
THE FLAGSHIP



Feb. 11, 2024

Tom King, Editor

Coming Up!!!

Feb. 14: Dr. Marianne Wanamaker, Dean, UT Howard Baker School

Feb. 15: Third Thursday, 5:30 p.m., Water Into Wine

Feb. 21: Todd Kelly, "100 Black Mean on Peace"

Feb. 24: Rotary Leadership Institute, UT

Feb. 28: Nancy Welch, Knox Co. CAC, Volunteer Transportation

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

Step It Up/Tee It Up! Top Golf Tourney Our Major Fundraiser

We need to step it up and tee it up for our March 6 major fundraising event — the **Top Golf Tournament @ Top Golf**. This event will benefit the bed-building "Sleep In Heaven Peace" organization plus other organizations and priorities we have.

Play will begin at 1 p.m. and run until 4. We will have a short club meeting prior to the tournament along with lunch.



We need players — teams of 6 players and individual players — for the tournament and for the Hole in One contest.

President Val says we already have our top 3 sponsorships sold — The ACE sponsorship of

\$5,000 thanks to PE Teri Jo Fox and the Knox Fox Real Estate Group; the Double Eagle lunch sponsor for \$3,000 belongs to His Security/Scott Brockamp and The 19th Hole sponsorship of \$3,000 was bought by Admiral Title.

We have four (4) Birdie Bay sponsors — President Val, Thorpe Automotive, Richard Bettis/ORNL FCU, and Alex Barnwell.

We still have a \$1,000 sponsorship available for the Hole In One contest. Hole in One tickets will be \$20 each for a chance at a \$10,000 cash prize! Each ticket is good for 3 swings (only 1 winner)!

Sleep in Heavenly Peace's Build Day Scheduled April 13

Back by popular demand — we will join our good friends at **Sleep In Heavenly Peace (SHP)** on Saturday April 13 for a “Build Day” at a location still to be worked out. This non-profit builds bunk beds and single beds for children who do not have beds. They sleep on floors, mattresses and anything else they can find.



SHP has a simple yet practical motto: "No kid sleeps on the floor in our town!" Also, some of the funds raised at our Top Golf Tournament will help SHP gets its work done in East Tennessee.

The Knoxville chapter, led by Bill Thompson, is a 100% volunteer organization. Your donations stay in our community and serves kiddos right here. All funds are used to build and deliver our fully furnished beds. Our expenses include tools, lumber and hardware for Build Days and new mattresses, bedding and pillows for deliveries that accompany the bed when it is delivered.

And right now Delivery Day is scheduled for Saturday April 20.

Speaking from experience, Build Day is an incredible fun day and you'll probably acquire new skills. To read all about SHP, just click on this [LINK](#)

UT's Baker School Dean Marianne Wanamaker Speaks on Wednesday

Dr. Marianne Wanamaker, dean of the University of Tennessee's Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs, will join us Wednesday as our speaker. She will present a vision of the school, UT's newest academic unit, its early successes and the ways Rotarians can get involved.

Professor John Hoffman will introduce her.

The Baker Center's mission is to graduate skilled public problem solvers, grounded in the legacy of the late Sen. Baker. who will be prepared to take leadership roles in our communities across the state and across the country.



Dr. Wanamaker also is a Professor of Economics with expertise in labor economics, education, and workforce development. Her work has been widely referenced in the popular press and supported by multiple federal agencies, including the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health.

She holds an undergraduate degree from Vanderbilt University and her Master's degree and Ph.D are from Northwestern University. She is a

native of Martin, TN., and has been at UT since 2009, first at the Haslam College of Business, then at the Baker School starting in 2021.

From 2017 to 2018, she took a leave of absence from UT to serve as the senior labor economist and chief domestic economist on the White House Council of Economic Advisors.

Our Visitors & Guests



PP Tom King's guest was **John Currado**, who recently moved from Southern California to Hardin Valley. He is in his 42nd year as a Rotarian. He and his wife, Lani, owned an insurance company for 45 years. He's a graduate of the University of Southern California. He moved here to be close to their son, Austin, and his family. He is a Prospective Member.

Julie Blaylock's mother, **Agnes Predny**, was her daughter's guest. Anges volunteers two days a week at the Young-Williams Animal Center. She's known as the "Cat Whisperer."



Jeff Walker's guest was his friend **P.J. Dieffenbach**, who does digital marketing, websites and advertising at Web Mavericks.

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.

