

# COGS

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Rotary   
Club of Kingsport

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THE MAGIC  
OF ROTARY

## February 03 Meeting Preview

Steven Pedersen

Big Brothers Big Sisters



Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Tennessee is a defender of potential. As part of the nations oldest and largest youth mentoring agency, they match adult Volunteers (Bigs) with youth in the community (Littles) so that the Littles can achieve their full Potential. They have been in East Tennessee for over 50 years. Their area of operation spans from Knoxville to Bristol.

BBBSET interviews both their Bigs and their Littles to find out who they are as people so that they can match a Big and Little together that they know will have common ground. Each month a member from their Match

Support Team will reach out to check in on both the Big and the Little.

There are also several councils, groups and clubs that the Bigs and Littles can participate in.

Steven's presentation will give an overview of the different parts of the agency, a look at the outcomes and an overview of their needs for growth.

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# January 27, 2025 Meeting Summary

Attendance was 59.6%

Paul Gray opened the meeting and introduced Paul Montgomery, who led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Sharon Moore provided the week's Member Moment.

If you would like to donate to Polio Plus, either as a one-time contribution or a quarterly amount that can be included in your Rotary invoices, please add your name to the form at the back table or contact Kathleen.

Happy birthday to Bill Bard, who celebrated his 90th birthday this week!

Nominees for the 2025–2026 board were presented to members for a vote. Bruce Sites made a motion to approve the slate of officers as presented and Bill Adams seconded the motion. The motion was approved by the membership unanimously.

Paul introduced the week's speaker, Jenny Federico, the director of development for ETSU's Martin Center for the Arts. Conceived of during the 1980s and 90s, the Center was initiated in 2009 with an endowment by Mary B. Martin, and by 2013 had developed into a \$53 million partnership with ETSU and the City of Johnson City. Construction began in 2018 and was completed in 2020, just in time to be affected by the COVID pandemic. The first show wouldn't open until 2022.



The space was designed to include performance and instructional spaces for students, faculty and the community. The Center features three performance venues—the 1,200-seat ETSU Foundation Grand Hall, the 200-plus-seat Powell Recital Hall and a flexible staging/seating black box performing space, the Bert C. Bach Theatre. These spaces host ETSU events and performances, national acts, and community events.

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

# 2025-2026 Club Board of Directors

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The Club has elected the 2025-2026 Rotary Club of Kingsport Board of Directors

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## 2025-2026 Rotary Board

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**President** - Leslie Lynch

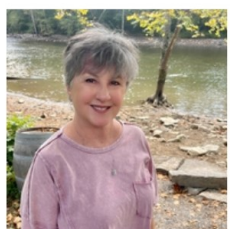
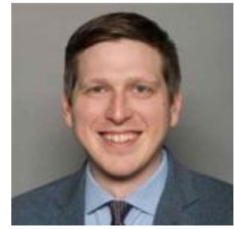
**President-Elect** - Kandi Douthat

**Vice President** - Sharon Moore

**Immediate Past President** - Paul Gray

**Secretary** - Kaylee Feathers

**Treasurer** - John Fleming



**Member** - Todd Jones

**Member** - Kitty Frazier

**Member** - Linda Coffey

Rotary   
Club of Kingsport

# Healing the wounds of war in Ukraine – visible and invisible

By Pat Merryweather-Arges —

I met Dr. Olha Paliychuk shortly after Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. As we both work in healthcare, I knew the priority needs for addressing the physical harm in emergency situations and we communicated frequently by e-mail and WhatsApp. At the same time, the Ukraine Medical Association of North America (UMANA) opened a warehouse around O'Hare airport and medical donations poured in from around the US, but with most in the Chicago and Wisconsin areas.



Volunteers sort and label boxes of medical donations at a warehouse around O'Hare airport in February 2022 for airlift to Ukraine.

Rotary District 6450 started a fundraising effort to secure medical supplies and equipment that were in great need,

identified by Rotary members in Ukraine. We purchased equipment and supplies and secured air transportation through UMANA. Many Rotary members and non-members donated for Ukraine through the district.

We also worked with Dr. Olha to identify needs when Rotary established Disaster Grants for Ukraine. In the first 18 months, the need for advanced surgical equipment for brain trauma, limb amputations, and internal organ damage from mortar attacks and shrapnel became a priority.

At the same time, the strain of war on children and family members of front-line military and health care workers became very apparent. There has been an increased emphasis on mental health support for children and family members, as well as military members, during the past two years. That has now expanded to include emergency and healthcare workers.

While the wounds of physical injuries may heal over time, the mental wounds of war are deep and harder to address without mental health support. Even those without physical wounds suffer from the mental wounds of war.

War is not natural. Children and adults are not trained to injure one another, they are trained to be kind and helpful. War takes a major mental toll on those involved in conflict.

