# Club of Rotary Asheville THE COG

Monday, April 1, 2024



# **Club Meeting**

Asheville Meets at TUTON HALL, TRINITY EPISCOPAL CHURCH. To request a Zoom simulcast link email avIrotary1915@gmail.com. 60 Church St Asheville, NC 28801

Time: Thursday at 12:30 PM

#### Speakers

April 04, 2024 Mary Michael, Virginia Lawrence, Louise Bijesse New Member Talks

April 11, 2024 <u>April Burgess Johnson</u> Helpmate update

April 18, 2024 Edwin Horton Parkinsons Disease

April 25, 2024 Rebecca Robertson Valladolid Melipona Bee Project

## **Coming Events**

April 2nd **Board Meeting** April 11th **Discover Rotary** Speaker: April Burgess Subject: Helpmate update April 17th **Third Wednesday at the Watering HOle** 

### Club Leaders



Patrick A. Snyder President



<u>Eva-Michelle G. Spicer</u> President-Elect



David Mans President-Nominee Club Director International Service Chair



Janet L. Whitworth Past President Treasurer



Betty A. Doll Secretary

### **CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS**

By Susan Harper

President Pat thanked Millie Farmer for providing the CART match this week!

 ${f Pat}$  also reminded members of all the service opportunities coming up on  ${f April}$   ${f 13}^{th}$ . If you have questions, reach out to the Rotarian listed with the activity.

- Dedication of the Pollinator garden at 9:30 in Carrier Park (Sharon LeDuc)
- Working with RiverLink at 10:30 on a storm water remediation program (Pat Snyder)
- Volunteering at registration for the Honor Air Flight (Bob Haggard)
- Volunteering to help with RYLA (Al Davis)

**Dave Kaverman** invited members to join the hiking group on Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 5 p.m. at Keller Williams office downtown. The group is going to walk the Urban Trail.

Jackie Boone is seeking host families for the inbound youth exchange teenagers. Please contact her if you are willing to be a host family for 3 months.

Members were encouraged to give to the Asheville Rotary Club Foundation and Rotary International Foundation.

- Our Asheville Rotary Club Foundation seeks sponsors for the upcoming Hero's Gala. Money raised supports our club work in the community and world. See Barbara Bowers for more information.
- Tim Owings shared a video about the great work being done by the Rotary International Foundation including improving clean water, sanitation and hygiene around the world.

### THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Linda Nelson

New Member Talks - Our Favorite Program!



Louise Bijesse Louise Bijesse is the Founder of UpTalent Consulting, serves as its Principal Consultant, providing tailored HR solutions and talent searches for start-ups and rapidly growing clients across the United States. She joined our club on September 21, 2023 and currently serves on the Program Committee.

Virginia Lawrence was a Charleston resident for 20

years, where she was a member of the Charleson Rotary Club. She moved to Asheville

in 2023 and quickly became a member of our club. Over the past 25+ years she has worked in commercial banking, including years in middle market banking in Atlanta. She currently serves on the Fundraising and Public Image committees.

On July 1st, she will be serving on the Board as Club Service C Director, overseeing Public Image and Fundraising initiatives.



Mary Michael is from Brevard, NC and moved to Asheville in 2006 as

Executive Director of the Reuter YMCA. During that time, joined, the downtown Rotary Club, and was also a founding member of the Rotary Club of Asheville South where she served as the Club's President Elect and President.

Mary has worked in the for-profit world as the first Director of Training for a national company. In November of 2022 she branched out on her own as a business strategic consultant. She re-joined our club in January 2023, and currently serves as Program Chair.





-rankie L Ad<u>kins</u> Club Director Youth Protection Officer outh Services Chair

# DISTRICT AWARDS APPLICATION

By Patrick A. Snyder

# The following projects are being submitted to the District Environment Awards

In Rotary Year 23-24, The Rotary Club of Asheville has led three environmental-focused projects creating hope in the world locally and internationally. Two of these projects included District grant funds and the total project funding was \$17,206. The projects completed and in progress are all done with other non-profit organizations who are experts in their fields so that the projects result in sustained positive change.





