

THE SPOKE DISTRICT 6740 NEWSLETTER

Rotary



From The District Governor
April 2025

I hope each of you have enjoyed as much "Rotary Excitement" since our last newsletter as I have. In one way or another, every day has included great Rotary experiences or opportunities. On April 1st a number of us from Lexington, Lexington After Hours, Florence and Maysville met with what will eventually be future Rotary members in Versailles, Woodford County, and surrounding areas. We did so again on April 10th and will again in May. We all believe a new club in that area will soon join our District 6740 family.

On April 3rd I had the privilege to join with members of the Corbin community to celebrate the decades of devoted service delivered by Past District Governor Joe Caldwell and his wife Lola. It was a memorable moment to catch the surprise on each of their faces as the meeting began. Many family members were also there to pay tribute to the many service accomplishments they have guided during their Rotary lives. Being there to celebrate with them was a significant highlight of my District Governor year.

My year was filled with many other wonderful highlights. On April 8th members in Maysville heard incoming Rotary Coordinator Jenny Stotts express the many reasons to be an active member in Rotary by contributing time, thought, and finance toward serving the needs of our communities and the world. I enjoyed foods from around the world with members of the Corbin and London clubs. Funds there went to ensure the eradication of Polio. I ran 10 miles through Ohio and Kentucky in the Maysville Two Bridge Run to raise funds for multiple local causes. I attended a "new club information meeting" in Newport, and all the while continued with the detailed planning of our Multi District Conference in Chattanooga, as well as our own District 6740 Business Meeting. Believe it or not, the busier I was, the more energy I gained, and the more fun I had. This is the way Rotary is intended to be; active, engaging, and fun!

Our Multi District Conference was a beautiful event. Check with anyone who attended and you will hear of a remarkable experience that deepened each of their appreciations for our great organization. Our business session ensured our continued commitment to growing our district in membership and clubs. We are equally committed to "Rotary Learning" through RLI, MS PETS, and conference sessions. The governor line, which includes Greg Palmer, Terry Pugh and Frank Dawahare, will strengthen our district through their ideas and boundless effort, and I look forward to the multiple opportunities their leadership will offer. We should each commit our "Rotary Selves" to seeing how much we can accomplish as we approach the end of this Rotary Year and the beginning of the next one.

I thank each of you for your endless support, and all you do to make our Kentucky communities, and our world, more satisfying to our lives.

Thank you for all you do.

Rotary On!
Xandy



THE SPOKE NEWSLETTER

In This Issue:

01 Message from District Governor Xandy Stewart

02 Jeanne Clark Appointed to Serve Three Year Term as an Assistant Rotary Coordinator for Zone 30

03 Rotary District 6740 Presents Celebrating Our Rotary Foundation

06 Do You Know Your Obligations to Protect Youth Engaged in Rotary Programs?

08 2025 Summer Leadership Seminars

09 ShelterBox Needs Your Club

10 Corbin City Commission Recognizes Joe and Lola Caldwell

12 TMU student Angelo Centeno following his spirituality as a Xaverian Brother to serve in Africa

14 NKU's Dr. Brian Hackett gives lesson in history, focused on Newport Barracks

16 RC of Lexington After Hours Receives Grant from Partners for Youth

17 RC of Lexington After Hours Hosts Special Guest

18 RC of Lexington After Hours Helps "Reforest the Bluegrass"

19 Valley Health Systems Speaker Presents to Louisa Rotary Club About Non-Profit Eye Care

20 Pikeville and Paintsville Rotarians Serve as Panelists at Symposium

21 Pikeville Rotary Club Provides Aid to Eastern Kentucky Flood Victims

22 Russell Rotary Club Welcomes New Member Stephanie Nesler

23 Calendar of Upcoming Club Events

26 The District Leadership Team

The Spoke Newsletter Editor - Brian Dopp
Submit articles to brian.dopp@outlook.com

Jeanne Clark Appointed to Serve Three Year Term as an Assistant Rotary Coordinator for Zone 30

One of District 6740's own has been appointed to serve a three year term as an Assistant Rotary Coordinator with Rotary International Zone 30. I am thrilled that Jeanne Clark will be joining our team!

