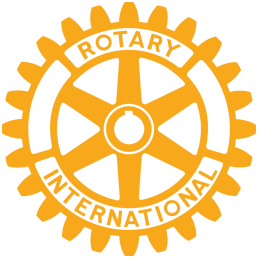


# SPARKS



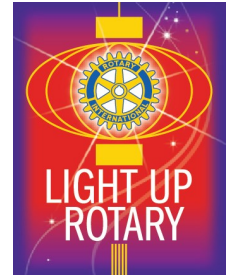
**Next Meeting: October 30, 2014**

**Guest Speaker: Ed Hart**

**Title: CEO of Kentucky Kingdom**

**Introduced by: Kevin Wardell**

**Galt House East, Second Floor, Grand Ballroom A**  
**Buffet Opens: 11:30 am / Meeting Begins: 12:10 pm**



Ed Hart has a long and distinguished history of entrepreneurial undertakings, with a particular focus on the successful turnaround of high-profile, but previously failed, projects. These include three theme parks, all of which he and his team brought from bankruptcy and neglect to vibrant success. First was the original Kentucky Kingdom, which closed after only one season of operation in 1987, and which Hart and his team, during their eight years of operation, developed into the number one paid tourist attraction in Kentucky. Next was the Magic Springs theme park in Hot Springs, Arkansas, which Hart's team redeveloped and operated from 2000 until 2008, and also brought to the position of Arkansas' number one paid family attraction. Life has come full circle at this point, with Hart and his team having just completed the inaugural season of the new Kentucky Kingdom theme park and Hurricane Bay water park. From all indications, it's been a resounding success, highlighted by the sale of more than 100,000 season passes.

In addition, Mr. Hart has successfully rescued two major real estate projects in Louisville (1400 Willow, a luxury high-rise condominium building, and the Schuster Building, a historic commercial building, both located in the Highlands neighborhood of the city, where Mr. Hart and his wife live).

Independent film production is another of Mr. Hart's business interests. Hart/Lunsford Pictures, launched in 2004, has executive produced twelve feature films to date, a number of which have premiered to critical acclaim and won many awards, among them the Audience Award at the Sundance Film Festival.

More recently, Mr. Hart, concerned by the continuing decline in investigative journalism and guided by his firm belief in the importance of the fourth estate as one of the pillars of our democracy, was instrumental in helping fund and establish Louisville Public Media's new Kentucky Center for Investigative Reporting, for which Mr. Hart provided a matching grant of \$250,000.

Mr. Hart's diverse business career also includes the development of a chain of hairstyling salons in Puerto Rico, which was at the time the largest and most successful salon chain in the Caribbean, and championing one of the few successful defamation lawsuits against a major media company in U.S. history (Kentucky Kingdom Inc. vs. WHAS-TV). In recognition of his success at turning failed local projects into success stories, Mr. Hart received Louisville's "Entrepreneur of the Year" award in 1995.



## Inside this issue:

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## BUSINESS SYNERGY NIGHT

**November 11 at 5:30**  
**FREE**



**ARGI Financial, 1914 Stanley Gault Parkway**  
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**Questions? Contact John Jennings**  
**(489-6235 / johnj@uscky.com)**

**FOOD LITERACY PROJECT - VOLUNTEER WORKDAY**  
**Saturday, November 15 (10 am - 1 pm) SEE PAGE 3**



**ARRIVE EARLY**  
**THIS THURSDAY**

Have your photo taken **between 10:45 — 12:00 noon** before the Rotary meeting on Thursday, October 30. The photographer will be available at the same time for the next three weeks to update photos for the roster.

## Birthday Table

**Thom Crimans Nov 3**

**Chuck Eirk Nov 4**


**Please sit at the Birthday Table on October 30.**



## PROGRAM SCHEDULE

- November 6**  — **Teddy Abrams** (Music Director of the Louisville Orchestra; Music Director and Conductor of the Britt Classical Festival)
- November 13**  — **Wayne Estopinal and Coach O'Connor** (Louisville City Football Club) "New Soccer Team"
- November 20**  — **Tony Zippel** (President & CEO, Seven County Services) 'Mental Health'
- November 26 (Wednesday)** — **Rev. Robin Jennings** (Joint Meeting with Kiwanis)
- December 4** — **Circuit Court Judge Angela Bisig & Stoll Keenon Ogden Member Tom Williams** - Program Topic: 'Restorative Justice'
- December 4 evening** — **Rotary Christmas Party at St. Charles Exchange!**
- December 11** — **Eric Gregory** (Executive Director, KY Distillers Association) 'Bourbon'
- December 18** — **Holiday Program**
- Dec 25 & Jan 1** — **Christmas Day & New Years Day** (No Meetings)
- January 8** — **Bob Bordogna** (Chairman of Todd Asset Management) 'Annual Stock Market Predictions'
- January 15** — **Coach Dan McDonnell** 'Louisville Baseball'
- January 22** — **Scott Colosi** (President of Texas Roadhouse)
- January 29** — **Mayor Greg Fischer** 'State of the City Address' (date is tentative)
- February 12** — **Ted Smith** (Chief Economic Growth & Innovation, Louisville Metro Govt)
- February 26** — **Ralph de Chabert** (Brown-Forman Chief Diversity Officer)

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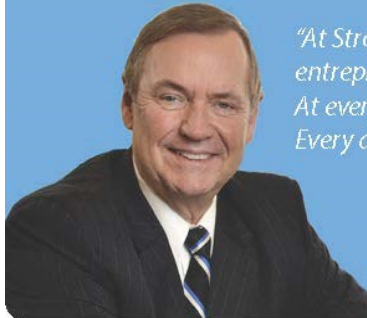
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## "THAT'S ENTERTAINMENT!"

