

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Wednesday, December 25, 2024



No Meeting Today (December 26) - Happy Holidays!

Thursday, December 19, 2024

Club Meeting

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

Speakers

December 26, 2024
HAPPY HOLIDAYS
NO MEETING THIS
WEEK

January 02, 2025
Service Project -
Diapers
"Babies Need Diapers"

January 09, 2025
Tom Hartye
Metropolitan Sewerage
District

January 16, 2025
Shannon Vickery
PBS - North Carolina

January 23, 2025
Varied
Teachers of Excellence

Coming Events

January 1st
Urban Hike

January 15th
Thirsty Third
Wednesday

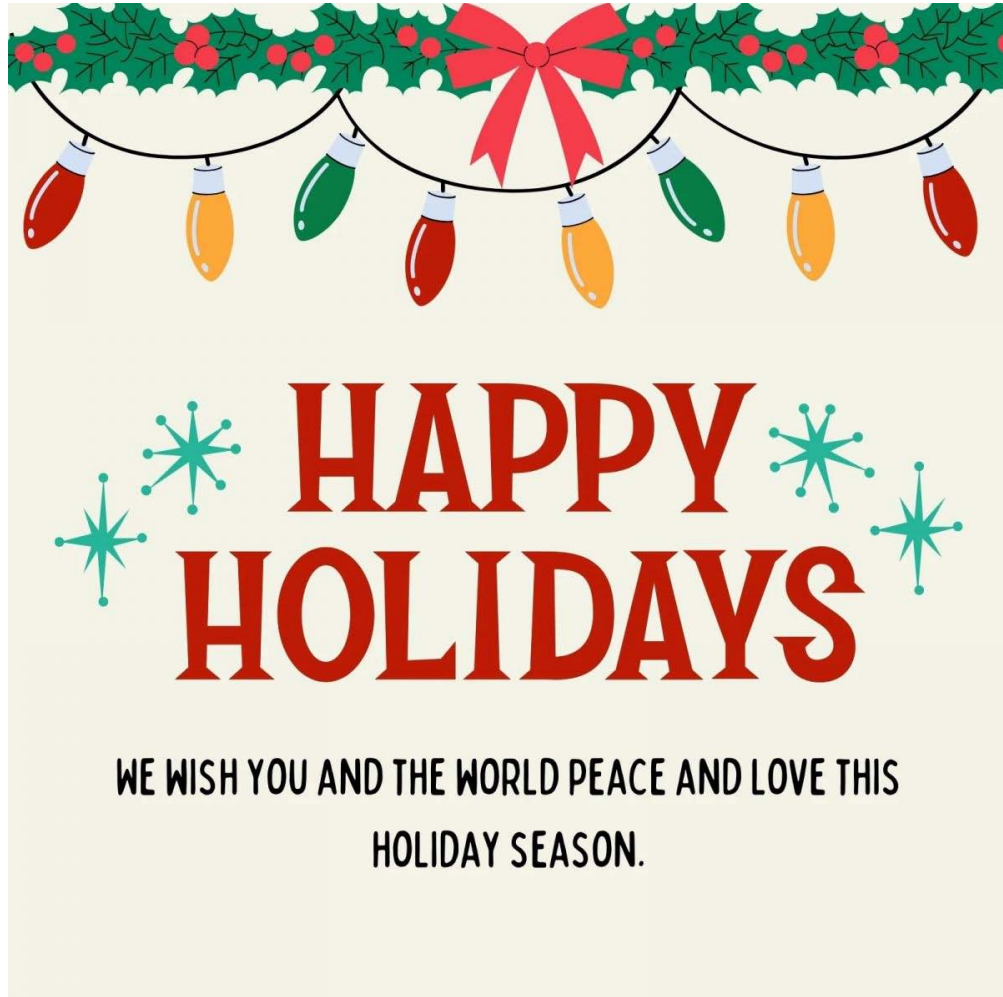
January 22nd
Honduras Medical-
Dental Brigade

Club Leaders



Eva-Michelle
G. Spicer
President

David Mans



Meeting Summary - December 19, 2024

By Richard T. Devereaux on Thursday, December 19, 2024

What a great meeting to end the year! "Men in Harmony" entertained us with holiday songs. Sharon LeDuc introduced recent Tennent Scholarship recipients: Piper Berry, Jackson Barnes, and Salvatore Pentlin. President Eva-Michelle awarded Paul Harris Fellows to Reilly Wilkes and Oscar Wong. And Paul Keckley presented a compelling program on health care trends in Western NC.

