

ROTARIANS HONORED FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

Five Rotarians who were absent from our President’s Day meeting were recognized with individual awards for their work during the past year.

Martha Riddell received the **Rotary Leadership Institute Award** for her role in presenting the Rotary Leadership Institute twice each year and providing Rotarians throughout the district with practical knowledge of Rotary and its operations. She shares the honor with co-chair Judy Worth, who was recognized with the award at the previous meeting. Together, Martha and Judy are responsible for the program’s content, marketing, and presentation.

Rotary Workhorse Awards were presented to **Kim Johnson** and **Bret Anderson** for their many contributions to the Club. Both have served as Club president and are driving forces behind Dancing with the Lexington Stars, our largest fundraiser, which generated a record of \$250,000 this year. Kim is taking her leadership to the next level as District Governor Nominee Designee for District 6740.

Two important Club projects provided the inspiration for **Imaginative Service Above Self Awards** presented to **Gerry van der Meer** and **Harry Richart**. Gerry was recognized for his efforts—particularly his sweat equity—in developing the Pollinator Garden at Kenawood Park. The project reflects Rotary’s commitment to environmental issues.

Harry’s well-deserved award recognized a project, Food for Families, that began during the depths of the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative helps address food insecurity in Lexington by providing food to families in need. Harry leads a dedicated group of 13 volunteers in this effort, which now supports 26 families.

— John Wharton



HELP US BUILD A HABITAT HOME!

The Habitat for Humanity build will take place Thursday, July 30, from 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. at 753 Harrison Trace. Volunteers will assist with painting, trim, baseboards, cabinets, and other interior work. Dress comfortably in clothes

and shoes that can get paint on them. Tools, materials, and safety equipment will be provided. To sign-up and for more information email alisha.chaffin@gmail.com

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS	
Jul 30	5th Thursday, No Meeting- See Upcoming Events
Aug 6	J Batt, Athletics Director, University of Kentucky
Aug 13	Roger Weaver, Rare Coin Expert
Aug 20	Third Thursday, See Upcoming Events
Aug 27	Jarrett Milsaps, President, St. Joseph East & Saint Joseph Mt. Sterling
Sep 3	Marvin Bartlett, Spirit of the Bluegrass
Sep 10	Landry Fields, AI and Your Business
Sep 17	Third Thursday, Field Trip: See Upcoming Events

UPCOMING EVENTS	
Jul 30	Habitat for Humanity Build, Contact Alisha: 917-420-0572
Aug 20	Third Thursday; The Mercy Men, Thursday Night Live, 5/3 Pavilion, 5:30-7:30 pm
Aug 22	Rotary Leadership Institute, 9:30 am-4:30 pm, BCTC Newtown Campus, Free
Aug 28	Early Morning Mixer, Lexington Green, 8-9:30 am
Sep 10	Pollinator Garden Tour, Kenawood Park, Evening Social, Free
Sep 17	Field Trip: Easterseals Bluegrass, 1900 Richmond Rd, Noon
Sep 27-30	Rotary Large Club Conference
Oct 15	Keeneland Outing, Lexington Room, 11- 6:00 pm, \$125

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The ROTARY Club of Lexington

WHEEL HORSE

July 23, 2026
— TODAY’S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Lyle Hanna
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Chris Aldridge
Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie
Introduction of Speakers: Lyle Hanna

Speakers: Mary Quinn Ramer, President VisitLex with Lisa Brin, Lead, FilmLEX
Program: FilmLEX: Putting Central Kentucky in the Spotlight
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKERS: LIGHTS, CAMERA, LEXINGTON!



MARY QUINN RAMER

FilmLEX is VisitLEX’s film and television initiative, dedicated to serving and supporting the production community while promoting the Kentucky Entertainment Incentive Program to attract film and television projects to the Commonwealth. Through the leadership of our speakers today, since 2024 FilmLEX has positioned Lexington and Central Kentucky as a popular production destination, driving new investment, creating jobs, and showcasing the region’s talent, locations, and communities to audiences around the world.

Mary Quinn Ramer is President of VisitLEX, where she oversees the organization’s marketing, convention sales, and administrative operations while leading efforts to promote Lexington for



LISA BRIN

tourism, meetings, and special events. A tourism industry veteran with more than 25 years of experience, she assumed her current position in 2014 after serving seven years as VisitLEX’s Vice President of Marketing.

During her tenure, she has spearheaded the organization’s award-winning rebranding, including the creation of Lexington’s iconic Blue Horse brand and accompanying merchandise. She has also coordinated VisitLEX’s efforts for four international equine events; launched an original culinary tourism initiative; helped secure the expansion of the Central Bank Center; and played key roles in restoring the Old Fayette Courthouse as VisitLEX headquarters and reopening public access to the Kentucky

River through Kelly’s Landing. A graduate of Centre College, Ramer has received numerous honors throughout her career. She is the recipient of the Public Relations Society of America’s highest honor, the Silver Anvil, as well as multiple marketing awards from the Kentucky Travel Industry Association, including the prestigious Mangeot-Oaken Award. She has also been recognized as Kentucky’s Tourism Director of the Year.

Lisa Brin is the FilmLEX Lead for VisitLEX, where she promotes Lexington and Central Kentucky as premier destinations for film and television production. In her role, she markets the region to the entertainment industry, connects productions with local resources, and serves as a trusted advisor throughout the filming process.

