
THE FLAGSHIP



Nov. 14, 2021
Tom King, Editor

Look What's Coming Up!!!

Nov. 17: Mike Kitchens,
Smoky Mountain Service
Dogs

Nov. 24: No Meeting!
HAPPY
THANKSGIVING!

Dec. 1: Club Assembly/
Webb School Madrigals,

Dec. 8: Board of
Directors, 11 a.m.

Dec. 8: Casey Self,
Domestic Violence

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

Mike Kitchens Returns To Update Us on Smoky Mountain Service Dogs

We'll be welcoming and hearing from an old friend Wednesday — **Mike Kitchens**, the chairman and spokesperson for **Smoky Mountain Service Dogs (SMSD)**.

This organization is a 501(c)(3) non-profit with a mission to "Enhance the Physical and Psychological Quality of Life for Veterans with Disabilities by Providing Custom-Trained Mobility Assistance Service Dogs."



In 2016 our club honored Mike with our prestigious Service Above Self award for his contributions to our community and veterans.

This great organization began in the living room of Kitchens and his wife, Suzy. They live in Tellico Village. He has a Master's from Western Kentucky University and a continuing education degree from Texas A&M's School of Business. He is a Vietnam era veteran, having served in the U.S. Army. Mike retired from DuPont after having held Senior Management positions in Sales, Marketing, and Human Resources.

Coming with Mike will be Board Member at Large Laurie Birt. As the leader of the SMSD Community Events Team, and as one who handles the dogs, Laurie works to promote SMSD in many ways.

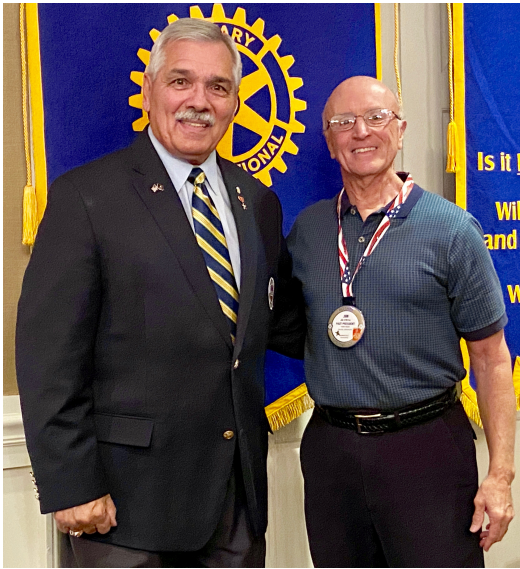
They work with any disabled veteran in a 350-mile radius or an approximate six-hour drive from Knoxville. The cost to select, raise, train, and place a public access tested/approved service dog is estimated to be \$20,000 to \$25,000. Producing a Smoky Mountain Service Dog requires approximately 1,500 to 1,800 hours of training.

It will great to get an update on SMSD from Mike. Give him a warm welcome!



A Salute to Pat Polis for a Great Program

Our Veterans Day program was presented by **Dr. Pat Polis**, who survived the Vietnam conflict with a Bronze Star and two Medals of Valor. For 28 years he was the pastor at Washington Pike United Methodist Church and currently leads the local chapter of the Vietnam Veterans with 315 members.



Capt. Polis, introduced by PP Jim O'Brien (pictured here with his friend), was in the U.S. Army for 10 years and did two tours in Vietnam.

He talked about the abuse and ill treatment that returning Vietnam vets received when they came home. "Many were ridiculed and spit on by other Americans," he said. "I pray we never treat our veterans like that again."

During Vietnam our dead soldiers were brought home in caskets that were in the baggage compartments of commercial aircraft — "Just another piece of baggage," he said. That changed in 2007 with the Defense Authorization Act. "Now our dead are transported in aluminum caskets and all are flown on military aircraft to Dover Air Force Base," he said. "Each one gets a medical examination and an autopsy."

He also spoke about the need to support the Wreaths Across America project. Polis said we have 18,000 vets buried in Knox County and last year there were not enough wreaths for all of the graves. This year the date is December 18, 2021 for National Wreaths Across America Day.

Superb program!

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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our page.



The Visitors & Guests Recap

Our Veterans Day program brought us a few great
guests Wednesday. And here they are

- **Snapper Morgan**, another Vietnam veteran, and the chauffeur for our speaker, Pat Polis, was with us and sitting with his Knoxville Quarterback Club buddy Bill Nichols. They're pictured here.
- Vietnam veteran **Col. Jim Montgomery** was with us again as the guest of Col. Wayne Davis, his fellow Vietnam vet. They also were business partners in the John Deere Tractor business.
- **Jonathan Boyd** was the guest of an AWOL Cindy Kraus but introduced by PP Tom King. Jonathan is interested in membership. He is the Chief Engineer at Discovery TV and seen here with PE Megan Belcher.
- Covering our meeting was **Tammy Cheek** of the Farragut Press.

Glad you all joined us for our Veterans Day
program.

Jeff Devlin's Membership OK'd by Board

This week the Board of Directors, in a virtual vote, approved the membership of **Jeff Devlin**, Assistant Chief of Operations for Rural Metro. Jeff's sponsor is PP Tom King.



Devlin, 51, is responsible for all Rural Metro's day-to-day operations. The 31-year veteran was previously a battalion chief, commanding the eight western-most fire stations. His office is at the Rural Metro station on Campbell Station Road.

Devlin received a bachelor's degree in Fire Administration from the University of Memphis in 2003 and a Master's in Safety from the University of Tennessee in 2009. He is a 2014 graduate of the National Fire Academy's Executive Fire Officer Program and a 2015 chief fire officer designee through the Center for Public Safety Excellence.

