

Rotary

Mountaintop Rotary Club - Highlands



ANNUAL MEETING

Cath Connolly opened the meeting with a quote from Sir Isaac Newton: "If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants". She attributed the success of our club to the fact that we have been able to build upon the achievements and wisdom of those who came before us. In the context of Rotary leadership since 2005, this perspective highlights how past leaders have laid the groundwork for current and future achievements. Here's a reflection on how our Rotary club has grown and improved over the years through the contributions of its leaders.

Our club was founded in 2005 by such members as Duncan Greenlee, Dixie Barton, Bill Zoellner, Jerry Hermanson, John Baumrucker, and Robin Austin.

Additionally many of our members were Rotarians before joining our club: Jim Jones was a Rotarian for 11 years, John Baumrucker has been a Rotarian for over 40 years, Andy Walker for 43 years, Gerry and Mary Lou Bilbro for 27 years, Rebecca Baker for 35 years, Michael Crowe for 32 years.

The leaders of this club have built a robust foundation that current and future members can continue to build upon. By honoring their legacy and learning from their successes, we create a stronger, more resilient Rotary. As we look to the future, let us commit to further growth and improvement by embracing the lessons of the past and standing on the shoulders of giants, ensuring that we, too, can leave a legacy for generations to come.

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS



The Treasurer presented the financials as of December, 2024: the Charity Account currently has a balance of \$80,149.17 with \$31,149.47 available for Grants.

Disaster Relief: The club has \$12,357.10 available for distribution. At the last board meeting it was decided to send this to Grace Presbyterian Church of Asheville for eviction assistance. A district grant was submitted for \$25,000.

A check for \$10,000 was received for Disaster Relief. Pending the outcome of the district grant, the President suggested that a sub-committee should be formed to determine how these funds should be used and possibly apply for an additional \$10,000 matching district grant.

Bill Kirkman, Technology Chair gave a presentation on all of the club's technology including websites, social media accounts. This information is available to all club members and members are encouraged to use them.

JOIN THE FIESTA ON THE 27TH

Weekly Zoom Invite

By Karen Armor Sunday, January 12, 2025
Time: 5:30

JOIN ZOOM MEETING

<https://zoom.us/j/914889286917>
pwd=
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.1

Meeting ID: 914 8892 8691
Passcode: 7670

Speakers

January 13, 2025

[Andrea J Holland](#)
Highlands Police Department

Events

January 13th
Highlands-Mountaintop Weekly Club Meeting
Speaker: Andrea J Holland
Subject: Highlands Police Department

January 20th
Highlands-Mountaintop Weekly Club Meeting

January 27th
Highlands-Mountaintop Weekly Club Meeting

February 3rd
Highlands-Mountaintop Weekly Club Meeting

February 10th
Highlands-Mountaintop Weekly Club Meeting

Birthdays

Susan H Cox
January 23rd
Lorine Spencer
January 31st
Leon Hananel
February 7th



Please respond to the Evite by the 20th and sign up for food to bring.

Let's celebrate the opening of the Dillard Road!

SIMPLE ACTS OF KINDNESS



By Jignesh Pandya, membership chair for Rotary District 3131 and a member of the Rotary Club of Bibwewadi Pune, India

In the heart of Maharashtra, India, in the districts of Pune and Raigad, streets bustle with activity. Countless vendors ply their trade daily, with very little protection from the elements. Our Rotary district set out to change that, to provide hope and protection for these hard-working vendors who brave the sun and sudden downpours. Our Chatrachaya project has created shelter not through a grand building or towering structure, but from something simple – umbrellas.

We met with several street vendors at the outset of the 2024-25 Rotary year. After determining their dire need for shelter, especially during peak monsoon season, the Rotary clubs of Bibwewadi Pune and Pune East took the lead in purchasing and distributed 2,425 large umbrellas, each with a span of six feet.

Our initiative was born of empathy and driven by an unwavering commitment to serve our community. We distributed the umbrellas to street vendors scattered across the urban and rural areas of Pune and Raigad. They do more than just shield from the sun and rain, they provide a sense of dignity and security.

