



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1062

92nd YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>

April 01, 2015

Volume LXIX, Number 35

President Scott presided. Guests: our speaker, Lt. Col. Tim Moore of the Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering at VMI. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 27 members and 1 guest for a total attendance of 28. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

- Roadside Clean-up:** Our next Roadside Clean-up has been scheduled for Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. As usual, there will be two teams and they will start work at 9:00 am.  
**PAG Betty McMichael** will lead Team North. They will pick up trash on all 4 ramps at the intersection of Route 11N and I-81 at Timber Ridge.  
**PN Skip Ravenhorst** will lead Team South. They will pick up trash along Route 11S from the intersection of Route 11S and Possum Hollow Road back towards Lexington to a point about 1 mile from the end of the Lexington Bypass.  
**The event will be rescheduled if it is raining hard enough that you need to activate your windshield wipers.** Remember to wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves. Skip reminds us that our club policy is "Finders, Keepers." **Sign-up sheets were circulated at our meeting.**
- Max Ivankov, Chair of the 2015 Rockbridge Community Festival (RCF), reported on the first planning meeting for this years event, probably on August 22<sup>nd</sup>. The Jaycees and our Club plan to operate without replacing the now-defunct Kiwanis Club as a sponsor. In addition to the Chair, our Club will be responsible for space management, operations, and sponsors. A succession plan will be implemented wherein each committee vice-chair will advance to committee chair the following year. More information will be forthcoming as plans are formalized.
- Please send critical dates in the Rotary year to Joe Pagnam for inclusion in the calendar.
- Our Board of Directors held their regular monthly meeting immediately following our regular meeting.

## Minute for Rotary:

With the assistance of Joe Pagnam, Dick Minnix showed a video clip billed as The Great Flydini. This bit was performed one time only on the Johnny Carson Show in 1992. It was a good thing they taped it, because it was never done again. Steve Martin, is The Great Flydini, and he doesn't say a word.

## Program:

RoD Heather Branstetter introduced LTC Tim O. Moore, Associate Professor of Civil & Environmental Engineering at VMI. Tim is a 1997 graduate of the Institute. He spoke about the Keydets Without Borders (KWB) project in Bolivia.

"The Mission of KWB is to combine the efforts of interested students in all majors in a collaborative effort to enhance the living conditions of developing areas worldwide. Through this effort, students will increase their global perspective, work as a team to design and implement sustainable engineering and humanitarian solutions to poverty, and gain hands on experience applying their skills and talents towards the common good.

"The Goal of the KWB organization is to provide interested students with the opportunity to apply their diverse academic backgrounds to real-life situations for the benefit of those lacking basic human needs, such as clean drinking water and basic medical care. Students in the VMI and W&L club will work together to design and implement sustainable engineering, medical, environmental, and economical projects to help impoverished communities become healthier and self-sufficient. KWB

offers members the opportunity to design these projects on campus during the school year. However, interested students may also travel abroad for the implementation of these designs.

“The first project was in the town of Pampoyo, Bolivia, a town whose population is waning because a mining operation has contaminated the water used for livestock and irrigation. The VMI chapter, assisted by members of a W&L club, coordinated with the Blue Ridge professional chapter of Engineers Without Borders to build a catchment basin upstream from the mining operation to restore clean water for agriculture to the town. A second phase of the project involved the installation of a 6-mile pipeline and two 5,000-liter tanks to make the water available for irrigation.

“The next phase was to design a fully sustainable eco-latrines/solar shower combination. The toilets are designed to safely compost human waste into fertilizer, and the showers use water heated in two-liter soda bottles on the roof, since Pampoyo has no electricity. The design was developed in a course at VMI in the spring and built in Pampoyo in the summer. Their design was submitted as the only undergraduate student project in an international engineering competition and they earned a third place award, the only award project from the US and the only one that had been put into practice in the real world. Their design is truly universal – it can be almost copy-pasted in different regions of the world,

“And while all of the cadets were pleased to place so highly in competition, those who’d been to Bolivia agreed that seeing the villagers’ delight in the flow of water through a shower was just as meaningful as winning an award, if not more so. The Bolivia project is about changing lives, one toilet and one shower at a time. Noteworthy, since beginning the project, is that infant mortality in Pampoyo has dropped by almost 55 percent, mostly thanks to a clean water supply.”

Aided by a \$30K Rotary Foundation grant, all that remains in the six-year project is to complete the building of 80 latrine/shower combinations, one for each family. A group of about 25 students will journey to Bolivia this summer to work on these. Students also earn academic credit for this work.

#### **Approval of Prospective New Member:**

Our Board of Directors has approved the following prospect for membership:

**Laura E. Evans:** Vice President & Property Manager, Security Management, Inc. Classification: Property Management. Sponsor: Bill Stearns. Laura assisted with the Winter Community Bazaar by advertising in social media and coordinating with local vendors. Laura lives at 24 Songbird Circle in Glasgow. She may be contacted at [mail4le@yahoo.com](mailto:mail4le@yahoo.com) and 540-570-1880 (cell).

Any member who objects to offering membership to Laura should submit their objection(s) in writing to Secretary John within seven days of receipt of this Bulletin.

#### **Happy Bucks:**

- Joe Milo was happy to recommend that we drive by Lisa’s House and see the very impressive timber framework that Col. Mullen and about 40 VMI cadets and multiple members of the Timber Framers Guild had erected for a 3K square foot addition to that facility.
- Mary Honsinger was happy to endorse an article on alzheimers disease in the Rotarian magazine; she urged us all to read the magazine.
- Scott Risser was happy to call our attention to an experimental treatment of cancer that has met with some success at Duke University in which polio virus is altered with the vaccine and then inserted into the cancer cells; and, secondly, the program our speaker described increases his pride in his alma mater.
- Charlotte Sibold was happy to have been present for the birth of her nephew in NC; and also to report that her father made it to the top of the liver transplant donor list, had the operation last Saturday, and seems to be making a miraculous recovery – a truly happy buck!

#### **Pot:**

Julia Van de Water won the raffle (AGAIN!) but not the big pot that now totals \$224.00.

### **Some of the Benefits of Age:**

1. Old Cowboy: "Give me 3 packets of condoms, please."  
Cashier: "Do you need a paper bag with that, sir?"  
Old Cowboy: "Nah... She's purty good lookin'....."  
When you are over seventy-five who gives a crap?
2. I was talking to a girl in the bar last night. She said,  
"If you lost a few pounds, had a shave and got your hair cut, you'd look all right."  
I said, "If I did that, I'd be talking to your friends over there instead of you."  
When you are over seventy-five who gives a crap?
3. I was telling a girl in the pub about my ability to guess what day a woman was born on just by feeling her boobs. "Really" she said, "Go on then...try." After about thirty seconds of fondling she began to lose patience and said, "Come on, what day was I born?" I said, "Yesterday."  
When you are over seventy-five who gives a crap?
4. I got caught taking a pee in the swimming pool today.  
The lifeguard shouted at me so loud, I nearly fell in.  
When you are over seventy-five who gives a crap?
5. I went to the pub last night and saw a fat chick dancing on a table. I said, "Good legs." The girl giggled and said, "Do you really think so." I said, "Definitely! Most tables would have collapsed by now."  
When you are over seventy-five who gives a crap?

### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- Apr 08:** Rotary Membership by AG Emily, RoD Derek Carter
- Apr 15:** "Life as a Roadie" by Al Tucker, RoD Mary Sayre
- Apr 22:** Community Table Service Project
- Apr 29:** "Relationship Between Personality and Entrepreneurship" by Bing Jiang of the VMI Business Faculty, RoD Heather Branstetter
- May 09:** "Stamp Out Hunger," Food Drive by U. S. Postal Workers
- May 20:** Cemetery Flags Project
- Jun 03:** Club Picnic at Jordons Point Pavilion
- Jun 24:** "Outlook for the Future of Lexington" by City Manager Noah Simon, RoD Linda Krantz