Michelle Daniels Attendance Secretary Sergeant-at-Arms



Catherine Jo Early Club Director Vocational Service



Anthony D Lynch Attendance Secretary Sergeant-at-Arms



Alvin Ward Peacock <u>71.</u> Club Director Membership Chair



Timothy L Owings Club Director **Rotary Foundation** 



Richard T. Devereaux Diversity Equity & Inclusion Webmaster



<u> inda Nelson</u> CCO-Club Comm. Offcr Club Director Club Public Image



<u> Alexander P. Pence</u> Club Director Community Service Club Service Chair



Andrew Mercurio Club Fund Raising



<u>Chris Werte</u> Diversity Equity & Inclusion



Marcia Whitney Diversity Equity & Inclusion



<u>Skyler Duncan</u> Environmental Service



<u>Daniel M. Crupi</u> RYLA Point of Contact



Mary J. Michael Club Programs Chair



Ross Sloan iPast President

Carrier Park Pollinator Garden @ The Rotary Pavilion



The Rotary Club of Asheville started the year by building a pollinator garden next to the Rotary Pavilion in Carrier Park. In Jul 2023, ten club

members prepared the 20'x10' site with the help of local nonprofit Asheville GreenWorks and in coordination with the City of Asheville. This



initial preparation was followed several months later by planting 30 types of native flowing plants and by building a fence to protect the flowers. The finals step in the project

will be completed on Sat Apr 13th with a dedication ceremony where Interact, local city officials, and other non-profits focused on pollinators have been included.

#### Mayan Melipona Bee Sanctuary Project, Valladolid MX



Our local pollinator support effort was taken international to our Sister City of Valladolid in the Yucatán, Mexico where the Rotary Club of Asheville worked with the Melipona Bee Project. Rotarian Rebecca Robertson oversaw the building and dedication of a new meliponario (traditional bee yard,

shown partly in photo below) and restoration of an existing one for the endangered stingless Mayan



with honey used in traditional medicine, provide for tourism and economic well-being for the beekeepers and their community, and helps the endangered bees thrive in their natural habitat. In the Mayan culture, women traditional keep bees and this project helps provide

honeybee. These bee yards provide the local community

women in the region a sustainable way to earn money for their families in a traditional way.

Read More

# **Birthdays**

Patrick A. Snyder April 3rd

Mimi Gordon April 6th

Dan A Rogers April 8th

Richard Travis Hall April 8th

Linda Nelson April 8th

Edward J Snyder III April 12th

Tanya N. Fletcher April 12th

Stephen E. Aschmann April 13th

Angela Nicole Ferrell April 14th

Daniel M. Crupi April 14th

Walter Zachritz April 14th

Rebecca A Robertson April 15th

Janey Cope April 17th

Jane Brody April 18th

Beverly Jurenko April 19th

Scott E. Raines April 20th

Patricia M. Puckridge April 23rd

James S Thompson April 25th

Mary Brown April 25th

Joseph B. Lancaster April 26th

Sharon Kay LeDuc April 28th

Rae Geoffrey April 28th

### **Wedding Anniversaries**

Kyle R. Boyd April 8th

Patricia M. Puckridge April 10th

Benjamin J Wann April 15th

Albert Davis April 18th

Lynn Savage Dimoff April 19th

Thomas A. Cannon April 20th

Mark A. Knollman April 23rd

Celeste B. Collins April 26th

Carolyn Cronin April 29th

Allison C. Krivatch

Laresa M. Griffin May 1st

### **LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM**

By Susan Harper

### DEI "Diversity, Equity and Inclusionâ€ Remediating Inequity or Creating It

Rick Devereaux introduced our speaker, Lucien  $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{C}$  Skip $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{C}$  Capone. Mr. Capone is an attorney whose life $\hat{a} \in \mathbb{C}$  work has included being the Special Deputy Attorney General in charge of the

Corrections Section with the NC Attorney General's office, University General Counsel at UNC Asheville and UNC Greensboro and who now consults on legal matters with several nonprofit boards in the United States. He is a veteran who served during Desert Storm and retired as a commander.

