

GREENHOUSE17'S THOMAS RECEIVES ROTARY HUMANITARIAN AWARD



Photos by Jaron Johns, Dei Gratia Photography

In an unexpected turn of events, last week's presentation by Darlene Thomas, Executive Director of GreenHouse17, turned into an

award presentation. Presenter Jim Richardson said it best, as follows: Her work reflects the very core of what we strive to embody at The Rotary Club of Lexington – SERVICE ABOVE SELF. Through courage, persistence, and a deep belief in human dignity, she has strengthened families, empowered survivors, and made our community safer and more compassionate.

Darlene, we invited you here today under the pretense of sharing the powerful story of GreenHouse17. And while we are grateful to hear that story, we are even more grateful for you.

It is my profound honor to share that today, the Rotary Club of Lexington is recognizing not just the organization you lead, but the extraordinary humanitarian you are. On behalf of this club and the countless lives you have touched, we are proud to present you with the Rotary Club of Lexington's Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Darlene, thank you for showing us what service truly looks like.

We began presenting Humanitarian of the Year Award in 2005. The Award is given to a non-member of our Club and a \$1,000 donation is made to the recipient's organization. The award was established to recognize humanitarian service at its highest level in the central Kentucky area. The nominee must have a generosity of spirit and have selflessly dedicated his or

her time to serving others less fortunate while making a significant humanitarian contribution of leadership that benefits the lives of others and the welfare of humanity. I want to thank our Committee Members Bruce Bell, Alisha Chaffin, Dean Hammond, Bobby Owens, and Kevin Weaver for their work on this Award.

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIAN

Coleman Sloan

Contact Information

Home Address: 153 Strawberry Fields Road, Lexington, KY 40513

Email: coleman.sloan.dmd@gmail.com

Ph: 859-421-5056

Medical: Dentistry

Sponsor: Karl Lange

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary:

Scott Anderson

Classification: Technology; Products and Software Solutions

Sponsor: Bret Anderson

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.

The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

March 5, 2026

— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Bill Wilson
 Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Steve Keller
 Introduction of Guests: Barry Stumbo
 Introduction of Speaker: Chris Campbell

Speaker: Tina Nance, Executive Director of the Kentucky Aerospace Education Center
 Program: Update on the Kentucky Aerospace Education Center
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



TINA N. NANCE, J.D.

Today's presenter, Tina N. Nance, J.D., is the Executive Director of the Kentucky Aerospace Education Center (KAEC). A native of Madisonville in western Kentucky, Tina earned her B.A. in Psychology from Transylvania University and her J.D. from the University of Louisville Brandeis School of Law.

Prior to leading KAEC, Tina held key roles at the Governor's Scholars Program and at Transylvania University, where she developed and led initiatives supporting student engagement and academic excellence, while also taking a leading role in fundraising and donor relations.

The Kentucky Aerospace Educa-

tion Center (KAEC), home of the Aviation Museum of Kentucky and the Commonwealth's official home of the Kentucky Aviation Hall of Fame, is located at Blue Grass Airport in Lexington. Under her leadership, the organization has transformed from a traditional aviation museum into a dynamic aerospace education and workforce development hub. To align with the rapid growth of the aviation industry and better prepare Kentucky's future workforce, we are planning a relocation to a prominent, state-of-the-art facility at the intersection of Man O' War Boulevard and Airport Road. The new center will expand exhibition space, enhance immersive STEM learning environments, strengthen clear career pathways, and increase tourism impact—all while building on KAEC's proven record of educational excellence.

As a regional landmark, the KAEC will elevate Kentucky's national profile as a leader in aerospace while delivering measurable returns in workforce readiness, economic growth, and tourism. The facility will

support industries that drive billions in exports and face ongoing labor shortages, help retain Kentucky talent in Kentucky jobs, and expand access to hands-on aviation education in both urban and rural communities.

Outside of her professional work, Tina enjoys traveling—having visited six of the seven continents with plans to reach Antarctica in 2027—hiking, reading, and coaching her son's baseball team. She lives in Lexington with her partner and son.

