

Rotary Club of Louisville



This Week's Meeting: Rob Givens, Retired USAF



This week's meeting at noon at the University Club will feature **Rob Givens, Retired USAF.**

"A World at War: How Does it all End and What Does it Mean to You"

The world is experiencing warfare on a level it has not seen since the 20th century. Major conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East have brought the world to the brink of global conflict. Rob will discuss the military realities and policy implications of the ongoing struggles and how they impact us here in Louisville.

There is a \$5 meeting fee for those who choose not to purchase a meal - this will include a dessert and tea/coffee/water and, of course, a fantastic program. You can pay \$5 cash, check or scan the QR code at check-in to pay with a credit card.

Click Read More to view Speaker Bio: [Read More](#)

Note from President Kevin

We had a really fun meeting last week and heard some great stories from Alli Truttmann.

Alli did a wicked nice job entertaining us and sharing some insight about the challenges she has faced and overcome in developing her successful company, Wicked Technologies. Her company's first product, "Wicked Sheets," earned the coveted title of "Best in Sheets: Cooling" award from Good Housekeeping. [Read the summary here.](#)



NO MEETING Next Week

As a reminder, we will not have a regular meeting on Thursday, May 2.

If you are not joining us for the Rotary Day at the Downs on Wednesday, May 1, we hope to see you the following week, May 9, at our Rotary Honors Scholars Celebration luncheon at the Goodwill Opportunity Campus at 28th & Broadway.

Rotary Day at the Downs: May 1

If you ordered tickets, please see the email from Delene with details. Tickets that have not been requested to be mailed will be available at the University Club tomorrow (Thursday, 4/25) from 10:30 a.m. until 2 p.m.

*****We still have a few tickets available; email director@louisvillerotary.org if interested.**



Join us for **Rotary Day at the Downs for Champions Day on Wednesday, May 1**. We have reserved the brand-new [Silks Balcony and Loge](#) for Champions Day. Our group will have an elevated view of the Paddock in a covered open-air setting. This area offers both dining tables and box seats. Enjoy easy access to a dedicated race viewing location in the 3rd floor Clubhouse in Section 320.

Tickets are \$140 per person and include admission, racing program, 4-hour Chef's Table Buffet, coffee, tea and soft drinks, and a 4-hour OPEN BAR.

[Read More](#)

May 9 Meeting: Rotary Honors Scholars Celebration at Goodwill Opportunity Campus



Our May 9th meeting will be a celebration of our Rotary Honors Scholars at the brand new **Norton Healthcare Goodwill Opportunity Campus**, located at 2820 W Broadway. Bellarmine University Men's Basketball Head Coach **Scotty Davenport** will speak!

Our meal will be catered by RealPotatoes LLC owner Chaun James, our first West Louisville Housing Initiative homebuyer! The buffet menu will be chicken, green beans and potatoes; a vegetarian/vegan and/or gluten-free option is available upon advance request.

RSVP by NOON on Monday, May 6 [HERE](#).

There is a \$5 meeting fee for those who choose not to purchase a meal - this will include a dessert and tea/coffee/water and, of course, a fantastic program. You can pay \$5 cash, check or scan the QR code at check-in to

pay with a credit card.

Click Read More to view Speaker Bio: [Read More](#)

Rotary District 6710 Conference - Register Now!

The Rotary District 6710 Conference is May 10 - 11, and it's right here in Louisville, with Past President **Jean West** serving as the Mistress of Ceremonies and two of our members presenting keynote sessions! Register [HERE](#) now.



Don't miss out on this exciting event packed with inspiring speakers, workshops, and opportunities to connect with fellow Rotarians.

Hear from Rotarian **Scott Koloms** about how to fuse business success with social good. Rotarian **Whitney Austin**, a mass shooting survivor, will go *"In Search of Common Ground"* on gun violence. Learn practical disaster response strategies at the *"Boots on the Ground, Brains in the Game"* session. And join Rotarian **Alex Novak** as he moderates a panel on the *"Rebirth of the Ohio River"* with Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Ohio River Way, and the University of Louisville's Christina Lee Brown Envirome Institute.

This event is about **celebrating service, igniting your Rotarian spirit and leaving with ideas to change the game.** We'll also do some official club business, vote on district matters and recognize accomplishments on all levels. The conference is all about fellowship, service, learning, and making a positive impact, and we hope to see you there!

