



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1062

**89th YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"**  
Web Site: <http://www.lexingtonvarotary.org>

**October 02, 2013**

**Volume LXVIII, Number 13**

President Emily presided. Guests: Denise Boucher, Business Applications Analyst for American Tower Corporation, was the guest of Jana Shearer; Heather Branstetter, who is teaching rhetoric and composition at VMI this year, was the guest of Joe Milo; Betsy Lee and Lai Lee, Partners in High Meadow Strategies, were the guests of neighbor Mary Sayre; and Ann and Jerry Nay, our speaker. Visiting Rotarians: none. Attendance: 23 members and 6 guests for a total of 29. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## **Announcements and Business:**

1. Make your plans now to attend our Annual Steak Cook-Out at the home of Emily and Mike Higgins on October 9<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm. This will be a Partners/Guest night; attendance is limited to adults. **Our club will provide the steaks and non-alcoholic drinks. Members are asked to bring a vegetable, salad, or dessert that would feed at least 6-8 people. In order to ensure a proper mix of dishes, Food Coordinator Betty McMichael has made the following assignments:**

**Last name beginning A – G: Bring a salad;**  
**Last name beginning H – M: Bring a vegetable;**  
**Last name beginning N – V: Bring a dessert.**

Those who want beer or wine should bring it with them. **Everyone also needs to bring his/her own silverware (including steak knives) and serving spoons. Steaks are expensive, so please call President Emily ASAP (463-3274) to let her know you plan to attend (or not) if you did not sign up at our last meeting; she needs an accurate count in order to purchase the proper number of steaks.**

2. **Directions to the Higgins Farm:**

### **From Rt 11, Lexington and South:**

- Take Rt 11 N towards Fairfield
- After passing the I-81 Interchange just past the Lee-Hi Truck Stop, continue on Rt 11N for approximately 3 miles.
- After passing Rt 714 (Mackey's Lane) on the right, continue North to the 2<sup>nd</sup> crossover on the left.
- Take this crossover, and head back towards Lexington, just a tiny bit.
- Turn right at 4651 N. Lee Highway and continue to the top of the ridge. We should have a big, blue arrow in place at the bottom of our driveway.
- Parking will be marked at the house.

### **From Rt 11 north of Fairfield:**

- Stay on Rt 11 S through the 'burg of Fairfield.
- Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> right after Decatur Road, and go up to the top of the ridge.

### **From I-81:**

- Take Exit 200, and head towards Fairfield.
- Turn right onto Rt 11 S through the 'burg of Fairfield.
- Take the 2<sup>nd</sup> right after Decatur Road, and go up to the top of the ridge.

**If confused, please call the Higgins at 463-3274. They'll send someone after you! Bon Appetit!**

3. Josie McElroy announced that she had been so inspired by our *Rotarian* magazine that she was looking into possible medical mission trips for the future.
4. President Emily reported that it rained on the Hospice Hustle so most members who signed up to participate didn't show up, but that wasn't the point. Derek Carter showed up with an

- entourage of 7; Julie Goyette and her son also came. Hospice President Dick Halseth complemented our club's involvement in the Hustle.
5. President Emily also reported that she attended a meeting of the RCHS Interact Club today. That group will do a fundraiser for PolioPlus later.
  6. PAG Betty McMichael reported on the Highway Cleanup held last Saturday:
    - Betty led Team North that picked up trash on all 4 ramps at the intersection of Route 11N and I-81 at Timber Ridge. Volunteers included Ed Claiborn, Ed Jefferies, Scott Risser, Bill Lowe, and Kent McMichael. They worked 2.5 hours and collected 12 bags of trash.
    - Skip Ravenhorst led Team South that was to 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. Only Linda Krantz and John Tucker showed up to help so they worked 2.5 hours, picked up 6 bags of trash and stopped work when about half done. Skip plans to finish the job starting at 9:00 am on Saturday, October 12. **Contact Skip directly at (ravnhrst@rockbridge.net) to volunteer.** Remember to wear sturdy shoes and bring gloves. And remember, according to Skip you get to keep anything you find! The make-up event will be rescheduled if it is raining hard enough that you need to activate your windshield wipers on your vehicle.
  7. At our meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>, President Emily announced incentives for recruitment of new club members. Part of a Strategic Membership Plan to be sent in a separate communication, one incentive is to provide a free meal to any member that brings a prospect to a meeting in October, except for the Steak Cook-Out. The second is that a basket of libations will be given to that member who brings the most new prospects to our October meetings. So put on your thinking cap and invite your friends and/or neighbors to join us in "Service Above Self." Remember, you should have the prospect approved **BEFORE** bringing them to a meeting!