Jeanne will be assigned to support membership development in districts 6710, 6740, and 6780, although our entire zone will benefit from her experiences with new club development and her enthusiasm for Rotary.

I have attached a news advisory with comments from Rotary International Director-Elect Brian Hall so you may include this announcement in your district newsletters or other communications.

Jenny Stotts

NEWS ADVISORY April 2025

Jeanne Clark Appointed as Assistant Rotary Coordinator for Zone 30

Jeanne Clark has been appointed as Assistant Rotary Coordinator for Zone 30, beginning a three-year term on July 1, 2025. Representing District 6740, Jeanne has been an active and passionate contributor to numerous community initiatives, making her a valuable addition to the regional leadership team.

In her role as Assistant Rotary Coordinator, Jeanne will support clubs and districts across Zone 30 in strengthening membership, enhancing engagement, and fostering the growth of Rotary's impact within communities.

"Membership is at the very core of Rotary. With more members we are able to do more projects, serve more people, and raise more funds. The addition of Jeanne to our Rotary Coordinator team is a huge boon - not only to the region, but to our Zones and Rotary. Working together I believe we can grow Rotary and do more good together. I'm excited to add Jeanne to our Zone team." - **Brian Hall, Rotary International Director Elect, Covington, Louisiana**

About Rotary

Rotary is a global network of 1.4 million neighbors, friends, and leaders who see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change. With over a century of service, Rotary remains committed to solving real-world problems and making a difference in communities worldwide.

###

For more information, contact:

Jenny R. Stotts
Rotary Coordinator, 2025-2028
RotaryHappy13@gmail.com

Rotary District 6740 Presents Celebrating Our Rotary Foundation



Rotary District 6740 presents

Celebrating Our Rotary Foundation – Doing Good in the World

June 14, 2025 6:00 – 8:30 pm

Dear District 6740 Rotarians:

It has been my immense honor and privilege to serve as your District Rotary Foundation Chair. I am gratified by the service projects that are being done to impact our communities, both in our backyard and across the globe. On June 14, 2025, we will join together in person and virtually at 6 sites across the district to celebrate the good work of The Rotary Foundation. As Rotarians throughout the District, you understand the importance of The Rotary Foundation and the legacy of Global Eradication of Polio Program. The Rotary Foundation transforms many lives, both locally and globally, in the seven Areas of Focus. The contributions made to the **Annual Funds Program** of The Rotary Foundation come back to our district as District Designated Funds that allow us to support the much-needed local service projects.

Contributions to this event, both individually and from businesses within our district, are necessary for us to continue the important work done by our clubs and for our communities. Please consider contributing to The Rotary Foundation. Your giving will be noted with The Rotary Foundation, providing you and your club with the appropriate credit. A listing of our giving levels for the event are found below. Your name will be mentioned only at your request.

Many thanks for your support of The Rotary Foundation and its mission to meet the needs in our communities and around the world.

Most sincerely,
Seema Sachdeva

District Rotary Foundation Chair PDG Seema Sachdeva, MD
District 6740 Rotary Foundation Event Committee

Levels of Sponsorship Giving

\$5,000+: The 1915 Charter Club

\$2,000 - \$4,999: The Rotary Wheel Sponsor

\$1,000 - \$1,999: Service Above Self Sponsor

\$100 - \$999: Friends of Rotary

PLEASE RETURN THIS PAGE ALONG WITH YOUR SPONSORSHIP CONTRIBUTION OR PLEDGE BY May 24, 2025.

On behalf of me or my business, please accept the following **contribution or pledge**:

_____ \$5,000+ The 1915 Charter Club

_____ \$2,000 - \$4,999 The Rotary Wheel Sponsor

_____ \$1,000 - \$1,999 Service Above Self Sponsor

_____ \$100 - \$999 Friends of Rotary

Rotary Foundation Designation Category (Choose One):

Annual Fund* _____ Polio Plus _____

Name of Individual or Business: _____

Address _____

Contact Person _____ Contact Email _____

Name of Rotary Club _____

**Please make checks payable to The Rotary Foundation and mail to Rotary District 6740
Treasurer, PDG John Hutchings 99 Edgemont Road, Maysville, KY 41056.**

- **Corporate or business logos should be sent to Past District Governor Seema Sachdeva at sachdev1@bellsouth.net**

Please direct inquiries to:

DRFC Seema Sachdeva at sachdev1@bellsouth.net

Cell phone: (606)794-0413

*A portion of donations to the Annual Fund come back to District 6740 for District Grants.

