

ROTARY INTERNATIONAL RECEIVES A FOUNDATIONAL GIFT!

Rotary Club of Lexington members have been generous supporters of The Rotary Foundation (TRF) over the years and can be rightfully proud of that. However, at the risk of creating donation envy, our Foundation committee Chair, Paul Stanley, shared with the Wheel Horse the story of a contribution above and beyond. A prominent Indian developer and longtime Rotary member, Ravishankar Dakoju, has pledged a donation of approximately \$50m US dollars to the Foundation, describing philanthropy as "a duty." Dakoju made the announcement during Rotary International's Assembly in Orlando, Florida. His wife, Paola Dakoju, also a Rotary Club member, joined him in making this gift.

Exciting indeed! But just as important are the smaller gifts that each of us can make as our means and circumstances allow. Please consider supporting the Foundation; ask Paul about the ways you can do that, or visit Rotary International's Foundation web page. <https://www.rotary.org/en/about-rotary/rotary-foundation>



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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Feb 12** Brent Seales, Ph.D., Pigman College of Engineering, University of Kentucky
- Feb 19** Doing Rotary Differently, See Upcoming Events
- Feb 26** Darlene Thomas, M.S.S.W., Executive Director, GreenHouse 17
- Mar 5** Tina Nance, Executive Director, Aviation Museum of Kentucky
- Mar 12** Robert Mucci, Author, Garvis Kincaid Life and Success
- Mar 19** Doing Rotary Differently
- Mar 26** Ed Holmes, AICE, Principal, EHI Consultants, Affordable Housing

UPCOMING EVENTS

- Feb 19** Trivia Night, Columbia's Steakhouse, Richmond Rd., 5:30, \$5.00
- Feb 23** God's Pantry, Backpack Pack-Up, 817 Winchester Rd., 1:00- 2:30pm
- Feb 27** Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8:00-9:30am
- Mar 14** St. Patrick's Parade, Meet on Midland Ave., 12:30 pm
- Mar 23** God's Pantry, Backpack Pack-Up, 817 Winchester Rd., 1:00- 2:30pm
- Mar 27** Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8:00-9:30am

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE



February 5, 2026

— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Bill Wilson
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: David Jones
Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie
Introduction of Speaker: Sam Overbee

Speaker: Daniel "DH" Harrison, Co-Founder, Country Boy Brewing
Program: Country Boy Brewing: Amazing Growth and Community Connections
Location: The Mane on Main

WEB DESIGN & DIGITAL MARKETING

BIG IDEAS WITH BIG RESULTS



DANIEL "DH" HARRISON

Who doesn't love a good beer? Clearly Kentuckians do. The rise of the craft beer industry in the Commonwealth is evidence that bourbon is not the only game in town! Did you know that Lexington even has a Brewgrass Trail, a spinoff on the renowned Bourbon Trail? It includes about twenty-five of the finest craft breweries in Lexington, including the brewery we will be hearing about at today's meeting, Country Boy Brewing.

Here to talk about Country Boy Brewing is Daniel "DH" Harrison. DH was one of four native Kentuckians with a passion for great craft beer who founded the brewery in

MEET OUR SPEAKER

2012, the others being Jeff Beagle, Nate Coppage, and Evan Coppage. Country Boy prides itself on making minimally processed beers with high quality, real ingredients. Their passion for great beer shines through their core brands, Cougar Bait American Blonde Ale and Shotgun Wedding Vanilla Brown Ale. Their 2017 expansion to Georgetown, Kentucky, which includes the largest production brewery in the Commonwealth, allowed them to can their most popular new brews, in addition to several seasonal offerings. This brand-new building has a 45,500 square foot production brewery, taproom, and offices. In 2023, Country Boy Brewing opened a third location in downtown Louisville, KY to showcase their brews to a new corner of the state.

For more information, visit CountryBoyBrewing.com.

DH was born and raised in Scott County, Kentucky and attended Georgetown College. He fell in love with craft beer in Japan while teaching English on an exchange pro-

gram. Upon returning to the United States, he partnered with Jeff, Nate, and Evan to begin the first taproom model brewery in Lexington in 2012, Country Boy Brewing.