Chance to Win



Are you reading Sparks each week? From time to time, we will offer a door prize incentive. Those who find and report the "clue" in the weekly newsletter will be entered into a drawing for that week's prize.

The "clue" will be a misspelled word or a special character inserted into a word. Have you found the intentional mistake in this newsletter? Report it [HERE](#) by Friday.

This week's prize is two tickets to the [JFCS MOSAIC Awards](#) on Tuesday, May 14 at the Mellwood Arts Center.

If you/your organization would like to donate a door prize to be used for this purpose, email the info to director@louisvillerotary.org.

World Immunization Week



This week is [World Immunization Week](#), April 24 - 30. It's an opportunity to focus on the work and robust polio eradication infrastructure built by Rotary and our partners in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). Increasing awareness about the power of vaccines and closing immunization gaps could protect millions of people worldwide from vaccine-preventable diseases, including polio, according to the World Health Organization.

The GPEI reports polio vaccines have saved an estimated 20-million children from paralysis worldwide. When Rotary helped launch the GPEI in 1988, the disease paralyzed more than 1,000 people worldwide every day, most of them young children. Since then, Rotary and its partners have reduced the number of polio cases by 99%, and in 2021 there were just six cases of polio caused by the wild poliovirus. Afghanistan and Pakistan are the only two countries where the wild poliovirus remains endemic.



You can support Polio Plus through our **Rotary District 6710's Purple Pinkie Bourbon Charity**. There are still 80 bottles available from our private barrel. All of the \$130 will go to PolioPlus.

Send your donation:

Dr. Melissa Webb Earnest, District Treasurer
District 6710 Polio Plus
206 Cherry Lane
Princeton, KY 42445

When all the bottles have their new homes, we expect to net \$8K for [Polio Plus](#). Thanks to the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, these contributions will be tripled, getting us even closer to a polio-free world. This amount will help vaccinate over 300M children worldwide.

You can pick up your special bottle at our District Conference (May 10 - 11 in Louisville), or, by special arrangement, by contacting DG Tommy Reed (tdreed6710@gmail.com).

Remember! There is no limit for donations (2 donations = two gift bottles).

GE Appliances Tour



Rotary Club of Louisville members toured GE Appliances, a Haier Company, on Tuesday, getting a behind the scenes look at AP3, where dishwashers are made. We also learned about GEA's investment in its North American plants. Since 2016, GEA has invested \$2B and created 4,000 new jobs. Here in Louisville, that investment equals \$808M and 2,185 new jobs. Thanks to **Rotarian Kent Oyler** for coordinating.

Rotary Group Trip to Italy This November

By Kent Oyler

Thanks to all who responded to the poll about international group travel opportunities. Italy was the favorite among those who participated, so that is where we will be going this November.



Join us November 1 - 9 for only \$3,899 per person (double occupancy), which includes hotels, meals, day trips and airfare from Louisville!

You can download the brochure and registration form [HERE](#).

Contact me at kent@oyler.net or [502-550-5102](tel:502-550-5102) for more information.

Rotary Youth Exchange

By Frederic T. Harned



Rotary Youth Exchange is one of Rotary's™ most popular programs worldwide. Over 9,000 students each year have an opportunity to experience life in one of 80 foreign countries, for a period ranging from one month to an academic year.

Our Louisville Club has been offered a chance to arrange hosting for an inbound student, an 18-year-old girl from Taiwan. But a lot of organization is needed before we can respond positively!

Do you have teenagers in your family who might be interested in meeting a peer from another country, or in spending time exploring another language environment? Do you have non-

Rotary friends who might be interested in the program? Please respond to [this survey](#) with your level of interest!

Our Western Kentucky District was not active in this program for over a decade, despite numerous requests from parents seeking opportunities for their children aged 15 to 19. This past year we received renewed certification from Rotary International, based on pledges and structures to uphold Rotary's™ strong emphasis on youth protection in all aspects of the program.

There are three main variants of the program:

Short-term Exchanges send a student to live with a peer student and family for one to three months, followed by the two students returning to live in the first student's™ home for a comparable period.

Outbound Exchanges give a student the opportunity to live with different families (again with a foreign peer) for an academic year, gaining extensive experience with the language and culture of their destination. Both the hosts and the students are extensively vetted and trained by Rotary, and the students are held to strict behavior codes.

