

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Monday, August 28, 2023



Club Meeting

Asheville
Meets at TUTION HALL,
TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH.
To request a Zoom simulcast
link email
avlrotary1915@gmail.com.
60 Church St
Asheville, NC 28801
Time: Thursday at 12:30 PM

Speakers

August 31, 2023

[US Congressman Chuck Edwards](#)
118th Congress

September 07, 2023

[Pat Snyder, Tim Owings,](#)
[Andrew Mecurio](#)
Rotary Giving

September 14, 2023

[Celeste Collins](#)
DEI Committee Presentation

September 21, 2023

[DG Sean Gibson](#)
District Governor Updates

September 21, 2023

[Sean Gibson](#)
DG Official Visit

Coming Events

September 3rd
[Join us for a Tourists Game!](#)

September 5th
[Board Meeting](#)

September 14th
[Discover Rotary](#)
Speaker: Celeste Collins
Subject: DEI Committee Presentation

September 20th

CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Christena Southwick on Monday, July 10, 2023

ANNOUNCEMENTS AT MEETING ON AUGUST 24, 2023

Please be reminded that the Rotary Foundation Dinner will be October 7 at Morganton Community House. The cost is \$45 per person. Register on the District Page in dacdb.

Tickets for the September 3rd Tourist game for our club are no longer available.

Lacy Hagan said to contact her if you were interested in helping at the annual Storytelling Festival in Jonesburg, TN.

UPCOMING MEETING PROGRAMS FOR AUGUST:
August 31 US Representative Chuck Edwards

ALL MEMBERS INVITED TO THE MONTHLY BOARD MEETINGS:
September 5th at Asheville Chamber of Commerce, Room 315
President Pat announced that the Board minutes are available on DACdb.com for members to see.

THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Christena Southwick on Sunday, August 27, 2023

US REPRESENTATIVE CHUCK EDWARDS ADDRESSES
ROTARY THIS WEEK



Chuck Edwards has served as the U.S. House of Representative for North Carolina's 11th District, which covers 15 counties in the state's western mountains, since his election to Congress in November, 2022. In the U.S. House of Representatives, Chuck's work ethic was recognized, and he has the rare honor as a freshman of being selected to sit on three committees: the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, the Budget Committee, and the Committee on Oversight and Government Accountability.

However, as important as that legislative work is, Chuck's main focus continues to be serving his constituents, helping them interface with federal agencies, assisting residents with problems and trying to make life better for Western North Carolinians.

Please join us for this important meeting.

NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS

By Christena Southwick on Saturday, August 26, 2023

NEW MEMBERS INDUCTED

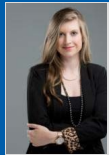
Rick Deveraux took to the stage to welcome our newest members, Dwayne Richardson, Todd Gragg and Brandon Quinn. J. Hackett is the sponsor of all three new members.

Third Wednesday at the Watering HOLE

Club Leaders



Patrick A. Snyder
President



Eva-Michelle G. Spicer
President-Elect



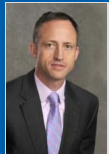
David Andrew Mans
President-Nominee
Club Director
International Service Chair



Janet L. Whitworth
Past President
Treasurer



Betty A. Doll
Secretary



Frankie L. Adkins
Club Director
Youth Protection Officer
Youth Services Chair



Celeste B. Collins
Club Admin Chair
Club Director



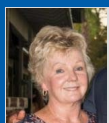
Michelle Daniels
Attendance Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms



Catherine Jo Early
Club Director
Vocational Service Chair



Anthony D Lynch
Attendance Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms



Maxine O Parsons-Kogut
Club Director
Rotary Foundation Chair



Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.
Club Director
Membership Chair

Richard T. Devereaux

Past president Rick Devereaux pointed out that Dwayne is becoming a full member of the club. Todd Gragg and Brandon Quinn are now corporate delegate members for QB1, a 501(c)(3) that works to provide affordable housing to veterans.

Dwayne Richardson has worn lots of hats: baseball player at Wake Forest, fight attendant for Piedmont, political speechwriter and campaign manager, and now focuses his energies on delivering affordable housing to regional veterans. Dwayne works to help veterans in honor of his father and grandfather.