DH has been a champion for craft beer in Kentucky. Serving on the board of the Kentucky Guild of Brewers, he has helped develop a thriving industry with over eighty breweries in the state. DH currently resides in Scott County with his wife and two children. In addition to leading Country Boy Brewing with his partners, DH always makes time to hunt, fish, and have a pint with everyone in the three Country Boy taprooms.

The modern craft beer industry in America harkens back to the 1960's and gained traction with the popularity of homebrewing beer in the 1970's and the rise of microbreweries in the 1990's. The Brewer's Association reports that craft brewers in the US produced 23.1 million barrels of beer in 2024. That's a lot of beer!

The Rotary Club of Lexington

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BRIGHT LIGHTS, BIG CITY, BIG (LARGE) CLUB CONFERENCE!



The Rotary Large Club Conference is hosted annually by the Association of Rotary Club Executive Directors (ARCED) and brings together Rotary Clubs across North America with 200 or more members and full-time paid staff. It began life in 1959 as separate conferences for the Eastern and Western US. In 2008, the regional conferences were permanently joined. Each year, the conference rotates to a different host city and is organized by the local Rotary club.

In 2026, the Rotary Club of Lexington is honored to host the conference from **September 27-30**. Executive Directors and

incoming club leaders will spend three dynamic days engaging in lively panel discussions, interactive workshops, and inspiring presentations from exceptional speakers—all while experiencing the best of Fayette County and the vibrant city of Lexington. In hosting the conference, Lexington will join the ranks of such cities as New York, Cincinnati, and San Antonio.

This is a major undertaking and thus a unique opportunity for every club member to get involved. From attending motivating sessions to showcasing why Lexington has been recognized as one of the most tourist-friendly cities, members will play a key role in welcoming guests and connecting with fellow Rotarians from across the country.

AND THE ANSWER IS: ROTARY TRIVIA NIGHT!

The question: What is the most fun you can have on a wintry February night? Join Rotary at Columbia's Steakhouse on Richmond Road 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/events/Jjp/> or use the adjacent QR code.

Craig Skinner, the architect and coach of the highly successful University of Kentucky women's volleyball program, spoke to Rotary on Thursday, January 22, 2026. He talked about what it took to build the program to its current position of national prominence, and what it takes to maintain that standard. In short, he "strongly believe[s] that a championship level is a choice."

Although the leader of the program, he sees himself as simply one of many who are crucial to the success that has been achieved: "It's not Craig Skinner's program, it's Kentucky volleyball." A notable quality of this highly accomplished coach is that he believes everyone, regardless of their role, is valuable. His philosophy as to the team members is that "we recruited all of them" and we will faithfully "coach all of them," whether a starter or a bit role player.

He sees his own role as that of teacher, leader, and mentor, and the fulfillment of that role as primarily threefold: Developing people, decision making, and leadership philosophy. As to the first element, he asks himself how he can help people develop to the

CHAMPIONSHIP LEVEL IS A CHOICE

fullest extent of their capabilities. This includes understanding the specific role each player and each of the staff can best fulfill based upon their talents and current level of development.

The decision-making element has been a bigger part of his role as head coach than what he had realized as an assistant, and consumes much of his time. As to the last element, the question is what leadership philosophy can best result in a championship level of program performance while achieving buy-in from the program's constituents? He understands the latter will involve some modifications to coaching and leadership style as personnel changes occur, but shuns any modifications that would sacrifice fundamental ethics and principles.

The Kentucky program under Coach Skinner is designed to challenge its players, because "champions recognize that they need to be challenged, they don't feel like they have already arrived." At the level of competition faced by UK, talent is simply the starting line and must be accompanied by the work and planning necessary to maximize the output from that talent. But the challenges are not limited to

the volleyball court; rather, they extend to excelling in the classroom and to making the right decisions socially and in all other aspects of life. The attention to the non-volleyball aspects demonstrates to the players that the coaching staff truly care about them as people, not just as athletes.

Another important element of Coach Skinner's philosophy is to teach players to think for themselves. The coaching staff cannot be on the floor with the players, and they cannot anticipate and coach-up every situation that may face the players. By letting the players learn to think through things for themselves, they will develop the ability to quickly and accurately assess and react to the varied situations that will arise during a match.

