NEW MEMBER DEEP DIVE: M. ENAYET U. "ENAM" CHOWDHURY



ENAM CHOWDHURY

One thing that I particularly enjoy about writing these bios is learning about new members' unusual and interesting hobbies and activities. Let me just say, M. Enayet U. "Enam" Chowdhury did not disappoint! He enjoys cycling, table tennis, tennis, and … long-range precision shooting.

I had to learn more about the shooting! Enam explained that the focus, discipline, and skill involved in the sport help him recharge. He recently joined a local club and shoots at targets 300 yards away. That certainly sounded "long-range" to me, but Enam previously lived in Harlan and shot at distances of up to 1,089 yards!

A healthcare professional with over 23 years of leadership experience—and the current CEO of Bluegrass Community Health Center—Enam was born in Natick, Massachusetts, but has lived in Bangladesh, England, Iraq, and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Harlan. These experiences have taught him to respect people from different backgrounds and cultures. Enam appreciates that Rotary brings together people from a variety of careers and life experiences who share a commitment to service and community.

His Rotary journey started in 2013 in Harlan and continued through his connections with Rotary in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and now Lexington. Several years ago, he had the opportunity to exchange a Rotary flag between the Harlan and Dhaka clubs. Enam says that Rotary helps him become a better listener, helping him learn from others with different skill sets and backgrounds.

Enam hopes that his example can show younger professionals that learning never stops and that we can always grow by listening to people with different experiences and knowledge. That sounds like great advice for all of us!

– John Meyers

WELCOME, TRANSFERRING ROTARIAN

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Sponsor: Peggy Trafton

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIAN

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Classification: Medicine; Mental Health
Sponsor: Jenny Schnurr













UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Nov 19 3rd Thursday, Doing Rotary Differently, See Volunteer Opportunities
Nov 26 Happy Thanksgiving!
Dec 3 Larry Krauter, Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, and Eric Frankl, Blue Grass Airport
Dec 10 Racheal Hooper, Curator, University of Kentucky Art Museum
Dec 17 Holiday Party with Northern Elementary students and Santa
Dec 24 & 31 Happy Holidays!

UPCOMING EVENTS

Nov 18 Social, Final Dress Rehearsal, Lexington Theatre Company's *White Christmas,* Opera house, 7:00 pm
Nov 19 Voices of Hope—help with warming kits—Recovery Community Center, 1-3:00 pm
Dec 3 Rotary Holiday Party, Lexington Legends' Legendary Lights, CommonSpirit Ballpark, $40, 6-9:00 pm
Dec 11 Early Morning Mixer, Lexington Green, 8-9:30 am
Dec 14 God's Pantry Food Bank, Backpack Pack-Up, 2201 Innovation Drive, 1-2:30 pm

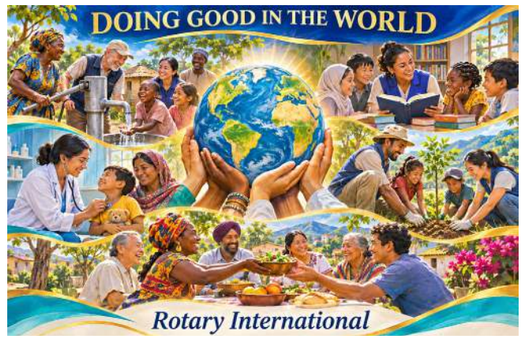
Scan the QR codes at your table for tickets to the final dress rehearsal of *White Christmas* at the Opera House on 11/18 and the Rotary Holiday Party at Lexington Legends' Legendary Lights at CommonSpirit Ballpark on 12/3, or see Susan Adams.

The ROTARY Club of Lexington
WHEEL HORSE

November 12, 2026
— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: Past President Jim Richardson
Inspiration, Pledge, and 4 Way Test: Gerry van der Meer
Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie
Introduction of Program: Dean Hammond
Speaker: Everett McCorvey, University of Kentcky Opera
Program: Foundation Day and Salute to Veterans with Everett McCorvey, University of Kentucky Opera

FOUNDATION DAY AND A SALUTE TO VETERANS WITH EVERETT McCORVEY, UNIVERSITY OF KENTUCKY OPERA



Imagine a young girl standing beside a water pump in her village. As her bucket fills, she sees enough clean water for her family that day. In that same bucket, her mother sees less reason to worry about illness, and her teacher sees a student who can spend more time in the classroom. For the girl, that bucket of clean water is the beginning of a future filled with possibilities.

One act of service can reach further than we can imagine.

As we recognize Rotary Foundation Day, we celebrate the generosity that helps turn our commitment to service into lasting change. A gift becomes more than a contribution. It becomes an opportunity to help a family, strengthen a community, and give someone a reason to hope.

The accompanying illustration captures that spirit: people working together to provide clean water, share knowledge, care for others, and build stronger communities. At its center, many hands hold the globe. No single pair carries it alone. Together, they support something far greater than anyone could hold.

That's the spirit of The Rotary Foundation—and the opportunity before our club.

Our goal is to raise $22,000 for The Rotary Foundation this fiscal year. To reach that goal, we're asking each member to consider a gift that's meaningful to them. Whether this is your first contribution or part of a longstanding tradition of giving, your participation matters.

Our financial goal gives us a clear target, but the purpose behind it is personal. Behind every project are people: a family needing safe clean water, a parent seeking care, a child eager to learn, or a community working toward a better future.

On Rotary Foundation Day, please join us in making a gift and helping our club reach its $22,000 goal. We may never meet everyone our gifts help, but the opportunities we create can last for years.

