

THE SPOKE DISTRICT 6740 NEWSLETTER

Rotary



From The District Governor
January 2025

What a way to begin 2025—with snow, arctic temperatures, weather-related interruptions, and in some cases, disruptions to club meeting schedules. It's January, and some of this is to be expected. Let's put these conditions behind us and concentrate on some notable highlights, where we stand regarding goals and objectives, and what we need to address going forward.

If you were among the fortunate to participate in the Rotary Leadership Institute training in Lexington on January 25th, you were part of the largest RLI gathering held between Upper Ohio and Lower Louisiana. Congratulations, and thank you! Our clubs and members acknowledge the value of learning more and interacting more to help us bring ideas to the forefront and implement them. We discussed ethics, service, how grants are funded, fellowships, coalitions, effective leadership, team building, and more. It was a wonderful day of sharing with fellow Rotarians throughout the district and demonstrated that we have many members willing to invest the time needed to know more and do more for this organization.

As we review where we stand compared to the goals set at the beginning of this Rotary year, it is concerning that we have not grown membership. A quick analysis of our clubs' membership rosters shows that we added 134 new members during the calendar year 2024, setting aside Floyd County since they are a start-up club. We have demonstrated that we can find new members; however, we are losing as many as we gain. How will we navigate differently this year to provide our membership with a chance to increase?

The instruction and encouragement we received during RLI suggest that within our clubs, we should be forming coalitions and building teams that focus on the barriers to membership growth. As we identify reasons for inadequate membership growth, we can then develop action plans to ensure we are gaining members and not just adding them.

Our Rotary clubs are sometimes said to be perched on the shoulders of community leaders from years ago—Rotarians who established standards for us to measure ourselves against. One day, future Rotarians might claim to be perched on our shoulders. Let's deliver to them clubs of size and stature that fully represent the members of our communities. What is your role as we grow our clubs?

Rotary On!
Xandy



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D6740's RLI CONTINUES TO SET RECORDS!

Our January 25, D6740's Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) broke last September's record with 44 Rotarians in attendance! They included a mix of ROTARIANS WHO CAME TO HONE THEIR LEADERSHIP SKILLS AND NEW ROTARIANS who hoped to learn more about Rotary-- its structure, its mission and values, and the many opportunities it affords Rotarians in D6740 and around the world.

Perhaps equally important to the number of Rotarians who attended was the number of clubs who sent representatives—23! They included the following: Lexington After Hours, Cynthiana, Floyd County, Louisa, Pikeville, Covington, Mt. Sterling, Lexington, Morehead, Florence, Berea, Corbin, Paintsville, Somerset, Somerset-Pulaski, Maysville, Ashland, Kenton County, Stanford, Nicholasville, Paris, Winchester, and Russell. In addition, 12 Rotarians from 5 clubs facilitated the 17 classes that were offered that day.

During the three concurrent sessions, participants in Part I, II, and III tackled important topics like Attracting and Engaging Members, our Foundation, Rotary Opportunities, Running Effective Meetings, and many more. And they gave high marks to the facilitators and the learning opportunities offered during the courses, including the sharing of club practices, problem solving, and new ideas with members of other clubs.

At the conclusion of the day, District Governor Xandy Stewart recognized eight new Institute graduates with RLI certificates in recognition of their completing almost 18 hours of course work. The graduating class included Richard Proudfoot, Markus Cross, Greg Corwin, Fr. Gary Simpson, Shelly Justice Fouts, Jim Weisenberger, Frank Dawahare, and Tim Janes

Thanks from Planning Committee Members Martha Riddell, Jack McAllister, Dean Hammond, and Judy Worth to all who participated and especially to DG Xandy Stewart and our District Leadership, who agreed to cover the registration fees for all who attended.

The next RLI will be offered in late August/early September 2025. Watch for a SAVE THE DATE IN EARLY JULY!



RLI grads from left: Richard Proudfoot, Markus Cross, Greg Corwin, Fr. Gary Simpson, Shelly Justice Fouts, Jim Weisenberger, Frank Dawahare, and Tim Janes.