If you missed the meeting, [click here for a two-page summary.](#)



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.



Making a Difference--Club Tops \$322,000 in Helene Relief

By Richard T. Devereaux on Friday, December 20, 2024



At our December 19 meeting, President Eva-Michelle Spicer provided an update on the Rotary Club of Asheville's response to Hurricane Helene. The club has stepped up to make a meaningful difference in our community. Through our fundraising efforts, we have raised an impressive **\$322,668** as of December 18, 2024. This generosity came from **260 donors** spanning **38 states** and **two foreign countries**, including five contributions from Washington State alone. Most of the donors were other Rotary clubs.

Thanks to this incredible support, we have distributed **17 grants** to local nonprofits, helping to meet urgent needs and promote recovery efforts. Here's a snapshot of our grant recipients and their impact:

- **ABCCM:** \$7,500
- **Manna Food Bank:** \$7,500
- **Jewish Family Services:** \$5,000
- **Working Wheels:** \$5,000
- **Arts AVL:** \$5,000
- **Bountiful Cities:** \$2,500
- **Mountain True:** \$5,000
- **EcoForesters:** \$5,000
- **Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church:** \$5,000
- **The Christine Avery Learning Center:** \$5,000
- **Habitat for Humanity Asheville:** \$5,000
- **Equal Plates:** \$5,000
- **RiverLink:** \$5,000
- **Trauma Intervention Program:** \$1,800
- **Root Cause Farm:** \$5,000
- **Local Cloth:** \$5,000
- **Southside Community Farm:** \$5,000

Beyond grants, we've taken direct action to assist those affected by Hurricane Helene. To date, we've distributed **648 heaters**, **cleaned up Black Wall Street facilities**, and **aided the Hilton Head Rotary Club** in unloading a tractor-trailer of supplies in Lake Lure. Additionally, we've established **community resource centers** at Erwin and Owen Middle Schools and are now active participants in the **Buncombe County Long-Term Recovery Group**.



Devereaux
Bulletin
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Youth
Services
Chair



Carol E
Bornstein
Club Fund
Raising Chair



Albert Davis
RYLA Point of
Contact



Patrick A.
Snyder
iPast
President

Birthdays

Donald K. Reback
December 25th
Carolyn Cronin
December 26th
Eva-Michelle G. Spicer
December 27th
Kyle Parks
December 28th
Anna Peddy
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



deeply grateful to all donors and volunteers who have contributed to these efforts. Together, we are helping our neighbors rebuild and recover with resilience and hope!

These Rotarians gathered on December 19 at Highland Brewing to write personal thank you notes to all our donors. THANK YOU!!

Bell Ringers Bring Cheer to the Needy

By Mark E Chase on Friday, December 20, 2024



On Thursday, December 19, ten members of the Rotary Club of Asheville braved the elements to man the kettle in front of the Sam's Club in Asheville to raise funds for the Salvation Army. The "Red Kettle Campaign" generates funds to support needy families during the holiday season. Many thanks to this year's bell ringers, and to Alex Pence for organizing the effort!

Mark Chase and Tom Leavesley (pictured)
Tom Cannon and Alex Pence
Al Davis and Carter Webb (pictured)
Alan Hicks and Betty Doll (pictured)
Diana and Robby Cusic



David T. Kaverman
January 15th
William K. Haggard
January 16th
Martin Moore
January 18th
Holly Hixson
January 18th
James W. Zumwalt
January 22nd
Andrew Mercurio
January 23rd

Wedding Anniversaries

Lucian Undreiu
December 29th
David Mans
December 29th
R. Scott White
January 6th
Alan L West
January 19th
William K. Haggard
January 20th
David N. Wilcox
January 24th



David LaMotte to Open RI Convention in Calgary

By Richard T. Devereaux on Thursday, December 19, 2024



Longtime Rotary Club of Asheville partner and Rotary Peace Fellow David Lamotte is on the rise! This Black Mountain native has had a long and successful career as a singer-songwriter and musician, but that was never enough. He continually felt inspired to give back. David received a scholarship as a Rotary Peace Fellow in 2009 and founded a preschool project in Guatemala called [Senderos Guatemala](#). Our club has partnered with David on this project for several years, helping obtain a Rotary International grant and sending multiple teams to Guatemala to volunteer at the school. He's also a published author, writing *You Are Changing the World: Whether You Like It or Not* in 2023. As if that wasn't enough, David presented a TEDx talk in Asheville titled [Why Heroes Don't Change the World](#) which has garnered

over 50,000 views.

