

Rotary Club of Louisville



Note from Delene | In This Issue

Rotary Family,

I know of several members who have been significantly impacted by the storms and flooding in our area. Please reply and let me know if your home or organization has experienced damage...I would like to have a better understanding of how many in our club have been directly affected.

I want to remind everyone that you can access meeting/event information and RSVP links on the Home screen in [DaCdb](#) and on our website louisvillerotary.org (scroll down on the home page) anytime. Most of the same stories are in all three places, so you don't need to wait for Sparks to be published, as I know it can be sporadic at times. I am at the *LeadingBetter* Summit today, trying to get this out before the break ends and my laptop battery dies (please forgive any mistakes I don't catch!)



New in this issue:

- [Service Opportunity: Beargrass Creek Clean Sweep](#)
- [Rotary Business Synergy Mixer with Canopy, YPAL & Independence Bank](#)

Service Above Self Opportunities (scroll to stories below):

- [Form a team](#) to participate in our Rotary/Brightside cleanup partnership OR
- [Join the team](#) we already have for the *Beargrass Creek Clean Sweep* on April 19
- [Read with West End School students](#): Tuesdays beginning April 15
- [Serve a meal](#) at Re:Center Ministries: April 23
- [Write cards/letters](#) for our veterans for Honor Flight Mail Call: due by April 29
- [Pack supplies](#) at SOS: July 22
- Pick up litter during our Ohio River Sweep: October 4

Committee Chairs: remember that the deadline for final reports for 2024-2025 projects AND for applications for 2025-2026 grants is May 30, 2025. Details can be found [HERE](#).

Committee Meetings:

- Diversity, Equity & Inclusion: April 10, 10:30 a.m.
- International Service Committee: April 17, 10:30 a.m.
- Gun Violence Reduction: April 17, 1:00 p.m.
- Service Projects & Grants: April 24, 1:00 p.m.

There is just not room in the newsletter to include all the amazing things our members are doing and being recognized for, but please take time to click [HERE](#) and scroll down to the spotlights and events section. These stories are worth reading!

Rotarians in the Spotlight:

- [PlayPort](#)

- [Roland Blahnik](#)
- [Kristy Flippins-Bartlett](#)
- [Barbara Sexton Smith & Das Rooprai](#)

Events and Opportunities:

- [2025 StoryFest: April 10](#)

In service,



Executive Director [Read More](#)

April 10th Meeting: Deborah Bilitski



Tomorrow's meeting at noon at the University Club will feature **Deborah Bilitski**, President and Executive Director of Waterfront Park.

"Expanding Westward: Continuing the Legacy of Louisville's Waterfront with Phase IV"

Phase IV continues the evolution of Louisville's beloved Waterfront Park, extending its legacy westward along the Ohio River. Discover how this transformative expansion will create new opportunities for connection, recreation, and community growth.

See the post about the new Waterfront Park PlayPort [HERE](#).

The RSVP deadline has passed; please email admin@louisvillerotary.org if you would like to attend.

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](#)

April 17th Meeting: Deputy Mayor David James and Misty Wright

The April 17th meeting at noon at the University Club will feature **Deputy Mayor David James** along with **Misty Wright**, Executive Director of Community Safety, Louisville Metro Government

"Building a Safer Louisville: Collaborative Efforts to Reduce Gun Violence"

Learn about the city's comprehensive approach to reducing gun violence including current initiatives, community partnerships and actionable strategies aimed at creating a safer, more secure Louisville for all residents. Collaboration between government, law enforcement and community organizations is critical in addressing



one of the most pressing issues facing our city today.

NOTE: The [Gun Violence Reduction Committee](#) will meet immediately after the regular meeting. If you are interested in being part of our work to reduce gun violence, you are welcome to join us.

The buffet opens at 11:30am and the program begins at noon. The menu is lemon pepper trout with brown rice, green beans and a brown butter sauce; a salad with grilled chicken or a vegetarian/vegan and/or gluten-free option is available upon advance request.

Please register by Monday, April 14th [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](#)

April 24th Meeting: Jimmy Kirchdorfer, ISCO Industries



The April 24th meeting at noon at the University Club will feature **Jimmy Kirchdorfer**, CEO, [ISCO Industries](#).

"Pipe Dreams"

Jimmy Kirchdorfer, a member of the Kentucky Golf Hall of Fame, discusses how his family business in golf course irrigation grew into a global piping solutions provider, and at the same time helped bring professional golf to Louisville. From purchasing Valhalla in 2022, hosting the 2024 PGA Championship, landing the 2028 Solheim Cup, and becoming the title sponsor of the ISCO Championship (a PGA Tour event to be held at Hurstbourne Country Club this summer), Jimmy will share about the journey of bringing professional golf to his hometown.