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April 08, 2015

Volume LXIX, Number 36

President Scott presided. Guests: None. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 28 members. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. Our latest **Roadside Clean-up** occurred on Saturday, April 4<sup>th</sup>. **Team North**, led by PAG Betty McMichael, was to clean the on/off ramps at the intersection of I-81 and Route 11N. Betty reported "it went well" but they had only 4 folks (Derek Carter, Betty and Kent McMichael, and Julia Van de Water), collected 9 bags of refuse, and finished only about 40% of the job. Betty will schedule a make-up to finish at a later date.  
**Team South**, led by PN Skip Ravenhorst, was to clean the stretch from the intersection of Possum Hollow Road and Route 11S back along 11S to about a mile from the beginning of the Lexington by-pass. They had 5 folks (Heather Branstetter, Joe Pagnam, Scott Risser, Skip Ravenhorst, and Allan Somerville Brown), worked 10 person-hours, and collected 9 bags of trash. Skip had no exciting results to report: no one had to be rushed to the ER; no snakes spotted; no valuables reported missing or found. However, they did spot a dead opossum, which they hoped was not the namesake of the eponymous Possum Hollow Road.  
Good job, guys and gals – as usual.
2. Our Club, with the cooperation of the Jaycees, plans to carry on the traditional Rockbridge Community Festival (RCF) without the Kiwanis Club, now defunct. These two clubs have been meeting and discussing how to improve the mode of operation. President Scott announced that a set of operational policies will be sent, as soon as available, to all members for approval.
3. **NEWS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
  - A. We will meet at the Rockbridge Regional Library on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. The address is 138 South Main Street, Lexington. April is Literacy Month so our club will assist the local library with some of their projects. For those who are interested, the membership will have dinner following our service project at the Southern Inn. PE Derek will send a separate email to the membership asking for RSVPs so he can make a reservation.
  - B. Note that our Club will NOT MEET on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Instead, we will gather at **5:30 pm** in the local cemeteries on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, to place flags on veteran's graves in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Following the project, members will gather at the Blue Lab Brewery located on Randolph Street for pizza and beer.
  - C. Continuing a long-standing tradition, we will have a joint meeting with the Kerrs Creek Ruritan Club on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 pm at the New Monmouth Presbyterian Church (2348 West Midland Trail, Lexington). This will take the place of our August 19 meeting. The Ruritans will prepare the meal; we will organize the evening's program. PE Derek will contact you later to secure a head count.

## Minute for Rotary:

Membership Chair Chip Honsinger, extolled the virtues of the Manual of Procedure (MOP), or, as he termed it, the "Bible of Rotary." It has information about "all matters Rotary" – he urged all members to become better acquainted with the MOP.

He particularly called our attention to what the MOP says about composition of clubs:

### Section 2 – *Composition of Clubs*

- (a) A club shall be composed of active members each of whom shall be an adult person of good character and good business, professional and/or community reputation,

- (1) engaged as a proprietor, partner, corporate officer, or manager of any worthy and recognized business or profession; or
- (2) holding any important position in any worthy and recognized business or profession or any branch or agency thereof and have executive capacity with discretionary authority; or
- (3) having retired from any position listed in sub-section (1) or (2) of this subsection; or
- (4) being a community leader who has demonstrated through personal involvement in community affairs a commitment to service and the Object of Rotary; or
- (5) having the status of Rotary Foundation alumnus as defined by the board; or
- (6) having interrupted employment or having never worked in order to care for children or to assist the spouse in their work

and

having his or her place of business or residence located in the locality of the club or the surrounding area. ....

- (b) Each club shall have a well-balanced membership in which no one business, profession or type of community service predominates. ...a club may elect a person to active membership so long as it will not result in the classification making up more than 10% of the club's active membership. ....

Many of the entries in (a) above are new since some of our older members first joined Rotary.

Secretary John keeps a current copy of the MOP. Any member may borrow it. Alternatively, you may access it online by entering the following into a search engine: manual of procedure Rotary.

### **Program:**

PPs Chip and Emily Higgins presented a tag-team program on membership. Chip reviewed the statistics of membership since 1998:

- club membership has declined from about 55 to the present 38,
- District membership has declined from about 4000 to the present 3400; number of clubs has increased from 70 to 81,
- RI has about the same membership but only because of dramatic increases in the Far East,
- club membership took a nose dive in 2009-10 primarily because of the business downturn,
- historically, only about 1 in 7 local prospects has accepted membership,
- new members per year has declined from about 10 to 2
- only 30% of our present club has proposed a new member,
- one-half of our members are retired.

Other important features of our membership are:

- first female member inducted in 1988,
- females make up 33% of our club; figure is 15% in RI, 51% in US population,
- 25% of US population is non-white; none in our club.

PP Emily then took over and presented an outline of membership development. She was going to send it to your editor for inclusion here but got involved in PETS. A copy will be sent under separate cover when it becomes available.

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries in April:**

Happy Birthday to: Sue Milo on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Ed Claiborn, Dot Fogo, and Ed Jeffries on the 3<sup>rd</sup>; Julie Goyette on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Susan Barger on the 14<sup>th</sup>; Rae Carpenter on the 15<sup>th</sup>; Nick Cuzzimano on the 18<sup>th</sup>; Max Ivankov and John Tucker on the 19<sup>th</sup>; and Chip Honsinger on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Anniversary to: Nancy and Nick Cuzzimano on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Donna and Joe Pagnam on the 7<sup>th</sup>; and Anne and Jerry Plante on the 24<sup>th</sup>.

### **A Little Humor:**

- Spring is here. I'm so excited I wet my plants!
- I ate 4 cans of alphabet soup, and just took probably the biggest vowel movement ever.
- Did you know? Line dancing was started by women waiting to use the bathroom.

- I'm thinking of calling in GHOSTBUSTERS because I'm convinced I have a HAUNTED HOUSE. Everytime I look in the freakin' mirror, this old man comes and stands in front of me and blocks my reflection.
- Relationship Tip for Men: When a women says, "Correct me if I'm wrong, but ..." "Don't do it!" It's a TRAP." "DO NOT, I repeat, DO NOT correct that woman!!!"

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Josie McElroy was happy on multiple counts: for the resurgence of Roller Derby and the local roller rink brought to us by the Sayres; for Emily who leads Rotary by example; and for the excellence of the Rotarian magazine, especially the April issue, for two articles, one on Alzheimer's disease and another on membership.
- Skip Ravenhorst was happy to acknowledge that he wasn't paying attention earlier and it was all Stewart's fault because he pointed out a bald eagle soaring over the golf course.
- Betty McMichael was happy to thank all who helped with Roadside Clean-up on Saturday and thought the distraction was a big hawk rather than an eagle; she also endorsed the Bull and Oyster Festival to raise funds for the Health Center as having "excellent food, great beverages, and good music;" it was cold but you didn't mind if you had enough beverages.
- Derek Carter was happy to thank Emily and Chip for the fine program on membership; and for his senior friend (?) who let him borrow her trash picker-upper on Saturday.
- Chip Honsinger was happy to point out that the Rotary Foundation requested ideas for future RI programs (see p 49 in April issue of the Rotarian); he wrote to RI PP Bill Boyd and urged him to bring back the GSE program; he was gratified to receive a reply that assured him that the idea of restoring GSE would be considered; so write to the committee with your suggestions.
- Emily Higgins was happy to commend PE Derek Carter for attending Presidents Elect Training (PETS) from Thursday through Saturday eventhough his daughter's birthday is Saturday – he rescheduled her party..
- Jim Slack was happy to also endorse the Bull and Oyster Festival – a wonderful party; he didn't think the weather was cold – just windy.

### **Pot:**

Julia Van de Water won the raffle (AGAIN!) but not the big pot that now totals \$240.50.

### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- Apr 15:** "Life as a Roadie" by Al Tucker, RoD Mary Sayre
- Apr 22:** Rockbridge Regional Library Service Project; RoD Derek Carter
- Apr 29:** "Relationship Between Personality and Entrepreneurship" by Bing Jiang of the VMI Business Faculty, RoD Heather Branstetter
- May 06:** TBA
- May 09:** "Stamp Out Hunger," Food Drive by U. S. Postal Workers
- May 13:** "BARC's Broadband Initiative" by CEO Mike Keyser; RoD Jim Slack
- May 20:** NO MEETING; SEE BELOW
- May 22:** Cemetery Flags Project; RoD Kent McMichael; Meet in Cemeteries at 5:30 PM
- May 27:** TBA
- Jun 03:** Club Picnic at Jordons Point Pavilion
- Jun 24:** "Outlook for the Future of Lexington" by City Manager Noah Simon, RoD Linda Krantz
- Aug 18:** Joint Meeting with Kerrs Creek Ruritan Club: 7:00 PM at New Monmouth Presbyterian Church; RoD Derek Carter
- Aug 19:** NO MEETING; See Previous ENTRY