Capone talked to us about DEI initiatives in the context of higher education. There is an ongoing debate around diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) programs and policies at universities, with some arguing they have gone too far and amount to discrimination or indoctrination, while others see them as important for equality of opportunity. DEI programs are being challenged nationwide as a form of reverse discrimination against whites and Asians.

Prominent think tanks are trying to overturn DEI programming and restore colorblind ideology to admissions. Their strategies include changing the language used around DEI, proposing legislation and regulation of what can and can't be done and ultimately, litination. The ultimate goal is to

and ultimately, litigation. The ultimate goal is to restrict or eliminate DEI Training, remove any DEI questions from applications, abolish DEI Offices and prohibit DEI statements.



HEROES HOORAH GALA

Celebrating People of Action

SAVE THE DATE

5.16.24

Rotary

Club of Asheville

Litigation challenging university admissions policies that consider race as a factor, such as the Students for Fair Admissions case (US Supreme Court 2023), have found policies violate the 14th Amendment. However, universities may still consider applicants' discussions of how race affected their lives. North Carolina and other states have passed laws limiting how universities can consider race in admissions or require certain views on DEI topics from students and faculty. This has created uncertainty around DEI efforts. He cited an article from the Chronicle of Higher Education called The Chaos of Compliance and shared some of the impacts universities are dealing with such as having to rethink and redesign programs to be race neutral that will still benefit minority and underserved students.

For the slides from his program, reach out to <a href="mailto:skipcavl@gmail.com">skipcavl@gmail.com</a> or listen to the program recording link that will be sent by Betty Doll this week.

### **HEROES HOORAH FUNDRAISING EVENT: MAY 16, 2024**

By Linda Nelson

Our club will be celebrating our local community heroes with a Gala Event on May 16th at the

Embassy Suites Downtown Asheville. As Rotarians, we believe we have a shared responsibility to take action on our world's most persistent issues. Our local heroes have been chosen and recognized for their work and dedication within the Rotary International seven areas of focus:

- Peace and Conflict: Michael Lamb, Asheville Police Dept
- Disease Prevention and Treatment: Dr. Joel Callahan, Pardee Hospital
- Water Sanitation and Hygiene: Renee Fortner, RiverLink
- Maternal and Child Health: Trish Hickling Beckman
- Basic Education and Literacy: Victoria Roberts, Read to Succeed
   Economic and Community
- Development: Matthew Bacaote, Jr
  Supporting the Environment: Ken
  Brame and Judy Mattox, Sierra Club

Please consider becoming a **Table Sponsor** or purchasing an **individual ticket** - Don't Delay: <a href="https://rotaryasheville.betterworld.org/events/heroes-hoorah/payment?tickets=23141,1">https://rotaryasheville.betterworld.org/events/heroes-hoorah/payment?tickets=23141,1</a>



This fundraiser supports our projects, including local scholarships, recognition of teachers and first responders, protection of the French Broad watershed, local food security initiatives, and international support for medical, dental, optical, and literacy projects in Guatemala, Honduras, and Argentina.

### **HONORING OUR VETERANS**

By Betty A. Doll

Recruiting Help to Honor our Veterans



The next Honor Flight, taking approximately 95 veterans to Washington D.C. for a day of celebrating and honoring them, is scheduled for **Saturday**, **April 27th.** A significant part of this day is the "Mail Call" that occurs on the flight home. Each veteran is presented with a packet of cards and notes thanking them for their service to our country. At an upcoming club meeting, we will take just a few minutes to write notes to the participants. Additionally, on **April 15th**, we will have a gathering **at Highland Brewing** to sit together, share a beer, and spend some time together writing additional notes. Come and join us! Bring a friend or family member to help. It's a fun and meaningful way to participate.

If you have a church group, a school group, a civic group, or ANYONE else who would like to help with this project, you can contact Betty Doll (<a href="MettyADoll@gmail.com">BettyADoll@gmail.com</a>) for more info or simply write notes addressed to:

"Dear Veteran" and mail them to Blue Ridge Honor Flight, Attn: Mail Call, PO Box 18057, Asheville, NC 28814 to arrive by **April 22nd, so** they can be sorted and packed for distribution to these heroes.

These notes mean the world to these veterans and are tangible and cherished mementos of the **Honor Flight experience.**