
THE FLAGSHIP



March 10, 2024

Tom King, Editor

Coming Up!!!

March 13: Rebecca
Bitner, Principal,
Ridgedale School

March 20: Alan Watson,
MEDIC

March 23: World Rotary
Day Project at Ridgedale
School, 8 a.m.

March 27: Bill
Thompson, Sleep In
Heavenly Peace

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

WOW!!! \$17,399 Raised in Our 1st Topgolf Tournament!

If you are considering pulling together a major fundraising event in a short period of time, it would be a good move to contact the team of **Privett, Fox & Williams!** In a span of about 60 days they created, organized and presented our first annual **Topgolf Golf Tournament** on Wednesday. When the swinging ended and the accounting done, we raised \$17,399 to support our community projects.

A portion of these funds will go to **Sleep In Heavenly Peace** for our upcoming April 13 "Bed Build" at Faith Lutheran Church next to the Farragut Community Center. We'll gather at 8 a.m. and build 35 beds at \$250 per bed for children in our community and in Knox County. To date we have 39 of 60 volunteer slots filled. This is a fun working-together project, so click this [LINK](#) to sign up!

“It was very obvious that everyone had a great time and I mean great,” President Val Privett said. “The teams had fun competing, our lunch was great and we raised a significant amount of money to use going forward. My appreciation to all of our major sponsors and the other sponsors who stepped up. I think we’re on to something here.”



We had 15 teams with six golfers per team — 90 golfers — and the winning team was “The Bogie Bunch” led by its captain Rotarian Alex Barnwell. Joining him, L-R, are teammates Josh Crotty, Justin Blevins, Greg Tilley, and Rick Vinzant. “I obviously carried the team,” a humble Alex said. “But Justin and Rick are the best players. Tilley was the anchor that held us down in check, so it

wasn't as bad as it could have been. And Rick is a prospective member.” Rick missed winning \$10,000 from the Hole in One Tournament by just 3 inches, Alex said.

It’s a good bet that President Val, PE Teri Jo, VP Scott Bertini and Vicki are already planning next year’s tournament and it’s within reason that this could become a major annual fundraising event for our club.

“The Topgolf fundraiser supporting Sleep in Heavenly Peace was a huge success. Thanks to everyone who contributed – sponsors, teams, and Friends of Rotary,” Vicki Williams said. “A special shout-out to President Val for initiating the fundraiser and tirelessly ensuring its success. Thanks to presenting sponsor President Elect Teri Jo Fox and thank you for all of the behind-the-scenes efforts. Kudos to Steve Krempasky for his invaluable help. Jared Greene’s assistance during the tournament is deeply appreciated.”

And kudos to Vicki too. She carried a big load.

The second-place team was led by Rotarian Roger Moore. Placing third was the team of one of the major sponsors — Admiral Title. Tom Burnette was the team captain and joining him were Brian Mohney, Jordan Roth, Josh Belcher, Ray Gaudet and Jordan Knight.

One note of concern. We have 87 members in our club. But only 29 of our members supported the tournament as sponsors, players or contributors....or 33%. Maybe we can exceed that in 2025!

Swings, Faces & Fun at Topgolf!



The Sonya Swing: Miz Ford killed it!



The 19th Hole Barbarians: L-R, Lexa King-Weseman, her step-mom Emily Weseman, Kristen, her daughter Harlow & Bill Rice



Scott Brockamp ready to crush it!



President Val and PE Scott Bertini are in 'Launch Mode' Wednesday



Big-hitting Barbarian Kristen Otto says 'Watch Me!'



Rest time for Stephanie Markowitz

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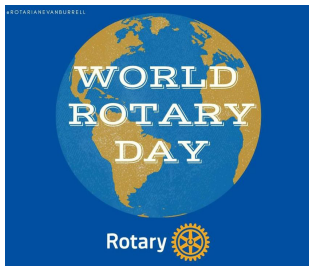
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Here is a [LINK](#) to our page.

‘All Hands on Deck’ Ridgedale Project For World Rotary Day Just 13 Days Away

Things are coming together for our **2024 World Rotary Day** project at Ridgedale School on Saturday, March 23, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. This is our Partner In Education school and this is easily an “All Hands on Deck” project for our club. As of today we have 40 volunteers signed up. And we have 87 members in our club. And as of today we have only 16 members signed up of those 40 volunteers.



“All Hands” need to get busy signing up and it’s easy to do. Just click on this [LINK](#) and follow the directions.



We also will have members from Knoxville’s other Rotary clubs coming to work as well as members of the Pellissippi State Community College Rotaract Club and from Hardin Valley Academy’s Interact Club.

Ridgedale is putting skin in the game too. David McGinnis, Teacher Dean at the school, says he’s signed up 18 Ridgedale teachers and staff to work.

To give you an idea of what all we’ll be doing check out this list of tools and things you can bring for the work: Gloves, trimmers, trash and lawn/leaf bags, rakes, shovels, a chainsaw, tree lopper, wheel barrels, ladder/step stools, microfiber rags plus Clorox wipes or other cleaning items. **Note: Be sure to tag whatever you bring with a name tag.**

Now, here are the jobs on the agenda:

- Put tint film on office windows and on all classroom doors downstairs
- Pressure washing the outside of the building and sidewalks

- Redoing the circle driveway island
- Cleaning and painting inside
- Cleaning all windows inside and out
- Trimming bushes and trees
- Installation of two 4x10 feet raised flower beds for students to grow flowers and vegetables

We are only 13 days out from this important project on a special day in Rotary!

