

Rotary Club of Louisville



Walt's Words of Wisdom



Last week's meeting with Mayor Craig Greenberg is right at the top of Rotary meetings this year. It had BIG GAME energy with over 300 people in the room. News camera lights burned brightly, happy faces greeted one another, and the buzz in the room sizzled while we anticipated Mayor Greenberg's first "State of the City." He recognized some of our city's finest in his administration. He challenged us and commended us. He cited Rotary's "West Louisville Housing Initiative" as a meaningful endeavor. I was proud to represent our club to our community with a summary of what we do to make Louisville better with my "Rotary is and will always be there" commercial. From Rotary Promise Scholars to the West Louisville Housing Initiative, from Western Kentucky tornadoes to Eastern Kentucky floods, from water projects in El Salvador to the eradication of polio – your Rotary is there! If you weren't there, make sure to be there next year; it is one tangible benefit of being a Rotarian! You can watch the video

streamed on MetroTV [HERE](#).

February means Black History Month. Here is a statement from Rotary International:

At Rotary, we have no tolerance for racism. Promoting respect, celebrating diversity, demanding ethical leadership, and working tirelessly to advance peace are central tenets of our work.

We have more work to do to create more just, open and welcoming communities for all people.

We know there are no easy fixes and that challenging conversations and work lie before all of us. Rotary's strength has long been our ability and commitment to bringing people together. We will tap into that strength now as we stand with those who are working for peace and justice.

Rotary will do our part to listen, learn and take action to ensure that we continue to contribute to making positive change.

I found an [interesting article from the New York Times](#) last year that gives a brief chronological history of Black History Month.

I did not know that in 1926, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, father of Black History, announced the first Black History week in February of that year. In the second week of February, folks recognized both Abraham Lincoln's (February 12) and Frederick Douglass' (February 14) birthdays. Douglass Day had been celebrated in the Washington D.C. "colored schools" since 1897 because Douglass had worked with the school board there. Douglass had been born enslaved and therefore did not know what day he was born, so he picked February 14. In his book, *My Bondage and My Freedom*, Douglass recalled his last meeting with his mother, where she presented him with a cake. "*The 'sweet cake' my mother gave me was in the shape of a heart, with a rich, dark ring glazed upon the edge of it. I was victorious, and well off for the moment; prouder, on my mother's knee, than a king upon his throne,*" he wrote.

What did you learn about the history of Black History month that you didn't already know? What difference does that make?

Tomorrow we welcome Akoy Agau to the podium to talk about the Kentucky Distillers Basketball team. What could be better than talking basketball in February at Rotary? Well – you being in the room would top it off nicely!

WWW Basketball Edition:

"I've missed more than 9000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times, I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed." –Michael Jordan

"Bad shooters are always open" – Pete Carril

"I don't know if I practiced more than anybody, but I sure practiced enough. I still wonder if somebody – somewhere – was practicing more than me." ? Larry Bird

"I am more than just a Serious basketball fan. I am a life-long Addict. I was addicted from birth, in fact, because I was born in Kentucky." – Hunter S. Thompson

"I'm still waiting for perfection. In the meantime, I'll settle for persistence." – Bo Ryan

Life is good! Walt

Tomorrow's Meeting: Akoy Agau at Savor



Tomorrow's meeting at Savor at River House will feature **Akoy Agau**, who played three seasons with the Cardinals, and is the owner of the **Derby City Distillers**, a team that will compete in The Basketball League.

The menu will be salad greens with grilled salmon and a vegan veggie plate is available upon advance request. ***We have 5 extra meals...text or call 502-295-9290 if you would like to purchase one.

Dessert and tea/coffee will be provided to all attendees; if you are not purchasing a meal, please make a \$5 donation to cover the \$5 per person that Savor charges us for this.

