

THE FLAGSHIP



Sept. 17, 2023

Tom King, Editor

Coming Up!!!

Sept. 20: Knox County
Mayor Glenn Jacobs

Sept. 21: Third
Thursday, 5:30 p.m.,
Little Bangkok

Sept. 27: Farragut Mayor
Ron Williams

Oct. 4: Board of
Directors, 11 a.m.

Oct. 4: Club Assembly

Oct. 11: TBA

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

Purple Pinkie Donut Drive To Wipe Out Polio Begins Oct. 16

Rotary's 6th Annual Dunkin' Purple Pinkie Donut Day across Tennessee will be held on Wednesday October 25th. It is our major fundraiser for World Rotary Day that will be celebrated on October 24.

What is Purple Pinkie Day? That's a legitimate question our newer members may ask. Here's the answer: In countries where the threat of polio remains, children

still receive their polio vaccine by mouth. When vaccinating millions of children in a short period of time it is impossible to document, so every child has their little finger



(pinkie) nail of their left hand painted with an indelible purple marker to ensure they only receive one dose. This is how the “Purple Pinkie” has become a symbol of a polio free world.

Over the last five years we have raised just under \$5 million for the eradication of polio and our goal is to add another \$1.5 million this year. This fundraiser takes advantage of several matching fund opportunities and turns every dollar you donate into \$7.50. This 7.5x match means your \$25 donation becomes \$187.50 in the global fight to eradicate polio and on top of that you get a free box of Purple Pinkie Donuts as a thank you.

The pick-up day for your donuts is October 25 (we meet that day)!

Here are some key pieces of information you need:

- You must preorder donuts by Wednesday October 16th to earn Paul Harris Foundation and Eradicator Club credit.
- Online orders can be placed immediately at this [LINK](#) along with an additional \$25 donation (or more).
- Club (group) orders can be placed using the Club Group Order Form we will be using.

Wednesday's Speaker: Mayor Glenn Jacobs



Glenn Jacobs is a hard man to miss anywhere. Knox County's 6-foot 9-inch tall mayor will be our guest speaker Wednesday at the Farragut Community Center (FCC) to discuss his pet project — **“Read City USA.”**

Led by Jacobs, Read City is a collaborative initiative of Knox County, the Knox County Public Library, and Knox County Schools, and other community organizations to help all

children learn to read early and well, thereby reaching their full potential in school and in life. Jacobs is all in — reading in costume at schools and at libraries (as pictured here).

After a Hall of Fame career as a professional wrestler, most notably as WWE \superstar and three-time world champion Kane, and a few decades as a small business owner, Jacobs ran for mayor of Knox County. In 2018, he was overwhelmingly elected, and was reelected in 2022.

Glenn and his wife, Crystal, live in Knox County with their family, including two daughters, two sons-in-law, two grandchildren and five dogs.

Fascinating Facts From Col. Hurst About the 134th Air Refueling Wing

Thanks to **Lt. Col. Travers Hurst**, the Executive Officer of the 134th Air Refueling Wing of the Tennessee Air National Guard (TANG) at McGhee Tyson, we all have a better understanding of their operations after his Wednesday presentation.

Hurst, a native of Maryville, also serves as the unit's Public Affairs Officer. In the picture he is talking after the meeting with another Air Force colonel, Chris Sheffield (see the next article about our guests).



Those big jets we see in our skies are KC-135 Stratotankers. The 134th has 10 of them. They provide the core aerial refueling capability for the U.S. Air Force and has excelled in this role for more than 50 years. They also

provide refueling support to the Navy, the Marine Corps and allied nation aircraft. In case you wondered, the K stands for tanker and the C stands for fuel/cargo transport. Hurst said these jets were built between 1957-1962. The newest version is the KC-46.

He offered us a number of interesting facts:

- The airbase covers 363 acres.
- On site they store 614,000 gallons of jet fuel.
- The KC-135s can fly nonstop from McGhee Tyson to the Mediterranean without refueling.
- The unit has 1,105 airmen from 17 states and 13 Tennessee counties.
- Each jet has a crew of 3.
- When refueling fighter jets, depending on the type jet, on average they require refueling after an hour of flying.
- The unit has been flying for 58 years without an accident.

This past June the 134th hosted a ceremony to unveil its new \$31 million aircraft hangar. The 57,400 square-foot hangar is large enough to house a KC-135 Stratotanker and also boasts specific requirements to house the Air Force's newest in-flight refueling tanker, the KC-46 Pegasus.

