

# Rotary



# Club of Sylva

## Years of Service

Todd Vinyard  
04-21-2016  
8 Years

## Birthdays

Mary Otto Selzer  
April 12th  
Benjamin J. Pendry  
April 21st  
Chace A Spillman  
April 21st  
Michael G. Wade  
April 22nd  
Brian K Huskey  
April 28th  
Lynette Dickson  
Lazar Darby  
April 29th

## Wedding Anniversaries

Joe Rigdon  
April 5th  
Benjamin J. Pendry  
April 24th  
Joyce M Pope  
April 25th

## Club Leaders



Matt Saenger  
President



Holly Guyer  
President



Joyce M Pope  
President-Elect



Nancy G McConnell  
Secretary



Ann M Pearre  
Treasurer



Micah Carter  
Rotary Foundation Chair



Jay Pavey Jr.  
Sergeant-at-Arms

## News for April 18, 2024

Dear Rotary Friends,

We hope you can join us this Thursday for our noon meeting at First Baptist Church in downtown Sylva. Our guest speaker will be Scotti Comes from Persons First, a division of Disability Partners. It's a fantastic opportunity to learn more about this impactful program right here in our community.

For those planning to attend, you can order food from Mad Batter online at <https://www.madbatterkitchen.net/>. Just follow the instructions and remember to add "Thursday Rotary" in the notes section.

Mark your calendars for the upcoming Rotary Club of Sylva Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser on Friday, April 26, from 7 to 9:30 a.m. at First Sylva First United Methodist Church. Every penny raised will support local non-profit initiatives aimed at improving our community. Let's enjoy some delicious pancakes for a great cause! Rotarians, please sell your tickets and invite your friends. If you're available to help that day, please reach out to us. Sponsorship opportunities are also available.

Here's our meeting schedule for the remainder of the Rotary year:

- May 2nd & 16th
- May 30th: Grant \$\$ day - We'll be distributing funds to local non-profits based on our fundraising efforts this year!
- June 6th & 20th

Thank you all for embodying the spirit of "The Greatest Rotary Club in the World" in our community.

Yours In Rotary Service,  
Matt & Holly



**James M. Spiro**  
RYLA Point of Contact  
Membership Chair



**Eddie Wells**  
Club Service Chair



**Roy Warren Burnette**  
Club Public Image Chair



**Todd Vinyard**  
iPast President



**Michael G. Wade**  
iPast President

## The Rotary Club of Sylva Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser April 26th - Eat great food for great cause

No need to make breakfast on April 26th. The Rotary Club of Sylva Pancake Breakfast Fundraiser is coming on Friday, April 26, from 7 to 9:30 a.m. at First Sylva First United Methodist Church. All proceeds go to help local non-profit efforts to improve our community. Eat good pancakes for a good cause! Ask a Rotary member about tickets or purchase them that day. Thanks to our community for making this event successful and helping so many!



### Club Meeting

Sylva  
Meets at First Baptist Church of Sylva Fellowship Hall  
669 West Main Street  
Sylva, NC 28779  
Time: Thursday at 12:00 PM

## Honoring Excellence and Dedication/Thank you Linda Haggard from the Sylva Rotary Club!

The Rotary Club of Sylva had the honor of recognizing someone truly exceptional who has touched countless lives in Jackson County - Linda Haggard, the Smoky Mountain High School Performing Arts Teacher. Mrs. Haggard, who is retiring, has made an extraordinary impact by nurturing students and helping them develop lifelong skills on screen and stage and beyond.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all the [Jackson County Public Schools, NC](#) staff who joined us to celebrate Mrs. Haggard's remarkable contributions, including club member Superintendent Dr. Dana Ayers and Smoky Mountain High School Principal Evelyn Graning. We also want to express our appreciation to students Tucker Buchanan and Ella Ledford for sharing their stories and highlighting the profound impact of Mrs. Haggard's program on their lives. Proud to have impressive young people like this in our community. All of you are [#PeopleofAction](#) in our book. Thank you!

Thank you, Mrs. Haggard, for your incredible service to our community and the young people whose lives you've enriched!

Go Mustangs!



## Great Rise Against Hunger Event! Thank you to all involved!

What an incredible day of service! We're grateful to everyone who joined us to pack over 10,000 meals in less than an hour for [Rise Against Hunger](#) event at Sylva United Methodist Church. Together, we're making a real impact in the fight against hunger worldwide. Huge thanks to [Rotary District 7670](#) District Governor Sean Gibson for his presence and support. Special shoutout to the Southern Conference Champion [Western Carolina Soccer](#) team, members of the [Western Carolina Catamounts](#) football team, Fellowship of Christian Athletes (<https://www.fca.org/>) leaders and members, Rotary club members from [Rotary Club of Bryson City](#), [Rotary Club of Cashiers Valley](#), [Rotary Club of Franklin Daybreak](#) and [Haywood Rotary Club](#), Southwestern Community College President Don Tomas, Abigail Clayton from the State Employees Credit Union, and Jackson County Schools School Board for their participation. We even had to bring in an extra table to accommodate all the volunteers! Special thanks to Captain Rotary and Rotary Woman for reminding us that we can all be superheroes through service. A massive round of applause to Charles and Wanda Wolfe for their incredible work in organizing this event! Thank you to all the [#PeopleofAction](#) of all ages who made today a success! [#RiseAgainstHunger](#) [#ServiceAboveSelf](#)





## Thank you to our Rotary Island Cleanup Crew

A huge thank you to these fantastic Rotarians who recently participated in the Island Cleanup event to keep Sylva beautiful! Your dedication and [#ServiceAboveSelf](#) attitude genuinely make a difference in our community. We're proud to have such outstanding [#PeopleofAction](#) among us!



## A Special Visit from JCPS Teacher of the Year Kristin Holt!

A Special Visit from [Jackson County Public Schools, NC](#) Teacher of the Year Kristin Holt! At our Thursday meeting, the Rotary Club of Sylva was truly honored to host Kristin Holt, JCPS Teacher of the Year. Mrs. Holt, a dedicated science teacher at Jackson County Early College, shared insights into her teaching style and emphasized holistically guiding students toward their contributions within the community.

Her message was inspiring and a powerful reminder of how teachers like her care for and prepare students for a brighter future. A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Holt and all the incredible educators in Jackson County Public Schools for their unwavering dedication to students, families, and our community. We appreciate you, Mrs. Holt, and all at JCPS for all you do daily!

Mrs. Holt is pictured with Club Co-Presidents Matt Saenger and Holly Guyer in one picture and Jackson County Early College Principal Melanie Jacobs in another. Thank you to Rotary Club member and Jackson County Public School Superintendent Dana Ayers for the great introduction of Mrs. Holt.

Happy dollars were collected and went to the Kenny Nicholson Smoky Mountain High School Service Above Self Scholarship our club supports.

