

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Wednesday, March 26, 2025



Today's Program (March 27, 2025) - New Member Talks!

By Richard T. Devereaux on Sunday, March 23, 2025

New Member Talks

The program this week is our crowd-pleasing "New Member Talks," short autobiographical talks from three of our newest members. Scheduled for this week are: **Laura Uherka, Alan West, and Michael Thomas**. Please join us!

Club Meeting

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

Speakers

March 27, 2025

[Laura Uherka](#), [Alan West](#),
[Michael Thomas](#)
New Member Talks

April 03, 2025

[Eva-Michelle Spicer](#), [David
Mans](#), [Dick Hall](#)
110th Birthday of the Rotary
Club of Asheville

April 10, 2025

[Andy Tait](#), [Lang Hornthal](#)
EcoForester

April 24, 2025

[Lennin Caro](#), [Dir. Camino
Research Institute](#)
The Latino Community in WNC -
Strengths & Needs

Coming Events

April 2nd

[Urban Hike](#)

April 16th

[Thirsty Third Wednesday](#)

Club Leaders



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



[David Mans](#)
President-Elect

[Michelle Daniels](#)
President-Nominee

Rotary 
Asheville

MARCH
27

NEW MEMBER TALKS



LAURA UHERKA



ALAN WEST



MICHAEL THOMAS

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



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 Eames](#)
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 Werts](#)
Diversity Equity &
Inclusion



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

[David T. Kaverman](#)

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

Donate



Rotary Meeting Summary (March 20, 2025) - End Plastic Soup!

By Richard T. Devereaux on Saturday, March 22, 2025

Guest speaker Ilya Shcharbitski spoke to our club remotely this week. He introduced himself as district director for Rotaract and discussed the End Plastic Soup project, a global initiative to address plastic pollution. He highlighted the project's goal to contribute to solving the plastic pollution problem, emphasizing the importance of awareness, action, and alliances.

Additionally, President Eva-Michelle **inducted two new members, Jack Davis and Josh Burrill** (pictured below). She also awarded **Michael Trayford his Paul Harris Fellow + 5 award.** Congratulations Michael!

[CLICK HERE to read an AI-generated summary of the entire meeting.](#)



Ilya Shcharbitski



Let's Rally for Betty Doll and Alan Hicks

By Alan L West on Tuesday, March 25, 2025

Rotary Member Care Volunteer Day, Saturday, March 29



This is the kind of service opportunity that truly **hits home**—an invitation to lend a hand to **two of our own**, Betty Doll and Alan Hicks, as they continue recovering from the devastating impact of Hurricane Helene.

Their neighborhood, **River Knoll**, was severely affected. While the county has removed large debris, **there's still a big job left to do—clearing the small stuff** that's scattered around the community. And here's the thing: River Knoll is made up primarily of older residents, many of whom aren't physically

able to do this cleanup work.

That's where **we** come in.



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

Rotary Member Care Workday – River Knoll

- **Saturday, March 29**
- **9:00 AM – 1:00 PM** (Come when you can, stay as long as you're able!)
- **Meet at 12 River Knoll Drive, Asheville**
- **Bring:** Gloves, a bucket (if you have one), and garden/leaf rake (if you have one)
- **What We'll Be Doing:** Clearing debris, lifting spirits, and showing Betty, Alan, and their neighbors that **Rotary stands with them**

This is more than just another service project. It's **Rotary love in action**—for our members, our friends, and our community.

Let's show up strong. Let's make a visible, tangible difference. And let's remind Betty and Alan that they're not alone.

Can you join us? Reply to this email or text me at **832-458-6227** to let me know you're in.

With gratitude and purpose,
Alan West

P.S. Wear your Rotary gear and your biggest smile—we're bringing service and solidarity this Saturday!

Birthdays

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
Beverly Jurenko
April 19th
Scott E. Raines
April 20th
James S. Thompson
April 25th
Mary Wood Brown
April 25th

Wedding Anniversaries

Jennifer Henson
April 1st
Kyle R. Boyd
April 8th
Edward J. Sullivan
April 9th
Benjamin J. Wann
April 15th
Albert Davis

Rotary Plans to Streamline, Modernize 4-Way Test

By Richard T. Devereaux

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

Rotary  **THE FOUR-WAY TEST**
Of the things we think, say or do:

- first** Is it the **TRUTH**?
- second** Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- third** Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- fourth** Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

As we've seen in recent years, Rotary has shown an openness to updating and modernizing its ways to be more relevant for busy, 21st century members. We've seen this with flexible meeting formats, new membership categories, etc, and now, apparently even the 4-Way Test may change with the times. According to reports from the new Rotary Office of Greater Utility & Efficiency (ROGUE), RI officials are considering tweaks to the venerable test. And they're beginning with the name itself according to an unnamed source. "We're considering changing *4-way test*, to *4-way quiz*. *Test* sounds kind of harsh, don't you think? ... and just stresses out our members. *Quiz* seems less threatening."