Executive Director Update

By Delene Taylor

I have several important updates - and I'm putting them all in one post at the risk of you deciding "it's too long, I'm not gonna read all of that." PLEASE take a few minutes to scroll down. I would hate for you to be surprised by something down the road and feel like you weren't informed. Since this is longer than usual, I've left out several of the repeat announcements that have been in SPARKS for weeks - you can refer back to last week's email for that info.

CLUB ROSTER

It is out of my hands and at the printer...FINALLY. If there is one thing that made me question my decision over the past year to serve as your ED, it was this darn roster. It was a monster on my back. How can it be that big of a deal, you may wonder. Well, for a CPA who prefers relationships over minutiae but feels compelled to make sure things in print are *perfect* - and has insufficient time to devote to a project of this magnitude - it is a nightmare. More so because I know that as soon as it rolls off the printer it will be out of date.

My priorities since I dove headfirst into this role have been:

1. excellence in weekly meetings and the many other events I/we organize throughout the year
2. learning all things Rotary (as a new Rotarian myself) - the traditions and history of both Rotary International and our Club and Foundation, and the personalities and preferences of Club leaders - as well as acclimating to the world of nonprofit leadership
3. attracting guests and new members to the Club and creating a positive experience for current members
4. updating and automating processes related to Club and Fund finances to more efficiently utilize resources, minimize costs, monitor cash flow, and provide accurate and timely financial reporting,
5. enhancing and expanding the Club's visibility with media and in our community
6. strengthening communications so that members stay "in the know" about what is going on in our Club

Between the pandemic, the office losing two full-time employees in the same month, big new initiatives, and other challenges, simply keeping the "train on the tracks" (hi Charlie!) consumed all of my time. Knowing that the information was available in DaCdb to all members, the print roster took a back seat to bigger priorities. For those who rely heavily on it, I am sorry that you have not had this resource. Thank you for being patient.

Why did it take so long (for those who've questioned this)? I spent many hours obtaining more current, higher quality member headshots when possible and editing all to be of similar format with a transparent background. There were many inaccuracies and discrepancies in our DaCdb database - it clearly had not been kept up to date. I spent hours tracking down information about addresses, phone numbers and job changes. Very few people responded to my requests to submit updated information (thank you to those that did!), even though I knew what was on file was outdated. The classification system is no longer restricted to one member per classification as it was in years past. I see the primary use of that index in the back being a place to easily find members in a particular industry or organization to do business with, so I worked to simplify it and make it easier to find people, in addition to removing the listings for those who are retired. I "audited" all of the PHF and other recognition levels to match what was on file with Rotary International or in our documented records. I worked really hard to make this a great and accurate resource for you.

You can download the version that is at the printer (and will be in your hands very soon!) [HERE](#). When you find something that is incorrect, please email admin@rotary45.org. Tracy will keep a running list of updates available to members so that you can manually note changes in your print rosters.

NEW MEMBERS

The Board approved several new members at our meeting on January 31st. They will be formally introduced to the Club over the next few meetings, but meanwhile - look them up in the directory and make them feel welcome:

Rebecca Grignon-Reker, Heather Gibson, Timothy Nicolazzi, Aaron Miller, Nick Garner, Steven Matly, Kenya Wade, Keith Miller, Todd Bale, Ricky George, Morgan Hancock, Jonathan Richtarsic and Jennifer Helgeson.

MEETING LOCATION

I'm pleased to report that the Board also voted to move our weekly meetings for the second quarter of 2023 to The Woman's Club at 1320 S. Fourth Street, beginning April 6th. This [historic venue](#), constructed in 1923 specifically for The Woman's Club (founded in 1890), is a hidden gem; when the Board toured recently, many had not known it existed. Stay tuned for more information about this.