Here is a [LINK](#) to their website and it makes for interesting reading.

Thanks for a great program, Colonel!

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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Whatta Day for Visitors & Guests

A Past District Governor....our Julie Tryukhan from Ukraine....a pair of Prospective Members ...and more! Let's meet our 8 guests!

- We had one very important Visiting Rotarian on Wednesday — Past District 6780 Governor **Col. Greg Maciolek**. He is a past president (several times over) of the Knoxville Breakfast Rotary Club and runs the Public Image operation for our district.
- Jared Greene introduced his very special guest — his son **Mason**, who is 11. Snazzy dresser too! He's a 6th grader at Riceville Elementary in McMinn County where the Greene's live. "Mason is interested in serving in the Air Force and a career as a pilot. He had a great time and loved meeting everyone. He thoroughly enjoyed the Calhoun's BBQ and banana pudding," Jared said. "He also said he liked the Four Way Test."
- Bill Nichols had two guests — **Julie Tryukhan**, our former Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) student in 2007-2008, from Ukraine, and **Craig Donnachie**. Julie and her two children, Mark and Polly, are refugees from the war in her home country,



Ukraine. She arrived here in August 2022. On Monday she begins her new job in the KUB Human Resources Dept. Bill says that Julie spoke to the Lenoir City and Crossville Rotary clubs this past week. Craig, Bill says, is a Prospective Member. They met at Hardin Valley Academy's Senior Night when Bill was there with his RYE display.

- PP Dave Smoak's guest was **Air Force Lt. Col. Chris Sheffield**. He and his family recently relocated to Knoxville. "He's retiring at the end of this year so he's technically still employed by the Air Force, but he is assigned to us through the end of his retirement date. He will be integrated into all departments and work on special projects," David

- explained. Sheffield's last assignment was Deputy Base Commander for Vandenburg Air Force Base in California — 11,000 airmen.
- Fred Adomat's friend — **Paula Womack** — was his guest. They are Third Thursday regulars!
- One of our newest members — Brian Walker — had a special guest, his wife **Jennifer**. And he had some news for us — she wants to join and is a Prospective Member. Great news!
- PP Peggy Wilson's guest was her husband and personal Uber pro, **Joe Wilson**. It's always great to have Joe with us. He's a little like a semi-member!

What a great group! Thanks for joining us!

Today's Family of Rotary News

PP Jim O'Brien says "I dodged a bullet!" He did. During a heart cath procedure on Wednesday afternoon Dr. Nicholas Xenopoulos found Jim's "Widow Maker" artery 80% blocked. Had his heart had other issues, the proton therapy he's facing for his prostate cancer would have been delayed. But he's cleared now to begin his treatments tomorrow afternoon (Monday Sept. 18) at the Thompson Proton Center (formerly Provision). "I'm on my way back to being cancer free— with all my coronary arteries wide open. God is good indeed!!!" Jim said.



As a followup to our news about the passing of former member **Larry Hornbaker** in Arlington, TX, we spoke with his wife, **Carolee**. Larry was 88 and she said his heart issues finally were too much for him. "It's been eight months and I'm still trying to find my way," she said. Carolee said she may be coming in November for a visit. It would be great to see her!



Farragut Rotary, Ridgedale Working To Renew Partnership

A productive, fun and beautiful partnership fell victim to Covid 19 in the spring of 2020 – along with an untold number of changes in every aspect of our lives. From 2016 to March 2020 the Rotary Club of Farragut was a **Partner in Education (PIE)** with **Ridgedale School** on 4600 Ridgedale Rd. We are in the process of resuming this partnership. The final step is a vote by our Board of Directors. at our October meeting.

Rebecca Bitner, Ridgedale's principal, and David McGinnis, its Dean of Students, attended our Wednesday meeting. After the meeting they met with President Val Privett, President-Elect Teri Jo Fox, VP Scott Bertini and PP Tom King to discuss next steps and possible projects and programs. They are pictured here.



“We are glad to have the opportunity to partner with Ridgedale again as our previous relationship was extremely beneficial. The current Bitner administration is doing a tremendous job and we will be happy to partner with them to continue their success,” Privett said.

