No one could have predicted us being hit with one of the top ten natural disasters in the history of the United States at the end of the third month of the Rotary year! Hurricane Helene hit many of our areas throughout the District and, unfortunately, there wasn't a "play book" to know what to do.

We had just approved a District Crisis Management Plan, but we didn't have a Disaster Preparedness Plan. Fortunately, several of my District Governor classmates have had experience with hurricanes and disasters, and they immediately reached out to offer their guidance. The District Governor Line and several District Leadership Team members leapt into action to figure out how to manage the immediate relief efforts. We often refer to this phase as working on building a plane while we were already flying!

A big and ongoing challenge with this disaster is that there are huge variations in what happened and what is needed (short term and long term) as it relates to relief and recovery. Each community has its own unique problem(s) to solve. Almost every day, calls and emails are coming in from Rotary Clubs and Districts from around the country asking how they can help. Rotarians hear and see the stories of the devastation and destruction, and they want to do something to help us. This is awkward for many of us to be among those being helped – it is in our Rotary DNA to be the helpers! But we need to accept the fact that we need help to effectively recover.

So I'm asking members and Clubs to actively identify short and long-term projects that will help Western North Carolina rebuild; grant money is available from the District, RI Zones 33-34, and from other Clubs and Districts around the country. If your area was not directly impacted by the storm, you can apply to help another community. We have several examples of Clubs that were not badly affected by the storm partnering with another Club in the District.

Money has been donated directly to Clubs, to the District Fund, and to RI Zones 33-34 to help with the recovery efforts. Clubs in our District have applied for over 20 grants so far, and the amount that has been distributed exceeds a quarter of a million dollars with grants ranging from \$3,100 to \$25,000.

If applying for projects using District or RI Zones 33-34 funding, the money will need to be used for recovery efforts related to Hurricane Helene, and we need to have Rotarian involvement.

Our District Community Service Chair, Guy Gooder, is sharing "service days" opportunities on the District Facebook and on the District Website. We are also working on finding an opportunity to do a big "District wide" service project in the first quarter of 2025. Our goal is to have this project involve many Rotarians from all over the District. Stay tuned for more information about this opportunity.

Hurricane Helene certainly took us on a bit of a detour, but as People of Action, Rotarians in District 7670 are stepping up as leaders and finding ways to help and to be helped.

And as we are slowly coming out from behind the Helene cloud, I'd like to ask members to invite a friend, colleague, family member, etc. to a Rotary Club meeting. People are hearing about us doing good work to help others, and they want to be a part of us. Extend an invitation and let them see how "together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves!"