

COGS

official newsletter of the
ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSPORT AUGUST 10 2026

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AUGUST 13 MEETING PREVIEW

David Hoover—Famous Tennesseans that have affected
American History



This week David Hoover will present a discussion of how Andrew Jackson and James K. Polk affected American history while they were president in the first half of the 19th century and how their philosophies are being utilized currently by President Trump.

David is a retired teacher of Social Studies and American History at Dobyns-Bennett High School for 44 years. He also participated on the baseball coaching staff for 24 years. He is a graduate of Dobyns-Bennett and

received his undergraduate degree at Carson Newman with a Masters Degree in History Education from East Tennessee State University.

In his retirement he has written two books, "100 Years of Glory, 1921-2021—Dobyns-Bennett Football" and "A Tradition of Success, 1917-2026—Dobyns-Bennett Basketball". The second one will be released in early November.

He and his wife have two sons and 3 grandchildren. He volunteers as a driver for Meals on Wheels, is an active member of First Baptist Church and coaches Upward Basketball.

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AUGUST 5, 2026 MEETING SUMMARY

Attendance was 51.5%

Co-President Sharon Moore called the Rotary Club of Kingsport's noon meeting to order at 12:07 p.m., welcoming members alongside Co-President Aundrea Salyer. The club was pleased to host several members of the Dobyns-Bennett Indians football team as guests, along with returning guests Lindsey Franks and Andrew Palmeter. Paul Gray offered the invocation and led the pledge. Members celebrated Gary Bridges' birthday and recognized Deborah Adams for 31 years of Rotary membership.

Announcements included a successful ball game social and an upcoming social, 'Rendered Realities' Art Gallery Night Social, on August 13 at 6:00 p.m. at Create Appalachia (downtown Kingsport). Members with program ideas were encouraged to speak with Kitty Frazier, Programs Committee Chair. Aundrea highlighted the club's new website, reminding members of features such as committee descriptions and member lists, and encouraging everyone to engage by updating their own profiles and adding photos and headshots. She also distributed a handout summarizing the results of the member-led SWOT analysis, and Sharon reminded members of the key metrics and goals the club will track going forward. The handout reinforced that the club's strengths lie in legacy knowledge, respected local leadership, strong fellowship, and high-impact service projects, while most identified weaknesses — publicity, storytelling, social media consistency, retention, and connections with local employers — are operational and correctable. Results of the member engagement survey will be shared at next week's meeting.



In committee reports, Al Crymble introduced the New Member Orientation Form on behalf of the New Member Committee, outlining a more deliberate onboarding process that creates intentional points of contact for new Rotarians through their sponsor, club administration, and the orientation team. Sharon briefly reported on the recent joint meeting of the Membership and New Member Orientation Committees, where members discussed strategic priorities for membership growth and engagement, including prospective-member outreach, a guest follow-up process, expanded service opportunities, potential collaboration with area Rotary clubs, and recognition of past presidents and legacy members.

The program featured Coach Joey Christian of Dobyns-Bennett, who shared insights about the upcoming season, introduced his lineup, and discussed the team's fundraising needs. Members were reminded that only a short window remains to purchase season tickets.



Rotary International Opportunities

OUR CLUBS

Apply yourself



As part of the family of Rotary, members are invited to lend their professional expertise on committees that support Rotary and The Rotary Foundation. Each year, those committees focus on putting Rotary's strategic priorities into action, challenging clubs to increase their impact, expand their reach, enhance participant engagement, and increase Rotary's ability to adapt.

Would you like to contribute to Rotary's success?

RI and the Foundation are searching

for qualified Rotarians and Rotaractors to serve on committees in the 2027-28 Rotary year. These positions offer an opportunity for you to apply your leadership skills, share your vocational experience, and help ensure diverse perspectives within each committee.

Rotarians and Rotaractors with expertise in the areas detailed in the chart are encouraged to apply. The number of openings is limited. If you're not selected this year, you are welcome to apply again next year.

All committees correspond through email and on virtual platforms, typi-

cally with one mandatory in-person meeting a year. Rotaractors are encouraged to apply to any area based on their background, skills, and experience. Dual members of Rotary and Rotaract are especially welcome to apply.

To be considered for committee membership or to recommend a Rotarian or Rotaractor for an appointment, visit on.rotary.org/application2026. Applicants must be registered on My Rotary at my.rotary.org and should make sure their My Rotary profile includes current contact information. Applications are due **15 August**.

President's Corner



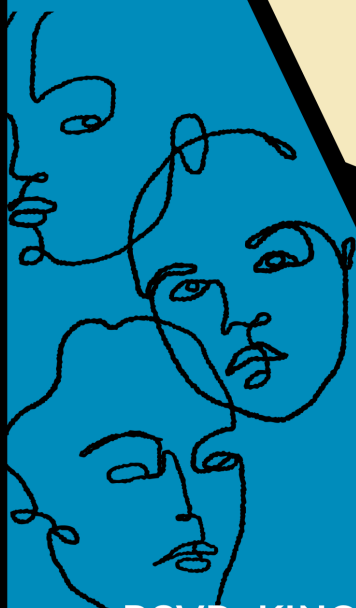
'RENDERED REALITIES' GALLERY NIGHT SOCIAL

- Help local artists confidently connect with collectors and sell more work.
- Help local collectors discover, understand, and build meaningful art collections.