Doing good in the world begins when we ask, "What can I do?" It grows when we ask, "What can we do together?"

– Keith Key



EVERETT McCORVEY

Everett McCorvey's career has taken him to stages around the world, but Kentucky remains central to his work as a performer, conductor, teacher, and arts leader.

A native of Montgomery, Alabama, he earned his doctorate in musical arts at the University of Alabama. He has performed in more than 23 countries and at venues including the Metropolitan Opera, Kennedy Center, and Radio City Music Hall.

At the University of Kentucky, McCorvey serves as director of opera, executive producer of UK Opera Theatre, and professor of voice. He also holds the OperaLex Endowed Chair of Opera Studies.

Beyond UK, he leads the National Chorale and Orchestra of New York City, serves as Opera Columbus's principal guest conductor, and chairs the Kentucky Arts Council.

Throughout his career, McCorvey has encouraged young artists and championed American opera and choral music, guided by his belief that music can transform lives and bring people and communities together.

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Susie Basham - President-Elect
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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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Alisha Chaffin (2028)
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WHEEL HORSE / 5TH PAGE

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SPOTTED IN THE GALÁPAGOS: ROTARY'S SPIRIT OF SERVICE



Rotarian Paul Chewning was greeted by this beautiful sculpture at the docks on San Cristóbal Island in Ecuador's Galápagos Islands during a recent visit. It offers a striking reminder of Rotary International's reach, with approximately 1.2 million members and more than 45,000 Rotary and Rotaract clubs worldwide.

The sculpture's inscription, "Dar de sí antes de pensar en sí," translates to "Give of oneself before thinking of oneself"—a fitting expression of Rotary's motto, "Service Above Self."

LAST CALL FOR CLUB LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS

STEP UP TO SERVE
CLUB LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS OPEN

Nominations are open for President, President-Elect, Secretary, Treasurer, Sergeant at Arms, and three Director positions. You may nominate a fellow Rotarian or yourself.

Nominations are due in the Rotary office by Monday, November 16.
Help shape our club's future—consider stepping up to serve!

HELP BRING WARMTH WITH VOICES OF HOPE

VOICES of HOPE

Join fellow Rotarians on Thursday, November 19, from 1–3 p.m. at Voices of Hope's Recovery Community Center, 644 N. Broadway St., Lexington, to make blankets for warming kits.

This hands-on activity requires no crafting skills, just a willingness to help! It's an opportunity to enjoy fellowship while providing warmth and comfort to others.

Voices of Hope looks forward to welcoming our group and appreciates Rotarians' commitment to sharing their time in service. www.voicesofhopelex.org

Rotary in Review

ROTARY IN REVIEW: BEYOND DIVISIONS, REASONS FOR HOPE

Is America headed in the wrong direction, or are Americans overlooking the progress taking place around them?

That question was at the center of a Rotary Club of Lexington presentation by Wilfred Reilly, associate professor of political science at Kentucky State University, who encouraged members to look beyond headlines and consider the forces shaping the nation's future. Reilly examined the national elections, growing dissatisfaction with political institutions, economic pressures facing American families, and the disconnect between public perceptions and measurable improvements in quality of life.

Reilly, whose background includes political science and law, has written several books challenging conventional political and social narratives, including *Lies My Liberal Teacher Told Me, Taboo: 10 Facts You Can't Talk About,* and *Hate Crime Hoax.*

While discussing political divisions and institutional distrust, Reilly offered a surprisingly optimistic assessment of America's long-term prospects.

"I actually think the future looks bright," Reilly said, pointing to technological innovation and humanity's capacity to address seemingly insurmountable challenges.



Discussing the recent elections, Reilly suggested that voter dissatisfaction reflected concerns beyond party affiliation. He identified the cost of living, housing affordability, international conflicts, and questions about government effectiveness as issues influencing public sentiment.

He also argued that Americans increasingly question whether their elected representatives are addressing the problems that matter most in their daily lives.

"Voters often prefer boring competence after seasons of chaos," Reilly observed.

Moving beyond politics, Reilly challenged members to consider how dramatically life has improved over previous generations, citing medical advances, modern conveniences, expanded educational and economic opportunities, increased life expectancy, and declining global poverty as signs of progress often taken for granted or obscured by negative headlines.

"The reality for both the United States and the planet is that we actually seem to be getting a lot better on most of the metrics that have always been used to measure human flourishing," he said.

Nevertheless, Reilly acknowledged significant challenges ahead, including artificial intelligence, nuclear proliferation, declining birth rates, and mounting national debt. During questions, he explored the potential consequences of emerging technologies and the importance of managing economic and security risks responsibly.

Despite those concerns, Reilly returned to a central theme: humanity has repeatedly demonstrated its ability to confront major challenges and adapt.

His closing message encouraged Rotarians to distinguish between genuine threats and exaggerated fears while maintaining confidence in society's ability to address the future.

"The question is whether we still have that capacity," Reilly concluded. "Let's show we do."

For Rotarians, the presentation prompted reflection on the relationship between civic engagement, public confidence, and the responsibilities of informed citizenship in a complex world.

– Dan Koett | Photo by Jenny Schnurr

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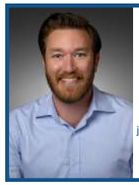

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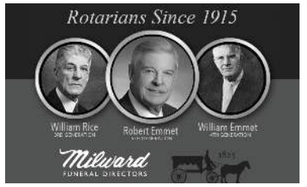
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