

Rotary



Club of Asheville THE COG

Wednesday, January 22, 2025



Today's Meeting (January 23, 2025) - Teachers of Excellence Awards

By Richard T. Devereaux on Sunday, January 19, 2025

Club Meeting

Asheville
Meets at TUTION HALL, TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH
60 Church St
Asheville, NC 28801
Time: Thursday at 12:30 PM

Speakers

January 23, 2025

Varied
Teachers of Excellence

January 30, 2025

City of Asheville Mayor Esther Manheimer
State of the City

February 06, 2025

Rae Geoffrey, Ed Kolesar, Ed Snyder
New Member Talks

February 13, 2025

TBD

February 20, 2025

Varied
Community Grants Recipients



Join us today as The Rotary Club of Asheville presents awards to eight outstanding teachers in the Buncombe County and City of Asheville School Districts. This is one of our club's initiatives linked to the [Rotary International cause of "Supporting Education"](#) around the world.

Read the article down below to see the names and bios of our honorees!

Join us in person and enjoy a great lunch, [or virtually via this Zoom link.](#)

Click below to electronically contribute Happy Dollars, Fines, and donations to our Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation, Inc.

Donate



Coming Events

January 22nd

Honduras Medical-Dental Brigade

February 5th

Urban Hike

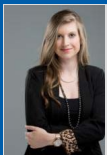
February 19th

Thirsty Third Wednesday

February 20th

Red Cross Blood Drive

Club Leaders



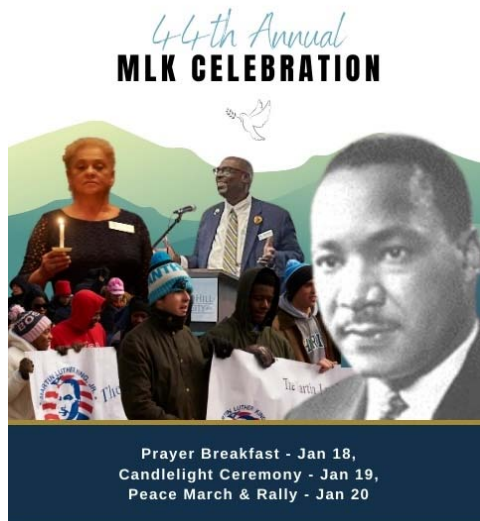
Eva-Michelle G. Spicer
President



David Mans
President-Elect

Club Turns out for 44th Annual MLK Breakfast

By Richard T. Devereaux on Tuesday, January 21, 2025



The cold weather did not deter us! **20 members of the Rotary Club of Asheville turned out and filled two tables at the annual Asheville-Buncombe Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Prayer Breakfast at the Crowne Plaza on January 18.** As Bronze sponsors, our club was prominently featured in the program with a half-page ad.

This premiere Asheville gathering inspired and united over 1,100 community members this year. **The guest speaker was Jonathan McCoy**, Director of the Center for Diversity, Equity & Inclusion (CDEI) and Instructor of History at Mars Hill University (MHU). President Eva-Michelle Spicer thanked our DEI committee for organizing the effort: "WOW! What an inspiring event! I am so honored to have been at the table and in the room with such incredible community leaders. The club's involvement as a sponsor speaks volumes to our work in Peace and Conflict Resolution. Again, I am proud to be a Rotarian with all of you and so grateful for your

leadership."



Michelle Daniels
President-Nominee
Club Director
International Service
Chair



Betty A. Doll
Secretary



Cathy Early
Treasurer



Anthony D Lynch
Attendance Secretary
Sergeant-at-Arms



Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.
Club Director
Membership Chair



Janet L. Whitworth
Treasurer



Timothy L Owings
Club Director
Rotary Foundation
Chair



Michael Thomas
Sergeant-at-Arms



Tracy Eames
Club Public Image
Chair



Alexander P. Pence
Club Director
Community Service
Chair
Club Service Chair



Zachary F. Lamb
Club Director
Vocational Service
Chair



Marcia Whitney
Club Admin Chair
Club Director



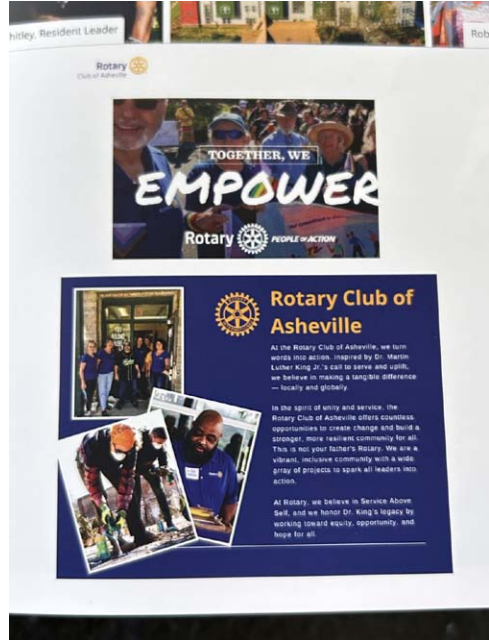
Richard T. Devereaux
Bulletin Editor
Diversity Equity &
Inclusion
Webmaster



