

NEW MEMBER PROPOSALS

The following individuals have been proposed for membership in Rotary:

Dick Carroll
Classification: Law, Attorney
Sponsor: Jamie Schrader

Bryan Dollins
Classification: Finance, Mortgages/Loans
Sponsor: Susie Basham
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.

RETURNING MEMBER PROPOSAL

Daniel Zabala
Classification:
Sponsor: Peggy Trafton

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIANS

Leah Anderson
Contact Information
Home Address: 3216 Sweet Clover Lane, Lex., KY 40509
Email: leah@thrivetherapyky.com
Ph: 859-221-0006
Service Industry, Adult & Pediatric OT
Sponsor: Chris Anderson

Cliff Gookin
Contact Information
Home Address: 350 E. Short Street, Lex., KY
Email: cdgookin@gmail.com
Ph: 859-536-1104
Real Estate, Acquisition Consulting
Sponsor: Jamie Schrader

Look for their bios in an upcoming issue of *The 5th Page*.

JIM RICHARDSON SWORN IN AS PRESIDENT OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF LEXINGTON FOR THE 2ND QUARTER OF 2025-26

The Rotary Club of Lexington continues its dynamic leadership rotation with Jim Richardson taking the helm as President for the second quarter of the 2025-26 Rotary year. A past president (2000-2001), Jim returns as part of this year’s leadership team known as the “Fab 4” alongside Jamie Schrader, Bill Wilson, and Dean Hammond – all past presidents committed to guiding the club forward.

Following Jamie Schrader’s Q1 term, Jim brings his trademark energy and service driven spirit to the role. When asked about his goals Jim shared some wisdom from his grandfather:

“Leave the camp in a better place than when you got there.”

Camp is officially in session!



The ROTARY Club of Lexington
WHEEL HORSE

October 9, 2025
— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Jim Richardson
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Jeff Thompson
Introduction of Guests: Mike Baker
Introduction of Speaker:

Speaker: Linda Gorton, Mayor, City of Lexington
Program:
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



MAYOR LINDA GORTON

This week Lexington Rotarians will hear from Lexington Mayor and Honorary Rotarian Linda Gorton. In this eagerly anticipated annual presentation she will give us an update on the state of our community and some of the challenges we face in the year to come.

Mayor Gorton, the longest continuously serving member of the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council, is serving her second term as Lexington mayor. Mayor Gorton was re-elected in a landslide victory on November 8, 2022, winning 71% of the vote.

In her first term Mayor Gorton successfully led our city through the pandemic, protecting our health

and safety during a challenge that may well rank as the most daunting in modern history. Throughout the pandemic Mayor Gorton focused her administration on three goals: keeping Lexington citizens safe by following state and CDC guidelines; continuing to provide basic services to citizens; and moving Lexington ahead, ensuring that our city continues to attract new jobs despite the pandemic. Even though the pandemic initially slowed down economic activity and triggered belt tightening in City Hall, Mayor Gorton accomplished those goals. Thanks to her conservative management of the budget, Lexington emerged from the pandemic financially healthy.

As if dealing with a pandemic was not challenge enough, Mayor Gorton was also presented with the challenge facing cities across America in the aftermath of the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minnesota in May of 2020. While Lexington was not faced with the turmoil seen in many cities, the concern of many in our town was evident on the streets and elsewhere.

In response to those concerns, Mayor Gorton created the Mayor’s Commission on Racial Justice & Equality to root out systemic racism in the Lexington community. The results of that Commission’s work were the subject of a previous presentation to Rotary from the Commission’s leaders.

And she is not finished, as evidenced by her continued focus during her second term on public safety, economic development, affordable housing, and quality of life investments, among other initiatives.

A native of Ohio, Mayor Gorton has lived in Lexington most of her adult life. In addition to her sixteen years on the Council, including four years as vice mayor, Mayor Gorton has been a dedicated volunteer in our community.

