

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Wednesday, April 2, 2025



Today's Meeting - 110th Birthday Party! (April 3, 2025)

Sunday, March 23, 2025

Happy Birthday to our Club! Join us for our Supercentenarian Celebration! The party will include historical updates covering the last 10 years since our centennial in 2015.

Club Meeting

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

Speakers

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 17, 2025

Brian DeWine
Asheville Tourists

April 24, 2025

Lennin Caro, Dir.
Camino Research
Institute
The Latino Community
in WNC - Strengths &
Needs

May 01, 2025

Kyle Parks, Margt
Baron, Katherine Van
Brocklin
New Member Talks

Coming Events

April 2nd

Urban Hike

April 5th

Songs for Senderos
Fundraiser

April 16th

Thirsty Third
Wednesday

April 19th

Blue Ridge Honor

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

A large graphic invitation for the 110th birthday party. The background is dark blue with gold confetti and a large blue ribbon graphic. There are several balloons, some yellow and some dark blue with gold dots. The text is in white and gold. The Rotary International logo is in the bottom right corner.

Join us in

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

Club Leaders



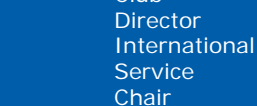
Eva-Michelle G. Spicer
President



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



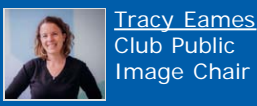
Timothy L. Owings
Club Director
Rotary Foundation Chair



Michael Thomas
Sergeant-at-Arms



Tracy Eames
Club Public Image Chair



Alexander P. Pence
Club Director
Community

Donate



Rotary Meeting Summary (March 27, 2025) - New Member Talks!

By Richard T. Devereaux on Thursday, March 27, 2025

The highlight of our meeting was 3 outstanding "New Member Talks," from **Laura Uherka, Alan West, and Michael Thomas.**



In addition, the Disaster Relief Committee updated the club on its efforts, including the receipt and disbursement of over \$417,000 in hurricane relief funds. Pat Snyder described the various partner agencies that have received some of our funds as described in the chart below.

As of March 26, 2025

Local Disaster Relief



Total Donations/Grants Received: \$417K
Results: \$365K in grants made to 40 organizations, plus delivery of 1,264 heaters/propane/water, repair materials for 13 homes.

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ABCCM Arts AVL Asheville Area Habitat for Humanity Asheville-Buncombe Community Land Trust Asheville Downtown Association Foundation Asheville Greenworks Black Wall Street AVL Blue Ridge Public Radio Bountiful Cities Brother Wolf Animal Rescue Colaborativa La Milpa Conserving Carolina CORE (Community Organized Relief Effort) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EcoForesters Equal Plates Project Grace Covenant Presbyterian Church Habitat for Humanity Jewish Family Services Leicester Community Center Local Cloth Madison County Arts Council Manna Food Bank Mountain Housing Opportunities, Inc. Mountain True NC Arboretum Society Open Doors Asheville | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pisgah Legal Services Preservation Society of Asheville and Buncombe County Riverlink Root Cause Farm Southside Community Farm Swannanoa Communities Together The Christine Avery Learning Center Trauma Intervention Program WNC Food Systems Coalition Working Wheels YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly YMCA of Western NC YWCA of Asheville and Western NC |
|--|--|--|



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



Virginia McKee
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



Margot Baron Receives Her First Paul Harris Fellow Award

[Click on this link for an AI generated summary of the entire meeting.](#)

Compassion Shows at River Knoll Cleanup

By Alan L. West on Monday, March 31, 2025

CLICK ON THE BELOW IMAGE FOR AN AMAZING SLIDE SHOW TRIBUTE

Birthdays

Patrick A. Snyder

April 3rd

Dan A. Rogers

April 8th

Richard Travis Hall

April 8th

Linda Nelson



And I am endlessly proud to stand shoulder to shoulder with this Rotary family.

With rakes, shovels, gloves, and wheelbarrows in hand, we made a **tangible, heartfelt impact** on a community that has endured so much since Hurricane Helene. Together, we helped two of our fellow Rotarians, **Betty Doll and Alan Hicks**, and their neighbors begin reclaiming their space, their peace of mind, and their path toward recovery.

In just a few hours, we cleared lots of debris—**trash, wood, glass, styrofoam, vegetation**—some items small, others requiring the strength of several of us to move. And in the midst of the rubble, we came across **deeply personal artifacts**—a Santa Claus figurine, Polaroids, photos of a baby—poignant reminders that this work isn't just about cleaning up physical damage. **It's about people. Their homes. Their lives. Their memories.**

Today was more than a workday. It was a **powerful act of community and compassion**—and you all showed up in a way that was inspiring, generous, and deeply human.

I'm proud to serve with you. I'm grateful for each of you. And I'm still in awe of what we accomplished together.

