SPIN TO WIN PEDALS TOWARD A POLIO FREE WORLD



Rotarians and Cycle You Fitness & Sauna clients pedaled for a purpose on October 22, raising $2,563.93 through the Spin to Win event benefiting The Rotary Foundation's PolioPlus fund.

With a 2-to-1 match from the Gates Foundation, the evening's total impact will reach $7,691.79 to support worldwide polio eradication efforts. Not bad for a 45-minute cycle class!

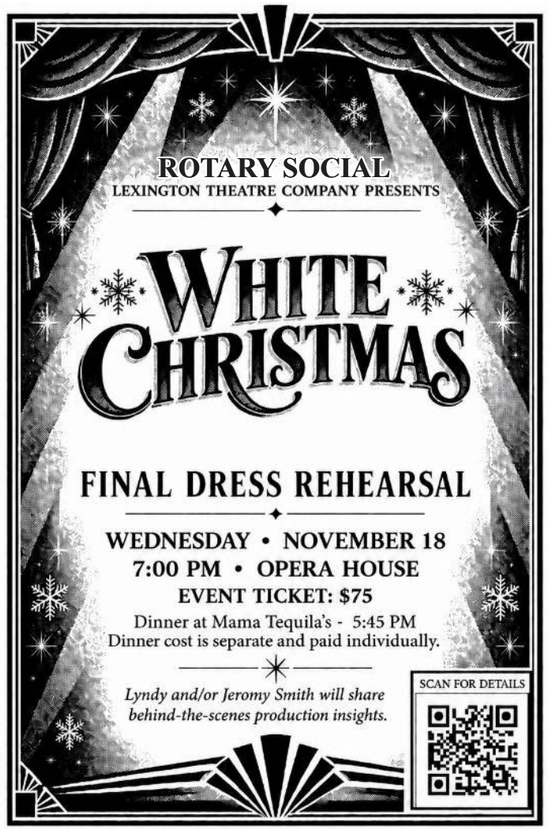
Pictured above are Rotarians Chris Campbell, Lucy Hendricks, Jenny Schnurr, and Peggy Trafton along with Cycle You clients. Not pictured, but there, is President Lyle Hanna.

Thanks to everyone who rode, donated, and helped make the event a success!

NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS



November 3 Ken Dougherty
November 6 Bryan Dollins
November 9 John Darnell
November 13 Zack Moscow
November 15 George Brooks, II
November 16 Shawn Barkley
November 17 Jeff Nazarko
November 20 Judy Worth
November 23 Jim Host
November 24 Elysse Arrington, John Tackett
November 25 Candra Bryant, Kim Campbell, Don Hart













UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Nov 12 Foundation Day with Everett McCorvey, University of Kentucky Opera
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 9 God's Pantry Food Bank, Backpack Pack-Up, 2201 Innovation Drive, 1-2:30 pm
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

The ROTARY Club of Lexington
WHEEL HORSE

October 22, 2026
— TODAY'S PROGRAM —

Presiding: Past President Bret Anderson
Inspiration, Pledge, & 4 Way Test:
Introduction of Guests: Trey McCallie
Introduction of Program: John Wharton

Speaker: Wilfred Reilley, Associate Professor of Political Science, Kentucky State University
Program: Is America Failing? Left and Right Claims Looked at Critically

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MEET OUR SPEAKER



WILFRED RILEY

Wilfred Reilly is an American political scientist whose work brings a fresh perspective to civic engagement. As an associate professor of political science at Kentucky State University, Reilly has dedicated his career to critically examining and empirically testing political claims, while fostering a deeper understanding of complex societal issues. With an impressive academic background and a passion for unraveling the truth, he has become a notable figure in the field of political science.

Raised in the Chicago area, Reilly holds a Bachelor of Arts and a Ph.D. in political science from Southern Illinois University Carbondale, and a Juris Doctorate (J.D.) from the University of Illinois College of Law. His training in research and law informs his approach to political and social questions. Together, these disciplines provide a foundation for evaluating arguments and the evidence offered to support them.

Reilly is the author of several books, including *Lies My Liberal Teacher Told Me, Taboo: 10 Facts You Can't Talk About,* and *Hate Crime Hoax.* These titles reflect his interest in challenging familiar narratives and exploring subjects that often generate vigorous debate.

Independently or with coauthors, he has published more than 100 articles in national media and academic outlets, including *Administration & Society, Academic Questions, National Review, Commentary, Newsweek,* spiked, and Quillette. His writing reaches both scholarly audiences and readers interested in contemporary political and cultural issues.

His research interests span international relations, contemporary American race relations, and the use of quantitative methods to evaluate widely accepted theories. His work includes examining claims about the existence and extent of white privilege. These subjects invite discussion about how social claims are defined, measured and interpreted.