Mayor Gorton and her husband, Charlie, a retired major general in the Army, have two children and five grandchildren. She is a registered nurse and a graduate of the University of Kentucky College of Nursing.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Oct. 16 Doing Rotary Differently, No Lunch Meeting
- Oct 23 Bob Quick, President, Commerce Lexington and Ashli Watts, Kentucky Chamber of Commerce
- Oct 30 5th Thursday, Social Event, See Upcoming Events
- Nov 6 Lyndy Franklin Smith & Jeromy Smith, Co-Founders, Lexington Theatre Company
- Nov 12 WED. Governor Andy Beshear, Registration Required, Mane on Main, 4:30-5:30, Social Hour 5:30-6:30pm.

UPCOMING EVENTS

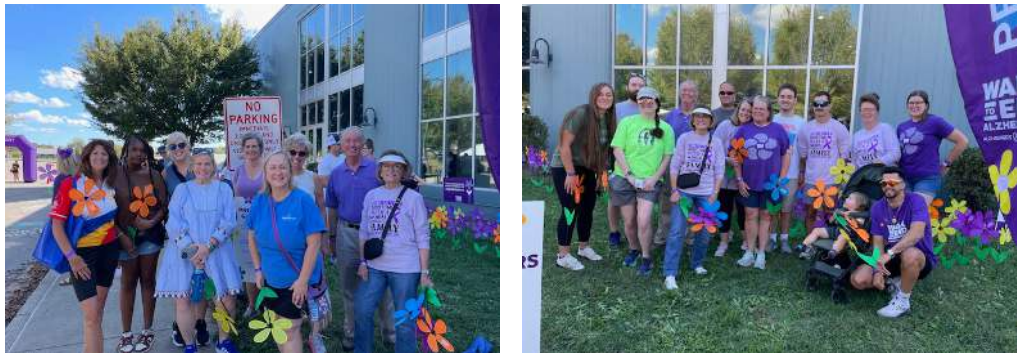
- Oct 11 Toyota Bluegrass Miracle League, Rotary Day, Shillito Park 10-2:00pm
- Oct 11 Rotary Leadership Institute, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Newtown Pike, Free
- Oct 16 Ride for Polio, CycleYou, 6:30pm
- Oct. 24 Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, 161 Lexington Green, 8:00 - 9:30am
- Oct 27 Backpack Pack-Up, God’s Pantry Food Bank, Winchester Rd., 1:00-2:30pm
- Oct 30 UK Men’s Basketball game watching vs Georgetown, Roosters, Richmond Rd. Screening *Join or Die*, a film about whether you should join a club, Kentucky Theatre, 7:30pm
- Nov 6 Governor Andy Beshear, Registration Required, Mane on Main, 4:30-5:30pm, Social Hour 5:30-6:30pm
- Nov 15 Pickle & Pints, Club Pickleball Tournament Fundraiser, 6:00pm
- Nov 20 Field Trip, Blue Grass Stockyards, Lunch and Tour, Iron Works Pike, 11:30-1:00pm

WHEN PEOPLE OF ACTION TAKE ON ALZHEIMER’S

Most Rotarians are aware of Rotary Action Groups, independent entities affiliated with Rotary that each have a specific humanitarian focus. One such group is The Alzheimer’s / Dementia Rotarian Action Group (ADRAG). ADRAG supports its vision by supporting Rotary and Rotaract clubs and districts as they plan and execute meaningful projects and programs centered on Alzheimer’s and dementia. This support takes many forms, including the education of 1.2 million Rotarians and Rotary leaders on the latest scientific research in the fight to find a cure for Alzheimer’s disease and about the disease’s devastating impact on communities and families. ADRAG will also promote Rotary and Rotaract projects that work within Rotary International’s Disease Prevention and Treatment Area of Focus among the communities Rotary serves in over 200 countries around the world. The number of clubs participating in ADRAG is 800 and growing!

Why are we telling you this? Well, this weekend saw another successful Walk to End Alzheimer’s at the Kentucky Horse Park. Under the leadership of new member Sarah Diener the Rotary Club of Lexington joined folks around the world in what has become the world’s largest fundraiser for Alzheimer’s care, support, and research. The initial Rotary contingent was small but enthusiastic: Susan Adams, _____, _____, Alisha Chaffin, _____, Sarah Diener, Peggy Trafton, John and Margaret Wharton. The Whartons did double duty as part of Team Mimmie (a reference to their daughter), along with four generations of their family!