Nicholasville Rotary Sponsors Jana Johnston to Study Abroad by Arnold Taylor

Arnold Taylor, District 6740 Rotary Youth Exchange Chair, is pleased to announce that Jana Johnston has been selected by Ohio Erie Multidistrict Youth Exchange to spend the school year of 2025-26 in Austria. Her assignment to that country was announced at the January 17-20, 2025 Youth Exchange Conference at Hickory, North Carolina. Jana is a resident of Wilmore, Kentucky and the daughter of Melissa and Jason Johnston. She attends West Jessamine High School. Her selection follows a lengthy process of application and compilation of many supporting documents. She will depart sometime in early fall and in the meantime will be studying German. So, congratulations, Jana! Jana is sponsored by the Nicholasville Rotary Club, so congratulations to the members of that club too.



Covington Rotary Club Foundation Provides Fund for Clean Water Project by Arnold Taylor

District 6740 Youth Exchange Chair Arnold Taylor attended the recent OhioErie Multi-district Youth Exchange Conference in Hickory, North Carolina, where future Outbound students were joined by students from around the world for training sessions that include their duties and problem solving. One of the actions taken by the students was the assembly of water purification kits. The kits were paid for by contributions from several clubs and districts including the Covington Rotary Club Foundation which donated \$750 toward that expense.



Todd Kyper Works to Make Covington Works
Covington Rotary Club
by Arnold Taylor
NKyTribune reporter

Covington Works. And Todd Kyper works to make Covington Works, well, work.

Covington Works is the result of an agreement between the City of Covington and the Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD), whose Workforce Division operates a number of workforce development programs and initiatives, including Covington Works.

Worth noting, the NKADD also staffs the NKY Workforce Investment Board which has oversight of the Kentucky Career Centers in the eight Northern Kentucky counties.

The project – which celebrates a two-year anniversary this month – focuses on helping Covington residents who are unemployed or under-employed, to develop or enhance their skills.

And Todd Kyper, Business Services Coordinator with Northern Kentucky Workforce Investment, told the Covington Rotary Club this week how the project has become quite successful.



Todd Kyper, Covington Works
(Photo by Andy Furman)

“We want to provide education, training and work experiences for city residents,” said Kyper, who grew up near Columbia, Md., and is a graduate of the state’s university. “The program helps residents gain job-ready skills and easier access to opportunities while preparing the talent needed to support the city’s businesses.”

Kyper said he found it quite rewarding to work with youth development.

“I started working as a Program Director for The First Tee,” he told the Northern Kentucky Tribune. “They would use golf as a life skill to teach healthy habits.”

He remained with them for some three-and-a-half years, he said, and really got to understand work-force development.

“I learned how working with businesses can make it even more successful.”

His present-day role is managing relationships with area business.

“I learn what their hiring and workforce needs are; and, of course, the kind of talent they may need,” he said.

And after learning those needs, Kyper says he will look at resources available to acquire the talent that is needed.

Todd Kyper Works to Make Covington Works
Covington Rotary Club
by Arnold Taylor
NKyTribune reporter

“As part of Covington Works, we were able to establish a productive partnership with Northern Kentucky University’s Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship,” Kyper said. “Seven students from NKU accepted internships at Covington start-up businesses through us, providing valuable hands-on experience to the students as well as much-needed work support for those businesses.”

Todd Kyper

Kyper proudly points out two local success stories.

“Lee Gibson was looking for a job opportunity to build his skills as an automobile technician,” Kyper said. “We were able to create a job opportunity for him at Samaritan Car Care Clinic in Covington. He also worked on some ‘soft’ skills like coming to work on time and communication.”

The good news – Gibson recently completed a two-year stint at the Covington location. “His supervisor believes he is ready for a new challenge. Perhaps at a local automobile dealership”

Lee Gibson is not alone.

Builder Backed – another Covington business – provides home services network, builder approved experts, professionals, enabling clients access to home care and maintenance service with transparent pricing, real-time updates, and detailed service records.

“We also placed interns with them over the summer,” Kyper said, “and two interns this fall. And they just hired one of our summer interns to a full-time job opportunity.”

Some examples of work-based learning experiences facilitated by Covington Works include:

- An employer site visit for Holmes High School students at Blau Mechanical to explore commercial HVAC careers,
- Mock Interview sessions and career counseling for Holmes High School students who were set to interview for jobs in the skilled trades, and
- Job placements with subsidy support from the program where eligible.