### **Minute for Rotary:**

President Emily: Last year, Kroger launched a pilot program with Feeding America Southwest Virginia, based in Salem, to distribute nonperishable goods not purchased in its stores to the food banks.

Kroger is donating the nonperishable goods and using the same level of sophisticated supply chain management that the company is using across its 2,400 stores and with its existing perishable donation program. With the success of the pilot program in the Roanoke Valley, Kroger has expanded the program to 12 food banks across the country. More than 8 million items worth more than \$14.3 million have been sent directly to the food banks. Kroger's program has sent more than \$1,245,000 worth of goods to southwest Virginia since April, 2012.

### **Program:**

ROD Chip Honsinger introduced our speaker, Jerry Nay: Jerry grew up in Michigan, where he was an All-American high school swimmer. He was a star swimmer at the U.S. Naval Academy, from which he graduated in 1955. He was commissioned into the Air Force and later flew more than 500 combat missions over Vietnam. He advanced to the rank of colonel and moved with wife Ann and family to Lexington in 1975 to become the commanding officer of the Air Force ROTC Unit at VMI. In 1976 he joined our Rotary club and soon inaugurated the Rockbridge Community Festival, the first of which he directed in 1977 and secondly in 1978. Jerry is a Paul Harris Fellow and wore his medal to our meeting. He has a long list of civic and charitable service activities in Lexington. He is now the Director of Marketing for his daughter's Lexington business Books & Company... Toys, Too! About five years ago Jerry founded the Lexington Police Department Foundation, of which he has been and is the president and CEO.

Back as far as 2008, Jerry realized that our local police department had a bad reputation – perception and reality were far apart. After researching police foundations in the area, he suggested establishing such and no one objected. So the Lexington Police Department Foundation (LPDF) was established with a 25-person board of directors. It consists of 12 local citizens with the remainder made up of representatives of local groups: VMI, W&L, elected

politicians, attorneys, clergy, etc. Financial support is provided by donations with sizeable annual contributions from VMI (\$10K) and W&L (\$6K).

So far the group has concentrated on: improving morale by, for example, holding an annual awards dinner; purchasing equipment not provided by the city (e.g., tactical vests, and leather jackets); and supporting additional education through grants to individual officers.

Jerry concluded by promising to return in the future with several proposals our club may want to consider supporting.

#### **Brief Summary of Board of Director Actions:**

- Approved extending leave of absence for Julia Van de Water to 12/31/2013.
- Accepted the Resignation of Steve Presti because of family illness.
- Approved the Evergreen Cemetery project (repair of Veteran markers and stones); Kent McMichael is the lead on the project.
- Formed an Ad Hoc committee to study the feasibility of an International Festival.
- The Board will act as a search committee to seek a new President-Elect to replace Steve Presti.

More information will be forthcoming at our next regular meeting.

#### **Happy Bucks:**

- Betty McMichaels was happy to point out to our speaker that Captain Bucky Miller of the LPD is a PHF awarded by our club; also she complemented our club on its improved rendition of "God Bless America" at the beginning of our meeting (Kate Smith would be proud); and also complemented her "Team" on the recent highway cleanup.
- Linda Krantz was happy to report that she had a wonderful time on highway cleanup, as usual; she was also happy that she found a pair of black shorts that completed a set with her earlier find of a grey tee shirt and promised to kept quiet if the owner would contact her and grease her palm with an appropriate amount of cash.
- Chip Honsinger was happy to be back from an extended trip to the Northeast, sightseeing and visiting friends; while away, Mary had another grandchild born and Chip had another great grandchild born so that, between them, they now have 7 children, 15 grandchildren, and 5 great grandchildren.
- Dick Minnix was happy to relate to the club that Jerry Nay was a mover/shaker: not only one of the prime organizers of what became the Rockbridge Community Festival but also the Bonnie Blue National Horse Show that our club operated for 10 years but eventually sold to the Virginia Horse Center because of our very uneven results with it.
- Emily Higgins was happy that she got to spend the last week with her grandchildren in Northern Virginia and rode the train from Washington to Charlottesville.
- Mary Sayre recalled that she invited Jerry's grandson, Dylan, to her son's Eagle Scout ceremony and hoped that it inspired him toward later becoming an Eagle himself; and yesterday she celebrated the anniversary of her 36<sup>th</sup> birthday with a fabulous dinner prepared by her daughter.
- Jerry Nay was happy to donate in honor of the students at Lylburn Downing: they observe Veteran's Day by interviewing veterans of WWII to learn about their wartime experiences.
- Mary Honsinger was happy to report that she actually rode a ferry out to the Statue of Liberty on their recent trip and visited it and the museum there for the first time.
- Jana Shearer was happy to report that her best friend from high school had a new baby last Monday and she planned to take her new baby for a visit next weekend so the new borns could grow up together too.
- John Tucker noted that Linda failed to report that she made a profit of 2¢ picking up trash on Saturday; his own treasure from that event was a stainless steel fork from the Community Hospital of Roanoke Valley.
- Scott Risser was happy to commend again Derek Carter and Max Ivankov for their "yeoman efforts" on behalf of the RCF - a long commitment, and a lot of fun, but a pain in the keister.