He is president of his homeowner's association and serves the Town of Farragut as a member of the Board of Zoning Appeals and is on the Parks and Athletic Council.

Devlin lives with his wife, Joanne, a University of Tennessee faculty member, and his son, Liam, a Webb School senior, in Farragut. Joanne, a Ph.D, is the Assistant Director of the Forensic Anthropology Center (The Body Farm) and a lecturer in the Anthropology department.

According to Article 13, Section 5 of the club's Bylaws, any member who would like to comment about or object to Jeff's membership has one week (7 days) from the date of this publication to make in writing any objections to the Board of Directors. If there are no objections, we will proceed with the process to accept him for membership.

Today's Family of Rotary News/Updates

Teri Jo Fox's mother, **Connie Jo**, is home after recent surgery on her right leg. She took a fall at home on a slick floor and it shattered her femur from the bottom to the top. Teri Jo says her Mom decided she'd rather go home than to a rehabilitation center. Teri Jo's brother, Clint, has decided to remain here for three months to care for her. "I've done some grocery shopping to make sure she has everything she needs.. Thank you to everyone who has texted, called, and most importantly prayed for her," Teri Jo says.



Betty Sisco leaves for Durham, N.C. on tomorrow morning to resume her leukemia clinical trials at Duke Medical Center. A neighbor is doing the driving. "Doing pretty good," she said today. She hopes they will return on Wednesday.

Thomas Barnwell will be back at UT Medical Center on Tuesday morning. Doctors will be operating to reassemble his left leg that was badly broken in the recent accident. Alex will keep us posted on how he's doing.

Things are better at the **Denise Bash** home. Denise and Alex's daughter **Chloe** had a pesky infection for a few days and it was not COVID or the flu, thankfully. Antibiotics cleared it up this week. Denise had a battery of blood tests done and sees a hematologist on Nov. 29 for the results.

PP Peggy Wilson says she's OK and "still slinging my arm around." She begins physical therapy on Dec. 7 and says she and husband Joe would welcome some great meals. If you can help with meals, email PP Tom King at this [LINK](#) and we'll get a schedule going for the Wilsons.

Our prayers and thoughts for one and all!

Singletary Needs 8 More Bell Ringers

Mike Singletary is still needing eight (8) bell ringers for our two December Saturdays at Kroger as we help the **Salvation Army** fill those red kettles during the Christmas season. We will be ringing on Dec. 4 and Dec. 18 at the main Kroger entrance (closest to Kingston Pike).

Here is what Mike needs:

On Dec. 4:

- 2 volunteers at 4 p.m.
- 2 volunteers at 6 p.m.

On Dec. 18:

- 1 volunteer at 10 a.m.
- 1 volunteer at 4 p.m.
- 2 volunteers at 6 p.m.



*A memory from last year:
Dan Barnett and Howard Fass*

Mike says that the Salvation Army sometimes picks up the kettle at 7 p.m., which means that shift goes from two hours to just an hour. He will have the sign-up sheet with him on Wednesday.

Service Projects

Dec. 4 & 18: Salvation
Army Bell Ringing,
Kroger in Farragut

Dec. 17: East Tennessee
Children's Hospital Toy
Drive/Angel Tree

NEWS & NOTES

Webb Madrigals on Dec. 1: Be Seated by Noon!

Here is your **ADVANCE WARNING** about our Dec. 1 meeting. We'll get into the holiday spirit that day when the great young voices of the **Webb School Madrigals** present a special performance for us. Their program, because of school priorities, will begin at 12 noon sharp, so please arrive early and get your food and be in your seats by noon. It will be appreciated!



Third Thursday at the Knox Challenger Pro Tennis Tournament at UT attracted only three — Adam Brock (already working) and **Brian Elton** and wife Val on Thursday. “I believe there may have been others who went on different days,” Brian said. “On Friday, me, my wife Val, and my sons Bennett and Brady went. We all had a great time.”

Cheers for **Tammy Cheek**. She wrote a great story about our Sleep In Heavenly Peace bed building project in this week's Farragut Press. If you missed the coverage click on this [LINK](#) to read it.

The **Rotary Club of Lebanon** is celebrating its 100-year anniversary on Nov. 20 from 6 to 9 p.m. and the guest of honor and speaker is Rotary International President **Shekhar Methta**. With him will be RI Director Elizabeth Usovicz. The party will be at the Capitol Theatre in downtown Lebanon.

PP Fred Martin Solves November's Mystery

The **November Mystery Rotarian** was in the house Wednesday but the sleuth who unmasked him was not. And that is **PP Fred Martin**, one of our talented sleuths. He gets a pass. Fred was home with wife Diane, who is having some back issues.

Fred correctly figured out that the Mystery member is **Bill Rice**. And at Wednesday's meeting, Bill was sitting next to Brian Elton. He was runner-up to Fred. His email arrived about an hour after Fred's came in with the correct guess.

Now, just how did Fred figure out this mystery? "It was pretty much a shot in the dark, but it had to be a risk-taker, probably male, and someone with a real sense of fun. That said Bill Rice to me for some reason."

We're holding Fred's bottle of a 2017 Zen of Zin Old Vine Zinfandel until he can claim it. It's a great wine donated by the Taylor's at **Dixie Lee Wine & Liquors**.



Bill Rice shakes hands with here PP Fred Martin —had he been standing there!

A Thought for the Week

"Time is more valuable than money. You can get more money, but you cannot get more time." — **Jim Rohn**