

THE FLAGSHIP



Nov. 26, 2023

Tom King, Editor

Coming Up!!!

Nov. 29: Dr. Lynne Parker, UT Associate Vice Chancellor; Director of the AI Tennessee Initiative

Dec. 6: Webb School Madrigal Singers, 12 NOON

Dec. 13: Board of Directors, 11 a.m.

Dec. 13: Club Assembly

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

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

Artificial Intelligence Expert Dr. Lynne Parker Speaks on Wednesday

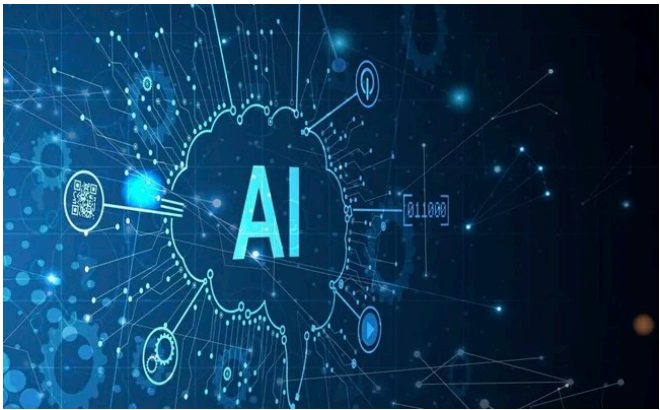
Artificial Intelligence (AI) is the talk of the technology world these days. What exactly is it? How does it work? Why do we need more of it? Or do we need it at all? How can it be used and misused? What is Machine Learning? And Tensorflow? Neural Networks?

On Wednesday one of our country's top experts about AI will be our speaker — **Dr. Lynne Parker.** Her husband is Bob Parker, a Past President of our club.



Her credentials speak volumes:

- In 2018 she began a four-year post as Deputy United States Chief Technology Officer and Director of the National Artificial Intelligence Initiative Office within the White House. In that role, she oversaw the development and implementation of our country's national AI strategy.
- She returned to the University of Tennessee and is now Associate Vice Chancellor and director of the new AI Tennessee Initiative at UT, where she will lead the university's strategic vision and strategy for multidisciplinary artificial intelligence education and research.
- Prior to her time inside the White House, Parker served as interim dean of UT's Tickle College of Engineering and also as the National Science Foundation's division Director of Information and Intelligent Systems.



In her new role at UT, the initiative she is directing is designed to increase UT's funded research, expand the number of students developing interdisciplinary skills and competencies related to AI, and position the university and the state of Tennessee as national and global leaders in the data-intensive knowledge economy.

Dr. Parker is a Knoxville native. She completed her Master's degree in UT's Min H. Kao Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and her Ph.D at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She joined UT's faculty in 2002 when she founded the Distributed Intelligence Laboratory, where she broadened research and knowledge into multi-robot systems, sensor networks, machine learning, and human-robot interaction.

Now, get your questions ready and let's give Lynne a warm welcome!

The Lowdown on RCF's December

We will begin our Christmas holiday season on Wednesday December 6th with the always talented and smiling faces of the **Webb School Madrigal Singers** dressed in their impressive period clothes.

Because of school schedules, they will begin their program at 12 noon and we want everyone in their seats by 12 — at the latest.

It is recommended you arrive earlier than usual to get through the meal line and be seated as soon as possible.



To accommodate the Madrigals' schedule, our December Club Assembly and Board of Directors meetings will both shift to Dec. 13. The board meets at 11 a.m. and the Assembly begins at 12:15 p.m.

Dec. 16 and Dec. 23 are Salvation Army Saturdays for us. See the story below.

Then we'll have a three-week holiday break with no meetings on Dec. 20, Dec. 27 and Jan. 3, 2024. We've also cancelled December's Third Thursday on Dec. 21 because of busy schedules so close to Christmas.

That said, do not forget about our annual **After Christmas Party** at the beautiful home of Allison and Noah Myers on Friday Jan. 12. This fun event features wonderful Rotary fellowship, a great catered dinner and holiday libations. You're asked to help with the latter by bringing your own wine. We will be sending out an online sign-up sheet for this event. The partying begins at 5:30 p.m. and ends around 8:30.

We'll Ring the Bells Dec. 16 & 23



holiday campaign at the Farragut Kroger. At left are PP Megan Belcher and Brian Elton ringing and smiling last year.

Mike Singletary will be passing around the sign-up sheet at our meeting Wednesday. Each shift lasts for two hours. This counts as a meeting makeup. It's a lot of fun and a superb PR event for our club.

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. We need a volunteer this week to drive Bill to our meeting and then home on Wednesday — Nov. 29. 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!!

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.

Our Family of Rotary News

The health bug will not let go of the Markowitz clan. Saturday morning at 1 a.m. **Stephanie** took her mother, **Amy Shipley**, to Turkey Creek Tennova Medical Center's ER. She has a viral infection of her intestines and has been admitted, but is now home. There's more from Stephanie: "While I was there I started getting sick and had to go home. Brent was already sick at home with Madi. My aunt got it too. I'm in so much pain right now I can't stand it and I can't keep anything down, so we are trying to keep Madi busy playing on floor. I want to go to the ER for myself but can't leave Brent sick with Madi." This morning she says they are in recovery mode.



Why Is Healthcare So Expensive? A Disgusted Doc Has a Few Reasons

Today's Medical Moment from **Dr. Charlie Barnett** addresses a major healthcare issue – what makes it so expensive?

Last week an article appeared in the online version of the Journal of American Medical Association that concluded that even Artificial Intelligence will not slow the cost of American healthcare because the administrative burden is too complicated. For example:



1. Total healthcare spending in the U.S. for administration alone is \$1 trillion per year, which is more than the total spending for healthcare in Germany, France, and Italy combined.

2. It costs a primary care physician \$20.49 to just submit a bill.
3. There are 317,987 different health plans in the U.S.
4. “Each plan can have its own set of covered benefits, its own documentation standards, its own payment processes and payment rules”
5. For each submitted bill there are 14 different steps to process a payment.
6. Each insurer has their own documentation requirements that must be met by the physician or it will result in a denial of payment.
7. There are 599,204 unique codes to describe healthcare products or services. Each code has a pricing model that the provider’s documentation must satisfy.
8. In total there are 57 billion negotiated prices in the U.S. or 94,335 for each service code.

Disgusted? You should be a doctor!

5 Celebrating December Birthdays

Only five Rotarians will be celebrating birthdays in December 2023.

New Year’s Eve again should be fun for **Farrell Levy** because that’s also his birthday! And we wish them all Happy Birthdays this month!!

Dec. 4: Jeff Reed
Dec. 5: John Hoffman
Dec. 11: PE Teri Jo Fox
Dec. 30: Craig Donnachie
Dec. 31: Farrell Levy



A Thought for Your Week

“It’s the friends we meet along the way who help us appreciate the journey.”
— Anon