The buffet opens at 11:30am and the program begins at noon. The menu is spaghetti with meatballs; a salad with grilled chicken or a vegetarian/vegan and/or gluten-free option is available upon advance request.

Please register by Monday, April 21st [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.

March 31st Meeting Recap

The March 31st meeting at the University Club featured Governor Andy Beshear as our speaker. **Steve Jester** shared the invocation and Lt Col (Ret) **Dorn Crawford** led the pledge and 4-Way Test. We were honored to have many special guests in attendance, including District 6710 Governor Elect **Dorsey Ridley** from Henderson, District 6710 Governor Nominee **Sherrill Smith** from Frankfort, District 6710 Administrator **Leigh Perry**, Kentucky Senator Gerald Neal, Rocky Adkins, and from our Sister City in Quito, Maria del Pilar Palacio Fierro, past president of the Rotary Club of Quito-Valle Interoceánico.



Some of the above photos were provided by Gov. Andy Beshear's Communications Office

You can view the recording on our [YouTube channel](#). Provide feedback about the meeting [HERE](#).

Service Opportunity: Beargrass Creek Clean Sweep

By Michelle Black White

Join Rotary, Kentucky Waterways Alliance, Louisville Metro Sewer District (MSD), Olmstead Parks Conservancy, Ohio River Valley Water Sanitation Commission (ORSANCO), Brightside, Louisville Metro District

9 Councilman Andrew Owen, and Louisville Metro District 8 Councilman Ben-Reno Weber for the 2025 Beargrass Creek Clean Sweep! Free food and T-shirts for participating volunteers!

Date and Time: Saturday, April 19th, 9:00 am

Event Address: Cherokee Park / Beargrass Greenway, park at lot on Lexington Rd and Ledge Rd

Email director@louisvillerotary.org if you can join us (*don't register at the link shown below - we already have a team*).



Join us at the upcoming Earth Day Celebration

Beargrass Creek Clean Sweep

Saturday April 19th, 2025

Register Now 

Check in: 8:30am-9:00am
Cleanup 9:00am-12:00pm
Location: Parking lot at Lexington Road and Ledge Road

Registration Link: <https://forms.gle/atFgXX5qLothZcK98>

 Metro Council District 9,
Andrew Owen
Metro Council District 8,
Ben Reno-Weber

 OLMSTED
PARKS
CONSERVANCY

 KWA
Protecting & Restoring KY Waterways

 msd
Safe, clean waterways

 One Bright City
Brightside

 CLEAN
COLLABORATIVE



[Read More](#)

Business Synergy Mixer with Canopy / YPAL / Independence Bank

By Jay Mallory

Please join us Tuesday, May 20th, from 5:30-7:30 pm at [Independence Bank](#) for our 3rd Annual Rotary Business Synergy networking event in collaboration with [Canopy](#) and the [Young Professionals Association of Louisville \(YPAL\)](#). Thank you to **Louis Straub** and his team for hosting us again!

You can RSVP [HERE](#).



Rotary
Club of Louisville



BUSINESS

SYNERGY

WITH



Canopy



YOUNG PROFESSIONALS
Association of Louisville



PRESENTED BY:



District 6710 Conference Early Bird Rate Deadline: April 25

We will be celebrating the Magic of Rotary at the Bruce Convention Center in Hopkinsville on May 16-17 for District Conference 2025! Be prepared to be inspired, entertained and motivated; click [HERE](#) for the schedule.

- **Keynote Speakers:** Stephanie Stuckey, CEO of [Stuckey's](#) and Past Rotary International President Mark Maloney
- **Entertainment:** Professional magicians, live music, and basket auction Hoptown-style to raise funds for The Rotary Foundation
- **Special Event:** Friday evening, we will be hosted by DG Dale Leatherman's home club, the [Rotary Club of Hopkinsville](#), at [Casey Jones Distillery](#). The event features an outdoor barbeque, special cocktails, distillery tours, live music, and more
- **Service Project:** [Love the Hungry](#) - Saturday morning
- **Favorites:** Speech Contest and 10 dynamic breakout sessions

Click [HERE](#) to get your registration link (District is **6710**) and [HERE](#) to reserve your hotel room.

Reading with 8th Graders at West End School Begins April 15th

By Walt Kunau

Join us for our Middle School Literacy Service Project as we read and discuss [Malcolm X: By Any Means Necessary](#) with 8th grade students at the [West End School](#), 3628 Virginia Ave.

We will meet on Tuesdays beginning April 15, from 9:50-10:35 a.m. You will be amazed and enriched by the accomplishments of these students and this school! Books are provided.

Email Walt at wkunau@bellsouth.net or call 502.262.2792 to sign up or for more information.



