

# COGS

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**Rotary**   
Club of Kingsport

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**THE MAGIC  
OF ROTARY**



## July 24 Meeting Preview

### Bobby Russell—Sullivan County Clerk of the Court



In 2018, Bobby Russell was elected as Sullivan County's Clerk of the Court, and has been serving the citizens of Sullivan County in this capacity for the past 6 years.

Prior to being elected, Bobby served for 32 years with the Sullivan County Sheriff's Office, where he obtained the rank of Lieutenant. His distinguished law enforcement career included assignments in several areas of the Sheriff's Office, to include Commander of the Investigations

Unit.

The Circuit Court Clerk maintains a Circuit, Law, General Sessions, and Juvenile Court system. Some of the many responsibilities of the Clerk's Office include the management of all complaints, petitions, summonses, orders and other documents relating to lawsuits or criminal actions filed in the court.

Bobby resides in Blountville with his wife Susan, who currently serves as an Investigator with the Sullivan County District Attorney's Office.

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# July 17, 2024 Meeting Summary

Attendance was 57.8%

Paul Gray opened the meeting and introduced Paul Montgomery, who led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Al Crymble provided the first Mystery Member moment, where the profiled member was revealed to be Terry Whisnant.

The July 31 meeting will be a Power of One Hour service project. Please plan to meet at the regular meeting time and location to organize the donated school supplies that members are collecting for Girls, Inc. If you can't attend on 7/31, you can drop off school supplies ahead of time—contact Jennifer Salyer for more information.

Leslie Lynch announced that the online registration for the September 14 Kingsport RLI class is open now. If you are interested, or can help volunteer that morning during registration, please see Leslie.



Paul Gray then introduced this week's speaker, Chief Dale Phipps of the Kingsport Police Department. Chief Phipps provided a snapshot of the current department, while highlighting the many ways things have changed since he joined the force in 1988. Currently the department has 127 slots for police positions, plus an additional 43 civilian positions. Right now there are 16 spots that are either open or are filled by personnel who are still in training.

Of the current staff, there are four graduates of the FBI National Academy and nine National Forensics Academy graduates. Forty percent of all the staff has less than five years' experience, and 22 percent came from outside the state.

Chief Phipps also summarized the training for police officers, which includes 10–12 weeks attending one of two Basic Academies in the region, plus an additional 16 weeks of field training. Once officers are working out in the field, they are required to have a minimum of 40 hours a year in additional training. He wrapped up his program by answering a number of audience questions.

Paul closed the meeting with a recitation of the Four-Way Test.

# A pilgrimage to remember

## Rotary Voices

By Chuck Oldanie, Rotary Club of Seminole Lake, Florida, USA



In April, I found myself shoulder to shoulder with dozens of pilgrims hiking along a centuries-old route in Northwest Spain known as the Camino de Santiago. This year more than 500,000 people from across the world hiked some section of the various routes that all end up at the Cathedral in Santiago de Compostela. For most it's a spiritual journey, that's also physically challenging as it undulates over different terrain.

With the help of my fellow Rotarian and good friend David Buzza, I put together the journey to raise money for Ukrainian refugee mothers in

our community of Seminole near Tampa Bay. We have been supporting them in several ways through a nonprofit, Crisis Connect, founded by another Seminole Rotarian, Terry Collier.

Peace is my passion. I have been involved with peace for many years. In 2012, I worked with Rotary leaders in India, the regional branch of Habitat for Humanity, and Seeds of Peace, a fantastic organization, to bring together 70 youth from India representing three different religions – Hindu, Muslim, and Christian – to build homes in the 105 degree heat. You haven't experienced anything until you've built homes in that kind of heat!

Buzza had walked a much longer section of the Camino starting in France a year ago, raising money for another organization our club supports that runs a food pantry. In October, eager to find another peace effort I could get behind, I got the idea to recruit members of our club to walk a shorter section of the Camino and solicit donations for Ukrainian refugees. Surprisingly, or maybe not so surprisingly, four other members enlisted to join Buzza and me, along with one spouse and two friends.

With the backing of our entire club, who followed our progress on social media, we completed the 73-mile section from Tui, a town on the border between Spain and Portugal, to Santiago in 7 days, averaging about 10 miles a day. In pledges, we raised over \$7,000 for Crisis Connect.

Nothing I've ever done body, mind, or soul has been like the Camino. The views are magnificent, the people are all warm and friendly. There's an entire industry along the trail that caters to pilgrims with shops, hotels, restaurants, and even hospitals. and the camaraderie among hikers is unbelievable. There's a saying "The Camino will provide." It's entirely true. We had different things happen and whenever we needed help along the way, someone would be there to help.

I had taken walks along the beach in advance, but I hadn't prepared well enough, especially given the issues with my knee. I was 82 at the time, so I created the 82 rule. If you are 82 and your knees go south when you need to go north, you get a taxi.



There was one time going down an incline that my knee went out and the pain was horrific. I needed to get down, and Ed Hallock inched me down sideways. If he hadn't been there, I don't know what I would have done. Things like that will bond you big time.