AUGUST 13, 2026

6PM

**225 W Center St, Suite 115
Kingsport, TN 37660**



free to attend
light refreshments
live (quiet) background music

RSVP: KINGSPORTROTARYCLUB.ORG/CALENDAR

A year of listening, learnings, and letting go

Rotary Voices

By Selamawit Tezera Chaka, Rotary Club of Addis Ababa, Enderasse, Ethiopia



Before my presidential year began, I asked our members a simple question: What can we do better?

The answers shaped our entire year. Members wanted more meaningful engagement, greater flexibility, stronger follow-through, and projects that created lasting impact. From that moment, listening stopped being an exercise and became our leadership strategy.

Throughout the year, we introduced new ways for members to

connect and contribute. We launched “የእንደራሴዎቼ” to celebrate our founding members’ stories, created “What I Read About Rotary This Week,” introduced classification talks, and established Member of the Quarter with a transparent scoring system grounded in Rotary’s [The Four-Way Test](#). These initiatives were not about adding activities to our calendar; they were about creating a club where members felt seen, heard, and valued.

We also listened when members asked for greater flexibility. By introducing hybrid general assemblies, virtual meetings with our twin club — the Rotary Club of Jabali in Kenya, and a more varied meeting format, we made it easier for members to stay engaged while balancing their professional and personal commitments. Guest speaker sessions, book reviews, and joint meetings strengthened our culture of learning, fellowship, and collaboration.

If there is one achievement I am especially proud of, it is our investment in youth leadership.

This year, we chartered two [Interact clubs](#) in all-girls schools. But the charter ceremonies were only the beginning. We designed a mentorship initiative connecting Interactors with accomplished young women professionals because leadership grows when young people can see what is possible. Sometimes, creating impact starts with opening a door that someone else can walk through.

Not every story had a happy ending.

Continued from Page 5

The Zewditu Meshesha project, which many members identified as our top priority, became our greatest challenge. What began with hope evolved into months of planning, needs assessments, and discussions, only to be slowed by continuous bureaucracy. Eventually, we made the difficult decision to discontinue the partnership. It was disappointing, but it reminded us that leadership is also about knowing when to redirect energy toward opportunities where meaningful impact is possible.



Alongside our projects, we focused on strengthening the club's visibility. Through consistent storytelling and sharing our activities, our LinkedIn community grew to more than three times its size compared to the previous year. Visibility is not about recognition for its own sake. It helps people discover Rotary, understand our impact, and find opportunities to serve. Another milestone was signing a Twin Club Agreement with the Rotary Club of Jabali after years of friendship and collaboration.

Looking back, I am also proud that we inducted four new members, our highest intake in recent years, while maintaining strong retention. Growth is not simply about numbers. It is about creating an environment where people want to belong, contribute, and lead.

None of this happened because of one person. It was made possible by an incredible board of directors, dedicated members, supportive past presidents, partners, and friends who generously shared their time, ideas, and commitment. I remain especially grateful to Dr. Abel, Dr. Binyam, Dr. Mulugeta, Dr. Lieliena, Beckam, Niud, and our past presidents, Nebiyu, Abiy, and Samrawit, whose encouragement and support strengthened the club throughout the year.

Club members learn CPR.

As I conclude my year as president and prepare to serve as strategy, planning, and performance chair for District 9216, I leave with a deeper appreciation of what leadership truly means.

Some goals were achieved.

Some plans changed.

Some partnerships ended.

Yet through it all, our club kept moving forward together.

Leadership is not about perfection. It is about building systems that outlive your term, creating opportunities for others to grow, and leaving people and institutions stronger than you found them.



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2026

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2	3	4	5 Joey Christian— Dobyns Bennett	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 David Hoover— Famous Tennesseans	13 Club Social Event	14	15
16	17	18	19 Steven Bower— Kingsport Economic Development	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Aug 07—Gary Bridges
Aug 14—Ambre Torbett

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Aug-01—Deborah Adams—31 Years
Aug-15—Leslie Lynch—23 Years
Aug 16—Rebecca Beck—8 Years
Aug 24—Heather Cook—15 Years
Aug 26—Karen Short—1 Year
Aug 26—Linda Figliolino—1 Year
Aug 28—Jennifer Salyer—13 Years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 13—Ambre Torbett—32 Years
Aug 14—Emily Ball—16 Years
Aug 19—Tom Todd—65 Years
Aug 25—Bill Adams—63 Years
Aug 27—Ken Calvert—49 Years
Aug 29—Leslie Lynch—56 Years

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 13, 2026 6:00 PM—Rendered Realities Gallery Night Social—225 W. Center St. Suite 115

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/



@RotaryClubofKingsport



KingsportRotaryClub@gmail.com



KingsportRotaryClub.org

CLUB OFFICERS:

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Linda Coffey | 423-956-9775

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Leslie Lynch | 520.425.2259

INTERNATIONAL & DISTRICT OFFICERS:

RI PRESIDENT:

Francesco Arezzo

DISTRICT 7570 GOVERNOR:

Charlotte Whitted

AREA 13 GOVERNOR:

Joseph (Joe) Ley

DISTRICT SECRETARY:

Andrea Milliron

DISTRICT TREASURER:

Peter K. Howard

DISTRICT FOUNDATION CHAIR:

Paula K. Alston

Rotary THE FOUR-WAY TEST

- 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