

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Wednesday, March 19, 2025



Today's Program (March 20, 2025) - End Plastic Soup!

By Sophia Stefanidis Ungert on Friday, March 14, 2025

Internationally-Renown Rotaractor on a Mission to End Plastic Pollution



Ilya Shcharbitski is activist and go-getter. Before spring 2020 Ilya was active in various projects for Peace and Environment in The Hague, orchestrating events and sitting as chairman for several organizations. Having grown up in the Netherlands, Ilya has become accustomed to the freedoms, rights and opportunities available to all. The political events taking place in Belarus have shaped the course of Ilya's activism, in which demonstrating for political freedom has become central. Ilya now drives his vision to show the EU and its people the realities taking place at their borders, such as the situation in Belarus. He is connected to a worldwide network of Belarusians who together organise efforts to spread awareness, including protests and cultural events across Europe. He has taken the lead of the Belarus movement in the Netherlands. Ilya leads with compassion and strives to improve dialogue between countries for unity and cooperation.

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



Rotary Meeting Summary (March 13, 2025) - Public Education in NC

By Richard T. Devereaux on Sunday, March 16, 2025

Last Thursday's program (March 13) was provided by [Jessica Peacock, Policy Engagement Coordinator, Public School Forum of North Carolina](#). She provided key facts about the state's education system, including student numbers, graduation rates, and funding rankings. Her presentation covered how schools are funded at state, local, and federal levels, with North Carolina using a hybrid student-based and resource-based funding model. Jessica discussed recent legislative updates related to education, including proposals on teacher pay and diversity initiatives. She noted that while

Club Meeting

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

Speakers

March 20, 2025

[Ilya Shcharbitski](#), 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 19th

[Thirsty Third Wednesday](#)

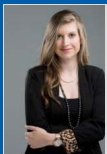
April 2nd

[Urban Hike](#)

April 16th

[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



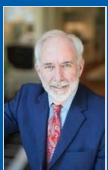
Anthony D. Lynch
Attendance Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms



Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.
Club Director
Membership Chair



Janet L. Whitworth
Treasurer



Timothy L. Owings
Club Director
Rotary Foundation
Chair



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



national reading and math scores are declining, North Carolina is showing positive trends. The presentation concluded with a Q&A session addressing topics like immigrant families in education and federal education policy changes affecting the state.

[CLICK HERE FOR A LINK TO AN AI-GENERATED MEETING SUMMARY.](#)



Before the program began, President Eva-Michelle awarded Marvin Thomas a new Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Rotarians Bring the Love

By Alan L West on Sunday, March 16, 2025

Rotary in Action! Today, a powerhouse crew of Rotarians and friends rolled up our sleeves at the YWCA of Asheville to support the amazing Mother Love program. We tackled a storage jigsaw puzzle—moving cribs, car seats, bookshelves, and more (even from a makeshift storage room... aka the women’s restroom!). Now, these essentials are cleaned, organized, inventoried, and safely stored, freeing up vital space for YWCA’s life-changing daycare programs.

Service Above Self is more than a motto—it’s what we DO. Huge thanks to everyone (Rotarians and Guests) who showed up and made a real difference today!





Webmaster



[Chris Werte](#)
Diversity Equity & Inclusion



[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



The Rotary Club of Asheville Delivers 1264 Heaters

By David Mans on Thursday, March 13, 2025



The Rotary Club of Asheville has delivered 1264 heaters as part of its Hurricane Helene disaster relief response. This effort was funded by four separate grants from Rotary International, Rotary Zone 33/34 and the Rotary Club of Huntsville, totaling approximately \$130,000. Matching funds for these grants were received from the Rotary Club of Bonita Springs, the Rotary Club of Asheville and District 7670. Rotarians distributed the heaters with the help of boots-on-the-ground organizations, including Beloved Asheville, Valley Strong Disaster Relief, Swannanoa Communities Together, La Milpa, the Buncombe County Sheriff's Office, the Jewish Family Center, ABCCM and Asheville City Schools. Our thanks go out to Rotary International Zones 33/34, District 7670, the Rotary Clubs of Huntsville and Bonita Springs and all the other organizations for making this a reality. The Rotary Club of Asheville is shifting its focus to disaster recovery by initiating rebuilding and repair projects with the Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity.

