

# Rotary



## Club of Asheville THE COG

Wednesday, March 12, 2025



### Today's Program (March 13, 2025) - Public Education in NC

By Richard T. Devereaux on Friday, March 7, 2025

What's the State of Public School Education in NC?

#### Club Meeting

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

#### Speakers

**March 13, 2025**

[Jessica Peacock, Public School Forum of NC](#)  
The State of Public Education in North Carolina

**March 20, 2025**

[Ilya Shcharbitsky, Political Freedom and Human Rights Activist](#)  
End Plastic Soup

**March 27, 2025**

[Laura Uherka](#)  
New Member Talks

**April 03, 2025**

[Eva-Michelle Spicer, David Mans, Dick Hall](#)  
110th Birthday of RCoA

**April 10, 2025**

[Andy Tait, Lang Hornthal](#)  
EcoForester

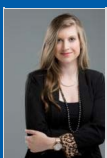
#### Coming Events

March 15th  
[YWCA Mother Love Program](#)

March 19th  
[Thirsty Third Wednesday](#)

April 2nd  
[Urban Hike](#)

#### Club Leaders



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



This week's speaker is Jessica Peacock, Policy Engagement Coordinator, [Public School Forum of North Carolina](#). Jessica started her career in education, teaching middle school math for the Wake County Public School System. She is passionate about creating strong schools through community partnerships. As a teacher, Jess has facilitated workshops to help teachers understand and implement culturally responsive teaching strategies.

In her role as Policy Engagement Coordinator for Public School Forum's policy team, Jess supports event planning and coordination of local and statewide convenings related to policy, develops relationships and engages with education partners and stakeholders. She also works with the communications team to draft and disseminate content about education policy.

Jess holds a BA in History from UNC-Chapel Hill and a Master of Arts in Teaching from NC State University. Jessica is a native of Raleigh, North Carolina and a graduate of the Wake County school system.

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.

Donate



### People of Action Gala a BIG Success

By Eva-Michelle G. Spicer on Wednesday, March 12, 2025

[CLICK HERE TO READ THE EVENT PRESS RELEASE](#)

Dear Rotarians, Guests, and Supporters,



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



Michael Thomas  
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  
Bulletin Editor  
Diversity Equity &  
Inclusion  
Webmaster

Chris Werte  
Diversity Equity &  
Inclusion



With a full heart, I'd like to sincerely thank you for attending our People of Action Gala last Thursday March 6. Your participation and support helped make the event a great success.

**I'm excited to share that, thanks to your generosity, we raised nearly \$40,000!** This funding will greatly support our efforts and initiatives as we continue making a positive impact in our community and around the globe.

A very big thanks goes to Pat Snyder and Reilly Wilkes as Co-Chairs of the Second Annual People of Action Gala. Your leadership made this event outstanding!

Thank you all, once again, for your dedication and for being a part of this incredible evening.

In Service and With Gratitude,

Eva-Michelle Spicer  
President - Rotary Club of Asheville

## March 6 Rotary Meeting Summary - Poppy Popcorn

By Richard T. Devereaux on Friday, March 7, 2025



This week's meeting "popped" with guest speaker Ginger Murphy Frank, Founder and CEO of Poppy Hand-Crafted Popcorn! Additionally, Club President Eva-Michelle Spicer presented new Paul Harris Fellow awards to Jim Zumwalt and Janet Whitworth. Thank you Jim and Janet!

Unfortunately, due to a Zoom malfunction, we have no AI meeting summary this week :-)

Ginger discussed Poppy's explosive growth and received multiple awards recognizing the company as a top startup in Asheville. In addition to leading massive growth on the direct-to-consumer side of the business, Ginger has also led the brand to partner with over a thousand small retailers and specialty grocers to sell gourmet popcorn throughout the United States. Recent partnerships include contracts with Whole Foods, The Fresh Market, Hallmark, Williams-Sonoma, and more.