But David's roll doesn't stop there. He was featured in an article in last month's edition of Rotary Magazine in an article titled, [Songs in the Key of Change](#). This change agent's rise continues to skyrocket. In a recent [Facebook post](#) David revealed:

And the news is now finally public that I will be keynoting the opening plenary for the Rotary International Convention in Calgary this summer.

They are expecting nearly 30,000 people to be there in person, with many more online. Yes, that is by far the largest audience I have ever played for or spoken to (I am told that I will be doing both).

This is an extraordinary season in my life. Thanks for hanging with me all these years.

Wow!! Our own David LaMotte will be singing and speaking as part of the opening convention ceremony in Calgary. Yet another reason to attend this summer's convention!

The best way to congratulate David is through a donation to his foundation, Senderos Guatemala. [Here's a link!](#)

Morrill Community Grant Winners Announced

By David R. McCartney on Wednesday, December 25, 2024

The Rotary Club of Asheville announces its 2025 Harry R Morrill Community Grant winners!

As a reminder on how these grants began; in 1981 Harry R. Morrill donated funds to our Rotary Club with the intent to use the spendable income "for educational or local charitable donations that conform to Rotary ideals." This is our club's 43rd year of distributing these grants.

This year the Morrill endowment funded \$12,500 to be awarded to 10 recipients at \$1,250 each.

We had 22 organizations apply for a grant. The grant committee members evaluated all the applications, then selected 10 organizations to send to the club's board for approval.

The 10 grant recipients that the club's board approved are:

1. Verner Center for Early Learning
2. Haywood Street Congregation
3. RiverLink
4. The Hundred Movement
5. MemoryCare
6. The ARC of Buncombe County
7. Food Connection
8. Western Carolina Rescue Ministries
9. Astronomy Club of Asheville
10. On Track Financial Education & Counseling

These organizations will receive their \$1,250 checks in late December.

A representative from each of these organizations will join our meetings February 20th and 27th 2025 to share information about their organization, their work, and the project this grant is helping accomplish.

Thanks to club member and club historian Dick Hall on this piece of Rotary history about Harry Morrill:

Mr. Morrill moved to Asheville in 1965 and joined the Rotary Club of Asheville in 1972 at age 81. He was, however, very familiar with Rotary having been a Rotarian for 35 years in California and was District Governor of District 526 which covered Southern California-Nevada-Arizona at the time he was District Governor.

In 1981, on his 90th birthday he made the initial gift deposit for the Harry R Morrill Community Grants endowment and later, upon his death in 1986, he bequeathed additional funds to the endowment.

We, and the Asheville community, are fortunate to continue to benefit from Mr. Morrill's foresight and his love of Rotary.

"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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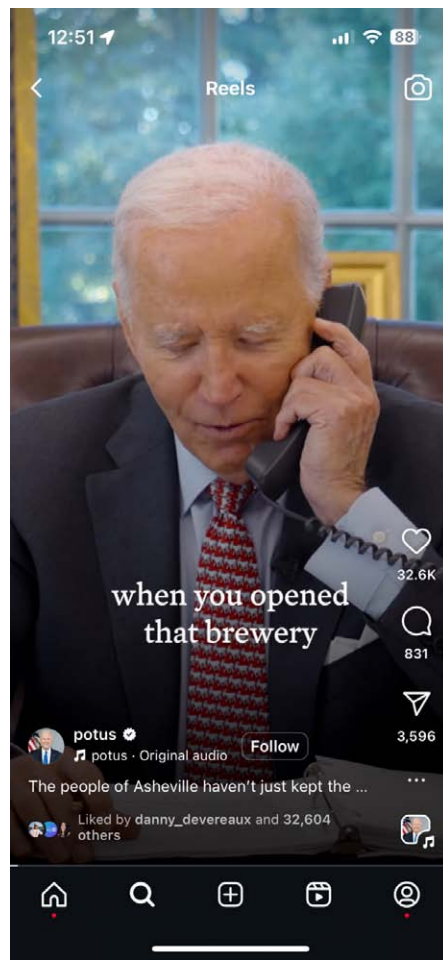
Save



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



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!





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/>.

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.

Rotary International Convention - Price Change Coming Soon

By Lynn M Marks



If you've been thinking about attending the Rotary International Convention in 2025, June 20–25, sign up before December 15, when prices change. Right now, registration is \$525. The price increases to \$625 on December 16, so sign up now! We currently have almost 50 registrants from 16 clubs in our district. Come join us as we meet and greet Rotarians from around the world, learn about the work of Rotary International, attend great breakouts and socialize with the other district attendees.

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?