

COGS

official newsletter of the
ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSPORT

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Dwight D. King is a dedicated public servant and veteran lawmaker currently serving as a Sullivan County Commissioner for District 5, representing the Piney Flats community. With 16 years of legislative experience on the county commission, King has built a strong reputation as a fiscally responsible leader committed to improving local infrastructure and the community's quality of life. His tenure is marked by a deep knowledge of county operations, a practical approach to governance, and a steadfast dedication to his constituents in East Tennessee.

Throughout his time in office, Commissioner King has prioritized critical local investments, with a heavy focus on advancing K-12 public education

and expanding Career and Technical Education (CTE) programs. He is also recognized for his active leadership on complex regional challenges, including navigating the county's jail infrastructure and public safety needs. As a collaborative representative, King continues to focus on balancing the county budget while ensuring Sullivan County remains a safe, prosperous, and forward-thinking place to live and work.

Dwight's program will be on the Ron Ramsey Center in Blountville. The Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center in Blountville, Tennessee, is a premier multi-use community hub designed to support local agricultural advancement and regional events. Named after former Tennessee Lieutenant Governor Ron Ramsey, the facility features a state-of-the-art, 300-seat conference area equipped with advanced audio-visual technology, a commercial catering kitchen for demonstrations, and offices for the University of Tennessee Extension System. To the rear sits a large, structurally reinforced covered livestock arena that anchors the site. Conveniently located near Interstate 81 and the Tri-Cities Airport, this adaptable complex regularly serves the Tri-Cities area by hosting diverse public gatherings, including livestock competitions, rodeos, trade expos, and educational outreach programs.

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MAY 27 MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance | 60.0%



Leslie Lynch opened the meeting and introduced Jane Calvert, who led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance.

Tom King, representing the Bristol club, spoke briefly about the Human Trafficking Summit that the club is hosting on Monday, July 27 at MeadowView. The cost is \$20 per person, and flyers are available.

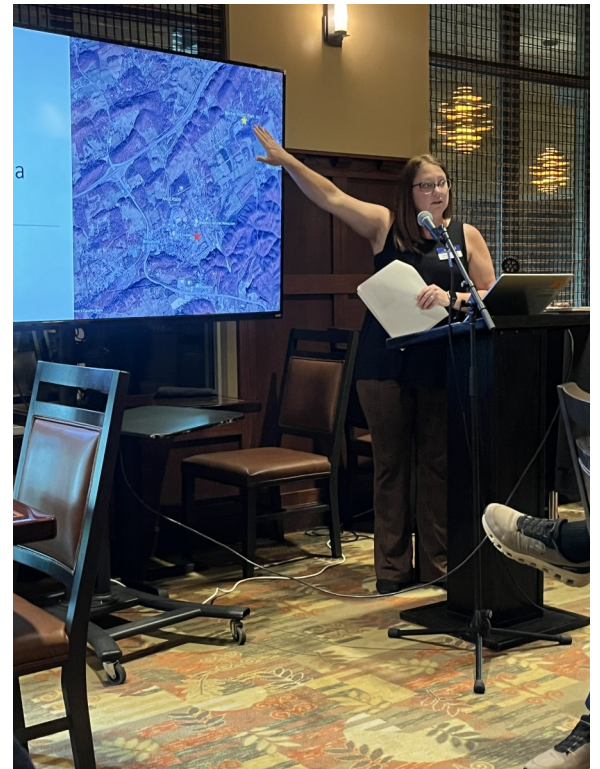
Kitty Frazier introduced this week's speakers, club members Ambre Torbett and Jennifer Salyer, who provided information about two large infrastructure projects that are working together to create "A Better Blountville". Ambre spoke about Blountville's plans to restore and beautify the historic downtown area, which started back in 2002. By the following year, the historic district had been created and the Sullivan County Historic Zoning Commission board was formed. After that, the county began applying for grants to help with the costs of restoring and repurposing historic buildings like the Anderson log townhouse, the Deery Inn, and the Rutledge House.

