COGS

Official newsletter of the
ROTARY CLUB OF KINGSPORT

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Most of us know someone who would make a fine city leader but has never been sure how to start. On October 28, four members of our club who ran for office and won will tell us what that first step really looks like.

Kingsport Mayor Paul Montgomery, former Mayors Jeanette Blazier and Dennis Phillips, and former Alderman and Vice Mayor Ken Maness will share how they decided to run, what surprised them most, and how they balanced family and work along the way. They'll also take on the practical questions few people think to ask: How do you choose a treasurer? Do you have to raise campaign money? What does serving cost that the public never sees? Robin Cleary, Senior Director of the Downtown Kingsport Association, will moderate.

This is a nonpartisan program. It's about the process of running and serving, not the issues, and it isn't a forum for campaigning.

Think of one person who has talked about running someday, and bring them as your guest. RSVPs are required so we can plan for food and seating. Visit kingsportrotaryclub.org/calendar, open the event, and add a row for each guest you're bringing.

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October 21, 2026 Meeting Summary

Attendance was 50.0%

The Rotary Club of Kingsport gathered for its regular noon meeting at MeadowView, presided over by Sharon Moore. Al Crymble led the invocation and Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a little Sunshine shared through our newest YouTube Short. While you're there, please click Subscribe! Our goal is to reach 50 subscribers so we can unlock free live streaming for members who are unable to attend our lunch meetings in person.

Happy birthday to Sharon Moore! There were no membership or wedding anniversaries to celebrate this week.



Amy Charles

The club also celebrated Amy Charles's selection to participate in the Rotary Friendship Exchange to Türkiye.

Members were reminded that our annual wreath and poinsettia sale is underway. As the club's primary fundraiser, this is a wonderful opportunity to support Rotary while sharing beautiful holiday plants with friends, family, and local businesses. Order forms are available in print, and printable and electronic versions have been emailed to members.

Committee Reports

- Fundraising: Kitty Frazier reminded members that apple butter is available for $9, copies of Grace and Grumpy for $10, and Rotary sweatshirts for a $10 donation.
- Project: Jennifer Salyer encouraged members to bring candy next week (10/28) for the Kennedy Elementary Trunk-or-Treat on October 29 and RSVP for the event. The Friends of Warriors service event is scheduled for November 14. Members are encouraged to wear their Rotary sweatshirts and RSVP.
- Public Relations: Aundrea reported that the club currently has 23 YouTube subscribers. Help us reach our goal of 50 so we can offer free live streaming to members at home!
- Attendance: Kathleen reported attendance of 56.8% for the previous week, with two guests in attendance.

Dr. Jerry Miller of the PolioPlus Committee introduced Dr. Stephen May, a distinguished and longtime regional leader, as the meeting's guest speaker. Dr. May provided an update on the global fight against polio, the role of vaccines, and the progress being made toward eliminating this devastating disease. His presentation reminded members of the importance of continued commitment to Rotary's efforts to eradicate polio worldwide.



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

Thank you to everyone who joined us for another great Rotary meeting!

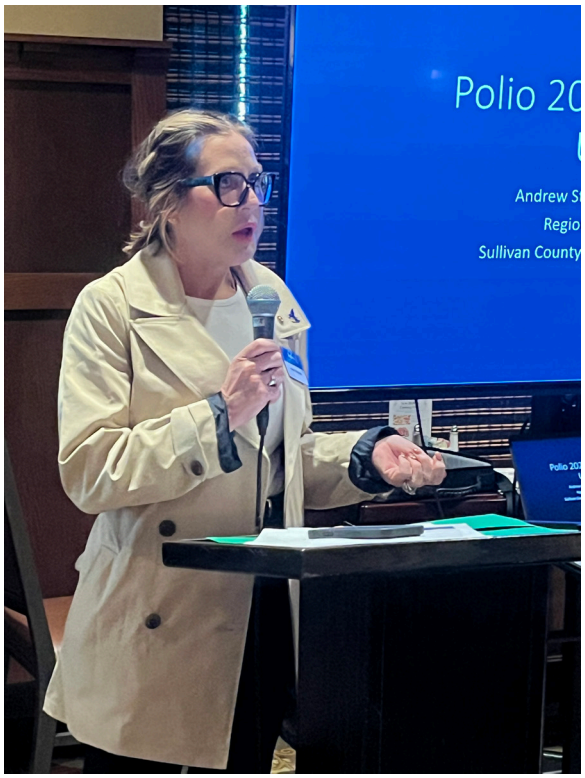
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Rotary Club of Kingsport

