

# Rotary



## Club of Asheville THE COG

Monday, April 1, 2024



### 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

**April 04, 2024**

Mary Michael, Virginia  
Lawrence, Louise Bijesse  
New Member Talks

**April 11, 2024**

April Burgess Johnson  
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  
Johnson

**Subject:** Helpmate update

April 17th

**Third Wednesday at the**  
**Watering Hole**

### Club Leaders



Patrick A. Snyder  
President



Eva-Michelle G. Spicer  
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!

**Pat** also reminded members of all the service opportunities coming up on **April 13<sup>th</sup>**. 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 **Heroâ€™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 Charleston 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.



**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



**Alvin Ward Peacock Jr.**  
Club Director  
Membership Chair



**Timothy L Owings**  
Club Director  
Rotary Foundation  
Chair



**Richard T. Devereaux**  
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 Werte**  
Diversity Equity &  
Inclusion



**Marcia Whitney**  
Diversity Equity &  
Inclusion



**Skyler Duncan**  
Environmental Service  
Chair



**Daniel M. Crupi**  
RYLA Point of Contact



**Mary J. Michael**  
Club Programs Chair



**Ross Sloan**  
iPast President

## Birthdays

## DISTRICT AWARDS APPLICATION

By Patrick A. Snyder

**The following projects are being submitted to the District Environment Awards Committee**

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.

### 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 non-profit 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



honeybee. These bee yards provide the local community 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 women in the region a sustainable way to earn money for their families in a traditional way.  
[Read More](#)

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

([BettyADoll@gmail.com](mailto:BettyADoll@gmail.com)) 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.**

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