

COGS

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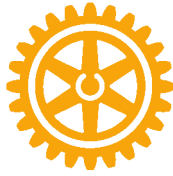
ISSUE 22

Rotary 
Club of Kingsport

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**THE MAGIC
OF ROTARY**



December 18 Meeting Preview Kingsport Chamber Dinner and Programs

Nicole Austin, a native of Clintwood, Va., now serves as membership engagement director. She manages the Kingsport Chamber's member renewal program and build relationships with members to get them more involved with the organization and community. Before her new position, she served as the executive director of workforce development and government relations for 14 years. Austin has been employed by the Kingsport Chamber since 2003.



In 2010, Austin graduated from the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute for Organizational Management, a four-year premier nonprofit professional development program for nonprofit professionals, fostering individual growth through interactive learning and networking opportunities. She is a 2006 graduate of the Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Executives Institute and was an instructor for the program for many years.

Austin is a 2003 recipient of The Business Journal of the Tri-Cities TN/VA 40 Under Forty Award given to forty rising business leaders under the age of forty. In 2005, she was selected to participate in the statewide Generation TN leadership conference for emerging leaders in their 20s & 30s. Austin is a graduate of the 2006 Leadership Kingsport class and the 2003 Lead Bristol class.

In 2014, she was appointed by Governor Haslam to the State Workforce Development Board. Austin has served on various other boards and councils including: Expect More Achieve More State Advisory Council; SCORE (State Collaborative on Reforming Education) Coalition; TN Scholars State Board, Tennessee Chamber of Commerce Education & Workforce Development Council; Business for TN Prosperity executive team; Dobyys-Bennett Career and Technical Education Advisory Council, Indian Path Medical Center Government Relations Council; United Way of Greater Kingsport Leadership Development team, Tennesseans for Quality Early Childhood Education Tri-Cities Council and the First Presbyterian Children's Center Board.

Her greatest accomplishment is being a mom to her children Brayden, Reagan and Grayson. She resides in Kingsport with her husband, Ray, and their three children.

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December 11, 2024 Meeting Summary

Attendance was 53.5%

Leslie Lynch opened the meeting and introduced Isaac Webb, who led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

The rest of the meeting was given over to Lafe Cook, long-time director of Dobyns-Bennett Band, and a number of his chamber music students, for the most popular program of the year. The students took turns playing Christmas selections separated by instrument type. Groups included flutists, clarinet players, and saxophone players. As each ensemble played, Cook introduced each student and shared their post-secondary plans.

He also combined the ensembles for a rendition of Bugler's Holiday before excusing the students and presenting a brief overview of the DB Band's 10th place finish at the National Marching Band Competition. He also discussed the challenges of working with the smallest band in 25 years, due to the lack of Middle School band opportunities during COVID. But this instruction bounced back quickly, and Cook predicted that there could be as many as 500 band members in the next two years.

He ended his talk with several anecdotes about the differences in band students today versus in 1998, which was when he started his first position up in Virginia and took questions from the members.

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



Lebanese Rotary, Rotaract clubs support displaced families

Rotary Voices

By Elise Nassif, Rotaractor and Rotary Peace Fellow

As a member of [Rotaract](#) and a [Rotary Peace Fellow](#) at the University of Bradford, I wear many hats: peace builder, Rotaractor, and professional in security and governance. But above all, I am Lebanese, and right now, my country is facing a devastating humanitarian crisis.

At this very moment, Lebanon is enduring one of the worst crises in its history, with over 1 million displaced individuals. Children are not going to school, and women and girls have little to no access to hygienic products. Schools have been turned into makeshift shelters, but even these temporary havens are lacking basic necessities like clean water, electricity, mattresses, and bedding.

In response, Rotary and Rotaract clubs in Lebanon are working hand-in-hand to provide critical aid to displaced families taking refuge in schools-turned-shelters. Clubs have mobilized quickly, delivering warm meals, essential necessities, and installing water tanks and filters to ensure access to clean, drinkable water for everyone in need.

Beyond immediate needs, these clubs are also focusing on creating a safe and supportive environment within the shelters, organizing activities for children, and providing counseling resources for families who have endured traumatic experiences. However, we still need support to continue securing essential resources, including hygiene kits, women's care products, and supplies for children. These items go toward supporting the well-being and dignity of displaced families in this challenging time.

This situation is deeply connected to Rotary's areas of focus, particularly Maternal and Child Health, Basic Education and Literacy, and Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene. Together, we can address these urgent needs by ensuring families have access to clean water, safe shelter, and dignity.

As a Rotaractor and Rotary Peace Fellow, I've seen firsthand how Rotary unites to serve in times of crisis. I am asking all Rotarians and Rotaractors around the world to [learn more about our situation and consider how you can support our work](#). Let's unite and show the world the true power of Rotary's compassion and commitment to change.



Rotary Peace Fellow Elise Nassif speaks about the plight of families in Lebanon.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Disease Prevention and Treatment Month
DECEMBER 2024

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4 Adrienne Batara, Sara Nowell—Christmas in Kingsport	5	6	7
8	9	10	11 Lafe Cook—Dobyns Bennett Band	12	13	14
15	16	17	18 Nicole Austin—Kingsport Chamber Dinner and Program	19	20	21
22	23	24		26	27	28
29	30	31	1 No Meeting—New Year's Day Happy New Year!	2	3	4

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Dec 02—Shirley Warren
Dec 03—Jennifer Salyer
Dec 06—Isaac Webb
Dec 07—Curt Rose
Dec 16—Terry Cunningham
Dec 20—Kitty Frazier

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 18—Heather Cook—14 Years
Dec 23—Luther Cain—48 Years

MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Dec 01—Jerry Lukach—29 Years
Dec 03—Russ Adkins—27 Years
Dec 06—Kylee Feathers—1 Year
Dec 10—Clay Rolston—10 Years
Dec 29—Steve Swinney—25 Years

Upcoming Events

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

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Kandi Douthat | 423-620-0281

TREASURER:

John Fleming | 423.579.0059

SECRETARY:

Heather Cook | 423.502.0541

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

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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.RotaryeClubOne.org