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

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Amy Charles Selected for Rotary Friendship Exchange to Türkiye



Sometimes, an exciting opportunity begins with responding to an email! Amy Charles of the Kingsport Rotary Club answered an invitation from Burt Duren, Chair of the District 7570 Rotary Friendship Exchange Committee, and was selected to join the district's outbound team traveling to western Türkiye in April 2027.

The 12-day exchange will give Amy and her fellow Rotarians a unique opportunity to experience Turkish culture through the eyes of local Rotarians. Staying in their hosts' homes, the team will share meals, conversations, and everyday life while building friendships and learning about the communities they visit.

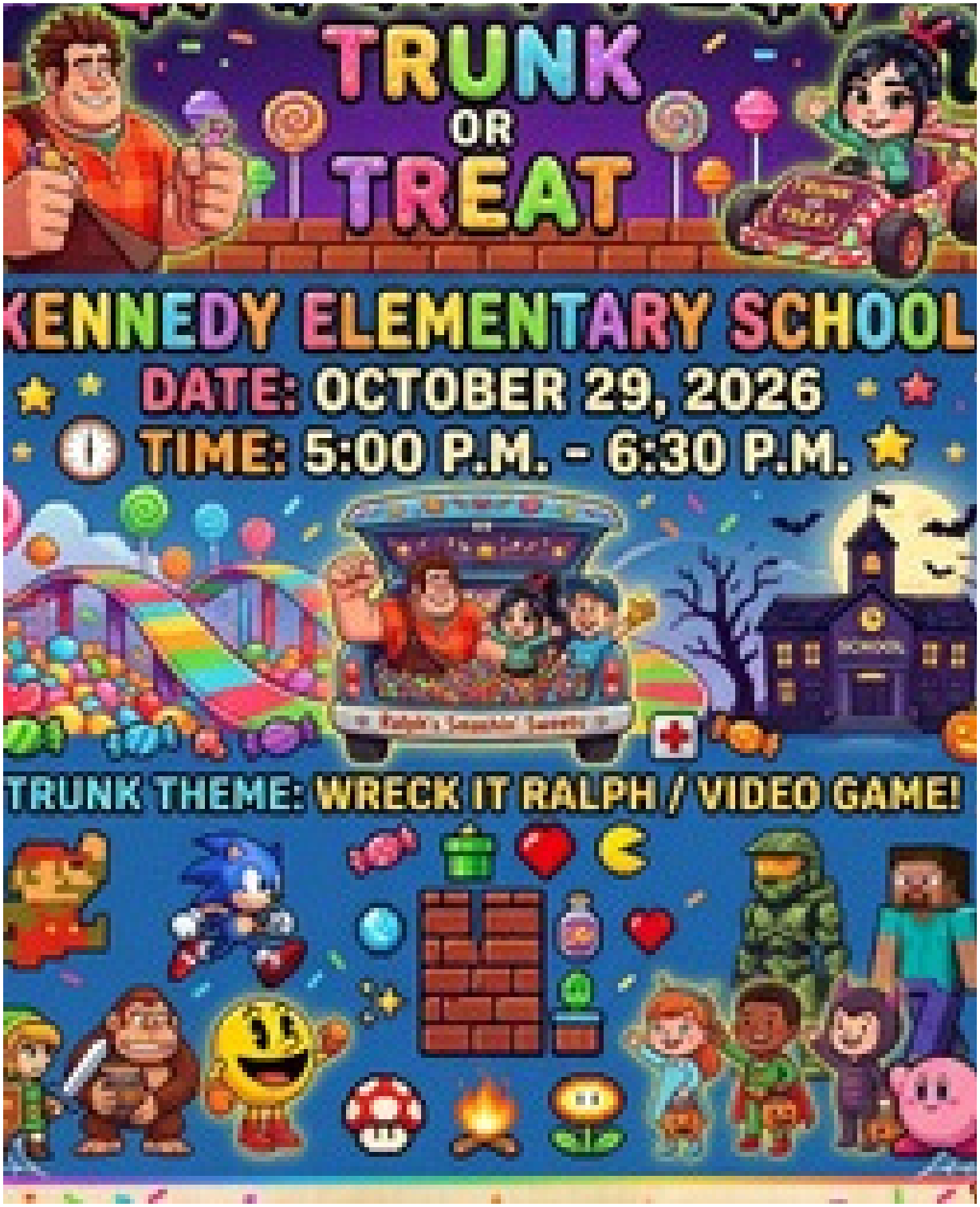
Led by Charles Daniels and Erika de Azagra of the Rotary Club of Frederick County, the team will explore the history, culture, and beautiful Aegean coast of western Türkiye. Planned highlights include the ancient city of Ephesus, historic Ottoman landmarks, colorful markets, coastal communities, and visits to local Rotary clubs and service projects.