[Virginia Lawrence](#)  
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

Jessica Z Hendrix  
March 15th

Ross Sloan  
March 15th

Alan L West  
March 15th

Julie O'Dwyer  
March 15th

Laura C Uherka  
March 18th

Christy Cheek  
March 21st

Kristy Wilson  
March 28th

Patrick A. Snyder  
April 3rd

Dan A Rogers  
April 8th

Richard Travis Hall  
April 8th

Linda Nelson  
April 8th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Kirk Borland  
March 22nd

Rachel Rion Moran  
March 23rd

Jennifer Henson  
April 1st

Kyle R. Boyd  
April 8th

Edward J. Sullivan  
April 9th

## Last Call for Volunteers

By Alan L West on Tuesday, March 11, 2025

### Pick a Project: YWCA or Habitat for Humanity

We are **so close** to fully staffing two incredible service projects—**THANK YOU** to those that have already committed to these important projects. **We still need a few more hands to make it happen!** If you've been thinking about signing up, **now is the time to step up and help us cross the finish line!**

### YWCA Service Day – March 15: [YWCA Sign Up Here](#)

- **Need 4-6 more volunteers** to move and organize materials for the **Mother Love program** supporting young mothers.
- **YWCA of Asheville | 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**

### Skirting the Storm: Rotary Rebuilds (Habitat for Humanity): [Habitat for Humanity Sign Up Here](#)

- **March 17 – Need 1 more volunteer**
- **March 18 – Need 1 more volunteer**
- **March 19 – Need 3 more volunteers**

?? **8:30 AM – 3:30 PM** | Helping install insulated skirting for storm-damaged manufactured homes

## Can you fill one of these spots? Sign up now! [YWCA Sign Up Here](#) [Habitat for Humanity Sign Up Here](#)

If you have any questions, reply to this email, or just text/call me at **832-458-6227!** I'll also be at our weekly meeting this **Thursday** if you want to chat in person.

Let's rally and get this done, Rotarians—we're almost there!

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

## Help Resurrect the Black Mountain Rotary Club

By Eva-Michelle G. Spicer on Wednesday, March 12, 2025

The Black Mountain Rotary Club is disbanding after years of declining membership and the few existing members have no interest in starting a new one. **Our club member and District Governor Nominee-Designate (fancy word for DG in 2026-27) Ross Sloan is leading an effort to establish a new club in Black Mountain using the existing charter.** To that end, he is putting a committee together to hold a community event in late April or early May to introduce Rotary to potential members, and he is looking for people to serve on that committee.

To be clear, the commitment is short-term and will be complete once the event is held with the possible exception of some follow-up phone calls to attendees that express interest. I'll be serving on this committee because I'm honored to be an Assistant Governor for the next few years and Black Mountain is a club I'm delighted to help. Please let this serve as my first ask that our club members start gearing up to support Ross in all of his endeavors as District Governor!





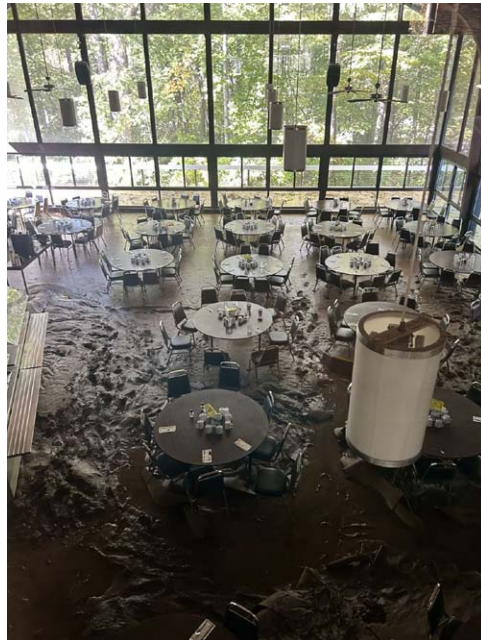
If you are interested in helping with the event, please contact Ross by [clicking this link](#).

In service,

Eva-Michelle Spicer  
President  
Rotary Club of Asheville

## Help Blue Ridge Assembly Recover from Helene

By Donna Rogers Ensley on Thursday, February 27, 2025



Calling all District 7670 Rotarians and friends to participate in a unique, district-wide volunteer project!! **We are partnering with YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly (BRA) to help in their Helene recovery efforts. Rotary clubs, the district and RI have pulled together resources to provide \$100,000 to rebuild Robertson Dining Hall at BRA. Volunteers are needed for a morning or afternoon shift (roughly 2 ½ hours per shift) on March 8, 15, and 22.**

Many of you may know that BRA is where we have held our RYLA, Rotary Youth Exchange, and other programs over the years. We want to be a part of helping them come back so we can be back at their fabulous facility in the future.

Lunch will be provided by BRA between shifts (from 12-12:30 pm) for all volunteers to have an opportunity for food and fellowship together. Bring your work clothes, gloves and a spirit of "service above self" and connect with your District 7670 peers.