But the downtown area still lacked sidewalks for pedestrians moving from the county-office sector to the business center, and for schoolchildren who were forced to walk along the busy road. It also featured a dangerous intersection with an outdated, undersized traffic signal that needed to be corrected, so in 2018 the county received a TDOT Multi-Modal Access Grant to fix both of these issues. The funds allowed for the creation of sidewalk extensions

and the replacement of the intersection/traffic light with a new traffic circle.

Jennifer then spoke about her role, with her employer, Barge Design Solutions, in the first-phase buildout of the Blountville Park Master Plan. This consisted of performing a complete inventory of the existing park and its infrastructure, then re-purposing or creating new spaces that reflect the ways the community uses the park in 2026. These changes included updating the football and baseball fields, as well as the track; building a central concessions area; creating pickleball courts; adding new parking and a playground; providing space for the farmers' market and food trucks; adding a dog park; and building a new maintenance facility. The next phase will include basketball courts and additional pickleball courts.

Leslie ended the meeting with a recitation of the Four-Way Test.



New Fundraising Project



The Rotary Club of Kingsport assisted Unicoi County Rotary Club in their annual Apple Butter making project on Friday and Saturday this past week. Overall four 34 gallon batches were produced during both days. This has produced 45 cases of pint jars and 7 cases of quart jars of apple butter.

These will be sold at the Apple Butter Festival in October. Kingsport Club members will be asked to pitch in again to help staff the sales booth at the Festival. Details will be provided at a later date. Many thanks to Kitty Frazier for helping to organize this project. In time this can grow to an important source of income for the club.



When The Rotary Foundation becomes a lifeline

Rotary Voices

By John Laramore, Rotary Club of South Ocean, Nassau, The Bahamas



Nassau Rotary members install an automated external defibrillator at a popular cafe.

Over the years, Rotary has taught me many things. But one lesson continues to stand out: when we [give to The Rotary Foundation](#), we are not just supporting an institution. We are creating the possibility for real, visible, life-saving change in our communities.

I saw that truth clearly through our Rotary Club of South Ocean's project in Nassau, The Bahamas.

As my club's Foundation chair and as our district's incoming Paul Harris Society coordinator, I have become even more convinced that [the Foundation](#) is one of Rotary's greatest strengths. People often hear about grants in theory. They hear about giving, annual goals, and fundraising targets. But this project reminded me that the Foundation is not abstract. It's



practical. It's local. And sometimes, it can mean the difference between life and death.

With a [grant](#) from the Foundation and additional support from our club and partners, we were able to install an automated external defibrillator at Acropolis Cafe, a busy public location where staff and patrons now have access to emergency equipment that could save a life in a critical moment.

That matters.

Cardiac emergencies do not wait for perfect timing. They do not ask whether help is nearby. In those moments, preparedness matters. Access matters. Training matters. And that is exactly why this project touched me so deeply.

This was not simply about placing a machine on a wall. It was about extending Rotary's heart into the community. It was about saying that the people who gather, work, dine, and serve in that space matter enough for us to act. It was about using Foundation resources the way they were meant to be used: responsibly, strategically, and compassionately.

What made the project even more meaningful to me was seeing how many hands helped bring it to completion. Club leaders, members, partners, vendors, and the business owners all played a role. We also ensured the final setup was completed properly, including signage, installation details, and the next step of staff training. That is the Rotary I believe in, not just writing checks, but following through with excellence.

In my incoming district role, I will carry this lesson with me. The [Paul Harris Society](#) is not only about recognition for giving. It's about belief. It's about choosing, year after year, to invest in a Foundation that can turn generosity into measurable impact. Our project was an example of what that looks like. Rotary is at its best when service, stewardship, and compassion come together.

