

# THE FLAGSHIP



Dec. 3, 2023

Tom King, Editor

## Coming Up!!!

### SCHEDULE CHANGE

Dec. 6: Board of Directors, 10:30 a.m.

Dec. 6: Webb School Madrigal Singers, 12 NOON

Dec. 13: Club Assembly

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

Dec. 27:  
NO MEETING!!!!

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

## 2024-25 Officers, Board Nominated; Vollman's On Presidential Ladder

Today we present the results of the work done by our Nominating Committee for our leadership team of officers and directors for the 2024-2025 Rotary year. The team will be led by our next president, **Teri Jo Fox**, and President Elect **Scott Bertini**.

Climbing on to the presidential ladder will be **Andrew Vollman** (right) as our next Vice President. If approved, Andrew will be our president in 2026-2027.



The Board of Directors this week unanimously approved this slate on the recommendation of

the Nominating Committee of PE Teri Jo Fox, Past President Megan Belcher, PP Leah Berry, PP Tom King, Bill Rice, and VP Scott Bertini.

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 first of the two publications. At our next two meetings (Nov. 6 and Nov. 13) members can make nominations from the floor but you must have that member's approval before you nominate them.

## **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: Jerry Schwallier

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

This new board has 25 members and 11 are new to the board. We also have five of our newest members who have agreed to serve on the board — **Sara Branson, Jennifer Walker, Patrick Finn, Eddie Jett and Craig Donnachie**. New blood equals new ideas. Six who will serve for the first time include Greg Tilley, Jared Greene, Vicki Williams, Candace Viox, Judith Bradbury and John Hoffman.

This new Board of Directors will begin its term on July 1, 2024.

## **Webb's Madrigal Singers Begin Our Holidays at Wednesday's Meeting**

Our 2023 holiday season begins Wednesday when the talented and fun **Webb School of Knoxville's Madrigal Singers** share their annual traditional choral songs and young voices with us.

Two reminders for you:

- The Madrigals begin their performance at 12 noon.
- Everyone needs to be in their seats with their meals before 12 noon out of respect for the Madrigals. If you have a guest, be sure to let them know!

We thank PP Jonathan Johnson again for helping facilitate this program.

The Webb singers will be wearing elaborate costumes of the Renaissance era. The students traditionally sing for Madrigal Dinners during the holiday season. As a service to the community, the Madrigal performers sing at a number of different venues annually during the holidays. Each year they have from 15 to 20 performances during the holidays.

The Madrigals is a highly select and auditioned group of 32 performers, consisting of 10th through 12th grade students. Students in the music program have sung with the Knoxville Opera Company and with the Knoxville Symphony Orchestra.

# UT's Dr. Lynne Parker Gives Us A Great Intro To Artificial Intelligence

The next great wave of technology began many years ago – Artificial Intelligence (AI). It was being talked about and developed after 1952 when a computer scientist named Arthur Samuel developed a program to play checkers, which is the first to ever learn the game independently.

This past Wednesday **Dr. Lynne E. Parker**, a Knoxville native whose husband is RCF PP Bob Parker, was our speaker. Her topic was “Artificial Intelligence Explained.” This was an introductory 45-minute lecture with a great Q&A session about this rapidly emerging technology.



Lynne is one of the major U.S. experts on AI. If you don't know her, here's what jumps out:

- From 2018 to 2022 she worked in the White House as the Deputy United States Chief Technology Officer and was the Director of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Office. In those roles, she oversaw the development and implementation of our country's national AI

## *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.



strategy.

- She returned to the University of Tennessee last year and is now Associate Vice Chancellor and director of the new AI Tennessee Initiative at UT and for the state.

AI is real. It's here. It's going to continue growing across all sectors of our business and society she said – healthcare and medicine, energy, education, forestry, agricultural farming, information technology, manufacturing and materials, and transportation and logistics. AI jobs in those eight sectors will be in demand, she added.

Here are some of her main points:

- “We already have AI in our lives. Cars. TVs. Social media search engines, cell phones. Siri is AI. Language information and handwriting analysis, creating images of people who don't exist, robotic processes.”
- “By 2030 AI's market size in just the U.S. is predicted to be \$1.8 trillion (with a T). Today we can't envision all of the applications for AI, but it will be huge.”
- American students rank among the lowest worldwide in the use of AI tools. “Our country and young people had better get up to speed on AI or our country will drop behind more than we are now.”
- “AI will disrupt nearly every industry and state in the U.S. As for job losses, some of that will be happen. AI may augment jobs or replace people. Over 500,000 jobs in Tennessee are expected to be augmented or replaced by AI. Keep in mind that 60% of today's workers are in occupations that didn't exist in 1940.”

Parker added these points: “AI is pervasive, and it's here to stay. It will continue to be an economic and workforce disruptor,” she said. “Broader challenges of AI are surfacing, with significant policy development needed.”

She left us with a real-world request of AI that she made.  
She asked: “Prompt: “Write a short, poem about Rotary” and it did:

*In the realm of service, where hearts intertwine,  
Rotary's emblem, a beacon so fine.  
With gears ever turning, and cogs in their place,  
They tackle the world with a smile on their face.*

*From planting of trees to eradicating polio,  
Their efforts relentless, a force that will grow.  
They build schools and shelters, empower the youth,  
With passion and purpose, they spread the truth.*

*Oh, Rotary members, with laughter and cheer,  
You bring joy to the world, dispelling all fear.  
Your hands reach out widely, embracing all kind,  
a symbol of hope, in humanity you'll find.*

*So let's raise a glass to Rotary's grand cause,  
Where service above self is the guiding cause.  
With humor and spirit, they'll never give in,  
Rotary's the club where the fun will never end.*

## Calling All Vol Drivers for Dr. Bill

We have only one Rotarian who has volunteered to be our “Uber” for **Dr. Bill Adkins** in the next few weeks. PP Fred Martin has signed up for Wednesday, Dec. 6. So far no one has signed up for our Dec. 13 meeting.