- Joe Milo was happy to have Heather at our meeting tonight and wanted to put members on notice to begin to rack their brains for stories to relate at our “Joke Night,” a PolioPlus fund raiser scheduled for October 23rd.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries in October:**

Happy Birthday to: Mary Sayre and George Piegari on the 1<sup>st</sup>; Joe Milo on the 4<sup>th</sup>; David Krantz on the 7<sup>th</sup>; Marian Minnix on the 11<sup>th</sup>; Derek Carter on the 17<sup>th</sup>; Donna Pagnum on the 20<sup>th</sup>; and Jim Slack on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

Happy Anniversary to Debbie and Paul Barron on the 8th.

**Pot:**

Scott Risser won the raffle but not the BIG pot that now totals \$157.50.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Oct 09: Annual Steak Cookout at the Home of President Emily**

**Oct 16: My Experience as a POW by Col. Al Tucker, Ed Claiborn**

**Oct 23: PolioPlus Fund Raiser**

**Oct 30: “Single Parenting” by Art Goldsmith, Allan Somerville Brown**

**END**



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October 09, 2013

Volume LXVIII, Number 14

This was our Annual Steak Cookout at the Higgins Estate in Rockbridge County, south of Fairfield, just off Route 11. Our club provided the steaks and members and Partners brought pot luck for a delicious meal. Most also brought a bottle of wine or some beer to share that increased our enjoyment. Attendance: 20 members, and 8 Partners for a total of 28.

## Announcements and Business:

1. Our sympathy goes out to Past-President Mary and Partner Scott Sayre upon the loss of his father, Robert E. Sayre, who passed away on Wednesday, October 9<sup>th</sup>. The visitation will be on Sunday from 5-7 pm at McDow Funeral Home in Waynesboro; a graveside service will be held on Monday at 10 am at Riverview cemetery in Waynesboro. In lieu of flowers donations can be made to either Mission Presbyterian Church, 364 Bridge Avenue, Waynesboro, VA 22989, or Hospice of the Shenandoah, 64 Sports Medicine Drive, Fishersville, VA 22939.
2. Skip Ravenhorst's Team South plans to finish their highway clean-up on Saturday, October 12, beginning at 9:00 am. Go on out on route 11 South of Lexington and join them in completing the job. Contact Skip beforehand to let him know you're coming.
3. Rotary's Beginnings: Gustavus Loehr, one of Rotary's four founding fathers, was born in 1864. Loehr hosted the first Rotary meeting in his downtown Chicago office on February 23, 1905. (From the October issue of *the Rotarian* magazine.)
4. October is Vocational Service Month. Go to [www.ideas.rotary.org](http://www.ideas.rotary.org) to find a club project in need of your skills.
5. At our meeting on September 18<sup>th</sup>, President Emily announced incentives for recruitment of new club members. Part of a Strategic Membership Plan, one incentive is to provide a free meal to any member that brings a prospect to a meeting in October. The second is that a basket of libations will be given to that member who brings the most new prospects to our October meetings. So put on your thinking cap and invite your friends and/or neighbors to join us in "Service Above Self." Remember, you should have the prospect approved **BEFORE** bringing them to a meeting!

