

COGS

Official newsletter of the
ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSPORT

VOLUME 104

ISSUE 14

September 28, 2026

There will not be a
regular meeting of the
Club on September 30.

IN THIS ISSUE:

PAGE 1

No Meeting This Week

PAGES 2

Previous Meeting Summary

PAGE 4

Rotary Booth at the Erwin
Apple Festival

PAGE 5

Kennedy School Trunk or
Treat Event

PAGE 6

New Member Notification

Page 7

Rotary Voices

PAGE 9

Calendar of Events

PAGE 10

Club Information

Rotary



Club of Kingsport

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

September 23, 2026 Meeting Summary

Attendance was 52.9%

President Sharon Moore presided over the Kingsport Rotary Club's noon meeting at Meadowview. Jerry Lukach led the club in the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance. Buddy Scott brought a little "Sunshine" to the meeting with a cheeky reminder for everyone to take time to be appreciative. Jane Crawford introduced her guests.

Tim Archer was recognized for his birthday. There were no wedding or membership anniversaries to celebrate this week.

The club will not hold a regular meeting on September 30.



The club celebrated some happy news as Kaylee welcomed a new baby, Owen, weighing 9 pounds, 8 ounces.

Steven Bowers is the club's next prospective new member, with Wirt Taylor serving as his sponsor.

The club's 2026-27 storage unit and shelving project has been delivered to Warriors Path Park near the soccer field. A big thank-you goes to everyone who lent a shoulder to the project, including Buddy and Emily for building and moving the shelving. Thank you, Jennifer Salyer, for leading us in this project.

Members, friends, family, and dogs are invited to join the Greenbelt Walk on September 26 at 10 a.m.

Apple butter sales are scheduled for October 1-3, and Kitty Frazier will share additional details.

Members should watch for additional information about Spooky fest on October 29.

The club's Day of Service at Darrell's Boundless Playground is scheduled for November 14. Plans are underway for a Sullivan County-wide Rotary Friends-giving on November 18 at Meadowview at Noon. The club also plans to hold its annual poinsettia and wreath sales, with more information to

come.

Last week's attendance was 42.4%, with no guests.

Aundrea Salyer provided an update from the Public Relations Committee. Emily Ball will help manage the club's YouTube channel, Pam Rehart will assist with LinkedIn, Linda Coffey will help with Facebook, and Aundrea will coordinate press releases. Members are encouraged to subscribe to the club's YouTube



September 23, 2026 Meeting Summary (Continued)



channel, which will provide opportunities for members to participate in meetings when they are unable to attend in person. Dr. Miller and Dr. Fischer also shared brief comments from the Polio Plus Committee. October 21 is PolioPlus Day, and they encouraged members to consider donating via the club's PolioPlus donation form.

Judge Curt Rose introduced speaker Tony Melson, who shared information about the outstanding work of the Julia C. West Foundation and its contributions to the Kingsport community. He also encouraged organizations looking for operational space to contact the foundation through its website, <https://jcwest-foundation.org>

The meeting concluded with the recitation of the Four-Way Test and the ringing of the bell.

ROTARY CLUB 2026

APPLE BUTTER/GRACE AND GRUMPY FUNDRAISER

**Unicoi County Rotary Club
&
Rotary Club of Kingsport**

Homemade Apple Butter

**Pints
\$9.00**

**Quarts
\$15.00**

Grace and Grumpy Children's Book

\$10.00

The book tells the story of two puppies learning about giving and helping others

Locations:

Unicoi County Apple Festival, Erwin Tennessee

(Booth at the far end of Main Avenue)

Unicoi County Chamber of Commerce

Unicoi County Family YMCA

Clinchfield Adult Senior Center

When:

Unicoi County Apple Festival,
Erwin Tennessee, October 2 & 3, 2026

All proceeds go to support local projects.





New Member Application Notification



Steven Bower Economic Development Director City of Kingsport

Steven is an economic development professional with more than five years of experience advancing community growth, business recruitment and retention, investment attraction, and strategic development initiatives. As Economic Development Director for the City of Kingsport, he leads economic development programs and projects while working closely with businesses, developers, investors, government leaders, and community stakeholders to advance local economic priorities.

He brings experience in economic development strategy, project management, market research and data analysis, grant initiatives, and public-private partnerships. His work has contributed to projects recognized by the American Planning Association and Tennessee Municipal League.

A Tennessee Certified Economic Developer, Steven holds a Master of Public Administration with a concentration in Economic Development and a Bachelor of Science in Political Science from East Tennessee State University. He also served six years in the Tennessee Army National Guard as a Cavalry Scout with the 278th Armored Cavalry Regiment.

