

NEW MEMBER PROPOSALS

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary: **Sam Overbee**

Classification: Finance, Banking

Sponsor: Joe Evans

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.

Rotary Club of Lexington Presents the

Early Bird Morning Mixer

FREE Event | Open to Rotarians and Non-Rotarians



Friday, April 25



8:00 am – 9:30 am



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District 6740

DOING ROTARY WITH JUDGE GOODWINE
AT THE SUPREME COURT



Rotarian Pam Goodwine on April 18, for Judge Goodwine’s ceremonial investiture as Kentucky’s first black Supreme Court Justice. Known attendees were Susan Adams, Eileen O’Brien, Jon Larson, Markus Cross, and former Rotarian Gwyn Everly. Susan Adams that other Rotarians were likely in attendance but not observed. The Wheel Horse, along with all Rotarians, offer our congratulations to Judge Goodwine on this historic occasion.

2025 MULTI-DISTRICT CONFERENCE ON MAY 2ND
AND 3RD IN CHATTANOOGA, TENNESSEE.

Rotary Districts from east KY, east TN, and north AL will join together for a conference with featured speakers Past Rotary International Presidents John Germ and Barry Rasin. Connect with other Rotarians from around the region. **To register Karen Prater, rotary.karenrobertsprater@gmail.com**



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UPCOMING PROGRAMS		UPCOMING EVENTS/ VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	
May 1	Shannon Arvin, President & CEO, Keeneland	Apr 22	Pollinator Garden Clean-up, Kenawood Park, 9 am
May 8	Tommy Bell Award, Bruce Bell	Apr 23	Keeneland, Spring Meet, Lexington Room, 11:30-6:00pm, \$125 Sold Out
May 15	Doing Rotary Differently, No Lunch Meeting	Apr 25	Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8-9:30am
May 22	Patrick Wesoloshy, Lafayette Chapter Kentucky Society Sons of the American Revolution	Apr 26	Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), Life Adventure Center, Versailles, 7- 6:00pm
Jun 5	Scholarship Program	Apr 29	Membership Recruitment Social, Thirsty Fox, Old Courthouse, 5-6:30pm
Jun 12	Steve Gardner, Update on Coal in Kentucky	May 10	Dancing with the Lexington Stars, Carrick House, 6:00-11:00pm
Jun 19	Doing Rotary Differently, No Lunch Meeting	May 29	5th Thursday Social, Lexington Legends, Legends Ballpark 5:30pm
Jun 26	President’s Day, Bret Anderson		

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

April 24, 2025
— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Bret Anderson
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Cheyenne McBride
Introduction of Guests:
Introduction of Speaker: Sharon Reed

Speaker: Kip Cornett, Chairman Emeritus, Cornett
Program: Lexington’s 250th Celebration

Location: The Mane on Main

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KIP CORNETT

If Kip Cornett is at the Rotary podium, you can be certain that something big is going on in Lexington. When last we saw him, it was to learn about the week-long events surrounding the 2022 Breeders Cup held at Keeneland. That was then; this is now.

In 2025, we will celebrate the 250th anniversary of Lexington’s founding. In September 2023, Mayor Linda Gorton announced the members of the mayor’s 250 Lex Commission. The commission is planning an entire year’s worth of events honoring the cultural and historic significance of Lexington’s past, present, and future.

Lexington was founded in 1775, one year before the signing of the

Declaration of Independence, by William McConnell and frontier explorers who set up camp near a natural spring, now known as McConnell Springs. In honor of the American Revolution battles in Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, the frontiersmen named their site Lexington.

One focus of the commission will be June 2025, called ‘Come Home’ month. June is the month Lexington is believed to have been named. The city is inviting anyone who has lived here, has family here, or would like to see all we have to offer, to travel here for a month-long cultural experience.

The Commission is led by co-chairs Eunice A. Beatty, PhD and the afore-mentioned Kip Cornett. We are delighted to welcome Kip to update us on the work of the Commission and all that is being planned as part of this celebration.

Karl “Kip” Cornett was born in Hazard, Ky., and moved as a teenager to Lexington where he attended and, in

1977, graduated from the University of Kentucky. Just a short seven years later, Kip founded CORNETT, an advertising firm that has become one of the leading agencies in the region. The company quickly grew and works closely with such brands as Valvoline, Keeneland, Tempur+Sealy, Buffalo Trace Distillery, as well as the University of Kentucky, UK Athletics and UK Healthcare.