This Week's Family of Rotary Roundup

Here's a "family update from **PP Peggy Wilson** about husband Joe, now him from Parkwest and more news: ".....Lots going on. Adjustments have been difficult, especially for food. A renal diet goes against everything Joe normally eats. So, I have been cooking differently. He is eating differently. We ventured out yesterday to Sam's and Food City. First adventure out for Joe. He did okay, but he was really tired. He gets the IV PICC tube out today. Then, he starts on the pill form of antibiotics, which will be for 30 days. He goes to his regular doctor tomorrow. We have lots of doctor appointments for the rest of February and March. He had 10 doctors caring for him at the hospital. He still has the stent in there. This rain has been making my arthritis crazy. So, I've been in pain and taking lots of Tylenol. My son Donnie had an MRI Friday on his pancreas. A lump of some sort is on his pancreas. He will call the doctor on Monday for an appointment review of his results. And granddaughter Madyson is getting married in March."



Wife **Patti Davis** says **Wayne** "is not doing very well at all. He's sleeping a lot and has no energy to get up and do anything. He's still retaining fluids and is very sick."

PP Megan Belcher is home and dealing with her second bout of COVID in the past six weeks. "It's not as bad as the first time but I'm still sick. I think I'm on day 5 but didn't feel really rough until yesterday. I have had a drippy throat and dry cough since Tuesday. I tested negative on Wednesday so I figured it was a cold. I started sneezing in my sleep again yesterday morning and tested again because I did that the first time I had it."

Longtime member **Jeff Reed**, who was diagnosed with MS in 2015, is now using a wheelchair to get around. He's not commuting to Knoxville for work from their home in Cleveland, TN and is working from home.

Prayers and good thoughts for everyone please!

News From January-February Board of Directors Meetings

Today's report from Wednesday's meeting of our **Board of Directors** also will include a few leftovers from the January meeting that was not reported. PP Tom King missed the January meeting due to a doctor's appointment.

Here's what the board did this past Wednesday:



- Larry Sheumaker was pinch-hitting for MIA Secretary Sonya Ford and did an OK job. He said we had three meetings in January and attendance was 62.5% and we have 87 members currently, plus one Honorary.
- Youth Service Co-Chair Bill Nichols reported that Rotary International has made the decision that our Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) program will no longer do any exchanges with any European countries save for three — Finland, Belgium and Hungary. “This is big news,” Bill said.
- PP Becky Duncan said that we should begin doing work in the library at The Wesley House in March as part of our multi-faceted project there. Stay tuned for more details.
- Nichols also shared that our former RYE student from Ukraine, Julie Tryukhan, who came here as refugees with her two children in August

2022, is working with an immigration attorney to make their status here permanent. Our fingers are crossed for her, Mark and Polly.

Here are the actions from the January meeting:

- RI dues have increased by \$6/yr per member.
- Credit card fees of \$12 per transaction have not been passed along to our members in the past and the club has been absorbing this fee. The board voted to pass this fee on to the members going forward.
- Voted to limit prospective members to two (2) meals paid for by the club. Meals beyond 2 can be paid by the sponsor or the prospective member directly.

RI Foundation Chair Bill Rice Gives Us An Update on Where We Stand

It is good and interesting to hear **Bill Rice** talk about issues related to the **Rotary International (RI) Foundation** and this is a perfect time to hear from him. He spoke to the board about these issues and wanted to share this with the members. Here are his thoughts and opinions.

“Our club has always had a RI Annual Fund goal of approximately \$10,000. We collect approximately \$100/year from each member, \$25 automatically invoiced every quarter. Based on our current membership count we should collect over \$8,000 (there are about a half dozen members who only contribute half or \$0).



“Per PP Bob Parker, years ago our club voted to allocate half of these proceeds to the RI Annual Fund and the other

to Polio Plus. This means only \$4,000+/- of what we collect goes to the Annual Fund. The balance of \$6,000 has historically been met by additional contributions from a handful of members and our fundraisers.

“The trend I have observed since the creation of our Rotary Club of Farragut Foundation is that more and more members are choosing to help fund it instead of the club’s needs. In one of our recent newsletters, there was a story noting the generous contributions certain members have made to the club’s Foundation. Those totaled around \$9,000 (YTD). Further, the few fundraisers we’ve finally been able to have since the COVID years have channeled funds to the Farragut Foundation (in addition to the particular charity we pick like Sleep in Heavenly Peace).

“My point in our meeting was that we need to be sure and earmark a portion of our fundraising proceeds for the RI Annual Fund and use them to fill any shortfall we may have at the end of the year. Any excess can certainly be moved to the Farragut Foundation.

“Overall, it appears we have a cash flow problem as our present budget is tight. PP Becky Duncan’s comments about not knowing how much we can contribute to various grants reinforced that point. Another problem we are having now is in order to be recognized at the District 6780 conference as a STAR club, we have to submit funds to RI no later than Marc 31. To be a STAR club we have to average \$100/member in contributions. Based on a head count of around 80, that is \$8,000. So far we have collected just over \$2,600. I don’t think we have the balance of \$6,000 to send.