KAEC had its genesis in The Aviation Museum of Kentucky, founded in 1978 and opened to the public in April of 1995. Its mission: to inspire and educate the public about aviation's rich history and career potential. The Rotary Club of Lexington has a long and meaningful connection to KAEC. Past President Gerry van der Meer served as its Executive Director and a board member for many years. Currently serving as officers are Past President Dean Hammond (Vice President and Interim Treasurer) and Chris Campell (Secretary). Past President Bobby Owens is a director.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- 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
- Apr 2** Chris McCarron, Hall of Fame Jockey

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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
- Apr 22** Keeneland Outing, Lexington Room, \$125

THESE BOOTS ARE MADE FOR . . . DONATING!

What do PETS and boots (or shoes) have in common? Well, your pets can of course have shoes, but in this case we are talking about a fundraising initiative being promoted at the upcoming Mid-South PETS (President Elect Training) Seminar to be held in Chattanooga, Tennessee March 19-21. Our President Elect, Lyle Hanna, will be attending, along with Rotarians from Clubs through Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama. The mission of PETS is to provide essential and current information to incoming club presidents in order to prepare them to have an effective and meaningful year.

This year, the Seminar will include a service project and Lyle is requesting our support. Mid-South PETS is partnering with Soles4Souls (soles4souls.org) for this year's project. Soles4Souls is a Nashville-based non-profit that receives clothing and shoe donations and then distributes those items to those in need around the globe. Lyle's "ask" is that you bring gently worn shoes to either the March 5 or March 12 meeting. There's a little competition taking place between the Rotary Districts, so start digging through your shoe closet!

For more information, reach out to Lyle at lyle@hannaresource.com or 859-221-4231.

ENJOY HORSE RACING AS IT WAS MEANT TO BE!

Join Fellow Rotarians, Friends and Potential Members for a Fun Day at the Races!

Our Keeneland Spring Meet Outing will be in The Lexington Room on Wednesday, April 22. The gates open at 11am. The buffet is open until 4pm. We have 4 six top tables. Races start at 1pm

The dress is business formal, including a tie for gentlemen, and NO denim of any kind-for anyone. Only 24 tickets are available!

\$125/ticket

Have fun betting from the comfort of The Lexington Room! You can also come and go, so you can watch races from the rail as well. Get your tickets now!

<https://e.givesmart.com/events/Jjp/>

The Rotary Club of Lexington
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Rotary in Review

GREENHOUSE17 TURNS COMPASSION INTO ACTION



Following her surprise receipt of the Rotary Humanitarian Award (see the related story in today's Wheel Horse), Rotarians heard from Darlene Thomas, Executive Director of GreenHouse17. GreenHouse17 is a nationally recognized organization serving survivors of intimate partner abuse across Central Kentucky.

Darlene's remarks demonstrated not only what she does at GreenHouse17 but who she is. Early in her presentation she noted that "Nobody gets lifted up until you allow yourself to be lifted up by those individuals who support you." She graciously attributes the success at GreenHouse17 to those in our community who saw the need for a domestic violence program to protect survivors and their children. During her tenure she has never lost focus on the need to eliminate the shame they felt. She built a community on a forty-acre farm where the survivors did not feel the need to hide but a

place where they and their children could be SEEN and protected. They annually serve over 6,000 adults and children from 17 counties. On the farm, unlike traditional shelters, life can be productive and even fun for the children. This work is in addition to the traditional needs of trying to resolve issues in abuse situations: court proceedings, visitation, and providing exchange centers for children. Darlene referred to these as the "service gap". All of these services are part of the healing process.

GreenHouse17 stands alone as the only domestic violence shelter of its kind in the nation. Their process is to move these survivors from crisis to self-sufficiency but not in a traditional way. They have started their own industries, they grow food, started a flower CSA (Community Supported Agriculture), and body products (soaps and lip balm). All of the proceeds received go back to the survivors. Each "worker" earns a \$600 stipend that is "matched" by \$900 so they have a bankroll to help move forward in their lives and the

knowledge that they are providing value to the community.