Inbound exchanges are the counterpart of Outbound. Here, local Rotary Clubs can be extensively involved in selecting host families and providing a counselor for the inbound student. They may also involve the student in club meetings and activities. Clubs are also expected to provide the inbound student with a small monthly expense allowance, while the host families (usually three, each for three months) provide room and board.

Details of the programs are available through [Rotary International](#) or through our District co-chairs for the program, Cathy Palmer in Bowling Green and Dale Leatherman, incoming District Governor, or from **Rick Harned** in our club. Lots more information is readily available!

News from Our Partner Club in El Salvador

By Frederic T. Hamed



An update from the Rotary Club of San Salvador Maquilishuat, a partner club we've worked with in El Salvador. Elizabeth "Eli" Nova de Zavaleta has been the key drive behind the TOILETON projects our club has supported for years. So far, she has helped provide decent sanitation with flush toilets in tiled compartments in 23 rural elementary and middle schools, as well as wash stations, hygiene training and purified water for kitchens.

Eli is featured in a series of photographs by the United Nations (UN) through the Association of Swiss Women and Empowerment (ASWE). They will be displayed at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland. The "Palais de Nations: A Time for Reflection," exhibition will also be displayed on May 29 at the National Museum of Anthropology in El

Salvador.

Eli - with our help and that of several other District 6710 clubs, is making a real difference in children's lives!

Middle School Literacy Project at West End School

By Walt L. Kunau

Join us for our Middle School Literacy Project as we read and discuss a book with 8th grade students at the West End School. You will be amazed and enriched by the accomplishments of these students and this school!

We meet Thursdays, April 11 - May 9, from 10:05 - 10:55 a.m.

Email Walt at wkunau@bellsouth.net or call [502.262.2792](tel:502.262.2792) to sign up or for more information.



[Read More](#)

Rotary University: Next Session Tuesday, May 21

By Jay Mallory

Thank you to all who participated in our first two Rotary University sessions. If you are a long-time member but would just like a refresher, feel free to watch the recordings as well.

Session #1 *What is Rotary?* available [HERE](#) passcode to access: @5ZatVk0
To earn credit for Session #1, complete survey with code words [HERE](#).

Session #2 *Service Above Self* available [HERE](#) passcode to access: 0tj&G+^*
To earn credit for Session #2, complete survey with code words [HERE](#).

Please mark your calendars for the next sessions, all at NOON via Zoom. Completion of Rotary University is required for new members, so prioritize these sessions!

Click [HERE](#) to register for the May 21 Rotary Honors Scholars noon Zoom session.

If you have any questions, reach out to me, or Jay Mallory, Co-Chair of the Membership Development & Engagement Committee, jmallory@imagequest.com.

March 19	Session 1 - What is Rotary?
April 16	Session 2 - Service Above Self
May 21	Session 3 - Rotary Honors Scholars
June 11	Session 4 - Committees
July 9	Session 5 - Rotary Beyond the Club
July	New Member Celebration / Mixer (location TBD)

[Read More](#)

Service Projects & Grants due May 30

By Steven A. Eggers

Committee leaders:

Please make note that all information related to request(s) for service projects and/or grants for the 2024-2025 Rotary year must be submitted no later than May 30. Proof of completion of the mandatory training must also be provided to me by that time (seggers@knbarch.com).

Applications for 2024-2025 Service Projects & Grants will need to be submitted in the new electronic format approved by the Rotary Board at the February meeting. Completion of a mandatory training session is required for Committee Chairs and Vice Chairs to apply for projects or grants, or if someone else on the committee is preparing the project proposal, the Chair can designate that person as the representative for their committee.

Click [Read More](#) for the overall schedule for the review and approval of Service Projects & Grants.

[Read More](#)

Volunteers Needed for Ohio River Sweep: June 1

By Alex E. Novak



Rotary Club of Louisville
Litter Clean-Up Event
Date: June 1st
9:00 AM-12:00 PM

WHERE EVA BANDMAN PARK
1701 RIVER ROAD | LOUISVILLE, KY 40206

DETAILS DRESS FOR THE WEATHER.
WEAR SUNSCREEN AND BRING A REUSABLE WATER BOTTLE.

REGISTER EMAIL ALEX NOVAK
ANOVAK@IGLOU.COM
FOR EVENT DETAILS AND REGISTRATION

SPONSORS F·O·R·E  

Join the Rotary Club of Louisville's Environmental Committee on June 1 from 9 a.m. to noon for a Litter Clean-up Event at Eva Bandman Park.