Why I love The Rotary Foundation

Rotary Voices

By Peta-Gay A. Pryce, Major Donor and Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation, member of the Rotary Club of New Kingston, Jamaica

There is a kind of love that grows out of gratitude for something that shaped the conditions of your life long before you knew its name. That is the love I carry for The Rotary Foundation.



Peta-Gay Price, right, and Keresse Bruce-Patterson, an assistant governor of District 7020, celebrate with a 5-year-old as she prepares to go home after her procedure at Bustamante Hospital, supported by a global grant.

I am, in the truest sense, a beneficiary of this Foundation in a way I did not earn and could not have asked for. I was born into a Jamaica free of polio, and that is not a small thing. It is the quiet, enduring gift of a generation of Rotary members who decided, decades before I drew my first breath, that a child in Kingston deserved the same protection as a child in Atlanta or in Tokyo. They committed the money, mobilised the volunteers, and walked into communities with vials of vaccine until the work was done. I have walked through my entire life on legs that work, and I owe a measure of that to this Foundation. So when we say “End Polio Now,” I do not hear a slogan. I hear gratitude.

The Foundation came near me again in India. I was there on a study programme when a group of Rotary members invited me, a stranger and a guest in their country, to join them at a health fair they were implementing. It was there, for the first time in my life, that I came face to face with children who had been affected by polio. Their bodies told the story of what happens when a vaccine arrives one season too late. I have not forgotten their faces, and since that day I have never once questioned what this Foundation is for.

My own journey of giving to The Rotary Foundation began in 2015, when I became a Paul Harris Fellow. It was, at the time, a quiet decision, but it set something in motion that I did not fully appreciate then. Today, I am humbled and happy to celebrate being a Major Donor and a Benefactor

of the Foundation. I do not share that as a credential. I share it because it is evidence that one small step of generosity, taken in faith, can grow into a habit, and that habit can grow into a life of meaning.

In my professional life, working in social development, I have come to understand that the difference between a community that survives and a community that thrives is almost always the presence, or the absence, of people who refuse to look away. Global grants are how Rotary refuses to look away. The most local example, for me, is the global grant supporting cardiovascular care for the children of the Bustamante Hospital for Children. As a result of that grant, there are children in Jamaica today who will grow up, fall in love, raise families, and build

Continued from Page 7

careers and eventually join the Rotary family. They are children who, without it, may not have lived long enough to do any of those things.



Pryce is pinned as a Major Donor by 2027-28 RI President Larry Lunsford.

It is in that same spirit that I have made two commitments I wish to put on record. I am proud to become a charter member of District 7020's PolioPlus Society, because the unfinished work of polio eradication is the closest thing our generation has to a sacred trust handed down by those who came before us. Also, I remain committed to the Paul Harris Society, because the Foundation does its best and boldest work when it can count on us, year after year, without having to ask twice.

I also want to honour the Rotary members who came before us. They imagined a world without polio when polio was still a thief in our nurseries. They built the first global grants when the funds were modest and the needs were immense. They sustained this Foundation quietly through the years when no one was watching. They opened the doors of opportunity through which we now walk, and they handed us, in trust, the chance to create lasting change. To them, we owe a debt of gratitude that words alone cannot repay.

To everyone reading this, I extend an invitation. Please consider what your gift could do. Whether through a first contribution, becoming an Annual Fund Sustaining Member, becoming a Paul Harris Fellow, or supporting a global grant brought to life by your club, every gift is a hand reaching back to the next child, the next community, the next generation. The Foundation does not need a few extraordinary donors. It needs many ordinary ones, giving faithfully. Join us.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 2026

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
27	28	29	30 No Meeting This Week	1	2	3
4	5	6	7 Susan Lodal and Gail Campbell - The Band at 100	8	9	10
11	12	13	14 Desteny Clemons - Healthy Kingsport, A program of the Kingsport Chamber	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

MEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Oct 05 - Paul Montgomery
Oct 10 - Kaylee Feathers
Oct 14 - Steve Wilson
Oct 15 - Paul Gray
Oct 18 - Sharon Moore
Oct 28 - Emily Ball

MEMBERSHIP ANNIVERSARIES

Oct 23 - Ambre Torbett - 24 Years

WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES

UPCOMING EVENTS

October 2-3, 2026—Erwin Apple Festival—Club Members Assist in Selling Apple Butter See sign Up Sheet
October 29, 2026 - Kennedy Elementary School Trunk or Treat - 5:00 PM - 6:30 PM
November 14 - Fall Day of Caring at Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground

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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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