

COGS

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Rotary 
Club of Kingsport

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**THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY**



August 14 Meeting Preview

Mr. Jack Pierce

From Slavery to Today in Kingsport



Over the past 100 years, the Riverview neighborhood has evolved and gone through a number of significant changes, from poverty and segregation, to the construction of then modern-day apartments in the '40s, to the integration of schools in the '60s, to serious drug and criminal activity in the '90s, to major revitalization efforts in the 2000s.

The Riverview of yesterday is no more. The neighborhood has been transformed. And through it all, longtime resident Jack Pierce was there to witness the changes.

Jack's grandfather was a slave in Kingsport for Dr. Vincent Pierce. The Pierce family owned the land where Bays Mountain Park is today. Jack was born in 1929 in Old Kingsport. A member of Central Baptist Church in Riverview. His father was Albert Pierce and there is a family cemetery in Horse Creek where many slaves were buried.

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August 7, 2024 Meeting Summary

Attendance was 48.9%

Paul Gray opened the meeting and introduced Isaac Webb, who led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Leslie Lynch provided the week's Sunshine with some historic events that occurred in the month of August.



Paul Gray then introduced this week's speaker, Area Governor Dr. Joe Ley, who spoke to the club about the district's areas of focus for this upcoming year. These areas of focus are designed to reflect this year's Rotary theme: The Magic of Rotary. This Rotary magic is influenced the projects clubs do, the money raised for service projects and programs like Polio Plus, and the friends gained through Rotary's presence in local communities and around the world.

Dr. Ley explained that leadership development, such as the skills learned at RLI (the next session is being held in Kingsport on September 14) and at the annual District Conference, help members to achieve success within these areas of focus. Youth engagement, through RYLA and programs like the Kennedy Elementary Early Act club, is crucial for expanding both the current and future reach of Rotary. The district is also focusing on increasing membership across all clubs. The district goal is to have 3,000 members, which would require all the clubs to increase their own membership by approximately 10 percent. The district is also focusing on club adaptability in order to help them attract new members in a changing world.

The Club congratulated Rotarian Paul Montgomery for his successful campaign where he was elected as the new Mayor of Kingsport. We look forward to working with Paul in his efforts to lead the city and in developing the Vision 2042 for the 125th anniversary of the model City's founding.



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

Our stories are what attract people to Rotary

Rotary Voices

By Joe Otin, past governor of Rotary District 9212 (Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Sudan)

I gravitate naturally to statistics despite the negative feelings some people have about them. I think that information is the fuel that our world runs on and without it our systems will sputter, stall, and shut down. That is because statistics are significant in decision-making.

When I joined the Rotary Club of Nairobi East, Kenya, 24 years ago, I was told that good Rotarians were defined by the regularity of their attendance, the frequency of their gifts to [The Rotary Foundation](#), and most importantly by their ability to introduce new members to the club.



In my quest to be a valuable member, I turned to statistics as a way to demonstrate the credibility of Rotary to family, friends, and neighborhood skeptics. I learned all the important stats by heart and would spit them out at the slightest provocation. If someone happened to notice my membership pin, they would get a barrage of information enough to weigh down even the strongest weightlifter.

A different way

Only a bolt of lightning would get my victims to wake up again by the time I was done talking. I thought I was promoting the club but instead I was boring them to death.

Looking back, it shouldn't have been a surprise to me that my recruitment efforts led to naught. Not a single person that I targeted with my facts and figures joined the organization. Yet other members invited guests to our lunches every week, and these guests eventually joined our club within a month or two.

One day I got a call from a business journalist who wanted to discuss the results of a survey that my company had recently published. This was not unusual because in those days I worked for a research company and media executives regularly called me for insights and information.

The human and relatable stories we tell are the ones that fire emotional triggers and create the special connections we have in Rotary.

We met at a popular restaurant and after trading personal stories, I casually brought up a Rotary event I had gone to over the weekend where we'd commissioned a sports arena in a school that was situated in a nearby slum. That story captured her imagination so much that by the end of our meeting she asked for an invite to my Rotary club. She eventually became the first person that I successfully introduced into membership without having to twist their arm.

The business journalist I speak of is none other than Carole Kimutai, who went on to become one of

the most celebrated past presidents of the Rotary Club of Nairobi-East.

I learned something from that experience. Nobody really cares about statistics and data; they are more interested in what the experience means to you and me. People tend to follow the passion and the feelings that they see in us, which creates an emotional connection that is more powerful than a rational thought process.

Telling stories

I learned to tell stories about my Rotary experiences. I spoke about the members and the interesting things that they did. I spoke about the people that we worked with on various projects who seemed to have a deeper understanding of life because of their service to mankind. I spoke about the social interaction, new relationships and old friendships, and the impact that they had on my life.

I also described those ripples that oscillate in my soul whenever I see happy faces of needy children who receive new books or toys, and the joy of mothers who bring their children to medical camps for free health checkups.

The results speak for themselves. In my first three years of spewing statistics, I didn't bring in any new members. In the following 16 years, I have introduced over 30 new members, and together with Jim Wilson and George Mathenge, launched a new club with over 35 members. This club has gone on to form another club with a similar number of charter members.

The human and relatable stories we tell are the ones that fire emotional triggers and create the special connections we have in Rotary. Whether it is through face-to-face interaction, on social media, or even when presenting a speech to a large audience, we can make our clubs appealing by defining and articulating what is truly meaningful to us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JULY 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31  School Supplies for Girls Inc.	1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Joe Ley—District 7570 Area Governor	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Jack Pierce—From Slavery to Today in Kingsport	15	16	17
18	19	20	21 Sarah Good—Unified Track and Field Team, Head Coach—Dobyns Bennett High School	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Sarah Fagerburg—Founder, Action Academy, Johnson City	29	30	31

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Aug 07—Gary Bridges
Aug 14—Ambre Torbett
Aug 20—Russell Adkins
Aug 22—Dennis Phillips
Aug 25—Bill Lewis
Aug 25—David Randolph
Aug 26—Steve Swinney

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 13—Ambre Torbett—30 Years
Aug 14—Emily Ball—14 Years
Aug 19—Tom Todd—63 Years
Aug 25—Bill Adams—61 Years
Aug 27—Ken Calvert—47 Years
Aug 29—Leslie Lynch—54 Years

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 01—Deborah Adams—29 Years
Aug 15—Leslie Lynch—21 Years
Aug 16—Rebecca Beck—6 Years
Aug 24—Heather Cook—13 Years
Aug 28—Jennifer Salyer—11 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/



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KingsportRotaryClub.com

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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