

COGS

Official newsletter of the
ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSPORT

VOLUME 104

ISSUE 9

AUGUST 24, 2026

AUGUST 26 MEETING PREVIEW

Tamara Darnell - The Attributes of Assisted Living



Tamara Darnell, Director of Sales at The Blake of Kingsport, is a proud native of Kingsport, TN. She joined the Blake family as Director of Sales in March 2022 and enjoys working with a dynamic and compassionate team. She is a graduate of East Tennessee State University with a Bachelor's in Business Administration and a Marketing Minor.

She has 21 years in the hospitality industry through resort and event sales. Tamara's favorite part of working at the Blake is building relationships with residents and family. She loves listening to their stories, wisdom and life experiences. Her goal is to ensure The Blake helps seniors thrive and enjoy life.

When Tamara is not working, she enjoys traveling, attending concerts, and a wide variety of outdoor activities with friends and families.

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Club Information

Rotary



Club of Kingsport

kingsportrotaryclub@gmail.com

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

August 19, 2026 Meeting Summary

Attendance was 55.3%

Co-President Sharon Moore presided over the Kingsport Rotary Club's noon meeting at Meadowview.

The club welcomed several special guests and new members. Interact Club members Anna Patel, Amaari Banks, and Kerrington Slagel were introduced by Kaylee Feathers. Ella Yankee was introduced by Buddy Scott. New member Amy Charles was introduced by Jane Crawford, and new member Andrew Palmetier was introduced by Paul Gray. Mayor Paul Gray led the invocation and pledge, while Isaac Webb delivered Sunshine with his usual charm and good humor. The club celebrated several important milestones. Rebecca Beck was recognized for eight years of Rotary membership. The club also celebrated Tom Todd's 65th wedding anniversary, a remarkable milestone worthy of congratulations.



Kathleen McLaughlin read a thank-you note from Milton Carter expressing appreciation for the club and Rotary District's support of CART (Coins for Alzheimer's Research Trust). Jennifer Salyer shared an invitation to the Isaiah House 117 Open House, which was the recipient of the club's 2025-26 Impact Project. The open house will be held August 27 from 2:00-6:30 p.m. at 254 Bethel Drive, Bristol, TN 37620. Kitty Frazier announced opportunities for members to volunteer at the Rotary Booth at the Erwin Apple Festival, October 1-3. Volunteers are needed for setup, teardown, and sales. In addition to the popular apple butter, the club will also be selling copies of Grace and Grumpy. Kathleen reported that last week's club attendance was 58.8 percent, with two guests.

Wirt Taylor introduced guest speaker Steven Bower, the Economic Development Director for the City of Kingsport. Bower presented a program on Kingsport's economic development. Bower highlighted the progress and opportunities taking place throughout Kingsport. His presentation reminded us there is much to be proud of when it comes to Kingsport's development and continued growth.



Members closed with the Four-Way Test.



New Member Applications

Andrew Palmeter



ROTARY CLUB OF Kingsport

MEMBER INFORMATION FOR DaCdb SYSTEM

Member: *Title Mr. *First Name Andrew MI:

*Nickname Andrew (Badge name) *Last Name Palmeter

*Date of Birth: 5 / 14 / 2000 *E-mail address ajpalmeter@matternandcraig.com

Please check the ☐ below to indicate which is your preferred mailing address

Residence ☒ 1408 Central Street

Address
Street
Kingsport TN 37664
City State Zip
Phone: 423-276-9943 Fax:

BUSINESS: Company: Mattern & Craig

Occupation / Job Title: Engineer

Phone: 423-245-4970 Ext: Fax: Cell Phone:

Business 429 Clay Street

Address
Street
Kingsport TN 37660
City State Zip

FAMILY:

Spouse or *First Name Jordan *Last Name: Palmeter



Lindsey Franks

**ROTARY CLUB OF** Kingsport

MEMBER INFORMATION FOR DaCdb SYSTEM

Member: *Title *First Name Lindsey MI: N

*Nickname Lindsey (Badge name) *Last Name Franks

*Date of Birth: 11 / 15 / 1991 *E-mail address lindsey@culpepper-cpa.com

Please check the ☐ below to indicate which is your preferred mailing address

Residence ☐ 129 Bob Hays Rd

<u>Address</u>	Street
----------------	--------

Street		
Jonesborough	TN	37659

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone: 423-426-7605 Fax:

BUSINESS: Company: Culpepper CPA

Occupation / Job Title: **Manager**

Phone: 423-246-5521 Ext: Fax: Cell Phone:

Business x 215 cumberland St.

