

# Rotary



## Club of Asheville THE COG

Tuesday, April 23, 2024



### CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

By Celeste B. Collins

**President Pat** thanked corporate sponsors and new ones which are listed on the PowerPoint.

**President Pat** also thanked **Jane Brody** for the CART Match. Pat shared that the Rotary District Conference this weekend will include a big announcement about CART funding to help Alzheimer's Research.

**Club Announcements** (some intermixed with Happy Dollars):

**Bob Haggard** thanked Club members who helped with the Honor Air orientation last weekend and reminded Club members to participate in the Honor Air Welcome Home at the Asheville Regional Airport on April 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Sharon LeDuc** celebrated the big Rotary weekend which included the Pollinator Garden dedication, RiverLink liter picked up, RYLA, Dine Around, and the upcoming Tenant Scholarship application review and upcoming interviews. [Another club member expressed gratitude for time with Dave Kavermann reviewing the Morrill scholarship applications.]

**Betty Doll** thanked the 13 people who showed up to write Honor Air Veteran cards â€" over 200 were completed!

**President Pat** recognized and welcomed visiting Rotarian, **Gary Schott**, from the Rotary Club of Mount Pleasant, who brought a banner to exchange with the Club.

**President Pat** said that over the next several weeks, he plans to provide highlights of Heroes Hoorah award winners. Today he shared the accomplishments of Renee Fortner with RiverLink the winner in the category of *Water, Sanitation and Hygiene*, and **Ken Brame and Judy Mattox**, of the Sierra Club, in the category of *Environment*.

**Barbara Bowers** reminded members that the **Heroes Hoorah** is coming up on **May 16<sup>th</sup>** at the new Embassy Suites in downtown Asheville. Only 120 tickets remaining! There are some donated tickets for those who would like to attend but can't afford tickets. See Barbara for details. Tickets can be purchased on our website or at club meetings. Let's sell out this event!

**Reminder:** Grind Fest is seeking 125 volunteers. Our club is a sponsor of the three-day event happening Friday, **May 24 â€" Sunday, May 26<sup>th</sup>**. To volunteer, go to <https://grindfestavl.com/> and click on the link for volunteers on the home page.

**New member inductions** Dave Kavermann (standing in for Ward Peacock) introduced members being inducted. Welcome to our two newest members, **Paula Kelley** and **Sue Rhody**.

**President Pat** recognized and thanked **Marvin Thomas**, a Paul Harris Fellow + 3 pin, which recognizes substantial contributions to the Rotary Foundation. These funds support Rotary projects locally and around the world.

### Club Meeting

Asheville  
Meets at TUTION HALL,  
TRINITY EPISCOPAL  
CHURCH. To request a  
Zoom simulcast link email  
avrotary1915@gmail.com.  
60 Church St  
Asheville, NC 28801  
Time: Thursday at 12:30  
PM

### Speakers

**April 25, 2024**  
**Rebecca Robertson**  
Valladolid Melipona Bee  
Project

**May 02, 2024**  
**Maggie Fehrman**  
Asheville City School  
Superintendent

**May 09, 2024**  
**Jennifer Bennett**  
Duke Energy

**May 16, 2024**  
**Maggie Fehrman**  
Asheville City Schools  
Superintendent

### Coming Events

May 7th  
**Board Meeting**  
May 9th  
**Discover Rotary**  
May 15th  
**Third Wednesday at  
the Watering HOLE**  
May 16th  
**Heroes Hoorah!**

### 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



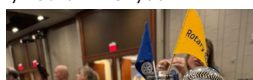
**Betty A. Doll**  
Secretary



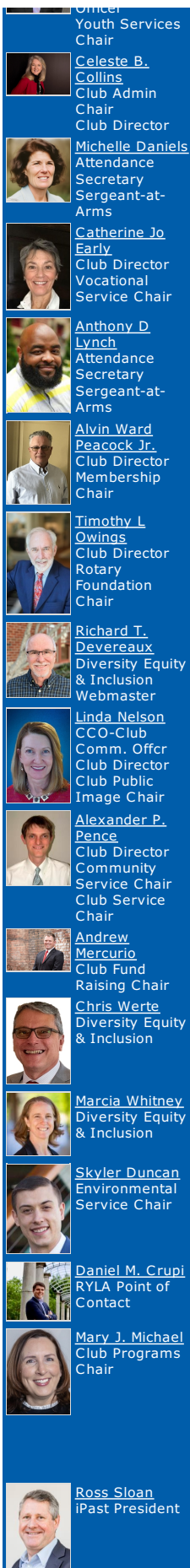
**Frankie L. Adkins**  
Club Director  
Youth  
Protection  
Officer

### District Conference Awards for Rotary Club of Asheville!

By Patrick A. Snyder



The district celebrated Rotary and all the clubs' accomplishments in Greenville SC on Apr 19th and 20th 2024. The two-day conference was an excellent opportunity for fun, fellowship, creativity, and inspirational speakers. On Saturday night, it culminated in an awards ceremony where **OUR CLUB took home FIVE awards!**



Congrats to all those who helped put in the the work to make this recognition possible.

We won the **Governor's Distinguished Club Citation** for our work in completing objectives from Pink Pages across all areas of the club.  
 We won the **"Inspiring Membership" award** for the membership team's efforts in growing our club this year.  
 We won a **zone award for sharing Rotary's story** over the year  
 And our amazing team (with the help of Interact) won both the Extra Large Club **BEST Newsletter** and **BEST Video award!**

Thank you to all the people of action who helped make this recognition possible. While we all tend to focus on Service Before Self and aren't in it for the awards, it's always nice to be recognized for a job very well done!

