

# The Piedmont Rotarian

District 7690

November 2023

November's Theme is the Rotary Foundation

#RotaryResponds  
#PeopleofAction



Farmers in the villages of Sikikun and Pyanan have long grown cabbage, using pesticides and turning the soil over each year, and these conventional farming practices were endangering the water supply for Yilan County's 450,000 residents. Rotary members from District 3490, in partnership with National Ilan University and local businesses, helped the community adopt more sustainable farming practices as well as higher-yield crops like chestnuts and truffles. Rotary members also support training in e-commerce and marketing to help the farmers sell their harvest. Since 2021, 18 landowners in Datong Township have increased their revenues 15-fold through the project, which has resulted in agricultural diversification, better educational opportunities, more free time, and a cleaner and healthier environment. The project is supported by Rotary Foundation global grant #2010776. Yilan, Taiwan. 18 December 2022.

## Peace For the Holidays



Van Lankford  
District Governor  
2023-2024



I have been a Rotarian for over 22 years and Wednesday morning, January 11, 2023, between the hours of 9:00 – 10:30, is in my mind the most inspiring and insightful hour and a half, thus far, in my Rotary journey. I was attending the Rotary International Assembly in Orlando, Florida that week. This is a week in which District Governors-Elect from all over the world come to intense training and it is the last big training to prepare for our year as District Governor. There were two speakers on the agenda for the General Session that morning. One of the speakers was Rotary International President, Gordon McInally. Two days earlier, Gordon had introduced the theme for this year, “Create Hope in the World,” and he was doing a deep dive into what the theme meant to him. He said that “creating hope” is about “creating peace” both in the world and, most importantly, “in ourselves”. “Peace in the world,” he explained, “can only happen when we have peace within ourselves!” Then he went on to tell of the death of his younger brother, Ian, to suicide in 2014 and that our focus this year was going to be on mental health. However, just before Gordon spoke, Ian Riseley, who is Chair of The Rotary Foundation Board, spoke. In his speech, he said something I will always remember. “I am going to say this because some of you District Governor-Elects need to hear it. There are more important things in life than Rotary!”

This hit me because one month earlier I came to the same realization. It was just before Christmas last year and, as all of us do, I had so much going on in my life. My wife and I were preparing for Christmas at our home. We were also deep in a program my business has done for several years called “Be a Santa to a Senior,” which provides gifts for senior adults in need at Christmas. Last year we provided almost 600 gifts. Also, we were trying to finish up a home renovation project which had us displaced since a couple of weeks before Thanksgiving. I cannot remember a more frustrating and unrelenting time in my life. One afternoon all of these concerns came to a head as I was preparing to attend a district Rotary function. At one point in the afternoon, after feeling stress, guilt, and anxiety about all that was going on I had a “come to Jesus meeting” with MYSELF. I asked myself, “What is one thing you can do today to find peace with yourself?” What did I feel would bring me peace.....skip the district Rotary function, which for me would have required many miles of travel. So, on that afternoon in December, when I was feeling such anxiety, I said, “No,” to Rotary and found peace. I think Ian and Gordon would be proud. I love Rotary and I in my speech to all the clubs this Fall I talk about how Rotary has made a positive impact on me both personally and professionally. However, there are more important things in life than Rotary.

Therefore, as your District Governor, I am declaring December as a month of PEACE and to focus on your mental health. I challenge you to focus on things that bring peace to you. Your faith (whatever that might look like), your family, friends, people you work with, and whatever will bring you joy this holiday season. As far as the district goes, in December I am canceling our

monthly AGs meetings and monthly Leadership Lounge meetings.....we'll see you in January. There will also be no district newsletter in December. This too will resume in January. I am encouraging other district leaders to do the same. However, since there are things we need to give attention to from now to the end of the calendar year, you will be receiving an email once a week, except for the week of December 25. Also, I have asked Karen Pollard to continue her Peer Hope Group meeting on December 13 at 11:00. This will be a great mental health resource if you need help dealing with the stress of the holidays.

As we focus this year on "Creating Hope in the World" and creating peace with ourselves, my hope for you is that you will find peace this holiday season.

Peace,

Van Lankford  
District Governor



Our Rotary  
Foundation  
By James Gouty  
District Rotary  
Foundation  
Chair  
2022-2025



# Charity Navigator

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Rotary Foundation receives highest rating from Charity Navigator for 15th consecutive year.