Maybe Todd Kyper should have been a matchmaker.

Covington Works. It really does.

<https://nkytribune.com/2025/01/todd-kyper-works-to-make-covington-works-help-underemployed-get-job-ready-skills-access/>

Used with permission, NKyTribune

Debby Shipp Shines Light on Child Abuse Prevention
Covington Rotary Club
by Arnold Taylor
NKyTribune reporter

Debby Shipp is feeling blue all over. But please, do not feel sorry for her – that is a good thing. A real good thing.

Shipp is the new Development Director for the Family Nurturing Center in Florence — and she is raising awareness with blue – blue lights.

“The month of April serves as a crucial reminder of our responsibility to protect and nurture the children around us,” Shipp told the Northern Kentucky Tribune. “We need to ensure they grow up in safe and supportive environments.”

The Dry Ridge resident told the Covington Rotary Club at their weekly luncheon, blue symbolizes hope and support. “We’re looking for support in the region to help illuminate the conversation surrounding child abuse prevention,” she said.

“By shining a light on this important issue,” she continued, “we can foster awareness and promote a collective commitment to protecting our children.”

It is the mission of the Family Nurturing Center to end the cycle of child abuse by promoting individual well-being and healthy family relationships. Since 1979, FNC has provided quality, innovative, and effective child abuse prevention, education, and treatment services.

“This,” Shipp told the group, “is the most important work I’ve ever done.” And that is an understatement for the woman who has worked in thoroughbred racing at Turfway Park, with the Kentucky Speedway, the Chamber of Commerce, and most recently helping place students with area businesses while at Thomas More University.

The FNC offers counseling services – both individual with a strong family involvement component, as well as group services, Shipp said.

“We specialize in serving individuals; children and adults who have experienced trauma, and have licensed therapists to provide several evidenced based therapy modalities.”

Trauma therapy she says, is a specific approach to therapy that is built on the understanding of how traumatic experiences affect an individual’s mental, emotional, and physical well-being.

“This type of therapy aims to help children, adolescents, and adult survivors heal from the effects of trauma,” Shipp said. “We not only treat the child, we also treat the caregiver. We have an 86-year-old woman still suffering the effects of childhood trauma.”

The FNC treats the child until they are well, Shipp reminds, “and our people want to know why the individual acts the way they do.”



Debby Shipp
(Photo provided)

Debby Shipp Shines Light on Child Abuse Prevention
Covington Rotary Club
by Arnold Taylor
NKyTribune reporter

The Family Nurturing Center offers the Stewards of Children, a revolutionary prevention program designed to teach adults to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuses, in partnership with Darkness to Light.

“We’ll see some 300-plus family units per-week,” Shipp said. “We need to talk about sexual abuse more, much more.”

She said FNC visits area schools to give talks about anti-bullying in their Responsible Adult Classes.

Child abuse, she reminds, affects all of us, regardless whether we know any of the five children in America who will be reported abused at any time. Estimates are conservative that one in 10 children will be sexually abused by the time they turn 18 and that one in five children will be physically or emotionally abused or neglected.

Debby Shipp is spreading the word – as well as the awareness.

Want some proof – check the Florence water tower come this April – it will be blue.

Louisa Rotary Club Shares News About Recent Club Meetings by Bev Scarberry

Members of the RC of Louisa recently purchased bird feeders with stands to be placed outside of the tenants' windows of the JJ Jordan Geriatric Center. The club, along with Food City of Louisa, provided bags of birdseed as well. Pictured below are club members who attended the meeting along with Carla Cook, Activity Director of the Geriatric Center (middle row, 4th from left).

Another treat for the club was when Carla sang a stanza from "Amazing Grace". Carla (right) is a very blessed and gifted singer in the group Kings Seven. Members left the meeting inspired by her performance.



Thursday, January 23, the Louisa Rotary club met at Louisa Baptist Church for its weekly noon meeting. Despite the cold snowy day, a big crowd of members attended.

Chris Jobe was the program chair and his guest speaker was Ashley Wilks with the Louisa Health Department (right). Ashley handed out several pamphlets, each with a wealth of information about the health department.