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April 15, 2015

Volume LXIX, Number 37

President Scott presided. Guests: Mark Ritter was the guest of Emily Higgins; and our speaker, Al Tucker. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 26 members and 2 guests for a total attendance of 28. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. Our Club, with the cooperation of the Jaycees, plans to carry on the traditional Rockbridge Community Festival (RCF) without the Kiwanis Club, now defunct. Chair Max Ivankof announced that by-laws have been assembled, are being circulated among the planning committee, and will be forwarded to our Board of Directors for their approval later this week
2. **NEWS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
  - A. **NEXT WEEK: We will meet at the Rockbridge Regional Library on Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 6:00 pm. The address is 138 South Main Street, Lexington. April is Literacy Month so our club will assist the local library with some of their projects.** For those who are interested, the membership will have dinner following our service project at the Southern Inn. **PE Derek will send a separate email to the membership asking for RSVPs so he can make a reservation.**
  - B. Note that our Club will NOT MEET on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Instead, we will gather at **5:30 pm** in the local cemeteries on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, to place flags on veteran's graves in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Following the project, members will gather at the Blue Lab Brewery located on Randolph Street for pizza and beer.
  - C. Continuing a long-standing tradition, we will have a joint meeting with the Kerrs Creek Ruritan Club on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 pm at the New Monmouth Presbyterian Church (2348 West Midland Trail, Lexington). This will take the place of our August 19 meeting. The Ruritans will prepare the meal; we will organize the evening's program. PE Derek will contact you later to secure a head count.
3. AG Emily passed out brochures entitled "Every Rotarian, Every Year: Doing Good in the World." It outlines the role of the Rotary Foundation in supporting the work of Rotary worldwide. Members are requested to make recurring or one-time contributions to support the Foundation.
4. PE Derek Carter reported briefly on a great PETS. Next year's theme is "Be a Gift to the World." Derek presented a theme flag to our club and passed out theme pins to all members present. He concluded by reading a poem with the theme title written by the president of a Rotary Club.
5. AG Emily invited all members to attend a party at the Salem Civic Center at 7:00 pm on May 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the PolioPlus Campaign - the Salem Club has contributed \$300,000. Special guest will be RI President-Nominee John Germ. Cost is \$35 per person. For more information, contact [jwmcaden@balzer.cc](mailto:jwmcaden@balzer.cc); to register, go to [www.rotary7570.org/calendar](http://www.rotary7570.org/calendar).
6. President Scott again praised Joe, Bill, and Laura for their hard work to ensure the success of the Winter Community Bazaar in spite of having to reschedule and relocate the event because of snow. Today, he presented a check for \$780 to the Rockbridge Area Relief Association (RARA) representing the net profit from the event.

## Minute for Rotary:

PN Skip Ravenhorst believes he occupies a unique position in Rotary. He has two brothers-in-law, both of whom live in Vermont, who are not only Rotarians but are currently presidents of their clubs. One is serving a second term because of the abrupt job relocation of the president-elect.

### **Induction of New Member:**

Membership Chair Emily and PP Chip Honsinger inducted our newest member; Sponsor Bill made some complimentary remarks about her responsibility and work ethic with his company. Chip introduced her with a snippet from Rotary history:

**Laura E. Evans.** Classification: Property Management. Her business address is 195 Walker Street in Lexington. She makes her home at 24 Songbird Circle in Glasgow, 24555. She may be contacted at 464-4832 (BP) or 540-570-1880 (HP) or 4Le@yahoo.com. Sponsor: Bill Stearns. Emily concluded by presenting her Rotary pin that Bill pinned on and a Rotary baseball cap.

Welcome, Laura. We look forward to many years of service and fellowship together.

### **Program:**

RoD Mary Sayre introduced our speaker, Al Tucker. He spoke to us about his experience as a "Roadie," i.e., a member of the road crew for a concert tour. He is a concert sound engineer who has planned and participated in worldwide music events with many of our favorite artists.

Al graduated from high school in Ankara, Turkey, and started college at the University of Maryland in Munich, Germany. After returning to the US, he went to work for Maryland Sound Industries (MSI) in Baltimore in 1974. His first show for MSI was Sly (and the Family) Stone's wedding at Madison Square Garden in 1974. His first tour mixing for MSI was with the Blood Sweat and Tears World Tour that same year.

For the next 35 years, Al toured with many well-known groups, too extensive to mention, but a representative group includes: Michael Bolton, Kenny G, Whitney Houston, Frank Sinatra, Waylon Jennings, Jackson Five with Michael Jackson, Tony Orlando and Dawn, Arlo Guthrie, and Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons.

Al led us through a typical day:

- roll into site in hotel (million dollar bus with bunks for crew); drive right into hall;
- riggers hang audio equipment in air above the stage;
- focus lights and adjust sound to venue (each is different and requires different adjustments);
- perform sound check (does everything work) in the afternoon;
- test the sound system without the band;
- band/artists appear about 5:00 pm for sound mixing trial;
- make adjustments until everybody is happy;
- tighten positions of all microphones and audio equipment;
- eat dinner and relax;
- everybody in places by 7:50 pm;
- show begins at 8:00 pm;
- chaos reigns after the show as roadies pack up all gear and load into trucks;
- ride overnight to next venue -- and try to sleep -- and begin all over again at 7:00 am the next day.

Al actually spent 311 days on the road one year. In spite of his 37 year career, he married and had two great children.

Al was hesitant to identify his favorite artist but, with prodding, said Frankie Valli was a real gentleman and had been a life-long friend. He was equally reticent about his least favorite but related an incident where he was fired by the artist before he even met him.

It was great to find out what goes on behind the scenes in a concert. A terrific program!

### **Happy Bucks:**

- After seeing Al's masterful presentation, Skip Ravenhorst was not too happy to realize he had to go to band practice following our meeting and also serve as sound engineer for the group.
- Betty McMichael recalled that she taught Laura at LHS and she was as wonderful then as now, and is delighted to have her as a club member; she was happy that our speaker's wife is her boss so she has known him for about 10 years; and he was responsible for one of her favorite Christmas gifts, an autographed CD by Chris Botti.

- Mary Sayre was happy she had been able to successfully twist Al's arm to get him to give tonight's great program; also she was able to put her surgery off for a week; and, finally, she was happy that her daughter's dog, Gravy, was featured in an ad (page 8B) in today's News Gazette.
- Joe Pagnam was happy to thank our speaker for a fantastic program that primed him for his attendance at next week's concert by The Who in Raleigh.
- Emily Higgins was happy on multiple counts: for new member Laura and her mentor, her "old" teacher Betty Mc; our program made her even more appreciative of the concerts she has attended, especially a recent one by Harry Connick, Jr.; and recognized PE Derek who did something at PETS no other PE had done: he crashed the DG's cocktail party and drank the finest bourbon (Derek commented: what were they going to do? Throw me out? I'm 6'7").
- Derek Carter was happy: to welcome Laura; for Al's awesome program; and to commend Emily as a great mentor at PETS.
- Michelle Jones was happy to remind us that tomorrow is National Healthcare Decision Day – she urged all to execute an advanced directive and she will be glad to provide us a copy at her office.
- Linda Krantz was happy to mention her favorite singer of all time, Leslie Tucker, Al's sister. (Al added that she invited him to mix sound when she opened for Christopher Cross in front of 20K fans at Wolf Trap, outside Washington.)
- Bill Stearns was happy that Laura has joined our club and that tax day is gone for another year.
- Kent McMichael was puzzled how Emily got away without injury with what she said about Betty; and announced that, in downsizing, he ran across a box of about 60 years worth of Rotary flags that he will present to PE Derek soon.
- Chip Honsinger was happy to wish happy birthday to John Tucker on April 19<sup>th</sup>; and wished a speedy recovery to Dan Vance who was seriously burned when a bottle of alcohol exploded nearby while he was standing at a bar.
- Dick Minnix was happy to wish happy birthday to Rae Carpenter, long-time frugal friend, who celebrates on an appropriate day, April 15<sup>th</sup>, tax day.
- Rae Carpenter was happy on multiple counts: hopes our club is on a membership-roll with the addition of Laura; that our program tonight was one of the most unusual he had heard among all he has attended; happy birthday to John Tucker; he doesn't remember his birthday falling on a meeting night in the past; and he is close to 55 years as a Rotarian, all with perfect attendance. (The membership responded by singing happy birthday to Rae.)
- George Piegari was happy to announce that today is his daughter's birthday.
- Scott Risser was happy to laud once again the work of Joe, Bill, and Laura on the Bazaar; and admitted he had never before known Al Tucker to be at a loss for words.
- John Furgerson was happy to report that he had surpassed 10,000 hours as a volunteer at SJH.
- Laura Evans was happy to be a Rotarian, felt very welcome, and looked forward to many years of service with us.
- John Tucker was happy to announce that later this month he will donate his 159<sup>th</sup> pint of blood to the Red Cross, one pint short of 20 gallons; he urged all to donate.