Dr. Olha has incorporated the mental health needs as a priority in her Rotary humanitarian efforts as the needs are so great and at times, overwhelming. As a district governor-elect, Olha will be in the United States for Rotary's annual training event in Orlando in early February. This provided an ideal opportunity to plan a conference and invite other panelists to discuss the ongoing mental health impact of the war.

## Special event: Healing the wounds of war, visible and invisible

The conference will take place 4 February in Chicago at the Ukraine Cultural Center. It is an opportunity for Rotary clubs in the district and beyond, as well as the public, to get involved and learn how they can help. The free-event will include heavy appetizers and a cash bar.

Speakers include:

**Dr. Olha Paliychuk**, MD, Ph.D, MSc, MBA, is from Ukraine and is a certified gynecologist oncology physician. A member of the Rotary Club of Cherkasy, she has been instrumental in working with Rotary members and clubs to identify supplies, equipment, and services needed for Ukraine. She has been a constant source of support for Ukrainians and Rotary members throughout the war.

**John Hewko** is CEO and General Secretary of Rotary. Hewko's Ukrainian parents came to the United States in 1949 after having spent four years in a refugee camp in southern Germany. Hewko grew up speaking Ukrainian at home, and he and his wife, Marga, lived in Ukraine from 1991 to 1996. In 1991-1992, he played a small role in preparing the initial draft of Ukraine's post-Soviet constitution and participating in the working groups that were developing the initial Ukrainian post-independence legislative initiatives. They still have a great deal of family, friends, and former colleagues in Ukraine and he has been a strong advocate for the people of Ukraine.

**Chris Manson** is the vice president of Government Affairs for OSF Healthcare based out of Peoria, Illinois. A former military officer and EMT, he consulted with UMANA and others to create Ambulances for Ukraine which has sent dozens of the emergency vehicles to Ukraine, sources from communities throughout the United States including Chicago and my home town of Naperville. Seven more ambulances are scheduled for delivery later this month.

**Dr. Olga Maihutiak** serves as the MedGlobal medical lead on Ukraine Medical needs working with the World Health Organization (WHO) and has trained over 260 frontline doctors in Chernihiv, Poltava, Odesa, and Dnipro in essential Point-of-Care Ultrasound (POCUS) techniques and Butterfly Network. She is on the board of UMANA, Ambulances for Ukraine, and Ukrainian Congress Committee of America.

The conference will focus on the needs of Ukraine but also the need to promote peace and resolve conflicts. War is not natural. This is why peace is one of Rotary's main causes. Every year, Rotary awards up to 130 fully funded fellowships for dedicated leaders from around the world to study at one of our peace centers. Since the program began in 2002, the Rotary Peace Centers have trained more than 1,700 fellows who now work in over 140 countries.

Our hope for this conference is that we can increase an understanding of the growing physical and mental health needs of Ukraine as the war approaches three years; identify areas that Rotary can assist in the healing process; and strategize how Rotary Peace Centers and Rotary Peace Fellows can play a role in promoting peace. [Learn more about and register for the conference.](#)

*Pat Merryweather-Arges served as the 2023-24 RI Vice President and is a member of the Rotary Club of Naperville, Illinois, USA*

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS

# FEBRUARY 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed  | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|--|-----|-----|-----|
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29<br>Jenny Federico—<br>ETSU Martin Center<br>for the Arts    | 30  | 31  | 1   |
| 2   | 3   | 4   | 5<br>Steven Pedersen—<br>Big Brothers Big<br>Sisters           | 6   | 7   | 8   |
| 9   | 10  | 11  | 12<br>Michelle Bolling—<br>Kingsport Adult Day<br>Care         | 13  | 14  | 15  |
| 16  | 17  | 18  | 19<br>Kimball Sterling—<br>Auctioneer and<br>Appraiser         | 20  | 21  | 22  |
| 23  | 24  | 25  | 26<br>Danelle Glasscock—<br>United Way of<br>Greater Kingsport | 27  | 28  | 1   |

### MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Feb 02—John Porter  
Feb 08—Luther Cain  
Feb 08—Tara Chadwell  
Feb 09—Jane Crawford  
Feb 11—Mary Thomas  
Feb 17—Kandi Douthat

### WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 14—Al Crymble—55 Years  
Feb 14—Edna Potts—18 Years  
Feb 18—Clay Rolston—11 Years

### MEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

Feb 07—Emily Ball—7 Years  
Feb 07—Linda Coffey—1 Year  
Feb 11—Jim Johnson—25 Years  
Feb 16—Shannon Morelock—3 Years

## Upcoming Events

February 6-8, 2025 District Team Learning Seminar—Natural Bridge, Virginia  
March 6-8, 2025—President-Elect Learning Seminar—Staunton Virginia  
April 3-6—110th District 7570 Conference—The Inn At Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia



## 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:

**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**

## Rotary



### 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](http://www.RotaryeClubOne.org)