

THE FLAGSHIP



March 26, 2023

Tom King, Editor

Coming Up!!!

March 29: WBIR
Anchor Robin Wilhoit

April 5: Board of
Directors, 11 a.m.

April 5: Club Assembly

April 12: Knox County
Mayor Glenn Jacobs

April 19: Steve Kaufman
& His Fiddling Music

April 20: Third
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.,
location TBA

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

Wednesday We'll Hear WBIR News Pro Robin Wilhoit

We'll be seeing a familiar face Wednesday. Our program will be presented by **Robin Wilhoit**, news co-anchor at WBIR TV. Robin is in her 31st year at WBIR. She began here as a news reporter in 1992.

Also joining us will be Julie Tryukhan, our former 2007-2008 Rotary Youth Exchange student from Ukraine. Robin has been interviewed twice by Robin about being a refugee here with kids Mark and Polly.



Wilhoit was born and reared in North Carolina but has been proud to call East Tennessee home for the last 30 years. Robin graduated from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and began her reporting career at WJHL-TV In Johnson City. In 1996 she was named weekday morning anchor.

In 1998 Robin was honored to join long-time Channel 10 anchor Bill Williams at the news desk. The same year, she helped launch the Buddy Check 10 program to promote breast cancer awareness. It has been her honor and privilege to share the stories of women and men who have so bravely battled this disease.

Robin has served on a number of community organization boards, including Variety of East Tennessee, the UT College of Nursing Advisory Board, and the United Way of Greater Knoxville.

She is an Emmy-nominated and award-winning journalist. She recently won a National Gracie Award from the Alliance for Women in Media Foundation for a series of stories documenting her journey through a COVID-19 vaccine trial.

“When I’m not at work I enjoy running, traveling and trying out new recipes in the kitchen, but most of all, spending time with my husband and two children.” she said.

Let’s give her a big welcome — and pray the microphone is working!!!!



\$2.5 Million Grant Submitted for Farragut Town's McFee & Bob Leonard Parks

From Hogwarts to Farragut. It's Quidditch Time ... and new turf is needed and there's a new dog park coming to town as well as upgrades to accommodate the ADA (American Disabilities Act). We heard all about this and more from our speakers.



Those proposed projects are part of **The Town of Farragut's (TOF)** \$2.5 million grant proposal made to the Tennessee Department of Environment & Conservation (TDEC) that will fund new features and upgrades at McFee Park and Bob Leonard Park. Town Administrator and **PP David Smoak** says if the grant is approved, the town should know by April 19.

The work at McFee is estimated to cost \$500,000 and \$2 million at Bob Leonard Park on Watt Road. The work would begin in the summer of 2024 and should be complete by the summer of 2025, said Farragut's new Parks and Recreation Director, Ron Oestreich. Also speaking briefly was Park Programs Coordinator Bryson Keith. They are pictured here with David.

Oestreich is a 20-year Rotarian who moved here from Bolingbrook, IL where he served with its Park District for 27 years and as its executive director since 2012. He managed 52 parks as well as 63 full-time and 300 part-time staff.

At Bob Leonard the plan is to fully replace the synthetic turf on Fields 1 and 2, install new ADA access facilities and walkways and rework a steep walkway and trail to make it ADA accessible. The main project at McFee is a two-acre dog park with parking and restroom facilities.

Farragut has four parks that cover 133 acres for a town population of approximately 23,500 and 9,000 households. The parks are Anchor, Mayor Bob Leonard, Founders, and McFee.

The Board Met! And The News Is?????

Our **Board of Directors** meeting this past week was a continuation of our first March board meeting when we left several items “in the parking lot” as President Megan Belcher says.

