

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary:

Dana Stefaniak
 Classification: Associations & Organizations, The Nest
 Sponsor: Wanda Bertram

Objections should be made in writing within seven (7) days to The Board of Directors, Rotary Club of Lexington, 401 W. Main Street, Suite 305, Lexington, KY 40507. Objections are kept in strict confidence.

**DRIVING MR. MCALLISTER
 (TO KENTON COUNTY ROTARY)**

Two things that make the Wheel Horse staff happy: first, when others in the Rotary family recognize the skill and talent that resides in our Club, and second, when Rotarians help other Rotarians. A recent example of both is Gerry van der Meer chauffeuring Jack McAllister to the Rotary Club of Kenton County last month. Jack was invited by the Kenton County Club to be its featured speaker in order to provide information regarding the Rotary Foundation Grant process. His presentation was centered on the successful grant our club is currently undertaking in Leslie County, Kentucky to install water supplies and septic systems. Sitting next to Jack in the accompanying photo is the Kenton Club's President Angela Hagedorn.

Way to go, Jack and Gerry!



The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

December 5, 2024
 — TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: Past President Kim Johnson
 Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Sharon Reed
 Introduction of Guests: Jim Dundon
 Introduction of Speaker: Chris Peck

Speaker: Lori Flees, Chief Executive Officer and President, Valvoline Inc.
 Program: The 150-Year-Old "New" Valvoline Inc.
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



LORI FLEES

Today Lexington Rotarians will hear from Lori Flees, President and Chief Executive Officer of Valvoline Inc. (Valvoline) which is headquartered in Lexington, Kentucky.

Lori Flees was named president of Valvoline in April 2022. In her role, she oversees the fast-growing retail services business in North America which operates more than 1,800 Company-owned and franchised service center locations (No. 2 in the U.S. under the Valvoline Instant Oil Change brand and No. 3 in Canada under the Valvoline Great Canadian Oil Change brand as measured by number of stores) serving consumer and fleet customers, and nearly 300

Express Care locations.

Flees joined Valvoline after spending nearly a decade at Walmart where most recently she oversaw all aspects of Walmart's Health & Wellness business across more than 4,800 locations, including the company's COVID vaccination operations. She started at Walmart as the head of Corporate Strategy which also included responsibility for global Mergers & Acquisitions. She was promoted to Senior Vice President, Next Generation Retail & Principal, Store No 8., where she led the incubation of new retail capabilities via the deployment of emerging technologies and strategic partnerships (including Google and Microsoft). Lori then moved to running part of the retail operations as SVP and GMM for Sam's Club Health & Wellness, the 590-site wholesale club's pharmacy and optical business.

Prior to her leadership experience at Walmart, she spent seventeen years at Bain & Company Inc., where she did a variety of work in

consumer goods and services, engineering and construction, industrial manufacturing, and oil and gas. Flees has extensive experience in mergers and acquisitions, corporate strategy, and performance improvement, including experience developing growth strategies for retailers with a combination of company-owned and franchised stores. Early in her career, she worked at Intel and at General Motors.

A native of Michigan, Flees holds a bachelor's degree in management systems from Kettering University and a master's degree in business administration from Harvard Business School. She is a recipient of the Kettering University Extraordinary Leadership Award that recognizes leaders of global corporations who inspire their teams to achieve extraordinary outcomes.

Valvoline publicly trades on the New York Stock Exchange under the ticker symbol VVV.



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UPCOMING PROGRAMS		UPCOMING EVENTS/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	
Dec 12	No Lunch Meeting- Holiday Party at the Campbell House, 6 PM	Dec 12	3rd Annual Holiday Party for Members and Guests, Campbell House, 6pm, \$60 Purchase tickets: http://e.givesmart.com/events/zZG
Dec 19	Booker T. Washington Holiday Party with Santa, Mane on Main	Dec 13	Early Morning Mixer, Holiday Edition, Atrium in The Square, 401 W. Main St., 8-9:30am
Dec 26 and Jan 2	HOLIDAY BREAK	Dec 19	Backpack Pack-Up, God's Pantry Food Bank, Winchester Road, 1:00pm
Jan 9	Dr. Demetrus Liggins, Superintendent, Fayette County Public Schools	Jan 30	Trivia Night Social (watch for details)

ROTARIANS COOK UP SOME COMMUNITY SERVICE!