Now that you know, we’ll see you next year!



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Lyle Hanna - President-Elect
Bret Anderson - Past President
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Bruce Daily - Sergeant-at-Arms
Jenny Schnurr - Treasurer
Peggy Trafton - Executive Director (Staff)
Trafton@rotarylexky.org

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Shawn Lyons (2026) Eric Brooks (2028)
Brigitte Blom (2027) Alisha Chaffin (2028)
Dylan Harper (2027)

LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB
ENDOWMENT

2025-2026 ENDOWMENT BOARD
Paul Chewning - Board President (2028)
Jamie Schrader - Board Vice-President (2026)
Dean Hammond (2026)
Thom Hathaway (2026)
Kent Hisle (2026)
Laura Mobley-Corn (2026)
Roger Baird (2027)
Buzz Carmichael (2027)
Michael Morrill (2027)
John Wharton (2027)
Sharon Reed (2027)
Mike Baker (2028)
Eileen O'Brien (2028)
Tom Lester (2028)
John Meyer (2028)
Jim Richardson - Club President
Jenny Schnurr - Treasurer

**WHEEL HORSE / 5TH PAGE
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Rotary in Review

COACH KENNY BROOKS: UK WOMEN’S BASKETBALL

Kenny Brooks walked into Lexington already carrying a national reputation, and he left our weekly meeting with a room full of believers. Hired March 26, 2024, as the ninth head coach of Kentucky women’s basketball, Brooks arrived after long, successful stints at James Madison and Virginia Tech and immediately set about building a program that could thrive in the SEC. In his first season he accomplished the kind of turnaround that turns skeptics into fans: a 23–8 overall record, an 11–5 mark in the brutally competitive SEC, five ranked wins, a No. 8 AP ranking at one point, and a four-seed in both the SEC and NCAA tournaments. That rapid success tied him with the late Terry Hall as the quickest coach in UK history to reach twenty wins.

Brooks’ talk blended a coach’s chronicle with plain-spoken gratitude. He traced his path from small-town Virginia, where basketball offered an escape and a scholarship, to James Madison under Lefty Driesell, then into a coaching career that made him the winningest coach in JMU history. He told the story of how moving into

women’s basketball felt like “coming home,” a decision that set the stage for decades of program building, sellout crowds, and a deep commitment to opportunity for young women.

He spoke as much about people and process as he did about Xs and Os. Brooks praised staff and players, notably Georgia Amoore, his “mini-me,” and celebrated the team’s academic success, a 3.59 GPA in Fall 2024. He described the community embrace in Lexington, season tickets sold out, four home-game sellouts, and Memorial Coliseum becoming a recruiting asset, and he framed the program’s progress with crisp humility and wit. When asked about competing in the SEC after his first season, he flipped the script: “Was the SEC ready for us?” he asked, and the rhetorical flourish landed like a challenge and a promise.

Brooks also addressed the rapid changes reshaping college athletics with clear-eyed concern. On NIL and the transfer portal he noted the pace of change, “it went from zero to 100,” and called for guardrails so programs and fans can maintain continuity and connection to student-athletes. Yet

he also acknowledged the reality: the portal is here to stay and must be managed for the good of players and programs.

Tactically, Brooks emphasized fundamentals, teamwork, and a style rooted in passing and cutting, “basketball in its purest form,” he said, and he highlighted roster attributes for the coming year: size, mobility, and versatility. He celebrated players’ character and academic performance and invited the community to support the team: buy season tickets, show up at Memorial, and connect with the student-athletes who “are our future leaders of tomorrow,” a line he delivered with obvious pride.

His closing message was simple and sincere: this is a program on the rise, built on family, hard work, and community. Brooks’ mix of humor, humility, and conviction made for an engaging Rotary appearance, one that left members enthusiastic about the future of Kentucky women’s basketball and eager to turn Memorial Coliseum into a consistent, raucous home for the Wildcats.

– Dan Koett

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