**DONATIONS FROM THE CLUBS AND THEIR ROTARY MEMBERS SHOULD BE SENT DIRECTLY TO
THE ROTARY FOUNDATION ANNUAL PROGRAMS FUND WITH CLUB AND MEMBER DETAILS TO:
The Rotary Foundation
14280, Collections Center Drive, Chicago, IL 60693**

Do You Know Your Obligations to Protect Youth Engaged in Rotary Programs?

Submitted by Arnold Taylor, District 6740 Youth Protection Officer

Scenario

Rotarian Jane oversaw a Rotary youth program. She needed help at the event and John volunteered at the last minute. He had a good reputation in the community, and she didn't have time to have a background check done on him. At the event Jane noticed that teenager Alice was not participating and seemed to be upset. Speaking with Alice, Jane was told that John had been repeatedly putting his arms around her. Jane was told this only happened when Alice and John were alone, and that John kept telling Alice how pretty she was. Jane told Alice that she might have misunderstood, that she was sure John didn't mean anything by it and that she would talk to John. Alice got upset and said if these events became public, she might be removed from the program. Jane assured her that everything would remain confidential. Jane talked with John about Alice's claims. He admitted that he had hugged Alice a few times, but said he was just being friendly and promised not to do it again. He denied saying anything to Alice about her looks and told Jane that Alice was making it up. Jane decided that there was always a possibility that Alice was falsely accusing him, and she didn't want John to get in trouble for no good reason. Jane took no further action.

Can you identify the mistakes Jane made?

- **Jane failed to properly vet John.** Jane's need for volunteers was outweighed by her duty to ensure Alice's safety. At the least, she should have had a criminal background check on him, and an application and references are also important tools for determining a volunteer's suitability for working with young people.
- **Jane should not have expressed any disbelief in Alice** but should only have gathered the facts. Jane should not have denigrated Alice's claims by telling her that she might have misunderstood John. False claims are only about 4% of such claims.
- **Jane fell into the myth of "he didn't mean anything by it."** Misconduct is misconduct.
- **Jane should have allayed Alice's fears** when she expressed fear about being removed from the program and should have assured her that what happened was not her fault.
- **Jane failed to ensure no further contact** with Alice by John.

Do You Know Your Obligations to Protect Youth Engaged in Rotary Programs?

By Arnold Taylor, District 6740 Youth Protection Officer

- **Jane should not have promised Alice confidentiality**, because Jane had reporting obligations and could not keep the matter confidential.
- **Jane failed to comply with her reporting duties**. She did not have the right to determine the truth or falsity of Alice's allegations or to decide that no crime had been committed. Her duty was to report the facts to the District Governor and the District Youth Protection Officer, who would then make the required Report to Rotary International within 72 hours of learning of an incident. Only they would decide about reporting to law enforcement.
- **Jane concealed the alleged misconduct** by failing in her reporting duty. No Rotary club or club member may deal with such issues privately, which would amount to improper concealment.

Did you recognize these failures by Jane? If not, be aware that **Rotary provides comprehensive resources** for clubs and districts that participate in youth programs so they can confidently implement youth protection policies and act to prevent abuse and harassment:

- There is a **Youth Protection Guide**: https://www.rotaryd5500.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/775_rotary_youth_protection_guide_en.pdf **District governors, district youth protection officers, and all club and district leaders involved in Interact, RYLA, or Rotary Youth Exchange should review this guide.**
- There is an online course: [Protecting Youth Program Participants](https://my.rotary.org/en/login?destination=https%3A//my-cms.rotary.org/en/secure/application/519%3Fbypass%3Dtrue%26deep-link%3Dhttps%253A//learn.rotary.org/members/learn/course/internal/view/elearning/2202/protecting-youth-program-participants-2024-25)
<https://my.rotary.org/en/login?destination=https%3A//my-cms.rotary.org/en/secure/application/519%3Fbypass%3Dtrue%26deep-link%3Dhttps%253A//learn.rotary.org/members/learn/course/internal/view/elearning/2202/protecting-youth-program-participants-2024-25> **Rotarians participating in a youth program should be required to study the course and take the qualifying test.**

If you have any questions about your duty to protect youth, feel free to contact me at astay1965@gmail.com or 859-331-7974

2025 SUMMER LEADERSHIP SEMINARS

Rotary
Zones 30 & 31



Discover how to increase membership using the power of Public Image, Foundation, and Membership Toolkits.

