

FOOD FOR FAMILIES CONTINUES TO DELIVER

In June of 2020, as a result of the Covid pandemic, then President Jamie Schrader challenged members of our club to form small groups who would meet via Zoom on a regular basis to connect, learn more about other Rotarians, make friends and generate ideas for Rotary.

One of those small groups, led by Rotarian Harry Richart, quickly zeroed in on hunger/food insecurity in Lexington as a topic for investigation and discussion. Other group members Tom Lester, Jack McAlister, Judy Worth, Phil Gray, John Meyers, Peggy Trafton and late addition, Sharron Townsend decided this was a good place to help our brothers and sisters in lessening the effects of such an awful burden. Subsequent to the project's kickoff, Dean Hammond and John Darnell volunteered to become integral parts of our effort.

Northern Elementary School was identified as a potential site to deliver our program to since nearly all the students there receive a free or reduced-cost lunch benefit. That was four years ago and in that time our Food For Families project has provided nutritional foods to support a number of children and their families. Integral to our considerable success is the partnership we have with Northern Elementary spearheaded by their Family Resource Coordinator, Nydia Higgins.

During the school year on one given Friday each month, members of our team gather at the school with enough food for 18-20 families. The food costs are largely underwritten by individual

donations from all of the committee members. During some years the balance of the food expenses (about 20%) has been covered by generous grants from our Club Endowment and District 6740. The families submit their interest in receiving the groceries to Nydia and she in turn identifies the recipients on a first come first serve basis. Together with school staff and other volunteers, the food items are sorted, placed in bags in preparation for distribution. The families then arrive later that afternoon to pick up their parcels. Rotarians and teachers are available to make deliveries to families who have transportation challenges.

The program's success is largely marked by the many grateful responses from parents while picking up their food items well as an ample waiting list. Nydia tells us "...mothers have messaged me days later saying how much a blessing the Rotary and Northern have been and that the meal bags are provided right on time. We are extremely thankful for the Rotary Club and look forward to their continued partnership".

Finally, the generosity, enthusiasm and sense of "Service Above Self" exhibited by the nine members of this committee are what makes this project a success. We are in the planning phase for year 5 and are always looking for additional Rotarians who may wish to join us. Please reach out to Harry via email at harrytrichart@gmail.com or any other member of our team should there be an interest and want to know more.





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UPCOMING PROGRAMS		UPCOMING EVENTS/VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES	
Jul 17	Doing Rotary Differently, FIELD TRIP, See Upcoming Events	Jun 17	FIELD TRIP, God's Pantry Food Bank, Box Lunch and Tour, 2201 Innovation Dr., 11:45am
Jul 24	Dr. Robert Farley, Senior Lecturer, Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce, University of Kentucky	Jun 28	Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8-9:30am
Aug 7	Dale Henley, Former President of the Lafayette Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution	Aug 7	Blood Drive with American Red Cross, Mane on Main, 10- 4pm
Aug 14	Mitch Barnhart, Director of Athletics, University of Kentucky	Aug 22	Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8-9:30am
		Sep 20	Pickle & Pints, Club Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser, Save the Date

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

July 10, 2025

— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Bret Anderson
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Markus Cross
Introduction of Guests: Bill Byrd
Speaker: Greg Palmer, District Governor, District 6740

Speaker: Jamie Schrader, President, Rotary Club of Lexington
Program: Installation of Officers and the Year Ahead
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR DISTRICT GOVERNOR



GREG PALMER

Greg is the President and former owner of Palmer Capital Management, Inc. In 1981, he earned a Bachelor of Arts in Business Administration from the University of Kentucky. In 1994 he earned a Master of Business Administration from Northern Kentucky University. Greg earned the Certified Financial Planner and the Certified Trust and Financial Advisor designations in 1996. Before founding Palmer Capital Management, Inc., he spent nine years in the Trust industry as a Portfolio Manager, Trust Officer, and Vice President and Senior Trust Officer for a major regional bank. Greg and his wife Lauren live in Verona, Kentucky where they raised three children, Samantha, Madison, and Evan.