[Click on this link](#) to reserve your spot. You are welcome to sign up for more than one shift, but please be sure to sign up!

If you have any questions, please reach out to Donna Ensley at 828-768-6061 or via email by [clicking this link](#).

See you there!

AG Donna and DG Connie

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## Volunteers Needed: Install Skirting, Restore Stability, Rebuild Lives!

By Alan L West on Tuesday, March 4, 2025

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!



We have answered the call in so many ways since **Hurricane Helene**—delivering heaters, propane, meals, and immediate aid to those in crisis. But now, **five months later, the work is far from over.** Our neighbors are still living in storm-damaged homes, waiting for the help that will **restore their dignity, security, and comfort.**

Now is the time to take the next step. **We have invested \$30,000 in Zone Grant funds** to purchase **insulated skirting for manufactured homes**, but funding alone isn't enough. **We must put in the time, energy, and effort to get the job done.**

### The Mission: Install Skirting, Restore Stability, Rebuild Lives

- **When:** Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday – **March 17, 18, & 19 (volunteer one day, two days, or all three days)**
- **Time:** 8:30 AM – 3:30 PM
- **Where:** Habitat for Humanity Repair Project – Locations in our Community
- **What We'll Be Doing:**
  - Installing insulated skirting on manufactured homes for families recovering from the storm.
  - Providing stability, warmth, and energy efficiency to those who need it most.
  - Taking the final step from **funding to impact**—ensuring our Zone Grant makes a real difference.

### The Urgent Call: We Need 6 Volunteers Per Day, and I need you to commit and sign up ASAP (today if you can)!!!

- You can sign up for **one day, two days, or all three:** [Sign Up - Skirting the Storm](#)
- **No special skills are required**—just a willingness to serve.
- **Rotary presence is imperative** to fulfilling our Zone Grant commitment!

**Rotarians, This is Our Moment.** This is more than just a service project—**this is our responsibility.** This is what it means to be a **Rotarian, a leader, a person of action.**

- **Sign up TODAY!**
- **Wear your Rotary gear and bring your work gloves.**
- **Let's finish what we started and rebuild lives together.**

**And don't forget—take photos!** Let's show our zone and our community what it truly means to be **Rotary in action.**

### RSVP NOW!—sign up at [Sign Up - Skirting the Storm](#)

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

**P.S.** We've stepped up before, and we'll do it again. If you can't make it, personally ask a fellow Rotarian to take your place. **Together, we will get this done!**

## Erwin Middle School: "Thank you Rotarians!"

Friday, March 7, 2025



Dear Rotary Club of Asheville,

On behalf of Clyde A. Erwin Middle School, I want to extend our deepest gratitude for your generous donations. Your support has had a huge impact on the families and individuals in the Erwin district. During the month of February, we supported five families ranging from 5-8 family members. Students were able to take food bags home for the weekend, and we were able to give two sisters cleats for soccer.

One student arranged for his grandmother to restock food, clothing and household goods after she lost her home in Big Ivy during Helene flooding. Thanks to your generosity, we were able to provide

her with much-needed assistance during this incredibly difficult time.

Your kindness has uplifted our community, and we thank you for making a difference for our

school.

Sincerely,

The whole Erwin Community  
Emily Swan  
She/her/hers  
Community School Coordinator - Erwin Middle

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## Two Asheville Rotary Greats on Stage!

By Jane Brody on Thursday, February 20, 2025

"The Oscar and Matthew Show," moderated by John Boyle

Join us at the East Asheville Library for a program sponsored by the Friends of the **East Asheville Library on March 18th** for a night of discussion and local tale-swapping! **John Boyle (The Answer Man) will moderate** a free-flowing discussion with 2 of Asheville's most prominent businesspeople and community leaders:

- **Oscar Wong, founder of Highland Brewing Company**
- **Matthew Bacoate Jr, community leader and advocate for Black-owned businesses**

Free to all who wish to attend! Doors open at 6pm, discussion starts at 6:30.

Hope to see you there!

The Friends of the East Asheville Public Library present

# Asheville Greats: Oscar Wong and Matthew Bacoate Jr.

in conversation with John Boyle, The Answer Man

6:30 p.m. Tuesday, March 18, 2025

East Asheville Public Library, 3 Avon Road

Doors open at 6 p.m.