Todd Gragg is a native of Asheville who grew up in Shiloh playing basketball—looking out for neighbors and the elderly, mowing lawns and enough to eat, instilling in him a permanent care for his community. He graduated from Asheville High and UNCA. Professionally, he has always been in sales. More recently, he started a company dedicated to filmmaking for personal brand development. He is the filmmaker of the "Black in Asheville" documentary.

Brandon Quinn was a University of Washington football quarterback. He was an honorably discharged veteran who worked with special forces unit and was a paratrooper. For the past 25 years, he has been president and CEO of Eden Rock Enterprises in the home construction field. He became passionate about providing affordable housing to the citizens of WNC. In 2022, he decided to create QB1 Enterprises with his son, Brandon, Jr. who was a quarterback himself. Together they are working to provide affordable housing for veterans. This year, QB1 will be gifting a brand new home to a deserving veteran or the widow of a veteran on Veterans Day on November 11.



MEMBERSHIP SPOTLIGHT

By Christena Southwick on Friday, August 25, 2023

SKYLER DUNCAN, CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT CHAIR

Skyler Duncan was born and raised in the woods of southern Vermont. His grandfather gave the wooded land to Skyler's father and mother as a wedding gift. Skyler's father bought up more land around him to make sure that development didn't get in the way of his peaceful world. The closest town nearby had 1500 people.

When he was in school, which he says "came easy," Skyler played basketball, baseball and soccer. He chose a small liberal arts school to further his education, Elmire College in Elmire, NY. He majored in Business Administration with a strong emphasis in economics. He almost had a double major in Psychology. He graduated in 2014.

Skyler met his future wife, Taylor, at Elmire, who had also enjoyed the same rural background in New York state as Skyler had experienced in Vermont. After graduation, they would continue her education. By 2018, she had graduated with a Doctorate in Physical Therapy from Western Carolina University.

After graduation, they chose to stay here because they fell in love with Asheville. "We loved the character of the mountains, the warmth of the people in the area. It felt like home."

In the meantime, those who are lucky enough to know Skyler, know that he is smart, friendly and can get the job done. He is a definite people person. Not hard to imagine him in sales jobs that had to do with fitness.





Diversity Equity & Inclusion Webmaster



[Linda Nelson](#)
CCO-Club Comm. Offcr
Club Director
Club Public Image Chair



[Alexander P. Pence](#)
Club Director
Community Service Chair
Club Service Chair



[Andrew Mercurio](#)
Club Fund Raising Chair



[Chris Werts](#)
Diversity Equity & Inclusion



[Marcia Whitney](#)
Diversity Equity & Inclusion



[Christena Southwick](#)
Bulletin Editor



[Skyler Duncan](#)
Environmental Service Chair



[Daniel M. Crupi](#)
RYLA Point of Contact



[Timothy L Owings](#)
Club PolioPlus Chair



[Mary J. Michael](#)
Club Programs Chair



[Ross Sloan](#)
iPast President



[Lynne Porter](#)
Assistant Governor

Birthdays

Edward M Kolesar
August 29th

Skyler first worked for Gold's Gym. Going up through the ranks and earning the title of manager there, he later found himself on the doorstep of Merrill- Lynch. That was four years ago, and he hasn't looked back.

"I love the relationships that I cultivate in sales. That's what makes it all worthwhile." He has been at Merrill-Lynch since 2019 working in the area of wealth management, financial planning and investment services.

He and Taylor bought a home in West Asheville in 2019, where Dave Mans is one of his neighbors. In 2021, their daughter, Lainey, was born and they are expecting a second daughter in January, 2024. "There's never a dull moment!"

Skyler joined Rotary after several invites from Dave Mans, a president-designee of our club. "I had to work at home for 18 months, and it was really sobering what I saw going on. I became invested in supporting our community and giving back. When I walked in the doors at my first Rotary lunch, I knew I wanted to be a member. The welcoming feel, energy and caliber of people that I was having lunch with convinced me."