MORE ROTARY!



JAMIE SCHRADER

"More Cowbell" is a hilarious comedy sketch that was originally performed on Saturday Night Live in 2000. The sketch featured Will Ferrell and Christopher Walken in a studio recording the Blue Oyster Cult song "Don't Fear the Reaper." The fictional music producer Walken repeatedly demands "more cowbell," and Will Farrell responds enthusiastically in an over-the-top style until, rather than setting the beat, the cowbell completely dominates the song and the action in the sketch. The skit's popularity and the phrase "more cowbell" has morphed into a popular American catchphrase which is even defined in dictionaries as "an extra quality that will make something or someone better."

MORE ROTARY!, 2

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Lyle Hanna - President-Elect
Bret Anderson - Past President
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FROM PAGE 1

MORE ROTARY!

You may be wondering what “more cowbell” has to do with Rotary. And for those who have never seen the skit, you are probably asking what in the world is this guy writing about? I humbly submit that actively participation in Rotary is precisely the “extra quality that will make something or someone better” Just as more cowbell was demanded by Christopher Walken, I believe that in 2025, Lexington, our Commonwealth, our nation, indeed our world, demands “More Rotary.” The list of needs and opportunities for service are daunting and we know Rotarians are ready to serve.

The following are a few ideas on what More Rotary might mean, for individuals and for our Club as a whole:

1. Commit to attending Rotary weekly, to sharing a meal and getting to know as many Rotarians as possible. Our Club is full of members whose work and extracurricular activities have yielded amazing results and they have incredibly interesting stories to share. We want to share more of their stories and accomplishments with our members.
2. Recruit a new Rotarian. The concept of More Rotary is based on introducing committed and engaged people to Rotary and growing our membership. The process is simple and starts with inviting someone you know to attend a meeting. Who do you know who would be a great Rotarian? Bring them to Rotary.
3. Find your place in Rotary. We have multiple positions, needs, and opportunities for everyone to be of service. We can all benefit from your talents and skills. If you are uncertain how to plug in, you only need to ask.
4. As a club, we need to tell the story of Rotary often, louder and with more enthusiasm. We can no longer hide our light under a bushel, and we need to remember to sell Rotary.
5. Survey results and individual Club members encourage us to develop an aspirational, important service project in Lexington with which to engage our members and make a difference in our community. We have a few ideas and are still open to recommendations, but we need to finalize our plans so we can mobilize as quickly as possible. Developing this project is paramount to our success.

I am honored to kick off this Rotary year as President and excited to serve with Bill, Dean, and Jim and all our members as we Unite for Good. I know that with More Rotary, we will make a difference.

– Jamie Schrader

Rotary in Review

PRESIDENT’S DAY

On the annual occasion of The Rotary Club of Lexington President’s Day I am always amazed at how much each President has accomplished. This year was no different but it was even more meaningful given the challenges that President Bret endured. However, on this day we also were able to gain a glimpse of his personal life. As such we understood why creating unity and working within a group has such a meaningful role in a life which is anchored by his wife, Carrie, and his children.

President Bret entered his presidency with three primary goals:

1. Honor our Legacy
2. Modernize our Structure
3. Reignite our Energy, both in the Club and in the community

As the incoming President, Bret realized The Rotary Club of Lexington was a force for good comprised of a network of leaders. But then, perhaps unlike any President before him, the reality of the situation became apparent. Our Club was at a cross road and we needed a new direction. Under President Bret’s leadership a new mission emerged: evolving without losing relevance and while maintaining our

service club leadership position in Lexington. He correctly and intuitively leaned on his spouse for input on how to achieve this mission. Our Club doubled down on our current list of projects and added new ones to expand our service above self in Lexington and create much needed fundraising opportunities. The Club worked together to provide sponsorships, mentor students, and provide monetary support to a variety of organizations, most notably the Gatton Park at Town Branch and Baby Health Services. Food insecurity Groups helping to address food insecurity were supported and scholarships provided to some amazing students. This was all accomplished through a combination of “hearts, hands and wallets”.

