

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIAN

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Look for his bio in an upcoming issue of *The 5th Page*.

TAKE YOURSELF OUT TO THE BALLGAME!

Cracker Jack is optional, but if you want to see the Boys of Summer, our Social Committee has planned another spring outing to Legends Field on Thursday May 21. Come join the Rotary Club of Lexington for a Lexington Legends game in the comfort of three climate-controlled suites with indoor/outdoor seating, your own suite attendant and a suite dedicated bar. Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for kids under 18. Purchase tickets here: <http://e.givesmart.com/events/Jjp>.

DANCING WITH THE LEXINGTON STARS – HELP GET THIS PARTY STARTED!



“Do it big, do it right, and do it in style” – Fred Astaire

There is no doubt that the Dancing With The Lexington Stars (DWLS) dancers will do it big, but you and judges will have to decide whether its right and stylish.

DWLS is shaping up to be another incredible night for Rotary and our community, and while the event is officially sold out, there are still meaningful ways for Rotarians to get involved. We are in great need of bourbon donations valued at \$50+ for our bourbon pull and auction packages, which continue to be one of the most popular parts of the evening. Volunteers are also welcome to attend and help support

the event. Please contact Susie Bashem for volunteer opportunities and details.

A special thank you to our Presenting Sponsor, OneCommonwealth Financial Group, in partnership with the Robert A. Stranahan, Jr. Charitable Advised Fund.

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SAVE THE DATE: A ROTARY LARK IN THE (GATTON) PARK

The Rotary picnic at Waveland Museum was a big hit last year and worthy of a repeat performance. This year we are heading down the road a bit, to Gatton Park. The picnic will be on Thursday, June 11 from 5:30 to 7:30pm, so mark the date on your calendars! Seating will be on the covered amphitheater stage with the food in the climate controlled indoor space behind the stage. Stay tuned for more details. Hope to see you there.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

May 21 Doing Rotary Differently, See Upcoming Events

May 28 Scholarship Day

Jun 4 Chief Weathers with David Ashford, Board Chair, Bluegrass Crime Stoppers

Jun 11 Lisa Brin, FilmLex

Jun 18 Doing Rotary, Differently

Jun 25 President’s Day

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 21 Lexington Legends Game in the Suites

May 22 Early Morning Mixer, 46Solutions, Lexington Green, 8:00-9:30 am

May 30 Dancing with the Lexington Stars, Carrick House, 6 pm

Jun 11 Rotary Picnic at Gatton Park

The Rotary Foundation

The **ROTARY** Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

May 14, 2026
— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Dean Hammond
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Trey McCallie
Introduction of Guests: Michael Morrill
Introduction of Speaker: Bruce Bell

Speaker: Doug Flynn
Program: The Tommy Bell Award
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



DOUG FLYNN

Each year, our Club sets aside a lunch meeting to honor the legacy of one of our own, Tommy Bell, and to present the Tommy Bell Award. More on Mr. Bell below.

Assisting with today’s program is a name familiar to many of us: Doug Flynn. Doug is a former Bryan Station High School three-sport star. He played baseball professionally for eleven seasons with the Cincinnati Reds, New York Mets, Texas Rangers’ Montreal Expos and Detroit Tigers. Flynn won two world series titles with the Reds and a gold glove while with the Mets. He earned the moniker of “the glue” of the fabled Big Red Machine. His post baseball career consists of working as a banking officer for Central Bank and broadcasting

college baseball for the University of Kentucky on the SEC network. Flynn also worked in radio and television for the Reds beginning in 2013. For eight years he and Rotarian Jeff Piccoro co-hosted Reds Weekly, a magazine style show on Fox Sports Ohio. A Lexington resident, he currently hosts *The Doug Flynn Show* podcast.

Tommy Bell was born in Lexington, Kentucky on July 2, 1922. He graduated from Henry Clay High School in 1939 where he was all-state in football and track. He then attended the University of Kentucky, but he was called to serve the United States Air Force in World War II. Thereafter, he graduated from UK in 1948 and obtained his law degree from UK in 1950.

Tommy Bell’s chosen profession was that of a lawyer, and he was a good one; so respected by his peers that he was chosen in 1966 as the Henry T. Duncan Memorial Outstanding Lawyer in Lexington. Mr. Bell was one of the founding partners of the law firm now known as Fowler Bell.