## Program:

None, just good food, fun, and fellowship. In your editor's opinion, this event continues to be the highlight of our Rotary year. Emily got a great buy on steaks and Partner Michael and Kent McMichael did a great job with them on the grill. Food coordinator Betty McMichael made sure we had a variety of delectable pot luck by assigning responsibility for salads, veggies, and desserts. And a few bottles of wine and beer and other spirits did not hurt.

The turnout was not as good as hoped – only 20 members attended. We need to improve our attendance, not only for this event, but at our regular meetings.

Special thanks to our gracious hosts - Emily and Mike Higgins – and our chefs, Mike and Kent, and all who helped out. The Higgins "Estate" just South of Fairfield was perfect for the event although your editor and Secretary and Partners had difficulty finding it. Even in the bad weather, the view from their home is spectacular, and Emily promises only a slight charge for those who wish to come out and enjoy it.

## Pot:

No raffle sales and drawing tonight, so the BIG pot remains at \$157.50.

**A Retiree's Last Trip to Kroger:**

Yesterday I was at my local Kroger's buying a large bag of Purina Dog Chow for my loyal pet, Jake, the Wonder Dog, and was in the check-out line when a woman behind me asked if I had a dog. What did she think...I had an elephant?

So because I'm retired and have little to do, on impulse I told her that no, I didn't have a dog, I was starting the Purina Diet again. I added that I probably shouldn't, because I ended up in the hospital last time, but that I'd lost 50 pounds before I awakened in an intensive care ward with tubes coming out of most of my orifices and IVs in both arms.

I told her that it was essentially a perfect diet and that the way that it works is, to load your pants pockets with Purina Nuggets and simply eat one or two every time you feel hungry. The food is nutritionally complete so it works well and I was going to try it again. (I have to mention here that practically everyone in line was now enthralled with my story.)

Horrified, she asked if I ended up in intensive care because the dog food poisoned me. I told her no, I stopped to pee on a fire hydrant and a car hit me. I thought the guy behind her was going to have a heart attack he was laughing so hard.

Kroger's won't let me shop there anymore. Better watch what you ask retired people. They have all the time in the world to think of crazy things to say.

**Happy Hour:**

A neutron walks into a bar and orders a drink. The bartender says it will be free – NO CHARGE!!!!

**Future Programs & Activities:**

- Oct 16: My Experience as a POW by Col. Al Tucker, Ed Claiborn**
- Oct 23: PolioPlus Fund Raiser**
- Oct 30: "Single Parenting" by Art Goldsmith, Allan Somerville Brown**

**END**



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**October 16, 2013**

**Volume LXVIII, Number 15**

President Emily presided. Guests: Susan Barger, Partner of Chuck; Heather Branstetter, guest of Joe Milo; and our speaker, Colonel A. S. J. Tucker. Visiting Rotarians: none. Attendance: 26 members, and 3 guests for a total of 29.

## **Announcements and Business:**

1. President Emily thanked all who came out for the Annual Steak Cook-Out held at her home last week. All members applauded her and Mike's gracious hosting.
2. Skip Ravenhorst's Team South finished their highway clean-up last Saturday, October 12. Seven persons showed up: Skip Ravenhorst (Captain), Heather Branstetter (prospective member), Linda Krantz, Betty McMichael, Kent McMichael, Kent's granddaughter, and John Tucker. They picked up 8 bags of trash. They also experienced a little drama. John Tucker apparently dropped about 8 feet onto his feet into an unmarked creek, and then fell backwards hitting his head on something under the culvert. John doesn't recall whether he blacked out but Skip said he was still picking up trash as he crawled out of the culvert. Skip insisted on calling 911 and, after preliminary treatment on the scene, John was transported to the ER at Stonewall Jackson Hospital. After treatment was delayed because other patients were deemed more serious, John was released after more than 2 hours with 7 stitches in his scalp. Like a good Captain, Skip stayed with John all the way and drove him home.
3. President Emily noted that October is Vocational Service Month. She feels that our emphasis on high ethical standards in all we do sets us apart from other service organizations.
4. With Julia Van de Water on leave of absence for the remainder of the year, President Emily asked for volunteers to take over Julia's assignments this holiday season. Josie McElroy volunteered to host our Club Christmas Social at her home on December 18 and Betty McMichael volunteered to coordinate our club's delivery of Christmas baskets on December 21.
5. Next week's meeting will be Joke Night as a fund raiser for PolioPlus. Joe Milo will be our host. He promises a \$5 fine for any member who does not have a joke to contribute.
6. A brief board meeting was held immediately following our regular meeting.

