
THE FLAGSHIP



Dec. 10, 2023

Tom King, Editor

Coming Up!!!

Dec. 13: Club Assembly

Dec. 20:
NO MEETING!!
MERRY
CHRISTMAS!!!

Dec. 27:
NO MEETING!!!!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!!

Jan. 3, 2024
NO MEETING!!!
RECOVERING FROM
THE HOLIDAYS!!!

(All meetings begin at
12:15 unless noted
otherwise)



(click on image)

Merry Christmas!!! Happy New Year!!!

Our parting words for 2023 on Wednesday will be “**Merry Christmas**” and “**Happy New Year**” as the first half of our Rotary year ends and we move into 2024. When we adjourn, we’ll next gather on January 10th.

But we are not completely idle during these 27 days off.

We will have teams of Rotarians working on Dec. 16 and Dec. 23 at the main entrance to Kroger, ringing bells for the Salvation Army, from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Bell Boss Mike Singletary has everyone ready to go and managing the Red Kettle. A word of advice: watch the weather reports and dress accordingly.

We're hoping a few members will help lay wreaths for the veteran's graves in the Pleasant Forest Cemetery on Saturday, Dec. 16. See the story below for details.

Also, we'll be sending along information and an online sign-up link for our annual **After Christmas Party** on Friday Jan. 12, 2024 at the lovely home of Allison and Noah Meyers. It will begin at 5:30 and we will have a great catered dinner too!

To our members and families, we wish for you a safe and wonderful holiday and **MERRY CHRISTMAS!** and **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

News About Our Newsletter — 'The Flagship'

This will be our final newsletter of 2023. The next ***Flagship*** will be published on Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024. Our next club meeting will be on Wednesday Jan. 10 at the Farragut Community Center. If you have any Family of Rotary needs to share or other news we need to pass along to the members, during the holidays, please email it Tom King at this [LINK](#)

Also, a big thanks to **Secretary Sonya Ford** for helping the Flagship editor out this past week, covering both the Board of Directors and the regular meeting in words and photos! Much appreciated Sonya!!!!



(click on image)

Webb Madrigals Are ‘Amazing’; Special Presentation Honors Julie

When you combine great young voices with energy and enthusiasm you get what we heard this past Wednesday — an “AMAZING” Christmas performance by the **Webb School Madrigal Singers**.

“The Madrigals were AMAZING as always... and the speech regarding Julie was given by Jack McDowell, such a sweet young man,” said Secretary Sonya Ford, pinch hitting for PP Tom King, who was home nursing his old and sore back.

The Madrigals honored former Webb School student from 2007-2008 Julie Tryukhan, who was our Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) student that year from Ukraine. And young McDowell did a great job in presenting the speech about Julie. She is a refugee from Ukraine with her two children, Mark and Polly, and has been here for two years. Her husband Dima remains in Ukraine as part of the Ukrainian Army.

The songs were beautiful, costumes outstanding and the guys shared their hilarious rendition of “We’re Men, We’re Men in Tights!” Video above!

2024-25 Officers-Board Nominations: PP Megan Unretires for Family of Rotary

Today is the second required publishing of our slate of officers and directors that the **Board of Directors** approved and is recommending to our membership. There has been one change — **Jerry Schwallier** on



second thought does not want to be chair of the Family of Rotary Committee. So PE Teri Jo Fox asked **PP Megan Belcher** if she could handle this position, and she said of course. So, Megan is back!!!

Our Nominating Committee for our leadership team of officers and directors for the 2024-2025 Rotary year has put forth the team listed below. The team will be led by our next president, **Teri Jo, and President Elect Scott Bertini.**

Andrew Vollman has been nominated to be our next Vice President and on the presidential ladder. If approved, Andrew will be our president in 2026-2027.

According to the club's Bylaws, this slate must be published in "The Flagship" for two consecutive weeks prior to a vote of the membership. This is the second of the two publications. At our next meeting Wednesday (Nov. 13) members can make nominations from the floor but you must have that member's approval before you nominate them.

Four-Way Test

Rotary's Four-Way Test of the things we think, say or do:

- 1) Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2) Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3) Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4) Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

Find Us On Facebook

If you have not visited our Facebook page, give it a try!

