

# Rotary

## Club of Columbus



## Weekly Program



Join us on Tuesday, February 10th, at the Boathouse at noon. Our speaker will be Michael Wilkos, Vice President of Community Engagement, United Way of Central Ohio.

Michael Wilkos is Vice President of Community Engagement at United Way of Central Ohio. He works with a team that develops effective strategies to improve our community and invests in programs provided by more than 90 funded nonprofit partners to implement these strategies. He is a sought after presenter on topics ranging from neighborhood revitalization, poverty, economic mobility, segregation, redlining, gentrification, history and demographics.

Prior to joining United Way, Michael served as a senior grants officer and director of community research at The Columbus Foundation. During his tenure at the foundation he initiated, led and managed competitive grant-making to support holistic community revitalization in Weinland Park, an effort to stabilize and revitalize a mixed-income community near The Ohio State University where he has resided since 2008. Additionally, he provided direction and management for many categories of grantmaking at The Columbus Foundation and affiliated funds including The Joseph A. Jeffrey Fund, The Columbus Youth Foundation and the Ingram-White Castle Foundation.

Prior to joining The Columbus Foundation, Michael served as senior impact director and director of neighborhood development at United Way of Central Ohio. In that position he managed program allocations supporting neighborhood development strategies. Among many other duties, he also directed volunteer involvement in developing and implementing strategies supporting housing and community safety programs.

Michael earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Geography and a Master of City and Regional Planning degree from The Ohio State University. He has served on many boards including: Columbus and Franklin County Continuum of Care, which oversees program funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to respond to homelessness, Franklin County Community Economic Development Advisory Board, United Neighborhood Centers of America, Columbus Landmarks Foundation and Columbus Neighborhood Design Center, Converge Columbus, Emergency Food and Shelter Board, Economic Mobility Coalition, The Buckeye Flame, SID Public Services and has served as a commissioner for both Italian Village and the University District.

Join us on Tuesday for an informative program.

## Speakers

**February 10, 2026**  
[Michael Wilkos, Vice President of Community Engagement, United Way of Central OH](#)

**February 17, 2026**  
[Bill LaFayette, Owner of Regionomics](#)

**March 03, 2026**  
[Shayla D. Favor, Franklin County Prosecutor](#)  
Leading Change:  
Embracing Small Wins;  
Bracing for Big Shifts

## Birthdays

Kenneth B. Ackerman  
February 12th  
Karen J. Morrison  
February 15th  
John S. Stewart  
February 23rd  
Michael S. Schoedinger  
February 24th  
Christina O'Keeffe  
February 25th  
Dureti Tadesse  
February 25th  
Keith DeVoe III  
February 26th  
David R. Vieira  
February 28th  
Magdalena Fribley  
March 2nd  
Galen H. Graham  
March 2nd  
Amanda M Engle  
March 3rd  
Donald A. Turner  
March 8th

# Dolly Parton Imagination Library Selected as All Ohio Presidents Elect Service Project



A child's brain forms 1 million connections per second in the early years, reaching 80% of development by age 3. Shared reading is a key component to a child's future success. That's why the Ohio District Governors Elect selected Dolly Parton's Imagination Library for their service project competition this year.

District 6690 has won the Presidents Elect service project nearly every year since its inception. It's time for District 6690 Rotarians to step up again to ensure District Governor Elect Terry Rataiczak brings home the trophy to our District. Donations can be made until noon on March 14.

## Why should you donate?

Having access to books in the home is critical for a child. Research has shown that children with at least 25 books in the home complete an average of two more years of schooling than those with no books.

## One free book each month until age 5

The Dolly Parton Imagination Library of Ohio mails one free book each month to children born in Ohio until age 5. These high-quality, age-appropriate books help kids develop critical early literacy skills before starting kindergarten.

Ohio First Lady Fran DeWine recently announced that the Dolly Parton Imagination Library is now part of the Ohio birth certificate paperwork process. Through this new enrollment initiative, more families with newborns will be able to opt into the program and receive a complete collection of 60 books. That's why more funds are needed to support this literacy initiative.

Since 2019, about 23 million books in Dolly Parton's Imagination Library of Ohio program have been mailed to children in Ohio at no cost to families. Currently, more than 404,000 kids are enrolled in the program, which represents 70% of Ohio households that have a child under age 5.

## Donations directly help kids in our community

Donations to the Dolly Parton Imagination Library go directly to the county

James L. Budros

03-01-1991

35 Years

Daniel L. Wander

02-17-1997

29 Years

James S. Bartha

02-14-2000

26 Years

Galen H. Graham

02-11-2008

18 Years

Judith Kimchi-Woods

03-01-2011

15 Years

John S. Hall

03-01-2012

14 Years

Christina O'Keeffe

02-25-2021

5 Years

Christian E Tamte

02-12-2024

2 Years

Richard D. Studer

02-19-2024

2 Years

where the Rotary Club is located. To donate, go to Rotary for Reading at [www.rotary6690.org](http://www.rotary6690.org) and click at the top of the page on Support Rotary for Reading Service Project. Next, scroll down to Team Members and click on your Club Name.

Let's Unite for Good and help make reading fun for Ohio kids and foster a love for reading.

---

## Wine Down Wednesday



Join us and bring a friend to the next Wine Down Wednesday social!

Join us on February 25th from 5:00-7:00 pm at the Boat House 679 W Spring St, Columbus, OH 43215.

[Click Here to Register](#)

This is an agenda-free social event where we get to know our fellow Rotarians better. It's also a great way to introduce guests to Rotary.

Contact [Amanda Bowen](#) with any questions.

---

## Help Out at a Meeting

**We always need help at the meeting. We need 1–2 greeters, and two people at check-in.**

**Please sign up. It takes all of us to have a successful meeting. We need your help.**

To sign up, click the [LINK](#).

---



## Dues Reminder

As a reminder, dues invoices were sent out in November. The email is from DACdb and dues can be paid directly with the link in the email or you can mail a check. Please pay your dues promptly to help us get off to a good start to the new year. If you have questions, reach out to Jason Southwell, [jsouthwell@haferdesign.com](mailto:jsouthwell@haferdesign.com).

