

SPRING YEARLING CLASS COMPLETES SERVICE PROJECT

The Rotary Club of Lexington’s Spring Yearling Class recently had the privilege of partnering with Revive Ministries in Nicholasville, Kentucky for a meaningful morning of service. Together with Heather Johnson, Director of Development at Revive, the group spent several hours cleaning and beautifying the grounds of the Revive Life House and the Common Ground Resource Center. It was a rewarding opportunity to support the incredible work Revive is doing in our community and to strengthen our commitment to Service Above Self. Revive Life House’s substance use treatment program began operations in 2016. Since that time, it has served over 4,000 clients across its multi-phase program which includes transitional housing

for those seeking long-term support. The Spring Yearling Class is composed of Shawn Barkley, Andrea Bryan, Joe Evans, Jaron Johns, Cassi Kline, Cole Maier, Sam Overbee, Larry Spell, Dana Stefaniak.



Joe Evans, Jaron Johns, Larry Spell, and Cole Maier

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIANS

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Sponsor: Jamie Schrader
Look for their bios in an upcoming issue of *The 5th Page*.

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary:
Trent Mobley
Classification: Service Industry, Pest Control
Sponsor: Dylan Harper
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.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Nov 12 Wed., Governor Andy Beshear, Registration Required, See Upcoming Events
- Nov 13 Jack Givens and Rob Bolton, 1978 National Championship, Men’s Basketball, University of Kentucky
- Nov 20 Stockyard Lunch and Tour, See Upcoming Events
- Nov 27 HAPPY THANKSGIVING

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Nov 6 Screening *Join or Die*, a film about why you should join a civic club, Kentucky Theatre, 7:30pm
- Nov 12 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
- Dec 18 Annual Holiday Party, Campbell House, 6pm

The ROTARY Club of Lexington
WHEEL HORSE

November 6, 2025

— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Jim Richardson
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Cheyenne McBride
Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie
Introduction of Speakers: Jim Richardson
Speakers: Lyndy Franklin Smith & Jeromy Smith, Co-Founders, Lexington Theatre Company
Program: The Lexington Theatre Company: “Creating Professional Theater and Training the Next Generation of Artists Here in the Bluegrass”
Location: The Mane on Main

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& PROMOTE YOUR COMPANY HERE!

MEET OUR SPEAKERS



LYNDY FRANKLIN SMITH & JEROMY SMITH

William Shakespeare famously noted in his play *As You Like It* that “All the world’s a stage.” Performing for us today on the Rotary “stage” are Lyndy Franklin Smith and Jeremy Smith, co-founders and producing directors of The Lexington Theatre Company (The Lex). Lyndy and Jeremy (who play a happily married couple in real life!) co-founded The Lex as a way to give back to the community and to the theatre industry. Lyndy enjoyed a successful performance career in New York, appearing in the Broadway companies of *A Chorus Line* and *The Little*

Mermaid; the Radio City *Christmas Spectacular*; National Tours of *Fosse* and *White Christmas*; and numerous regional productions. Now, her greatest joy is training and creating opportunities for the next generation of theatre artists, while crafting professional productions for Central Kentucky audiences through her work at The Lexington Theatre Company. Her directing credits for “The Lex” include *Joseph...Dreamcoat*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *A Christmas Story*, *White Christmas*, *The Sound of Music*, *Disney’s The Little Mermaid*, *Sondheim on Sondheim*, *Newsies*, *A Chorus Line*, *Songs For A New World*, *Mary Poppins*, *42nd Street*, *Legally Blonde* (alongside longtime friend Laura Bell Bundy), and all editions of “Concert With The Stars.” Other directing credits include work for Music Theatre Wichita, University of Michigan and University of Kentucky. She hosted the podcast “Beyond the Fourth Wall” for The Lex, available on Simplecast. The book she co-authored, *Broadway*

Swings: Covering the Ensemble in Musical Theatre is available on Amazon.com. She also is a frequent speaker and workshop leader for corporate retreats in the areas of creativity and leadership. She is a graduate of Sayre School and Oklahoma City University, member of Actors’ Equity Association, and “Mom” to Ben (13) and Andrew (11). Jeromy hails from Oklahoma. He combines both his extensive performance and arts management experience to produce first-rate professional theatre at The Lex, while training the future of the industry. He earned a Bachelor of Science in Dance and Arts Management from Oklahoma City University. Performing credits include the National Tours of *42nd Street* and *Swing!*; numerous regional productions at theatres including Houston Theater Under the Stars, Paper Mill Playhouse, Music Theatre Wichita, and Oklahoma’s Lyric Theatre; Television appearances on “A Capitol Fourth” and “Star Search.”