If you have not visited our page, we invite you to do so and to also **LIKE** the page!

Here is a [LINK](#) to our page.

Here is the complete slate:

OFFICERS

President: Teri Jo Fox

President Elect: Scott Bertini

Vice President: Andrew Vollman

iPast President: Val Privett

Secretary: Greg Tilley

Treasurer: Jared Greene

Sgt. at Arms: Howard Fass/Eddie Jett

DIRECTORS (Committee Chairs/Co-Chairs)

Public Image: PP Tom King/Jennifer Walker

Rotary Foundation: Steve Krempasky

Family of Rotary: PP Megan Belcher

Membership: Larry Sheumaker/Denise Bash

Service Projects: Patrick Finn/Craig Donnachie

Youth Service: Tom Woodbery/Sara Branson

Rotary International: PP Becky Duncan/Judith Bradbury

Vocational Service: Candace Viox/Richard Bettis

DEI: John Hoffman

Fundraising: Vicki Williams/Kristen Otto

Board of Directors Meeting Recap

Our **Board of Directors** met this past Wednesday and there's a collection of actions of interest ... like selling candy and snacks as an ongoing club fundraiser OK'd a meeting at Top Golf for a little funan April service project or two or three...and a new job for PP Megan Belcher!



First is Secretary Sonya Ford's report: 87 members at end of November and we had four November meetings with 73.6% attendance.

Now we have President Val's report and actions:

- Recommendation and a motion was made and passed to approve the club selling "Terri Lynn" items/snacks/gifts to benefit our club. More information to come on how we'll order and pricing information. This is not a seasonal effort. Our club will sell these products year-round.
- Approved having our January 31, 2024 meeting at Top Golf and it will be coupled with a tournament with sponsorship ideas needed.

In other news from our Standing Committee reports:

Jerry Schwallier will not be able to serve as Family of Rotary chair on next year's board. So PE Teri Jo Fox asked PP Megan to step in and Megan, in the true spirit of Rotary, agreed.

A discussion took place regarding Farragut High School youth exchange. Bill Nichols and Tom Woodbery have met with FHS students and several students expressed interest. The club will be coming up with a plan to vet incoming future students.

Membership Chair Larry Sheumaker reported he is specifically reaching out to the new members to invite them to the upcoming club's After Christmas Party. He also stated he has 7 past visitors on his radar.

A question was raised about members' familiarity with our online DACdb. It was suggested that members be allowed to sit in on the upcoming new members' orientations if they need help with login/usage of the system.

Our Service Projects Committee has planned a "Walk for Water" in April that isn't a service project, but we are asking for participation. A brief discussion took place regarding "Make a Wish Foundation" and a potential upcoming request for a playground project. More information to come. Same for "Sleep in Heavenly Peace" — more information to come.

Wednesday's Big List of Visitors & Guests

Nice day Wednesday for guests and nine of them joined us. Three are beautiful ladies who work to keep their Rotary spouses in line and the fourth spouse was Alex Bash, Denise's guest. Good luck Alex!!!

- PE Teri Jo Fox had a guest — **Connie Williams**.
- Mike Singletary's guest was his wife, **Anita**.
- And greeter Noah Myers introduced us to his bride, **Alison**.



- It was great to see **Dr. Jack** and **Jeanne Faber** (at left) together with us on Wednesday. Jeanne of course was Jack's guest and she has had some busy and tiring months of late caring for Jack. But he's back!
- Denise Bash treated her husband, **Alex**, to lunch with her.
- PE Teri Jo Fox had a guest — **Connie Williams**.

- Brian Walker had three guests: Dave Rousayne, Jayme Hair and Macy Pearson.

Wreaths for Veterans To Be Laid At Pleasant Forest Cemetery Dec. 16

PP David Smoak is asking Farragut Rotarians and their families to join with the Town of Farragut on Saturday, December 16th at 12 noon in Pleasant Forest Cemetery in Farragut to honor and remember local veterans by placing wreaths in their honor.

As a volunteer, you will join tens of thousands across the nation in “**Wreaths Across America**” by placing wreaths on the markers of our fallen heroes. As you place each wreath, you will "say their name" to ensure that the legacy of duty, service, and sacrifice of each veteran is never forgotten.