For the 15th consecutive year, The Rotary Foundation has received the highest rating – four stars – from [Charity Navigator](#), an independent evaluator of charities in the U.S.

The Foundation earned the recognition for adhering to sector best practices and executing its mission in a financially efficient way, demonstrating both strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency.

“We are delighted to provide the Rotary Foundation with third-party accreditation that validates their operational excellence,” said Michael Thatcher, President, and CEO of Charity Navigator. “The Four-Star Rating is the highest possible rating an organization can achieve. We are eager to see the good work that Rotary is able to accomplish in the years ahead.”

Charity Navigator assesses nonprofit performance based on four key indicators, including the impact of the charity’s program relative to cost; the organization’s governance and financial health including its transparency, efficiency, and sustainability; a charity’s leadership capacity, strategic development, and ability to adapt to internal and external changes; and its overall culture and connectedness to its constituents and the communities they serve.

– Oct 2023

## **SUPPORTING THE ROTARY FOUNDATION**

As discussed at the District’s Fall Training in September, we are all faced with a multitude of choices for our philanthropic dollars. It is our hope that you will choose to make the Rotary Foundation as one of the organizations you support.

In the first paragraph above, you will see that The Rotary Foundation is highly regarded in the nonprofit universe. The Rotary Foundation can assure you that your contributions are safe and well invested.

I would ask you to remember the work our Foundation does, from large multi club global grants to smaller single club district grants, disaster relief grants, global scholarships, Peace Centers, and the eradication of Polio.

The bottom line is, our Foundation touches the lives of millions of people around the world and in our district and I hope you will join me in supporting this life changing organization.

## **HOPE GRANTS**

**\*\*\*OUTSTANDING NEWS\*\*\*** 41 Clubs chose to participate in the District’s Hope Grants. That means 41 of our communities will have a better understanding of the mental health issues facing our citizens.

## **FOUNDATION PROGRAMS**

· A reminder that I am available to come to your clubs and speak about the Rotary Foundation. My presentation is normally 20 to 25 minutes long and I can tailor it to whatever you believe your club needs to hear.

Just contact me at [jggouty@gmail.com](mailto:jggouty@gmail.com) to set up a time and date.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

For the month of November—Foundation Talks at the following clubs.

- o Summit, Western Forsyth, Downtown Greensboro, Southern Pines, Mt. Airy, Asheboro/Randolph (joint meeting), King, Mocksville, Clemmons,

February 3, 2024—Grants Management Training, Randolph Community College, 8:30 am to 1:00 pm.



**Membership Focus**  
*Jon Spillman*  
*District Membership Chair*  
*2022-2025*



Hi Club Presidents, Club President-Elects, Membership Chairs, Secretaries, Assistant Governors and District Leaders,

Two items for this month:

1. Zone Membership Action Plan Zoom Call – November 13<sup>th</sup> (6:00pm to 6:45pm) – This month's MAP webinar focuses on the newest type of Innovative club called, **IMPACT clubs**, which is sweeping the Rotary World. See link to register for this fantastic event. [Link to Nov 13th meeting](#)
2. District 7690 Membership Zoom Call - November 14<sup>th</sup> (8:00am to 8:30am)– This month's monthly Zoom call features Winston-Salem Club President Lisa Parish. She will be presenting strategies around engaging and retaining members. **Winston-Salem club leads the District in in new members this year.** [Link to Nov 14th zoom meeting](#)

Please contact me if you would like me or District Membership Team Member to come to your club or help in any way!

Thanks for all you do!

Jon

The  
**Rotary**  
Foundation



**District 7690**  
**Rotary Foundation Banquet**

**November 09**  
**Koury Convention Center**  
**Greensboro, NC**

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**District Governor**  
**Van Lankford**

**Rotary International President**  
**Gordon R. McInally**

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Guilford Rotary President Alison Huber made news in Our State Magazine with a spread on the Triad Honor Flight. Included in the article is a digital option with videos from several of the veterans including Porter Halyburton, a 7+ year POW in Vietnam. Another video is with Alison and her Dad talking about how his Honor Flight and how Triad came to be.

Honor Bound | Our State

[Link to full article](#)







The Southern Pines Rotary Club had a busy October fundraising. President Elect Veronica Sanchez held our first-ever Raffle & Live Auction! Prizes included a 1hr private plane ride with Pilot and Rotarian Dick Harpster, 1yr Sandhills 10 Cinema tickets donated by Rotarian Jeremy Wellman, and a \$5,000 cash prize.