Ridgedale is one of a very few schools in Knox County that is not a true “neighborhood school” and does not have a Parent Teacher Association or a Parent Teacher Organization. The reason has to do with the makeup of its students – they live all over Knox County.

The school's current enrollment is 85. It is a unique mix of junior high alternative students (grades 6-8) and K-12 (or ages 5 through 22) students with physical and intellectual disabilities.

News/Notes

Third Thursday at Little Bangkok; RYE Student Valerie Kinson Using Her Korean

September's Third Thursday is here — four days away. And we're going to try a new Farragut eatery this week — **Little Bangkok**, which is Candace Viox's next-door neighbor at Water2Wine. Bangkok offers a real variety of Asian food anchored by Chinese and Thai dishes. We begin at 5:30 p.m. and here is a [LINK](#) for signing up for this fun social event.

Valerie Kinson is off and speaking in South Korea. This week our Rotary Youth Exchange (RYE) student made her first presentation to her host club — the Rotary Club of Ansan — in Korean! How impressive is that? Very. No doubt Monica and Tory are so proud of her. Just click on the video image. It is a bit fuzzy and turn up your sound.



“Our Humor” report from this past Wednesday — NO REPORT!!!

Two ladies with ties to our club have been selected to the Leadership Knoxville Class of 2024. Rotarian **Julie Blaylock**, President & CEO of the Farragut West Knoxville Chamber of Commerce, and **Carolyn Levy Gilliam**, an attorney at McDonald, Levy & Taylor. Carolyn is Farrell's daughter.

An Update on Attendance Taking

One victim of Covid was our attendance bookkeeping. A good number of our members have many years of “**Perfect Attendance**” and some have wondered if we’d ever resume that count. We stopped keeping up with attendance in the spring of 2020 — specifically when the first case in Tennessee was identified on March 5. We soon began our Zoom meetings and keeping attendance was not going to work.

When Val Privett became our 2023-24 president last July, she announced then that we would begin, effective July 1, 2023, maintaining our attendance numbers again. And that’s what Secretary Sonya Ford has been doing. “If any issues arise about this the board can discuss and could agree to allow additional makeup so no one missed the perfect attendance should someone feel that we didn’t give ample notification,” President Val said.

A number of our members have perfect attendance and take this very seriously. And good for them!!!! If you have any questions or want to check on your attendance, please check with Sonya Ford.

All the Latest on Eradicating Polio!



Purple Pinkie Donuts for Polio Plus is just around the corner on October 25, so today is a great time to take a look at what’s going on worldwide in Rotary’s #1 priority — **the Global Eradication of Polio.**

- As of September 6, there have been 7 confirmed cases of polio worldwide in 2023 (+1 since last month). At this point in 2022 there were 23 cases, so we are still seeing significant year-over-year improvement.
- Surveillance data remains encouraging. There were only 6 positive environmental samples last month (5 in Pakistan and 1 in Afghanistan).

- The Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI) welcomes the latest report from the Independent Monitoring Board (IMB), which presents a rigorous independent review of the program's progress toward its goals — aiming to interrupt all remaining wild poliovirus type 1 (WPV1) transmission and circulating variant poliovirus type 2 (cVDPV2) transmission by the end of 2023. You can read the full report at this [LINK](#)
- The recent 13th annual “Pack the Park to End Polio Now!” was a big success — District's 6780 biggest "Pack the Park" ever! We sold 577 tickets, with \$6.50 from each going to End Polio Now! In addition we collected \$143.50 in cash donations, bringing the total from this year's "Pack the Park" to \$3,894 (before matches) or \$11,682 with the Gates Foundation match.

4 New Clues for Our Struggling Sleuths

The clues and guesses keep coming. To date we have no matches for the clues and the identity of our **September Mystery Rotarian** remains a mystery.

Perhaps these new 4 clues will be of some assistance!

- Their father-in-law was diagnosed with Stage 4 Glioblastoma (GBM) brain cancer — and is still alive 9 years later.
- Lived in Arizona. Never visited the Grand Canyon
- Played college basketball
- Walked “The Life of Jesus in Israel”

The rules are simple: a bottle of wine awaits the first sleuth to email [TOM KING](#) with the correct name of our Mystery member. If the sleuths fail yet again, the mystery member takes the wine home.



A Good Thought To Know

“One thing no one ever talks about, when it comes to being an older adult, is how much time we devote to keeping a cardboard box because it is, you know, a really good box.” — Unknown