Chris Werts
Diversity Equity &
Inclusion



Virginia Lawrence
CCO-Club Comm.
Offcr
Club Director



January 16 Meeting Summary - PBS NC

By Richard T. Devereaux on Saturday, January 18, 2025



Shannon Vickery from PBS North Carolina provided a nice overview of the exceptional programming PBS offers across the state of North Carolina. We experienced some technical difficulties during our meeting which limited the detail that our AI could capture, **but here's [a link to a good summary of Shannon Vickery's presentation.](#)**

Rotary Club of Asheville Honors Eight Outstanding Local Teachers



David T. Kaverman
Club Director
Youth Protection
Officer
Youth Services Chair



Carol E. Bornstein
Club Fund Raising
Chair



Albert Davis
RYLA Point of Contact



Patrick A. Snyder
iPast President

Wednesday, January 15, 2025



The
Rotary
Club of

Asheville is proud to announce its third annual Teachers of Excellence Awards Program. An awards luncheon will be held at noon on Thursday, January 23 at Trinity Episcopal Church. This year, eight teachers will each receive a cash award of \$2,000.

The following teachers have each been recognized for their outstanding commitment to their profession and to their students:

- **Maired Smitka, Issac Dickson Elementary**
- **Gabriel Al-Shaer, School of Inquiry and Life Sciences**
- **Rodney Workman, Asheville High School**
- **Jesse Pitt, Asheville Middle School**
- **Thomas Oliver, Weaverville Elementary**
- **Samantha Aycocock, Lucy S. Herring Elementary**
- **Hope Willis, Asheville Middle School**
- **Sarah Duffer, Asheville High School**

The goal of this program is to foster and encourage excellence in teaching and reward dedication to education in the Asheville City and Buncombe County School Districts.

The selection process began with 30 teachers nominated for the award. Each nominee and their nominator submitted essays that were reviewed by a selection committee consisting of three Rotarians and the presidents of the Buncombe County and Asheville City Schools Foundations. The Committee selected 10 semi-finalists, each of whom were interviewed. After these interviews, the eight Teachers of Excellence were chosen.

Our children and their futures are shaped and educated by the innovative, hard-working, and caring teachers who have dedicated their lives to bringing enthusiasm and expertise into the classroom each day.

[CLICK HERE FOR PHOTOS AND BIOS OF THE EIGHT WINNERS!](#)

Give Blood - Help Save Lives!

By Reilly Wilkes on Saturday, January 18, 2025

Rotary Club of Asheville Red Cross
Blood Drive on Thursday,
February 20th, during our regular
club meeting. Questions?? [email](#)
[Reilly Wilkes](#)

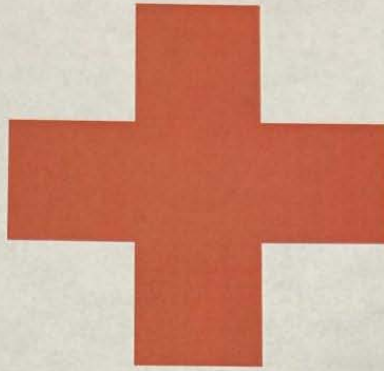
Birthdays

Eric Russell
January 22nd
James W. Zumwalt
January 22nd
Andrew Mercurio
January 23rd
Judy Mattox
January 27th
Sandra F Lindsey
January 29th
Eric W. Michael
January 30th
Denise M Lawson
February 4th
John Davis Matheson
February 8th
Matthew Bacoate Jr.
February 10th
Donald P. Weidemann
February 11th
Steven Shreiber
February 11th
Kelly McCullough
February 11th
Harold Bradley Rouse
February 19th

Wedding Anniversaries

David N. Wilcox
January 24th
Steven B. Shechter
February 1st
Paula J Kelley
February 6th
Patrick A. Snyder
February 11th
Carol E Bornstein
February 13th
Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.
February 14th

Give blood. Help save lives.



