

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE (RLI) IS FOR EVERYONE!



Don't be fooled by the name. The Rotary Leadership Institute isn't just for current or aspiring club and district leaders. It's for all Rotarians -- from new members to longtime members -- who want to deepen their understanding of Rotary International and strengthen their leadership skills.

To learn more about Rotary International and what's happening in our district, register for the upcoming Rotary Leadership Institute on August 22. Check-in begins at 9:30 a.m., and the program concludes at 4:30 p.m. The Institute will be held at the Science Education Center at Bluegrass Community and Technical College, 500 Newtown Pike, Lexington.

To register, visit rlihoa.org. Under "Future RLI Events," find "RLI Parts I, II, and III, In-Person - District 6740." Select "More Info" and follow the registration instructions. If you have questions or encounter problems, contact District 6740 RLI Co-Coordinator Judy Worth at jkworth@icloud.com or (859) 494-9889.

Registration is free, thanks to District Governor Terry Pugh and our district leadership. The actual fee is \$60 per person, but the value you'll receive is incalculable!

- Judy Worth

COULD YOUR CURRENCY KEEPSAKE BE A TREASURE?

Have you ever discovered an old coin tucked away in a drawer or inherited a bill and wondered whether it was worth more than its face value? That seemingly ordinary piece of currency could be a hidden treasure!

Our program next week will feature Roger Weaver of My Old Kentucky Coin and Collectibles, LLC. Following the program, Roger will be available to evaluate your coins and currency—and will even offer to buy them if you're interested in selling. There's no need to polish or clean anything; simply bring your items and let Roger take a look.

You may be surprised by what your keepsakes are worth!



Chris	DeHoag	2	Jack	McAllister	19
Garland	Barr, III	3	Chris	Campbell	19
Alisha	Chaffin	3	Greg	Meegan	21
Leah	Anderson	4	Tim	Mueller	22
Virginia	Carter	6	Shelby	Kinthead, Jr.	24
Cassi	Kline	7	Gerry	van der Meer	24
Franklin	Thompson	7	Cheyenne	McBride	24
Jon	Larson	9	Chris	Peck	30
Daniel	Zabala	10	Larry	Cowgill	31
Monica	Owens	13	Peggy	Trafton	31
Lyle	Hanna	14			

The ROTARY Club of Lexington
WHEEL HORSE

August 6, 2026
— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: President Lyle Hanna
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test: Eric Brooks
Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie
Introduction of Speaker: Lyle Hanna

Introduction of Program: Jim Host joined by Tom Leach, Voice of the Wildcats
Speaker: J Batt, Director of Athletics, University of Kentucky
Program: Introducing the University of Kentucky's new Director of Athletics, J Batt
Location: The Mane on Main

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



J BATT

J Batt officially became the University of Kentucky's athletics director and chief executive officer of Champions Blue, LLC on July 28, succeeding Mitch Barnhart, who served in the position for the last 24 years. A nationally recognized leader in college athletics, Batt brings extensive experience in administration, fundraising, revenue development and strategic investment in athletic facilities.

Batt came to Kentucky from Michigan State University, where he served as vice president and director of athletics. During his single year in East Lansing, he helped secure a historic and transformational philanthropic commitment of more than \$400 mil-

lion -- the largest single gift in college athletics' history -- and established Spartan Ventures and Spartan Media Ventures to develop new revenue streams and partnerships. Michigan State student-athletes also achieved the highest department-wide GPA in school history during his tenure, and eight teams earned NCAA tournament bids this past year.

Before joining Michigan State, Batt was director of athletics and vice president at Georgia Tech for three years. Under his leadership, Georgia Tech increased fundraising by more than 40 percent. He also launched Full Steam Ahead, a capital campaign designed to raise more than \$500 million to modernize the Yellow Jackets' athletic facilities, enhance the student-athlete experience, and strengthen Georgia Tech's competitive edge. During his final year at Georgia Tech, the university was one of only nine schools nationally that earned postseason berths in football, men's and women's basketball, volleyball, softball and baseball.

No stranger to the Southeastern Conference, Batt previously held sev-

eral leadership positions at the University of Alabama, including executive deputy athletics director. He also held senior roles in athletics departments at East Carolina University, the University of Maryland and James Madison University.

"Across these institutions, J has distinguished himself as a record-breaker in fundraising and as a leader who strategically invests in facilities to maximize resources and revenue," University of Kentucky President Eli Capilouto said in a message to the UK campus announcing Batt's hire. "As important, he has remained focused on ensuring student-athletes compete at the highest levels while being prepared for lives of meaning and purpose."

Raised in Charlottesville, Virginia, Batt is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, where he was a member of the Tar Heels' 2001 national championship men's soccer team. He earned a bachelor's degree in journalism and mass communications and a master's degree in sports administration from UNC. He and his wife, Leah, have two sons.

