
THE FLAGSHIP



Aug. 15, 2021
Tom King, Editor

Look What's Coming Up!!!

Aug. 17: Pack the Park
for Polio, Smokies
Stadium, 7 p.m.

Aug. 18: Tory Kinson,
former Rotary Youth
Exchange student/Etex
N. America

Aug. 25: The Flying
Anvil Theatre

Sept. 1: Board of
Directors 11 a.m.

Sept. 1: Club Assembly

(All meetings begin at
12:15 — unless noted
otherwise)

Former RYE Student Tony Kinson (33 Years Ago) Speaks Wednesday

Wednesday's speaker and program are compliments of — wait for this — Back Table Bill Nichols, he of Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) fame. He will be introducing a most interesting fellow who was a RYE student 33 years ago in Ecuador — **Tony Kinson.**



Today, Kinson and his family live in Knoxville. He works for an international Belgian-owned company called Etex and has been their Regional Director for North America for the past five years. "But my entire career has had an international thread running through it, and it all began back in the 80's with Rotary's Youth Exchange

program,” he says.

He’s from Danville, IL and his father was a life-long Rotarian in Danville. “He introduced this to our family by hosting exchange students in the 1980’s and 90’s. We probably hosted around 10 over those years and are still very close to many of them. My two older brothers both spent a year abroad as well (one in Japan and the other in the Philippines),” he says.

He became an exchange student at 16 and spent his year in Portoviejo, Ecuador and became fluent in Spanish.

After graduating from The Citadel he was recruited for a sales role with Black & Decker based in Miami with a promise to network with their Latin America office. After a few promotions, he found his dream job that spanned Central America and the Caribbean.

In the late 90’s he was recruited by Red Wing Shoe Co. and over two decades, he built a \$25 million region with distributors and partners in every country.

He added this: “As our three kids got a little older, I realized the importance of cutting back on the international travel for awhile and that is when I found Knoxville and Etex, a 100-year-old, €3 billion construction materials company with 14,000 employees in 42 countries. I was asked to lead their expansion efforts in the U.S. and over the past five years, the company has grown from a startup to an operation with 50-plus employees manufacturing extremely light and thin high temperature (2000F) insulation used in Defense, Renewable Energy, and Refractory sectors (and we’re just getting started!).” The company is in Maryville.

He met his Colombian wife during his travels and they have three children ages 16, 13, and 10. “My life philosophy centers around three F’s — Faith, Family, and Fishing. You’ll find me involved with one or more of those three F’s,” he says.

This has the makings for another great program.

‘Sleep in Heavenly Peace’ Builds Beds For Kids 3-17 in Three ET Counties

No doubt we’d all like to “**Sleep in Heavenly Peace**” but it doesn’t happen every night. For many kids in Knoxville and three East Tennessee counties, many kids do not even have beds. A small non-profit led by **Bill Thompson** known as “Sleep in Heavenly Peace” is working to solve this problem most of us take for granted!



Their motto is “No kid sleeps on the floor in our town.”

It was obvious from the questions and comments that Thompson struck a chord with our members.

“The name of our organization sounds like we make caskets, but we actually make beds that can be used as single beds or bunk beds,” he told us Wednesday. The recipients for the beds are between the ages of 3 and 17 in Knox, Anderson and Campbell counties.

They’ve been in business since September 2018.

Thompson wanted to show us a short video about their organization, but the technology did not cooperate. Here is a [LINK](#) to that video. Fingers are crossed that it works!!!! Just skip the ads and enjoy it!

Each bed costs \$250 and that includes the bed, mattress and the bedding materials (sheets, pillowcase, etc.)

Four-Way Test

Rotary's Four-Way Test
of the things we think,
say or do:

- 1) Is it the TRUTH?
- 2) Is it FAIR to all
concerned?
- 3) Will it build
GOODWILL and
BETTER
FRIENDSHIPS?
- 4) Will it be
BENEFICIAL to all
concerned?

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If you have not visited
our Facebook page,
give it a try!

Denise Bash does a
great job of keeping
the page updated. If
you have not visited
our page, we invite
you to do so and to
also LIKE the page!

Here is a [LINK](#) to
our page.

“We have 65 applications right now for beds and since we began we’ve built and delivered more than 500 beds (60% in Knox, 25% in Anderson and 15% in Campbell counties). He said their goal is to deliver the beds within three weeks after an application is submitted.

They have “Build Days” when volunteers work in assembly style to build the beds. “We can make 30 beds in two hours,” he said. Their next build day is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 2, at the Food City parking lot in Jacksboro.

He also said that donations account for 100% of the expenses for the wood and things needed for the assembly process. “COVID really affected our donations and we’re low on funds now. But the money raised here stays here,” he said.

Someone asked if they’d built beds for kids in Farragut. “Yes,” he said. “More than you may think.”

This is a national organization with 250 chapters across the U.S.

To learn more about the local chapter, just click on this [LINK](#)

**COMING A WEEK
FROM WEDNESDAY ON AUG 25th:**

“The Flying Anvil Theatre”

Farragut Rotary Out of Oktoberfest

Oktoberfest Oct. 1-3 at Mind Yer P's and Q's at the Renaissance Center will go on as planned unless COVID interrupts it — but the Rotary Club of Farragut and the Rotary Club of Farragut Foundation will not be involved.

