

**Birthdays**

No Birthdays Found

**Wedding Anniversaries**

No Wedding Anniversaries Found

**Years of Service**

Donald Lamar Warren  
03-27-2023  
35 Years

Plato Poletus Pearson Jr.  
03-27-2023  
64 Years

**Club Leaders**



Luke Upchurch  
President



Sharon Jenkins Padgett  
President-Elect  
Club Service Chair



Patrick Larkin  
Secretary



Pamela Peacock Overcash  
Secretary-Elect



Robin McDonald Loupus  
Club Director  
Treasurer



D. Scott Scarborough  
Assistant Treasurer



Scott Thomas Attaway  
Club Director



Charles Calloway Elliott  
Club Director

Sharon Heinrich  
Public Relations/Image Chair

**President's Message - March 25, 2025**

Monday, March 24, 2025



Greetings!

Last week's Habitat for Humanity program served as a strong reminder of the incredible impact we can make through shared vision and collaboration. As Rotarians, it highlighted the importance of understanding the needs of those we serve while remaining adaptable. In a club with a 105-year legacy, change can be challenging, but we must always stay focused on our purpose: building meaningful connections and making a positive difference in the world.

Please remember to submit any nominations for Distinguished Rotarian to me by 5 PM on Wednesday.

YIRS.

Luke

**This Week's Program - March 27th: Brad Frazier - TikTok**

**This Week's Program - March 27th: Brad Frazier - TikTok**

Join us for a fascinating discussion of the effects, the controversy, and the hype around the infamous social media app, TikTok, with Professor of Business at Belmont Abbey College, Dr. Brad Frazier.



The meeting begins at 12:40pm and is offered in-person and by Zoom.



Nancy Anne Kuney  
Club Director  
Membership Chair



Sandi McCarter  
Club Director



Andrew Charles Pierce  
President - Nominee  
Bulletin Editor



Daniel Alexander Poole  
Club Director



James Copeland Smith  
Club Director



Phillip Bryson Welch Jr.  
Club Director



Laura Fellows  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Karen Walker  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair



Steven D. Long  
Club Learning  
Facilitator



Donald Benton Parrott  
Club Director



Les Davis  
iPast President

If you are attending in-person, join us at noon for the lunch service.

The Zoom link will open at 12:15pm.

You can join the meeting here:  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85921621955?pwd=SUJpSGpWUnQyOHp6VTJzcllBOUYvdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 2162 1955  
Passcode: 522413

## This Week's Birthdays: March 24 - March 31



*No birthdays this week!*

[Read More](#)

## This Week's Years of Service Anniversaries: March 24 - 30

**Rotary**  **Thank you for your Rotary Service!**

*Tete Pearson - March 27 (64 Years)*  
*Don Warren - March 27 (35 Years)*



[Read More](#)

## Next Week's Program - April 3rd: New Member Talks!

**Next Week's Program - April 3rd: New Member Talks!**

Join us next week for our favorite program: New Member Talks! Join us to learn some more about some of our newer members!



## Welcome on Board !

The meeting begins at 12:40pm and is offered in-person and by Zoom.

**If you are attending in-person, join us at noon for the lunch service.**

**The Zoom link will open at 12:15pm.**

**You can join the meeting here:**

**[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85921621955?  
pwd=SUJpSGpWUnOyOHp6VTJzcllBOUYvdz09](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85921621955?pwd=SUJpSGpWUnOyOHp6VTJzcllBOUYvdz09)**

Meeting ID: 859 2162 1955  
Passcode: 522413

## Distinguished Rotarian Nominations

Every year, our Club designates an outstanding member to be honored as the Distinguished Rotarian. These individuals have shown their leadership and dedication to our Rotary Club and its principles, and they are recognized at the District level as well as by our Club. Please use this form to nominate a Club member you think deserves this recognition.