**Pot:**

Rae Carpenter won the raffle (on his birthday!) but not the big pot that now totals \$261.00.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

- Apr 22:** Rockbridge Regional Library Service Project; RoD Derek Carter
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## Announcements and Business:

### 1. NEWS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- A. Note that our Club will NOT MEET on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Instead, we will gather at **5:30 pm** in the local cemeteries on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, to place flags on veteran's graves in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Following the project, members will gather at the Blue Lab Brewery located on Randolph Street for pizza and beer.
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2. Several weeks ago, AG Emily invited all members to attend a party at the Salem Civic Center at 7:00 pm on May 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the PolioPlus Campaign - the Salem Club has contributed \$300,000. Special guest will be RI President-Nominee John Germ. Cost is \$35 per person. For more information, contact [jwmcaden@balzer.cc](mailto:jwmcaden@balzer.cc); to register, go to [www.rotary7570.org/calendar](http://www.rotary7570.org/calendar).
  3. President Scott is seeking feedback and ideas from our members for future events of the sort we had tonight. He asks that we provide Derek and him our ideas and constructive criticism, and especially to seek opportunities like this project for our club to reach out and serve our community.
  4. Please keep our fellow Rotarian and past-president Mary Sayre in your prayers; she recently underwent arthroscopic knee surgery, and will be working on her rehabilitation.

## Program:

As our first service project under the new calendar approach for our Rotary club, we met at the front desk of the Rockbridge Regional Library located on South Main Street in Lexington. We worked from 6:00 to 7:00 pm, focusing on a book reorganization project that the Library has underway. Members pulled books, scanned them for deletion, transferred materials from one collection to another, and collected stray bookends. All in all the club saved the library a considerable amount of man-hours.

Thanks to Head Librarian Julie Goyette, Sue Milo (Joe's bride), and Debi Ratliff who helped to coordinate the details of this service project. These individuals on the library staff were very helpful, and we were pleased to partner with the library to accomplish this task! Julie sends along the Library's thanks for our efforts.

After work was finished, those interested gathered at the Southern Inn for dinner and fellowship. Dinner was optional and dinner tabs were member's responsibility.

This project was the first of many that our club plans to perform in our community. Derek found an appropriate quote on the Rotary website: "Service Above Self [is] the principal motto of Rotary, because it best conveys the philosophy of unselfish volunteer service."

### **Only People from Kentucky:**

The year is 2024 and the United States has just elected the first woman as President of the United States, and she is from Kentucky!

A few days after the election, the president-elect calls her father in Kentucky and asks, "So, Dad, I assume you will be coming to my inauguration?" "I don't think so. It's a long drive; your mom isn't as young as she used to be, we'll have the dog with us, and my arthritis is acting up in my knee."

"Don't worry about it, Dad, I'll send Air Force One to pick you up and take you home, and a limousine will pick you up at your door," she said. "I don't know. Everybody will be so fancy. What would your mother wear?" "Oh, Dad," she replied, "I'll make sure she has a wonderful gown custom-made by one of the best designers in N.Y." "Honey," Dad complained, "You know we can't eat those rich foods you and your friends like to eat." The President-elect responded, "Don't worry, Dad. The entire affair is going to be handled by the best caterer in D.C. And I'll ensure your meals are salt-free."

So her parents reluctantly agreed, and on January 20, 2024, arrived to see their daughter sworn in as President of the United States. The parents of the new President are seated in the front row. The President's dad sees that a Senator is sitting next to him and leans over and whispers, "You see that woman up there with her hand on the Bible, becoming President of the United States?" The Senator whispered in reply, "Yes, sir, I sure do."

Dad says proudly, "Her brother played basketball for the University of Kentucky"

### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- Apr 29:** "Relationship Between Personality and Entrepreneurship" by Bing Jiang of the VMI Business Faculty, RoD Heather Branstetter
- May 06:** "Friends of Wednesday Morning Music" by Marjorie Kasch Hansen and Joe Dinardo, RoD Kent McMichael
- May 09:** "Stamp Out Hunger," Food Drive by U. S. Postal Workers
- May 13:** Tour of Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden by Bruce Bytnar, Managing Director, and Faith Vosburgh, Horticulturist, RoD Emily Higgins
- May 20:** NO MEETING; SEE BELOW
- May 22:** Cemetery Flags Project; RoD Kent McMichael; Meet in Cemeteries at 5:30 PM
- May 27:** "BARC's Broadband Initiative" by CEO Mike Keyser; RoD Jim Slack
- Jun 03:** Club Picnic at Jordans Point Pavilion
- Jun 10:** TBA
- Jun 17:** Rotary Service Project
- Jun 24:** "Outlook for the Future of Lexington" by City Manager Noah Simon, RoD Linda Krantz
- Aug 18:** Joint Meeting with Kerrs Creek Ruritan Club: 7:00 PM at New Monmouth Presbyterian Church; RoD Derek Carter
- Aug 19:** NO MEETING; See Previous ENTRY
- Sep 09:** Member Autobiography: Heather Branstetter, RoD Derek Carter

**END**



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1062

92nd YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>

April 29, 2015

Volume LXIX, Number 38

President Scott presided. Guest: Dot Fogo was the guest of Partner Wally. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 28 members and 1 guest for a total attendance of 29. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. Our Club, with the cooperation of the Jaycees, plans to carry on the traditional Rockbridge Community Festival (RCF) without the Kiwanis Club, now defunct. Chair Max Ivankov feels we are a little behind on planning at the present time. This is the first real modification of the event after almost 40 years and is a real opportunity for our club. Five volunteers are needed from our club to occupy planning positions. Contact Max today and volunteer. The date of the festival is August 29<sup>th</sup>.
2. President Scott reminded us that the draft by-laws concerning the RCF relationship between our club and the Jaycees need to be reviewed as soon as possible by our Board of directors.
3. President Scott also commended the club on the success of the recent service project at the Rockbridge Regional Library (RRL). 26 club members attended and worked on a book reorganization project: we pulled books, scanned them for deletion, transferred materials from one collection to another, and collected stray bookends. Joe Milo spoke about how people liked the camaraderie of the weekly dinners, but that the camaraderie during the RRL project was also great. A smaller group had dinner at the Southern Inn following the project for even more camaraderie.
4. **NEWS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
  - A. Note that our Club will NOT MEET on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Instead, we will gather at **5:30 pm** in the local cemeteries on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, to place flags on veteran's graves in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Following the project, members will gather at the Blue Lab Brewery located on Randolph Street for pizza and beer.
  - B. Continuing a long-standing tradition, we will have a joint meeting with the Kerrs Creek Ruritan Club on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 pm at the New Monmouth Presbyterian Church (2348 West Midland Trail, Lexington). This will take the place of our August 19 meeting. The Ruritans will prepare the meal; we will organize the evening's program. PE Derek will contact you later to secure a head count.
5. Don't forget that AG Emily invited all members to attend a party at the Salem Civic Center at 7:00 pm on May 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the PolioPlus Campaign - the Salem Club has contributed \$300,000. Special guest will be RI President-Nominee John Germ. Cost is \$35 per person. For more information, contact [jwmcaden@balzer.cc](mailto:jwmcaden@balzer.cc); to register, go to [www.rotary7570.org/calendar](http://www.rotary7570.org/calendar).
6. Thanks to Joe Pagnam for taking meeting notes in the absence of your editor.
7. Congratulations and thanks to Jonathan who has ably served our meals at LGCC for some time; he is leaving to take a managerial position at the Natural Bridge Hotel.
8. Our sincere condolences to Mike Higgins, Partner of AG Emily, whose mother passed away recently.

## Program:

Heather Branstetter joined our club in October 2013. Tonight she gave her brief autobiography employing a power-point presentation.

Born and raised in a rural northern Idaho mining community. Went to the University of Idaho for undergrad and moved to Lexington for a professor job at VMI after getting my PhD from the University

of North Carolina. I showed some pictures and talked about my love for the outdoors, especially whitewater rafting, and writing. I showed my parents with me at the Old Well (UNC) during my doctoral hooding ceremony, my brother Sam, who moved to North Carolina while I was there to be in a band (they are called Young Cardinals), and my sister Katie who lives in our hometown with her high school sweetheart Joe, whom she married. They have two daughters, Violet and Josie. I showed my dogs and our country life on Jacob's Ladder, where I rent from Joe Milo. During the Q&A, I briefly mentioned my current book project documenting the history and rhetoric of sex work in my hometown (which I discussed at an earlier meeting), and my inspiration, which is mostly just feeling a compulsion to write, but also social justice.