Pints & Pitches ended the month getting pledges and donations supporting #EndPolioNow. A new venue, The Rec Room, and idea dunking President David Hope and other club members in the chilly October night.



# *pints for polio*



## **Clemmons Rotary: Pints for Polio: Raising a Glass to Eradicate Polio**

In an evening filled with camaraderie and great beverages, the Rotary Club of Clemmons hosted its first "Pints for Polio" fundraiser at the Foothills Brewing Tasting Room in Winston-Salem. With approximately 90 attendees coming together, it was a memorable night that not only brought smiles to faces but also helped us raise money for the fight against polio.

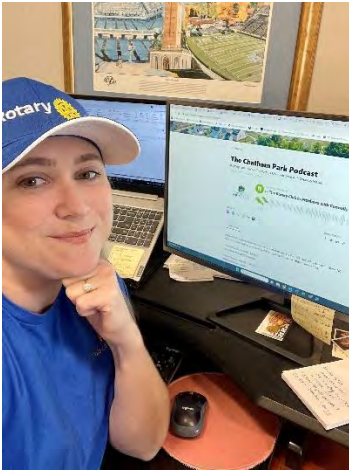
The Foothills Tasting Room was the perfect venue for our gathering, as the weather was perfect for sitting on the outdoor patio. There were plenty of smiles and laughter, along with great conversations and fellowship. But what made the evening truly special, though, was the purpose behind it. Attendees generously contributed to our ongoing campaign to eradicate polio from the face of the Earth.

The funds raised during "Pints for Polio" will be crucial in supporting vaccination programs, public awareness campaigns, and medical efforts in areas where polio still poses a threat. Thanks to the 2:1 match offered by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation our efforts will have even greater reach.

The success of the "Pints for Polio" fundraiser would not have been possible without the support of our many sponsors and the efforts of the committee, led by Past President, Dr. Doug Gardner:

"Lots of people assume that because they do not "see" polio actively around them, that it's not there. As long as there are cases in the world, there is a potential for a worldwide surge of this devastating paralytic illness. That's why it's extremely important that we continue the ongoing fight that Rotary has been proud to be leading. We're already looking forward to next year's event."

Clemmons Rotary is grateful to all the attendees who joined us, contributed to the cause, and shared in the spirit of giving back to the community and the world.



### So You Wanna Be On A Podcast?

Hi everyone! Club President Connolly Walker here from the Pittsboro Rotary Club. I'm excited to share with you all some insight into how the Rotary Interview on The Chatham Park Podcast came to be.

Earlier this year at PETS, one of my breakout session topics was Public Image. I didn't think I would learn anything new here because the Pittsboro Rotary Club has a great Public Image Plan. But I was wrong. Someone brought up podcasts.

A podcast is a form of audio programming. Often, a podcast is broken down into episodes around a particular topic or theme. Podcasts are consumed by an audience via an app like Apple, Spotify or Google. It's kind of like radio shows, but a podcast episode is a bit longer (*usually 30 minutes to 1 hour*), more conversational, more frequent (*usually episodes "drop" weekly or monthly*), and best of all....it can cover ANY topic.

As someone who has had a dream to have a podcast, this idea was intriguing to me. Could I podcast about Rotary?? Since I'm so new to the game, I knew the first step would be finding a podcast where I could be interviewed about Rotary.

Here in Pittsboro we are watching [Chatham Park](#), a master-planned community come to life. Somewhere in my network, I learned about [The Chatham Park Podcast](#). There it was...a chance to be a guest on a podcast!

I reached out to the producer of The Chatham Park Podcast, and I directly asked, "Can I come on the podcast to talk about our Rotary Club's Street Fair fundraiser?" I was told The Chatham Park Podcast episodes are recorded to talk about projects, businesses, policies, etc. that directly effect Chatham Park and the residents here. I think the producer was a little hesitant with my request, and rightfully so. Could you imagine if everyone in town wanted to come on to promote whatever they wanted to promote? I was asked, "How is the Pittsboro Rotary Club important to the people that live in Chatham Park?"

I answered right back, "Because you're building all these neighborhoods for people to come and live in Pittsboro, but something like the Pittsboro Rotary Club is going to KEEP them living here."