## Rotarians



**Changing Lives**

Past recipients are:

- Max Gettys Erwin 1993-1994
- James Noel Johnson 1994-1995
- James Bynum Carter 1995-1996
- James Boyce "Jick" Garland, Sr. 1996-1997
- Lonnie Austin Waggoner, Sr. 1997-1998
- George S. Anderson, Jr. 1998-1999
- Plato P. "Tete" Pearson 1999-2000
- Daniel Boone Moser 2000-2001
- Rebeca Blankenship Carder 2001-2002
- Carolina Harris Garrison 2002-2003
- William David "Bill" Lawson III 2003-2004
- Carl Ellis Fisher 2004-2005
- Donald L. Warren 2005-2006
- William Seabrook 2006-2007
- Stephen B. Driscoll 2007-2008
- Charlie Peninger, Jr. 2008-2009
- Robert H. Collis 2009-2010
- Barbara Voorhees 2010-2011
- Timothy Grooms 2011-2012
- Steven Long 2012-2013

- Cheryl Rhoades 2013-2014
- Will Current, Jr. 2014-2015
- Ring Stafford 2015-2016
- Steve Whitesell 2016-2017
- B. F. Beasley 2017-2018
- [No Awardee] 2018-2019
- James Macomson 2019-2020
- Martha Burris 2020-2021
- Brent Messer and Scott Scarborough 2021-2022
- Patti Black 2022-2023
- Harry Petrey 2023-2024

Please send your nominations to Luke Upchurch at [upchurch.luke@gaston.edu](mailto:upchurch.luke@gaston.edu) by **Wednesday, March 26 at Noon.**

## Service Project Opportunity: Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches

### Service Project Opportunity: Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches

Over the next two weeks there are two opportunities to help our club make peanut butter and jelly sandwiches for the unhoused.

- 1) Next week, March 27th, please bring jars of peanut butter and jelly to the club meeting.
- 2) The next next week, April 3rd, stay after the meeting to put the sandwiches together. If you are interested in signing up to help, please contact Sharon Padgett.



## 2025 Spring Upcoming Service Project Opportunities

### 2025 Spring Upcoming Service Project Opportunities

Please contact Sharon Padgett if you are interested in participating in any of the projects below!

#### March 31

3:40pm to 5:40pm - H.H. Beam Feeding Boxes - We pick up boxes of food and place them in the recipient's car.

#### April 3

1:30pm-2:30pm - Making PB&J sandwiches for the unhoused after club meeting @ Conference center

#### April 17

H.H. Beam - Running concessions for field day at the school. 2 shifts from 9-11am and/or 12-2pm

#### May 8, 13, and 15

HH Beam Proctors - 8am- 11am - assist in classroom with EOG testing. Our teachers need us!

## Proposed New Corporate Membership: Lee Lankford

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Lee Lankford is a proposed new Corporate Membership for GSM Services.

Sponsored by: Steven Long

Lee is a graduate of UNC Charlotte with a degree in Economics. She currently works at GSM as the Community

and Customer Engagement Representative. She enjoys spending time with her husband Josh and their two teenagers. Lee wishes to become a member of Rotary to help provide community services and network with other Rotarians.

This serves as the two-week notice.

## Pop-Up Social: April 3 - Durty Bull

### Pop-Up Social: April 3 - Durty Bull

Join us for our next Pop-Up Social on April 3rd at 5:00 p.m. (or whenever you can come!) at Durty Bull Brewing Company!!



Durty Bull Brewing Company  
126 S Trenton St  
Gastonia, NC 28052

## 2025 District Conference in Statesville, NC

### 2025 District Conference in Statesville, NC

Join us at the Annual District 7680 Conference in Statesville, NC on Friday, May 2nd and Saturday, May 3rd!

To register, visit the link below, which is also available in an email sent to all of us by District Governor Kevin Kendrick:

<https://www.dacdb.com/Register4/Index.cfm?EventID=77814246&UserID=800989727>



**Speaker:**  
**Molly Grantham**  
Journalist.  
Speaker.  
Author.  
Mom.

## DISTRICT 7680 CONFERENCE

*If you've never attended a District Conference, this is the one you don't want to miss!*

- ✓ Get Inspired!
- ✓ Level Up Your Leadership!
- ✓ Expand Your Network!
- ✓ Experience the Best of Rotary!
- ✓ Fun and awards!

# 2-3

**MAY 2025**

Statesville NC Civic Center  
300 S Center St  
Statesville, NC

**Don't Miss Out! Secure your spot today and be part of something truly special!**


**REGISTRATION: \$125 (INCLUDES MEALS)**

## 2025 4-Way Test Scholarship

### 2025 4-Way Test Scholarship

Please see the details below about the upcoming 4-Way Test Scholarship for high school seniors. This project is supported by all five Gaston County Rotary Clubs, and the deadline is **April 10, 2025!!**

Here is the link to apply. Please share with interested parties: [2025 4-Way Test Scholarship Application Link](#)

**Rotary**  **“4-Way Test” Scholarship  
Essay/Speech Contest 2025**

**Rotary**  **4 Way Test**  
of the things we think, say, or do:  
Is it the **TRUTH**?  
Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?  
Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?  
Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