The highlights are:

- Decided to begin Board meetings at 10:30 a.m. instead of 11 a.m.
- Discussed moving the starting time of our weekly meetings from 12:15 p.m. to 12 noon, but opted to maintain the status quo.
- Agreed to sponsor a hole for \$300 at the May 4 2023 District 6780 Golf Tournament for PolioPlus at Sevierville Golf Course and pay half of the entry fee for our players.
- Named our voting delegates for the May 5-6 District Conference at DreamWorks in Pigeon Forge — President Megan Belcher, President Elect Val Privett and Vice President Teri Jo Fox.

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!

Stephanie Markowitz does a great job of keeping the page updated. 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.

FRC Tidbits From Wednesday

This past Tuesday (March 21) **President Megan Belcher** had a big birthday, turning the big 4-0!!! And led by Greeter Noah Myers, we serenaded our leader. Happy Birthday Miz Megan!

Alex Barnwell again “blessed” us with humor: “Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it becomes a soap opera.” Yadda Yadda Yadda!!!!

Prior to our meeting, and just across from where our Board of Directors met, a few of us had to do a double-take. But there he was with three ladies, the only guy in the room, enjoying a game of bridge. Wife Jeanne was at another table. **Dr. Jack Faber** just smiled when we said hello!

Our only guest of the day was **Jay Povlin**, Prospective Member who will be inducted on Wednesday. His sponsor is Sonya Ford.

Just FYI for our UT Vols basketball fans....**Larry Sheumaker's** daughter is an alumni of Florida Atlantic University.

This Week's Family of Rotary News

New Mom **Stephanie Markowitz** worked on campus this past Monday and Friday, but on April 3 she's back to full-time at Pellissippi State Community College. And she says she'll be returning to Rotary in April as well.

After Wednesday's meeting we asked **Denise Bash** for an update on her Marine son **Benji** at Camp Lejuene. Here is her update: “This week he is having a procedure done on his right leg to try and get blood flow restored to the muscle. The leg continues to shrink. Then in a couple of weeks they will be implanting a nerve stimulation device to help with his intestines and bladder.



If the nerve stimulation is successful they plan to try to reverse his colostomy by the end of the month.” Talk about one tough Marine!!!!

Here’s the news from our **Past President Dale Read**, now a full-time resident of The Villages in Florida. “I sold my airplane in January and we bought an RV and are planning some northern travel this summer to get out of the heat,” he said. My hope is that we’ll be seeing Dale and Robbi this summer.

We’re hoping to induct **Richard Bettis** as a new member Wednesday. He missed his induction this past Wednesday to take his wife **Lisa** to Park West Medical Center with what is thought to be a bad bout of colitis. They plan to see doctors this week for a diagnosis.

It’s Time To Sign Up for the May 6 Water Mission Walk at Lakeshore Park

March is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene month in Rotary International and on May 6 you have the chance to be on a Rotary Club of Farragut team to walk in Knoxville’s inaugural **Water Mission Walk** at Lakeshore Park (Marble Pavilion) or be a volunteer or sponsor.



Tory Kinson is leading our team and also working to get the other Rotary clubs here involved. He says that the Rotary Club of Bearden will be participating.

Water Mission, a 501c3 charitable organization, is ranked in the top 1% of non-profits by Charity Navigator in terms of transparency and the money

raised reaching its cause. “The walk for water is an opportunity for people to experience what half of the world does every day to get clean water. It is a 3-mile walk where they carry buckets, fill them with water and walk back to the starting point to have the water cleansed,” Tory says.

Now, here’s how our club can get involved:

Volunteers — We need between 10-30 volunteers in total. There are three basic volunteer roles: set up/tear down (tables, equipment, etc); registration help (checking walkers in, handing out the swag, etc.); individuals to direct people where to go

Participation — Participants will walk a 3-mile route carrying an empty bucket to a halfway point, collect water, and then return to the start with their bucket of water. We are planning on 2-3 gallon buckets. We will provide bottled water during the walk for people to stay hydrated.

The registration price is \$25 for adults and \$10 for kids. All proceeds will go to defraying the cost of the event and the remainder to Water Mission. The Walk for Water begins at 10 a.m.

