

# Rotary



# Club of Asheville THE COG

Tuesday, March 23, 2021



## NEXT PROGRAM - DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION (DEI) PLAN

By Richard T. Devereaux



Our March 25th meeting is shaping up to be one of the most important of the year. Our club's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Committee, led by Celeste Collins, will roll out their game plan for enhancing our club. President Sophia and Celeste will kick off the program with opening comments. Bill Haggard

will summarize the District and Club's DEI mission statements. Rick Devereaux will briefly talk about ways members can increase their awareness of the issues and opportunities surrounding diversity and equity. The main event will be J. Hackett's presentation of our club's inaugural project, a partnership to **Revitalize Asheville's Black Wall Street**.

Club member J Hackett and [GRIND](#) coffee shop conceived of the project, funded by grants and several local partners. Research shows that the quickest way for a Black person to develop personal wealth is through entrepreneurship. GRIND intends to support the growth of these businesses so they can reach tangible financial goals.

### GRIND, LLC

**Affiliated Organization:** Rotary Club, Hatch AVL, Aisha Adams Media Group, City of Asheville Business Inclusion Office, Venture Asheville, Mountain Bizworks, Kairos Carolina Digital, Eagle Market Streets Development Corp

**Mission:** Coffee is our Unifier to start, grow, and support black business, owners, and networks to build black wall street.

**Website:** [www.Grindavl.club](http://www.Grindavl.club)

**Grant Aims** (January 4, 2021)

- Start, grow, Expand 20 Black-Owned Business
- \$250K in revenue
- 15 completed Business plans

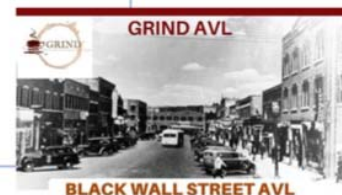
**Grant Update:**

15 business partners and 45 participants responded  
11 enrolled. 1<sup>st</sup> pop-up scheduled. Articles reached 2.3K online

Lead Contact(s):



J Hackett,  
[admin@grindavl.com](mailto:admin@grindavl.com)



NCIDEA ECOSYSTEM  
Extending Entrepreneurial Reach

Project Goals include: 20 Black businesses enrolled in the program will generate \$250,000 in revenue in 12 months and increase their revenue

## Club Meeting

Asheville  
Meets at Online via Zoom.  
Pre-meeting chats begins at noon. Email [avrotary1915@gmail.com](mailto:avrotary1915@gmail.com) to request Zoom link.

Asheville, NC 28801  
Time: Thursday at 12:30 PM

## Speakers

**March 25, 2021**

[Celeste Collins and J Hackett](#)

Presentation of our Club's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Plan to include a New Partnership with J. Hackett's "Revitalization of Asheville's Black Wall Street" Project

**April 01, 2021**

[Marcia Whitney, President & CEO, Vernor Center for Early Learning](#)

Impacts of COVID-19 on children's social/emotional development and learning

**April 08, 2021**

[Dr. Michael Dempsey, Director Lenoir-Rhyne University Asheville Graduate Studies Update](#)

**April 15, 2021**

[New Member Talks](#)  
[Short Autobiographical Talks from our Club's Newest Members](#)

## Coming Events

April 6th  
[Club Board Meeting](#)

April 7th  
[Hike with Rotary](#)

## Club Leaders



[Sophia Stefanidis Ungert](#)  
President



[Katherine Morosani](#)  
President-Elect



[Richard T. Devereaux](#)  
Past President  
Secretary  
Webmaster



[David A. Kozak](#)  
Treasurer



[Stephen F. Anderson](#)  
Club Director



[Bradley A. Arnold](#)  
Rotary  
Foundation Chair  
Club Director



[Celeste B. Collins](#)  
Diversity Equity & Inclusion



[Melissa R. Drennan](#)  
Club Admin Chair  
Club Director



[Mark A. Knollman](#)  
Club Director  
Vocational Service Chair

[Sharon Kay](#)

by 300%. Our Club is uniquely positioned to support this work. Many of our members have valuable business expertise. By encouraging members to volunteer as mentors, providing services, and becoming customers/clients of these businesses we can invest in the success of this important project.

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## CLUB ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Update on Giving to the Rotary Foundation from Brad Arnold

Many thanks to our Club members who have made contributions to the Rotary Foundation this year toward our goal of \$30,000. We are currently about 60% of the way to attaining our annual goal.

We would like to make another push before Rotary year end in June. Club members can choose various options to contribute.

The easiest option is to sign into your account at [myrotay.org](https://myrotay.org) or go directly to the Foundation at [www.rotary.org/contribute](https://www.rotary.org/contribute).

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## Rotary Fellowships

Did you know there are 95 Rotary Fellowship Groups? These are international groups that share a common passion ♦ from photography, bird watching, hiking, beer or wine lovers to metalheads. Being part of a fellowship is a fun way to make friends around the world, explore a hobby or profession, and enhance your Rotary experience.

[This link](#) will take you to the list of Fellowship Groups. Check it out, you might meet a new friend or explore a new hobby.

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## Calling all Traveling Rotatians

Our fun monthly ♦Around the World with the Asheville Rotarians♦ (an initiative of the Fellowship Committee) is growing in popularity. **We would love for YOU to share your travel story with us.**

We know a lot of our members have travel memories that others would enjoy. Would you be willing to talk with us for about 20 minutes and include some photos (easily shared via Zoom)? We can help with the technology.