Unlike traditional tourism, Rotary Friendship Exchanges focus on personal connections, cultural understanding, and lasting friendships.

Amy is excited for this opportunity to represent the Kingsport Rotary family and strengthen Rotary's commitment to international friendship and understanding; and we are thrilled for Amy!

kingsportrotaryclub@gmail.com

Please help with this event by making donations of candy for this event - please bring candy to the October 21st or October 28th meeting.
If you are able to attend, please RSVP through the Club Website



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Rotary Club of Kingsport

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Club Annual Poinsettia Fundraiser

Rotary Club of Kingsport

FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN 2026

One of the club's fundraising campaigns over the last few years has been the sale of Poinsettia Plants at Christmas. This year we would again like your support for this major fundraising campaign with a target of exceeding the previous year's sales. The more we raise, the more we can put back into our community projects. We will offer Fraser Fir Wreaths to supplement our fundraising campaign.

This year there will be 4 alternatives of pot/basket size with the usual choice of red, white or marbled flowers (except for the 1 plant pot which will only be available in red or white). We will also offer 3 sizes of Fraser Fir wreaths.

The following is the cost of the various options available for plants and wreaths.

	Donation	Color Options
1 Plant Pot	$10	Red or White
2 Plant Pot	$15	Red, White or Marbled
3 Plant Pot	$18	Red, White or Marbled
4 Plant Basket	$20	Red, White or Marbled
**Add $1.25 to price of poinsettia for a bow.*		
12" Fraser Fir Wreath	$17	
16" Fraser Fir Wreath	$22	
20" Fraser Fir Wreath	$30	
**Add $3.00 to price of wreath for a bow.*		

Please contact John Fleming with any questions. An electronic version of the form has been sent out by email and return using the email kingsportrotaryclub@gmail.com is preferred if possible. Members are being asked to pick up plants and wreaths at the greenhouse. **Curbside pickup is available.** If a member is unable to pick up their order, see John Fleming to arrange another delivery alternative. Keeping the plants and wreaths at the greenhouse allows us to offer a higher quality product.

Key Dates

Friday, November 20, 2026.	-	All orders must be submitted as we must confirm our requirements with our supplier, late orders need to be in by Saturday November 28, 2026
Monday November 30 – Saturday December 5, 2026	-	Plants & Wreaths available for delivery and pick up at FJ Torbett Greenhouse located at 6181 Hwy 11E Piney Flats Phone 423-538-8492 (Curbside pickup available.)

THE TARGET IS FOR EVERY MEMBER OF THE KINGSPORT ROTARY CLUB TO SELL A MINIMUM OF $180 WORTH OF PLANTS AND WREATHS. BUT LET'S SEE IF WE CAN ALL EXCEED THIS FIGURE IN ORDER TO MAKE IT A SUCCESSFUL FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN.

kingsportrotaryclub@gmail.com

Friends of Warrior's Path State Park Workday

Fall-Day of Service/Caring

Organized by Friends of Warriors' Path State Park



When: Saturday Novomber 14/ Rain Date Sat. Nov. 21
8:15am-2pm (or as long as you can stay)
Where: Darrell's Dream Boundless Playground
(Located at Warriors' Path State Park)
Breakfast, Lunch, Refreshments & Supplies provided for volunteers

Remember to do!
1. Wear work gloves
2. Wear old clothes in layers.
3. If you have a leaf rake, or heavy-duty rake and/ or wheelbarrow-please bring-make sure it is labeled.