<u>Address</u>	Street
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Kingsport	TN	37660
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City	State	Zip
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FAMILY:

Spouse or ☐ *First Name: Taylor *Last Name: Franks

New Member Applications

Amy Charles



ROTARY CLUB OF Kingsport

MEMBER INFORMATION FOR DaCdb SYSTEM

Member: *Title Mrs. *First Name Amy MI: L
*Nickname Amy (Badge name) *Last Name Charles

*Date of Birth: 03 / 05 / 1977 *E-mail address alcharles@matternandcraig.com
Please check the ☐ below to indicate which is your preferred mailing address

Residence ☐ 210 Cal Dobson Trail
Address Street Greeneville TN 37443
City Greeneville State TN Zip 37443
Phone: 423-388-5088 Fax:

BUSINESS: Company: Mattern and Craig- Engineers-Surveyors

Occupation / Job Title: Senior Environmental Scientist

Phone: 423-245-4970 Ext: Fax: Cell Phone: 423-388-5088

Business x 429 Clay Street
Address Street Kingsport TN 37660
City Kingsport State TN Zip 37660

FAMILY:

Spouse or *First Name: Dylan *Last Name: Charles

NOTES: i.e.: Community positions, projects, organizations, subjects you could give a 30 minute talk to the club.

Hobbies and Interests:

Visual arts and painting- Passionate about working in both acrylics and watercolors, focusing on dynamic color blending, composition, and visual storytelling through medium-driven techniques.

Fashion styling and wardrobe design- Active interest in tracking contemporary fashion trends, combining classic and current silhouettes, and offering personal styling to help peers curate tailored outfits.

Travel and cultural exploration- Dedicated to exploring new destinations, immersing myself in diverse cultural traditions, and gaining a broader perspective through travel.

Creative Expression- Enthusiastic about creative problem-solving and original design across personal projects, constantly seeking visual inspiration to bring fresh ideas into daily practice.

Key projects- Environmental Site Assessments (Phase I and Phase II ESAs); Hazardous Materials Assessments (Lead Based Paint, PCBs and Asbestos); Construction Storm water Erosion Prevention and Sediment Control (EPSC) inspections.

President's Corner

Membership Survey Results



REPORT DATE August 12, 2026
FIELD PERIOD July 1 – 31, 2026
STATUS For official board record

Membership Engagement Survey — Results Summary

Annual Membership Feedback 2026–27 · Prepared for presentation to the club and for board action

18

Unique respondents

19

Submissions received

31

Days in field

2

Response channels

WHAT IS WORKING

- Fellowship is the core of belonging. 16 of 18 members named fellowship, friendship, or time with other members as what makes a meeting valuable, and 15 named it as their primary connection to the club.
- Programs are the second pillar. 14 of 18 pointed to quality programs, interesting speakers, or staying current on community news as what matters most in the meeting hour.
- Hands-on service drives engagement. 9 of 18 tied their sense of connection to working shoulder to shoulder on projects and seeing the results in the community.
- Identity still carries weight. Members cited the club's history as the oldest in Kingsport, Service Above Self, and the worldwide Rotary network as reasons they stay.

PROJECTS THAT RESONATED MOST

Youth and school projects
Washington Elementary mud kitchen, adventure trail, GWES

Parks and beautification
Sculpture Walk, Borden Park shutters, community cleanups

Housing and shelter
Habitat for Humanity, Isaiah House

PolioPlus and global service
cited as the highest priority by a 28-year member

Past water projects
recalled as a signature club effort

Two members left this question blank.

WHAT MEMBERS WANT IMPROVED

MENTIONS AMONG 18 RESPONDENTS

Grow membership and attendance	8
Spread the workload across all members	5
Stronger leadership tone, planning and vision	3
Greater community visibility and civic engagement	2
More program variety and fellowship beyond meetings	2
Easier low-commitment ways to help	1

Three members offered no improvement; several named more than one.

INDIVIDUAL PROPOSALS FOR BOARD STUDY

- Explore a merger with the two clubs Kingsport spun off about 30 years ago.
- Host a candidate forum each election and add city and county update programs.
- Add a virtual attendance option for working members.
- Recruit younger, more diverse members and promote district meetings.

OPEN QUESTIONS RAISED BY MEMBERS

- "Why do so many past presidents become inactive after their time of leadership?"
- "Can we truly address all challenges and progress?"

- COMPLETE** Meeting venue changed — the club now meets at The Meadows at MeadowView Conference Resort.
- COMPLETE** Meeting-room audio corrected — the difficulty hearing that members reported is resolved.

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTIONS

Five actions already underway; two proposed for board consideration.

- UNDERWAY** Charter a Membership Growth and Engagement committee with a named chair and a 12-month recruitment target.
- UNDERWAY** Build a rolling 90-day program calendar of speakers, civic updates, and hands-on service, with candidate forums in election years.
- UNDERWAY** Schedule two to four fellowship events outside the meeting hour.
- UNDERWAY** Continue the past-president re-engagement outreach.
- UNDERWAY** Secure a reliable in-room visual setup, including a dedicated presentation laptop.
- PROPOSED** Publish a committee and role matrix capping members at one or two assignments.
- PROPOSED** Refer virtual attendance and a multi-club merger study to the board.