The second half of the talk was pictures and stories from my Rotary-sponsored trip to India. I worked with a few others to start a Rotaract club at the UI in college and for a month in between the fall and spring semesters during my senior year there, the vice president of the club and I traveled to Mumbai and then took a train 24 hours south to the state of Kerala ("God's Own Country") for service work, cultural exchange, and to learn about business entrepreneurship there with the Rotaracters who are doing good work in that country. The trip was sort of unique in that we wanted to raise awareness on our campus about Rotaract and so we raised some money, were helped out by the Moscow, Idaho club, and traveled cheaply. The Indians we stayed with were the best hosts ever. I had hosted one of them, named Sunny, a music producer who was in the US for group study exchange at my little college apartment in Idaho the previous summer, hence the connection. I had met him at the Rotary District conference in Nelson, BC. We spent time with the college-based Rotaract club in Mumbai, Sunny's young professionals non-college-based Rotaract club in Khozikhode (although they used the old names of Bombay and Calicut), and we also visited Rotaract clubs in Mangalore, and Kochin. The business and cultural exchange was really meaningful. Neither Kristi nor I had really spent much time outside of Idaho and so this really opened our eyes to a lot of things. And we were ambassadors of the US in return.

For the service part of the trip, we brought a bunch of toys and stuffed animals and cards signed by our Rotaracters in Idaho to give to some kids in a facility for mentally challenged kids and at a school that takes care of really impoverished kids, and we planted some trees at an orphanage for girls. We had planned to help distribute polio vaccinations, but the clubs in India organizing that were sort of disorganized and couldn't get that together during the time we were there--we had been working toward that but then it got delayed for some reason we never really understood--and so instead of that part we went to some schools and did "blood typing," which was basically telling them what kind of blood they had. I'm still not sure why that mattered but it seemed to be meaningful to them.

I told the club that the service part of the trip was what I had most been looking forward to, but it was also the most disappointing aspect of the trip because it felt like what we were doing was just a drop in a huge ocean of need. The politics there are so inept, and the poverty is so extreme. If it weren't for the work of Rotary and Rotaract there, they would be a lot worse off, even. Rotary and Rotaract are strong in India and do SO MUCH good service work there, where people must take care of one another as a result of the political system failing to do its job properly. I sometimes worry the US is heading in this direction. I forgot to mention that while I was there I read this historical fiction book about the partition in the fifties (it's called A Fine Balance--I highly recommend it) and it really helped me understand the country's social dynamics.

I closed by reading a bit about my initial impressions at the beginning of the trip from the journal I kept while I was there. In this journal, I couldn't even write about the service part because I didn't really know what to say. What I did write about the service part of the trip, as I was flying back to the US was simply this: "Our community service work had two big effects on me: 1. Helplessness and Sadness 2. Despair. It was tough and I didn't feel better about stuff like I did when I did community service stuff back home." It was just really shocking to see the vastness of the problem of poverty.

Our thanks to Heather for an outstanding presentation.

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Skip Ravenhorst was happy to note that some club members' glasses matched the seat covers in her car (sorry, he didn't say who).

- Julie Goyette was happy on two counts: for our speaker's presentation, and for all the help on the service project at the Library last week.
- Betty McMichael was also happy on multiple counts: that we are "off the hook" for the Roadside Clean-up on the I-81 interchange at Timber Ridge because she observed some men working on it, apparently hired by VDOT; that Skip purchased safety vests for our "picker-uppers" at his own expense because we should be as safe as the convicts; and for Kent who went by VDOT and picked up a whole bag of vests for future use.
- Joe Milo was happy on two counts: for Heather's great talk for which he had been waiting a year and a half; and to thank Sue Milo and the staff at the Library for doing all the prep work for our service project last week.
- Josie McElroy was glad to report on the Nepal earthquake and Rotary: she wrote an e-mail to the person in charge of Rotary rescue efforts and got a response back in less than an hour; paraphrasing: "she was thankful for our interest, they have a management system in place but recovery will be a long-time effort; at that time there were reports of over 5000 casualties and 9000 injuries; immediate need is for blankets, Shelter Boxes, etc.; housing destruction in rural areas is about 90%; they have plans to construct about 1000 new houses at a cost of about \$3000 each for a total cost of \$3M US dollars; anything we can do to help will be appreciated." What should we do?
- Linda reported that she contacted a former employee of the Library who had married a Nepalese and he reported that wife and children and her family were in an area possibly subject to infection.
- Derek Carter was happy on two counts: for Heather and her autobiography; and for the fine turnout for our service project last week – he looks forward to many more such projects in the future.
- Joe Pagnam was happy to report that he rode his motorcycle to NC last week to attend a concert by THE WHO – he attended his first concert by this group in 1969 in the UK.
- Bill Lowe was happy to report that his son-in-law would soon retire from the USAF this summer and has already been hired by DELTA.
- Kent McMichael was happy to offer any member his stash of all the Rotary banners for the last 50 years – about 360 some; the lucky recipient will be able to determine which state and foreign country is most often represented; and, on a sad note, he reminded us that we withdrew from Vietnam forty years ago today.
- Max Ivankov was happy to accept the flags in order to search out the name of the Moscow club that sponsored his student exchange to this country years ago.

#### **POT:**

John Furgerson won the raffle but not the BIG pot that now totals \$282.00.

#### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- May 06: "Friends of Wednesday Morning Music" by Marjorie Kasch Hansen and Joe Dinardo
- May 09: "Stamp Out Hunger," Food Drive by U. S. Postal Workers
- May 13: Tour of Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden by Bruce Bytnar, Managing Director, and Faith Vosburgh, Horticulturist, RoD Emily Higgins
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**END**



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1062

92nd YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>

May 06, 2015

Volume LXIX, Number 39

President Scott presided. Guests: Marjorie Kasch and Joe Dinardo, our speakers, and Joe's wife, Sarah. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 23 members and 3 guests for a total attendance of 26. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. Our Club, with the cooperation of the Jaycees, plans to carry on the traditional Rockbridge Community Festival (RCF) on August 29<sup>th</sup> this year without the Kiwanis Club, now defunct. Chair Max Ivankov announced he had filled all leadership positions for our club EXCEPT for Sponsorship. The first official meeting of the planning committee for the two clubs is next Tuesday at 6:00 pm at the International Headquarters of MaxMark Homes, LLC. He'd like to have all positions filled by then, so won't you step up and volunteer? Call Max today.
2. By-laws have been drafted concerning the RCF relationship between our club and the Jaycees. They will be reviewed soon by our Board of Directors.
3. **NEWS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:**
  - A. Note that our Club will NOT MEET on Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. Instead, we will gather at **5:30 pm** in the local cemeteries on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, to place flags on veteran's graves in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Following the project, members will gather at the Blue Lab Brewery located on Randolph Street for pizza and beer.
  - B. Continuing a long-standing tradition, we will have a joint meeting with the Kerrs Creek Ruritan Club on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 pm at the New Monmouth Presbyterian Church (2348 West Midland Trail, Lexington). This will take the place of our regular August 19 meeting. The Ruritans will prepare the meal; we will organize the evening's program. PE Derek will contact you later to secure a head count.
4. Don't forget that AG Emily invited all members to attend a party at the Salem Civic Center at 7:00 pm on May 19<sup>th</sup> to celebrate the PolioPlus Campaign - the Salem Club has contributed \$300,000 and needs our support. Special guests will be DG Vivian Crymble and RI President-Nominee John Germ. Cost is \$35 per person. Guest Registration: <http://www.IsMyRotaryClub.org/Register/GuestMemberExternal.cfm?EventID=77248436>. Member Registration: (requires login) <http://www.directory-online.com/Rotary/index.cfm?EventID=77248436>. Deadline for registration is Friday May 15.
5. Our VMI Rotaractors will be departing for Bolivia in a couple weeks. For a story about what they have done and what they are going to do with the support Rotary has given them, go online to: [ideastations.org](http://ideastations.org).
6. **Note that we don't meet at LGCC the next two weeks - we do not return until May 27. Next week we gather at Boxerwood Garden at 6:00 pm; the following week we gather in the cemeteries (see 3A above) on Friday.**

## Minute for Rotary:

(Since we don't meet at LGCC again before Memorial Day, Dick Minnix presented a moving piece of related history and beautiful music.)

About six miles from Maastricht in the Netherlands lie buried 8,301 American soldiers who died in "Operation Market Garden" in the battles to liberate Holland in the fall and winter of 1944-45. Every one of the men buried in the cemetery, as well as those in the Canadian and British military cemeteries, has been adopted by a Dutch family who mind the grave, decorate, and keep alive the memory of the soldier they have adopted. It is even the custom to keep a portrait of "their" American soldier in a place of honor in their home.

Annually on "Liberation Day" Memorial Services are held for the men who died to liberate Holland. The day concludes with a concert. The final piece is always "Il Silenzio", a memorial piece commissioned by the

Dutch and first played in 1965 on the 20th anniversary of Holland's liberation. It has been the concluding piece of the memorial concert ever since.

