

Newark Rotary Committees 2024-2025

President	Janice LoRaso	Cell	740-334-9058		
President-Elect	Brendan Underwood	Office	740-450-2265	Cell	740-605-1981
President-Nominee	Nate Adams	Cell	740-323-6824		
Secretary	Tom Slater	Home	740-366-6143	Cell	740-398-1690
Treasurer	Ray Barber	Home	614-834-0657	Office	740-366-4444
Immediate Past President	Jim Cooper III	Cell	740-398-2347		
Club Service					
	Brendan Underwood	Office	740-450-2265		
Fellowship/Logistics	Eric Ricketts	Home	740-344-8709		
Club Programs	Pamela Watkins	Cell	440-264-3213		
Chaplain	Carol Thress/John Wilson	Cell	740-404-9551	Cell	740-877-7581
Music	Tom Slater	Home	740-366-6143		
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pat Jeffries	Home	740-344-3980	Cell	740-334-8302
Communications	Ben Mitchell	Cell	740-334-0510		
Historical	Angie Ryan	Cell	740-258-3498		
Social	Vacant				
Technology	Vacant				
Vocational Service					
	Nate Adams	Cell	740-323-6824		
Membership	Chuck Moore	Cell	740-877-7272		
Orientation	Tom Marcelain	Home	740-344-7895		
	Kate St. James	Home	614-365-1580		
Mentorship	Jeff James	Home	740-587-4447	Office	740-587-2746
Community Service					
	Joe Sinsabaugh	Home	740-501-0875		
Special Needs	Talya Greathouse	Home	614-496-7783		
Rotary Awards	Jerry Besanceney	Home	614-394-3908		
Rotary Volunteers	Deb Tegtmeyer	Cell	740-348-6877		
Engagement	Melissa Owens	Home	740-507-3603		
Newark Rotary Foundation	Jack Neely	Cell	740-641-8197		
Fundraising	Dustin Neely	Cell	740-403-7336		
International Service					
	Jennifer Roberts	Cell	740-403-9552		
Rotary International Foundation	Jim Francis	Home	740-366-7677		
Grants	Pat Jeffries	Home	740-344-3980	Cell	740-334-8302
Global Projects	Joe Sinsabaugh	Cell	740-501-0875		
Polio Plus	Heather Powell	Cell	419-233-2930		
Youth Service					
	Melissa Owens	Home	740-507-3603		
Youth Exchange	Beth Graff	Cell	740-225-9417	Office	740-920-4795
Junior Ethics	Trevor Thomas	Home	740-877-2591	Office	740-788-3118
Student Visits	Barb Quackenbush	Home	740-334-9107	Office	740-670-7041

ALWAYS IN OUR MEMORY 2015-16 PRESIDENT ERIN KENNEDY (1960-2015)

DISTRICT GOVERNORS FROM NEWARK ROTARY

•FRANK L BEGGS: 1927-28 •ROBERT C. BATTAT: 1970-71 •DONN E. ALSPACH: 1988-89
•DARREL JONES: 1957-58 •THEODORE D. GRILEY: 1976-77 •ROBERT H. MCGAUGHY: 2003-2004
GARY BAKER: 2024-25

DIRECTOR, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

THEODORE D. GRILEY: 1990-1992

TRUSTEE, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

THEODORE D. GRILEY: 2001-2005

ROTOGRAM

2024-2025

Rotary



WEEK OF APRIL 06, 2025

All Meetings At Noon Tuesday

THIS WEEK'S MEETING

State of Small Businesses In Ohio



ATTENTION ROTARIANS!

We will be meeting at

NCS West Campus:

(Old State Farm, 1440 Granville Rd, Newark) for the following Rotary meetings: **April 01, 08 & 15.**

Look for ROTC students to assist with directions to parking and entrance.