Sometimes Doing Rotary, Differently requires breaking some metaphorical eggs! Under the leadership of Alisha Chaffin, our Club recently partnered with Sunrise Children's Services (Kentucky) to support foster children by providing a hands-on cooking experience with the kids. Under the tutelage of Bayou Bluegrass Catering a meal was prepared from scratch and then enjoyed by the children and Rotarians, along with great conversation.

If you ever wonder if Rotary is making a difference, consider the following testimonial from our own Dylan Harper:

Through The Rotary Club of Lexington, I had the privilege of cooking alongside and breaking bread with a group of young men who are under the care of Sunrise Children's Services (Kentucky). Sunrise Children's Services provides care and hope for hurting families and children through Christ-centered ministries — serving as a home for children who have been abused and neglected.

Many of these young men had never cooked a real meal for themselves until that day. You could see the pure joy and excitement on their faces as they chopped vegetables, seared meat, and toasted tortillas to craft a tasty meal of tacos!

It's heartbreaking to know that there are so many youths in our country who come from broken families, who are hurting, and who feel forgotten; but I am thankful that there are organizations like Sunrise that give children the opportunity to be seen and cared for.

Though this was a small act of service, I am grateful to have gotten the chance to listen to, laugh with, and cook alongside some promising young men.

Huge thanks to The Rotary Club of Lexington and Sunrise Children's Services (Kentucky) for making that opportunity possible.

Now, what else can we Rotarians cook up in the pursuit of Service Above Self!



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Set up & printing by Lynn Imaging
Editorial Standards: Chicago Manual of Style, 17th ed.

Rotary in Review

THE STORY BEHIND TRUE CRIME

The "perp" – or, more politely, the speaker - at our November 14 meeting has been identified: David Lyons, retired Commander of the Lexington Police Department and true crime podcaster. He was introduced by Lawrence Weathers, Police Chief of the Lexington Fayette Urban County Government. In his introductory remarks, Chief Weathers, who worked closely with David, said that he is a person of integrity, trust, and respect. In addition to being a Master Instructor with FBI-LEEDA (the Law Enforcement Executive Development Association), David and his wife, Wendy, have developed a very successful podcast and You Tube channel: The Murder Police Podcast.

The Lyons' motivation for creating the podcast was to ensure authenticity when talking about murder and missing persons cases. David said that podcasts on this genre can range from the unrealistic and exploitive to the thoughtful and well researched. The focus of their podcasts is to memorialize the victims and serve as victim advocates. This is done by addressing a particular crime through the lenses of Who, What, When, Why, and How - the basic tenets of both good journalism and police detective work.

David said that the Who is comprised of four groups of stakeholders: those in the criminal justice system, fans who are interested in the topic, content creators, and the victims, some surviving; some not. The What is the public's desire to learn more about a particular crime, ranging from casual interest to a fascination with the details, like nomenclature, means, and motives, to the unmasking and capture of the subject. At the extreme, some even get involved in actual investigation of the crime, leading Lyons to wonder "what could go wrong with that?" When is "how long ago" did the crime happen. He observed that the first murder involved Cain and Abel, which was "a long time ago" but is still the subject of conversation today. Detective stories emerged in the 18th and 19th centuries, followed by vaudeville acts, then radio and television series. The How of the popularity of true crime podcasting defied a clear explanation, but Lyons believes it comes down to a fascination with or a desire to understand how one person can do such bad things to another. How also includes how to get started, how does one investigate the crime, and how to treat the victim and others with dignity and respect. Finally,

the Why involves curiosity, although some platforms involve a macabre approach, including the sharing of crime photos. David emphasized that there has to be a loving and caring emphasis.

He concluded his presentation by saying that true crime podcast developers need to have critical thinking skills, conceptual imagination skills, and to provide a "fair trial" by staying within the legal framework. He emphasized the importance of an ethical approach to the Story Behind True Crime.

- Paul Chewning

DID YOU KNOW? MORE ABOUT PODCASTS

According to industry observer Pod-chaser, as of March 2024, there were 23,000 true crime podcasts. 61% of the listeners to the top twenty-five podcasts are women; the average median age is 29.5. Such podcasts are most popular in the US, UK, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Brazil, the Philippines, and India.

