

### John Plant, The Future of NATO



John Plant spoke to the club on some future considerations for NATO. John retired as a Colonel, and after his retirement he had the opportunity to work with the Czech Republic integrating into NATO. The joke is that NATO stands for "Needs Americans to Operate". NATO was founded in 1946. There are several countries seeking membership, Ukraine and Georgia. The 75th anniversary summit will be where members Nations will discuss invitations to join. It doesn't mean those invited countries would join immediately. All member nations have to agree to a new member, so negotiations will be involved.

There are some big questions out there about what will happen depending on the results of the upcoming presidential election. The biggest of which is would we stay committed to NATO under a second term under former President Trump? To pull out of the treaty would take 60 senate votes. There are other ways to pull back from the organization, including financially, a reduction in force presence in Europe, and through a refusal to assign US military leaders to roles in NATO.

Financially, NATO countries commit to a guideline of spending 2% of their GDP on defense. In 2024 18 allies are expected to meet that guideline. The US, because of the size of our economy, ends up providing a lot of the financial support to NATO facilities in Europe. What countries would step up financially if the US stepped down? There are currently 35000 US troops in Germany, 9000 in the UK, 12000 in Italy, and smaller troop numbers in other European countries. It is expensive to maintain those troops and former President Trump has commented on how much could be saved by stationing fewer troops overseas. Historically, many leadership roles in NATO are held by US military officers, including the lead Military command which has always been headed by a US general. If a president chose to not allow US military to be appointed to roles it would create disruption and again who would step into those roles? Thank you to John for speaking last week!



**CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD**

#### Club Meeting Place & Time

Asheville Breakfast  
Meets at Four Points  
by Sheraton Hotel  
22 Woodfin Street  
Asheville, NC 28801  
Time: Wednesday at  
07:30 AM

#### Club Officers



Cynthia K. Ireland  
President



Henry Watson  
Jordan II  
President-Elect



Gary K. Bockhold  
President-Nominee



Ruth T. Summers  
Vice  
President



Randy S. Lehman  
Treasurer



Carl T. Chesick  
Secretary



Richard Anderson  
Club Admin  
Chair  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Patrick J. Blackburn  
Membership  
Chair

## Meeting Notes 6.19.24

Thank you again to all the volunteers for the Flag project last week for Juneteenth. Please let Rod know if you can help out on July 4th. It is a hard day to get volunteers because many will be out of town so please volunteer if you can.

We will have a regular meeting July 3rd.

Sarah is starting #rotaryinthewild. When you see a Rotary sign take a picture and send it to Sarah and she'll post it to our social media.

### Birthdays



[Matthew Lehman](#)  
June 24th



[Joanne Sciandra Biddle](#)  
June 27th



[Nathan Patrick Moran](#)  
July 5th

### Speakers

June 26th

[Asheville Breakfast Weekly Club Meeting - Team Change](#)

Max Fink Hat Duty

July 10th

[Wilkes Recovery Revolution - Kit Roberts Tentative](#)

Jeff Gould Hat Duty



[David L. Hayes](#)  
Rotary  
Foundation  
Chair



[Nathan Patrick Moran](#)  
CCO-Club  
Comm.  
Offcr



[Stephanie Young](#)  
Club  
Programs  
Chair



[William Taylor Biddle Jr.](#)  
International  
Service  
Chair



[Donald R. Swaby](#)  
Community  
Service  
Chair



[Linda J Ruhland](#)  
Club Public  
Image Chair



[Rodney Douglas](#)  
Club Social  
Chair



[Henry P Zaremba](#)  
CART Fund  
Chair



[James O. Efland](#)  
Club  
PolioPlus  
Chair



[James Hylemon](#)  
Youth  
Services  
Chair



[Frank Ungert](#)  
iPast  
President

### Events

August 29th, 5:00-9:00 PM

[Asheville Tourists Game](#)

Sunday, June 23, 2024