Here is a [LINK](#) to our team page that Tory created if you want to walk and a second [LINK](#) to make a donation.

Dist. 6780 Conference Registration Deadline Extended to March 31st

Due to the enthusiastic response to Early Bird Registration for the **2023 District 6780 Conference May 4-6** at DreamMore Resort in Pigeon Forge, the Conference Committee has extended the deadline for Early Bird Registration from March 15 until midnight Friday March 31, 2023 to allow more time for Rotarians to register to at the reduced rate of \$169.

Anyone who registered after March 15 at “Late Fee” pricing will receive a refund of \$30 to conform to the Early Bird rate.

The 2023 "Imagine Your Dreams" conference will be filled with fun, food, fellowship, Cinco de Mayo and Kentucky Derby celebrations, as well as awards, square dancing, music, the district business meeting, a service projects and grants showcase area for clubs, plus Rotaractors and Interactors.

Julia Tryukhan, our former Rotary Youth Exchange student in 2007-2008 from Ukraine, will be making her presentation about the war in Ukraine and being a refugee. She will speak on Saturday between 3:15-4:45 for about 20 to 25 minutes.



RLI Sessions Set April 22 in Chattanooga

If you have not already become a part of our **Rotary Leadership Institute** (RLI) family, please consider joining for RLI Part 1 on Saturday, April 22, 2023 in Chattanooga. And if you have begun your RLI journey already, please continue with us! RLI-II-III and the Graduate Course will be conducted.



RLI is a great learning opportunity for new members, or those who have been a member awhile but want to know more about Rotary and leadership in a volunteer organization. It's also perfect for those members who are on the track to club leadership!

Class size for each level is limited to 30, so members should register early. This is a series of three fast-paced, interactive, one-day courses designed to

build knowledge of Rotary. Among others, topics include Membership, Service Projects, and the Rotary Foundation.

RLI will be held at Red Bank Middle School (3701 Tom Weathers Drive, Chattanooga TN 37415). Registration starts at 8 a.m. ET and classes run from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Registration is \$50 per course, which includes all materials as well as a continental breakfast and lunch.

Here is the [LINK](#) to register. Teresa Musice is the Chair of RLI and can be contacted at this [LINK](#) to her email.

The Good News & The Bad News

Dr. Charlie Barnett has his doctor's jacket on today but he's preaching from the pulpit! On to his sermon:

First the bad: Big government and big business are doing their best to make healthcare unavailable and unaffordable. A recent study showed that a primary care doctor would have to work 27 hours a day to meet all the government rules, guidelines and regulations. The net result, of course, is fewer individuals going into primary care. You have probably noticed this if you have tried to get a doctor appointment lately. Unaffordable healthcare is witnessed by the fact that the average cost for employer sponsored family health insurance in 2022 was more than \$22,000 per year. Meanwhile, United Healthcare had a \$79 billion gross profit margin that year.



Now, some good news, although relatively minor: The Feds are making do-it-yourself home care a little bit easier and more available. The FDA recently approved an at home DIY test that simultaneously detects influenza A, influenza B and COVID-19. You may be the Doubting Thomas regarding taking medications for these illnesses but at least you have the knowledge to isolate yourself and help prevent the spread of these illnesses. Every little bit helps

Mystery Rotarian Time

It's Down to the Final 4 Clues

Twelve clues have come and gone, which means we are down to the final four clues today for the **March Mystery Rotarian**. Our trusty sleuths are scratching their heads as they study and work to connect the dots. This mystery is very interesting.

The last clues are:

- Favorite city is Boston.
- “I can wakeboard but can’t water ski.”
- Kickboxing is a major stress reliever.
- Loves Mexican food and eats it once a week.



If you have a guess to win the wine, email [TOM KING](#) and if you're the first in with the winning name, the wine has found a home. If after 16 clues the mystery remains a mystery, the wine goes home with our Mystery Rotarian.

Thought for the Week

“If your presence does not add value, your absence won’t make a difference.” — **Trey Smith, author**