

COGS

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ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSPORT

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Gail Campbell and Susan Lodal

The Band at 100 - A History of the DB High School Band



Gail Campbell was the Reference Librarian at the Johnson City Public Library for 36 years before her retirement in 2013. She received her BS and MS degrees from the University of Tennessee in Library Sciences. She has worked with the Kingsport Meals on Wheels organization and served for 6 years on the Friends of Kingsport Archives board. She and her husband, John, are members of the Mt. View United Methodist Church. They have 2 children and one grandchild. Her hobbies include travel, reading, book clubs, scrap-booking and genealogy.



Susan Lodal served for 16 years on the Kingsport Board of Education. She has also served as the Director of Children's Ministry at Waverly Road Presbyterian Church. She has a BS Degree in Medical Technology from Purdue University. In the community she has been involved in Hunger Task Force/Feed Kingsport - United Way of Greater Kingsport, Waverly Road Presbyterian Church Mission Committee and Food Pantry, Member of First Broad Street United Methodist Church Orchestra, Kingsport Music Club Vice President, Meals on Wheels, and as an Exchange Place Volunteer. She and

her husband, Peter, have 3 children, 10 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.

Gail and Susan will discuss the History of 100 years of Dobyns-Bennett High School band along with a very brief history of the 20 years of the Douglass High School Band.

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Club of Kingsport

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

September 30, 2026 Meeting Summary

Attendance was 0%

On September 30th, a few Kingsport Rotary members gathered at Aundrea's beautiful studio for a day of videoing of storytelling, reflection, and celebrating what Rotary means to our members.

The day began with Wirt Taylor and Isaac Webb being videoed about Wirt's remarkable 59 years of perfect Rotary attendance and what this milestone and his many years of service have meant to him. Their conversation captured the commitment, friendships, and experiences that come with a lifetime of Rotary service.

The club also launched its new Legacy Video Series, featuring interviews with former club presidents. The series is designed to capture the experiences and insights of those who have helped lead Kingsport Rotary and preserve their stories for future generations. The first two interviews featured Leslie Lynch and Paul Gray, who shared perspectives from their years of Rotary leadership.

Jennifer Salyer was also interviewed about the club's 2026–27 project, giving members and the community an opportunity to learn more about the project and its impact.

Buddy Scott, a member of the Membership Committee, was videoed about what Rotary means to him and what he values about being a Rotarian. His video, along with future member testimonials, will help prospective members get a better feel for the Rotary experience and what they can expect from membership.



Rotarians and Guests take a walk on the Greenbelt in the September 26 Social Event

Videos were created for each of these groups and will be shared through the Kingsport Rotary Club's social media and digital channels, including the club website, YouTube, and LinkedIn.

This collection of videos will help tell the story of Kingsport Rotary through the voices of its members—highlighting our history, leadership, service, projects, and the personal connections that make Rotary special.

We sincerely thank everyone involved in this effort.



Rotary Club at the Erwin Apple Festival



Kingsport Rotarians joined the Rotary Club of Unicoi County to Sell the Apple Butter at the Apple Festival in Erwin. The apple butter was produced with the help of both clubs back in May.



We currently have a very limited supply of our delicious Rotary Apple butter available for purchase. Pints are priced at \$10.00 each. These delightful spreads make wonderful and thoughtful gifts for your friends and families. See Kitty Frazier for details.





Bridge of harmony



Rotary Voices

By Marty Peak Helman, Rotary International Director



Rotary members and attendees on the pedestrian walkway of the new Gordie Howe International Bridge during the peace event. Photo by David Panian

It was a beautiful Saturday morning in late September. I joined more than 100 Rotary members at a small park in Detroit overlooking the brand-new Gordie Howe International Bridge, which spans the Detroit River between Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. There were balloons and kids and smiles all around as we turned and waved to an equal number of Rotarians who had similarly gathered on the Canadian side. On both sides, Rotarians and friends admired new Peace Poles, they sat on newly installed benches designed for rest and reflection, they came together to recite a Peace Pledge and sing "Let There Be Peace on Earth."

Excitement was in the air! For more than a year, District 6400 has been working to plant twin Peace Poles at either end of the international bridge. The endeavor was the brainchild of Linda Morrow, who was district governor in 2025-26. Morrow worked

with both municipal governments to make it happen. She was also enthusiastically supported by past, present, and future governors in the district, many Rotary clubs in the area, and ultimately, the parks and recreation departments on both sides of the border.

Liz Smith Yeats, a past district governor, designed T-shirts that showcased the Bridge — red shirts for the Canadians and blue for the Americans —and she also made sure plans for the event went viral.