Skyler smiled, "I didn't need to be sold. I said, 'Where's the application? I want to join!'"

Skyler was inducted as a member of our club in 2022. He loves the concepts of service above self and making a powerful impact in the lives of other people. And, he is a man of action; he doesn't mind getting his hands dirty. A true Rotarian.

Currently, he is chair of the Climate and Environment committee, having worked hard with its members to make the Carrier Park Bee Pollinator Garden come true, as well as serving on the membership and international committees.

Skyler, we're happy to have your warmth and friendliness in our club. It's a joy to see you at the meetings each week.

[Read More](#)

LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Celeste B. Collins on Friday, August 25, 2023

BRIAN TURNER'S ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE



Mr. Turner is a returning speaker, having presented programs in the past during his four terms in NC House of Representatives District #116 in Buncombe County. Mr. Turner is currently the Policy Director Audubon of NC. In this role he works across the state and with numerous federal agencies to advocate for policies that are good for birds and ensure that laws are properly enforced.

Why do birds matter? Mr. Turner reminds us that in the early 1990s and even in the 1980s, canaries were used to detect problem gases in the mines. And today, animals and plants still serve as signals of problems in the environment.

He reported that research by Cornell University showed that in the past 50 years 30% of North America's bird population has died. The Audubon Society is dedicated to taking steps to reverse this trend and "bend the bird curve" to get the bird population back up.

Native plants and wetlands are a major focus area. Mr. Turner shared facts about the positive impact of native plants. Native plants = native bugs = food for birds.

Wetlands: Mr. Turner explained wetlands' importance in trapping pollution/sediment and preventing flooding.

What can Rotary do to help? Educate yourself and others by using apps like SEEK to identify native plants in an area. Use NC Native Plant society website to select plants that are appropriate. Visit [National Audubon Society](#) website to learn more about the issues. Visit and enjoy the Native Plants walk at Beaver Lake.

Barbara J. Bowers
August 29th
Sandra K Smith
September 1st
Deborah H. Francis
September 2nd
Margaret Gormley-Chapman
September 8th

George G. Lycan
September 12th
Keith Whitman Bell
September 13th
Lawrence Janow
September 13th
Donna Rogers Ensley
September 15th
Evan Justin Rosenberg
September 19th
Eric C. Bryant
September 20th
Rachel Rion Moran
September 20th
Joseph T. Hackett
September 24th
Robert Steve Frellick
September 25th

Wedding Anniversaries

Shannon Paris
August 28th
Kevin R. Montgomery
September 1st
David R. McCartney
September 1st
Steven M. Higley
September 2nd
Thomas A Winsch
September 3rd
Danielle M Kwasnik
September 4th
Jacqueline Boone
September 4th
Thomas G. Leavesley
September 7th
Donna Rogers Ensley
September 10th
Susan F. Harper
September 11th
Herman S. Turk
September 12th
Eva-Michelle G. Spicer
September 14th
Janey Cope
September 15th
Rae Geoffrey
September 20th
Evan Justin Rosenberg
September 21st
Ken Nelson
September 23rd
Jessica Z Hendrix
September 24th
Sarah A Cockman

Thank you, Mr. Turner, for sharing your time and valuable information with our club.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE

By Christena Southwick on Friday, August 25, 2023



BEE POLLINATOR GARDEN FENCED

On Tuesday, August 22, Brad Rouse, Skyler Duncan, Sharon LeDuc, Ken Nelson and Paul Hatfield once again gathered at the newly created (July 29) Pollinator Garden to put in the fence. Everyone pitched in materials, and the job was done quite efficiently and quickly.

Sharon Le Duc said, "The fence is strong and beautiful. We have about 50 hours of Rotarian labor at the site so far. Planting will be this fall, and the Rotary sign will be installed at the dedication in the spring of 2024."

Four Way Test

By Julie P. West on Sunday, October 2, 2022

The Four Way Test

Rotary



1. Is it the TRUTH?

2. Is it FAIR to all concerned?

3. Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

4. Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?

September 24th
Margot Baron
September 25th