

PROGRAM: Van Lankford **TOPIC:** District Conference 2025: Cherokee

Introduction: Tom Blount **Sgt. at Arms:** Allison Aldridge & Guy Luccas
Invocation: Jamal Bennett **Greeters:** Joel Gentry & Addison Maille



Rotary Club of High Point **Thursday 12:00 Noon** **800 Country Club Drive**
 Email: hprotary@northstate.net Rotary Zone 33 Rotary District 7690 Rotary Club # 6062
 Web: www.highpointrotary.org (club) www.rotary7690.org (district) www.rotary.org (int'l)



THIS WEEK AT ROTARY



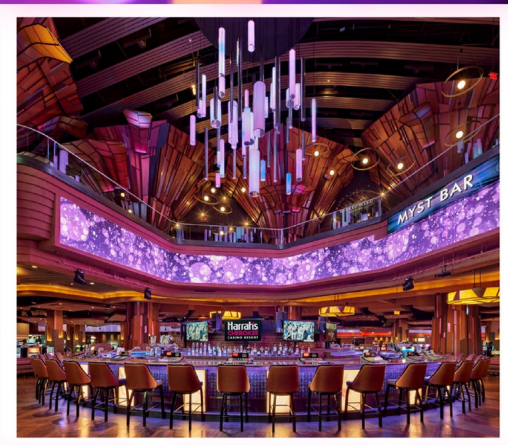
Past District Governor Van Lankford will join us to share everything about this year's exciting, fast approaching District Conference in Cherokee, North Carolina!

Van's Rotary journey began in February 2001 when a neighbor and retired dentist invited him to his first Rotary meeting. Later that year, he joined the Rotary of Club of Mocksville. He served the Mocksville club in many capacities and in 2010-2011 served the club as President. In July of 2011, when he was starting his new business in Mount Airy, Van joined the Rotary Club of Mount Airy. He served the Mount Airy Club as Foundation Chair, Polio Plus Chair, and in 2014-2015 he served as club President. Van has also been active in District 7690 serving two terms as a Foundation Advocate, the District Conference Committee, and serving Area 1 as an Assistant Governor from 2018 – 2021. In 2023-2024, Van served as District Governor. He is a Paul Harris Fellow, Sustaining Member, Benefactor, member of the Paul Harris Society, Bequest Society, and a Major Donor.

CHEROKEE

District Conference 2025

MAY 1 - MAY 4, 2025



ENTERTAINED ENERGIZED ELECTRIFIED



VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
LiveFromCherokee.com

LAST WEEK AT ROTARY

Past President Don Shaw sat in for Slade Lewis last week while he attended a meeting for work. He called the meeting to order with an enormous clang of the Rotary Bell and brought up Scott Wagoner to do the invocation. Jamie Lee introduced our two visitors. She also plugged joining our Feeding Lisa's Kids volunteer team pointing out how little time it takes, but how big an impact it has in the community. Don seconded her invite and offered his own praises of the program.

Barry Nelson paraded up front in his shorts to do special recognitions as George White made fun of his legs. George, it's barely April. No one has much tan yet! Barry started with a plea aimed mainly at the UNC, NCSU, and

Continued on page 5

A District Conference Incentive

DACDB CONFERENCE REGISTRATION



REGISTER NOW & ENTER RAFFLE TO WIN



A Free Excursion for you & your guest to the Oconaluftee Indian Village

Just minutes from the resort, you can take an immersive journey into the past and learn more about the Cherokee Indian culture.