Let's build stronger, more vibrant clubs together!

Open to ALL Club Members

LOCATIONS



St. Louis
July 12



Louisville
July 19



New Orleans
July 26



Birmingham
Aug 2



Oklahoma City
Aug 8

Together, we will create a customized action plan that

- ✓ Enhances visibility and appeal
- ✓ Engages and retains members
- ✓ Leverages the power of our Foundation

**REGISTER
NOW !!
ONLY \$60**

rizones30-31.org/events

**Great FUN Optional Events in Each Location
Friday Night!**

Corbin City Commission Recognizes Joe and Lola Caldwell - Members of the Corbin Rotary Club

Joe and Lola Caldwell, who have been instrumental in the development and continued success of the Corbin Rotary Club's Empty Stocking Fund and the Rotary International Dinner, were recognized as Corbin Colonels during the Corbin City Commission's monthly meeting Monday.

"They have been side by side for 62 years. Without Joe and Lola the Empty Stocking Fund would not be in its 37th year. They have worked it every year and are the backbone of the Empty Stocking Fund. They are also there for the International Dinner, cooking every year. They cook for Ireland and they do a fabulous job," noted Corbin Mayor Suzie Razmus, who presented the couple with a different Corbin Colonel a few weeks ago at the Corbin Rotary Club meeting.

"I wanted to do it again in a full commission meeting because I wanted everyone to exactly how integral they are to the City of Corbin."

Joe Caldwell thanked the commission for the honor.

"I do thank you for adding my name to the list of volunteers, who have selected as Corbin Colonels for their work and supporting the growth and betterment of the City of Corbin," Joe Caldwell told the commission.

Caldwell said that he first became a contributor to Corbin's success in 1974 when he was a negotiator for his employer, People's Gas Co. of Kentucky. He helped solicit Certain Teed Manufacturing to locate its plant in north Corbin.

At the time, Certain Teed needed a commitment of up to two million cubic feet per day of uninterrupted natural gas delivery.

In 1977, Caldwell joined the Greater Corbin Chamber of Commerce and was chosen to serve as its president in 1983. He had four goals, two of which were most important. One was to repave Main Street and pour new sidewalks. The other goal was to build the downtown overpass.

Caldwell and about a dozen others met with state officials and were able to get the road projects included in the state's six-year road plan.

In 1987, Caldwell was selected to serve a second term as president of the Greater Corbin Chamber of Commerce. During that time, a non-profit 501-C-3 was created which purchased, rebuilt and resold several rundown properties in downtown Corbin.

In 1987, Allen Trimble asked to help get Eastern Kentucky University (EKU) to offer more off-campus classes. A visit to the EKU President's Office bore fruit, and Caldwell chaired a committee to find property for an off-campus facility.

Corbin City Commission Recognizes Joe and Lola Caldwell Corbin Rotary Club

After Pennington Farm was secured, Caldwell chaired another committee that would raise \$750,000 for the purchase of classroom and computer room equipment. An anonymous \$250,000 contribution from someone in Richmond or Lexington helped the group reach that goal. Razmus noted that unlike the previous Corbin Colonel she presented to the couple, this one listed Lola's name first ahead of Joe's name.

<https://www.thenewsjournal.net/corbin-city-commission-recognizes-joe-and-lola-caldwell/>



The Corbin City Commission recognized Joe and Lola Caldwell Monday naming them Corbin Colonels.

TMU student Angelo Centeno following his spirituality as a Xaverian Brother to serve in Africa

Submitted by Andy Furman, NKyTribune Reporter and Covington Rotary Member

Angelo Centeno always knew. It was just a matter of when and how.