When sensing a roadblock in the future leadership of the Club, President Bret put together a first-of-a-kind Town Hall from which a new direction and a focus on growth has been determined. He initiated a prospecting methodology for 5-star quality individuals while recognizing the “Living Legends” who have been the cornerstone of our organization. Through his presidential journey he practiced a philosophy of “progress, not perfection”, a reflection

of his commitment to The Rotary Club of Lexington and the ultimate goal of SERVICE ABOVE SELF. Looking forward we can focus on programs and partnerships and our Club’s hosting of the national Large Club Conference in 2026.

When President Bret began his term in 2024 he probably didn’t expect his President’s Day address to sound like it did. But as a 25-year member and Past-President, I can say that our Club has been blessed with his vision and leadership and that he was made for this time and for that we should be grateful. Of course, all of this was accomplished with the help of many folks, as evidenced by a variety of acknowledgments and awards from the podium. Recall that at our last meeting it was announced that Kim Johnson was awarded the President’s Cup. Additional traditional awards announced by President were as follows:

- Service above Self Award- Chris Anderson
- Board Award -Susan Adams
- Yearling Award- Christie Pierce

– Jim Richardson

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ROTARIANS GATHER TO CELEBRATE NATION'S 249TH!

The sounds of music and freedom ringing! Alisha Chaffin reports on the Rotary Club of Lexington's showing out at the 42nd Annual Patriotic Concert:

We were proud to join our Lexington neighbors last Thursday on the historic lawn of Transylvania University for one of the city's most cherished traditions — the Patriotic Concert featuring the Lexington Philharmonic! From the sounds of the Young at Heart Big Band to the stirring performance by the LexPhil, the evening was filled with music, community, and gratitude for our country. As Rotarians, we're always proud to show up in service, fellowship, and celebration of all that brings us together.



Pat	Powell	1	Lyndsay	Thurston	13
Bill	Straus	5	Kim	Johnson	15
Tom	Evans	6	Amanda	Ferguson	15
Sharron	Townsend	7	Tom	Merritt	17
Phil	Gray	9	Carrie	Patterson	18
Karl	Lange	10	Chris	Aldridge	19
Patty	Breeze	11	Wyn	Paulson, Jr.	23
Trey	McCallie, III	12	Shawn	Lyons	24
Larry	Newman	12	Harding	Dawahare	24
Linda	Weaver	12			

ROTARIANS IN THE NEWS

Members of the Rotary Club of Lexington often take "Service Above Self" to other community organizations through board memberships and other volunteer activities. When they do, your Wheel Horse/5th Page loves to give them a shout out. For example, we recently became aware that in May of this year **Patty Breeze** was elected to the Transylvania University Board of Trustees. Her goal: "to help the university grow academically and financially." The always involved **Alisha Chaffin** was recently elected Second Vice President of the Lexington Chapter of the League of Women Voters, while continuing to serve as Member at Large for Fayette, Scott and surrounding counties. She was also elected as a Director of the Lexington Philharmonic Orchestra, joining Rotarians John Kiebler and John Wharton on that board. But wait: there's more. Alisha was also selected recently as part of the prestigious Leadership Kentucky Class of 2025, along with **Candra Bryant**.

C'mon Rotarians! We know you are active and would love to share your achievements with others, but we can only do that if you (or someone) let us know what you've done.

ROTARIANS SHOW UP FOR SCOUTING AMERICA AND CAMP MCKEE!

On June 26, 2025, members of The Rotary Club of Lexington Scout Committee attended the Dinner Meeting of the Blue Grass Council- Scouting America Board in Keeneland Hall (old dining hall) at McKee Scout Reservation during summer camp to see the Scouts in action using the camp facilities.

Camp McKee is another landmark of which our club can be proud. It has served thousands of youths and changed lives for over sixty-five years. Proceeds from the sale of our Camp Offutt were used to develop Camp McKee, and Rotary President W.T. Bishop led the fundraising campaign for the Camp that opened for summer camp programs in 1960. We are happy to report Scouting remains alive and well in the Blue Grass.