## **Minute for Rotary:**

Allan Somerville Brown: Friends from the UK visited with us over the past 4 weeks. We took them to numerous interesting sites including the W&L Library archives where my friend pursued his particular interest in WWI history. We learned that, as early as 1915, before US entry into the war, US citizens were being recruited for the American Ambulance Corps to help with the wounded in France. 45 W&L students were chosen from 75 volunteers for this purpose and were sent to PA for training. I was particularly interested to learn that a Rotary Club looked after these volunteers while undergoing training.

## **Program:**

ROD Ed Claiborn introduced his good friend Colonel Al Tucker (USAFret) as our speaker. Al Tucker is effectively a native of Rockbridge County, although he was born in Kentucky as his parents were enroute to a military assignment in California. Ed Claiborn related that when he Googled Colonel Al Tucker, he learned that his subject was awarded the Silver Star for service in the First World War! That was Al's father!

Our speaker matriculated at West Point in the Class of 1944, but classes were accelerated during WWII, so Al graduated with the Class of 1943. Additionally, he won his wings as a pilot in the Army Air Corps. After commissioning, Al and some of his classmates were assigned directly to fighter training in the famous P-38 Lightning aircraft. Soon after, they found themselves in

England, flying missions in support of the D-Day invasion. So Colonel Al Tucker's flying career began many years ago, but it continues today. He recently observed his 92nd birthday by flying a classic Stearman biplane.

Colonel Tucker began by pointing out that he was not a decorated war hero – he was shot down on his 22<sup>nd</sup> mission before he had even fired his plane's guns and spent almost a year in German Camp Stalag Luft 1 as a POW. It was operated by the Luftwaffe and by war's end housed almost 12K men. Escape was by means of tunnels dug by inmates. 42 men went out in one breakout but were recaptured and placed in solitary confinement. He said he was not mistreated by camp guards, possibly because the guards were all wounded men back from the Eastern front.

He was liberated from camp by a former classmate by stowing away on a B-17 with 20 other inmates being returned to England. There he encountered other classmates, mostly Majors while he was still a lowly Lieutenant. He said, "You apparently went up in rank fast if you weren't shot down." He saw a P-51 Mustang at this base and his classmate allowed him to fly it for over an hour. During the flight, he "shot down" a big haystack (it was on fire after one burst) while trying out a new gunsight. He said he didn't realize the guns were loaded. Anyway, upon return to base, the plane's crew chief cleaned the plane up and reloaded the guns so those in authority never knew. He said he probably avoided a court martial through the crew chief's action.

Various club members thanked Colonel Tucker for his service to our country. He concluded by reading a prayer – most appropriate in these chaotic times.

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

Our Board of Directors has approved the following as a prospective new member:

**Heather Branstetter.** Classification: College English. A graduate of the University of Idaho (UI), Heather is a new faculty member at VMI having previously taught at UNC, Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University. Sponsor: Joe Milo. She was President of the UI Rotaract Club (2001-2003) and participated in a Youth Exchange with India through the Moscow, ID, Rotary Club in 2003. (Heather even came out and helped Skip's Team complete the highway clean-up last Saturday.) She is living at 80 Jacob's Ladder, Lexington, and can be reached at 464-7057 (B) or 919-616-5011 (H).

Any member who objects to offering membership to Heather should submit their reason(s) in writing to Secretary John within 7 days of receipt of this Bulletin.

### **Happy Bucks:**

(Note: Recently, your editor has been assisted significantly with this section by members recording this part of our meeting on their iPhone. This has proved so successful your editor has ceased taking notes for this segment. Unfortunately, the iPhone stopped recording after about half of the comments tonight so only those parts remembered are included here. Sorry.)

- Bill Stearns was happy to commend Emily and Mike for the "great time" at their home last week and hopes we'll have an even better turnout for this event in the future.
- Scott Risser was happy on multiple counts: for Colonel Tucker's service to our country; for Emily and Mike's service to our club; and for Nick who has learned how to park.
- Joe Milo was happy to commend Colonel Tucker and included his grandson, Marty, a VMI graduate who is now a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant in the USA.
- Derek Carter was also happy on multiple counts: for Colonel Tucker, for Emily and Mike, and because he hits the BIG 40 tomorrow.
- Dick Minnix was happy to stand and let Derek see what he has to look forward to in the future since he hit the BIG 80 back in June.
- Skip Ravenhorst was happy to conclude the Highway Clean-Up on Route 11S without any further drama eventhough it was memorable to see John climbing out of the culvert, covered with blood, but still picking up the trash he fell in over.

