

THE FLAGSHIP



Feb. 18, 2024

Tom King, Editor

Coming Up!!!

Feb. 21: Todd Kelly Sr.,
"100 Black Men"

Feb. 24: Rotary
Leadership Institute, UT

Feb. 28: Nancy Welch,
CAC, Volunteer
Transportation

March 6: Board of
Directors, 10:30 a.m. ,
Farragut Community
Center

March 6: No Meeting

Mach 6: Top Golf
Tournament @ Top
Golf, 1 p.m.

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

Former Vol Great Todd Kelly Sr. Is Wednesday's Speaker

If you're a University of Tennessee football fan, the name **Todd Kelly Sr.** is probably familiar. All-SEC and All-American defensive end and captain of the Vols in 1992, first-round NFL draft choice in 1993 and played four years in the pros, helping San Francisco win Super Bowl XXIX.



The Hampton, VA., native graduated with a degree in Liberal Arts Urban Studies. He was UT's first Todd Kelly. His son, Todd Kelly Jr., joined the football team at UT in 2014 after playing at Webb School. His son gave up football in 2019 with a reconstructed knee that ended his football days.

Todd Sr.'s program Wednesday will be about the "100 Black Men of Greater Knoxville" organization, an affiliated chapter of 100 Black Men of America, Inc. Founded in 1963, the focus of the 100 Black Men organization is committed to improving the lives of youth in general and African-American young men in particular.

The Knoxville chapter was chartered in 1994 and incorporated in 1995. The Knoxville 100 pursues a four-part agenda or strategy: (1) Mentoring, (2) Health & Wellness, (3) Education, and (4) Economic Development.

If you're wondering, here's what Todd has done after football:

- 20-years plus surgical device veteran with a 20-year history with Johnson & Johnson, Medtronic, Covidien, British Technology Group, and now Boston Scientific
- Currently is the Commercial Excellence Executive for Boston Scientific.
- Six-time Presidents Club winner over his 20-plus year career, winning it three years in a row with British Technology Group

Todd lives in Knoxville with his wife of 30 years, Renee, and daughter Clarke (30), Todd Jr. (28), and a grandson, Tenn (22 months). He says he enjoys dating his wife, family time, eating healthy, working out, and working on his lawn. How about a great welcome for a UT Legend!!!!



March 6: Changes Made To Accommodate Our Meetings for Top Golf Fundraiser

- Wednesday, March 6, 2024: Board of Directors, 10:30 a.m., Farragut Community Center.
- Wednesday, March 6, 2024: No Club Assembly meeting!
- Wednesday, March 6, 2024: Tournament at Top Golf at 1 p.m.



President Val Privett this week proposed to the Board of Directors that the club not have its regular Club Assembly meeting on March 6. “Our participants in the golf tournament get a meal included in their package so I am proposing not having a meeting that day so we can be on time at the golf tournament.”

She also suggested we have the March board meeting that morning at 10:30. “That should give us enough time to make it to Top Golf.”

Val added that the club originally wanted to have our meeting at Top Golf and the golf tournament because we were displaced at the Community Center in January. “I do not think it is wise to pay for two meals for some members that day and with us not having a speaker, I think we could swing not having a meeting that day. Anyone who wants some Rotary fellowship can come and visit at Top Golf,” she said.

The Board approved her recommendations.

We also now have a sponsor for the Hole In One Tournament — the golfing Bash’s — Denise and Alex.

To date we have seven teams and the captains are: Scott Bertini, Chris Burleson, Sonya Ford, Roger Moore, William Williams, Kristen Otto and Jim Alexander (Knoxville Club). “We need two more teams to hit our original goal of filling 17 of Top Golf’s hitting bays,” said PE Teri Jo Fox. “But we can increase that up until the day or two days before.”



We still need an Eagle sponsor for \$1,000. “So, if you would like to be a part of the event, but don’t see yourself being available to attend, then this is perfect for you to still be marketed and give to such a worthy cause, Teri Jo added.

We have a few Bogeys to sell (\$150) as well as a few donations from people outside of our club.

“Please keep in mind if you want to attend and observe you will need to at least purchase a Bogey. This will allow you to watch the teams battle it out, be a part of the fellowship and donate to the worthy causes we are supporting through our fundraising, have lunch and you will receive 2 drinks. Win Win for all,” Teri Jo said.

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?

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

Baker School Dean Shares 4 Goals, Talks About Leadership & Challenges

Dr. Marianne Wanamaker, dean of the University of Tennessee's Howard H. Baker Jr. School of Public Policy and Public Affairs, did a very effective job of introducing us to the center, the only such school in the state. During her presentation she shared the school's vision as UT's newest academic unit and its strategic goals.

Dr. Wanamaker also is a Professor of Economics with expertise in labor economics, education, and workforce development.

“At the Baker School, our mission is to educate skilled problem solvers and prepare them to take public leadership roles and help our country solve the biggest challenges of our time,” she said. “We want to be part of the solution.”



John Hoffman assists Dr. Marianne Wanamaker with her slide show presentation

In a letter on the school's website, she wrote: "...As the flagship land-grant institution in a state known for skilled political leadership, it is time for UT Knoxville to intentionally produce leaders who will serve at the highest levels of local, state, and federal government. And in the next 10 years, the Baker School will establish a national reputation for graduating skilled public problem solvers prepared to take leadership roles as public administrators, public servants, policy analysts, or candidates for public office. To achieve

this objective, the Baker School has created a strategic plan that identifies existing assets and opportunities, guiding investments of time and resources over the next decade.”