Oscar Wong, founder of  
Highland Brewing Company

Matthew Bacoate Jr, community  
leader and advocate for Black-  
owned businesses

Want to join the Friends of the East Asheville Library, volunteer, or donate to support their work? Visit the Friends information table.



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## Show Some Mother Love

By Alan L. West on Tuesday, February 25, 2025



Here's our chance to **put "Service Above Self" into action!** On **Saturday, March 15, from 9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**, we need **15 volunteers** to support the **YWCA Mother Love program**—a vital initiative empowering young mothers and their children.

This project is especially important because **our club secured a \$4,000 grant for this program (\$2,000 from us, matched by the district), and our hands-on participation is essential to fulfill our commitment!**

**Sign Up Here:** [YWCA\\_March\\_15](#)

**The Mission: Move, Organize, and Make a Lasting Impact!**

### MotherLove

- **When:** Saturday, March 15 | **9:00 AM – 11:00 AM**
- **Where:** YWCA of Asheville (185 S French Broad Ave)
- **What We'll Be Doing:**
- **Organizing inventory** to assess current needs.
- **Moving materials & some furniture** from multiple storage areas.
- **Relocating items** to a storage shed (if available).
- **Supporting TWO impactful YWCA programs** that uplift young mothers and their children.

This is more than just a service project—it's an opportunity for us to **strengthen our Rotary impact in Asheville** while directly helping families in need.

**WE NEED YOU!** Please **Sign Up** so we can ensure we have the **15 volunteers** needed to make this happen: [YWCA\\_March\\_15](#)

**Wear your Rotary gear and bring your energy!** And don't forget to **take photos** for our grant report.

Let's show the YWCA and our district what the **Rotary Club of Asheville** is all about—**people of action making a difference!**

In Service & Fellowship,  
Alan West  
Rotary Club of Asheville

**P.S.** If you can't attend, please encourage a fellow Rotarian to join in. Every pair of hands counts!

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## Save the Date--Habitscaping Conference, May 17

By Janet L. Whitworth on Wednesday, March 5, 2025

**YOU CAN [REGISTER NOW FOR THIS CONFERENCE](#)**

**Cost: \$25**

The Rotary Club of Asheville and Bee City USA-Asheville are partnering to bring an important environmental conference to Asheville on May 17, 2025. **Habitscaping: Supporting Nature with Native Plants** features the inspirational keynote speaker and prolific author, Dr. Douglas Tallamy. Throughout the day, there will be additional presentations, local native plant vendors will have plants for sale, and local environmental nonprofits will exhibit.

[CLICK HERE FOR TICKETS](#)

**About Keynote Speaker Dr. Douglas Tallamy**

Dr. Douglas Tallamy is an entomologist (insect researcher) at the University of Delaware and the inspiration for the nonprofit [Homegrown National Park](#)



. He authored several influential bestsellers: *Bringing Nature Home*, *Nature's Best Hope*, and *The Nature of Oaks*,

[Read Janet Whitworth's blog post about replanting oaks in the wake of Hurricane Helene.](#)

## Kick the CART Bucket - Give Direct

By Richard T. Devereaux on Thursday, February 20, 2025



Week after week we're all encouraged to dutifully pitch our coins .... or dollars .... into those blue CART buckets. **But did you know you can make a tax-deductible online contribution directly to [CART](#), allowing both you and our club to get credit?**

**Yes you can!**

Click on the image below to set up your account and make an online contribution. [Here are some easy instructions](#) on how to set up your account.

CART stands for Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust



## Do You Have a MyRotary Account?

By Richard T. Devereaux on Monday, February 24, 2025



If you're a member of The Rotary Club of Asheville, you automatically already have a



[MyRotary](#) account, but if you haven't used it yet, you need to activate it.

#### Why bother?

- You'll gain access to all kind of valuable Rotary resources that can help your committees and projects
- You'll access complete information on your membership and giving history to the Rotary Foundation, including your Paul Harris Fellow status
- You'll find lots of information on our club history, statistics, and goals
- Easy access for making donations to the Rotary Foundation that will ensure credit to you and our club
- **It's easy--5 minutes to fully set up your account**

[Click this link](#) for an easy, step-by-step setup guide. If you run into problems contact our Club Webmaster, Rick Devereaux by [clicking here](#).

Why wait?? Do it Now!