"I always wanted to be Catholic," the 18-year-old first-year student at Thomas More University, told the Covington Rotary Club the other afternoon over lunch at their new home – The Metropolitan Club.

"I told my parents I wanted to be a Religious Brother. The response: "What the hell does that mean? My family isn't Catholic," Centeno told the Northern Kentucky Tribune, "But I have long identified with the church."

A graduate of Louisville's St. Xavier High School — a Xaverian Brothers school — he was baptized March 31, 2024 at St. Martin de Porres Church. And he was one of more than 350 people who entered the Archdiocese of Louisville Catholic Church a year ago.



Angelo Centeno
(Photo by Andy Furman/NKyTribune)

"When I learned about the Xaverian Brothers' charism and service," he said, "I began my journey."

Xaverian spirituality calls for individuals to give the gifts they've received, he told the group, from a piece entitled, Teen enters church with Hopes to Serve, penned by Ruby Thomas. "The gifts started pouring in when I became a St. Xavier student."

Those gifts, he says, were the gift of Catholic education, the gift of love, the gift of community and the gift of religion.

And Centeno wanted to give these gifts back to the world.

"The act of servicing others has always been instilled in me," he said. "My grandmother had a heart for giving. Through her teachings and her giving, I picked up on it."

Boy did he ever.

Last year — following a retreat and conversation with a brother serving in Africa — his will to give grew even stronger.

"That's when I knew I was going to become a brother and I was going to Africa," he told the stunned Rotarians. "I've always had a deep connection to different cultures and languages."

Centeno taught himself the language widely spoken in East Africa — Swahili.

Why East Africa?

The Xaverian Brothers have been serving there for seven decades, according to the order's website. He made the trek to Bungoma, Kenya, after his high school graduation last spring, where the brothers have a high school.

TMU student Angelo Centeno following his spirituality as a Xaverian Brother to serve in Africa

Submitted by Andy Furman, NKyTribune Reporter and Covington Rotary Member

"I met the people who needed to be served," he said, hoping his religious love will inspire their youth. I worked at The Ryken Center for Hope in Bungoma, Kenya. It's a rescue center for street boys who are struggling with addiction or who have no family."

He spent several weeks teaching English and building relationships with the young men at the center. He also taught English at Saint Xavier Bungoma, a secondary school founded in 2018 by the Xaverian Brothers.

At Thomas More University, he is a double major – in Educational Studies and Theology, with a minor in English. He serves as a personal assistant to longtime Professor and TMU alum – Dr. Ray Hebert.

"Angelo is a remarkable young man," Dr. Herbert said upon introducing Centeno as the club's guest speaker.

The support he's received from the Xaverian's in the United States and in Africa and from the Catholic community in the Archdiocese of Louisville has helped strengthen his vocation, he said.

M. Annette Mandley-Turner, Executive Director of the Archdiocese's Office of Multicultural Minority, is part of the community supporting Centeno's faith journey. She is his confirmation sponsor.

She said she met Centeno when he and his classmates attended a "Symposium on Racism" sponsored by the archdiocese last year.

"I was looking for the voice of the students. I invited him to present for his group and after hearing him speak I said, 'This kid is special,'" Mandley-Turner said in The Record. She noted that his story resonated with her because she, too entered the Catholic church as a teen, according Ruby Thomas, in The Record.

She said, "His understanding of his relationship with God is so propound. His belief is a common thread throughout whatever the conversation is and whatever he's doing."

After his graduation from TMU, Centeno plans to return to Kenya and work full-time to enter formal formation with the Xaverian Brothers and continue missionary work.

Now, for sure, his parents understand.

NKU's Dr. Brian Hackett gives lesson in history focused on Newport Barracks

Submitted by Andy Furman, NKyTribune Reporter and Covington Rotary Member

It was billed as a lesson in our history – Northern Kentucky, to be exact. And the Covington Rotary had the perfect lecturer for their luncheon meeting at The Metropolitan Club this week.

Dr. Brian L. Hackett, Associate Professor, History, Northern Kentucky University. But the lessons of yesteryear were more like a quiz for the TV show, Jeopardy. A did you know that happened right here – in our backyard, type of give-and-take.