Thurs. April 17th Miss High Point & Miss High Point Teen	Thurs. April 24th Jeff Benfield Membership & Recruitment	COMING ATTRactions	Thurs. May 1st Skip Carney 'The Power of How Might We'	Thurs. May 8th Owen Bertschi Memorial Golf Classic Willow Creek
---	---	-------------------------------	---	---

MEALS ON WHEELS
Thurs., April 24th
 Call Clark Pierce to help!
 clarkpierce72cu@gmail.com
 336-918-2894

FEEDING LISA'S KIDS
Wed., May 7th
 Contact Carroll Brown to help!
 adpcorp@triad.rr.com
 336-689-0056

District Training Assembly
April 12th
 Randolph Community College
 Asheboro

The training team is working hard to provide valuable tools & insights to support club leaders. This session isn't just for officers. ALL Rotarians can gain something from it!
 Interested? See Slade, Ricardo, or Kristen


**ROTARY INTERNTIONAL
 CONVENTION**



June 21-25 Calgary, Canada

**ANOTHER MICRO-PROJECT
 COMING IN MAY**
 This one is for United Way of
 Greater High Point

Happy Birthday




Tim
Webster
Sunday
April 6th



Hal
Johnson
Monday
April 7th

Happy Club Anniv.




Steve
Ilderton
Sunday
April 6th
30 yrs.


Happy Anniversary



Jordan
& Leah
Lessard
April 7th
7 yrs.



Bradley
& Edi
Gibson
April 9th
9 yrs.



Bob &
Sallie
Amos
April 12th
11 yrs.



Rotarians
(and families)
really turned
out for the
HPU—Hobart
Lacrosse
Game



The Fun
Outing Was
Enjoyed by
All on a
Beautiful
Late March
Saturday at
High Point
University





2025 Owen Bertschi Memorial Golf Classic

Presented by



High Point, NC

Albatross Sponsor



Join us on **Thursday, May 8**, at the High Point Country Club (Willow Creek Golf Course)
(Rain Date: **Tuesday, May 13**)

Sponsoring the Tournament is an excellent opportunity to gain visibility, network with local professionals, and support a meaningful cause. Your sponsorship directly benefits a local Nonprofit (to be named very soon!), helping to make a lasting impact in our community.

As a Sponsor, you'll receive:

- Brand Exposure
- Networking Opportunities
- Community Impact
- Complimentary Tournament Entry
- Social Media & Website Recognition
- On-Site Promotion

By sponsoring the Tournament, you're not only elevating your brand but also making a direct impact on our community.

Lead Proceeds Beneficiary:

WORKING wardrobe

PROVIDING CLOTHES • EMPOWERING FAMILIES • TRANSFORMING COMMUNITIES

SPONSORS

Sponsor Name: _____

Contact Name: _____

Phone: _____

e-mail: _____

Address: _____

Payment Information:
Total Amount Enclosed: _____

Check Enclosed Please Invoice Me

Make Checks Payable to:
Rotary Club of High Point
Mail to:
PO Box 5503
High Point, NC 27262

For Questions, Contact:
Jeff Benfield 336-848-8505
Wil Elder 336-905-1859

Deadline for Submission is
April 10th

Our New Expanded Event Now Has Morning & Afternoon Tee Times Available for Play

OWEN'S TEAM - \$100

- Individual Virtual Golfer
- Special Recognition Sponsorship

Preferred Round:
 Morning (8:45 AM)
 Afternoon (1:30 PM)
We'll do our best to honor preferences but may need to adjust.

Player Information:

1. Player Name: _____	Handicap: _____
Email: _____	
2. Player Name: _____	Handicap: _____
Email: _____	
3. Player Name: _____	Handicap: _____
Email: _____	
4. Player Name: _____	Handicap: _____
Email: _____	

Albatross Sponsor

High Point, NC

FAIRWAY - \$1,750

- Lunch Sponsor
- Table for Sponsor Information at Lunch
- One Foursome

Cable 7 • HD 1200

EAGLE - \$2,750

- Golf Cart Sponsor
- Address Golfers
- One Foursome

MULLIGAN - \$1,750

- Beverage Cart Sponsor
- One Foursome

BIRDIE - \$1,100

- "Control-the-Hole" (activities must be approved)
- Opportunity to display, give away items, or run a game
- One Foursome

