

## Meeting summary for The Rotary Club of Asheville (03/27/2025)

### Quick recap

The meeting began with a moment of silence and gratitude for the support received from Rotarians, followed by a discussion on the club's activities, and a technical issue with the screen share. The Disaster Relief Committee reported on their efforts to help the community recover from a hurricane six months ago, highlighting the grant process and partnerships with other organizations. The meeting also included three new member talks, personal milestones and upcoming events, and the the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee reading the club's DEI statement.

### Opportunities to Serve

- Rotarians encouraged to volunteer for cleanup at River Knoll community on Saturday from 9am to 1pm. Rotarians to meet at Highland afterwards on Saturday to "debrief" the cleanup event.
- Alan West is organizing more habitat projects for mobile home skirting.
- Rotarians should plan to attend the club's 110th birthday celebration next Thursday.
- Rotarians should read Rick Devereaux's "special" article in the COG.

### Preliminary Announcements and Administration

In the meeting, President Eva-Michelle Spicer acknowledged the emotional state of the attendees and took a moment of silence to reflect on the challenges faced in the last six months. They also expressed gratitude for the support received from Rotarians across the country. The meeting then proceeded with the pledge, followed by an invitation for Pat Snyder to discuss the club's Helene response activities.

The Disaster Relief Committee of the Rotary Club reported on their efforts to help the community recover from a hurricane six months ago. The club has collected over \$417,000 from donations and grants, which has been used to fund 40 nonprofit organizations in the community. Dave Mans discussed the grant process, highlighting that the club has received several grants for various projects, including heaters, water bags, and mobile home repairs. Alan West mentioned partnerships with other organizations and the focus on repeatable projects like mobile home skirting. Pat Snyder emphasized the need for continued donations and outreach to support ongoing rebuilding efforts in the community.

Brad Arnold was introduced as the "CART match" for the day. Don Weidman was recognized for his piano music contributions to the club. The club also celebrated various personal milestones and upcoming events, including a fundraiser for Senderos and a cleanup event at Riverknoll community. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee read aloud the club's DEI statement. Margo Barron was presented with Paul Harris fellow recognition.

### Program: New Member Talks

**Laura Uherka** shared her life story as an adventurer and traveler, highlighting her experiences living in different countries and her recent challenges in 2024.

**Michael Thomas** discussed formative moments in his life that led him to value service and join Rotary, emphasizing the importance of the organization's principles.

**Alan West** recounted his personal journey, focusing on his search for stability and the realization of the importance of connection, especially after facing family losses and challenges.

The meeting concludes with a reminder of the club's upcoming 110th birthday celebration and the recitation of the Rotary Four-Way Test.

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