[Read More](#)

Re:Center Ministries Meal Service: April 23

By Larry Sloan

Thanks to our volunteers who came out to serve and fellowship with the men in the addiction recovery program at [Re:Center Ministries](#) in February and March! Our next meal service will be Wednesday, April 23rd at 5:30 p.m. at 757 S Brook St. Click [Read More](#) for more info and to sign up.



[Read More](#)

Easy Service Above Self Opportunity: Honor Flight Mail Call

By Gerald Martin

Honor Flight Bluegrass is flying WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War Veterans to Washington DC to see their Memorials May 13, 2025. Just like back in the day when they were serving, Mail Call was a highlight, so we want them to experience it again.

Please take a moment to share your gratitude with a letter or a simple thank you card to these honored veterans.

Ask your friends to help...
THE MORE THE BETTER

Address them to:
Honored Veteran c/o Greg Dillon
806 Cannons Ln. Louisville, KY 40207
MUST BE RECEIVED
NO LATER THAN Tuesday, April 29

It is that time again when **Honor Flight Bluegrass** needs your help. There will be 84 veterans flying to DC on May 13th. Just like back in the day when they were serving, "mail call" is one of their absolute favorite parts of the day...and your words of gratitude are everlasting for them!

Cards/letters must be received by Tuesday, April 29:
Honored Veteran
c/o Greg Dillon
806 Cannons Ln
Louisville KY 40207

You are welcome to take to a meeting and give them to Delene or Tracy if you prefer.

We will need volunteers for the ground crew as well as people to cheer for our veterans at the airport as they return home from their day in Washington DC. Click [Read More](#) below for more info. [Read More](#)

Rotary University Session #3: April 29

Our next Rotary University session will be Tuesday, April 29th at NOON via Zoom. Completion of Rotary University is required for new members, so prioritize these sessions! We will discuss the various ways our club invests in Youth & Education and how to get involved. If you have been a member for a while but would like to learn more or just meet some of our newer members, feel free to join us as well.

Register [HERE](#).

If you were unable to attend Session #1 last month, please watch the recording [HERE](#) (passcode **q%E9&28Y**). You will need to note the 3 code words mentioned during the session and enter them in Question 7 of the survey [HERE](#) in order to get credit for attending.

If you were not able to join for Session #2, please watch the recording [HERE](#) (passcode **AZIS*0tw**) and then complete the survey [HERE](#) for credit.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming sessions at **NOON via Zoom**.

May 27 - *Service Above Self* - Register [HERE](#).

June 16 (Monday) - *Rotary Beyond the Club* - Register [HERE](#).

and

July 22 Service Project at SOS, 5:30-7:30pm | Register [HERE](#).

If you have any questions, reach out to Delene or to Jay Mallory, Chair of the Membership Development & Engagement Committee, jmallory@imagequest.com. [Read More](#)

Rotary Day at the Downs: April 30

We have a few tickets left for our **Rotary Day at the Downs** on Wednesday, April 30. We have

reserved the **Silks Balcony and Loge** with an elevated view of the Paddock in a covered open-air setting, and easy access to a dedicated race viewing location in the 3rd floor Clubhouse in Section 320.

Tickets are \$149 per person and include admission, racing program, 4-hour Chef's Table Buffet, coffee, tea and soft drinks, and a 4-hour OPEN BAR. Click [HERE](#) to register.



[Read More](#)

Speaker Lineup

We have an exciting lineup of speakers - please mark your calendars and invite prospective Rotarians!

5/1 NO MEETING (Rotary Day at the Downs 4/30)
5/8 Rotary Honors Scholars Luncheon with Coach Jeff Walz
5/15 Kimberly Bunton, TKT & Associates
5/22 Renee Shaw, KET

[Read More](#)

Events

April 10th, 10:30-11:30 AM
[DEI Committee Meeting](#)

April 17th, 10:30-11:30 AM
[International Service Committee Meeting](#)
Comment: University Club of Louisville 200 E Brandeis Ave
Louisville, KY 40208

April 17th, 1:00-2:00 PM
[Gun Violence Reduction Committee Meeting](#)
Comment: University Club 200 E. Brandeis Ave Louisville, KY
40208

April 23rd, 5:30-6:30 PM
[Re:Center Ministries Dinner](#)

April 10th, 11:30-1:00 PM
[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Deborah Bilitski, Waterfront Park](#)

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

Speaker: Deborah Bilitski, Waterfront Park

April 17th, 11:30-1:00 PM
[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: David James & Misty Wright](#)
Comment: University Club of Louisville 200 E Brandeis Ave
Louisville, KY 40208

Speaker: Deputy Mayor David James & Misty Wright, Louisville
Metro

April 24th, 11:30-1:00 PM
[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Jimmy Kirchorfer](#)