Kip’s great passion for the city of Lexington has been evidenced throughout his life. In 2015, Kip served as the chair of the Breeders’ Cup Festival Committee, helping Keeneland and the city execute one of the most successful running events in its 31-year history. He is actively involved with numerous boards and civic efforts, including The Fayette Alliance, YMCA, The Lyric Theatre, and Picnic with the Pops Commission.

Kip and his wife, Ellen, live in Lexington.

EARTH DAY, ROTARY, AND POLLINATOR GARDENS

The Weather Channel refers to Earth Day as “a big party we throw for the planet. Celebrated on April 22, Earth Day originated as a national “teach-in” on environmental issues. The day has grown to include a wide range of events coordinated globally through earthday.org including 1 billion people in more than 193 countries. Earth Day seems like a good opportunity to highlight our Club’s Pollinator Rain Garden at Kenawood Park. As noted by Pollinator Garden Project Co-Chairs Judy Worth and Jake Graves, “This project is a vibrant example of how local action, supported by strategic funding, can create lasting environmental and community benefit.” Mark your calendars to join other Rotarians on June 21 for coffee and donuts at the Pollinator Garden (see Upcoming Events for details).



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THE THIRSTY FOX
Old Courthouse
215 W Main St, Lexington

TUESDAY
29 April, 2025 | 5-6:30 PM

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Phone: 389-8100

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Rotary in Review

THE PEOPLE’S CHAMP AND A NATIVE KENTUCKIAN

The Rotary Club speaker two weeks ago was DeVone Holt, President and CEO of the Muhammad Ali Center (MAC) in Louisville, KY. A fellow Rotarian with the Rotary Club of Louisville, Holt said he was well aware of the Rotary 1:00 pm “rule.” He mentioned fondly his days at Eastern Kentucky University and at the University of Kentucky, when he worked in public relations. His proudest (and, at the same time, worst moment) was organizing the press conference to introduce Tubby Smith as the next Wildcat head basketball coach. He reminded everyone to turn off their pagers—remember it was the 1990’s—except he forgot to turn his off and received a message from his mother at the nationally televised press conference!

In July 2024, Holt was named to his present position at the MAC. He said that Ali was “no small figure” and that he was more than just a world class boxer. His impact had global implications and the 96,000 square foot, six-floor building was built to reflect Ali’s actions and deeds. The museum is purposely not a place to glamorize his career as a boxer,

although Ali would often watch reruns of his boxing matches in the Center’s theater. Reportedly, he was the second most recognized face in the world behind Jesus Christ. He was a humanitarian and activist and the MAC documents that, but above all, he loved people. The building is dedicated to the “people’s champ” who sought to find value in every person he met—often standing at the front door of shopping malls to greet people.

As Holt mentioned, the MAC is not a museum but rather a tribute to Ali’s life. The mission of the MAC is threefold: to foster respect; to inspire the next generation of change makers; and to advance social justice. The MAC is focused on “footsteps for the future” by developing young leaders and improving human interactions. In January 2025 it developed a Muhammad Ali Index (MAI) in an attempt to make the world a more compassionate place. Developed at the recent Compassion Summit, the MAI was the result of the growing trend of toxic rhetoric and isolation and the need to avoid unhelpful back-and-forth monologues by replacing them with an elevated conversation.

The MAI was used to identify what creates compassion and how it affects education, business, the clergy, and politicians—as well as individual citizens. Twelve pilot cities were selected and the Net Composite Scores ranged from +100 to -100. Seattle was the most compassionate city with a score of +16 followed by Louisville with +15. Las Vegas was the least compassionate city with a score of -13. The research showed that compassion occurred at multiple levels—the family, neighborhood, city, and beyond. But, the most critical level was self-compassion and the need to create avenues that address apathy, tiredness, frustration, and burn out. As a result of the study, activation strategies are being developed. Holt encouraged Rotarians to go online and take the Muhammad Ali pledge, to become more intentional about their own compassion, and to reflect on the principles that Muhammad Ali—the People’s Champ—espoused: confidence, conviction, dedication, giving, respect, and spirit.

– Paul B. Chewning

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