

# Rotary



# Club of Crossville Noon



Tuesday, March 26, 2024

Crossville  
Meets at The Crossville Depot

Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

## Speakers

**March 28, 2024**

Mike Terry  
Crossville YMCA

**April 04, 2024**

Becca West  
Emerald Moments Travel

**April 11, 2024**

Sarah Hazelton  
Competency-based Education Programs

**April 18, 2024**

Allen Foster  
Cumberland County Mayor

**April 25, 2024**

Valerie Hale  
Crossville City Manager

## Events

No Events found

## Birthdays

Holly A. Hanson  
April 21st

## Wedding Anniversaries

Oscar A. Perron  
April 7th  
Charlotte A Goodwin  
April 8th  
Brock Hill  
April 22nd

## Club Officers



Sheryl Webb  
President



Brooke T Shaffer  
President-Elect



Sarah L. Hazelton  
President-Nominee



Brandon Brown  
Secretary



Virginia Dyer  
Treasurer



Peter C Bilodeau  
Bulletin Editor

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO TAKE OVER BLUE JEANS PROJECT

The club is looking for members to volunteer to take over the blue jean project.

Pepe Perron and Chris Peterson explained that the project started in 1991, and has expanded to the point that the club gives out more than 600 pairs of jeans to needy kids in the Cumberland County elementary schools each year at Christmastime.

In early July, the club sends a letter to the director of schools for his or her approval of the project. On the third or fourth week of August, cards are delivered to teachers at each school for them to write names and sizes of the children who will get the jeans. The cards are returned by the first week of October, and the jeans are ordered by the end of October. The jeans are picked up before Thanksgiving.

After the second Thursday in December, club members wrap two pairs of jeans, a book and a stuffed toy for each child on the list. (The club originally started giving one pair to each child). The jeans are taken to the school a few days before Christmas break. Teachers then distribute the jeans discreetly to the needy children. There is no public presentation or photographs of children getting jeans, to prevent potential embarrassment for the children.

Veteran club member Ed Eischied came up with the idea of adding a book and a stuffed toy with the jeans, and initially donated them, Pepe said.

Tags are left on the jeans so they can be exchanged in case a child grows between September and December.

For many years, the VF Outlet supplied the jeans. But, since the VF Outlet closed, Wal-Mart now provides the jeans, and is an enthusiastic partner in the project. Since Wal-Mart usually provides annual grants to the club, much of the cost of purchasing the jeans is covered.

Chris pointed out that it would be ideal for a team of two Rotarians to take on the project. If you'd like to take over for Chris, contact him.

## COMMON GROUNDS OPENS IN CROSSVILLE

Common Grounds isn't your average coffee shop.

It employs almost entirely people with special needs.

Brice and Sara Bakker told the club last week that their shop, at 152 W. First St., has been open three weeks, and will have its official grand opening April 5.

The shop, with 26 employees now, employs those who have difficulty getting employed anywhere else because of their special needs.

Most work one, three-hour shift a week. The employees often come to work early. They enjoy the feeling of being productive, Sara said.

The shop has had a steady business thus far, and relies at the moment on grants and donations to help keep the business going. They hope that soon, the business will be self-sustaining.

Sara also said there is a whole menu of items other than coffee, and some Rotarians who have sampled the menu have enjoyed it. The shop hopes to expand to serve breakfast and lunch as soon as it becomes feasible.

The shop is open from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday, Friday from 7 a.m. to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.



[Ron Cronwell](#)  
Public Image Chair  
Webmaster



[Philip Nevius](#)  
Bulletin Editor



[Steven C. Douglas](#)  
Club Rotary  
Foundation Chair



[Marjorie A. Hicks](#)  
Club Membership  
Chair



[Scot H. Shanks](#)  
Club Programs Chair  
Club Youth Exchange  
Officer



[Jay W. Wright](#)  
iPast President  
Club Service Chair



[McKinley H. Tabor](#)  
Club Youth Exchange  
Officer



[Sallie Wilbanks](#)  
Club Executive  
Secretary

## POLIO SURVIVOR SPENDS 72 YEARS IN IRON LUNG

During his history segment last week, Larry Doster passed around an article about Paul Alexander, who survived polio by spending 72 of his 78 years of life in an iron lung. During those years, he had gotten his law degree and written a book, among other accomplishments.

Here is his biographical information:

### Paul Alexander



Alexander in his iron lung in 1986  
Paul Richard Alexander

**Born** January 30, 1946  
[Dallas, Texas](#), U.S.  
**Died** March 11, 2024 (aged 78)  
Dallas, Texas, U.S.  
**Education** [Southern Methodist University](#)  
[University of Texas at Austin](#)

**Occupation** Lawyer

**Paul Richard Alexander** (January 30, 1946 – March 11, 2024) was an American [paralytic polio](#) survivor, lawyer and writer. The last man to live in an [iron lung](#), he contracted polio in 1952 at age 6. Alexander earned a bachelor's degree and [Juris Doctor](#) at the [University of Texas at Austin](#), and was [admitted to the bar](#) in 1986. He self-published a memoir in 2020.