**November 11 (Tuesday)** — **BUSINESS SYNERGY NIGHT** At 5:30 pm. Location: **ARGI Financial, 1914 Stanley Gault Parkway.** **FREE** appetizers and appetizers. This will be a great opportunity to speak face-to-face with other Rotarians about each other's business. Questions? Contact John Jennings: 489-6235 or johnj@uscky.com.

**December 4, 2014 (Thursday)** — **Holiday Party** at St. Charles Exchange! Prepare for a fun-filled evening!

**January 14, 2015 (Wednesday)** — **Horseshoe Casino** \$45/person (includes tax & gratuity) 6:00 Bar / 6:30 Buffet — Free Valet — Free \$10 token for each attendee. Tour facility afterwards or hit the tables. Your guests are welcome.

**January 21, 2015 (Wednesday)** — Award-winning Musical **"ONCE"** at the Kentucky Center! Optional dinner at the Bristol before the musical. Additional details/reservations at [THIS LINK](#).

**May 12, 2015 (Tuesday)** — **FUNdraiser Event** at Copper & Kings (Details to follow.)

  
**END POLIO DAY - 10/24/2014**



## October 23, 2014 Rotary Meeting

President Kevin Wardell presided over the meeting which began with Judy Handmaker providing our invocation. The words were from Abraham Lincoln, "With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right...."

President-elect Greg Braun led the pledge of allegiance and Rotary's 4-Way Test. David Roth introduced soloist Zach Owens and pianist Cory Battey. They received a standing ovation for treating us to *Some Enchanted Evening*.

Next we recognized visiting Rotarians from Orange County, California and San Antonio, Texas. We also received flags from Bob Niblock (Hyannis, MA Rotary) and Tom Williams (Winnipeg, Canada Rotary).

All guests were welcomed by President Kevin and Rotary birthday celebrants were presented by Bil Hirtzel. Our next meeting will be back at Galt House East in Grand Ballroom A as we hear from Ed Hart, CEO of the reopened Kentucky Kingdom.

Senator Mitch McConnell, Senate Republican Leader, and his wife Elaine Chao, Secretary of Labor for President George W. Bush were our esteemed guests.



Senator Mitch McConnell



Senator McConnell opened his address by saying he would answer the question on everyone's mind — he voted for Mitt Romney in the last election. The Senator asked how it was working out for everyone paying more taxes as the federal government amassed more debt in the last six years than under all the previous presidents combined. He talked about the 'labor participation rate' defined as those persons actively seeking employment. In fact, says Senator McConnell, this has been the slowest recovery of a deep recession since World War II. The implication is that a lot of people have given up on finding a job and dropped out of the labor force.

Frustration was expressed over the unwillingness of the President to negotiate legislation. "We can't get anywhere unless the guy with the pen (to sign legislation into law) is in the room." And that is just not happening.

Although Senator McConnell would not specify an agenda if he is re-elected and becomes Senate Majority Leader, he was clear that it is the Senate that appropriates funding for the federal government and he would be the leader of that process. Kentucky would benefit tremendously because of his position. - Submitted by Don Cherrie



**Rotary Leadership Institute**  
November 1 in Murray KY is training for Rotarians interested in Rotary leadership. Call Debe (589-1800) w/ questions or to reserve your spot. The club will reimburse your travel expenses.

### FOOD LITERACY PROJECT - VOLUNTEER WORKDAY Saturday, November 15 from 10 am to 1 pm

Would you like to get your hands dirty while contributing to the health and well-being of local children and families? Attend a volunteer workday for Rotary Club members with the Food Literacy Project at Oxmoor Farm, a local nonprofit inspiring a new generation to build healthy relationships with food, farming, and the land. The workday will consist of gardening and outdoor site work at the Food Literacy Project's home on Oxmoor Farm, and projects will be geared toward preparing our Learning Garden and Outdoor Kitchen for the winter season.

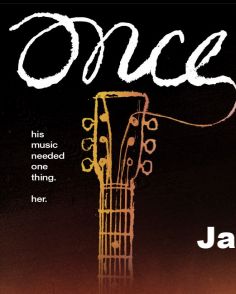
RSVP to Becca Barhorst, Resource Dev. Coordinator  
[becca@foodliteracyproject.org](mailto:becca@foodliteracyproject.org) / (502) 491-0072



**HOHOHO it's a HOLIDAY PARTY**

**St. Charles Exchange**  
113 So. Seventh Street

**Thursday  
December 4**



**8 TONY AWARDS  
BEST MUSICAL**

**Wednesday  
January 21, 2015**

Join other Rotarians and guests for dinner at the Bristol followed by award-winning musical 'ONCE' at the Kentucky Center. For further details and to make reservations, check out **THIS LINK**.



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