For starters – did you know the City of Covington was purchased with Buffalo Meat and Bourbon – that is a fact. Dr. Hackett said as much.

But the real chat was centered on the Newport Barracks – a military barracks on the Ohio River, across from Cincinnati, in Newport – and it was operational from 1803 until 1894. It was located at the confluence of the Licking and Ohio rivers. It served various purposes, including a recruiting depot and headquarters for the U.S. Army's Department of the South.

The barracks was abandoned in 1894 and moved to Fort Thomas.

"The Barracks was a critical staging area for the War of 1812," Dr. Hackett pointed out to the larger-than-usual lunch crowd. "The barracks was critical to western expansion, east of the Mississippi."

But why the interest in life here, from so long ago?

"It was an assignment for my students," Dr. Hackett said, "And the artifacts we found in our studies belong to the Commonwealth. We'd like to see re-accreditation so we can place these items where they belong – in the Behringer-Crawford Museum, in Covington."

Dr. Hackett said this project has been on-going for three semesters. And he mentioned, the city plans to renovate the present-day park, with new interpretation of the Fort's history.

And what did those hard-working students find?

The barracks was an important supply depot and staging area for western expansion. It was visited by explorers Lewis and Clark on their way West. It was a major training base for military drummers.

"People came here just to hear the military band play," Dr. Hackett chimed in, as if he was there to see it himself.

The Battle Pig was a topic the Professor focused on – "It was a pig that followed the troops to the Battle of the Thames and back," he said. "That pig lived the remainder of his full life on the farm of General Shelby."



NKU's Dr. Brian Hackett
(Photo by Andy Furman/NKyTribune)

NKU's Dr. Brian Hackett gives lesson in history focused on Newport Barracks

Submitted by Andy Furman, NKyTribune Reporter and Covington Rotary Member

Emily O'Connor, a student of Professor Hackett's, while working on the project discovered a map of 1835.

"The map showed the location of two graves," Dr. Hackett said, "Major Benjamin Watts, Rev War Hero, and British Subaltern (Lieutenant).

Remarkably, according to the barrack's records, one British prisoner was killed while "forcing the guard" on December 24, 1813 — Christmas Eve. His name was Patrick Kelly. He was buried on the site in an unmarked grave. There is no record of him being moved, so it is believed he is still there.

He was a member of the 41st British Foot Infantry, same as Prince Harry. He was born in the Irish City of Carrick in County Donegal.

So, what was found?

- War of 1812 buttons, gun parts, clothing parts, ceramics. Civil War materials,
- British Prisoner's' material, and
- A prehistoric Native-American settlement and British uniform buttons from different regiments.

"Once the work on the archaeological investigation is complete, NKU, the Commonwealth, and the City of Newport will begin the interpretation of all the data collected, and begin developing plans for the future of James Taylor Park," Dr. Hackett said.

Remember, in 1803 James Taylor Jr. solicited the help of his cousin, James Madison, who was then U.S. Secretary of State, to persuade the federal government to relocate Fort Washington in Cincinnati, across the river to Newport.

Perhaps a British-American Monument or a Monument to Battle Pig?

<https://nkytribune.com/2025/04/nkus-dr-brian-hackett-gives-lesson-in-history-focused-on-newport-barracks/>

RC of Lexington After Hours Receives Grant from Partners for Youth

On Saturday April 26, the Rotary Club of Lexington After Hours was presented a \$3,000 grant from Partners For Youth to be used for the club's annual Empowering Girls Forum.

The mission of PFY is "to promote positive youth development and to prevent juvenile delinquency through collaboration and capacity building." The Partners For Youth Grassroots Grants Program raises and allocates local funds to grassroots programs that provide opportunities for young people. Programs include academic tutoring, recreation, diversity programs and much more.

The Rotary club's fourth Empowering Girls Forum will be held in September (2025) and will benefit approximately 200 fifth grade girls from 5 elementary schools in inner city Lexington. Prominent female guest speakers will talk about preventing bullying and building self-esteem. The girls will participate in follow-up discussions and activities as well.

At the conclusion of the Grassroots Celebration, thirty-three local non-profits were awarded grants. Pictured are (l-r) Partners for Youth Executive Director Shanreka Shackelford, club president John Simson, Kimberly Jackson - Grants Manager, Social Services for the city of Lexington and Empowering Girls Program Coordinator Jeanne Clark.