Ridgedale’s Principal Speaks Wednesday

It’s Spring Break for our schools but **Rebecca Bitner** is not taking a break. She will be our Wednesday speaker as we continue to make preparations for our **World Rotary Day at Ridgedale School** project on Saturday March 23. “Becca” — as she’s called — is Ridgedale’s Executive Principal.

Ridgedale is our Partner In Education partner and is unique — its student population is divided between students with developmental and intellectual disabilities in grades K-12 and middle-school aged students in the Knox County Schools Alternative program. Her job and the jobs of her staff are challenging.

Our club’s support for Ridgedale is based primarily on two facts: First, the school has needs and second, it has no Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) to help. It is not your normal neighborhood school since its students live throughout Knox County.



Prior to Ridgedale, Bitner was assistant principal at South Doyle Middle School, served as a middle and high school special educator facilitator for Knox County Schools, was a trainer for the State Department of Education’s

Trauma Informed Schools and a Behavioral Therapist for Knoxville Center for Autism. She also has worked as an elementary, middle, and high school special education teacher for Blount and Knox County Schools.

She earned her undergraduate and Master's degrees from the University of Tennessee.

She and husband Jeff have three adult children — Jeffrey is graduating in May from UT with a degree in Neuroscience; daughter Julia is a Stylist for Blackberry Farm and son Kenny is a physical education teacher in Virginia. He and wife Tori are the parents of Bitner's only grandchild (so far) — Caleb, who is 1.

Family of Rotary Updates



Wayne Davis came home this past Tuesday after three weeks at Parkwest Medical Center. He says he's "doing pretty good" but doctors still can't figure out what's causing his problems. He has two days of dialysis this week plus the new meds he's on. He also said the family is all here helping wife Patti.

PP Peggy Wilson says husband Joe is doing good this weekend as they prepare for a road trip to St. Louis for granddaughter Madyson Mahan's wedding. Peggy's son Donnie Mahan is the father of the bride-to-be. Safe driving Wilson's!

PP Doug Powell has beaten Covid after a very long week of feeling really lousy. He's headed back to work tomorrow!

Prayers for everyone and their families!

News From Our Board Meeting

Wednesday's meeting of our **Board of Directors** was a lot of discussions but only a few decisions. Here's the rundown on what the board did.

- Secretary Sonya Ford said we now have 86 members and our February meetings averaged 69% in attendance.
- Approved the request of PP Bruce Williamson to become a Rule of 85 member.
- Accepted the resignation of Rev. Chase Depew.
- Agreed to appoint a ByLaws Committee to update our bylaws, which was last done in 2017.
- World Rotary Day: Voted to allocate \$2,000 from the Rotary Club of Rotary Foundation to go towards this service project at Ridgedale School, in addition to the \$500 that the club is already contributing.
- VP Scott Bertini will be circulating an end-of-year survey to all members to gather helpful information as to how we can learn/grow/improve.
- Service Projects: We still need volunteers for our upcoming Sleep In Heavenly Peace Bed Build project on April 13 and the Bed Delivery project on April 20.
- RI Foundation: Motion approved to allocate all of our funds to the RI Annual Fund vs. ½ to Polio Plus and ½ to the Annual Fund.



CREATE HOPE
in the **WORLD**

News & Notes

RI International Women's Day News; March Third Thursday Scratched

Friday was **Rotary International (RI) Women's Day** and three of our women and two friends watched the RI Women's Day webinar. Together were President Val Privett, PE Teri Jo Fox and Vicki Williams, Teri Jo's assistant Jade Ross and Cindy Bush with Movement Mortgage, all pictured here. **Dist. 6780 Governor Susie Cantrell** sent a message to all district Rotarians about this special day. "I wanted to take a moment to acknowledge and celebrate the incredible women who have made a significant impact within our Rotary International community and beyond. International Women's Day is a special occasion that allows us to reflect on the achievements of women throughout history and recognize their contributions in various fields. It is a time to honor the progress that has been made towards equality and to continue advocating for a more inclusive society."



- **March Third Thursday** would have been on March 21. But with everything going on this month, we've decided to skip our club social this month. Stay tuned for April!

PolioPlus News & More From John Downs

When we hear from **John Downs**, our End Polio Now! chairman for District 6780, we listen and pass along what he has to say.

He begins his report with this news: "As of March 5th, there have been 0 confirmed cases of polio in 2024. There were a total of 12 cases in calendar

year 2023 (six in Afghanistan, and six in Pakistan). In 2022 there were 30 cases, so the trend is very encouraging. The most recent case of Wild Polio occurred in Pakistan on October 24, 2023.”



As a reminder, he adds, the William T. Sergeant District 6780 Polio Eradicator Award recognizes clubs that have an average giving to PolioPlus of at least \$50 per member. District Award applications are due March 15th, but since the Polio Eradicator Award doesn't actually require an "application" we can generally acknowledge later donations, but you really need to get those in soon if you want to be recognized at the District Conference on May 16-17. Thirty clubs are already qualified. Is yours among them?

“If you have any questions regarding your club's PolioPlus Goal or current giving let me know and I'll be happy to help,” John added.

And finally, a couple of important dates to remember:

- The District Golf Tournament will be held on May 16 at the White Plains Golf Course in Cookeville.
- Our 14th Annual Pack the Park to End Polio Now! will be held on August 6 at Smokies Stadium in Kodak. More details to share about that as we get closer.

“Thanks again for all you do in support of Rotary,” he added.

A Good Thought for One & All

“The ideals which have lit my way, and time after time have given me new courage to face life cheerfully, have been kindness, beauty and truth.” — **Albert Einstein**