Darlene related a transformative moment in her life when she witnessed an abusive incident when she was twelve years of age. That is when she learned that we can all stand up for those who are more vulnerable. Her philosophy about transforming survivors is tied to sense of community. It is her firm belief that every interaction has an impact. Survivors are always reaching out for help (think interaction) and it is up to us to be certain that such interaction has a positive impact.

- Jim Richardson



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NEW MEMBER DEEP DIVE: GARY CRISP



GARY CRISP

Gary was born in Cincinnati and now lives in Lexington, but there were quite a few intermediate stops along his journey. In fact, during an approximately two-decade period, he moved at least thirteen times. His childhood years were spent in Prestonsburg in Eastern Kentucky, where he was raised by a single mom.

Gary's career has been mainly centered around the oil and gas industry, beginning with a low-level job with Ashland Exploration and culminating with a position as Manager of Measurement for EQT Corporation in Pittsburgh, overseeing a \$34 million budget and a staff of over 100 employees. He has used that experience to become a consultant to the industry and to own Bluegrass Cost Consulting (dba Schooley Mitchell), a cost reduction firm. They work with a variety of businesses, reviewing vendor agreements and business expenses to achieve savings.

Gary doesn't have a lot of spare time, but when it's available, he enjoys gardening, canoeing, and camping. One of his favorite spots to camp is Summit Lake, West Virginia, a 43-acre reservoir located in the Monongahela National Forest. The area around the lake includes a primitive thirty-three site campground and numerous hiking trails, including one that circumnavigates the lake.

Gary has some prior experience with Rotary, having been a member in Akron, Ohio when he was working there. That didn't last long, however, as after four months of membership he received a job offer in Pittsburgh that was too good to pass up. He recently became aware of the Rotary Club of Lexington as he had attended several Friday morning mixers at 46 Solutions. Gary is looking forward to learning ways to give back to the community through local projects. At an early age he learned the value of helping those less fortunate when he delivered gifts to needy families through Project Santa Claus in Floyd County.

– John Meyers

ROTARY HONORS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

As we celebrate Women's History Month, we also reflect on Rotary's own journey toward inclusion. What feels routine today, women leading clubs, districts, and Rotary International itself, is the result of decades of determination and change.

Today, women serve at every level of Rotary leadership. Most recently, our own district named Kim Johnson as District Governor in waiting, a milestone that now feels natural, but would have been unimaginable just a few decades ago.

The following timeline, adapted from Rotary International, highlights key moments in that journey.

HISTORY OF WOMEN IN ROTARY

Women are active participants in Rotary, serving their communities in increasing numbers and serving in leadership positions in Rotary. The 1989 Council on Legislation vote to admit women into Rotary clubs worldwide remains a watershed moment in the history of Rotary. The vote followed the decades-long efforts of men and women from all over the Rotary world to allow the admission of women into Rotary clubs, and several close votes at previous Council meetings.

The response to the decision was overwhelming: By June 1990, the number of female Rotarians had skyrocketed to over 20,000. The number of women members worldwide reached 195,000 in July 2010 (about 16% of Rotarians) and surpassed 277,000 in July 2020 (about 23%).

TIMELINE OF WOMEN IN ROTARY

1950 - An enactment to delete the word "male" from the Standard Rotary Club Constitution is proposed by a Rotary club in India for the Council on Legislation meeting at the 1950 Rotary Convention.

1964 - The Council on Legislation agenda contains an enactment proposed by a Rotary club in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) to permit the admission of women into Rotary clubs. Delegates vote that it be withdrawn. Two other proposals to allow women to be eligible for honorary membership are also withdrawn.