**Pot:**

Mary Honsinger won the raffle but not the BIG pot which now totals \$181.00.

**What's in a Name?**

The Washington Redskins have decided to drop "Washington" from their name because they find it embarrassing.

**Old is Great:**

An old Woman was asked: "At your ripe age, what would you prefer to get: Parkinsons or Alzheimers?"

The wise one answered, "Definitely Parkinsons - Better to spill half my wine than to forget where I keep the bottle."

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Oct 23: Joke Night – PolioPlus Fund Raiser, Joe Milo**

**Oct 30: "Single Parenting" by Art Goldsmith, Allan Somerville Brown**

**Nov 06: RCHS Interact Club, Emily Higgins**

**Nov 13: TBA, Derek Carter**

**Nov 20: Club Assembly, President Emily**

**Nov 27: THANKSGIVING EVE; No meeting**

**END**



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October 23, 2013

Volume LXVIII, Number 16

President Emily presided. Guests: Landry and Becky Patton, owners of Abigail House Bed and Breakfast on Main Street in Lexington. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 27 members and 2 guests for a total of 29.

## Announcements and Business:

1. President Emily is very pleased that everyone is thinking Membership this month. "Thanks for being so thoughtful and diligent on building our club."
2. As winter approaches, it seems prudent to review our club's cancellation policy for regular meetings due to inclement weather. "If Lexington City Schools have called off school for the day, our club will not meet." This has only happened once in recent memory, but it's important to keep in the back of your mind to preclude 30 + phone calls to our president.
3. Dick Minnix announced that Anne Tucker, Partner of Secretary/Treasurer John, has been in Roanoke Memorial Hospital since late on Monday. Tests are still being done to determine the exact nature of her difficulty. Our thoughts and prayers are extended to Anne and John.
4. A very short Board of Directors meeting was held immediately after the conclusion of tonight's regular meeting.
5. Rotary Scoreboard: (as reported in *the Rotarian* magazine for October 2013)  
Worldwide: Rotarians 1,220,115; Rotary Clubs 34,558  
District 7570: 14 areas; 83 clubs; 3535 members; avg attendance – 68.7%

## Minute for Rotary:

President Emily: The Rotary Foundation earned a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, the largest and most prestigious independent evaluator of nonprofits in the United States. The 4-star rating, the highest that Charity Navigator awards, recognizes sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency. Charity Navigator evaluates thousands of nonprofits each year, and only one of four earns 4 stars. This year's top distinction marks the Foundation's sixth straight, placing it in the top 3 percent of U.S.-based charities.

## Program:

ROD Joe Milo, red bow tie and all, hosted Joke Night, a fund raiser for PolioPlus.

All members were afforded one free joke but had to pay \$5 for each additional joke. In addition, any member who failed to offer a joke was fined \$5.

As you might expect, the offerings were diverse – some quite funny and others not so good. Members voted for a particular joke by contributing, \$1 for each vote. Linda Krantz and Skip Ravenhorst ran a close race throughout the evening but Skip prevailed in the end. No word from Joe on what Skip gets for winning.

Treasurer John should soon have a report on how much money was raised for PolioPlus.

## Approval of Prospective New Member:

Our Board of Directors has approved the following as a prospective new member:

**Kyra Swanson.** Classification: University Museums. Kyra is employed at the Reeves Center at W&L. The Reeves Center displays W&L's ceramics collection and houses the paintings of Louise Herreshoff Reeves (1876-1967) and a Japanese tea room. Sponsor: Mary Honsinger.

Any member who objects to offering membership to Kyra should submit their reason(s) in writing to Secretary John within 7 days of receipt of this Bulletin.

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Betty McMichael was happy to bring us up to date on Lynn Gilbert: after successfully competing in the Mongol Derby, several weeks later she went down to NC to compete in a 50-mile endurance ride; riding in the rain, her own horse slipped and fell on her breaking her leg in two places and crushing her ankle; Lynn came by Betty's office this week and was mobile and said the doctors were cautiously optimistic she would be able to resume her normal life; also, one of Betty's co-workers drove past her while she was picking up trash last Saturday and told his sons that was the kind of community service you had to do as punishment when caught doing something wrong.
- Jim Slack was happy to be back after three weeks overseas, especially to wake up in his own bed each morning, to have a nice shower, and to have a toilet into which he could put toilet paper.
- Derek Carter was happy to report that his parents, brother, and sister all came to town last week to help him celebrate his 40<sup>th</sup> birthday. (It's all downhill now, Derek!).
- Scott Risser was happy that Max did not have a third joke to share.