But they're not stopping there. According to ROGUE Committee Chair Ima Wytegur, the first test, "Is it the Truth," is also under scrutiny. "Let's face it, does anyone know what *the truth* is these days? Kind of an old school concept right? We're thinking of replacing the words *the truth* with *cool*. 'Is it cool?' just seems like a better way to go. Cool—you do it; not cool—you don't. What could be simpler?"

The second "test" is also apparently being streamlined. One unnamed ROGUE committee member said, "We're thinking of changing *Is it Fair to all concerned?* to *Is it fair to us?* Let's face it, it's unrealistic to think something could possibly be fair for everyone. As Rotarians we have to take care of ourselves. If it's fair to us, that should be good enough. Right?"

Others reported that the third test, *Will it build goodwill and better friendships?* is sorely out of date. "C'mon, test #3 sounds like a cross between something out of your great-grandma's etiquette book and an old Christmas carol. It needs a makeover." The source leaked that the leading candidate for substitute wording is simply, *Will it be fun?* "Hey, if it's fun, then it'll certainly spread *goodwill* ... whatever that means."

As of press time, the fourth test—Will it be beneficial to all concerned?—will just be dropped altogether. ROGUE member Nita Joint opined, "Four tests are way too many. We need to realize our members are busy and just don't have time for four tests. I personally have always been a big fan of 3-Way things, if you know what I mean."

Finally, ROGUE members unanimously decided to also reduce the preamble wording from *The 4-Way Test of the things we think, say, and do* to simply, *The 3-Way Quiz of things*. As one ROGUE member said, do we really think we should be telling our members what they can think, say, and do? It's a free country ya know."



April 18th
Thomas A. Cannon
April 20th
Erin Adams
April 21st
Katherine Van Brocklin
April 22nd
Mark A. Knollman
April 23rd

Rotarians Rebuilt Hope

By Alan L West on Sunday, March 23, 2025

The Mission: Install Skirting, Restore Stability, Rebuild Lives

Check out this video by Alan West documenting our Rotarians at Work, partnering with Asheville's Habitat for Humanity to rebuild a home damaged by Hurricane Helene. Teams worked on March 17, 18, & 19th.



Rotary Club of Asheville's 110th Birthday Party!!

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Happy Birthday to our Club! Join us for our Supercentenarian Celebration!

YOU ARE INVITED TO CELEBRATE

**THE 110TH
BIRTHDAY
OF
THE ROTARY CLUB
OF ASHEVILLE**

Thursday, April 3rd 2025 at 12:30pm

Tuton Hall at Trinity Episcopal Church

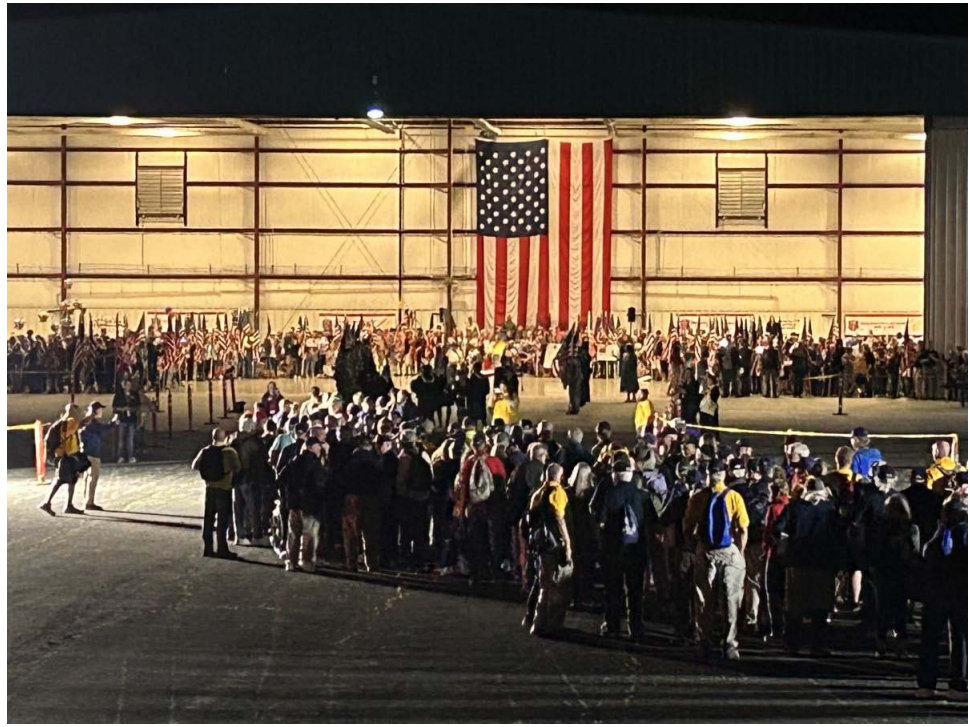
Please join us as we celebrate the
accomplishments of 110 years of service to our
community and around the world!