Here is the [LINK](#) to sign up and you will find all of the relevant information you need on this page! Thanks!!

## 9 Guests Boost Crowd to 70 Wednesday

It was a busy day at the sign-in desk for our **Visitors & Guests**. We had nine guests and that helped us have maybe our biggest crowd at the Farragut Community Center with total attendance at 70. Here is who we welcomed:



- **Ansel Sanders** was the guest of PP Jonathan Johnson. He is the president of Webb School of Knoxville. In case you didn't know, Jonathan is the chair of Webb's Board of Trustees.
- Larry Sheumaker's guest was another Visiting Rotarian — **Alan Wright**, a past president of the Rotary Club of Bearden.
- **Robby Mathis** was the guest of Richard Bettis. He's a Portfolio Manager at ORNL Federal Credit Union and works with Richard.
- **Jennifer Enderson**, president of the Emory Valley Center in Oak Ridge, was Kristen Otto's guest. Kristen is the center's VP of Professional Services. Jennifer also was a Visiting Rotarian as a member of the Rotary Club of Oak Ridge. They are pictured at the right.
- PP Bob Parker introduced two guests — **Jennifer Craven and Petra Dunn**. Petra is Senior Vice President at Merrill Lynch Wealth Management Advisors and Jennifer is a Vice President, also with Merrill Lynch.
- PP David Smoak also had a very familiar face as his guest — **Ron Oestreich**, the Town of Farragut's Parks & Recreation Director. He also manages the Farragut Community Center.





- Candace Viox, left, introduced her guest — husband **Richard Rinehart**.

- **Kenny Graves** was the guest of PP Staci Wilkerson. Kenny is a co-worker of Staci's at Mountain Commerce Bank and a Relationship Manager.

It was great to have you as guests!!!!

## This Week's 2 News & Notes

Our **Salvation Army Red Kettle Bell Ringing** boss Mike Singletary says we have a full roster of ding-a-lings EXCEPT for two spots on Saturday Dec. 23 at 4 p.m. We need two ringers for that shift. If you can help that day, please email Mike at this [LINK](#) . The roster for Saturday Dec. 16 is full.

Just a schedule reminder: we will **NOT** have a **December Third Thursday** on Dec. 21 due to how close it is to Christmas and how busy our holidays schedules will be. We'll return in January 2024!!!!



## Denise Seeking Help for Wounded Warriors

**The Wounded Warrior Battalion East**, an active duty branch of the U.S. Marine Corps, is a duty station for injured Marines to recover from a lengthy illness or injury. Once they have recovered, they will either return to their duty station or be medically discharged from the Marine Corps.



Denise Bash and her family were at Camp Lejeune to spend Thanksgiving with their Marine son, Benji, who continues to recover from a horrible motorcycle accident and almost 30 surgeries. With Denise were husband Alex and daughter Chloe and Benji, pictured here.

“We noticed that there are some ways that we can help improve the lives of the Marines who are stationed there,” Denise told us at Wednesday’s meeting. She noticed a few things they are missing and asks for our help.

Here are the immediate needs:

- Many of the Marines cannot make it home for the holidays.
- There is no cafeteria onsite, so Marines have to cook on their own in the community kitchen or order food from Uber Eats or Door Dash (which gets expensive for young Marines).
- Wi-Fi is available but each Marine has to pay for it so they are each issued a DVD player but there is not a DVD library.

“I am working with the Command at Wounded Warrior for longer-term solutions for keeping the kitchen equipped but in the meantime, we have an opportunity to make a difference today for the Marines who are stationed there this Christmas,” she said.



We are collecting the following donations from now through December 18th: \$25 Door Dash or Uber Eats gift cards; paper plates, bowls, cups, etc.; and DVDs to create a DVD library

If you have questions, give Denise a call at (423) 215-7813.

## AI in Medicine: Danger Awaits!

**Dr. Charlie Barnett**, among many others, paid close attention to what Dr. Lynne Parker had to say Wednesday about Artificial Intelligence and its impact on our world.

I thought the presentation by Dr. Lynne Parker introducing the pros and cons of Artificial Intelligence (AI) was most enlightening. Interestingly, and as a follow up to her message, was an article published last week in JAMA which warned of health disinformation being enabled by AI.

This author used OpenAI'S GPT program to rapidly compose 102 blog articles which included many false claims ranging from linking vaccines to autism or to the cardio-protective effects of vaping. It was even able to produce deep-fake videos associating vaccines with Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). The danger in such misinformation is that to the unsuspected reader such nonsense appears believable. The ability to weed out and prevent the distribution of this false information is yet to be developed by government, industry and even individuals.



AI aside, may I offer a suggestion in helping you get answers to your health questions? "Up To Date" is a free online medical reference that is well accepted in the medical community and that is free to all patients and



caregivers. Use this [LINK](#) to read this report or simply Google “uptodate” then click through to get to either the “Patients” section or “Beyond the Basics.” Enter your search term or question (full sentences are acceptable). You can then narrow your search to diagnosis, treatment, prevention, etc.

Hope this helps with any health issues you may have.

As an aside, my favorite misinformation written by AI was a very believable article on “How the Martians helped the Allies in World War II.” No joke!

## **A Thought for Our Week**

“Most people don’t want to be part of the process, they just want to be part of the outcome. But the process is where you figure out who’s worth being part of the outcome.” — **Carey Lohrenz**, Speaker, Author & Pilot