- The Editor



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LIVING LEGENDS: DAVE BLONDELL



**DAVE
BLONDELL**

As the Rotary Club of Lexington reinvents itself for the future, Living Legends, a series of interviews initiated by President Bret Anderson, seeks to recognize Rotary "Legends" to whom we all owe so much. In this edition, Christie Pierce interviews Dave Blondell.

Christie: Mind sharing your age?

Dave: 90

Christie: Where did you grow up?

Dave: Middlesboro, in Eastern Kentucky

Christie: What's your favorite childhood memory?

Dave: I would need to give that one some thought!

Christie: What's the most valuable lesson you've learned, either in school or life?

Dave: To be myself, and not try to be something that I wasn't. Overcoming my stuttering problems was a great accomplishment. Once I became a preacher, I focused on the message and not the messenger.

Christie: What did you enjoy most about your career?

Dave: Meeting and being with people of different backgrounds in society. From the people on the street to former Governors. I've always enjoyed people.

Christie: How long have you been in the Rotary Club of Lexington, and what does being a Rotarian mean to you?

Dave: Over 50 years! Somewhere in the late 60s or early 70s [Ed.: Dave joined in 1970]. Being a Rotarian brings a level of respect from the community, because people know that we're a service organization. Definitely a level of respect. Especially for the work Rotary has done to eradicate Polio. I think the notion of service above self has been a great guiding light because it teaches us to be selfless in our acts to others.

Christie: What's your secret to longevity?

Dave: I've done the best to take care of myself. Never been one to overly exercise or eat, so I suppose moderation is key.



Joe	Beavin	1	Jim	Richardson	14
Carolyn	Kurz	1	Nelson	Rodes, IV	17
Cathy	Taylor	2	Kimberly	Steele	20
Lowell	Quenemoen	9	Charles	Ward	23
Rodes	Smith	10	Kitty	Lane	25
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Brian	Martin	12	Dean	Hammond, Jr.	27
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NEW MEMBER DEEP DIVE: CINDY SPARKS



CINDY SPARKS

I always enjoy hearing how a new member's past has led them to their current place in life. When I spoke with Cindy Sparks, she told me that she is the CEO of Complet3D, a Lexington-based company that focuses on 3D printing, creating additive manufacturing solutions for customers. Originally from London, Kentucky, she received a degree from the University of Kentucky College of Engineering. OK, that fits. What I didn't have on my Bingo card was her time as a coal miner.

But that all makes sense as well. Her parents were both coal miners and she received her bachelor's degree in mining engineering. While in school, she was able to work as an intern in the coal mines in the area from Hazard to Pikeville. She filled in on many different tasks – from driving trucks to blasting. She thoroughly enjoyed the work and she found it to be very innovative.

Cindy's experience in the coal fields also emphasized the importance of finding alternatives for Eastern Kentucky residents as the jobs in coal decrease. She sees opportunities in the area using additive technologies such as 3D printing. Cindy can envision that area becoming a leader in medical device manufacturing.

She and Eric have an 8-year-old son, Eli, who is a student at Sayre and loves fishing, art, and basketball. Cindy and Eli enjoy painting together and she enjoys making 3D art, such as the slice of pizza she recently created. Eli gets the opportunity to fish and boat whenever they visit her parents' place on Laurel Lake.

Cindy's goal is to build the business and sell it in five years, giving her the opportunity to spend more time giving back to the community. She was introduced to Rotary by Jenny Schnurr and she looks forward to connecting with all of us.

– John Meyers

ROTARIAN TURAY HONORED FOR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT IN THE ARTS

Each year the Kentucky Arts Council coordinates the presentation of the Governor's Awards in the Arts, which recognize individuals and organizations who have made extraordinary and significant contributions to the arts in Kentucky. The Kentucky Arts Council solicits nominations for these awards and coordinates the panel selection process, and the awards are presented by the Governor of Kentucky. This year there were nine awards categories.