Blood Drive
The Rotary Club of Asheville
at Trinity Episcopal Church

Fellowship Hall
60 Church St
Asheville, NC 28801

Thursday, February 20, 2025
11:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

To schedule an appointment, please call
1-800-RED-CROSS or visit RedCrossBlood.org
and enter Sponsor Code "AVLRotary".

Bring your Red Cross or Photo ID.

**Create a flurry of hope! Come give blood Jan. 27 to
Feb. 28 for a \$15 e gift card rcblood.org/flurry**



Scan to schedule
an appointment.

American Red Cross

1-800-733-2767 | redcrossblood.org
Download the Blood Donor App

©2016 The American National Red Cross

Morrill Community Grant Winners Announced

By David R. McCartney on Wednesday, December 25, 2024

The Rotary Club of Asheville announces its 2025 Harry R Morrill Community Grant winners!

As a reminder on how these grants began; in 1981 Harry R. Morrill donated funds to our Rotary Club with the intent to use the spendable income "for educational or local charitable donations that conform to Rotary ideals." This is our club's 43rd year of distributing these grants.

This year the Morrill endowment funded \$12,500 to be awarded to 10 recipients at

\$1,250 each. We had 22 organizations apply for a grant. The grant committee members evaluated all the applications, then selected 10 organizations to send to the club's board for approval.

The 10 grant recipients that the club's board approved are:

1. Verner Center for Early Learning
2. Haywood Street Congregation
3. RiverLink
4. The Hundred Movement
5. MemoryCare
6. The ARC of Buncombe County
7. Food Connection
8. Western Carolina Rescue Ministries
9. Astronomy Club of Asheville
10. On Track Financial Education & Counseling

These organizations will receive their \$1,250 checks in late December.

A representative from each of these organizations will join our meetings February 20th and 27th 2025 to share information about their organization, their work, and the project this grant is helping accomplish.

Thanks to club member and club historian Dick Hall on this piece of Rotary history about Harry Morrill:

Mr. Morrill moved to Asheville in 1965 and joined the Rotary Club of Asheville in 1972 at age 81. He was, however, very familiar with Rotary having been a Rotarian for 35 years in California and was District Governor of District 526 which covered Southern California-Nevada-Arizona at the time he was District Governor.

In 1981, on his 90th birthday he made the initial gift deposit for the Harry R Morrill Community Grants endowment and later, upon his death in 1986, he bequeathed additional funds to the endowment.

We, and the Asheville community, are fortunate to continue to benefit from Mr. Morrill's foresight and his love of Rotary.

Celebrating Excellence: Asheville Police Officers Recognized by Rotary

By Reilly Wilkes on Thursday, January 9, 2025



At our January 9 meeting, the Rotary Club of Asheville proudly recognized eight Asheville Police Department officers for their exemplary service as "Officers of the Month" from July through November 2024.

July 2024: SPOs Matthew Stapanowich, Aaron Buyanovsky, and Officer Jose Amaya

These officers resolved a complex fatal hit-and-run on July 18, demonstrating outstanding teamwork, investigative skill, and professionalism. Their efforts led to the swift apprehension and charging of the suspect, bringing closure to the victim's family.

September 2024: SPO Debbie LeCroy, Cadet Maria Bengel, and David Sayegh

During Hurricane Helene, these team members supported recovery efforts by providing meals,

managing donations, and ensuring officers were well-prepared. Their tireless work, long hours, and attention to detail exemplify dedication to their colleagues and community.

October 2024: SPO Brittany Vick

SPO Vick assisted a kidnapping victim with compassion and skill, overcoming language barriers to ensure her safety. She coordinated resources, facilitated relocation, and pursued leads to support the victim and her family. Though the case remains unsolved, her actions provided vital aid during a traumatic time.

November 2024: SPO Madison Johnson

SPO Johnson played a pivotal role in post-hurricane recovery as an Outside Agency Liaison. Her investigative efforts led to multiple felony arrests, significant recoveries of narcotics and stolen items, and resolution of a major breaking-and-entering case. Her leadership and dedication earned praise from peers and partner agencies.

These officers embody the highest standards of service and commitment, making Asheville safer through their tireless efforts. Congratulations to these deserving honorees!

Instagram User? Follow rotaryasheville!

Thursday, January 9, 2025

If you're an Instagram user, use your phone to **click on the below icon to see what's happening in our Rotary Club**. Then follow, like, comment, and share! The more you engage, the more followers we attract!