This year the soloist (on trumpet) was a 13 year-old Dutch girl, Melissa Venema, backed by André Rieu and his orchestra (the Royal Orchestra of the Netherlands). This beautiful concert piece is based upon the original version of taps and was composed by Italian composer Nino Rossi. Watch at this site and go full screen. It's very beautiful and moving. <http://www.flixy.com/trumpet-solo-melissa-venema.htm>

President Scott also mentioned a group of "diggers" some of whom have lost their lives while searching for the remains of missing soldiers in areas fraught with live ordnance.

### **Program:**

Mary Sayre, substituting for RoD Kent McMichael, introduced our speakers. Marjorie Kasch (Cash) is a poet and artist who lives and works in Lexington. Joe Dinardo is a local musician on the Board at Boxerwood Nature Center who puts together the Boxerwood "Music in the Garden" programs for the Friday night concert series. Both are originally from upstate New York. Tonight they did a joint presentation on the "Wednesday Morning Music Jam."

As a sample, Joe began the presentation by playing his guitar and singing a James Taylor ballad. For over twenty years, musicians have gathered at 8:00 am on Wednesday mornings to play music and enjoy one another. Originally meeting in Harb's Restaurant at the owner's request, they moved to the back room of the Lexington Coffee Shop when Harb's closed. No compensation is involved, however, musicians get free coffee and pastries. Marjorie has participated for several years and has "become addicted to the jam." It is open to everybody and all are encouraged to join in. She said she felt the jam was much like a rehearsal with much experimentation and improvisation.

The jam has run into a roadblock recently. Performing rights organizations have contacted the group and informed them they must purchase a license at a cost of \$500-\$1000 annually to continue because of copyright protections on the music. Apparently the law requires this even though the musicians are not compensated monetarily nor is there an admission charge. The Coffee Shop was unwilling to invest that much so the group sought an alternate venue without success. They are now meeting temporarily in Marjorie's studio. This morning they had 6-7 musicians and total attendance of 12. Because of the smaller size of her studio, attendance is presently "by invitation only."

But all is not lost. They have raised the money to pay for a license by appealing to jam participants and townsfolk. Beginning June 1, the jam will move into the basement of the Blue Sky Bakery located diagonally across from the Post Office. Some may recall that a bar used to operate in that location - the bar itself is still in place.

Marjorie and Joe concluded with a Q&A session. There it was brought out that several of our GSE visiting teams had been taken to the jam and seemed to enjoy it immensely.

The moral of this story is, "Where there's a will, there's a way!"

### **Summary of April 1 Board of Directors Meeting:**

1. **Feedback from the District Conference:** Josie McElroy reiterated that the District raised more than \$47K to eradicate polio. The Gates Foundation matched this at a rate of 2-for-1, meaning the District's efforts raised more than \$142.5K to fund the eradication of polio. Area 6 placed either 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> in the District in giving; remarkable, given that Area 6 includes no large population centers.
2. **GSE Team Visit:** Scott again commended Josie McElroy and PP Emily Higgins for their efforts that ensured a very successful visit by our French-Canadian brethren from Quebec. Josie suggested that the club give a token of thanks to Jay Gilliam, who volunteered his time and services to provide our guests a guided tour of Rockbridge County. A motion to give Mr. Gilliam a \$50 Main Street Lexington gift certificate was made, seconded and unanimously approved. Scott asked Josie to provide him Mr. Gilliam's mailing address and agreed to purchase and send a thank-you note from the club with the gift certificate; PP John Tucker would then reimburse Scott.
3. **Scholarships:** PP Jim Slack updated the board on our annual RCHS scholarship, saying his committee expected to receive multiple applications to review. PP Jim acknowledged his committee would review a potential Skelton-Jones scholarship candidate packet Emily Higgins told us about.
4. **Membership:** PP Emily Higgins reviewed several potential club members she was aware of club members recruiting. The board unanimously approved Ms Laura Evans' application for club membership and asked John Tucker to coordinate with PP Dick Minnix to inform the club membership

and invite comments per our club by-laws.

5. **Winter Bazaar:** Joe Milo suggested that the club might take a year off from hosting a winter bazaar, and recommend that the club look at other potential fund-raising activities such as roller derby, a beer and wine tasting at the Lime Kiln, etc. Several board members suggested that PP Mary Sayre form and lead an ad hoc committee to brainstorm this and make recommendations to the club. Scott will ask PP Mary to serve us in this way.

#### **Happy Bucks:**

- Emily Higgins was happy to be a Rotarian: because of the outpouring of club sympathy to Partner Mike upon the death of his mother; and because of her good buddy, Joe Dinardo, who is a lovely and talented human being.
- Julie Goyette was happy because the RRL's new Bookmobile arrives on Saturday!
- Scott Risser was happy to commend our program tonight and thank them for entertaining our GSE Team from Argentina several year ago.
- Jerry Plante was happy to remind us of the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration of RATS from 5:00-6:30 pm tomorrow evening in Dunlap Auditorium of Lexington Presbyterian Church; and urged members to volunteer service on charitable organizations board of directors.
- Linda Krantz was happy to share the following joke: Vladimir Putin, wanting to get on the good side of voters, goes to visit a school in Moscow to have a chat with the kids. He talks to them about how Russia is a powerful nation and how he wants the best for the people. At the end of the talk, there is an opportunity for questions. Little Sasha puts her hand up and says, "I have two questions, sir. Why did the Russians take Crimea? And why are we sending troops to Ukraine?" Putin says, "Good questions." But just as he is about to answer, the bell goes off, and the kids go to lunch. When they return to class, the kids sit back down and there is an opportunity for some more questions. Another young girl, Misha, puts her hand up and says, "I have four questions. My questions are - Why did the Russians invade Crimea? Why are we sending troops to Ukraine? Why did the bell for lunch go off 20 minutes early? And where is Sasha?"
- Max Ivankov was happy to reminisce about his childhood in Russia where his biological father was a "digger" of remains of pilots missing in action; and related some staggering figures for a flight school that also tested new aircraft - over 300 crews went down while training and testing new planes; he remarked that the spirit of fighting men is universal.

#### **POT:**

Jerry Plante won the raffle but not the BIG pot that now totals \$297.60(?).

#### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- May 09:** "Stamp Out Hunger," Food Drive by U. S. Postal Workers  
**May 13:** Tour of Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden by Bruce Bytnar, Managing Director, and Faith Vosburgh, Horticulturist, RoD Emily Higgins  
**May 20:** NO MEETING; SEE BELOW  
**May 22:** Cemetery Flags Project; RoD Kent McMichael; Meet in Cemeteries at 5:30 PM  
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**Jun 03:** Club Picnic at Jordans Point Pavilion  
**Jun 10:** TBA  
**Jun 17:** Rotary Service Project  
**Jun 24:** "Outlook for the Future of Lexington" by City Manager Noah Simon, RoD Linda Krantz  
**Aug 18:** Joint Meeting with Kerrs Creek Ruritan Club: 7:00 PM at New Monmouth Presbyterian Church; RoD Derek Carter  
**Aug 19:** NO MEETING; See Previous ENTRY  
**Aug 29:** Rockbridge Community Festival; 9:00 am to 3:00 pm  
**Sep 09:** "Relationship Between Personality and Entrepreneurship" by Bing Jiang of the VMI Business Faculty, RoD Heather Branstetter

**END**



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CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1062

92nd YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>

May 13, 2015

Volume LXIX, Number 40

President Scott presided. Guests: Bruce Bytner and Faith Vosburgh, of the Boxerwood Staff, and Partners Donna Pagnam and Anne Plante. Visiting Rotarian: Chris Runion, District Governor Elect and member of the Harrisonburg Rotary Club. Attendance: 20 members and 5 guests for a total attendance of 25. Meeting held at the Boxerwood Nature Center and Woodland Garden just outside Lexington.

## Announcements and Business:

### NEWS OF UPCOMING MEETINGS:

- A. Note that our Club will **NOT MEET next Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>**. Instead, we will gather at **5:30 pm** in the local cemeteries on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, to place flags on veteran's graves in observance of the Memorial Day holiday. Following the project, members will gather at the Blue Lab Brewery located on Randolph Street for pizza and beer. Individual members will be notified later whether to report to Evergreen or Stonewall Jackson Cemetery.
- B. Continuing a long-standing tradition, we will have a joint meeting with the Kerrs Creek Ruritan Club on Tuesday, August 18 at 7:00 pm at the New Monmouth Presbyterian Church (2348 West Midland Trail, Lexington). This will take the place of our regular August 19 meeting. The Ruritans will prepare the meal; we will organize the evening's program. PE Derek will contact you later to secure a head count.