### **One Left Out Last Week (Maybe Just as Well):**

A large group of Iraqi soldiers are moving down a road when they hear a voice call from behind a sand dune "One VMI man is better than ten Iraqi " The Iraqi commander quickly orders 10 of his best men over the dune whereupon a gun-battle breaks out and continues for a few minutes, then silence.

The voice once again calls out "One VMI man soldier is better than fifty Iraqi " Furious, the Iraqi commander sends his next best 50 troops over the dune and instantly a huge gun fight commences. After 10 minutes of battle, again silence. The voice calls out again "One VMI man is better than one hundred Iraqi." The enraged Iraqi commander musters 100 fighters and sends them to the other side of the dune. Rifle fire, machine guns, grenades, rockets and cannon fire ring out as a terrible battle is fought. Then silence.

Eventually one badly wounded Iraqi fighter crawls back over the dune and with his dying words tells his commander, "Don't send any more men, it's a trap. There's two of them"

### **Pot:**

Scott Risser won the raffle but not the BIG pot which now totals \$201.00.

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

- Oct 30: "Traumatized Youths and Schooling" by Dr. Art Goldsmith, Allan Somerville Brown**
- Nov 01: Rotary Leadership Institute in Harrisonburg**
- Nov 06: RCHS Interact Club, Emily Higgins**
- Nov 13: TBA, Derek Carter**
- Nov 20: Club Assembly, President Emily**
- Nov 27: THANKSGIVING EVE; NO MEETING**

**END**



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**October 30, 2013**

**Volume LXVIII, Number 17**

President Emily presided. Guests: Jerome Musole, with Heatex America of Natural Bridge Station; and our speaker, Dr. Art Goldsmith. Visiting Rotarians: Ulf Ambjornson, also with Heatex America, and a member of the Belleair Rotary Club of Clearwater, FL. Attendance: 22 members; 1 visiting Rotarian; and 2 guests for a total of 25. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## **Announcements and Business:**

1. Dick Minnix announced that Anne Tucker, Partner of Secretary/Treasurer John, was back in Lexington and ensconced in the Borden Center at Kendal. No direct cause has been determined for her profuse bleeding; it has, however, been determined that her potassium level is low so she must eat more bananas. She is still weak although her spirits are high – she asked John to bring their cat for a visit. She is in room 403 and would probably welcome a visit or card.
2. President Emily reported that Julie Goyette, newly appointed Director of the Rockbridge Regional Library who was inducted as a new member on August 21, was undergoing a hip replacement recently and suffered a heart attack on the operating table. No other details available at this time. Our thoughts and prayers are with Julie and her family at this trying time.
3. As provided by our By-Laws, our Board of Directors has appointed Scott Risser to fill the position of President-Elect for the 2014-15 Rotary year. Scott had been President-Nominee; he fills the vacancy created when Steve Presti resigned recently because of family illness.
4. RODs are needed for January and February to secure programs for our meetings during those times. See President Emily to volunteer.
5. S/T John thanked Rae and Dick and other friends for providing needed transportation to Roanoke while Partner Anne was hospitalized. (John has eye problems which prevent his driving.)

## **Program:**

ROD Allan Somerville Brown introduced Dr. Arthur Goldsmith, Jackson T. Stephens Professor of Economics in the Williams School at W&L University. Professor Goldsmith spoke to us about a study he and three other colleagues has done on "Traumatized Youth and Schooling."

He began with the observation that maltreatment of children is prevalent. Specifically, in childhood there is sexual abuse and physical violence. He defined these as traumatic victimization which makes high school completion problematic. This is illustrated by the following statistics:

- Over 20 million people in the U.S. age 25-65 do not have at least a high school credential.
- Every day in the U.S. 7000 students dropout.
- Only 75% of students graduate on time: 55% of Latinos and 51% of Black students.