OFFICE SPACE

The Board also voted not to renew our office lease at Waterfront Plaza when it expires at the end of this month. Tracy and I have been working almost entirely from our homes, with the exception of going to the office once a week to pick up mail and print things for meetings. It simply does not make sense and is not good stewardship of our funds to continue to pay for office space downtown. Our Board

meetings will rotate to various member locations, and Walt, Tracy and I are happy to meet up with anyone at a coffee shop any time. We will have a physical address to receive mail and packages (stay tuned). We are hoping to make the furniture and office supplies available via auction to raise funds as part of our big upcoming FUNdraiser. Our Archives Committee, led by Stet Stetten and Tony Newberry, have been hard at work in partnership with the Filson Historical Society to determine the best options for preserving our Club's 110+ year history and to make it accessible to all members.

ROTARY LOGO ITEMS

Several of you have asked about ordering items with the Rotary logo. I'm excited to report that a company I have worked with for many years has created an [online catalog](#) for us to order from. Feel free to look around and add things to your cart. All pricing includes the cost of embroidery but not sales tax. I will provide detailed instructions about how to order in a separate email.

ROTARY FLAGS

If you have travel plans that would allow for a visit to a Rotary Club in the area(s) you will be staying, please request one of our Club banners/flags to take and exchange. I did so during my visit to my daughter in Spokane, Washington and now have good friends as a result. Make sure you get a photo and bring your flag to a meeting to present to our Club.

ROTARY CONTRIBUTIONS

There is a program called *Every Rotarian, Every Year* - that many of the newer members have probably never heard of. Essentially, we ask each member to contribute (if possible):

- 1) \$100 each year to our local 501(c)3 Rotary Fund of Louisville, which funds our service projects and provides many grants in our community and beyond, and
- 2) \$100 each year to the international Rotary Foundation, which funds many of the programs Rotary supports including district matching grants, global grants, the eradication of polio and disaster relief.

We used to just add that on to the dues invoice and it was paid automatically by most members. Coming in with my CPA hat on, I changed things up, wanting to make sure that contributions were being made properly to the 501(c)3 foundation for purposes of claiming tax deductions. I also wanted to take advantage of lower credit card processing fees available to 501(c)3 entities. I urged everyone to set up those contributions directly, and some did, but the majority did not, to the detriment of both the Fund and the Rotary Foundation. I take that burden upon myself - it is my strong desire to rectify this in 2023.

So! Over the next few weeks, I am going to generate invoices from the Rotary Fund of Louisville for the \$100 Louisville Fund contribution and the \$100 Rotary Foundation contribution. *It is optional*; you are not required to pay these invoices. Just send me a note and I can easily void yours. You also do not have to pay the entire amount - you can pay \$25 per year if that's what fits your budget right now, or \$25 per quarter if you wish. I hope everyone will contribute SOMETHING. If you want to contribute more than the invoiced amount, you can certainly do so! You can pay by check or online with your credit card. If you normally make contributions from a donor-advised fund or IRA, just ignore the invoice if I forget and send one to you.

*IF you want to take advantage of the District Matching Gifts Campaign (see post below) that runs from February 13 through March 26, where your donation of \$125 up to \$2,000 to The Rotary Foundation is matched with donated points to earn first-time or higher level Paul Harris Fellow recognition twice as fast - you can just give or mail me a check make payable to The Rotary Foundation and I will submit on your behalf. You must write "Annual Fund-SHARE" on the memo line, or leave it blank and I can write it in.

Finally, another project that I have been behind on for months is getting donor acknowledgment letters out. I am tackling that this weekend, but if you need yours before Monday, just email me.

If you've read this far - bless you! Before you close this email, scroll all the way down and check out the amazing lineup of speakers our Speakers Committee has booked through May 18th and plan your

guest invites!

In service,
Delene

Next Week's Meeting: Dr. Kish Cumi Price at Savor



Next week's meeting at Savor at River House will feature **Dr. Kish Cumi Price**, President and CEO of the Louisville Urban League.

The menu will be Peach BBQ Meatloaf and a vegan veggie plate is available upon advance request. We will have a limited number of salad w/grilled chicken plates but must guarantee that number by Monday at noon - there will be no additional salads available to reserve after that time.

Dessert and tea/coffee will be provided to all attendees; if you are not purchasing a meal, please make a \$5 donation to cover the \$5 per person that Savor charges us for this.