PAR - \$850

- Hole Sponsorship
- One Foursome

Jones & Peacock
INSURANCE | BUSINESS | AUTO | HOME

MENTAL HEALTH
ASSOCIATES OF THE TRIAD

UNIONHOME MORTGAGE
Jeff Benfield

Edward Jones
Warren Lackey Wealth Management

HOLE SPONSOR - \$400

- Hole Sponsorship

336-955-8656
Winston-Salem

HIGH POINT
SPEECH THERAPY, PLLC
pediatric speech & language services

MICHAEL GRAVES

Make-ups:
3/27/25

Barker
Blount
Brown
C.A. Hughes
Lackey
Mendenhall
Nelson

Absent:
4/3/25

Report in
Next Week's
Spokesman

**SERVICE
ABOVE
SELF IS
MORE
THAN A
MOTTO.
IT IS
WHAT
WE DO
IN
ROTARY.
WHAT
ARE
YOU
DOING
TO
SERVE
OTHERS
?????**

**I'm proud
of myself. I
finished a
jigsaw
puzzle in 6
months and
the box said
2-4 years!**

ROTARY CLUB of HIGH POINT 2024-2025 Officers, Boards, Committees	
President	Slade Lewis
President Elect	Ricardo Siordia
Vice President	Scott Wagoner
Secretary	Mary Sizemore
Treasurer	Amy West
Immediate Past President	Ken Esposito
Executive Secretary	Kristen Hoskins
Sergeant-At-Arms	George White & Gus Schwenk
District Liaison	Joanne Iwan
Membership Retention	George White
Special Recognitions	John Anderson, Joel Gentry Gus Schwenk, Barry Nelson
Condolences	Sharon Smith
Greeters	Steve Ilderton
Blue Badge Administration	Jamie Lee
Football Pool Master	Tony Bertschi
Rotary History	David Wall
Birthday Cards	Nancy Baker
Membership Recruitment	Jeff Benfield
Classification	Gus Schwenk
Orientation	
Attendance	Mary Sizemore
Social Events	
Club Public Image	Guy Lucas
Spokesman Newsletter	Mark Pierce
Website Development	
Social Media	Carol Hughes
Press Releases	Wayne Rutherford
Photography	Myra Clodfelter
Club Administration	Catherine Mendenhall
Luncheon Committee	Don Shaw
District Conf. Contacts	S. Lewis / R. Siordia
Youth Services	
Interact	Jeff Fuller
RYLA	
Local Scholarships	HPRF decision
School/Student Relations	Jeff Fuller
Job Shadowing	
Children's Christmas Party	Ricardo Siordia
4 Way Test Speech Contest	Don Shaw
Community Srvc Projects	Jamie Lee
Literacy (Read-A-Thon)	Mary Sizemore
Concern For The Elderly	Clark Pierce
Feeding Lisa's Kids	Carroll Brown
Salvation Army Bell Ringing	-
Service Projects	
Fundraising Projects	Allison Aldridge & K. Esposito.
BBQ & Raffle	Allison Aldridge & K. Esposito
Poinsettia Sale	Don Shaw
Golf Tournament	
ACC Day	Ken Esposito
Allocations	Joel Gentry
Foundation & Inter. Srv.	Don Shaw
Polio Plus	
District Grants	Mark Pierce
Programs	Tom Blount/David Jobe
HPRC Impact Club	
Satellite Club Rep	

Board Class 2024-2025
Guy Lucas
Jeff Benfield
Don Shaw
Board Class 2025-2026
David Jobe
Debbie Johnson
Jeff Fuller
Board Class 2026-2027
Catherine Mendenhall
Allison Aldridge
Jamie Lee

Easy Make Ups!