Pikeville Rotary Club Holds 73rd Annual Pancake Day by Karen Roberts

The Pikeville Club held their 73rd Annual Pancake on Friday, December 6 at the Appalachian Wireless Arena. Special thanks to the wonderful sponsors who make this event possible: Food City, Pepsi, Community Trust Bank, and UPike (Aramark). Without these local entities continued support this event would not be possible!



Rotarians Kay Webb, Karen Roberts Prater, Stephanie Abshire, and Shelly Justice Fouts thanked the sponsors!



Brand new Rotarian Tommy Fleming (who hadn't even completed his orientation yet), Stephanie Abshire, and Cindy Adkins helped cook the the sausage!



Rotarians Gerrie Clark and Randy Walters organized the registration table!

Pikeville Rotary Club Provides Gifts to Area Nursing Homes by Karen Roberts Prater

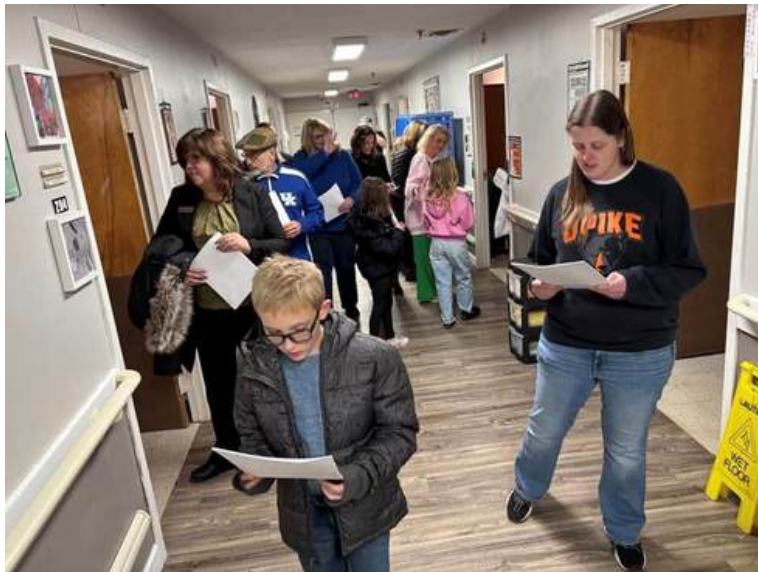
Continuing the service project that began during the pandemic; the Pikeville Rotary Club provided gifts to all area Nursing Home/Skilled Care facilities in Pike County. Approximately 325 residents at 3 locations. Each resident received either pajamas or a sweatsuit, word search/sudoku/coloring books, socks, house slippers, and toiletries as well as snacks at each facility. Each facility is visited by Rotarians, along with their friends and family members, who delivered the gifts and sang carols to the residents.

This year, they also added gifts for each room at the Pike County Veterans Transitional Facility! The facility has 25 units; each unit was provided a set of sheets, a throw, and an 8 piece set of towels along with a letter from the club thanking them for their service to our country. Special thanks to the District for the District Grant which helped make this project successful. Thank you to the local businesses and numerous Rotarians who contributed both time and funds to ensure this project's success. An extra special thanks to the students and administration at Northpoint Academy for their assistance with facilities sorting and organizing the items for distribution!!!



Pikeville Rotary Club Provides Gifts to Area Nursing Homes

by Karen Roberts Prater



Richmond Rotary Club Focuses on Events

by David O'Meara

Upcoming events

The Richmond Rotary Club will hold this year's International Dinner on March 22, 2025, at the Eastern Kentucky University Perkins Building at 6PM. Funds are committed to the God's Outreach Food Pantry, Polio Plus, the Rotary Foundation and the Richmond Rotary Club Foundation.

Past Events

The Richmond Rotary Club celebrated the holidays by providing a float and lots of candy for the annual Richmond Christmas Parade.



Cold night but great smiles all round! We partnered with the nonprofit Sleep in Heavenly Peace to highlight their bed building outreach.



Club member Matthew and his son Teddy joined in the fun.



Club members celebrated the season with a Christmas lunch at the Enrich Building in Richmond. The club was proud to award a Paul Harris Plus Two to Debbie Vescio at the event. President David Ward presented her with the pin.