“Our club simply needs to step up and chip in any way possible to make fundraising events a success....spread the word, get sponsorships from outside parties, help with auction items. This is a service organization. Our purpose is with the resources each member brings to the table to take on burdens in order to help others.”

Treasurer Steve Krempasky added a few thoughts of his own:

“Most members are automatically billed each quarter for a contribution to the Paul Harris Fund. Some members have opted out, and some make direct contributions to the Fund at RI. These payments are credited to their individual accounts and accumulate towards a \$1,000 Paul Harris Fellowship (the latest SINGO CARD purchases went towards this same Fund).

“All club member contributions whether through the club or direct to RI, on an annual fiscal year basis, are credited towards our club achieving "STAR" status — which means, on average — all members have contributed at least \$100/year to the Paul Harris Fund. We are short of that goal. Contributions to the Rotary Club of Farragut Foundation do not count towards STAR STATUS.

“Additionally, a few members are automatically billed quarterly for the Polio Plus program. This is separate from the Paul Harris Fund.”

Ridgedale ‘World Rotary Day’ Project Is March 23! Sign Up Now!

Please add Saturday, March 23, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., to your calendars!!! We have an “All Hands On Deck” call for our club members to work and make our **World Rotary Day** projects at Ridgedale Alternative School a whopping success!!!!



Ridgedale is our Partner In Education school. Half of its student population are students in K-12 in Special Education with intellectual and developmental disabilities and the others are middle school-age



students there in alternative (behavioral) classes.

Our “To Do” list that day is packed with projects and we’re going to need as many members as we can to be there and get it all done. We already have 10 signed up to work. We also will publish the projects soon.

The school is at 4600 Ridgedale Rd., Knoxville, TN 37921, just off Oak Ridge Highway. For those not familiar with it, we’ll send out a map.

We ask that you go ahead and sign up at this as we build our team!

News & Notes: Third Thursday, W2W

February’s Third Thursday at the popular “Water Into Wine” or “W2W” will be this coming Thursday — Feb. 15 — from 5:30 to 7 p.m. As always **Candace Viox** will be our host. We were supposed to be there in January but the snow-ice storm had other ideas. Bring a prospective member, your spouse or another guest. It counts as a makeup for missed meetings. Here is the sign-up [LINK](#) for Third Thursday.

However, in late January, a group from the **Rotary Club of Knoxville** (Downtown) showed up with a group of about 12 to enjoy a club social at Water Into Wine. PDG Frank Rothermel and our ADG Bill McGrath were there. “It was great that Rotarians from another local club came in to support me,” Candace said. “So very nice! Rotary supporting other Rotarians. I appreciated it after the horrible 2024 ice storm.”



New Rotary State License Plate To Benefit Tennessee Rotarians

An initiative by Rotary District 6760 to have a specialty plate dedicated to Promoting Peace has been approved by the Tennessee State Legislature and the campaign to get 1,000 registered motorists signed up is underway. Here are the details:

1. The first year's \$35 will be covered by donations from the Districts. The goal is for \$35,000 to be donated from club foundations so that no one has to pay the \$35 the first year.
2. You don't have to be a Rotarian to have the plate, which is a big deal. Anyone can sign up for the plate and the \$35 still comes to the Rotary districts of Tennessee. As a bit of information, the "Don't Tread on Me" plate has almost 29,000 motorists who display it, and it generates about \$1 million dollars to their organization. This needs to be accomplished by June 30, 2024.
4. \$20,000 has been pledged so far by clubs.



The first 1,000 plates reserved are free the first year (\$35 annual fee is added to vehicle registration renewals). Net proceeds fund community peace projects organized by the 7,000+ Tennessee Rotarians. First editions expected on or before October 2024.

You can click on this [LINK](#) to reserve your first edition plate(s) or to donate to the project. Your County Clerk will notify you when your plate is ready to be picked up.

The Mystery of February Deepens

Maybe, just maybe, someone will submit guesses this week as to the identity of our **February Mystery Rotarian**. The first four clues did not elicit not even one guess. Perhaps these next four clues will interest our Rotary sleuths!

- Have ridden an ostrich professionally
- Helped run a 501(c)(3) dedicated to youth
- Grew up and reared in Dandridge
- Favorite artist is Prince and saw him in concert from the third row



Our first guess and others should be emailed to TOM KING and the first correct guess wins a great bottle of wine. If the sleuths are defeated, the Mystery Rotarians gets the wine!

A Good Thought To Have

“Staying positive doesn’t mean you have to be happy all the time. It means that even on hard days you know that there are better days ahead.” — **Anon**