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UPCOMING PROGRAMS

- Aug 13 Roger Weaver, Rare Coin Expert
- Aug 20 Third Thursday, See Upcoming Events
- Aug 27 Jarrett Millsaps, President, St. Joseph Medical Center & CommonSpirit St. Joseph Health 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
- Sep 23 Twyman Clements, Space Tango
- Sep 27-30 Large Club Conference, Weekly Meeting Tuesday, Sep. 29th

UPCOMING EVENTS

- 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 24 God's Pantry Backpack Pack-Up, Winchester Rd., 1:00-2:30 pm
- Aug 28 Early Morning Mixer, Lexington Green, 8-9:30 am
- Sep 10 Pollinator Garden Tour, Kenawood Park, Evening Social, Free
- Sep 12 Toyota Miracle League, Opening Day, Shillito Park, 10:00 - 3:00 pm
- Sep 17 Field Trip: Easterseals Bluegrass, 1900 Richmond Rd, Noon
- Sep 24 Early Morning Mixer, Lexington Green, 8-9:30 am
- Sep 27-30 Rotary Large Club Conference
- Sep 28 God's Pantry Backpack Pack-Up, Winchester Rd., 1:00-2:30 pm
- Oct 15 Keeneland Outing, Lexington Room, 11- 6:00 pm, \$125

SUPPORT THE ROTARY FOUNDATION THROUGH ROTARY DIRECT

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Bill Wilson 3Q, Dean Hammond 4Q
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Sam Overbee - Sergeant-at-Arms
Jenny Schnurr - Treasurer
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Trafton@rotarylexky.org

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Larry Newman received his Paul Harris Fellow +8 pin from Keith Key. Thank you, Larry, for your generous support of the Rotary Foundation!

The Rotary Foundation transforms your gifts into service projects that change lives both close to home and around the world.

One of the easiest and most secure ways to support this important work is through Rotary Direct, the Foundation's recurring giving program.

Rotary Direct offers flexible month-

ly, quarterly, and annual giving options. Members can enroll by visiting my.rotary.org/en/rotary-direct, completing an enrollment form, or calling Rotary International at 1-866-976-8279.

By enrolling in Rotary Direct with a contribution of \$85 per month, you will automatically become a member of the Paul Harris Society. This is a simple and meaningful way to strengthen the work of The Rotary Foundation and help Rotary continue "Doing Good in the World."

If you have any questions, please reach out to me.

— Keith Key

CELEBRATING OUR YEARLING OF THE YEAR



Dean Hammond presented Kristie Woodrum with the 2026 Yearling of the Year Award at our last meeting. Chosen for the honor by the fabled "Fab Four" presidents, Kristie distinguished herself

among a truly outstanding class of new Rotarians who joined our club during the past year. She chaired her class service project and quickly became involved with several committees, truly embodying Rotary's motto of "Service Above Self." Congratulations, Kristie!

NEW MEMBER PROPOSAL

The following individual has been proposed for membership in Rotary:

Kimberly Wade

Classification: Service Industry, Communications; Sales, Corporate Manager

Sponsor: Susie Basham

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.

Rotary in Review

FILMLEX POSITIONS LEXINGTON FOR A STARRING ROLE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY



FILM LEXINGTON, KY

Lexington is emerging as a destination for film and television production through VisitLEX's FilmLEX initiative. Created in response to Kentucky's 2022 Entertainment Incentive Program, FilmLEX is designed to attract productions while providing comprehensive support that includes location scouting, permitting, logistics, and local industry connections. Brin, who relocated from Los Angeles during the pandemic, brings more than 13 years of entertainment industry experience in Hollywood to the effort.

Kentucky's Entertainment Incentive Program has become a major catalyst for growth, offering filmmakers a competitive 30 to 35 percent fully refundable tax rebate backed by \$75 million in annual funding. Additional incentives reward productions that hire Kentucky-based crew members and film in designated heritage counties, helping the Commonwealth compete successfully with other states and foreign countries for film and television projects.

Mary Quinn Ramer, President of VisitLEX, and Lisa Brin, FilmLEX Lead, shared how

Ramer and Brin emphasized that film production is about far more than making movies -- it is an economic development strategy that benefits tourism, hospitality, and local businesses. Studies show that 88 percent of travelers are influenced by destinations they have seen on screen, creating tourism opportunities for communities featured in film and television productions. As the entertainment industry continues to expand beyond traditional film and television into streaming platforms, podcasts, video games, and the content creator economy, Lexington is well positioned to capitalize on those trends.

To support that growth, FilmLEX has developed an online resource center, production directories, location databases, and a streamlined permitting process designed to make filming in Lexington as efficient and filmmaker-friendly as possible. The initiative also connects productions with local vendors, crew members, background actors, and unique filming locations while partnering with colleges and universities to strengthen workforce development through film-related educational opportunities.

Nineteen film and television projects

have already been completed in Lexington, generating both economic impact and national attention. As of June, \$14.1 million of the Kentucky Entertainment Incentive Program's fully refundable tax rebates are for projects filmed in Lexington and Central Kentucky, representing \$2.63 million of direct impact to the local economy.

FilmLEX's work has been featured in *Deadline Hollywood*, *Variety*, and *Business Insider*; and an increasing share of Kentucky's film incentive funding is now being directed to projects in Lexington and Central Kentucky.

Ramer and Brin concluded by encouraging Rotarians and the broader community to become involved by registering businesses, properties, and professional services with FilmLEX. They also urged hotels, restaurants, and other hospitality partners to support visiting productions. By leveraging its distinctive locations, competitive incentives, and collaborative community, Lexington is positioning itself not only as a great place to visit, but as a premier destination for filmmakers from around the world.

— Jim Richardson



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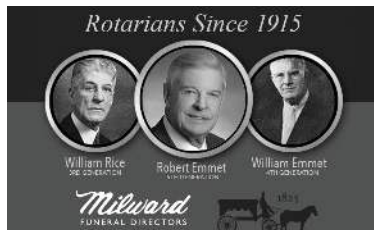
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