With heartfelt thanks and Rotary love,
Alan West
Disaster Relief Volunteer Coordinator
Rotary Club of Asheville

A SINCERE Thank You from Betty Doll and Alan Hicks

Monday, March 31, 2025



Dear Rotary friends,

We want to give a huge THANK YOU to all who showed up on Saturday to help with the River Knoll community clean up. We were blown away (as were our neighbors!) by how many of you came to help and by how much work we got done. It was a wonderful showing of support and is so appreciated! Having so much of the debris cleaned up will increase community morale and bring a greater sense of hope that our community will rebuild better than ever.

We thank you and our neighbors thank you!

Betty Doll and Alan Hicks

- 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
- Joe Lancaster
- April 26th
- Sharon Kay LeDuc
- April 28th
- Rae Geoffrey
- April 28th

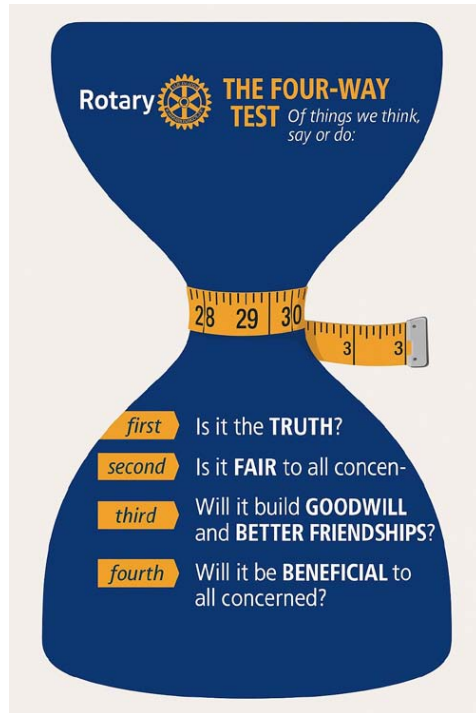
Wedding Anniversaries

- Kyle R. Boyd
- April 8th
- Edward J. Sullivan
- April 9th
- Benjamin J Wann
- April 15th

Albert Davis
 April 18th
 Thomas A. Cannon
 April 20th
 Erin Adams
 April 21st
 Katherine Van Brocklin
 April 22nd
 Mark A. Knollman
 April 23rd
 Celeste B. Collins
 April 26th
 Carolyn Cronin
 April 29th

Rotary Plans to Slim, Modernize 4-Way Test

By Richard T. Devereaux
 Tuesday, **April 1**, 2025



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 assessing potential 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 Wytegurl, 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."



Benefit Concert for Guatemala Simple School

By Albert Davis on Thursday, March 27, 2025



On Saturday, April 5, David LaMotte, Kat Williams, and David Wilcox will perform in a benefit concert for Senderos. All proceeds from the event will benefit the education, arts, and mentoring programs that Senderos supports in Guatemala. Enjoy handmade crafts from Guatemala, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages, amazing music, and complimentary Guatemalan finger foods. The suggested ticket price is \$30, and you can purchase tickets at the door or in advance (though we suggest advance purchase, as the event is likely to sell out). Doors open at 6:00, and the show starts at 7:00. Senderos was founded by Rotary Peace Fellow and 2025 Rotary International Convention keynote speaker, David LaMotte. The organization has been working in Guatemala for over 20 years, supporting local leaders doing great work to nurture and create opportunities for Guatemalan youth. Their primary programs include a primary school (Pre-K through 2nd grade) in the Impoverished Maya

village of T'zanchaj, and a mentoring program and music education program for teens in El Tejar. The primary school was a beneficiary of a Rotary Foundation Simple Schools grant to build a beautiful school building, now in use.

The Rotary Club of Asheville has been a long time supporter of the primary school in T'zanchaj and was instrumental in the grant to build the school and coordinated the funding for the expansion of an additional grade at the school last year.

Please join us for a night of hope, fellowship, stories, and songs! Tickets can be purchased at bit.ly/Songs4Senderos, with a suggested price of \$30, but any amount is welcome.

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??

People of Action Gala Featured in Tribune Papers

Saturday, March 29, 2025

The Rotary Club of Asheville's People of Action Gala was featured in a March 28th article in the Tribune Papers, a regional newspaper serving much of Western NC. Click on the image below or [this link](#) to read the entire story.



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.



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,

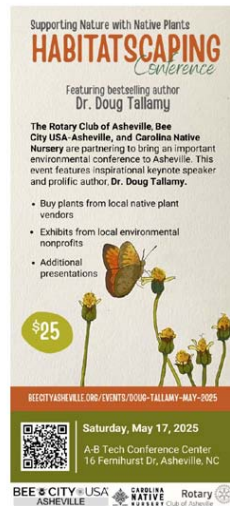
Eva-Michelle Spicer
President - Rotary Club of Asheville

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

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](#).



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@FRODIGY.NET




TINYURL.COM/TENNENTSCHOLARSHIP

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 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 Four Way Test