At its core, while operating and achieving at the highest of NCAA levels, the Kentucky volleyball program is about more than wins and losses as tallied by on-court scores. It is about the wins that come from developing young athletes into young leaders and teammates who excel on and off the court.

— Louis Hatcher

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The 5th Page

NEW MEMBER DEEP DIVE: TRENT MOBLEY



TRENT MOBLEY

Trent Mobley moved from Florida to Lexington about three years ago. He had several good reasons to do so. First, he married Becky, who is an OB/GYN and had obtained a job in the Lexington area with Sterling Healthcare. Second, his dog Frank, a

Bernese Mountain Dog, was simply not cut out to be a hot weather pet. Trent owns Berner Pest Solutions and Frank has an important role as their logo mascot (their products and services are pet-friendly).

Growing up in Jacksonville, Trent worked in the pest control industry in Florida for a decade before deciding that he did not like his desk job and wanted to build his own business and be out among the public. He recently added two new employees and is planning on adding two more in 2026.

Another draw for the Central Kentucky area was the abundance of outdoor activities. Trent loves hiking and the Red River Gorge is a favorite area for him. He also has a trip to Utah on his bucket list.

Speaking of travel, there has not been a lot of time for that since their honeymoon in St. Lucia. Trent and Becky have two children – Charlotte is three years old and Archer is about three months old. But help is on the way! His mother-in-law and aunt will soon be moving into the area and can help with baby-sitting duties. When they do get the chance to go out locally, Trent and Becky enjoy sampling new restaurants and new wines.

Trent is also a big sports fan. when he was in Jacksonville, he had season tickets to the Jaguars games. And one of his biggest goals is to be able to travel to London to see a Premier League game.

– John Meyers

HAPPY BIRTHDAY			
Cary Blaydes	2	David Jones	21
Bruce Bell	3	Jeff Stone	22
Earl Arp	10	Roger Baird	23
Bob Milward	10	Jenn Foster	24
Marianna Taulbee	11	Tom Lester	25
Patrick Metzger	16	Jeff Thompson	26
Joe Bark	18		

NEW MEMBER DEEP DIVE: DANIEL ZABALA



DANIEL & HOPE ZABALA

Although he is a native of Lexington, Daniel Zabala would love to live on a homestead farm. He and his wife, Hope, currently live in Winchester along with their thirteen chickens. His favorite chickens are the Silkies, a unique Chinese breed known for its fluffy, silk-like plumage, and docile, friendly nature. Daniel and Hope also enjoy gardening.

After serving five years in the US Navy (thanks, Daniel!), Daniel attended UK and obtained an MBA and a Master's in Finance. While at UK, he was able to travel to Japan for a nine-day trip as part of the Kakehashi Project, sponsored by the Japanese government. The goal of the project is to promote trust and understanding between the two countries.

Daniel worked in several real estate and finance positions before starting his own business, Solidify Solutions, which provides virtual CFO and business consulting services for growing companies. He described the services as providing a "fractional CFO" process. I have to admit, I wasn't sure what that meant, but he explained it to me. Basically, it allows a company to contract with his firm to provide needed financial services and technical expertise without the necessity of hiring full-time employees. His target market is companies with \$2-50 Million in revenue and ten or more employees. Daniel's long-term goal is to develop a financial platform – a cash-flow optimizer – and to have this become the focus of his efforts going forward.

Daniel is attracted to Rotary for the opportunity to get further involved in community service and to network with members. And for Daniel, this is not "welcome" but "welcome back" as he was a member in 2018.