1977 - The Rotary Club of Duarte, California, USA, admits women as members in violation of the RI Constitution and Standard Rotary Club Constitution. Because of this violation, the club's membership in Rotary International is terminated in March 1978. (The club was reinstated in September 1986.) In a lawsuit filed by the Duarte club, the California Superior Court in 1983 rules in favor of Rotary International, upholding gender-based qualification for membership in California Rotary clubs. In 1986, the California Court of Appeals reverses the lower court's decision, preventing the enforcement of the provision in California. The California Supreme Court refuses to hear the case, and it is appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court.

1987 - On 4 May, the U.S. Supreme Court rules that Rotary clubs may not exclude women from membership on the basis of gender. Rotary issues a policy statement that any Rotary club in the United States can admit qualified women into membership. The Rotary Club of Marin Sunrise, California (formerly Larkspur Landing), is chartered on 28 May. It becomes the first club after the U.S. Su-

preme Court ruling to have women as charter members. Sylvia Whitlock, of the Rotary Club of Duarte, California, becomes the first female Rotary club president.

1989 - At its first meeting after the 1987 U.S. Supreme Court decision, the Council on Legislation votes to eliminate the requirement in the RI Constitution that membership in Rotary clubs be limited to men. Women are welcomed into Rotary clubs around the world.

1990 - As of June, there are about 20,200 female Rotarians worldwide. The Rotarian runs a feature on women in Rotary.

1995 - In July, eight women become district governors, the first elected to this role.

2005 to 2019 - This period saw a series of "firsts": The first woman appointed as trustee of The Rotary Foundation (2005); the first woman elected to the RI Board of Directors (2008); the first woman to serve as RI Treasurer (2012); the first woman to serve as RI Vice President (2013); the first woman to serve as vice-chair and then Chair of The Rotary Foundation (2019).

2022 - Jennifer Jones begins her term as the first female president of Rotary International.

THE LARGE CLUB CONFERENCE: OUT OF THE STARTING GATE, HEADING TO THE FIRST TURN

The **Large Club Conference (LCC26)**, September 27–30, is really coming together! This dynamic event is designed specifically for large (200+ members) Rotary International clubs in north America and will deliver relevant, practical content in a fun, fast-paced format — with plenty of time built in for fellowship.



LARGE CLUB CONFERENCE 2026

Rotarians Answering the Call, Leading the Charge

What's in Store?

Fundraising & Impact

Conference programming will focus on fundraising strategies and the essential tools clubs need to make a meaningful impact. Fundraising is about more than dollars — it's about strengthening local communities and elevating the Rotary name. Sessions will cover:

- Branding your club effectively
- Understanding who gives — and why
- Targeted marketing strategies
- Leveraging social media to expand your reach

These tools also directly support other key club priorities, including membership recruitment and engagement.

Leadership Development

The conference will also offer in an interactive and engaging way practical tips for becoming a more

effective leader. Topics include:

- Using Robert's Rules with confidence
- Live interview techniques
- Real-world boardroom scenarios

Fellowship & Fun

Evenings will showcase the best of Kentucky hospitality — featuring bourbon, horses, music, and plenty of fellowship.

Interested in helping with the conference? Get involved!

Contact trafton@rotarylexky.org to learn more.

Some of our Club's best and brightest have been tasked with making LCC26 an unforgettable experience:

Sponsorships: Bret Anderson, Kim Johnson, Committee

Volunteer Coordinator: Dean Hammond

Speakers: Paul Chewning, Bill Wilson

Marketing/Website: Peggy Trafton

Content - Breakout/Panel/Group Sessions: Peggy

Trafton, Committee

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We invite you to participate and help host our Rotary guests traveling from across the country!



Mike	Baker	1	Jim	Pope	12
Darby	Turner, III	5	Brandon	Fraley	15
Sarah	Diener	5	Laura	Mobley - Corn	18
DG	Linton-Gridley	8	Jim	Martin	19
Gordon	Patterson	9	Liz	Fowler	25
Jenny	Schnurr	11	Crystal	Newton	26
Jake	Graves, IV	12	Bill	Cox, Sr.	30