Join us on **Saturday, December 16th** at noon in **Pleasant Forest Cemetery** in **Farragut** as we come together to honor and remember local veterans by placing wreaths in their honor.

As a volunteer, you will join tens of thousands across the nation in placing wreaths on the markers of our fallen heroes. As you place each wreath, you will "say their name" to ensure that the legacy of duty, service, and sacrifice of each veteran is never forgotten. We invite families and volunteers of all ages to come and share in this patriotic experience!

This will be an **all-weather event**, please dress according to the weather.

Parking will be limited. Please carpool!



“We invite families and volunteers of all ages to come and share in this patriotic experience! This will be an all-weather event, so please dress according to the weather,” Smoak says. “And parking will be limited. Please carpool!”

If you are not familiar with the cemetery, it is on Concord Road near the intersection with S. Campbell Station Road.

This Week's Family of Rotary Report

Not sure what all **Bill Nichols** said about wife **Linda** on Wednesday. But here is the real story. While walking into Little Joe's Tuesday night she didn't see the concrete parking bar and tripped. They spent three hours at the Park West ER. Three stitches and a heckuva shiner. Luckily, she did not have a concussion or any other injuries. Lucky Linda, sorta.



Julie Blaylock shared that she got a phone call from her mother, **Agnes Predny**, that the doctors found a spot on her lung but tests confirmed it is not cancer!! Great news!!!

We're praying for quick recoveries before the holidays for **PP Peggy Wilson** and husband **Joe**. Here's the news: "Joe tested positive for Covid on Wednesday, and then I tested positive on Thursday. We are just hanging out in our chairs doing nothing. Both of us are on antiviral meds, and I have antibiotics, too," Peggy says. Lordy! What's next for them???

News & Notes: Salvation Army Ringers On Saturday; Plus Walker & Marsh News



Our **Salvation Army Boss Mike Singletary** says his bell-ringing slots at the Red Kettle are all full for our Rotary Ding-a-Lings on the two Saturdays before Christmas — Dec. 16 and December 23. We will be ringing from 10 a.m. in two-person teams for two hours each until 8 p.m.

Jennifer Walker enjoyed sharing that her daughter, Adilynn, who is a sophomore at Virginia Tech in Blacksburg, VA, was honored as the Cadet of the Semester in the university military program — the Corps of Cadets. The Corps has 1,100-plus members and 70% graduate and become officers in one of our military branches.

Proud granddaddy **Tom Marsh** announced that his little granddaughter, Zoe, was invited to be the mini-meteorologist with Rebecca Sweet on WBIR Channel 10 the day before the Vanderbilt game. She appeared on the early morning weather as a mini meteorologist. “I asked Rebecca if she would come and speak at Rotary and she said yes,” Tom said. Zoe and Rebecca are pictured here.



CRISPR -- The New Frontier in Medicine

Yesterday, the FDA approved the first use of **CRISPR** technology to treat and actually cure sickle cell disease, a condition of red blood cells that is determined by the victim’s genetic DNA. We have never had a medication that can actually change DNA and cure disease. This is truly a breakthrough, says **Dr. Charlie Barnett** in his “Medical Moment” today.



Here is what CRISPR is -- Clustered Regularly Interspaced Short Palindromic Repeats.

Simply explained, the technology uses a special protein called Cas9, which acts as a pair of “molecular scissors” to snip out the bad gene. These “scissors” are attached to a strand of RNA (Ribonucleic Acid) which can identify the DNA bad gene. Cas9 then does it work. Healthy DNA is then introduced, which

becomes incorporated into the chromosome replacing the bad gene. The result is a healthy hemoglobin molecule and fresh stable red blood cells.

Of course, this is but a single condition but the technology has many disease candidates such as cancer of the pancreas and colon, glioblastomas (a highly lethal brain tumor), and familial hypercholesterolemia (atherosclerosis causing heart attacks and death in 20 year olds) to mention only a few.

Unfortunately, CRISPR technology, like Artificial Intelligence, can be used for evil purposes. Decisive and innovative leadership in both government and the medical community is mandatory. Therein lies my biggest worry.

A Thought for the Season

"May you never be too grown up to search the skies on Christmas Eve." —
Anonymous