[Support our Rotary Foundation](#). Tell its story. Use it well. Because when we do, [grants](#) become projects, projects become impact, and impact becomes a lifeline.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

JUNE 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
31	1	2	3 Dwight King—The Ron Ramsey Regional Agriculture Center	4	5	6
7	8	9	10 Susan Cullam—Isaiah 117 House Updates	11	12	13
14	15	16	17 Greg Perdue—Tri Cities Market President—First Horizon Bank	18	19	20
21	22	23	24 Club Assembly—New Officer Installations	25	26	27
28	29	30	1	2	3	4

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

June 16—Al Crymble
June 17—Aundrea Salyer
June 28—Clay Rolston

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

June 01—Paul Montgomery—30 Years
June 12—Kathleen McLaughlin—13 Years
June 23—Kenneth Calvert—22 Years
June 28—Bruce Sites—26 Years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

June 03—Bruce Sites—59 Years
June 05—Kaylee Feathers—5 Years
June 16—Jennifer Salyer—25 Years
June 17—Tyler Williams—9 Years
June 20—Steve Wilson—34 Years
June 25—John Porter—60 Years

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 29-30—Make Apple Butter with the Unicoi County Rotary Club—Clinchfield Senior Adult Center 220 Union St. Erwin, TN



HOW TO FIND US

Rotary Club of Kingsport

District 7570 | Area 13 | Club 5739

Meets every Wednesday at Noon

at
The MeadowView Conference Center
1901 Meadowview Pkwy Kingsport, TN



facebook.com/RotaryClubofKingsport/



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KingsportRotaryClub.com

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RI PRESIDENT:

Francesco Arezzo

DISTRICT 7570 GOVERNOR:

Andrew (Andy) Vanhook

AREA 13 GOVERNOR:

Joseph (Joe) Ley

DISTRICT SECRETARY:

Andrea Milliron

DISTRICT TREASURER:

Peter K. Howard

DISTRICT FOUNDATION CHAIR:

Cassie Mobray



THE FOUR-WAY TEST

OF THE THINGS WE THINK, SAY, OR DO

- 1 | Is it the **TRUTH**?
- 2 | Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
- 3 | Will it build **GOODWILL & BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
- 4 | Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?

LOCAL CLUBS FOR MAKE-UPS

MONDAY

Noon | Tri-Cities—Northeast State Community College, Pierce Admin Bldg., Room P309, Blountville, TN

6:00 PM | Johnson City Evening—Howard Hunt's Edward Jones Office, 4018 Roan St., Johnson City, TN

TUESDAY

7:15 AM | Scott County—Scott Co. Park & Golf Course Clubhouse, 247 Fore Drive, Gate City, VA

7:30 AM | Bristol Morning VA-TN—The Summit Co-Work Space (Expedition Meeting Room) 1227 Volunteer Pkwy., Bristol, TN

Noon | Bristol VA-TN—Bristol Train Station, 101 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Bristol, VA

Noon | Johnson City—Johnson City Country Club 1901 E Unaka Ave., Johnson City, TN

Noon | Greeneville—Tusculum University, Niswonger Commons Pioneer Café, 60 Shiloh Road, Greeneville, TN

WEDNESDAY

7:00 AM | Greeneville-Morning—Laughlin Memorial Hospital Cafeteria Conference Room, Greeneville, TN

7:30 AM | Kingsport-Sunrise—Food City Press Room, Suite 300, 200 Clinchfield St., Kingsport, TN

Noon | Unicoi County—Town Hall, 211 N. Main St., Erwin, TN

Noon | Elizabethton—First Christian Church of Elizabethton, Fellowship Hall, 513 Hattie Ave., Elizabethton, TN

THURSDAY

7:15 AM | Johnson City Morning—Food City Community Room, 920 N. State of Franklin Rd., Johnson City, TN

Noon | Kingsport-Downtown—Food City Crown Center, 1205 N. Eastman Road, Kingsport, TN

AVAILABLE 24/7—

www.RotaryClubOne.org