Rotary Club of Asheville Offers Disaster Relief Grant

Friday, November 22, 2024

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MEDIA CONTACT: Kyle Parks
Parks PR, (813) 352-1325
kyle@parkspublicrelations.com

Rotary Club of Asheville Offers Disaster Relief Grant to Support Recovery Efforts in

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (November 22, 2024) — The Rotary Club of Asheville has launched a Disaster Relief Grant program to aid in the recovery and rebuilding efforts following the devastation caused by Tropical Storm Helene.

Rotary Clubs and individuals in the United States and Canada have contributed more than \$150,000 in donations to help support this initiative, which will provide financial assistance to eligible organizations in our community.

Nonprofits, schools, and government agencies with 501(c)(3) status are invited to apply for grants of up to \$5,000. The Rotary Club of Asheville Disaster Relief Committee will evaluate applications on a bi-weekly basis, ensuring that funds are distributed efficiently to those with the greatest need.

"Our mission is to support recovery and rebuilding efforts for those affected by Tropical Storm Helene," said Janet Whitworth, chair of the Rotary Club of Asheville's Disaster Relief Committee. "We are proud to collaborate with Rotary Clubs across North America to help Western North Carolina."

Interested organizations are encouraged to submit a project budget, their most recent IRS Form 990 or year-end financial statements, and any supplementary materials. Applications can be [submitted online](#) or emailed directly to Janet Whitworth at jwhitworth711@gmail.com.

The Rotary Club of Asheville will continue the grant process until the funds have been fully utilized, to make sure that the community receives the necessary support to rebuild and recover.

For more information or to submit an application, visit www.rotaryasheville.org

About the Rotary Club of Asheville:

The Rotary Club of Asheville is a service club of engaged and passionate members who desire to do good in the community and world while honoring shared ethics and core values. The club, which has over 165 members from a wide range of backgrounds, finds ways to help the community at local, national, and international levels. This can involve anything from doing volunteer projects overseas to finding ways to support nonprofits in Asheville and Buncombe County. For more information, visit <https://www.rotaryasheville.org/>.

The 2025 Rotary District 7670 Conference: Fun, Excitement, and Making Magic Happen!

By Karolyn W. Killian



Get Ready for the 2025 Rotary District 7670 Conference: Fun, Excitement, and Making Magic Happen!

The 2025 Rotary District 7670 Conference promises to be a thrilling event, full of fun, inspiration, and opportunities to make a lasting impact. This year, we're bringing the magic to life, and we want YOU to be part of it!

One of the highlights of the conference will be an **art auction** to benefit the fight against polio, led by District Polio Chair, Cindy Ireland. This special auction will feature unique and beautiful pieces of art, all donated to support Rotary's ongoing efforts to eradicate polio worldwide. It's an exciting way for attendees to contribute to a vital cause while adding a little creativity

to the event!

In the coming months, Conference PI Chair, Joan VanOrman, will be sharing more details about the conference, including what you can expect and how to get involved. Stay tuned for updates that will give you a sneak peek into all the exciting activities and guest speakers lined up for the event.

Additionally, Shawn Hamm is hard at work building a dynamic new **conference website** that will be your go-to destination for everything related to the conference. The site is set to launch by mid-February, and it will serve as the official platform for **registration** to open. Make sure to visit the website as soon as it's live, so you can secure your spot for what's shaping up to be an unforgettable conference.

This year's Rotary District 7670 Conference is all about connection, celebration, and making a real

difference. Get ready for an inspiring, action-packed experience—don't miss out on the magic! Keep an eye on the website and get ready to register. We can't wait to see you there!

Rotary Rose Parade Float

By Tiffany Ervin

While watching the 1978 Rose Parade on TV, Jack Gilbert, then president of the Wilshire Rotary Club in Los Angeles, had an idea. Rotary would be celebrating its 75th anniversary in 1980. By entering the 1980 parade, Jack believed that Rotary could communicate its message of "service above self" to millions of people worldwide.



On January 1st of this year, Rotary again had a float in the parade, marking the 45th consecutive year of a Rotary entry. This year, it won the Tournament Volunteer Award, and was named Outstanding Floral Presentation Under 35 Feet. The theme for this year's float was "On The Road With Rotary" – presenting a look at Rotary's work around the world helping children hungry for food, aiding parents' struggle to take care of their families, and providing assistance to those living in regions of conflict, fighting to survive.

It should be noted that not one penny of the funds of Rotary International or The Rotary Foundation are spent on the float. The success of the float is a tribute to the dedication of the [Rotary Rose Parade Float Committee](#) whose efforts are supported entirely by voluntary contributions from Rotary districts, clubs and members across the US and Canada.

Rotary Four Way Test



The 4-Way Test

of things we do and say:

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?
-