With that answer, I was in. The producer emailed me about 5 questions he thought we might cover. Per his suggestion, I didn't write a script; I just brought with me 1 sheet of paper with some key dates & statistics about Rotary.

I had a blast recording the podcast! It was truly just a conversation. The element of "messaging up" was removed, I knew the producer could edit or delete out any mistakes, or we could just "re-record" a statement if I needed. The producer asked great questions, and I really felt like the Pittsboro Rotary Club and Rotary International got to shine throughout the podcast.

To take a listen to the podcast, click this [LINK](#).

If you ever have any questions about podcasting, or prepping to speak about Rotary on a podcast, please reach out!

Yours In Service,  
Connolly Walker  
Club President  
[Rotary Club of Pittsboro](#)





Allison Massari  
The 2023 Rotary Club of High Point  
THANKSGIVING PROGRAM  
Sponsored by Dr. Nido Qubein and  
the Qubein Foundation



Hailed as “life-changing” “riveting” “extraordinary” “bold” and “deeply moving” Allison Massari’s triumphant keynote is packed with clarity and insight. Allison shares her story of absolute loss, to forgiveness and understanding, and finally to success and a life beyond anything she could have imagined. With genuine encouragement and support, Allison’s dynamic and deeply moving keynote offers immediately applicable tools to rise above any obstacle and find peace and inspire vitality despite difficult times. As Allison states, “The truth is, the same internal fire and ‘command of self’ that I needed to heal my life is exactly what has given me success personally and professionally.” Bolstered by a sense of unity and empowerment, audiences walk away feeling revitalized, refreshed, and seeing their lives from new coordinates. Prepare to be deeply moved. Prepare to be taken on a journey.

The program is on Friday, November 17 from 11:30 to 1:00 at  
**High Point University**  
**1 N University Pkwy**  
**High Point, NC 27268**

All members of District 7690 are invited and encouraged to bring guests. There is no charge for this very uplifting and inspiring program.

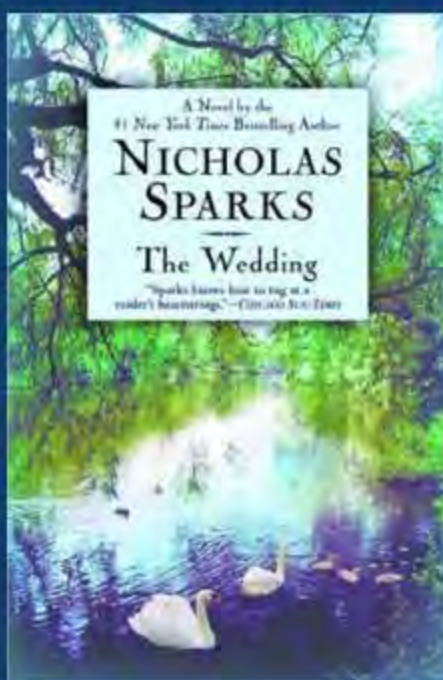
DISTRICT CONFERENCE 2024

# BOOK CLUB

**AUTHOR: NICHOLAS SPARKS**

**FEATURING BOOKS SET IN  
OR AROUND NEW BERN, NC**

**JOIN ROTARIANS & NON-ROTARIANS  
FOR AN ONLINE BOOK CLUB**



## **NOVEMBER 27:**

After 30 years of marriage, Wilson Lewis is forced to admit the romance is gone between him and his wife, Jane. Can his in-laws marriage be an example for him and Jane?

**IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN!**

**JANUARY 23: A BEND IN THE ROAD**

**MARCH 18: THE RESCUE**

**THEN JOIN US IN-PERSON AT THE  
DISTRICT CONFERENCE IN NEW BERN, NC FOR OUR**

**LUNCH DISCUSSION 4/26**

**NICHOLAS SPARKS TOUR 4/27**

**REGISTER ONLINE:**

**[NotYourMamasDistrictConference.com](http://NotYourMamasDistrictConference.com)**

224 BY 2024!

*Not Your Mama's*  
**DISTRICT CONFERENCE**

Help us achieve 224  
registered Rotarians  
before registration fees  
increase on Jan 1, 2024.

Register for District 7690's  
District Conference in New Bern,  
NC April 25-28 TODAY by visiting  
<https://notyourmamasdistrictconference.com/>