This year our own Gregory Turay was honored with the Lifetime Achievement. In connection with the award, it was noted that Gregory "has captivated audiences around the globe with his powerful voice and remarkable artistry. With a career spanning over 20 years, Turay has earned

some of the highest accolades in the opera world, establishing himself as a leading figure in the genre. Turay has graced the stages of some of the world's most prestigious opera houses, including the Metropolitan Opera House, Lyric Opera of Chicago, San Francisco Opera, Washington National Opera, Saito Kinen Festival in Japan, Il Escorial Opera in Spain, Wolf Trap Opera, Santa Fe Opera, English National Opera, Welsh National Opera, Bordeaux Opera, and Opera Theatre of St. Louis."

Greg is a three-time graduate of the University of Kentucky. He currently resides in Lexington, where he serves as executive director of ComposeArts, a performing and educational arts organization dedicated to championing female composers and visual artists. The organization aims to elevate the human spirit through the therapeutic channels of music and art. Well done, Greg!

ROTARIANS TAKE THE STAGE AT LEXPHIL REHEARSAL



No, they did not actually take over the playing of the musical instruments – for which all are no doubt grateful. But thanks to Susan Adams and her social committee, at a recent social Rotarians were invited to join LexPhil musicians on the Singletary Center stage to witness how a major orchestral program is put together. The program in question was *Give Birth to the Dream* and as an added bonus at the actual performance, The Rotary Club of Lexington was credited as the concert sponsor both in the program and from the stage.

The evening began with a cocktail reception in the President's Room at The Singletary Center. Hors' d'oeuvres and champagne provided by Dupree Catering were enjoyed by all. LexPhil's dynamic Conductor Mélisse Brunet (shown in photo above left) joined the group and shared some secrets about the rehearsal process. Other special guests included former Rotarian and LexPhil president Carol McLeod and Lexington Philharmonic musician Wendy Yates. For more on Wendy and her Ro-

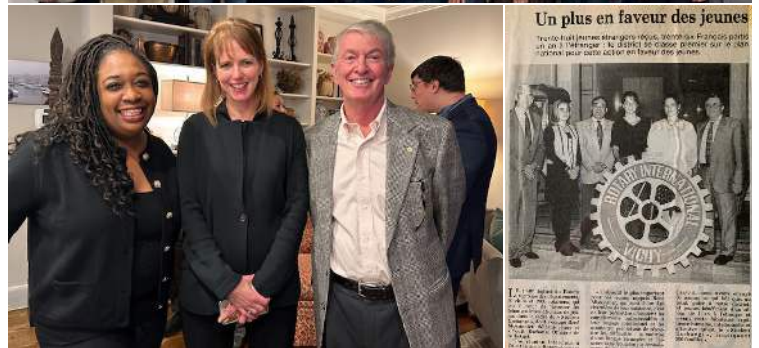
tary connections, see the accompanying article.

The party then moved into the auditorium; some took Melisse up on her idea of sitting right on stage for the rehearsal. Others sat in great seats in the audience. Wherever one sat, we were treated to absolutely beautiful music by LexPhil musicians and guest pianist Michelle Caan. Susan reports that "watching her fingers fly across the keys creating that wonderful sound with all of the talented LexPhil musicians was such a treat! We knew the Saturday evening concert goers were in for a fantastic experience!" Rumor has it that Scott Neal was teary-eyed!

\$20 of the \$30 event ticket price went to LexPhil based on its suggested donation for attending rehearsals.

IT'S A SMALL WORLD AFTER ALL!

As already mentioned, Rotary had a number of touchpoints with the LexPhil's recent concert. An unexpected connection appeared in the form of LexPhil violist, Wendy Yates (shown in photo below right between pianist Michelle Cann and LexPhil Foundation Chair and Rotarian John Wharton). Her Rotary connections go back thirty-two years. Hearing of our Club's involvement with this concert, she joined the gathering to let us know that when she was eighteen years of age, the Rotary Club of Colorado sponsored her on an international exchange which led her to Vichy, France, an experience that she says "changed her life". Wendy reports that her host family and friends from her French volley ball team "still have an important place in my life, even after thirty years! The French Rotarians are so happy I have made a connection with the Rotary Club in Lexington." Wendy is a Lexington resident and she teaches viola at both the grade school and college level. She serves as a Rotary Good Will Ambassador and has promised to join us at a meeting in the new year!



5TH PAGE CONTRIBUTORS

Joe Bark, Paul Chewning, John Meyers, Sharon Reed, John Wharton - Editor