

ROTARY CLUB
REPRESENTED AT ANNUAL
UNITY BREAKFAST



The Rotary Club of Lexington was well-represented at the 32nd Annual Unity Breakfast, honoring the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The theme, “Embracing Love, Peace and Respect,” featured President-Elect Barry Stumbo as one of the presenters for the “Reflections” on Dr. King’s influence as a Humanitarian. Other Lexington Rotarians at the breakfast were Susie Basham, Alisha Chaffin, Paul Chewning, Pamela Goodwine, Lyle Hanna, Jon Larson, Sharon Reed, Winn Stephens, Don Tharp, Peggy Trafton, Bill Wilson, and Judy Worth. Several Rotarians also joined in for the post-breakfast (and brisk!) Freedom March: Susan Adams, Bret Anderson, Bill Wilson, Jon Larson, Peggy Trafton, and Gerry van der Meer. Not pictured is Franklin Thompson.

– Paul Chewning



KIM JOHNSON SELECTED AS
DISTRICT GOVERNOR NOMINEE DESIGNEE!



Rotary District 6740 is about to learn what we already know: that Past-President Kim Johnson is a terrific leader! The Nominating Committee of District 6740 met recently for the purpose of selecting a District Governor Nominee Designee (DGND) to serve in that role for the Rotary Year 2028-2029. Their choice: our own Kim Johnson. The announcement from current DG Greg Palmer noted the following:

Kim is the President and Managing Partner of OneCommonwealth Financial Group in Lexington, KY. Kim joined the Lexington Rotary Club in 2016 and has been an active participant from the beginning of her involvement in Rotary. She has served as co-chair of Dancing With the Lexington Stars since 2019 and has facilitated raising over \$1 Million during this time. Kim served as Club President in 2023-2024 and is a member of the Paul Harris Society and a PHF+8. She has attended two Rotary International Conventions and has put her marketing expertise to work for the benefit of the Lexington Club through a more organized social media presence. Kim and her husband Larry are originally from Columbus, Ohio, lived in Huntsville, Alabama for a decade and moved to Lexington in 2011. They have two grown children and four grandchildren.

Kim adds to a long list of current members of our Club who have served as District Governor: Joe Bark, Tom Ashford, Jack McAllister, and Dean Hammond. When next you see Kim, congratulate her on this tremendous achievement and know that our future is in good hands!

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIAN

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS		UPCOMING EVENTS	
Jan 29	5th Thursday, Field Trip, Aviation Museum, Tina Nance, Museum Director, Box lunch	Jan 23	Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8:00-9:30am
Feb 5	Country Boy Brewing	Jan 26	God’s Pantry, Backpack Pack-Up, 817 Winchester Rd., 1:00- 2:30pm
Feb 12	Brent Seals, Ph.D., Pigman College of Engineering, University of Kentucky	Jan 29	Field Trip, Aviation Museum, Box lunch and Tour
Feb 19	Doing Rotary Differently, See Upcoming Events	Feb 7	Rotary Leadership Institute, Bluegrass Community and Technical College, Newtown Pike, Free
Feb 26	Humanitarian Cup Award Presentation	Feb 19	Trivia Night, Columbia’s Steakhouse on Richmond Rd., Dinner at 5:30pm and Trivia at 6:30pm, \$5, reserve your spot at https://e.givesmart.com/s/WgZ8pMWOrRK/e/Jjp/

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

January 22, 2026
— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Bill Wilson
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: John Kiebler
Introduction of Guests: Rod Hartzler
Introduction of Speaker: Don Hart
Speaker: Craig Skinner, Head Coach, Women’s Volleyball, University of Kentucky
Program: Championship Level, It’s a Choice!
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



CRAIG SKINNER

Since being tabbed as Kentucky’s head coach in December 2004, Craig Skinner has rejuvenated the Kentucky volleyball program into national prominence and is the program’s all-time winningest head coach. He will enter his 22nd season in 2026 with an all-time record of 497-157.

He reached the pinnacle of the sport in April of 2021, winning the 2020 NCAA National Championship at the CHI Health Center in Omaha, Nebraska, becoming coach of the first volleyball team in Southeastern Conference history to win a national championship. He was named the AVCA’s National Coach of the Year in 2020-21.

Skinner has directed the Wildcats to twenty-one consecutive NCAA Tournamen-

ments – a feat only eight other schools in the nation have achieved. That run includes eleven Sweet Sixteen appearances since 2009, four Elite Eight appearances, the 2020 and 2025 NCAA Final Four’s and back-to-back-to-back-to-back-to-back-to-back-to-back-to-back SEC titles in 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020-21, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024 and 2025.

Skinner became the fastest coach in school history to total 100 career victories in just his fifth season, and is the only coach in program history to advance to postseason play in each season at the helm. In 2012, Skinner notched his 100th career Southeastern Conference victory. In 2014 Skinner earned his 211th win as the head coach of the Wildcats to become the school’s all-time leader in career wins.

The Wildcats have enjoyed unprecedented success which has included a school-record run of 114 consecutive weeks ranked in the top 25 of the American Volleyball Coaches Association poll, record-breaking attendance marks and a 11-time host of NCAA Tournament play including serving as one of four host sites for the 2017, 2015, 2013 and 2011 NCAA Regionals.

In just one season in the Bluegrass,

Skinner led the Wildcats to a 17-12 record and their first appearance in the NCAA Tournament since 1993. For the team’s accomplishments and quick turn-around, Skinner was named the 2005 SEC Coach of the Year.