Before returning to Kentucky five years ago, Brin built an impressive career in Los Angeles, developing consumer brand partnership campaigns for major studios, including The Walt Disney Company, Universal Pictures, DreamWorks Animation, and The Marketing Store. Her work supported blockbuster franchises such as *Jurassic World*, *Fast & Furious*, *Kung Fu Panda*, *Despicable*

SPEAKERS, 2

The Rotary Club of Lexington
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Lyle Hanna - President
Susie Basham - President-Elect
Past Presidents: Jamie Schrader 1Q, Jim Richardson 2Q
Bill Wilson 3Q, Dean Hammond 4Q
Jarred Paull - Secretary
Sam Overbee - Sergeant-at-Arms
Jenny Schnurr - Treasurer
Peggy Trafton - Executive Director (Staff)
Trafton@rotarylexky.org

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Chris Peck (2027) Chris Anderson (2029)
Linda Weaver (2027) Cheyenne McBride (2029)
Chris Aldridge (2028) Don Tharpe (2029)
Eric Brooks (2028)

THE ROTARY CLUB OF LEXINGTON CHARITABLE FUND

2026-2027 BOARD OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS

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Michael Morrill (2027)
John Wharton (2027)
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Tom Lester (2028)
John Meyer (2028)
Susan Adams (2029)
Bruce Bell (2029)
Kim Johnson (2029)
Bill Wilson (2029)
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Jenny Schnurr- Treasurer

WHEEL HORSE / 5TH PAGE CONTRIBUTORS

Paul Chewning Louis Hatcher Jaron Johns
John Meyers Jim Richardson
Bill Straus Peggy Trafton John Wharton
Chris Aldridge, Editor
Dan Koett, Assistant Editor
Set up & printing by Lynn Imaging

FROM PAGE 1

SPEAKERS

Me, and *The Grinch*. She also spent four years studying improvisation and screenwriting at Chicago's renowned Second City, where she embraced the collaborative philosophy of "yes, and."

Although born and raised in the Chicago area, Brin has deep Kentucky roots through her father's Lexington family. She is proud to be back in the Bluegrass to help grow Kentucky's emerging film industry through FilmLEX.

SADDLE UP FOR THE ROTARY LARGE CLUB CONFERENCE 2026!



LARGE CLUB CONFERENCE 2026
Rotarians Answering the Call,
Leading the Charge

The Rotary Club of Lexington will host the Rotary Large Club Conference September 27-30, welcoming representatives from clubs across the country with more than 200 members.

Our planning team has been hard at work, but now it's time for all Rotarians to saddle up and help! Volunteers are needed throughout the conference to assist with registration, hospitality, and general logistics.

If you can volunteer, please contact Dean Hammond at dean@aften.com.

LET'S GET READY FOR A BIG BLUE THURSDAY!



We are pleased to welcome a very special guest to our August 6 meeting - J Batt, the University of Kentucky's new athletics director. Thanks to the efforts of Rotarian Jim Host, the Rotary Club of Lexington will be among the first organizations to

publicly welcome J Batt to Lexington and his new position. Let's fill the room with Rotarians and guests for this exciting program. Go Cats!

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIAN

Jennifer Hukill

Contact Information

Home Address: 3785 Horsemint Trail, Lexington, KY 40509

Email: jennyhukill@gmail.com

Ph: 859-576-2743

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

Rotary in Review

THE CHANGING OF THE GUARD

McBride, and Don Tharpe. Also taking the oath of office for the first time was R.G. Conley and Linda Weaver, who are filling unexpired terms.

Prior to President Lyle taking over the podium to offer his thoughts on the year, Dean closed out his tenure by completing some business from the prior meeting: recognition of Rotarians who contributions were invaluable during the Fab Four's reign. Five Rotarians who were absent from our President's Day meeting were recognized with individual awards. Read more about the recipients and their honors in a separate article in this issue of the *Wheel Horse*.

Another highlight of the meeting came when Gary Wilmhoff won the lottery. With only 10 cards remaining in the deck, Gary drew the Ace of Diamonds and claimed the \$965 jackpot. In a generous act of Rotary spirit, he donated his entire winnings to The Rotary Foundation.

With old business behind us, the meeting was turned over to President Lyle. His enthusiasm was noticeable and contagious as he covered a wide

variety of topics. A key theme was his recognition of the "talents, ideas, and skills" of Rotarians and his desire for us to interact more with each other to learn and grow. Such learning and growth, coupled with informative weekly presentations, puts us in the best position to help make Lexington, already a wonderful place, even better. A timely surprise visit from Mayor Linda Gorton was noted from the podium putting an exclamation point on Rotary's role in shaping Lexington.

Lyle briefly touched on the importance of our committees, encouraging participation as a way to connect with others, the Club Charitable Fund and the Rotary International Foundation. All of these are critical to the impact that we can make by working together.

It looks like a great year ahead!

— John Wharton

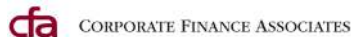


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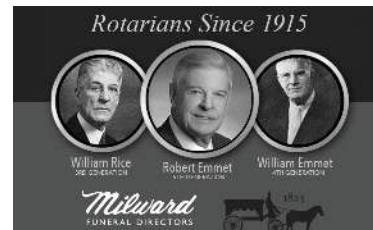
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