Richmond Rotary Club Events by David O'Meara



Club members joined in its annual tradition of ringing bells for the Salvation Army.



Pres. David Ward welcomed new member Bill Clark to the team.

RC of Lexington After Hours Invitation

The Rotary Club of Lexington After Hours

Cordially invites you to a special evening with

CAROLYN RENEE DUPONT

Author of

Distorting Democracy:

The Forgotten History of the Electoral College and Why it Matters Today

Dupont shares an important perspective on the complicated history of how America elects presidents and why this matters to the next election.

Thursday Feb. 13

Bronte Café (inside Joseph Beth Booksellers)

Lexington Green

Social Time 5:30 p

Presentation 6 p

RSVP to Jeanne Clark (jjclarkrotary6740@gmail.com)

by Feb. 11

Calendar of Upcoming Club Events

February 13, 2025

Rotary Club of Lexington After Hours Special Event with Carolyn Renee Dupont
Bronte Cafe, Lexington Green, Lexington, KY
RSVP to Jeanne Clark by February 11

March 1, 2025

Somerset-Pulaski County Morning Rotary Club International Dinner
The Center for Rural Development, Somerset, KY

March 22, 2025

Richmond Rotary Club International Dinner
Eastern Kentucky University Building at 6 PM

May 2-3, 2025

Multi-District Conference
Chattanooga, TN
Video: <https://bit.ly/4euS444>

August/September 2025

District 6740 In-Person Rotary Leadership Institute



Club Presidents - please send Brian Dopp (brian.dopp@outlook.com) upcoming events you would like to share with the district.

Please provide to Brian at least 2 months in advance to ensure inclusion on this events page.

6740 Multi District Conference
May 2-3, 2025



SPARKING THE *Magic* OF ROTARY



Multi District Conference
East KY 6740 / East TN 6780 / North AL 6860
May 2-3, 2025, Chattanooga, TN



<https://bit.ly/4euS444>

The District Leadership Team Is Here for YOU!

DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Xandy Stewart (Maysville)

DISTRICT GOVERNOR-ELECT

Greg Palmer (Florence)

DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE

Terry Pugh (Somerset-Pulaski)

DISTRICT FINANCE CHAIR

PDG John Hutchings IV (Maysville)

DISTRICT TREASURER

PDG John Hutchings IV (Maysville)

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

AG Bill Wilson (Lexington)

DISTRICT DIVERSITY, EQUITY AND INCLUSION CHAIR

AG Bill Wilson (Lexington)

DISTRICT ROTARY FOUNDATION CHAIR

PDG Seema Sachdeva (Pikeville)

DISTRICT ROTARY PUBLIC IMAGE CHAIR

AG Gill Fauber (Covington)

DISTRICT TRAINER OFFICER

Judy Worth (Lexington)

DISTRICT ALUMNI CHAIR

PDG James Glass (Pikeville)

DISTRICT ENDOWMENT/MAJOR GIFTS SUBCOMMITTEE CHAIR

PDG Keith Key (Lexington After Hours)

DISTRICT GRANTS CHAIR

PDG Kathryn Hardman (London)

DISTRICT COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Arnold Taylor (Covington)

DISTRICT INTERACT CHAIR

Joanna Foley (Pineville)

DISTRICT NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT CHAIR

Patton Hart (Louisa)

DISTRICT NEW GENERATIONS SERVICE

Martha Riddell (Lexington)

DISTRICT PAUL HARRIS SOCIETY COORDINATOR

PDG Seema Sachdeva (Pikeville)

DISTRICT POLIO PLUS CHAIR

PDG Rakesh Sachdeva (Pikeville)

DISTRICT ROTARACT CHAIR

AG David O'Meara (Richmond)

DISTRICT RYLA CHAIR

Chris Hickey (Lexington)

DISTRICT YOUTH EXCHANGE CHAIR

Arnold Taylor (Covington)

DISTRICT YOUTH PROTECTION OFFICER

Arnold Taylor (Covington)

ANNUAL FOUNDATION CHAIR

PDG Seema Sachdeva (Pikeville)

DISTRICT COLLEGE ON LEGISLATION CHAIR

PDG Kathryn Hardman (London)

COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS CHAIR

PDG Mike Noftsger (Somerset-Pulaski)