RSVP to Friends of Warriors
For questions, contact Mary Steadman @ 423-956-4330

We're planning a Sullivan County-wide Rotary Friends-giving where we can all come together for some good food, great conversation, and a chance to connect.



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Rotary Club of Kingsport

CREATE LASTING IMPACT

Two young men, one opportunity, a lifetime of Rotary

By Sudip Koirala / Rotary Club of Rudramati, Kathmandu, Nepal



Rotary members in the Rasuwa district of Nepal sort relief supplies following flooding and landslides.

In 2009, my friend Pradip and I walked into a Rotary meeting at The Everest Hotel in Kathmandu, Nepal. We were two high-school boys from Gothatar with a dream of starting a Rotaract club. We did not know it then, but the encouragement we received that day would shape a lifetime of friendship, leadership, and service.

I was nervous. Approaching a room full of experienced Rotarians took courage. We had no connections, little experience, and only a dream: to establish a Rotaract club in our community.

We knew we needed 15 members and a Rotary club willing to sponsor us. We did not know whether anyone would take us seriously.

Two Rotary members did. Past presidents Dipak Prasad Upadhyay and Hare Ram Bhattarai of the Rotary Club of Rudramati listened to our idea. Instead of focusing on what we lacked, they saw what we hoped to achieve. They guided us and helped us establish the Rotaract Club of Manohara.

In 2010-11, I became its charter president. At the time, I thought they had helped us start a club. Looking back, I see that they gave us something even more important: confidence.

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A small beginning, a lasting impact

The Rotaract Club of Manohara continues to empower young members, develop leaders, and create opportunities to serve. It has helped women grow as leaders and encouraged members to continue their service through Rotary. What began with two boys asking for a chance now opens doors for others.

In 2015–16, I joined the Rotary Club of Rudramati, the very club whose meeting we had once entered so nervously. It felt like coming home.

I have since learned from many Rotary members, including Jitendra B. Rajbhandary and Sanjay Giri, past governors of District 3292. Yet the lesson of that first meeting remains the clearest.

Young people do not always need experience before receiving responsibility. Often, responsibility is how they gain experience. We talk about welcoming young people into Rotary, but do we listen to their ideas and trust them to lead?

I know what that trust means because someone once extended it to me.

When friendship becomes service

Rotary has also brought me friendships across borders, including with Dave Boon and Bill Emslie of the Rotary Club of Fort Collins After Work, Colorado, USA, both past district governors, as well as Rotary members in Australia, and Gerry Tipple in Prague, Czechia.

Friendships mean the most when they become action.

Today, Rotary members and local partners in Nepal are working tirelessly to support communities affected by floods and landslides in Rasuwa District. Families face damaged homes, disrupted livelihoods, and the difficult work of rebuilding. On 1 October, Rotary and Rotaract members distributed essential relief supplies to flood-affected families, demonstrating how Rotary fellowship translates into practical support.

Our friends in Australia are helping mobilize support through Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS). The Relief for Rasuwa project connects Rotary District 9685, Toukley-Wyong Rotary, the Rotary Club of Rudramati, and The Didi Foundation. The partnership aims to help affected families restore basic living conditions, replace essential items, and recover their livelihoods.

I find it moving that people thousands of kilometres away are willing to help families they may never meet. Rotary friendship is more than staying in touch. It is standing together when others need us.

Never forget who believed in you

Nearly two decades later, I still remember the courage it took to approach that meeting. Upadhyay and Bhattarai could not have known where their encouragement would lead. Neither could we.

Their trust helped launch a club that continues to nurture young leaders. It also set me on a journey of friendships and service that reaches far beyond Nepal.

Every experienced Rotary member was once a beginner. Every leader needed someone to believe in them. If we want the next generation to lead, we must give them real opportunities today.

I once needed someone to open a door for me. Today, I hope I can help open that door for someone else.

COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MONTH

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 END POLIO NOW World Poilo Day
25	26	27	28 Aundrea Salyers - So you Think You Want to Run	29 Trunk or Treat at Kennedy School	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
November 18 - Friends-giving Luncheon - Meadowview 12:00-1:00 PM

kingsportrotaryclub@gmail.com

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