Presented by Roger Geiger, Executive Director, Ohio SBC

This week's Rotary meeting will feature Roger Geiger, Executive Director of The Ohio Small Business Council. He will provide an update on the state of small businesses in Ohio and discuss how his organization is supporting entrepreneurs and fostering growth across the state.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 15 - Mike Davis, President of Junior Achievement of Central Ohio

April 22 - J P Nauseef, CEO of Jobs Ohio

A ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CLUB

newarkohiorotary.org

District6690.org

f /NewarkRotaryClub

LAST WEEK'S MEETING NOTES

President Janice LoRaso rang the bell. **Tom Slater** and **Peter Larson** started us singing "R-O-T-A-R-Y." **Tom Mullady** led us in the invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. **Peter Larson** and **Tom Slater** then led us in the singing of "April Showers".

Guests: **President-Elect Brendan Underwood** introduced today's guests. **Nate Adams'** guest was Ron Mitchell. **Pat Jeffries'** guest was Jen Randall. **John Paul Munhall's** guest was Cathy Stofac. **Kristen Evers'** guest was Brent Swartz. **Melissa Owens** brought too many guests to get all their names. **Adam Shilling's** guest was Ashley Lewis.

Student Guests: **Dr. John Berry** introduced the students from COTC and **Kim Manno** introduced the students from OSU-N.

Sergeant-at-Arms: **Pat Jeffries** fined **Eschol Curl** for working at this old SF building that hosted our meeting. **Tom Mullady** announced that he's celebrating his 44th wedding anniversary this week and was fined as a result. **Maryann Crist** announced her son was sworn in as a Newark PD officer. **Chuck Moore** was fined for his birthday not being today, as Pat thought it was. **Tim Keith** was fined for his 4th wedding anniversary. **President Janice LoRaso** was fined for her 8 years as a Rotarian. **John Berry** was fined for COTC's "Leader College" designation.

Last Week's Reporter: **Lee Heckman**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Heather Powell** announced that Ride for Polio will occur on May 3. Riders and Walkers should see Dave Shull. \$20 raffle tickets to raise money for the event will go on sale starting next week.
- **Janice LoRaso** announced our April service project, which is volunteering for the Rotary District Meeting that we're hosting this month.

PROGRAM

Fellow Rotarian, **Melissa Owens** introduced today's guest, Jordan Davis, Executive Director of Smart Columbus, the Columbus Region's collaborative innovation lab, which focuses on advancing what is new and next at the intersection of technology and community good. Ms. Davis is a Westerville native where her father was a Rotary member.

Smart Columbus was founded in 2016 as the sole winner of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Smart City Challenge, which awarded \$50 million in grants. Columbus beat out 76 other cities for the award. Smart Columbus is an entity of the Columbus Partnership with the vision to make central Ohio the most prosperous region in the United States. Smart Columbus is focused on improving quality of life and using innovation to do so. They are thinking about the future and how technology shifts will define communities in the coming years. Some examples include autonomous vehicles, electric vehicles, and AI.

Ms. Davis also discussed how Smart Columbus is focused on understanding community problems. They test and deploy solutions that use technology to solve those problems and improve our communities.

The focus of Ms. Davis's talk today was the importance of digital access, which Smart Columbus believes is essential to achieving the vision of regional prosperity. This starts with ensuring everyone has digital access. Currently 10% of Central Ohio households are left behind digitally, with no internet access.

The research performed by Smart Columbus indicates that the primary barriers to technology adoption are: (1) availability; (2) affordability; (3) skills gap; (4) tools/device gap; (5) trust and safety; and (6) desire/willingness.

39% of Licking Co. residents would benefit from more affordable broadband. Licking County was in the top 3 counties for adoption of Affordable Connectivity Program in Central Region (45%). Ohio will receive \$800 million for broadband expansion so it's essential that we advocate for our share of these funds to help expand digital access to our many underserved areas.

Ms. Davis also mentioned that in addition to the technology access gap, there is a growing skills gap. By 2030, 75% of jobs will require advanced technology skills. Therefore, Smart Columbus's Digital Skills Hub is a Franklin County program that is working on solving the "device" problem by giving people a technology device (e.g., laptop computer) after completing a digital skills training program.

Ms. Davis then took several questions from the audience.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something." -Plato