After all the planning, I was excited the day had finally arrived. District Governor Kim Spirou and I keynoted on the American side; across the river, Morrow and Nick Krayacich, governor in 2024-25, shared the honors with Windsor Mayor Drew Dilkens and other community leaders. Members of the Rotary Action Group for Peace and the UN-affiliated nonprofit May Peace Prevail on Earth International were on hand, as well as at least three inbound Rotary Youth Exchange students.

"A bridge can be more than a crossing of steel and concrete. This bridge represents connection — bringing together cultures, friends, families, ideas, and futures. A Peace Pole is a signpost reminding us that peace begins within each of us and grows through understanding, respect, and service to humanity." Linda Morrow

Spirou summed it up: "In dedicating a Peace Pole, we are planting a promise."

The idea of the Peace Poles began in post-World War II Japan, and always carry the message, "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in four or eight languages. By the 1990s, Peace Poles became an international phenomenon and began to be erected in countries beyond Japan. Over the past decade they have become a popular Rotary project. Today, the Peace Pole Project makes it easy to both acquire a Pole and provide for the translation in over 500 languages —more being added every year.

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Peace Poles have become a defining symbol of Rotary's peace work. They have been planted in over 250,000 communities on every continent by Rotary members and nonmembers all working to uplift the consciousness of humankind. From city parks and schools to places of worship, businesses, and private gardens, Peace Poles spread the universal message of peace on earth.

For me, the most evocative Peace Pole I have ever witnessed is at the site of the former slave market in Zanzibar. In the United States, there is a Peace Pole at the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham where the four girls were murdered during the country's Civil Rights struggles. Peace Poles also mark peaceful communities across the nation — perhaps including one in your own hometown.

In Windsor, the Peace Pole carries its message in English, French, Arabic, and Ojibwe. In Detroit, the message is in English, Spanish, Mandarin, and Arabic. These languages were selected to reflect the communities in which they stand.

In Rotary, the emphasis on peace work has always been to rise above the headlines and differences in order to create sustainable and positive peace. It's critical to recognize that Rotarians work toward that goal every time we fulfill a humanitarian need, either in our home communities or internationally.

Every time we sponsor a Rotary Youth Exchange student or embark on a Rotary Friendship Exchange, we are forwarding the goals of positive peace. Every district and global grant that provides nutrition, health, education, or a better tomorrow to needy people is a work of peace. Our Rotary Peace Fellows are of critical importance in carrying this work forward.

"This is Rotary at its best. Rotary International has funded almost 2,000 Peace Fellows over the past 25 years. Rotary does not just talk about peace. We invest in people who can create it." Nick Krayacich

Rotary not only invests in international connections, our governance is designed around it. Along the 3,000-mile border that separates Canada and the United States are 12 Rotary districts that span the border and include clubs and communities on both sides. These international districts aren't happenstance. They were planned.

When district boundaries were first established, our Rotary forefathers knew that there are things more critical than political lines drawn on a map. Just as Rotarians know that if a communicable disease is anywhere in the world, it can be everywhere in the world, just as we know that if any of our children are without clean drinking water or the ability to go to school it affects us all, so we also know that peace starts at home, within ourselves, and in our relations with our closest neighbors.

In my remarks at the American side of the bridge, I commented that sports legend Gordie Howe, for whom the bridge is named, lived a life and career that spanned the two nations. Howe was born and raised in Saskatchewan. He was scouted by the Detroit Red Wings and played with them for 25 seasons, then came back from what he euphemistically called "retirement" to play for the Houston Aeros and the New England Whalers.

Gordie Howe, just like the span that bears his name, bridged our two nations; he never divided them.

After the speeches, Rotary members who were able got out their passports to walk the bridge and met and mingled in the middle of the span, right at the international border. There were many spontaneous moments of celebration, a lot of high-fives and photos, and that's when I overheard a passer-by, who had noticed our matching T-shirts, say: "I want a selfie with those Rotarians!" Hey! We're the cool kids!

After that, we all returned to our homes, with photos, origami cranes that symbolize the Japanese origins of the Peace Pole movement, and even cookies with a red maple leaf and blue star marked in sugar icing. And lots and lots of hugs and memories. We had come together to recognize and rekindle important friendships, and we left determined to continue to do our part — both individually and collectively — to work toward positive peace.

About the author: Marty Peak Helman is a member of the Rotary Club of Boothbay Harbor, Maine, USA, a past Trustee of The Rotary Foundation, a Rotary International director, and a member of the Arch Klumph Society. She and her late spouse Frank were charter members of the Legacy Society of The Rotary Foundation.

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 Dr. Stephen May, Polio Eradication	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 Aundrea Salyers - So you Think You Want to Run	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 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/



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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