## Just a Reminder from Vivian Crymble:

"We are this Close" event is May 19, 2015 at the Salem Civic Center in Salem, VA at 6:00 P.M. Rotary International President 2016-17 John Germ will be the key-note speaker. If your club has not sent in their Polio Plus pledge, you are welcome to bring it to the event and we will take care of getting it to the Rotary Foundation. To register go to [www.rotary7570.org/calendar](http://www.rotary7570.org/calendar). The cost of the dinner is \$35/person. Registration closes at midnight on Friday, May 15, 2015. If you have already registered, thank you! The entire District 7570 played a huge part in this campaign. Please come and let us thank you in person for the outstanding job you did in raising \$250,000 to End Polio Now. Please help us have a great turnout for this event and meet the goal of \$250,000.

## Program:

RoD Emily Higgins introduced Bruce Bytner, Managing Director, who made brief remarks about founder Dr. Robert Munger "who gave birth to Boxerwood Gardens in 1957 when he began landscaping the grounds surrounding his family's new home. Over the years, his landscaping hobby blossomed into a passion for collecting rare and unusual trees and shrubs, leading him to the in-depth study of horticulture. Fifteen acres, naturalistically planted with over 7000 trees and shrubs (including a thousand named cultivars), have aged into a horticultural treasure."

Bruce then introduced Faith Vosburgh, Horticulturist. "The Boxerwood Gardens are the heart of the Boxerwood Nature Center. Our habitats furnish colorful and stimulating living classrooms for the environmental education programs that have been offered since 1999 by our non-profit branch – Boxerwood Education Association." Every child in Buena Vista, Lexington, and Rockbridge County, including preschools, visits Boxerwood Garden to help area schools meet Virginia Standards of Learning in life sciences.

Ms. Vosburgh then led the group on a guided walking tour of the Garden. There was a great variety of colors, shapes, barks, and textures. The proximity of different colors and textures was spectacular. And the blooming verbena, rhododendron, and others (your editor can't remember their

names) provided a magnificent colorful backdrop. They made all want to return when the other trees and shrubs will be in bloom.

We all left amazed at the beauty of the garden and Dr. Munger's foresight in developing it. And we all secretly coveted at least a small sampling of these trees and shrubs on our property. But the reality is that we should have started 30-50 years ago.

This was a superb event, one of our best ever. Let's hope it is one of many more like it. If you haven't visited Boxerwood you should do so soon, but be forewarned – tours are usually self-guided. You really need a horticulturist guide to fully appreciate the 7000 trees and shrubs present.

Our thanks to Emily Higgins and the staff of Boxerwood for their superior hospitality. And our thanks also for the very tasty hors d'oeuvres served at the beginning of the meeting.

### **Summary of May 6 Board of Directors Meeting:**

1. **Scholarships:** PP Jim Slack coordinated with the Rockbridge County High School concerning the presentation of our scholarship there. He and his team continue working with Emily on a Skelton-Jones scholarship candidate.
2. **Membership:** We continue to do well in this area. PP Emily Higgins reviewed several potential club members she was aware of club members recruiting. The club reviewed Roger Jarrell's membership application in accordance with club by-laws; Chip Honsinger will schedule a meeting with Roger to explain Rotary missions and responsibilities, and extend him an invitation to join our club. Emily reminded board members of several additional potential candidates for membership.
3. **Club Publicity:** The News-Gazette published an article about the Lexington Rotary Club donating the proceeds from our winter bazaar to the Rockbridge Area Relief Association in their 29 April edition. Scott forwarded this article to Ms. Barbara Newton, District 7570 Publicity Chair, for publication in the District newsletter.
4. **District Grant:** PP and AG Emily Higgins proposed a draft grant, seeking District funds to help create a handicapped-accessible area at Boxerwood as a club project. The board unanimously approved this initiative.
5. **Area 6 Update:** PP and AG Emily Higgins happily informed the board of a very successful meeting of Area 6 club presidents and presidents-elect held on 24 April. She lauded the increasing spirit of teamwork and cooperation between the five Area 6 clubs.
6. **Rockbridge Community Festival By-Laws:** Scott thanked board members and club officers for their review and comments on the draft of this bilateral agreement with the Lexington Jaycees. Scott will coordinate with Jesse Lyons, his counterpart in the Jaycees, to ensure all comments are included in the final document, then sign it on behalf of the club.
7. **Leave of Absence Request:** Scott will forward a leave of absence request from Bill Lowe for board members' review and response.

### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- May 20: NO MEETING; SEE BELOW**  
**May 22: Cemetery Flags Project; RoD Kent McMichael; Meet in Cemeteries at 5:30 PM**  
**May 27: "BARC's Broadband Initiative" by CEO Mike Keyser; RoD Jim Slack**  
**Jun 03: Club Picnic at Jordans Point Pavilion**  
**Jun 10: TBA**  
**Jun 17: Rotary Service Project**  
**Jun 24: "Outlook for the Future of Lexington" by City Manager Noah Simon, RoD Linda Krantz**  
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**Sep 09: "Relationship Between Personality and Entrepreneurship" by Bing Jiang of the VMI Business Faculty, RoD Heather Branstetter**

**END**



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1062

92nd YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>

May 22, 2015

Volume LXIX, Number 41

A service project was conducted in lieu of our regular meeting this week. We met on Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>, rather than our regular meeting date of Wednesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>. The project was to place small American flags on the graves of all veterans buried in two local cemeteries in observance of Memorial Day. Members reported to the Stonewall Jackson Cemetery in Lexington at 5:30 pm where some remained while others were dispatched to Evergreen Cemetery. Almost 400 flags were placed in Stonewall Jackson Cemetery; slightly more than 100 were placed in Evergreen Cemetery. Only a little over an hour was required to complete the task.

### Announcements and Business:

1. **On Tuesday, May 26<sup>th</sup>, at 5:30 pm all members should report to the same cemetery you worked on Friday to remove flags from veteran's graves. This task shouldn't require a full hour because you don't need to read the tombstones.**
2. **Removing the flags is not counted as a service project so our regular meeting next week will occur on Wednesday as usual at LGCC.**
3. Where were the beer and pizza?
4. Don't forget to read the May issue of your *Rotary Informer*.
5. Ever hear of the program called *No Kid Hungry*? Read about it starting on page 30 of the May issue of *the Rotarian* magazine.

### Program:

The service project precluded a formal program, however, a small club contingent gathered at Blue Lab Brewery for a draft following the project and then proceeded to Niko's Grille for dinner.

### Memorial Day:

"As I came out of the supermarket that sunny day, pushing my cart of groceries towards my car, I saw an old man with the hood of his car up and a lady sitting inside the car, with the door open. The old man was looking at the engine. I put my groceries away in my car, and continued to watch the old gentleman from about twenty five feet away.

"I saw a young man in his early twenties with a grocery bag in his arm walking towards the old man. The old gentleman saw him coming too, and took a few steps towards him. I saw the old gentleman point to his open hood and say something. The young man put his grocery bag into what looked like a brand new Cadillac Escalade. He then turned back to the old man. I heard him yell at the old gentleman saying: 'You shouldn't even be allowed to drive a car at your age.' And then with a wave of his hand, he got in his car and peeled rubber out of the parking lot.

"I saw the old gentleman pull out his handkerchief, and mop his brow as he went back to his car and again looked at the engine. He then went to his wife and spoke with her; he appeared to tell her it would be okay. I had seen enough, and I approached the old man. He saw me coming and stood straight, and as I got near him I said, 'Looks like you're having a problem.' He smiled sheepishly, and quietly nodded his head. I looked under the hood myself, and knew that whatever the problem was, it was beyond me. Looking around, I saw a gas station up the road, and I told the old man that I would be right back. I drove to the station and went inside. I saw three attendants working on cars. I approached one of them, and related the problem the old man had with his car. I offered to pay them if they could follow me back down and help him.

"The old man had pushed the heavy car under the shade of a tree and appeared to be comforting his wife. When he saw us he straightened up and thanked me for my help. As the mechanics diagnosed the problem (overheated engine), I spoke with the old gentleman. When I shook hands

with him earlier, he had noticed my Marine Corps ring and had commented about it, telling me that he had been a Marine too. I nodded and asked the usual question, 'What outfit did you serve with?' He said that he served with the first Marine Division at Guadalcanal, Peleliu, and Okinawa. He had hit three of the worst ones, and retired from the Corps after the war was over. As we talked we heard the car engine come on and saw the mechanics lower the hood. They came over to us as the old man reached for his wallet, but was stopped by me. I told him I would just put the bill on my AAA card. He still reached for the wallet and handed me a card that I assumed had his name and address on it, and I stuck it in my pocket. We all shook hands all around again, and I said my goodbyes to his wife.