It's part of the annual Ohio River Sweep volunteer clean-up that extends the entire length of the Ohio River. Volunteers from six states remove litter at multiple locations along the river and many of its tributaries.

The volunteer work makes a positive impact along the entire Ohio River Basin. Learn more: [HERE](#).

Contact: Alex Novak, anovak@iglou.com for details and to register.

New Member Service Project at SOS: June 5 ****NEW DATE****

By Jay Mallory

Join us on Wednesday, June 5 from 5:30 - 7:30 p.m. at **SOS** for our new member service project. All are welcome - this is an excellent opportunity to serve alongside and get acquainted with some of our newer members.

We will be sorting and packing supplies to be redistributed to those in need. SOS meets critical health care needs in medically impoverished communities in 106 countries around the world by collecting and distributing surplus medical supplies and equipment. Partnering with hospitals, clinics, and manufacturers to recover and redistribute what would otherwise go into local landfills, SOS promotes environmental stewardship.

Please RSVP [HERE](#).

Rotarian in the Spotlight: Carl Kihm



Rotarian **Carl Kihm** recently traveled to Guatemala with a team of veteran surgeons, anesthesia staff, and nurses on a life-changing mission. They performed 43 surgeries in just 5 days – providing corrective procedures for children and neglected adults with congenital deformities.

Among the common cases were clubfoot deformities, where their ability to correct twisted feet truly made a difference. As done in years past, we look forward to celebrating the long-term success stories of our patients.

Rotarian in the Spotlight: Denise Sears



Rotarian **Denise Sears** was in the news this week again! Last Saturday, SOS International stepped in to help with a free wheelchair clinic. The event served those living with partial paralysis and other disabilities. Folks could bring their standard or electric wheelchairs and get them repaired, cleaned or even replaced on the spot. Denise said the turnout was larger than they expected and that they ended up helping dozens of people in a matter of hours.

Events & Opportunities: JFCS

By Delene E Taylor

What: 2024 JFCS MOSAIC Awards

Organization: Jewish Family and Career Services

Date/Time: May 14, 6:00 p.m.

Location: Mellwood Arts Center

Description: This event honors refugees, immigrants, and first generation Americans who are leaders and changemakers in Louisville.

More information: [HERE](#)

Member to contact: Courtney Evans, cevans@jfcsloouisville.org

Note: This section features upcoming events and opportunities to serve with our nonprofit member organizations. Submissions must be from a member (or spouse/partner) of our Club who is either an employee or board member of the organization for which the event/opportunity is being shared. Click [HERE](#) to submit.

Events

April 24th, 5:30-6:30 PM

[Re:Center Ministries Dinner](#)

April 25th, 10:30-11:30 AM

[Lifeline Committee Meeting CANCELLED!](#)

April 25th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Brigadier General Robert Givens](#)

Location: University Club of Louisville 200 E Brandeis Ave Louisville, KY 40208

Speaker: Brigadier General Robert Givens

May 1st, 11:30-6:30 PM

[Rotary Day at the Downs](#)

May 2nd, 11:30-1:00 PM

[NO MEETING due to Day at the Downs](#)

May 9th, 10:30-11:30 AM

[DEI Committee Meeting](#)

Location: University Club 200 E Brandeis Avenue

May 16th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Sec. Lindy Casebier](#)

Location: University Club of Louisville 200 E Brandeis Ave Louisville, KY 40208

Speaker: Sec. Lindy Casebier, KY Tourism, Arts and Heritage Cabinet

May 18th, 9:00-1:00 PM

[GVR Committee Workshop](#)

May 23rd, 10:30-11:30 AM

[Lifeline Committee Meeting](#)

May 23rd, 1:00-2:00 PM

[Service Projects & Grants Committee Meeting](#)

April 25th, 10:05-10:55 AM

[Read With 8th Grade West End School Students](#)

Location: West End School 3628 Virginia Avenue Louisville, KY 40211

April 25th, 11:00-11:30 AM

[Investment Committee Meeting](#)

April 25th, 1:00-2:00 PM

[Service Projects & Grants Committee Meeting](#)

May 2nd, 10:05-10:55 AM

[Read With 8th Grade West End School Students](#)

Location: West End School 3628 Virginia Avenue Louisville, KY 40211

May 9th, 10:05-10:55 AM

[Read With 8th Grade West End School Students](#)