You can now receive make up credit through the internet. Just go to the web-site: www.rotaryclubone.org. This site gives you another make up opportunity you can do from the comfort of your own home. This is a fully chartered club by Rotary International. You can choose a 'Program' that you want to read, answer some question, and print out the makeup slip. All they ask is that the person donate the cost of maintaining the site. If you contribute the cost of your meal, please be sure and let Mary Sizemore or Kristen Hoskins know so that you will receive meal credit on your next statement.

Rather do a Make-up in Person?

Use your Ignite App. Click on Rotary Resources. Then click on Club Search. Under Search, select Clubs. Enter the Club you are interested in visiting or just select High Point, click on 25 miles and you will get every club meeting within 25 miles. You can even be more specific and add what day of the week on which you would like to find a meeting for your make-up. Click on the Club name and you will see information on the day and meeting time as well as the facility name and address for the meeting. It is easy and can be done right from your phone.

\$ 1,717

PLAY ON!

Marshall Morgan

WELL KNOWN POLIO OVERCOMERS

Senator Mitch McConnell and his Polio plight became a hot topic of debate in political circles in 2025. But it appears he did in fact have a polio diagnosis as a child.

He came down with flu-like symptoms. While he eventually recovered, his left leg did not. It was paralyzed. He couldn't run as fast as the other kids. When he put on a swimsuit, his left leg had a narrower circumference, leaving him embarrassed. Even now, he says he has trouble climbing stairs.



McConnell was diagnosed with polio in 1944 at the age of 2, nearly 10 years before the polio vaccine was developed. In his memoir,

McConnell wrote that he received care in Warm Springs, Ga., at the polio treatment center founded by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who had suffered from the disease.

Mitch McConnell's earliest childhood memory is the day he left the polio treatment center at Warm Springs, Georgia, for the last time.

Last Week at Rotary (continued from pg.1)

Faithful, encouraging everyone to support the lone ACC survivor, Duke, in the Final Four. Ken Esposito was seen smiling. It did not resonate positively with Joel Gentry though, nor a couple of Tar Heel supporters I caught in my field of vision. I guess Barry is trading in his State Red for Duke Blue for the weekend. He quickly moved on to birthdays and anniversaries, especially the list of club anniversary celebrants who each possessed enormous longevity in the Club.

Ken Esposito was next up and gave a report on our Club's NCAA tourney pool. If his math is correct, Beenny Hughes is a lock to win it all, but Marshall Morgan will give him a good run for his money. Benny also owns his household bragging rights as Carol Hughes is in third place.. Next Ken presented a blue badge to Gary Newcomb happily traded in his red one. Momentum built as he finally got to the Queen of Hearts drawing. Our speaker pulled out Marshall Morgan's ticket earning him a cut of the cards. He wasted no time in making his choice, the 6 of Clubs, insuring we play on and that \$ 1,717 pot moves closer to the two grand mark.

Don shared a message from Addison Maille that there is a Meal Packing Event this Friday and Saturday at River Landing. It runs 9 until Noon each day. He encouraged our participation. He also did a promo for a concert on Sunday that supports the Community Clinic.

Don called up Eric Foushee to introduce our program, but Jeff Benfield flagged down Don as he was skipped on the agenda. Guess a past president can get a bit rusty. Either that or he was wanting to give our speakers plenty of time to talk. Regardless, Jeff came up to plug the fast approaching HP Rotary Owen Bertschi Memorial Golf Classic. He made the ask for more folks to dip into their budgets and help sponsor the event and to provide him leads as to other sponsors. He also encouraged golfers to sign up. Whether it is a foursome or an individual golfer, sign ups are in full swing. We have both morning and afternoon tee times to fill this year, so don't procrastinate. Let us hear from you. He also encouraged us to pull out our cell phones, find the tourney on our Facebook page and "Like" it. Pass it on to your Friends too!.

Eric did then come forth and introduce Sherea Burnett, executive director of Partners Ending Homelessness in Guilford County. (Barry didn't convince her either as she declared a strong "Go Heels!" shout out) Sherea dispelled a lot of myths and wrong information about the homelessness situation in our county. First she made it clear that Homelessness is an experience, it is not a person. Hopefully they won't always be homeless. Then she expressed frustration that as we try and fix homelessness, we are not including those experiencing homelessness in the conversations.