In exchange for our club providing volunteers to help with the event, the Oktoberfest organizers were going to make a donation to our Foundation.

But President David Bluford said it became apparent this would be asking too much of our club since we will need approximately 40 volunteers to staff the 2021 Free Flu Shot Saturday on September 25 — the weekend before Oktoberfest.

“With the addition of Hardin Valley Academy as a Flu Shot Saturday site, plus working at Farragut High School, we’re going to have a lot of volunteers helping at both locations and to turn around and ask for more volunteers the next weekend just isn't fair to our members,” Bluford said.

Fielder, Mishu, Williams Inducted



Three new members were inducted Wednesday — **Jessica Mishu**, the owner of Blue Ridge Yoga; **David Fielder**, in-house counsel for Blue Ridge Development; and Farragut Mayor **Ron Williams**.

With them were their sponsors — Sam Mishu and PP Dan Barnett. Ron’s sponsor was AWOL — PP

David Smoak. We trust that the Mayor excused David since he's David's boss!!!! They're all pictured above here.

Two others are to be inducted on Wednesday we are told — Devin Driscoll and Kristin Otto. Their sponsors are, respectively, Scott Bertini and Mark Holder.

Welcome to our Family of Rotary!



Wednesday's Big Guests and Visitors Report

It was a fun day with a lot of guests in the house. Here's who joined us:

- PP Peggy Wilson was with us finally after her horrible fall and long recovery and she had husband **Joe** as her guest. Great to see them again!
- **Nathalie DeLaTorre**, Marketing Director for Concord Title, was the guest of Kristin Abouelata (pictured here at right).

- Sonya Ford's guest was **Alison Hardy**, Operations Manager for Brewster's Services Group in Loudon. She is a Prospective Member and is pictured here with Sonya.
- PP Dan Barnett's guest was **Shane Abernathy**.
- Scott Bertini introduced us to his father-in law, **Mark Holston**.
- And **Tammy Cheek** of the Farragut Press was with us too.

It's Time for Family of Rotary Time

PP Ron Lawrence's wife **Carolyn** fell at home Thursday morning as she was trying to get into her car. She landed hard on the concrete and Ron says she eventually got up. The good news — no broken bones, no bad injuries or cuts. Just bruises. Ron says she's still limping a little.

PP Peggy Wilson walked into our meeting Wednesday with husband **Joe** and it was so good to see them again. She looked great after recovering from the horrible fall she took at Park West Medical Center in June. She took a moment to thank one and all for the many meals our members have delivered to their home. "It's been so wonderful for us and we thank everyone so much," she said. That said, she said they do not need any more meals. She's going to PT for the broken arm, and had a physical Friday. She'll get the results on Monday.



Phill Bradbury had some medical issues pop up this past week and he and **Judith** spent six hours in the ER at Park West Medical Center yesterday. Next Friday Judith says the plan is for them to be at UT Medical Center for minor surgery so doctors can replace the batteries in his brain stimulator. She says Phill is very weak and worn out. So is Judith. "I'm fine," she said. "Just trying to keep my marbles in place."

Bettye Sisco will be flying to Durham, N.C. and Duke Medical Center on August 23 and returning on September 9 from the clinical trial for the experimental meds she will be taking for her leukemia.

Everyone needs our thoughts and prayers!

The Center for Friendly Reminders

Tuesday night is baseball time in Rotary. The 11th Annual District 6780 **"Pack the Park to End Polio Now!"** game will be at 7 p.m. at Smokies Stadium. The Tennessee Smokies play the Birmingham Barons. If you're going shoot TOM KING an email please. He'll be there looking for pictures!

Service Projects Co-Chair Scott Bertini still needs someone to come forward to be a co-chair with him. C'mon Rotarians!!!! This is a major part of our club! Step up!!!!

We need you on Saturday Sept. 25 for **Free Flu Shot Saturday** at Farragut High School and at Hardin Valley Middle School. We need you there by 7 a.m. and we normally finish by noon.

No one has stepped forward to serve on our unstaffed **"Zoom Team"** either to help us broadcast the meetings online. We need three or four of you for this. Email DAVID BLUFORD if you can help!

"Purple Pinkie Donut Day" is coming on Wednesday, Oct. 20, to all Knoxville Rotary clubs.

And at Wednesday's meeting, please comply with the message below:

SILENCE YOUR CELL PHONES PLEASE!!!!!!!!!!

Hercule & Sherlock Would Struggle With Our August Mystery Rotarian

The identity of this **August Mystery Rotarian** is a growing mystery. It appears that even veteran super sleuths like Hercule Poirot and Sherlock Holmes would be struggling. But fear not, for here are four more clues to follow our first eight clues:



- Hunted for mountain goats with a Prince.
- As a dinner guest was served a sheep's eye (considered a delicacy) by their host!
- Lived two different times in California and Georgia.
- Once owned a radio station with the call sign WJKM.

There is a bottle of superb wine from **Dixie Lee Wines & Liquor** for the Rotarian who does the unmasking. The first correct guess emailed to TOM KING wins that wine. If no one can ID this club member, he or she gets the wine.

A Thought for Week

“Beware of false knowledge; it is more dangerous than ignorance.” –
George Bernard Shaw