Dr. Wanamaker listed the school’s goals that are part of their strategic plan:

1. Dramatically expand the university’s capacity to produce the next generation of public servants who are grounded in the legacy of Howard Baker and prepared to be pragmatic public problem solvers.
2. Build a set of innovative, best-in-class programs to support public servants and public-facing professionals statewide at all stages of their career.
3. Fulfill the state of Tennessee’s bipartisan mandate for the Institute of American Civics to strengthen confidence in American democratic institutions and to renew the state’s civic health.
4. Respond to society’s most pressing public problems with high-quality research and public engagement.

“How do you attract 18 year olds to government?” she posed. “Many of our students are interested in learning how to solve problems and that’s attracting them.” This coming fall they should have 35 undergraduate students enrolled and the goal is to have 50 in 2025. They are still hiring faculty.

One very interesting program is paying students \$1,000 per semester to observe public meetings in town — City Council, County Commission and the Knox County Schools board meetings.

Thanks for a superb program!

'Tis Time To Sign Up for March 23 World Rotary Day at Ridgedale School

In a little more than a month now it's **World Rotary Day** time for our club and the other Rotary clubs in Knoxville. We will meet and join together working at Ridgedale Alternative School on Saturday, March 23, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. We need volunteers!! Please add it to your calendars!!!!



Ridgedale is our club's Partner In Education school. Half of its student population are students in K-12 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 12 signed up to work. We ask that you go ahead and sign up at this [LINK](#) as we build our team!

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.

Guests & Visitors Report

Abby Anderson, Director of Outreach for Admiral Title, was PE Teri Jo Fox's guest. She is a prospective member. Admiral Title also stepped up to be a sponsor for our upcoming Top Golf tournament on March 6.

Being Valentine's Day, PP Ron Lawrence was the only member to have their spouse as their guest. It was good to see **Carolyn Lawrence**.

John Hoffman's guest was **Jarrold Suits**, who is Director of Advancement for the Howard H. Baker School for Public Policy & Public Affairs at UT.

We also had a Visiting Rotarian from Florida, **PP Dale Read**. He and wife Robbi are here because her son was recently diagnosed with MS (see Family of Rotary below for more info). .

Glad you all joined us!

This Week's Report on Our Family

Wayne Davis is back at Parkwest Medical and undergoing dialysis today, wife Patti says. "His kidneys are not working enough and the doctors are hoping if they can work better it will help with the fluid buildup in his stomach and abdomen," she added. "He's tolerating everything, has a great attitude but he's really in serious condition. We have no idea when he'll come home."



PP Peggy Wilson says husband **Joe** "is doing OK." She said he had a fall in the bathroom earlier this week but is OK. They have three days of doctor appointments this week and a home health nurse next Friday. "His kidneys are working now and that's a big deal."

PP Dale Read and wife Robbi have been in town for about two weeks with Robbi's son, Dave Gillispie, who is 44. Dave was admitted to the University of Tennessee Medical Center on January 21 where he was diagnosed with MS. After a week at UTMC he was moved to the Knoxville Rehabilitation Hospital where he is now. Tomorrow (2/20) he will be moving to NHC Assisted Living in Farragut for several weeks. His next goals — to get him out of wheelchair and walking with a walker.

PP Megan Belcher says everyone in her house is doing great now, which means she's over Covid. Teen daughter Piper Grace has beaten the flu bug. Let's hope the two men can stay healthy!!

Bill Rice Clarifies Star Club Status

Foundation Chair Bill Rice has a clarification for us after his update article in last week's Flagship.

He says: "I had originally stated only monies contributed to the Annual Fund go towards our Star Club status. It is actually all monies contributed towards both the Annual Fund and Polio Plus. We still need to send in a respectable check before March 31 and the district conference for recognition sake but not as big (maybe \$4,000-ish)."

To meet our Annual Fund goal of \$10,000, our club will need to consider allocating more towards it vs. Polio Plus. "If most of our funds from fundraising events continue to be directed to the Farragut Foundation, we should consider this," he added.

News & Notes

Dist. Conference: May 17-18 in Cookeville

The **2024 District 6780 Conference** will be held May 17-18 in Cookeville, the home of District Gov. Susie Cantrell. The conference's theme is "Take a Walk on the West Side." The conference will be held at the Leslie Town Centre in Cookeville's Westside Cultural District. The day before the conference (May 16) the District Golf Tournament will be held. The district is still completing the details about the program, hotels, exact times/schedule and information about the golf tournament. As soon as we have those we will pass them along.

February's Third Thursday crowd really enjoyed their social time together at Candace Viox's Water Into Wine this past Thursday. Our crowd included PE Teri Jo Fox and husband Eric Whitener, Brian and Jennifer Walker, Cindy Kraus, Steve Krempasky, Mike and Anita Singletary, President Val Privett, Ralph and Mary Henry, and Candace of course. Here's Cindy's report: "...Great conversation and fellowship. The food was amazing and drinks even better. Lots of discussion about Candace's Monday afternoon Bible study Candace has at noon every week. Val talked about how beautiful Cades Cove was when she visited on her birthday Wednesday. We sat in the back room, which gave privacy and we could all hear each other as we enjoyed our meals."



A Super Sleuth Says It's Sara!

After eight clues, our **February Mystery Rotarian** has been unmasked. And dang it, the clues were just getting really interesting. However, we could not award our sleuth the wine because he was not at our Wednesday meeting and won't be there again this week. That'll happen on February 28 when **PP Fred Martin** returns.



But let's not delay the "reveal" until the 28th. One of our Super Sleuths correctly concluded the Mystery Rotarian is **Sara Branson**. How he solved the mystery is a mystery right now.

A Thought for All

"It takes two years to learn to speak and 60 years to learn to be quiet." — **Ernest Hemingway**