But we did complete most of the trail on foot and received our certificate of completion. The experience was amazing, and the support of the club was phenomenal. My club has always been "all in" when it comes to service, both internationally and locally. We support 26 local organizations and have multiple international projects. We are a boots-on-the-ground club. If there's not a way to actively take part, we don't get involved.

I am hopeful of organizing an even bigger Camino walk in the future perhaps involving Seeds of Peace and other partner organizations. We'd love to do a peace conference along the way, but we'll see. If you love peace as much as I do or would be interested in helping in such a venture you can contact me at [chuckoldanie@gmail.com](mailto:chuckoldanie@gmail.com).

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**JULY 2024**

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
30	1	2	3 No Meeting, Independence Day Holiday	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Paul Gray—Plans for 2024-2025 Rotary Year	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Dale Phillips—City of Kingsport Chief of Police	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Bobby Russell—Sullivan County Clerk of the Court	25	26 Tax Free Weekend for School Supplies	27
28	29	30	31  School Supplies for Girls Inc.			

## MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Edna Potts—July 4  
Shannon Morelock—July 9  
Jerry Miller—July 11  
Bruce Sites—July 14  
Kenneth Calvert—July 19  
Rebecca Beck—July 22

## WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

July 01—Bill Bard—63 Years  
July 06—Judy Fischer—51 Years  
July 08—Wirt Taylor—17 Years  
July 10—Rebecca Beck—20 Years

## MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

July 01—John Porter—44 Years  
July 01—Wirt Taylor—57 Years  
July 01—Buddy Scott—41 Years  
July 01—Dennis Phillips—35 Years  
July 09—Pam Rehart—16 Years  
July 15—Todd Jones—02 Years  
July 22—Jerry Miller—26 Years  
July 25—Bill Adams—43 Years

## Upcoming Events

August 24—District 7570 Membership Summit—The Heartwood Center, Abingdon, VA  
September 14—Rotary Leadership Institute—Part 1—Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church, Kingsport, TN

### HOW TO FIND US

#### Rotary Club of Kingsport

District 7570 | Area 13 | Club 5739

Meets every Wednesday at Noon  
at

The Crown Center inside Food City  
1205 N Eastman Road | Kingsport, TN



facebook.com/RotaryClubofKingsport/



@RotaryClubofKingsport



KingsportRotaryClub@gmail.com



KingsportRotaryClub.com

#### CLUB OFFICERS:

PRESIDENT:

**Paul Gray** | 423.335.0486

PRESIDENT-ELECT:

**Leslie Lynch** | 520.425.2259

TREASURER:

**John Fleming** | 423.579.0059

SECRETARY:

**Heather Cook** | 423.502.0541

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

**Kathleen McLaughlin** | 423.429.8421

CLUB DIRECTORS:

**Kitty Frazier** | 423.534.1745

**Todd Jones** | 931.224.3761

**Sharon Moore** | 901.230.3919

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

**Heather Cook** | 423.502.0541

#### INTERNATIONAL & DISTRICT OFFICERS:

RI PRESIDENT:

**Stephanie Urchick**

DISTRICT 7570 GOVERNOR:

**Bret Hrbek**

AREA 13 GOVERNOR:

**Joseph (Joe) Ley**

DISTRICT SECRETARY:

**Nancy Whitlock**

DISTRICT TREASURER:

**Jacob Higginbotham**

DISTRICT FOUNDATION CHAIR:

**Tim Carter**



### THE 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 & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 | Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

## Local Clubs for Make-ups

#### MONDAY

Noon | Tri-Cities—Northeast State  
Community College, Pierce Admin Bldg.,  
Room P309, Blountville, TN

6:00 PM | Johnson City Evening—Howard  
Hunt's Edward Jones Office, 4018 Roan St.  
Johnson City, TN

#### TUESDAY

7:15 AM | Scott County—Scott Co. Park &  
Golf Course Clubhouse, 247 Fore Drive, Gate  
City, VA

7:30 AM | Bristol Morning VA-TN—  
The Summit Co-Work Space (Expedition  
Meeting Room) 1227 Volunteer Pkwy, Bristol,  
TN

Noon | Bristol VA-TN—Bristol Train  
Station, 101 Martin Luther King Jr Blvd  
Bristol, VA

Noon | Johnson City—Johnson City  
Country Club 1901 E Unaka Ave, Johnson  
City, TN

Noon | Greeneville—Tusculum University,  
Niswonger Commons Pioneer Café, 60 Shiloh  
Road Greeneville, TN

#### WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM | Greeneville-Morning—Laughlin  
Memorial Hospital Cafeteria Conference  
Room, Greeneville, TN

7:30 AM | Kingsport-Sunrise—Food City  
Press Room, Suite 300, 200 Clinchfield St.,  
Kingsport, TN

Noon | Unicoi County—Town Hall, 211  
N.Main St., Erwin, TN

Noon | Elizabethton—First Christian Church  
of Elizabethton, Fellowship Hall, 513 Hattie  
Ave, Elizabethton, TN

#### THURSDAY

7:15 AM | Johnson City Morning—Food  
City Community Room, 920 N. State of  
Franklin Rd., Johnson City, TN

Noon | Kingsport-Downtown—Food City  
Crown Center, 1205 N Eastman Road,  
Kingsport, TN

**AVAILABLE 24/7—**

www.RotaryClubOne.org