Rotary
Club of Asheville



Welcome Home our Veterans on April 19

By Robert H. Haggard on Wednesday, March 26, 2025



WHO: 1
WW II
Veteran; 6
Korean
War
Veterans;
88 Vietnam

War Veterans and 2 Gold Star Family Members

WHAT: Blue Ridge Honor Flight Welcome Home Celebration

WHEN: Saturday, April 19, 2025 8:00 PM (Signature Hanger – Asheville Regional Airport)

WHERE: Free Parking and Free Shuttles from Gate 7 of the WNC Ag Center (last gate going West on Brevard Road past the Airport)

WHY: These veterans of our armed forces deserve our respect and deserve to be honored. In most cases they sacrificed years of their lives in service to us, the American people. Gold Star families have lost service members who sacrificed their lives for us.

Can you spare a couple of hours of your time on April 19th to show these heroes that you care and that you appreciate what they have done for us??

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!





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.



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,

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.](#)

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/TENNETSCHOLARSHIP

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/TENNETSCHOLARSHIP](https://tinyurl.com/tennetscholarship)

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

The 2025 Rotary District Conference Registration is Now Open – Our Conference is coming home to West

By Joan Lee VanOrman



This has truly been a year of the Magic of Rotary. It was not the year any of us envisioned on July 1, 2024. We have experienced a full spectrum: from the devastation of many of our communities from Hurricane Helene to recovery and resounding resilience. Rotarians near and far have been here every step of the way - working non-stop to support Western North Carolina's recovery programs.

Soon, on May 9-10, our District will come together to pause, reflect, and celebrate. We are thrilled that the 2025 District 7670 Conference is "coming home" and that we

will gather in Asheville, in the heart of WNC.

District Governor Connie Molland is ready to celebrate the successes of the year and to recognize the many outstanding achievements of Rotarians and clubs in District 7670. "Our district is so thankful for the generosity and fortitude of Rotarians. I look forward to connecting and celebrating with you at our May Conference." At the final training to become the District Governor, DG Connie heard from RI President Stephanie Urchick that helping to heal a divided world was a goal for the 2024-25 Rotary year. Realizing that everything we do as Rotarians is a step toward a more peaceful society it is fitting that our theme for the conference is '**Peace in Motion**'.

Karolyn Killian, immediate past president of the Hendersonville Club, is the District Conference Chair. She has been planning the conference for several months, working with a full team of Rotarians who all want to showcase The Magic of Rotary, and have fun in the process! "This conference is all about opportunity...to make connections, to learn from others, to share ideas, and to have fun. It is really going to be the boost we need as we continue this recovery process."

The conference promises to be a thrilling event, full of fun, inspiration, and opportunities to make a lasting impact. We want **you** to join in on this very special two-day event. To make it super easy to get information and to register, the team enlisted the help of Dr. Shawn Hamm, President Rotary Club of Valdese. Shawn designed the conference website with goals of sharing conference information, speaker news, Asheville sights and treats, and an easy, one-button access to registration! To learn more, absorb a few of the highlights, and to register, visit Home/District Conference: <https://www.rotarydc7670.org>.

Attendees have the option to stay at the new Embassy Suites Hotel located in Asheville Downtown. There is a negotiated rate. You can see the rooms, facilities and learn more at the conference website.

The conference cost is \$245 until April 9th (price will go up to \$295 after that date). We are anticipating many Rotarians to register with the conference being in the heart of District 7670 and we have a maximum capacity of 250 so don't delay on getting registered.

We hope to see you May 9-10 in Asheville. It's sure to be an exceptional and much needed celebration! There might even be a little magic.

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/>.

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?
-