RSVP HERE: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/RCL021623>

February 18: Rotary Suburban Valentine's Dinner and Raffle



The Rotary Suburban Club is hosting a Valentine's Dinner and Raffle for their annual fundraiser on Saturday, February 18th, from 5:30-8:30 pm. The dinner/mixer is open to all Rotarians, family, friends and prospective Rotarians - an opportunity to meet other Rotarians in the area. Contact Mike King at 502.548.6821 or mrfking001@gmail.com to RSVP or with questions. Tickets for the event are \$40 each, paid at the door with cash or check.

Feb 21 Business Synergy Mixer with Canopy and YPAL

Please don't wait until the last minute to sign up for this; the RSVPs are rolling in for Canopy and YPAL, but we only have four so far. Let's make sure we have a great showing for this important event that will shine the spotlight on Rotary with the social entrepreneurs and young leaders in attendance!

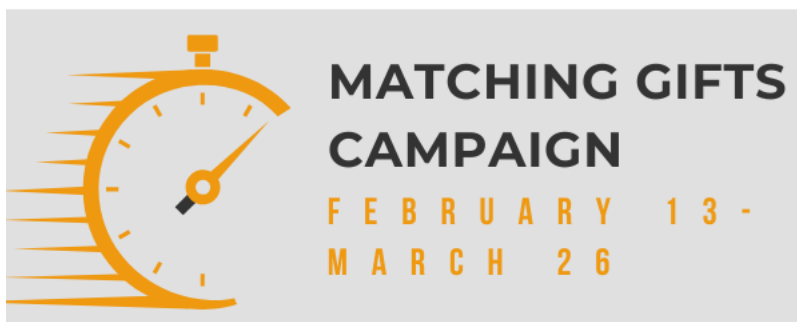


Many of you are aware of the important role that Canopy and the new [Canopy Certification](#) launched last June play in putting Kentucky on the map in the good business movement. At this FREE evening Business Synergy networking event, you will have a chance to learn about the progress being made and hear from some of the first businesses to obtain certification, as well as to meet Canopy social entrepreneurs and supporters. An added bonus is that our friends at YPAL (Young Professionals Association of Louisville) will be joining us! Rotarian Louis Straub will be hosting us at Independence Bank and providing bites and beverages!

This is an excellent opportunity to meet leaders and rising stars (and prospective Rotarians!) who care about good business in our community. Please plan to join us from 5:30-7:30pm on Tuesday, February 21st. RSVP [HERE](#).

District Matching Gifts Campaign

By Mike Kull



Rotary District 6710 is making a special offer through the generosity of several District Rotarians who have donated their Rotary Recognition Points. From February 13 through March 26, personal donations of \$125 (minimum) to \$2,000 to the Annual Fund-SHARE of The Rotary Foundation will be matched with these donated points up to a total of \$60,000, which means you can earn Paul Harris Fellow recognition twice as fast!

Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) recognition is given in appreciation to anyone who contributes, outright or cumulatively (or in whose name is contributed), a gift of \$1,000 or more to

the Annual Fund of The Rotary Foundation (TRF) of Rotary International. Recognition consists of a certificate and pin. Multiple Paul Harris Fellow recognition is extended at subsequent \$1,000 levels. Recognition consists of a pin with additional stones (sapphires or rubies) corresponding to the recipient's recognition amount level. Contributions to the Annual Fund-SHARE program are also counted toward our Club earning Star Club status.

Make your personal check payable to "**Rotary Foundation**" and note "**SHARE Fund**" on the memo

line. You can give your check to Delene, or mail to the address below (must be received by the District by March 26, 2023).

Sheila Stoke
Rotary District 6710 Matching Program
7906 Westover Drive
Prospect, KY 40059

Contact District Rotary Foundation Committee Co-Chair Mike Kull at 502-802-4485 or mjk502@aol.com to find out how far you are from the \$1,000 minimum required to achieve Paul Harris Fellow status.