RC of Lexington After Hours Hosts Special Guest

In an effort to continue to offer members value-added speakers, one of the most exciting guests recently has been Frank Thomiszer, the founder of the Bluegrass Fencers' Club. Frank founded that organization in 2004 and he currently serves as the primary coach for the adult fencers.

Frank has spent more than 50 years in competitive fencing and has a history of successes at the state, regional, national and international levels. He is an A-rated foilist and has been rated No. 1 in the US in his competitive class. Frank represented the US in 3 world Championships most recently in 2023.

The Bluegrass Fencers' Club has produced many outstanding national and international champions, but the most recent has been Lee Kiefer (Lexington) who took the gold medal in fencing at the Paris Olympics in 2024.



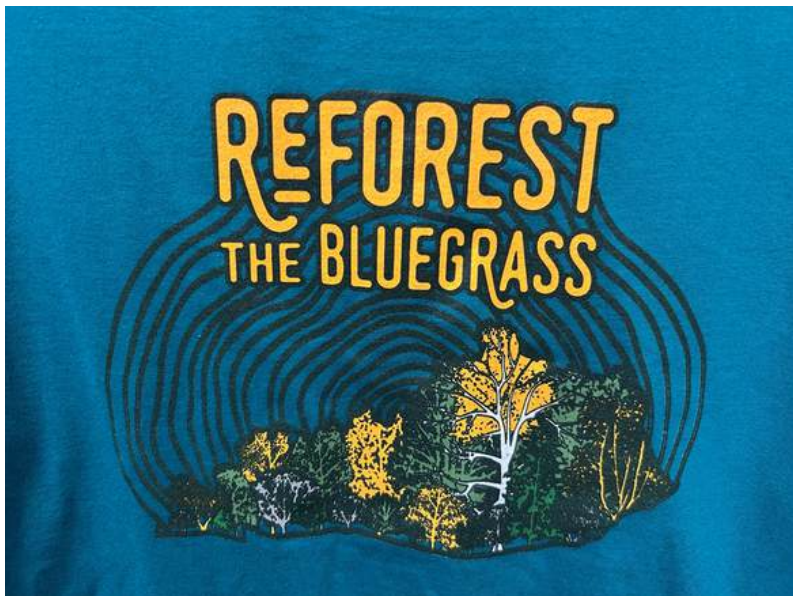
RC of Lexington After Hours Helps "Reforest the Bluegrass"

As participants in the city of Lexington's efforts to "Reforest the Bluegrass", members of the RC of Lexington After Hours met at Jacobson Park Saturday April 19 where they planted around 25 seedlings. Rotarians who volunteered, along with several hundred other locals, included Katherine Wright, Adam Stanley, Club Pres. John Simson, Matthew Simson, Phil Moloney, Kathleen Moloney and Jeanne Clark.

The annual event sees hundreds of volunteers plant thousands of seedlings each year. According to Jennifer Myatt, Lexington environmental Initiative Specialist, "These seedlings grow up into a forest over the coming years.

We have reforested a lot of areas in parks around Lexington over the last 25 years so we are just really excited to have people come out again."

These additional trees add to Lexington's canopy helping cool down the air during the summer months and soak up stormwater when it rains. Trees also improve the look of the environment and improve quality of life. Arborists were on site to instruct in the proper methods of planting.



Valley Health Systems Presents Program on Non-Profit Eye Care to Louisa Rotary Club

Shanna Rickman of Valley Health Systems was the guest speaker for Louisa Rotary on March 27, 2025. Valley Health recently opened their first Kentucky location, Valley Health - Louisa, formerly known as Louisa Eye Care. Shanna told us that Dr. Elaine Desario would continue to provide exceptional eye care, while also expanding their services. Another optometrist, Dr. Hannah Scott, will be joining Dr. Desario on July 21st and Dr. Kyle Ferguson will be performing eye surgeries. Valley Health owns over 60 clinics in WV and Ohio with specialties in pediatrics, OB/Gyn, dentistry, optometry and many more. They are a non profit group that qualifies for grants and offers sliding scale pay that is very beneficial to many patients. They have been in business for 50 years and look forward to providing quality healthcare care in the future.