Thank you also to those who were able to attend the conference and celebrate Rotary and the Rotary Club of Asheville! *(not pictured but present: Jenny Bunn, Lacy Hagan, Donna Ensley)*



## NEW MEMBER INDUCTIONS

By Linda Nelson

**Welcome, New Members Sue Rhody and Paula Kelley!**



**Sue** is originally from Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. She worked at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 2005-2019 for Housing and Summer Conference and Events, and she moved to Asheville in the fall of 2019 to work in Vacation Rental Property Management.

**Paula** is a nurse practitioner specializing in healthcare guidance and advocacy for vulnerable community members. She is one of only 7 nationally certified guardians in the state. Her husband, Joe, is a radiation oncologist with Genesis Care. They moved to Asheville 3 years ago so that their youngest daughter could attend the key program at Carolina Day School. They are interested in meeting new friends and aligning themselves with other individuals who are interested in supporting our community through volunteer work and education.

## PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

By Linda Nelson

President Pat presented **Marvin Thomas** with a **PHF +3 pin** (Total giving \$4,000). The Club thanks him for his generosity and support to "Create Hope in the World."

Earning a Paul Harris award is a Rotary honor given to those who have donated a minimum of \$1,000 to the Rotary International Foundation over any given length of time. Annual giving to the Foundation through EREY (Every Rotarian Every Year) is one way to give.

Tim Owings, who is our club Foundation Chair and will be happy to help new Rotarians learn more about how you can make your own contribution. [towings@gmail.com](mailto:towings@gmail.com)



## Birthdays

Patricia M. Puckridge  
 April 23rd  
 James S Thompson  
 April 25th  
 Mary Brown  
 April 25th  
 Joseph B. Lancaster  
 April 26th



April 26th  
Sharon Kay LeDuc  
April 28th  
Rae Geoffrey  
April 28th  
Lisa Cutshaw  
May 4th  
Matthew Walter  
May 4th  
James Davidson  
May 10th  
Joseph Benjamin Burrell  
May 11th  
Carol E Bornstein  
May 14th  
David Mans  
May 15th  
Albert Davis  
May 15th  
Kirk Borland  
May 18th  
Timothy L Owings  
May 19th  
Paul David Hatfield  
May 20th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Mark A. Knollman  
April 23rd  
Celeste B. Collins  
April 26th  
Carolyn Cronin  
April 29th  
Laresa M. Griffin  
May 1st  
Scott E. Raines  
May 13th  
Edward L Bleynt Jr.  
May 19th  
Joseph Benjamin Burrell  
May 21st  
Bradley A. Arnold  
May 22nd



## THIS WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Sharon Kay LeDuc

This week we'll have Three big events in one meeting! Helena Friele will update us on her Global Grant Scholarship, and the Asheville Police Depart will be present for our quarterly awards. Then our main program in celebration of Earth Day will begin!

### BEE HERE NOW! calling back the medicine



Mayan Melipona Honey Bees and their Women Bee Tenders of the Yucatán Mexico. We are an environmental and a cultural project with a solution based mission to increase populations of this endangered Mayan Honeybee while at the same time preserving and documenting ancient Mayan Beekeeping traditions that are being lost. The rare stingless bee honey is highly medicinal and available through their website. <https://ashevillesistercities.org/mayan-melipona-bee/>

Rebecca Ann Robertson is the Director of MayanMeliponaBee.org. She is a veteran bee tender and a member of Asheville Rotary Club. She is also on the Leadership Committee of BEECITY USA/ Asheville and a board member of Center for HoneyBee Research in Asheville NC.

The Mayan Melipona Bee Sanctuary Project was conceptualized by Rebecca Robertson after she was invited to travel with the Asheville Sister Cities Delegation in February 2020 to our SISTER CITY of Valladolid in the Yucatán, Mexico.

Her connection to the native stingless Melipona honey bees and their women beekeepers was immediate, as was her decision to find the means to help her beekeeping sisters to grow and thrive.

The Asheville Rotary Club has generously awarded a \$11,500 grant to The Mayan Melipona Bee Sanctuary Project (MMBSP) by the Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation. This grant plus an anonymous donation from a Rotary Club member will allow us to expand by adding 3 more Bee Yards this year in the Yucatan México.

The Mayan Melipona Bee Sanctuary Project is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

## 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 Bacote, 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:  
<https://rotaryasheville.betterworld.org/events/heroes-hoorah>

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.



## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Celeste B. Collins



Kirk Swenson has served as UNC Asheville's Vice Chancellor for University Advancement since 2020. He is also the co-founder and executive director of Asheville Ideas Fest, a one-of-a-kind immersive forum of passionate and insightful panelists who help deliver a powerful intellectual experience rooted in civil discourse. World-class thinkers such as Tom Friedman, Christine Todd Whitman, Sanjay Gupta, Fareed Zakaria, Jon Meacham, Amna Nawaz, and Monica Guzman bring their perspectives on a wide range of challenging issues to Asheville each summer.

Kirk shared that Asheville Ideas Fest (AIF) is a community of bright, curious people engaged in an act of courage and commitment to civil discourse. He emphasized the importance of approaching people who have different opinions with curiosity and not with the need to change others' minds. He describes AIF as Intellectual Recreation. 2024 will be the third annual event and once again, will include a world-class gathering of speakers, small group workshops, and cultural opportunities.

[Read More](#)