"I then told the two mechanics that I would follow them back up to the station. Once at the station, I told them that they had interrupted their own jobs to come along with me and help the old man. I said I wanted to pay for the help, but they refused to charge me. One of them pulled out a card from his pocket, looking exactly like the card the old man had given to me. Both of the men told me then that they were Marine Corps Reserves. Once again we shook hands all around and as I was leaving, one of them told me I should look at the card the old man had given to me. I said I would and drove off.

"For some reason I had gone about two blocks, when I pulled over and took the card out of my pocket and looked at it for a long, long time. The name of the old gentleman was on the card in golden leaf and under his name was written: 'Congressional Medal of Honor Society.' I sat there motionless, looking at the card and reading it over and over. I looked up from the card and smiled to no one but myself and marveled that on this day, four Marines had all come together because one of us needed help. He was an old man all right, but it felt good to have stood next to greatness and courage, and an honor to have been in his presence.

"Remember, as we approach another Memorial Day, OLD men like him gave you, and all of us, FREEDOM for America. Thanks to those who served and still serve, and to all of those who supported them, and who continue to support them." (Source unknown.)

#### **Happy Bucks:**

None tonight in view of the project and location.

#### **A Little Humor:**

My daughter wanted a Cinderella-themed party, so I invited all her friends over and made them clean my house.

#### **Future Programs & Activities:**

- May 26: Remove Flags from Veteran's Graves**
- May 27: "BARC's Broadband Initiative" by CEO Mike Keyser; RoD Jim Slack**
- Jun 03: Club Picnic at Jordans Point Pavilion**
- Jun 10: TBA**
- Jun 17: Rotary Service Project**
- Jun 24: "Outlook for the Future of Lexington" by City Manager Noah Simon, RoD Linda Krantz**
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May 27, 2015

Volume LXIX, Number 42

President Scott presided. Guests: Dot Fogo, Wally's Partner; Trevor Sayre of Boston, guest of mother Mary Sayre; Robert Sayre (no relation to Trevor), PDG in 1995-96 from District 7550 in Beckley, WV, a new resident of Kendal at Lexington and guest of Rae Carpenter; and our speaker, Mike Keyser. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 26 members and 4 guests for a total attendance of 30. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. President Scott thanked all members who were involved in placing flags on veteran's graves in local cemeteries on May 22<sup>nd</sup> and then picking them up on May 26<sup>th</sup> (in the rain, no less). 18 members were involved on May 22<sup>nd</sup>; number is unknown for the 26<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Kent McMichael for another stellar job.
2. PE Derek Carter announced that our Annual Club Picnic will be held next week, June 3<sup>rd</sup>, at the Rotary Pavilion in Jordon's Point Park in Lexington starting at 6:00 pm. Arrangements have been made for Effie Wallace and her crew to cater the affair – they always do a great job. Derek urged members to bring their entire families to the event. Sign-up sheets were circulated at the meeting. Either call Derek or email him if you were not present and plan to attend so he has a valid number of attendees to notify the caterer.
3. Chair Jim Slack announced that his RCHS Scholarship Committee had completed selection of the recipient, had notified RCHS, and Mary Sayre would announce the winner at Awards Night at the school next week.
4. AG Emily Higgions announced that a booth providing information about Rotary and its activities/services will be operated at Lexington Sunrise's Balloon Rally, our Community Festival, Mountain Days, and two more yet to be determined. All clubs in Area 6 (Buchanan, Buena Vista, Lexington, Lexington Sunrise, and Covington-Hot Springs) will assist in the booth.
5. Officers for the 2015-16 Rotary year will be installed at our meeting on July 1.
6. President Scott reminded us of the Rockbridge Community Festival scheduled for Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>.

## Minute for Rotary:

What will you say when someone asks, "What is Rotary?" How will you convey in your own words how Rotary helps you to **JOIN LEADERS, EXCHANGE IDEAS, and TAKE ACTION?** Here are some sample responses:

- *Rotary brings together people who step forward – leaders – who take on important issues for local communities everywhere.*
- *Rotary connects business and community leaders who discover and celebrate diverse perspectives to create positive change in our communities.*
- *Rotary is made up of people around the world working together to clean the environment, end polio, improve our communities, and accomplish many extraordinary things every single day.*

What would you say?

## Program:

RoD Jim Slack introduced Michael Keyser, CEO & General Manager of BARC Electric Cooperative, a rural electric cooperative serving 13,000 members across five Virginia counties. (Established in 1939, BARC stands for Bath, Alleghany, and Rockbridge Counties, however, they now also serve portions of Augusta and Highland counties.) Prior to joining BARC, Mr. Keyser spent four years as the CEO of the American Samoa Power Authority, a quasi-governmental utility located in

American Samoa, an island archipelago of the South Pacific. He holds an undergraduate degree in business from Washington State University and a law degree from Seattle University School of Law. Mike lives in Lexington with his wife, Kim, five-year-old son Emerson, and identical twin two-year-old daughters, Mia and Tessa.

Mr. Keyser spoke on a program called BARCONNECTS, aimed at bringing affordable high-speed internet into their service area. "Our project will bring lightning fast fiber-optic Internet directly to your home or business. In addition, we will provide telephone and cable television services over our fiber. The first phase of the project encompasses 325 miles, with the capability of connecting over 4,000 homes and businesses in Rockbridge and Lexington.

"But we need your support! In order to move this project to construction, we need to register 1,550 backers. Once we've reached that goal, it will be full steam ahead building out the fiber network. We are not asking for a financial commitment, but simply an expression of interest in taking our service.

"In exchange for becoming a backer, you will receive a free fiber connection to your home/business when the project proceeds - a \$1,700 value (provided you pay for a monthly service package). Customers who do not pre-register will be required to pay to receive a fiber drop once the project proceeds. In other words, it definitely pays to become a backer!

"The future of high-speed Internet is now before us. You have an opportunity to make a real difference, not only for yourself, but for your community's future. Become a backer and help make lightning-fast Internet a reality. Tell your family, tell your friends, and tell your coworkers to go to BARC if you want broadband!" See more at: <http://barc.crowdfiber.com/#sthash.fztcPeA.dpuf>.

During Q&A, Mike was asked about BARC's Community Solar program and mentioned that it was approved at the Rockbridge Board of Supervisors meeting the previous evening. More info @ <http://barcelectric.com/announcements/help-support-community-solar>.

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Skip Ravenhorst was happy to endorse BARCONNECTS so he could afford a high speed connection and get his son-in-law off his back for his slow DSL; was happy to see former neighbor Trevor; and was happy that Emily said he could still use her elevator (?) since his building had none.
- Mary Sayre was happy to commend Derek for identifying and placing flags on veteran's graves that were missed earlier by other members.
- Emily Higgins congratulated our speaker on a fine presentation and happily noted that guest Robert Sayre was from her hometown of Beckley.
- Derek Carter was happy to donate for his bad joke earlier (?); he congratulated Michelle Jones as the force behind the article that appeared in the News-Gazettes on the library project and promises she will do many more articles like that; he also contributed in honor of good friend Mike Keyser and his company's great project and his great presentation to the Board of Supervisors, and also because Mike beats him in one-on-one b-ball.
- Joe Milo was happy to mention that it was a pleasure to deal with BARC because when he calls he speaks to a human being, not some recorded automaton.
- Betty McMichael was happy to point out that she was a BARC customer in both Rockbridge and Bath counties and urged all members to sign up for the high-speed internet service.
- Linda Krantz was happy to say she had signed up and asked how many of us had not done so.
- Chip Honsinger was happy with the Memorial Day program on Monday; he pointed out that our own Michelle Jones participated and outlined how many veteran volunteers provide patient care for veteran patients in Hospice care; and that our own Skip Ravenhorst was the architect on the memorial installation on the old courthouse lawn.

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries in June:**

Happy Birthdat to: Bill Stearns on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Emily Higgins on the 5<sup>th</sup>; Laura Evans and Scott Sayre on the 7<sup>th</sup>; June Jeffries on the 14<sup>th</sup>; Paul Barron on the 18<sup>th</sup>; Linda Krantz on the 19<sup>th</sup>; and Dick Minnix and Scott Risser on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Anniversary to: Gabriella and Allan Somerville Brown on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Melou and George Piegari on the 10<sup>th</sup>; and Alice and John Furgerson on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

**Pot:**

Skip Ravenhorst won the raffle but not the big pot which now totals \$317.00.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

- Jun 03: Club Picnic at Jordans Point Pavilion**
- Jun 10: "Operation Torch: The Invasion of North Africa by Allied Troops, 1942" by Joe Pagnam**
- Jun 17: Rotary Service Project**
- Jun 24: "Outlook for the Future of Lexington" by City Manager Noah Simon, RoD Linda Krantz**
- Aug 18: Joint Meeting with Kerrs Creek Ruritan Club: 7:00 PM at New Monmouth Presbyterian Church; RoD Derek Carter**
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