

**Birthdays**

No Birthdays Found

**Wedding Anniversaries**

Brian E Wysong  
March 31st

**Years of Service**

Lamar Kellar Jr.  
04-01-1985  
40 Years

Mark T. Skillestad  
04-05-2001  
24 Years

Les Davis  
04-06-2017  
8 Years

Dustin Patrick Letts  
04-04-2024  
1 Year

**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

**President's Message - March 31, 2025**

Monday, March 31, 2025



Greetings!

As we head into the final quarter of the Rotary year, I want to express my gratitude to each of you for your continued support, feedback, and active involvement. This week's program is always a highlight—our New Member Talks offer a wonderful chance to get to know our newest members better. After all, Rotary is not just a service-focused organization, but is a great opportunity to build better friendships.

YIRS.

Luke

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

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

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



*Welcome on Board !*



Charles Calloway Elliott  
Club Director



Sharon Heinrich  
Public Relations/Image Chair



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

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=SUJpSGpWUnQyOHp6VTJzcilBOUYvdz09>**

Meeting ID: 859 2162 1955  
Passcode: 522413

## This Week's Birthdays: March 31 - April 6



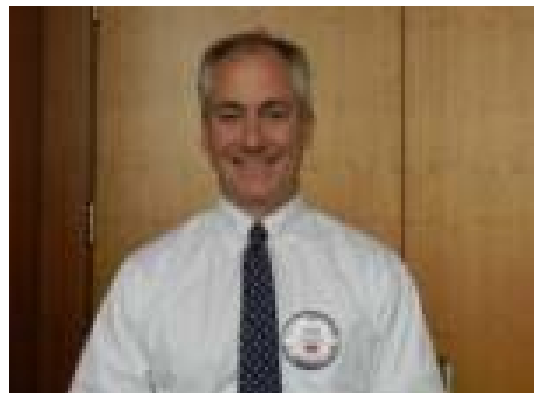
*No birthdays this week!*

[Read More](#)

## This Week's Years of Service Anniversaries: March 31 - April 6

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

*Lamar Keller - April 1 (40 Years)*  
*Mark Skillestad - April 5 (24 Years)*  
*Les Davis - April 6 (8 Years)*  
*Dustin Letts - April 4 (1 Year)*



[Read More](#)

## Next Week's Program - April 10th: Terry Kenny & Diane Finnegan - Gaston Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

### Next Week's Program - April 10th: Terry Kenny & Diane Finnegan - Gaston Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic

Join us next week for a wonderful presentation on the Gaston Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic from Terry Kenny and Diane Finnegan!



Per their website: "Terry [Kinney] was our Executive Director from 2009 until August of 2023, when she moved into the CEO role. She was instrumental in raising funds to start the spay/neuter clinic and has been our director since the clinic opened in 2009. Although Terry is an attorney, she spends most of her time working to improve animal welfare. She is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro and Wake Forest School of Law."

"Diane [Finnegan] practiced law in New York as a civil litigator from 1993 until she semi-retired and moved to Gaston County in 2020. Animal welfare has always been a passion of hers since she first adopted a shelter dog in 1991. She joined our team in February 2024 and is looking forward to moving the Animal League of Gaston County to its next stage. Opening a full service low-cost Veterinary hospital on our building's second floor is a goal she shares with Terry Kenny, our CEO."

"The Gaston Low-Cost Spay/Neuter Clinic is dedicated to providing high-quality, low-cost spay/neuter surgeries. Everyone is welcome. There is no residency or income requirement, and we are "feral friendly". Our clinic is a mentee clinic in the ASPCA Spay/Neuter Alliance Clinic Mentorship Network. Our focus is spay/neuter and affordable veterinary care.

We are very efficient and our staff is specially trained in the most up-to-date surgical procedures. Our licensed veterinarians are skilled surgeons who are able to devote their entire attention to surgeries. In addition to spay/neuter we offer veterinary care at reasonable prices. Because we are a non-profit, our prices are low.

We are operated by the Animal League of Gaston County – a 501(c)3 non-profit."

For more information visit their website: [Gaston Low-Cost Spay and Neuter Clinic](https://www.gastonlowcostspayneuter.com)

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=SUJpSGpWUWUyOHp6VTJzcllBOUYvdz09>

Meeting ID: 859 2162 1955  
Passcode: 522413

## 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

## Service Project Opportunity: Peanut Butter and Jelly Sandwiches

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

This coming Thursday, April 3rd, stay after the meeting to put the sandwiches together for the unhoused. 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!

## 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.

**2-3**

**MAY 2025**

Statesville NC Civic Center  
300 S Center St  
Statesville, NC

## 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!

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

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

## Proposed New Corporate Membership: Lee Lankford

### Proposed New Corporate Membership: Lee Lankford

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

Sponsored by: Steven Long

Lee is a graduate of UNC Chapel Hill 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.

## 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:

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>

**Rotary**  
District 7680

**SEMINAR FOR TOMORROW'S LEADERS**

# SUMMER LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Unlock your potential this summer with the ROTARY 7680 leadership program!

**OUR SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM:**

- ✓ For Rising Juniors and Seniors in High School
- ✓ July 17-20, 2025
- ✓ Gardner Webb University
- ✓ Designed by Center for Creative Leadership

**MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION** <https://rotary7680.org/sftl/>

### Events

- 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](#)
- April 24th  
[Gastonia Weekly Club Meeting: Holy Angels](#)
- April 27th  
[Rotary 4-Way Test Scholarship Challenge \(Gaston County clubs\)](#)