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## Tennent Scholarship Applications Open

By Sharon Kay LeDuc on Friday, January 31, 2025

**BUZZ TENNENT SCHOLARSHIP**

The Rotary Club of Asheville decided in 1998 that there was a need for a scholarship program that was based upon academic merit as well as financial need. The funds for these scholarships are derived from fundraising and donations. The amount available varies from year to year as does the number of qualified students. In 2024, thirteen local students were awarded \$1,000-\$9,000 each.

Applications Due April 13, 2025

**CRITERIA**

- Be a high school senior
- Have un-weighted GPA of 2.0 if planning to attend 2 year program at technical school, community college or junior college and 3.0 if planning for 4 year college
- Be enrolled in a college, university, community college or technical school
- Have three letters of reference
- Be a Buncombe County resident

QUESTIONS? Contact Sharon LeDuc at SKLEDUC@PRODIGY.NET

Apply Here

[TINYURL.COM/TENNENTSCHOLARSHIP](https://tinyurl.com/tennentscholarship)

Applications may be submitted by high school seniors in Buncombe County for Tennent Scholarships. Multiple scholarships are awarded and are based both upon academic merit and financial need. Due date is April 13. Application is at [TINYURL.COM/TENNENTSCHOLARSHIP](https://tinyurl.com/tennentscholarship)

For more information, check out the [Tennent Scholarship folder on our website](#).

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## 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](mailto: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 by [clicking this link](#).

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](http://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/>.

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## **Club Assistance Team**

By Tammy Mosteller



### **Introducing DGND Ross Sloan: Leading the Club Assistance Team to Strengthen Rotary**

Rotary thrives when its clubs are strong, engaged, and growing. To ensure that every club has the support it needs to succeed, we are excited to introduce **District Governor Nominee Designate (DGND) Ross Sloan** as the new **Chair of the Club Assistance Team!**

#### **A Passion for Growth and Service**

Ross Sloan brings a deep commitment to **helping struggling clubs revitalize their membership, strengthen engagement, and enhance their impact** in their communities. With his leadership, the Club Assistance Team will provide hands-on support, proven strategies, and fresh ideas to help clubs **grow and thrive**.

#### **What the Club Assistance Team Offers**

Under Ross's leadership, the team will focus on:

- ? **Membership Growth Strategies** – Attracting new members and keeping current ones engaged.
- ? **Leadership Development** – Training and mentoring club leaders for success.
- ? **Community Engagement** – Increasing club visibility and involvement in local projects.
- ? **Meeting Revitalization** – Bringing energy and purpose back to club meetings.
- ? **Retention Support** – Helping clubs address member concerns and boost retention.

#### **Success in Action**

The Club Assistance Team has identified those clubs at critical mass and struggling clubs. The team will be reaching out to club presidents to form a game plan to move forward.

#### **Need Help? Contact Ross and the Club Assistance Team!**

If your club is looking for ways to **increase membership, re-energize members, or strengthen leadership**, DGND **Ross Sloan and the Club Assistance Team are here to help!** Reach out today for guidance, resources, and hands-on support.

**Together, we can ensure every Rotary club thrives and continues making a lasting impact!**

For more information or to request assistance, contact **DGND Ross Sloan at 828-243-2385**

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**Rotary District 7670 to Host District RLI Event – March  
29th, 2025**



Rotary District 7670 is excited to announce a **District RLI (Rotary Leadership Institute)** event on **March 29th, 2025**, at **Crossroads Church in Asheville, NC**. This is a fantastic opportunity for Rotarians looking to enhance their leadership skills and deepen their understanding of Rotary's impact.

**Event Details:**

- **Date:** March 29th, 2025
- **Location:** Crossroads Church, Asheville, NC
- **Time:** 8:30 AM – 3:45 PM
- **Cost:** \$95.00 (includes lunch)

We are offering **all three parts** of the RLI program, designed to provide Rotarians with the tools and knowledge to become stronger leaders within their clubs and communities. Whether you're a new Rotarian or a seasoned leader, this event will help you build on your leadership capabilities and make

a bigger impact in Rotary.

The **\$95 registration fee** covers all three parts of the program as well as lunch, so you can focus on learning and connecting with fellow Rotarians throughout the day.

**Registration** is now open! To sign up, simply visit the following link:  
[Register for District RLI Event](#)

Don't miss this incredible opportunity to grow as a leader, connect with fellow Rotarians, and strengthen your understanding of Rotary's vital work. We look forward to seeing you there!

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## 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?
-