Foreign travel, domestic travel, a guided bus tour or a solo adventure, a tent or the Ritz.

**What♦s been fun for you? What are your best memories? Won♦t you share?**

We gather via Zoom on the second Wednesday evening of the month at 7 pm. If you would be willing to share, please contact Dave Kaverman ([dave@acuityma.com](mailto:dave@acuityma.com)) or Betty Doll ([BettyADoll@gmail.com](mailto:BettyADoll@gmail.com)).





LeDuc  
Club Director  
International  
Service Chair



Sara L. Marshall  
Bulletin Editor  
Club Public  
Image Chair



Donna W. Prinz  
Club Director  
Youth Services  
Chair



Ross Sloan  
President-  
Nominee



Patrick A. Snyder  
Club Director  
Community  
Service Chair



Eva-Michelle G. Spicer  
Club Director



Patricia M. Puckridge  
Membership Chair



Dustin L. Schlabach  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Ford Willis  
Sergeant-at-Arms



Megan E. Robinson  
Club Programs  
Chair



Janet L. Whitworth  
iPast President



Donna Rogers  
Ensley  
Assistant  
Governor

It's vicarious living at its finest!

## Cart Fund



The CART Fund is dedicated to raising funds to provide seed money for cutting edge, high impact research in hopes of finding a cure/prevention for Alzheimer's disease. Consider contributing \$1 a week per quarter; \$13.

## Weekly Meeting Zoom Instructions

Please look for Dustin Schlabach to email the weekly meeting Zoom. Click on the link or copy and paste in your web browser. If that will not work go to zoom.com, click join a meeting and enter the meeting ID included in Dustin's email.

**For Birthday/Anniversary/Happy Dollars/CART Funds  
please mail your check to  
Rotary Club of Asheville Foundation  
P.O. Box 1954  
Asheville NC 28801.**

*If you would like to add an announcement in an upcoming COG please email to Sara Marshall [smarshall@firsthorizon.com](mailto:smarshall@firsthorizon.com) by 5pm on Saturday prior to Tuesday publishing.*

## Additional Volunteer Opportunities :

\*Please let your friends, family, and neighbors know that Asheville City Schools is hiring substitute teachers for the 2020-2021 school year. All candidates need to complete an online application that includes three references. The application is located on the ACS homepage under the careers tab. Applicants must be a minimum of 18 years of age and hold a high school diploma. Substitute teaching allows individuals to work with our amazing K-12<sup>th</sup> grade students and have a flexible schedule. To learn more about how to become a substitute teacher, please contact Kimberly Dechant, Ed.D. at 828-350-6140 or email [Kimberly.dechant@acsgmail.net](mailto:Kimberly.dechant@acsgmail.net).

\*Contact Salvation Army Commander and fellow club member [Phil Swyers](#) if you'd like to help out with Covid-19 relief efforts

\*Contact the Red Cross of WNC at [redcross.org/volunteer](http://redcross.org/volunteer). (Rotarian Megan Robinson, Executive Director Red Cross of WNC)

## Birthdays

Julia Roman  
March 23rd  
Kristy Wilson  
March 28th  
Patrick A. Snyder  
April 3rd  
Linda Nelson  
April 8th  
Richard Travis Hall  
April 8th  
Joshua M. Abrams  
April 9th  
Edmund B. Parker  
April 10th  
Tanya N. Fletcher  
April 12th  
Stephen E. Aschmann  
April 13th  
Angela Nicole Ferrell  
April 14th  
Mary Frances Allen  
April 16th  
Scott E. Raines  
April 20th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Rachel Rion Moran  
March 23rd  
Kyle R. Boyd  
April 8th  
Edward J. Sullivan  
April 9th  
Patricia M. Puckridge  
April 10th  
Albert Davis  
April 18th  
Thomas A. Cannon  
April 20th

\*Contact the Asheville Y downtown or Ferguson branch to give shopping bags for their food packages. (Rotarian Jessica Hendrix, Executive Director Asheville Y)

\*Contact [handsonasheville-buncombecounty.org](http://handsonasheville-buncombecounty.org) for all volunteer opportunities in the area. (Rotarian Kevin Montgomery, Director of Resource Development)

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## LAST WEEK'S PROGRAM

By Melissa R. Drennan

### **CANNABIS COMES IN TWO FLAVORS: MARIJUANA AND HEMP**

Also on March 18 it was our privilege to hear from our own Ross Sloan accompanied by Rod Kight. Both of them are leaders in the new and growing hemp industry. Ross Sloan is the SVP of Hemp Banking at West Town Bank and Trust. Rod Kight is an award winning attorney specializing in the cannabis industry.



From this presentation we learned the difference between the two types of cannabis: hemp and marijuana. The two plants are distinguished by the level of THC. To be considered hemp, the plant must have a negligible amount of THC.

We also learned about legislative changes starting in 2014 that opened new opportunities for hemp production and its over 50,000 uses. While CBD is a popularly known use of hemp, there are several industrial uses such as building materials, textiles, and plastics alternatives that have environmental benefits.

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## FOUR WAY TEST



## THE FOUR-WAY TEST

*Of the things we think, say or do:*

*first*

Is it the **TRUTH**?

*second*

Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?

*third*

Will it build **GOODWILL** and  
**BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?

*fourth*

Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to  
all concerned?

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