Mr. Bell is a member of the University of Kentucky Hall of Alumni, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity Hall

of Fame, the Kentucky High School Athletic Association Hall of Fame, the Kentucky Athletic Hall of Fame and Kentucky Pro Football Hall of Fame. He also received the Brotherhood Award from the National Conference of Christians and Jews. He served on the University of Kentucky Board of Trustees and the University of Kentucky Athletic Association Board and was a member of the University of Kentucky Development Council and chairman of their Fellows program. He was state chairman of the Character and Fitness Committee for the Kentucky Bar Association, past president of the Greater Lexington Chamber of Commerce, and state chairman of the Easter Seals. He served on



TOMMY BELL
SPEAKER, 2

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FROM PAGE 1

SPEAKER

numerous boards of directors.

His hobby was sports officiating, which he did at both the collegiate and professional levels. Some people are probably not aware of his refereeing two NCAA championship basketball finals in 1956 and 1959, before joining the National Football League, where he officiated eight championship games and two Super Bowls, Super Bowl III and Super Bowl VII.

Finally, Mr. Bell was in heavy demand as a public speaker, having spoken in many countries and most of the United States. Tommy Bell believed in God, the church, family, education, marriage, honesty, respect for the law and order, authority, America, and hard work. By any measuring device, Tommy Bell was a success.

PAUL HARRIS FELLOWS RECOGNIZED

The Paul Harris Fellow (PHF) recognition goes to individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. At last week's meeting, Foundation Chair Paul Stanley recognized a number of our Club members who have reached this milestone and beyond, with the "+" signifying multiple donations of \$1,000.

Alisha Chaffin and Chris Campbell were called out for their initial achievement of PHF status, followed by David Jones and Shawn Lyons as +1s, and Brad Blain and Bill Wilson as +2s. Congratulation to all! Future meetings will recognize other contributors at the +3 level and above.

Paul concluded by noting that those wishing to achieve PHF recognition can take advantage of a matching points program. With a minimum donation of \$100, Rotarians can receive a dollar for dollar match up to \$500. For details about this program or others of PHF, reach out to Paul at pspaulstanley@gmail.com.



Chris Campbell



Shawn Lyons

Rotary in Review

ROTARY'S HISTORIC FIGHT AGAINST POLIO

When people think of Rotary International's greatest humanitarian achievement, one initiative often rises to the top: PolioPlus.

For more than four decades, Rotary has led the global fight to eradicate polio, helping reduce worldwide cases by more than 99.9 percent. During a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Lexington, members were reminded just how extraordinary, and personal, that journey has been through a compelling presentation from Past District Governor Leon Hirsh.

Hirsh, a member of Pensacola North Rotary Club and former District Governor for District 6940, shared the fascinating story behind the oral polio vaccine and the remarkable scientist who helped change the world: Dr. Albert Sabin.

"Hold on to your hats," Hirsh told the audience with a smile early in the presentation. "You're not going to believe the story."

And it was a story filled with scientific breakthroughs, political tension, and ultimately, hope.

Hirsh walked members through post-World War II Cincinnati, where

Sabin led research efforts at what would become the internationally respected Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. Sabin's work centered on developing an oral vaccine against polio using a weakened live virus, while Dr. Jonas Salk pursued an injectable vaccine using a chemically killed virus.

The rivalry between the two camps became intense, but the stakes could not have been higher. At the height of the global crisis, polio was paralyzing and killing children around the world.

"The year I was born, we lost about a half a million kids to polio," Hirsh said. "Think about that."

Hirsh detailed how manufacturing failures tied to early vaccine production led to tragedy and forced health officials to reconsider Sabin's oral vaccine. By 1962, Sabin's vaccine was approved in the United States and quickly became a critical tool in mass immunization efforts around the globe.

The presentation also highlighted Rotary's own pivotal role in the eradication effort.

In 1985, Rotary International officially launched the PolioPlus cam-

paign after successful vaccination efforts in the Philippines demonstrated the potential for large-scale global impact. At the time, there were approximately 350,000 new polio cases annually worldwide. Today, polio remains endemic in only two countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan.

"So here we are forty years later," Hirsh said, "and today we're endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan; we're just down to two countries now."

Since the launch of PolioPlus, Rotary and its partners have helped vaccinate more than three billion children worldwide, contributed billions of dollars toward eradication efforts, and mobilized volunteers across the globe in what is considered one of the largest public health initiatives in history.

Hirsh closed his presentation with a powerful reminder of why Rotary's mission still matters today, and why the final push toward eradication remains so important.

"You can be proud of that because you're part of it," he said.

— Dan Koett



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