– John Meyers

DANCING WITH THE LEXINGTON STARS DANCER LINEUP ANNOUNCED

Given our recent weather, it would do us all good to fast forward to May 30 and the next iteration of DWLS. To help get you in the mood, the following are the dancers who will be fighting out for the mirror ball:

Paige Swoop Henderson, Realtor & Pageant Coach
 Kenny "Sky" Walker, Former Wildcat & NBA Player
 Debbie Cecil, Dental Wellness of Lexington
 George Massy & Tiffany Smith Massy, Tera Pharmaceuticals & UK Athletics
 Dr. Cliff Lowdenback, White, Greer, & Maggard
 Lyndy Franklin Smith & Jeromy Smith, Lexington Theatre Company
 Keary Snapp, Keary Your Kneads Massage Therapy & Elevate Lifestyle & Wellness Coaching
 Michelle Smock, KY Small Business Development Center
 Gretchen Wagner & Anna Wagner, Hunan & Lexington Catholic High School

PAST PRESIDENT STEPHENS HONORED AT CAC



Your Wheel Horse team likes nothing better than to highlight our fellow Rotarians as they pursue Service Above Self outside the context of Rotary. Even better is when we can report on an event that shows Rotarians supporting each other. One

such occurrence came to our attention recently.

Children's Advocacy Center of the Bluegrass (CAC) Board Member – and fellow Rotarian - Guy Bradley made a surprise gift in honor of CAC's Executive Director – also a fellow Rotarian and former Club President - Winn Stephens, and his many years of service to CAC. The gift, from Guy and his late wife Harriet, will go to support CAC as it seeks to provide comfort and hospitality to every child and family who comes to CAC. As part of the gift, the welcome area at CAC will henceforth be known as the "Winn Stephens Hospitality Room".

In acknowledging the gift, Winn was not surprisingly quick to credit others, saying "Any accolades I receive I owe to my amazing, dedicated, and caring colleagues who show up on the front lines everyday to provide hope and healing to our clients and help children get back to being the healthy, happy kids they were meant to be."

Well done, Guy and Winn.

NEW MEMBER DEEP DIVE: BRYAN DOLLINS



New member Bryan Dollins has some pretty deep roots in Lexington. He was born here forty-nine years ago, went to Tates Creek High School where he played baseball and basketball, and graduated from UK in 2001. His parents are still in Lexington and still live in the house that Bryan grew up in.

In 2003, Bryan started working in the mortgage business, primarily doing residential loans. He has continued to work in that field and is now associated with Stockton Mortgage as a Senior Mortgage Banker.

As a long-time Lexington native, he of course loves UK sports. He also enjoys golf and hiking. Two of his favorite hikes have been the Red River Gorge and the Grand Canyon. Bryan has enjoyed Amtrak train trips as well as traveling to the Bahamas. In the future, he would love to see Amsterdam, European castles, as well as the Vatican in Rome. Another wish list item is a drive through the Chunnel between England and France.

Bryan was introduced to Lexington Rotary by Susie Basham, with whom he had worked on real estate closings. He attended several meetings and found that he knew quite a few Rotarians. Bryan also loved the speakers and the opportunity to be involved in service projects for the community. He has already started volunteering for activities and looks forward to learning other ways to be of service.

I asked Bryan what he hoped to accomplish ten years from now. His answer was that he would like to open another branch of his business in Florida – maybe in Siesta Key or Clearwater. That sounds pretty good to me!

– John Meyers

BLACK HISTORY MONTH: A CENTURY OF BLACK HISTORY COMMEMORATIONS

Rotary joins with the larger community in celebrating Black History Month, a time to recognize the role of African Americans in US history. Communities across the country will, in various ways, offer opportunities to learn about the struggles and honor the achievements of African Americans.

As noted by the Paul Robeson Cultural Center, "2026 marks an important centennial – 100 years of nationally commemorating Black history. In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson and fellow scholars founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, institutionalizing the teaching, study, and celebration of Black History." Negro history week was initiated in 1925 by Dr. Woodson; what was once a weeklong event morphed into Black History Month.

Interested in learning more? Consider a visit to the *A Kentucky Journey* exhibition presented by the Thomas D. Clark Center for Kentucky History, at 100 West Broadway Street, Frankfort, Kentucky. During Black History Month there will be a special highlights tour of the exhibit focusing on Black history, recurring weekly on Saturdays from February 7 through February 28, 2026, from 3:00pm to 3:30pm.

Interestingly, the Rotary year 2021-22 saw Bill Wilson take over the reins of Rotary Club of Lexington as its first African American president, while Jean West that same year became the first African American president of the Rotary Club of Louisville.

– John Wharton