Comment: Re:Center Ministries 757 S Brook St Louisville, KY 40203

April 24th, 1:00-2:00 PM

[Service Projects & Grants Committee Meeting](#)

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

April 30th, 11:00-6:30 PM

[Rotary Day at the Downs](#)

May 8th, 10:30-11:30 AM

[DEI Committee Meeting](#)

May 15th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Kimberly Bunton, TKT Associates](#)

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

Speaker: Kimberly Bunton, TKT Associates

May 22nd, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Renee Shaw, KET](#)

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

Speaker: Renee Shaw, Director of Public Affairs, KET

May 28th, 5:30-6:30 PM

[Re:Center Ministries Dinner](#)

Comment: Re:Center Ministries 757 S Brook St Louisville, KY 40203

June 5th, 10:30-11:30 AM

[DEI Committee Meeting](#)

June 8th, 4:00-7:30 PM

[Rotary Summer Social at Craig Scherman's House](#)

Comment: 1208 Evergreen Rd Louisville, KY 40223

June 16th, 12:00-1:00 PM

[Rotary University Session #5](#)

Comment: Via Zoom

June 25th, 5:30-6:30 PM

[Re:Center Ministries Dinner](#)

Comment: Re:Center Ministries 757 S Brook St Louisville, KY 40203

July 3rd, 11:30-1:00 PM

[NO MEETING - Happy Independence Day](#)

July 17th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Cathe Dykstra, Family Scholar House](#)

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

Speaker: Cathe Dykstra, Family Scholar House

Birthdays



Michael L. Brumleve
April 9th



R. Lowell Pratte
April 9th



Nick Garner
April 9th



Kathy Dehoney Evitts
April 12th

James T. Crain Jr.
April 13th

Josh S Suiter
April 13th

Jennifer Helgeson
April 13th

Paula Grisanti
April 15th

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

Speaker: Jimmy Kirchdorfer, ISCO Industries

April 29th, 12:00-1:00 PM

[Rotary University Session #3](#)

Comment: Via Zoom

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

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

May 8th, 11:30-1:00 PM

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

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

Speaker: Coach Jeff Walz

May 20th, 5:30-7:30 PM

[Rotary Business Synergy with Canopy | YPAL | Independence Bank](#)

Comment: Independence Bank 3901 Shelbyville Rd Louisville, KY 40207

May 27th, 12:00-1:00 PM

[Rotary University Session #4](#)

Comment: Via Zoom

May 29th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: TBD](#)

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

Speaker: TBD

June 5th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Chris Enright & Robby Packard, PNC](#)

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

Speaker: Chris Enright & Robby Packard, PNC

June 12th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Beth Stubbs, Rotary Int'l Treasurer](#)

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

Speaker: Beth Stubbs, Rotary International Treasurer

June 19th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[NO MEETING - Happy Juneteenth](#)

June 26th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Nadareca Thibeaux, LOUMED](#)

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

Speaker: Nadareca Thibeaux, LOUMED

July 10th, 11:30-1:00 PM

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting: Leadership Transition](#)

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

Speaker: Leadership Transition



Barbara J. Collins
April 15th



Kent Oyler
April 15th



William J. Hirtzel
April 16th



Adam Hall
April 17th



Chandra Gordon
April 17th



Portia L. Shoulders
April 18th



Graham Parker
April 19th



Todd A. Spencer
April 19th



Dave W. Christopher Sr.
April 21st



Max Bridges
April 22nd



Gordon L. Ragan
April 22nd



J. Tracy Holladay
April 23rd



Rensha Allen
April 24th



Rebecca Grignon-Reker
April 25th



Turney P. Berry
April 27th



Gary W. Noel
April 28th



Boyce F. Martin III
April 29th



Kevin John Lynch
April 29th

Club Leaders



Lori Hudson Flanery
President



Ken Selvaggi
President-Elect



Jay Mallory
Secretary-Elect
Membership Chair



Barbara Sexton Smith
President-Nominee



Kevin Fields Sr.
Secretary



Craig Mooney
Treasurer



Claire Arnold
Club Director



Christen Boone
Public Image Chair
Club Director



Alice Bridges
Club Director



Gary W. Dryden Jr.
Club Director



Alisa O. Gray
Club Director



Kevin J. McCarron
Club Director



Harry Louis Seeger V.
Club Director



Louis Straub
Club Director



Amy Luttrell
Rotary Foundation
Chair



Susan G. Zepeda
Ph.D.
Service Projects Chair



Delene E. Taylor
Club Executive
Secretary
Webmaster



Alex E. Novak
International Service
Chair



Kevin John Lynch
iPast President

Contact Us:

Rotary Club of Louisville
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Louisville, KY 40222
Email: rotary@rotary45.org
Phone: [502-589-1800](tel:502-589-1800)