

COGS

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ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSFORT

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Understanding Financial Exploitation

Greg Perdue—Tri Cities Market President—First Horizon



On Wednesday, June 17, 2026, our Rotary Club will welcome 27-year banking veteran Greg Perdue for an essential presentation titled "Understanding Financial Exploitation." This timely program is designed to help members navigate the immense size, scope, and impact of modern fraud. Attendees will walk away with practical, actionable defense strategies to safeguard their personal and business finances against increasingly sophisticated financial schemes.

Greg brings a wealth of diverse industry experience to our meeting, having spent nearly three decades with First Horizon in roles ranging from call centers and operations to commercial banking. He currently holds key leadership responsibilities for the entire Tri-Cities Market. A highly educated professional, Greg earned his

Bachelor of Arts in Mathematics and History from Texas Christian University before completing his Master of Arts in History at the University of Texas at Austin.

Beyond his professional achievements, Greg is deeply committed to regional service and development. He currently serves as the Board Chair for both the United Way of Greater Kingsport and the Kingsport Housing and Redevelopment Authority. Additionally, he is the Co-Chair for the Kingsport Chamber Foundation and lends his leadership to the boards of the Frontier Health Foundation, the Kingsport Community Foundation, and the East Tennessee Foundation. Greg, his wife Cynthia of 27 years, and their three children are active members of the Indian Springs Baptist Church community and regularly enjoy participating in a wide variety of family activities together.

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JUNE 10 MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance | 54.3%

Leslie Lynch opened the meeting and introduced Ken Calvert, who led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Kitty Frazier provided the week's Sunshine by tracing the evolution of the lightbulb.

Congratulation to Bruce Sites' wife, Rosalie, for being awarded the First Tennessee Development District's Kathy Whitaker Excellence in Aging Service Award, and their appearance on the front page of the Times News!

Kitty Frazier introduced this week's speaker, Susan Cullam, location leader for the Sullivan

County Isaiah 117 House, who shared updates on an organization making a profound difference in our local foster care system. The first Isaiah 117 House started in Carter County in 2018, and the Sullivan County House followed in 2020. Now there are 41 open houses located in 13 states, with another 22 houses in process.

The Isaiah 117 Houses provide a safe, welcoming, and loving space for children awaiting foster placement. Instead of being held for hours or days in government offices while waiting to be moved to their foster placement, they can stay with volunteers for up to three days in a home-like situation, where there are clean clothes, food, toys, books and support waiting for them.

The Isaiah 117 Houses' vital mission focuses on three main goals: Reducing the emotional trauma for children entering foster care by providing a non-institutional place for them to wait for placement; lightening the workload and providing support for child welfare caseworkers; and to ease the transition for the foster families.

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



Members from around the world gather in Taiwan to forge and renew friendships

Rotary Voices

By **Etelka Lehoczky**



A thunder of drums opened the 2026 Rotary International Convention's first general session in Taipei, Taiwan. The rhythmic beats launched a vivid pageant that blended traditional and modern elements to evoke the city's cosmopolitan nature and Rotary's global spirit.

As RI President Francesco Arezzo took the stage on 14 June to welcome attendees, he described the experience of meeting Rotary members throughout his term: "Everywhere I went, I found the same spirit. Different languages, different food, different ways of welcoming a guest — but always the same Rotary heart."

"As we begin this convention, enjoy this city and this magical island. Enjoy the rain. Enjoy this fellowship. Celebrate what we have done. And dream of what Rotary can still become," said Arezzo, a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy.

In addition to forging and renewing relationships with Rotary and Rotaract club members, program participants, alumni, and guests from around the globe, convention attendees will hear from an array of thought-provoking leaders. Keynote speaker Malala Yousafzai is the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize laureate and an advocate for girls' education. Rotary Peace Fellow Natalie Emery works with the World Food Programme to offer guidance and strategic support to countries experiencing humanitarian emergencies. Salome Agbaroji, a Nigerian-American spoken-word poet, was the U.S. National Youth Poet Laureate in 2023-24.



In addressing the opening session, Taiwan's President Lai Ching-te described the event as a truly momentous occasion. "Special thanks go to Taiwan's Rotary members for bringing the world to Taiwan, and to Rotary International leaders for their support," he said.

Beyond the general sessions, convention-goers will have the opportunity to choose from dozens of breakout sessions. Many of them will highlight how clubs are working in Rotary's areas of focus: promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water and sanitation, improving maternal and child health, supporting education, growing local economies, and protecting the environment.

Fighting disease remains in the thoughts of many attendees as Rotary grapples with the difficult final stage of the fight against polio. The paralyzing disease has been eliminated in most of the world, but the goal of eradication has yet to be reached.

"This year was difficult," Arezzo said in his opening remarks. "Funding became harder. Governments faced new pressures. But our efforts on polio do not disappear because the world grows tired of hearing about it. We have to keep our promise to the world's children."

Arezzo described visiting Pakistan to observe Rotary's immunization efforts and seeing a child about three years old who had been paralyzed by polio. She used her hands to pull herself to join a group of children.

"That little girl is why we cannot stop," Arezzo said. "We must finish because the next child is still waiting."

Besides providing updates on our top causes, convention breakout sessions will cover many other ways that Rotary members are making a difference in the world. Planned sessions include Rotary Rising: Engaging the Next Generation, Anime Environmental Education: Inspiring Zero-Waste Action, and AI for Good: Empowering Rotary's Mission With AI.

Using technology to bring attendees together was a particular focus for members of the convention's volunteer committee. They created an interpretation app to help attendees who don't speak Taiwanese Mandarin or Taiwanese Hokkien, the nation's primary languages. If attendees need help finding their way around or communicating with a convention volunteer, they can use the app to instantly start a video call with an interpreter. The interpreters speak English, Japanese, and Korean.

"We designed the app for attendees who have language barriers and need to find where their hotel is, get to the convention center, get medical services — even get to one of the city's night markets or find a good restaurant," said Volunteer Committee Chair Michael Tseng, a member of the Rotary Club of Taipei Prosperity, Taipei.

While some committee members were designing the app, others began recruiting Rotary members from all over the country to serve as interpreters. The HOC GO! app is available in major app stores.

The 2026 Rotary International Convention continues through 17 June.



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



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DISTRICT 7570 GOVERNOR:

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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