Volunteers Needed: Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA)

RYLA dates have been set: May 4-7, in Greenville, Kentucky and District Co-Chair Gail Story needs your help! Twenty Team Leaders are required to put on this camp, along with Jr. Team Leaders. Watch [this video](#) from last year's camp to see what it's all about or click Read More below. This program not only changes the lives of our youth, it will also change your life. It is an amazing event that you will forever cherish. Contact Gail at gail.rotary6710@gmail.com to learn more or to volunteer.

[Read More](#)

Rotary Leadership Institute

By Rick Harned



The poster features the Rotary Leadership Institute logo on the left, which includes a gear and the text 'INSTITUTE THE ROTARY LEADERSHIP'. The main text is on a yellow background with blue and white text. It reads: 'Rotary District 6710 LEADER ONBOARDING NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SATURDAY, 2/25 8:30 AM - 3:30 PM CT'. Below this, it says 'RLI Sessions I, II, & III in person @ Henderson County Public Library 101 S. Main Street, Henderson, KY 42420 Registration includes meals.' There is a '50% DISCOUNT' section on the bottom left and a 'REGISTER TODAY!' section on the bottom right with a URL and contact information.

Take your leadership skills to the next level by attending the [Rotary Leadership Institute \(RLI\)](#). District 6710 is continuing to rotate locations around the district with the next event scheduled in **Henderson, KY on Saturday, February 25th from 8:30am-3:30pm.**

RLI is a series of fast-paced, interactive courses offered to refine a Rotarian's leadership skills and increase their base of knowledge in Rotary. There are three different sessions which must be taken in order. All three sessions will be offered concurrently on Saturday, February 25th. The in person fee, which includes RLI materials, a Continental breakfast and a hot lunch, is \$50 plus a small convenience fee if paying by credit card. Our District Governor has agreed to **reimburse 50% of the registration fee after session**

completion. To register, please email rotary@rotary45.org.

Events & Opportunities - JA Kentuckiana Business Hall of Fame

By Jennifer Helgeson

What: 2023 Kentuckiana Business Hall of Fame

Organization: Junior Achievement of Kentuckiana

Date/Time: March 2, 2023, 6:00pm

Location: Louisville Marriott Downtown

Description: Join us as we honor outstanding business individuals whose leadership, vision and innovation have accomplished much for Greater Louisville's economic development and social welfare. The Kentuckiana Business Hall of Fame is a business dinner culminating in the Induction Ceremony during which the Laureates are inducted into the Kentuckiana Business Hall of Fame. 2023 Laureates include **Rotarian Michael Mountjoy and Frank Harshaw, spouse of Rotarian Paula Harshaw.**

More information and to reserve a table: <https://halloffame.jaky.org/>

Member to contact: Jennifer Helgeson, jhelgeson@jaky.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

February 9th

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Akoy Agau](#)

Speaker: Akoy Agau

Subject: Derby City Distillers Basketball Team

February 15th

[ROTARY Honors Scholars Mentoring Iroquois High School](#)

February 16th

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Dr. Kish Cumi Price at Savor](#)

Speaker: Dr. Kish Cumi Price, Louisville Urban League

February 23rd

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Aukram Burton](#)

Speaker: Aukram Burton

Subject: KY Center for African American Heritage

March 2nd

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Dr. Debra Mumford](#)

Speaker: Dr. Debra Mumford, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary

March 8th

[Western HS Interact Club Red Cross Blood Drive](#)

March 9th

[Rotary University Session 3: Rotary International](#)

Speaker: Rotary U Led by Rick Harned & Susan Zepeda

Subject: Rotary International

March 16th

[RCoL Unsung Heroes Celebration Luncheon](#)

Speaker: Unsung Heroes Celebration Luncheon

February 9th

[Rotary University Session 2: Committees](#)

Speaker: Rotary U Led by Greg Braun

Subject: Committees

February 16th

[International Service Committee Meeting](#)