In addition to Skinner’s success at Kentucky, he was selected as the head coach of the 2006 U.S. Junior Women’s National Team. Skinner led the team to the gold medal in the 2006 Under-20 NORCECA Championships. Prior to joining the Wildcats, Skinner spent five seasons as an assistant at Nebraska under John Cook and was named head assistant coach in 2003.

A native of Muncie, Indiana, Skinner spent three seasons as an assistant coach under Cook at Wisconsin. Skinner returned to his alma mater in 1999, helping guide the Ball State men to wins over three nationally ranked teams and an 8-4 record at midseason in 2000 before leaving for Nebraska. That team finished the season ranked 13th in the USA Today/AVCA Top 25.

Skinner is married to former Nebraska assistant women’s soccer coach Megan Bechtold Skinner. The couple has two daughters, Sophie and Isabel, and a son, Eli.

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (RLI) IS FOR EVERYONE!



Don't be fooled by the name. The Rotary Leadership Institute is not just for Rotary leaders or those who aspire to club or district leadership. It's for every everyone who wants to *learn more about Rotary and Rotary International*, including new Rotarians and those who've been around a while, AND for those who want to enhance their leadership skills.

To learn more about Rotary International AND what's going on in our District, register for the upcoming Rotary Leadership Institute on **February 7 (9:30 AM check in to 4:30 PM)**. The Institute will be held at the **Science Education Center, Bluegrass Community & Technical College, 500 Newtown Pike, Lexington.**

Registration is **FREE** thanks to DG Doug Palmer and our District Leadership. (The actual fee is \$60 per person, but the value you'll receive is incalculable.)

To register, go to <https://rlihoa.org>. Under Future RLI Events, find RLI Parts I, II, and III, In-Person – District 6740. Choose **MORE INFO** and follow the instructions to register. If you have questions or run into problems, contact D6740 RLI Co-coordinator Judy Worth at jkworth@icloud.com or call **(859) 494-9889**.

CHANNEL YOUR INNER ALEX TREBEK AND JOIN ROTARY ON TRIVIA NIGHT

Join Rotary at Columbia's Steakhouse on Richmond Rd for our 3rd annual Trivia Night! It will be Thursday evening, February 19 during Doing Rotary, Differently week. Dinner and social time will start at 5:30pm. Trivia begins at 6:30pm. Significant others, friends and potential members are all welcome! Securing your spot is only \$5 and pays for the professional Trivia coordinator. You could be part of the new Rotary Trivia Championship team! Teams are usually three to five people. We can put you on a team if you don't form your own. Only forty seats available, so purchase your spot soon at <https://e.givesmart.com/s/WgZ8pM-WorRK/e/Jjp/>.

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Rotary in Review

A PUBLIC UNIVERSITY WITH A PUBLIC PURPOSE

The first Rotary speaker of the new year was Dr. Eli Capilouto, President of the University of Kentucky. He provided an impressive report on recent accomplishments at the Commonwealth's flagship university. He said that the University's mission is to serve its alumni, parents of students, employees, and neighbors. In short, he stated "we work for you." He emphasized that if students flourish, they add to the greater Lexington community by holding internships, volunteering, mentoring, working, and staying.

Dr. Capilouto reported that "Your University" is advancing all of Kentucky. This fall a record 39,000 students matriculated. Of the 7,000 new students, 4,000 of them were in-state. Of those, half were first generation students! He said UK is committed to providing "trust" to families across the Commonwealth and nation. The institution is dedicated to developing lives of meaning and purpose, to fully prepare students for the workforce—whether they be teachers, engineers, health professionals, or entrepreneurs. This is done, in part, by creating a campus community that cares about students, from faculty and student life

to health services and career services. He was very proud of the record number of students that graduate on time in either four or six years, depending on their majors, which results in less student debt.

He then mentioned two recent transformational gifts received by the university. The first was \$50 million to the Children's Hospital from Tom Golisano of Rochester, NY. The founder of Paychex, a personnel payroll services company that has 800,000 customers, Mr. Golisano sought out the University of Kentucky to help fund a program for children with intellectual and developmental disabilities. The university of was one of six "finalists" invited to Rochester to make presentations. He was extremely impressed with the constant improvement approach taken by the pediatrics team at UK. The undesignated gift to support innovative care is not only a way to extend his personal legacy but as Mr. Golisano said, "the only wealth you have is what you give away." The second gift was \$150 million from the Bill Gatton Foundation for a new fine arts "campus" that will have a profound impact on the arts and the community.

This Foundation has had a long and generous history with the university.

President Capilouto then mentioned several new partnership opportunities. The first one addresses the educational and economic impact of artificial intelligence (AI). CATS AI (Commonwealth Artificial Transdisciplinary Strategy) will hopefully be a model for higher education. Working with several other institutions, the aim is to build a framework for AI to more effectively address patient care, access to education, workforce development, and efficiency. The Advancing Kentucky Together Network, a board mandate, involves partnerships with Apple, Fidelity, Compass, and Microsoft. Finally, he mentioned a partnership with Transylvania University to increase the pipeline of their graduates into graduate and professional degrees at UK in the health sciences, agriculture, business, and manufacturing sectors. He concluded by saying that the University of Kentucky is committed to serving the Commonwealth and its people as, in his words, "a public university with a public purpose."

— Paul B. Chewning

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