METHODOLOGY

19 submissions were received: 14 paper forms and 5 electronic responses via kingsportrotaryclub.org/survey and club email. One duplicate scan was removed and one member who responded both on paper and online is counted once, giving 18 unique respondents. Two paper forms carried near-identical handwriting and answers and may represent a single member. All responses came from verified members and individual names are withheld per the survey terms. Theme counts are coded from open-ended answers, so totals exceed 18 where a member raised more than one theme.

Creating lasting impact, one smile at a time

Rotary Voices

By Rossette "Setti" Tanwangco, past president of the Rotary Club of Malolos, Bulacan, Philippines



For years, we knew that many children in Malolos schools within the province of Bulacan, Philippines, were growing up without regular dental care. It wasn't because they didn't value their health; it was because dental services simply weren't available when and where they needed them.

Our community assessment confirmed what teachers and families had long experienced: There were not enough dentists and facilities to provide annual dental check-ups for children across the barangays of Malolos.

As members of Rotary, we knew we could do more than organize a one-day dental mission. We wanted to create a solution that would continue serving children long after the event was over.

Through a global grant from The Rotary Foundation and the generosity of our international partners, that vision became a reality. Together, we turned over a fully equipped mobile dental clinic to the Schools Division Office under the Department of Education – Province of Bulacan in Barangay Sta. Isabel, Malolos, complete with the consumable dental supplies needed to begin delivering services immediately. Instead of waiting for children to travel to a clinic, the clinic can now travel to them.

Watching the students receive the mobile dental clinic was a powerful reminder of why Rotary exists. Their smiles and excitement transformed what could have been an ordinary turnover into a moment of hope. For many of these learners, it was their first experience receiving comprehensive dental care in a professional setting.

What makes me most proud is knowing that this project will continue making a difference long after the ribbon-cutting ceremony. The mobile dental clinic is not just a vehicle; it is a promise that more children will have access to preventive oral healthcare, allowing them to stay healthier, learn better, and smile with confidence.

Rotary has taught me that meaningful service is not measured by how many projects we complete, but by the lasting impact we leave behind. This global grant brought together local and international partners with one shared purpose: giving children healthier futures. Every time that mobile clinic visits another school or barangay, it reminds me that when Rotary serves with vision and collaboration, we create lasting impact, one smile at a time.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUGUST 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5 Joey Christian Dobyns Bennett Football Program	6	7	8
9	10	11	12 David Hoover- Famous Tennesseans	13	14	15
16	17	18	19 Steven Bower- Kingsport Economic Development	20	21	22
23	24	25	26 Jake Weaver - The Blake Assisted Living Facility	27 Isaiah 117 House Open House	28	29
30	31					

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Aug 07 - Gary Bridges
Aug 14 - Ambre Torbett

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Aug 01-Billie Adams - 31 Years
Aug 15-Leslie Lynch - 23 Years
Aug16-Rebecca Beck - 8 Years
Aug 24-Heather Cook - 15 Years
Aug 26-Karen Short - 1 Year
Aug 26-Linda Figiolino - 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
Aug29-Leslie Lynch - 56 Years

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 27, 2026 2:00PM-6:30PM Isaiah 117 House Open House - 254 Bethel Drive, Bristol, TN
October 2-3, 2026—Erwin Apple Festival—Club Members Assist in Selling Apple Butter See sign Up Sheet

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

SEPTEMBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 Cameron Yarberry - TDOT Projects	3	4	5
6	7	8	9 Charlotte Whitted - Rotary District News	10	11	12
13	14	15	16 Sam Jones - Wreaths Across America	17	18	19
20	21	22	23 Tony Melson - Julia C West Foundation	24	28	26
27	28	29	30 			

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Sept 16 - Pam Rehart
Sept 17 - Jerry Lukach
Sept 25 - Tim Archer

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 01-Gary Bridges - 39 Years
Sept 01-Paul Gray - 12 Years
Sept 07-Isaac Webb - 10 Years
Sept 08-Sharon Moore - 5 Years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

Sept 10-Tim Archer - 32 Years
Sept 13-Lindsey Franks - 10 Years
Sept 19-Deborah Adams - 34 Years

UPCOMING EVENTS

August 27, 2026 2:00PM-6:30PM Isaiah 117 House Open House - 254 Bethel Drive, Bristol, TN
October 2-3, 2026—Erwin Apple Festival—Club Members Assist in Selling Apple Butter See sign Up Sheet

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:

CO-PRESIDENTS:

Sharon Moore | 901-230-3919

Aundrea Salyer | 423-863-6914

VICE PRESIDENT:

TREASURER:

John Fleming | 423-579-0059

SECRETARY:

Kaylee Feathers | 423-967-4667

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY:

Kathleen McLaughlin | 423-429-8421

CLUB DIRECTORS:

Kitty Frazier | 423-534-1745

Linda Coffee | 423-956-9775

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT:

Leslie Lynch | 520-425-2259

INTERNATIONAL & DISTRICT OFFICERS

RI PRESIDENT:

Francesco Arezzo

DISTRICT 7570 GOVERNOR

Charlotte Whitted

AREA 13 GOVERNOR:

Joseph (Foe) 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.RotaryeClubOne.org