Pikeville and Paintsville Rotarians Serve as Panelists at Symposium

Pikeville Rotarians Karen Roberts Prater and Brenda Maynard, along with Paintsville Rotarian Jeania Perry, were recently invited to serve as panelists at a symposium hosted by the Kentucky Chamber Foundation and Pikeville Medical Center. Representing their respective industries, they shared their expertise with Kentucky high school and post-secondary educators and counselors. The event aimed to provide valuable insights into the IT and business services sector, highlighting available career opportunities and pathways. It was designed to offer a comprehensive understanding of various career tracks and work-based learning experiences.



Karen Roberts Prater and Brenda Maynard



Jeania Perry and Karen Roberts Prater



Pikeville Rotary Club Provides Aid to Eastern Kentucky Flood Victims

Following the devastating flooding in Eastern Kentucky on February 14, the Pikeville Rotary Club took swift action to support displaced families. Sharon Hall, a Past President of the club and an employee of the Pike County Fiscal Court, recognized the urgent need for assistance as temporary travel trailers were set up to shelter families who had lost everything—including their homes, personal belongings, and, in many cases, their vehicles.

Hall, along with President-Elect Karen Roberts Prater, spearheaded a donation drive to provide essential supplies for each of the initial 18 temporary housing units. Rotary members contributed a variety of needed items, which were gathered at a club meeting, carefully sorted, and organized for distribution. Later that evening, Rotarians Denny Rhorer and Shawn Fuller joined Hall and Prater to personally deliver the donations to the families in need.

This effort exemplifies the Rotary Club's ongoing commitment to "Service Above Self," demonstrating how community collaboration can bring hope and relief in times of crisis.



Russell Rotary Club Welcomes New Member Stephanie Nesler



The Russell County Rotary Club welcomes Stephanie Nesler as their newest member. Welcome to Rotary Stephanie!

Calendar of Upcoming Club Events

May 16-18

Russell Rotary Club Pickleball Tournament

June 14

Rotary District 6740 Presents Celebrating Our Rotary Foundation

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.



RUSSELL ROTARY CLUB

PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT

Friday, May 16th – Singles Play – 6PM
Saturday, May 17th – Doubles Play – 9AM
Sunday, May 18th – Mixed Doubles Play – 9AM

\$35 PER PERSON ENTRY FEE

(\$10 ADDITIONAL PER EVENT)

BELLEFONTE COUNTRY CLUB

POOL PLAY FOLLOWED BY BRACKET PLAY

T-SHIRTS FOR ALL PARTICIPANTS

(TEXT NAMES, BRACKET PLAYING IN, & T-SHIRT SIZE TO NUMBER BELOW)

GOLD, SILVER, AND BRONZE TROPHY AWARDS

CHECK PAYABLE TO **RUSSELL ROTARY CLUB** – PO BOX 990 – ASHLAND, KY – 41105-0990



venmo



**** ALL PROCEEDS GO TO COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SCHOLARSHIPS****

TOURNAMENT SPONSORS ARE WELCOMED!

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE TOURNAMENT, YOU MAY CONTACT

STEVEN HINES 606-571-1963 -or- email "steven_hines@hotmail.com"



SAVE THE DATE

Celebrating Our Rotary Foundation – Doing Good in the World

June 14, 2025, 6:00 - 8:30 PM

Join us as we honor the work of TRF at the following sites:

Ashland will host Ashland, Louisa, Russell and Grayson Clubs

Florence will host Florence, Covington and Kenton Co. Clubs

Lexington will host Lexington, Lexington After-Hours, Berea, Nicholasville, Georgetown, Winchester, and Richmond Clubs

Maysville will host Maysville, Augusta, Paris, Mt. Sterling, Fleming Co., Morehead, Falmouth, Carlisle and Cynthiana

Pikeville will host Pikeville, Paintsville, Floyd Co., Whitesburg, Harlan, Hazard, West Liberty and Pineville Clubs

Somerset will host Somerset-Pulaski, Somerset, London, Corbin and Stanford Clubs

Stay tuned for details!

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 Noftsgar (Somerset-Pulaski)