### Biography

Alexander was born on January 30, 1946, in Dallas<sup>[1]</sup> to Gus Nicholas Alexander, the child of Greek immigrants, and Doris Marie Emmett, of Lebanese descent.<sup>[2][3]</sup> He contracted polio age six and was [paralyzed](#) for life, only able to move his head, neck, and mouth.<sup>[4][5][6]</sup> During a major U.S. outbreak of polio in the early 1950s, hundreds of children around [Dallas, Texas](#), including Alexander, were taken to [Parkland Hospital](#). There, children were treated in a ward of iron lungs. He almost died in the hospital before a doctor noticed he was not breathing and rushed him into an [iron lung](#).<sup>[7]</sup>

He spent eighteen months in the hospital. At discharge, his parents rented a portable generator and a truck to bring him and his iron lung home. Beginning in 1954, with help from the [March of Dimes](#) and a [physical therapist](#) named Mrs. Sullivan, Alexander taught himself [glossopharyngeal breathing](#), which allowed him to leave the iron lung for gradually increasing periods of time.<sup>[8]</sup> Alexander was one of the [Dallas Independent School District](#)'s first home-schooled students. He learned to memorize instead of taking notes. At age 21, he graduated second in his class from [W. W. Samuell High School](#) in 1967, becoming the first person to graduate from a Dallas high school without physically attending a class.<sup>[2][8]</sup>

Alexander received a scholarship<sup>[4]</sup> to [Southern Methodist University](#). He transferred to the [University of Texas at Austin](#), where he earned a [bachelor's degree](#) in 1978, then a [Juris Doctor](#) in 1984.<sup>[9]</sup> Before he was admitted to the bar in 1986, he was employed as an instructor of legal terminology to court [stenographers](#) at an Austin trade school. He represented clients in court in a [three-piece suit](#) and a modified wheelchair that held his body upright.<sup>[10][11]</sup>

Alexander has been recognized by [Guinness World Records](#) as the person who has spent the longest amount of time living in an iron lung.<sup>[12]</sup>

Alexander started a [TikTok](#) account in January 2024, on which he posted videos discussing his life. He had more than 330,000 followers at the time of his death.<sup>[2]</sup>

Alexander died in Dallas on March 11, 2024, at the age of 78.<sup>[11][13]</sup> Although he had been hospitalized for [COVID-19](#) in February, the actual cause of death was unclear.<sup>[14][13][15]</sup> He was one of the last two people still using the technology, alongside Martha Lillard, who first entered an iron lung in 1953.<sup>[16]</sup>

### Book

Alexander self-published his memoir, *Three Minutes for a Dog: My Life in an Iron Lung*, in April 2020 with the assistance of friend and former nurse Norman D. Brown.<sup>[17][18]</sup> Alexander spent more than eight years writing the book, using a plastic stick and a pen to tap out on a keyboard or by dictating the words to his friend.<sup>[8]</sup>

## DEADLINE IS APRIL 1 TO APPLY FOR SCHOLARSHIP

Club scholarship Chair Larry Doster reminded everyone that April 1 is the deadline to apply for a Rotary scholarship.

He said the applications are rolling in steadily.

This year's high school graduates from Cumberland County, as well as non-traditional students (adults who want to further their education) are eligible. The application form is different for high school seniors and non-traditional students, Larry said.

## CLUB LEARNING ASSEMBLY APRIL 20 AT SMHS

Just a reminder to have your team register for the Club Learning Assembly on Saturday, April 20, in Crossville, at Stone Memorial High School.

The Club Learning Assembly (formally DTA) is a chance for club leaders to prepare before the new Rotary year begins.

As District Governor-elect, Rob Dansereau, I'm inviting you and your leadership team to join me as we train to make the next Rotary Year a great success. Additionally, Cindy Gammons, District Learning Chair, will be there as well to coordinate all the training as will the other trainers.

The incoming President of each club can work to build their team. We will have general sessions and breakout sessions as well.

Here is a list of the breakout sessions. (Please include your role in the club when you register.)  
President, Vice President, or President-Elect, Secretary, and Executive Secretary, Treasurer, Foundation Chair, and/or committee members, Membership Chair, and/or committee members, Public Image Chair and/or committee members Club Admin Chair and/or committee members Service Projects Chair and/or committee members Youth Services Chair and/or committee members, Rotaract President, officers and committee members

Whether you are a season veteran or this is your first year in this role, we have something for you. There will be sessions for all of your team members. Register your team today! Times:

Club Training Assembly will be 8:00 – 12:00 CT. Registration will begin at 7:30, and we will begin at 8:00 CT.

Please register so we know how many handouts and rooms we need to conduct the training.

Here is the registration [Register NOW](#) for **Club Learning Assembly**