Location: West End School 3628 Virginia Avenue Louisville, KY 40211

May 9th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Rotary Honors Scholars Luncheon](#)

Location: Goodwill Opportunity Campus 2820 W Broadway Louisville, KY 40211

Speaker: Scotty Davenport

May 16th, 1:15-2:15 PM

[Gun Violence Reduction Committee Meeting](#)

Location: University Club 200 E Brandeis Avenue

May 22nd, 5:30-6:30 PM

[Re:Center Ministries Dinner](#)

May 23rd, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Lt. Col. Whitney Allen](#)

Location: University Club of Louisville 200 E Brandeis Ave Louisville, KY 40208

Speaker: Lt. Col. Whitney Allen, Commissioner, KY Dept of Veteran Affairs

May 30th, 8:00-5:00 PM

[Service Project /Grant Applications Deadline](#)

May 30th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Purna Veer](#)

Location: University Club of Louisville 200 E Brandeis Ave Louisville, KY 40208

Speaker: Purna Veer, V-Soft Consulting Group

June 5th, 5:30-7:30 PM

[New Member Service Project at SOS](#)

June 6th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Carolyn Tandy](#)

Location: University Club of Louisville 200 E Brandeis Ave Louisville, KY 40208

Speaker: Carolyn Tandy, SVP - Diversity, Equity & Inclusion, Humana

June 20th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Omar Ayyash](#)

Location: University Club of Louisville 200 E Brandeis Ave Louisville, KY 40208

Speaker: Omar Ayyash, World Trade Center Kentucky

June 26th, 5:30-6:30 PM

[Re:Center Ministries Dinner](#)

June 27th, 1:00-2:00 PM

[Service Projects & Grants Committee Meeting](#)

June 1st, 9:00-12:00 PM

[Ohio River Sweep](#)

June 6th, 10:30-11:30 AM

[DEI Committee Meeting](#)

Location: University Club 200 E Brandeis Avenue

June 13th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Rebecca Fleischaker](#)

Location: University Club of Louisville 200 E Brandeis Ave Louisville, KY 40208

Speaker: Rebecca Fleischaker, Louisville Downtown Partnership

June 20th, 1:15-2:15 PM

[Gun Violence Reduction Committee Meeting](#)

Location: University Club 200 E Brandeis Avenue

June 27th, 10:30-11:30 AM

[Lifeline Committee Meeting](#)

Birthdays



Rebecca Grignon-Reker
April 25th



Robert S. English
April 26th



Gary W. Noel
April 28th



Stephen George
April 29th



Boyce F. Martin III
April 29th



Kevin Lynch
April 29th



Robert S. Chatham
May 2nd



Evon Smith
May 3rd



John W. Hampton
May 3rd



Kelley Spilson
May 3rd



Russell Smith
May 4th



Michael Gabhart
May 5th



Di Tran
May 5th



Terry W. Tyler
May 5th



John-Robert Curtin
May 5th



Ben Reno-Weber
May 6th



Anthony R. Kemper
May 7th



Chambers Moore
May 11th



Gordon K. Costley
May 12th



Chris Buerck
May 13th



Luke B. Schmidt
May 14th



Sophia Fischer
May 15th

Club Leaders



[Kevin Lynch](#)
President



[Lori Hudson Flanery](#)
President-Elect



[Kevin Fields](#)
Secretary



[Kim Halbauer](#)
Treasurer



[Claire Arnold](#)
Club Director



[Gregory Patrick Braun](#)
Club Director



[John M. Bush](#)
Club Director



[Charles D. Hartlage](#)
Club Director



[Jay Mallory](#)
Club Director
Membership Chair



[Kevin J McCarron](#)
Public Image Chair
Club Director



[Craig Mooney](#)
Club Director



[Denise L. Sears](#)
Club Director



[Harry Louis Seeger V](#)
Club Director



[Amy Luttrell](#)
Rotary Foundation
Chair



[Steven A. Eggers](#)
Club Service Chair



[Walt L. Kunau](#)
iPast President



[Delene E Taylor](#)
Club Executive
Secretary

Contact Us:

Rotary Club of Louisville
657 S. Hurstbourne Pkwy, Ste D-226
Louisville, KY 40222
Email: rotary@rotary45.org
Phone: [502-589-1800](tel:502-589-1800)