*Scholarship opportunity for Gaston County High School seniors. At least **\$5,000** total general scholarship funding available. Participants learn about Rotary's 4-Way Test and apply it to their everyday lives as they write and present an original essay / speech. **DEADLINE THURSDAY, APRIL 10, 2025***



**SCAN ME**

For further information and scholarship entry forms, scan the QR code or  
visit the [GoingMerry scholarship information page](#)

## 2025 Gastonia East Rotary Concert Series

### 2025 Gastonia East Rotary Concert Series

See the graphic below for the dates and locations of the upcoming Concert Series from our friends at Gastonia East! Please consider attending these evenings to support their grant cycle fundraiser!

# GASTONIA Concert SERIES 2025

**Thursday Nights**

DJ Starts at 6pm • Live Music at 7:30

Rotary Pavilion • Downtown Gastonia

*Spring Fever*

**On the Border**  
The Ultimate Eagles Tribute



**MAY  
1**

**MAY  
29**



*Summer Blast-Off*  
Gabriel Sanchez Presents

**The Prince Experience**

*Southern September*

**Petty Rewind**  
Tom Petty Tribute Band



**SEPT  
18**

Caromont Health Park

**OCT  
30**



*Monster Mash*

**90's Kids**

Special Trick-or-Treat Event



Presented by



Gastonia East

**Rotary**



[gastoniaeastrotary.org/concerts](http://gastoniaeastrotary.org/concerts)

## Service Project Opportunity - Bountiful Blessings Food Pantry

Service Project Opportunity - Bountiful Blessings Food Pantry



The Service Projects Committee is happy to announce a wonderful new service project opportunity! A few years ago, our club had the pleasure of inviting Dr. Rodney B. Freeman to talk about the amazing work that he and his congregation, along with an army of community volunteers, do through the Bountiful Blessings Food Pantry. Anyone in need of a meal can stop by each Thursday, no ID required. Dr. Freeman has built an incredible ministry that serves so many people in Gaston County in need. The Rotary Club of Gastonia is committed to volunteering the fourth Thursday of every other month through the spring to support Dr. Freeman's mission. The dates are:

March 27th  
April 24th  
May 22nd



All volunteers arrive around 7:30 a.m. After a prayer, Dr. Freeman's team will assign volunteer positions. They usually finish around 10:30. a.m. The project takes place at Dr. Freeman's church, Mt. Zion Restoration Church. For parking, it is best to park in the lot at the front of the church, located at:

2310 Crescent Lane  
Gastonia, NC 28052

Contact Information: 704-864-8616 or [bbfoodpantry@yahoo.com](mailto:bbfoodpantry@yahoo.com)

## 2025 Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) Scholarship and Volunteer Information

**2025 Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders (SFTL) Scholarship and Volunteer Information**  
**To Sign up to Volunteer: Seminar for Tomorrow's Leaders** will once again be held at **Gardner-Webb University, July 17-20, 2025, (Volunteers arrive on July 16)**. We need a few Volunteers to help with Communications, and Recruiting beforehand, but mostly to be **onsite Mentors**. Mentors need to be energetic (able to keep up with teenagers), enthusiastic, leaders by example, committed to the program and open to the new realities our youth encounter. As a Mentor, you will impact the lives of your Students. Please complete the **2025 SFTL Volunteer Application** at <https://www.IsMyRotaryClub.org/App/?ID=166>.

**For Interested Students:** Send the the flyer below, and send them the link: <https://rotary7680.org/sftl>



The flyer features a blue header with the Rotary District 7680 logo and the text "SEMINAR FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERS". Below the header is a large group photo of participants in orange and blue shirts. The main title "SUMMER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE" is in large, bold, white and yellow letters. Below the title, it says "Unlock your potential this summer with the ROTARY 7680 leadership program!". A section titled "OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:" lists four bullet points with checkmarks: "For Rising Juniors and Seniors in High School", "July 17-20, 2025", "Gardner Webb University", and "Designed by Center for Creative Leadership". To the right of the text are two circular images: one showing two girls in purple shirts and another showing a group of students holding a large ring. At the bottom, it says "MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION" followed by the URL <https://rotary7680.org/sftl/>.

### Events

March 27th

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting: Tik Tok](#)

April 3rd

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting: New Member Talks](#)

April 10th

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting: Spay / Neuter Clinic](#)

April 17th

[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting: Bo the Wonder Dog](#)