Andrew W Spraggins Sr.
February 9th
Leslie Logan
February 11th

Club Leaders



Catherine Connolly Hudson
President



Andrew Keithline Walker Sr.
Club Programs Chair
Sponsorships Chair
President-Elect



Robin Canady
Treasurer



Karen G. Armor
Secretary



John Martin
Club Executive Secretary
Rotary Foundation Chair



Michael Burel
Club Director



Robin King Austin
Club Membership Chair



Lorine Spencer
Sergeant-at-Arms



Cathy S Myers
Club Public Image Chair



James H Spencer
Club Fundraising Chair



Berry Howard
Club Grants and
Scholarship Chair



George Michael Vavrek
CART Fund Chair
Club Service Chair
Community Service Chair
Past President

Mcallister Isaacs IV
Club Diversity Equity &
Inclusion Chair

Our project became a powerful testament of unity. A total of 105 Rotary clubs throughout our district came together to turn this daunting task into a triumph of synergy. In just three short weeks, we found a home for every one of the umbrellas, transforming many lives in the process. It is a shining example of what is possible when communities unite for a common cause.

Quick Heal Technologies Ltd., a leader in cyber security, amplified our success with a substantial financial contribution. Additional financial help came from the Rotary clubs of Bibwewadi Pune and Pune East. Our district ensured these umbrellas were made available at a highly subsidized price.

At the helm of this remarkable journey was District Governor Shital Shah, whose visionary leadership inspired the participation of more than 1,500 Rotary members. We have the creativity and energy of many other Rotary members to thank.

This was more than just a story of umbrellas. It is a story of compassion, teamwork, and the enduring Rotary spirit. Simple acts of kindness, when multiplied by many, can create a profound and lasting impact on the lives of those who need it most.

CART CORNER - JANUARY 2025

By Andie R Taylor on Monday, January 6, 2025 - Published in the January District Bulletin

CART leaderboards and Lunch A La CART information and greetings for a wonderful 2025!

Happy New Year to everyone and what a great start we have had in District 7670 in terms of CART giving! I want to thank all the clubs and members who have helped make the first half of this Rotary year such a success. Take a look at the leader board for December 2024 for our District AND take a look at the Leaderboard for ALL Districts who participate and give to CART!

A heartfelt THANK YOU to the Rotary Club of Newton-Conover for their December 2024 donation of \$20,000 to CART via the Bolick Foundation. What a generous contribution to such an important cause in helping researchers develop new treatments, and hopefully one day very soon, a cure for this disease that robs so many of precious time and energy!

AND how about our District 7670 being at the head of the District Leaderboard? This is because of the generosity of all of our clubs, showing where we can turn Pocket Change into Lasting Change! (Of course, we will also take folding and plastic types of currency). You have heard it before, but 100% of the proceeds donated to CART go to researchers in developing the new treatments, enhancing current treatments and ultimately hoping to find a cure to beat Alzheimer's Disease!

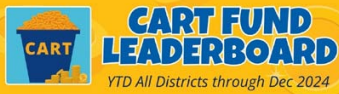
In my time as the CART chair, I am often asked medical-related questions, to which I respond that I am in no way medically trained to understand all the R and D that has been done to date with the contributions made to CART. (I am here to help clubs and the District to raise funds for CART). If you would like to learn more about what has been and is being done research-wise, please join us for LUNCH A LA CART on the third Wednesday of the month. It is here where one can learn about the progress these dedicated researchers have made since receiving their grants from CART. It is here where you can interact with and ask questions directly about their research. Be sure to register and get the zoom link using www.cartfund.org/calendar.



William B Kirkman
iPast President
Youth Services Chair
RYLA Point of Contact
Youth Protection Officer
Club Technology Chair



Tabby Bewley
Club Director



YTD All Districts through Dec 2024

TOTAL GIVING:

1ST: DISTRICT 7670 - THAT'S US!!!
\$86,830

2ND: DISTRICT 7770
\$59,090

3RD: DISTRICT 7750
\$28,631

ROTARY PROJECTS AROUND THE WORLD - TANZANIA



By Dr. John Philip, Past District Governor and Chair of the International Fellowship of Rotarian Doctors

People with albinism lack melanin pigment in their skin and appear to have “white” skin. They have sensitivity to ultraviolet radiation and are at risk of developing skin cancer and significant sight problems. [The Rotarian Doctors' Fellowship](#) is supporting a campaign in Tanzania to help this marginalized and discriminated community claim their rightful place in the society and live without fear. Our project addresses many interconnected challenges – reducing stigma through village seminars, vocational training and improving eye care.

As a cancer specialist, my initial interest was to help this high risk group receive better treatment for skin cancer.

Skin cancer is not a lethal disease and is easily preventable. I soon realized that improving skin cancer care was important, but will have little effect until other complex social issues are addressed. Through village education and peace building efforts, we sought to help persuade communities with high incidences of violence against people with albinism to abandon old beliefs and myths.