SPEAKERS, 2

The Rotary Club of Lexington
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Style*, 17th ed.

FROM PAGE 1

SPEAKERS

As an arts manager, Jeromy worked with Broadway theatre-owner, Jujamcyn Theaters, and the Broadway management company, Richards/Climan, Inc., as Associate General Manager, where projects included *August: Osage County* (Pulitzer Prize and Tony Winner), *Blithe Spirit* (starring Angela Lansbury), and *November* (starring Nathan Lane), to name a few.

CONGRATULATIONS ROTARY CLUB
OF WOODFORD COUNTY!

Lexington Rotarians may recall that a signature initiative of District 6740 last year was the revival of Rotary Clubs in the region that for one reason or another were no longer functioning. That initiative recently bore local fruit with the rebirth of the Rotary Club of Woodford County. The former Club, known then as the Versailles Rotary Club, ceased operations in 2014. Lexington Rotarians were instrumental in getting the Club back up and running, especially Paul Chewning and Susan Adams. Our Club is the sponsor Club and past-DG Jeanne Clark named Susan as the advisor to the new Club. In addition, the Club's leadership may look familiar: yes, that's former Lexington Rotarian Bud Watson in the accompanying photo; Bud will serve as the first president of the reconstituted Club. He is shown with our own Dean Hammond, accepting the Rotary Bell as a gift from our Club.

Joining Bud initially were nineteen folks dedicated to Service Above Self to create the charter members. The club is now up to twenty-eight members and growing. The new Club meets on the third Tuesday from noon to 1pm at Versailles Brewing Company Restaurant in their private room. The first Tuesday of each month they volunteer at The Woodford Food Pantry helping prepare or load the boxes for senior day.



Rotary in Review

AN UPDATE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT IN THE BLUEGRASS

Few topics are of more interest to Rotarians than the economic health and vitality of our community and Commonwealth. At our last meeting we were fortunate to hear from two of Kentucky's pre-eminent economic development entities: Commerce Lexington (represented by Bob Quick, CEO) and the Kentucky Chamber (represented by Ashli Watts, President/CEO). Andi Johnson (Commerce Lexington's full-time lobbyist) served as moderator.

The panel discussion began with Watts providing an overview of the Kentucky Chamber members, noting that 80% are small business owners. In every community it is the small business owners who have direct contact with the community as a whole. She explained that it is chambers of commerce (local and statewide) that have the power to convene. Regardless of the topic, they can assemble stakeholders and as a result provide problem-solving with consensus from a wide variety of resources.

Quick referenced the minutes of Commerce Lexington from 1797 and 1881. Surprisingly, the primary issues from those years were much like the issues that concern our community

today. During their historical research they learned that Commerce Lexington is the fifth oldest chamber in the nation. This clearly demonstrates that it has been providing a great value to our community for quite a long time. One of its strengths has been to tackle difficult issues and provide advocacy for members.

Watts emphasized that she and her board encourage open communication. It is imperative to hear what the important issues are and then work toward providing solutions. She referenced housing and childcare as issues that have risen to a level of importance in Kentucky. She learned this by traveling the state and having individual and group conversations with constituents. They now plan to work on solutions with the Legislature in its next session. Quick followed with a description of Commerce Lexington as a "full service" chamber. Its focus is economic development, business expansion, and recruiting startup businesses to Lexington. He stressed the number of partners we have within the city and region. Commerce Lexington also focuses on talent attraction and retention and since the 1990s the number of minority

businesses that have been served is absolutely "mind boggling". Quick also mentioned that most everything is driven by policy and the guardrails set up by the government. Highlighted were two long-standing programs: an annual benchmarking visit to another city in the U.S. and the Leadership Lexington program.

Watts indicated that 90% of the Kentucky Chamber members join and pay their dues because they want the Chamber to be their eyes and ears with respect to policy developments both at the state and national level. Much of its advocacy in the past few years has dealt with tax reform. She proudly referenced the reduction of the state income tax from 6% to 3.5% without increases in the sales tax.

Quick spoke to the concept of "regionalism" observing it has taken such a long time to figure it out. But due to the work that was put in on the regional trips, academic studies, and alliances throughout the region there is now a clear regional vision. He emphasized that due to these collective efforts, Lexington is now ranked #2 in the region in quality of life.

– Jim Richardson

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