Pictured with Council President Dr. William Griesner, are Rotarians (from left to right), Dan Miller, Rob Kirkpatrick, David Jones, Edwin Gibson, Brad Blain, and Chris Campbell.

[Ed.: this article was taken from Edwin Gibson's report on FaceBook]

LIVING LEGENDS: A CONVERSATION WITH PETE PERLMAN



PETE PERLMAN

This month's *Living Legends* feature highlights the extraordinary journey of Pete Perlman, a distinguished trial lawyer, advocate for public service, and dedicated Rotarian. His career has spanned decades of legal battles, community service, and a relentless commitment to making a difference—both in and out of the courtroom.

Perlman's philosophy is simple: "Find a way to make a difference in people's lives, and they will love it." This mindset was ingrained in him from an early age, growing up in Northern Kentucky where his parents owned a five-and-dime store. "I learned from my dad that business wasn't just about making a living—it was about making an impact. That lesson has stuck with me my entire life."

Lessons in the Law: Educating the Public

After decades as a trial lawyer, Perlman pivoted to an ambitious new project—Lessons in the Law. What started as a casual conversation at Keeneland with the Chief Justice and the Dean of the Law School became a pioneering public education initiative. "Teachers don't really teach civics in school anymore, so we wanted to offer free, non-adversarial legal education for the public," Perlman explained. The initiative brings together judges, lawyers, and legal professionals to educate citizens on topics such as estate planning, criminal justice, and sports law.

With backing from the legal community and growing public interest, Lessons in the Law has taken off, with the next session set to cover sports gambling and NIL (Name, Image, Likeness) rights. "I think it's the kind of thing that can be replicated across the country," he says. "People need to understand the law—it affects every part of our lives."

Making History in the Courtroom

Perlman's career is filled with landmark cases that changed the landscape of product liability and public safety. In the late 1960s, he prosecuted the first-ever LSD conviction in the United States. He also fought for auto safety reforms after representing victims in the infamous Ford Pinto explosion cases. "Because of these cases, automakers were forced to adopt safer designs," he said. "And in another case, we helped ensure that all vehicles would include shoulder belts in the back seat. It's about holding people accountable for public safety."

Beyond the courtroom, Perlman worked to protect consumers, prevent corporations from skirting liability

in bankruptcy cases, and even played a role in the landmark Title IX lawsuit that expanded opportunities for women's collegiate sports. "Every time I see women playing soccer or softball, I think, 'We helped make that happen.'"

Rotary and the Cardinal Hill Playground

Perlman's involvement in Rotary began with a life-changing case. Representing a young boy who had been paralyzed in a car accident, he worked closely with the medical team at Cardinal Hill Hospital. When the case ended successfully, he asked the doctors how he could repay them for their dedication. "They said, 'We need a playground for handicapped children.' That was it—I was all in."

With support from Rotary and other community leaders, they built the first fully accessible playground in the country. "We raised money, got businesses involved, and made it happen," Perlman recalls. "It was a true community effort, and it changed lives. That's what Rotary is about."

A Life of Impact

Reflecting on his career, Perlman acknowledges that the relationships he's built matter just as much as the victories in court. "I learned more about jury selection tending bar as a young man than I ever did in law school," he jokes. "It's about understanding people, connecting with them, and standing up for what's right."

His passion for making the law accessible to the public extended beyond Kentucky. During his tenure as president of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, he helped organize daily mock trials at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., allowing the public to witness firsthand how justice is served. "People would stop by and watch, and it demystified the legal process. They saw how cases unfold, how evidence is presented, and how verdicts are reached. That's what the law should be—transparent, accessible, and for the people."

His advice to future Rotarians? "Rotary has international recognition and prestige. Use it. If we expand our membership and engage in more ambitious projects, we can make an even bigger impact. There's no limit to what we can do."

Pete Perlman's legacy is one of service, advocacy, and leadership. Whether fighting for justice in the courtroom, giving back through Rotary, or bringing the legal system to the public through innovative programs, his life's work embodies the spirit of "Service Above Self."

— Christie Pierce

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