Birthdays

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

Tanya N. Fletcher
April 12th

Edward J Snyder III
April 12th

Stephen E. Aschmann
April 13th

Angela Nicole Ferrell
April 14th

Daniel M. Crupi
April 14th

Rebecca A Robertson
April 15th

Janey Cope
April 17th

Jane Brody
April 18th

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
Benjamin J Wann
April 15th
Albert Davis
April 18th



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

By Sarah J McGuire



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!

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,

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

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

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!

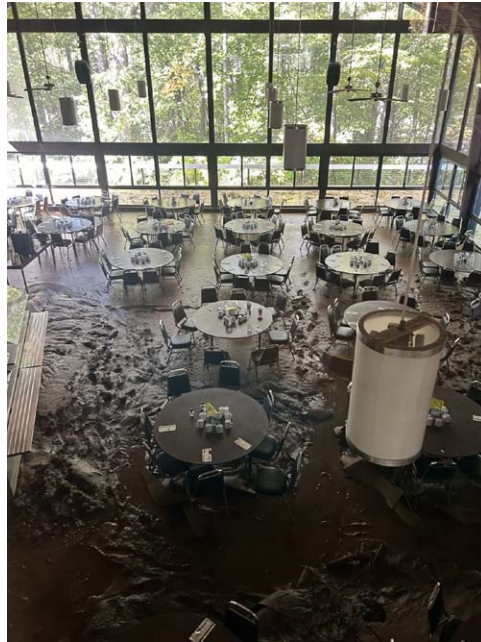
If your club is looking for ways to **increase membership, re-energize members, or strengthen leadership**, DGND Ross Sloan and the Club Assistance Team are here to help! Reach out today for guidance, resources, and hands-on support.

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**

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

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,

Registration Open--Habitscaping Conference, May 17

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

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

Cost: \$25



Ever wonder what all the hype is about adding native plants to your landscaping? Want to know what you can do to help nature recover from the devastation of Hurricane Helene? You can learn all that and more on May 17th when our club will be sponsoring an important environmental conference, **HABITATSCAPING: Supporting Nature With Native Plants**, at the **Asheville-Buncombe Technical College Conference Center**, 16 Fernhurst Dr. This event will feature renowned author [Dr. Douglas Tallamy](#) as the keynote speaker.

Dr. Tallamy, author of *Nature's Best Hope*, *The Nature of Oaks*, and *Bringing Nature Home*, will inspire attendees with his expertise on the critical role native plants play in supporting ecosystems and biodiversity.

In addition to the keynote address, the conference will include presentations from **regional experts**:

- **Emily Driskill**
- **John Manion**
- **Adam Bigelow**

- **Raven Sterling**
- **Phyllis Stiles**
- **Mike Hill**
- **Shelby Jackson**

These speakers will cover a range of important topics, including:

- Growing native plants from seed
- Identifying and removing invasive species
- Adding native plants to vegetable gardens
- Pollinator gardening with native plants
- Edible forest gardens

The event will also feature **local native plant vendors** offering plants for sale, as well as **environmental organizations** providing information on how to improve biodiversity in our communities.

Doors open at **8:30 AM**, with the first presentation beginning at **9:00 AM**. The conference will conclude at **3:00 PM**. Bridge & Tunnel, Bears BBQ and Cecelia's will be onsite with breakfast and lunch options.

Whether you are an avid gardener, a biodiversity advocate, or simply curious about making a difference, this is an incredible opportunity to learn from experts and take action for the environment. Join us in creating a world where pollinators—and all life—can thrive!

For more information and to register, [click on this link](#) or go to the [Bee City USA-Asheville](#) website.

[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.](#)

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!

Tennent Scholarship Applications Open

By Sharon Kay LeDuc on Friday, January 31, 2025

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



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 SKLELUC@PRODIGY.NET

Apply Here



TINYURL.COM/TENNENTSCHOLARSHIP

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

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

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 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

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/>.



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?
-