Outside academia, Reilly enjoys dogs, archery, basketball, and Asian cooking. He describes himself as a "former corporate executive, freedom rider, law student, and poor kid"—experiences that have helped shape his perspectives.

Wilfred Reilly is more than an academic; he is a voice of reason in a world filled with political complexities. His dedication to objective analysis, commitment to dismantling taboos, and genuine curiosity about human experience make him a sought-after speaker.

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Lexington, KY 40507
Phone: 389-8100

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Trafton@rotarylexky.org

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SHARE CHRISTMAS MAGIC WITH A CHILD



On December 17, we'll welcome the children of Northern Elementary for our annual kids' Christmas lunch!

It's always the jolliest meeting of the year, featuring a visit from Santa Claus, Jim Richardson's musical talents, and fun for all ages. Join us to experience the magic of Christmas through the eyes of a child!

Beginning next week, Rotarians can select a child to sponsor, purchase a gift, and return it to Carrie Patterson or Sarah Diener by December 10.

We have 44 gifts to purchase and plenty of stockings to fill! If you can't attend a meeting but would like to sponsor a child, contact Carrie at Carrie@CarpetOneLex.com or 859-983-0611.

Merry Christmas!

STEP UP TO SERVE: CLUB LEADERSHIP NOMINATIONS OPEN

Ready to take a more active role in the Rotary Club of Lexington? 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.

Peggy's recent email included the Nomination Form and *Expectations of Directors and Officers*. Please review the expectations carefully to understand the responsibilities of the position you're considering.

Help shape our club's future—consider stepping up to serve!

WELCOME, NEW ROTARIAN

Alexander "Alex" Wheeler
Contact Information
Home Address: 973 Wyndham Hills Drive, Lex., KY 40514
Email: abwh226@gmail.com
Ph: 954-612-8027
Classification: Law, Asst. County Attorney
Sponsor: Jim Dundon

Rotary in Review

FIFTY YEARS LATER: CHAMPIONSHIP MEMORIES, LIFELONG BONDS

Much has changed in college football since Kentucky's 1976 SEC and Peach Bowl championship season. But 50 years later, one thing is clear: the bonds among teammates remain strong—and the friendly ribbing continues.

At our October 22 meeting, quarterback Derrick Ramsey, center David Hopewell, and running back Randy Brooks joined moderator and fellow Rotarian Jeff Piecoro, for a spirited look back at that special team.

Opening with good-natured teasing, Jeff emphasized the significance of Kentucky's first bowl invitation in 25 years, earned when postseason opportunities were far fewer than today.

The conversation turned to the 1974 recruiting class, which Ramsey called "the greatest in UK football history." That class formed the foundation of the 1976 championship team, which sent 11 players to the NFL. Ramsey recalled that he and high school teammate Art Still were the class's final signees. They chose Kentucky after Michigan coach Bo Schembechler reversed his decision to let Ramsey play both football and basketball for the Wolverines but agreed to release him from his commitment if he attended a school outside the Big Ten.



Derrick Ramsey, Randy Brooks, David Hopewell, and Jeff Piecoro share a laugh.

For Hopewell, from Talladega, Alabama, the road to Kentucky included a family connection to former Governor Happy Chandler. When Chandler discovered that his next-door neighbor was Hopewell's aunt, he urged her to get her nephew—a Wildcat recruit—on the phone. A subsequent visit convinced Hopewell that Kentucky was right for him.

Brooks remembered arriving with confidence in his speed, strength and ability. He joked that his greatest obstacle was convincing Ramsey to give him the football. Ramsey highlighted Brooks' blocking and receiving skills, which he considered stronger than those of UK great Sonny Collins, who had finished his Kentucky career the previous year.

Recollections of the Penn State and North Carolina games brought stories of difficult opponents, muddy fields, cold weather, and Kentucky's determination to prove itself. The Penn State game was pure revenge for Ramsey, who was heavily recruited by the Nittany Lions, but told that he "would never play quarterback" by coach Joe Paterno. With Ramsey at quarterback for the Wildcats, Kentucky won 22-6.

Brooks talked about the challenges of playing North Carolina in the Peach Bowl, and blocking another freshman, Lawrence Taylor, who is widely considered the greatest outside linebacker to ever play the game. Kentucky beat the favored Tar Heels 21-0.

Their affection for Coach Fran Curci was unmistakable. Ramsey acknowledged that being benched early in his career was difficult, but reviewing film helped him recognize why the decision was necessary. He credited Curci's patient instruction and preparation with helping him grow, and said he remains in regular contact with his former coach.

The program offered more than a look back at a championship season. It was a reminder that the people who share our greatest challenges and triumphs can remain part of our lives long after the final whistle blows.

—Chris Aldridge | Photo by Bill Straus

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