February 21st

[Business Synergy event w/Canopy & YPAL at Independence Bank](#)

Speaker: Business Synergy Networking w/Canopy & YPAL

February 28th

[Rotary Honors Scholars Mentoring Western High School](#)

March 7th

[Rotary Leadership Fellows Meeting - March](#)

March 9th

[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Ambassador Bill Taylor](#)

Speaker: Ambassador Bill Taylor, former US Ambassador to Ukraine

March 15th

[ROTARY Honors Scholars Mentoring Iroquois High School](#)

March 17th

[ROTARY MENTORING Western Early College](#)

March 23rd
[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Greg Galiette](#)

Speaker: Greg Galiette
Subject: Louisville Bats President

March 28th
[Rotary Honors Scholars Mentoring Western High School](#)

April 4th
[Rotary Leadership Fellows Meeting - April](#)

April 12th
[Business Synergy Event at Kentucky Science Center](#)

Speaker: Business Synergy Networking

April 13th
[Rotary University Session 4: Service Projects & Grants](#)

Speaker: Rotary U Led by Steve Eggers and Alice Bridges

Subject: Service Projects & Grants

April 20th
[International Service Committee Meeting](#)

April 27th
[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Ursula Madden](#)

Speaker: Ursula Madden, External Affairs Manager for Blue Oval SK and Blue Oval City

May 4th
[NO MEETING due to Day at the Downs](#)

May 11th
[Rotary University Session 5: Rotary Honors Scholars](#)

Speaker: Rotary U Led by Craig Mooney & Thom Crimans

Subject: Rotary Honors Scholars

March 27th
[SAVE THE DATE - FUNraiser Celebration of Past, Present, Future](#)

Speaker: Time & Program TBD

March 30th
[NO MEETING due to FUNdraiser](#)

April 6th
[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Brooke Pardue](#)

Speaker: Brooke Pardue, Parks Alliance of Louisville

April 13th
[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Demetrius Gray](#)

Speaker: Demetrius Gray, Founder & CEO, Captain

April 14th
[ROTARY MENTORING Western Early College](#)

April 20th
[RCoL Weekly Club Meeting Speaker: Dan Maloney](#)

Speaker: Dan Maloney, Louisville Zoo

May 3rd
[Day at the Downs](#)
Speaker: Day at the Downs

May 11th
[RCoL Rotary Honors Scholars Luncheon](#)
Speaker: Scotty Davenport

May 17th
[Honor Flight Bluegrass](#)
Speaker: Honor Flight Volunteer Opportunity

Birthdays



Jon Salomon
February 8th



Richard D. King
February 10th



Kenya Wade
February 13th



John R. Gregory
February 13th



David B. Reed
February 16th



William M. Rue Jr.
February 17th



Robert T. Maddox
February 18th



C. Douglas Kottke
February 18th



Ginger L. Wallace
February 19th



Michael T. Fallot
February 20th



Mitch McConnell
February 20th



Kasey Maier
February 23rd



Kevin Fields
February 24th



Leo Smith
February 25th



Samuel Ward
February 25th



Ruby Becker
February 27th

Club Leaders



Walt Kunau
President



Kevin Lynch
President-Elect



Barbara Sexton
Smith
Vice President



Kim Halbauer
Treasurer



Jean West
iPast President



Lori Hudson
Flanery
Secretary



Neville
Blakemore
Club Director



Ashley Brauer
Club Director



Cynthia Miles
Brown
Club Director



Frederic J.
Cowan
Club Director



Thom S.
Crimans
Club Director



Kevin Fields
Club Director



Paula Grisanti
Club Director



Charles D.
Hartlage
Club Director



Jay Mallory
Club Director
Membership
Chair



William K. Burke
Rotary
Foundation
Chair



Steven A.
Eggers
Service Projects
Chair



Kevin J.
McCarron
Public Image
Chair
Webmaster



Delene E. Taylor
Club Executive
Secretary
Webmaster



Michael Parker
Assistant District
Governor

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