To help us more clearly see the picture, she shared a slide of info from January 2024 that painted us a picture of the homeless population. Of the 665 experiencing homelessness then, 77 suffered from mental illness and 44 had substance use disorders. (continued on page six)



As the Pot Grows, So Does the Line to Buy Tickets!



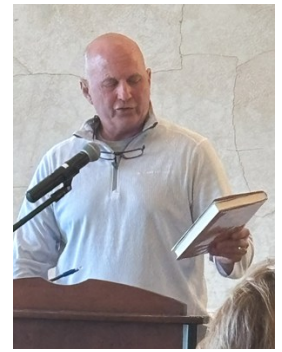
Sharon Smith & Don Shaw Fill Their Plates



Ron Gann & John Anderson Enjoy Lunch & Chatting



Eric Foushee Introduced Our Speaker Sherea Burnett



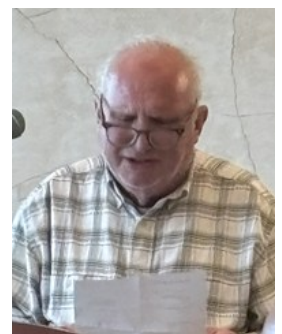
Don Shaw Sat in for President Slade Lewis



Scott Wagoner Lead us in Prayer



Jamie Lee Introduced Our Guests and Plugged Feeding Lisa's Kids



Barry Nelson Had Fun With Special Recognitions

Last Week at Rotary (continued from pg.5)

She made it clear that some of those problems came about BECAUSE they were homeless. It is not why they are homeless. The vast majority are males and also African American. Some are experiencing short term homelessness. They maybe had to make a choice of whether to pay their rent or fix their car, pay medical bills, purchase medications, or buy food. That brings to light another issue and that is that there is not necessarily a problem of having enough affordable housing. The problem is often having the resources to afford any housing period.

The problem is not going away. Sherea said they added 100 households (not persons) to their data in 2025. A household can sometimes by 6-8 people. United Way's 211 calls about housing in the quarter 12/27/24 to 3/27/25 totaled over 3,000. The number of clients handled by the 15 partner agencies always is on the rise. Amazingly, there are more evictions daily in Guilford County than their agency can get placed in a home in the same daily time frame. In fact, Sherea says that High Point is 6th in the State in evictions. She did not speak to favorable of High Point landlords and their rush to evict.

Mya Otero-Alvarez, P.E.H.'s fundraising coordinator, joined Sherea at the podium and enlisted our help in an effort to get everyone involved. They stress Connection, Support, and Advocacy. Their non-profit does not provide housing or rent assistance. Though they do have some limited funds to help in certain situations, often pertaining to an eviction. She encouraged us to participate in Apple-bee's (on John Gordon Lane) all day event on April 23rd where 25% goes to P.E.H.

A number of questions were raised by those in attendance and those that deal with these impacted individuals and households offered their perspectives, particularly Jane Liebscher (United Way), Ryan Ross (Open Door Ministries), and Eric Foushee (Mental Health Assoc.).

I think everyone left the meeting with a different perspective of those experiencing homelessness.

Don Shaw presented the speaker gift and thanked our visitors, Debbie Mellinger Bell and Shaylene Tootle-Grbus. He invited us to rise and join in the Four Way Test before adjourning the meeting. .

Sherea Burnett



Mya Otero-Alvarez



Ken Esposito Shuffles the Deck in Anticipation of the Q of H



Ken Esposito Congratulates Gary Newcomb on Getting His Blue Badge



Thursday's Program Provided Quite a Learning Curve for the Club



PARTNERS ENDING HOMELESSNESS
CONNECT | SUPPORT | ADVOCATE



Jamal Bennett Sports a Pensive Look