These lead to the question of whether there is a link between traumatic victimization during childhood and completion of high school. Why might childhood traumatic victimization deter schooling? It damages mental health and generates persistent stress which compromises performance of the mind. Little is known on this topic so he and his colleagues launched a search of data bases. They were interested in estimating the impact of sexual assault and other forms of violence (both home and community) on high school completion.

Brief results of the study for:

- Females: Sexual trauma, by itself, does not impact completion of high school.  
Violence trauma (assault), by itself, leads to a 6% increase in the probability of dropping out.
- Males: Sexual trauma, by itself, leads to a 5.9% increase in the probability of dropping out.  
Violence, by itself, has no significant impact on the probability of dropping out.  
Combination of Sexual and Violence trauma together leads to an 8.7% increase in the probability of dropping out, a 47% increase.

- Conclusions:
1. Preventing female youths from being subject to violence trauma will aid them in completing high school.
  2. Preventing male youths from being subject to multiple forms of trauma will aid them in completing high school.
  3. There are adverse mental health consequences for female and male youths from trauma victimization.

### **Installation of New Member:**

Membership Chair Chip Honsinger installed the following new member:

**Heather Branstetter.** Classification: College English/Rhetoric. A graduate of the University of Idaho (UI), Heather is a new faculty member at VMI having previously taught at UNC, Chapel Hill, and Wake Forest University. Sponsor: Joe Milo. She was President of the UI Rotaract Club (2001-2003) and participated in a Youth Exchange with India through the Moscow, ID, Rotary Club in 2003. She is living at 80 Jacob's Ladder, Lexington, and can be reached at 464-7057 (B) or 919-616-5011 (H) and findheatherlee@gmail.com.

In view of our new members' past involvement, Chip concluded the installation by reviewing the history of Interact and Rotaract.

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

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Nick Cuzzimano reported happily that although Bill Lowe was rushed to the hospital last evening, it proved to be a false alarm and he is back teaching calculus today.
- Max Ivankov was happy to thank our speaker for his Econ 102 course he took at W&L which led to his going to Wall Street and then landing his first job in Washington in social economic research where he delved into socio-economic issues.
- Joe Milo was happy with members' forbearance with the joke ordeal last week and asked those who thought it was the dumbest idea ever heard or had thoughts for improvement to communicate them to him or a Board member.
- Our speaker was happy to thank our club for all the beautiful community service we do and welcome our new colleague.
- Mary Sayre was happy to welcome Heather as a new member and our two guests whose names she would not attempt to pronounce but sure enjoyed their accents.
- Heather Branstetter was happy to be accepted as a new member.
- Ed Claiborn was happy to thank Heather for doubling the number of Idahoans in the room; he also recognized the UI football team for holding Missouri to 55 points last week and looks forward to this week's encounter with Florida State.
- Scott Risser was happy to endorse last week's joke extravaganza – it was a lot of fun and he looks forward to doing it again.
- Emily Higgins was happy to recall that she told her children never to call on her cell phone unless it was an emergency; and then her son called after taking his econometrics exam in college and told her to tell the RCHS teacher of Econ to never recommend majoring in Economics to anyone.
- Josie McElroy was happy to tell Joe that she really enjoyed last week's program – it was a lot of fun and she now has many jokes to tell her friends.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries in November:**

Happy Birthday to Frances Grist on the 1<sup>st</sup>; Betty McMichael on the 2<sup>nd</sup>; Mary Honsinger on the 15<sup>th</sup>; Allan Somerville Brown on the 22<sup>nd</sup>; Barbara Risser on the 25<sup>th</sup>; Nancy Cuzzimano on the 26<sup>th</sup>; and Maryann Fleming on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Surprisingly, there are no anniversaries in November.

**Pot:**

Rae Carpenter won the raffle but not the BIG pot which now totals \$217.00.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Nov 01: Rotary Leadership Institute in Harrisonburg**

**Nov 06: RCHS Interact Club, Emily Higgins**

**Nov 13: TBA, Derek Carter**

**Nov 20: Club Assembly, President Emily**

**Nov 27: THANKSGIVING EVE; NO MEETING**

**END**



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1062

89th YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

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

**November 06, 2013**

**Volume LXVIII, Number 18**

Past-President Mary Sayre presided in the absence of President Emily. Guests: Kyra Swanson, guest of Chip Honsinger; Sarah Leadbetter, RCHS teacher and Sponsor of the Interact Club; and our Interact speakers, Harry Crossman and Mason Grist. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 23 members; and 4 guests for a total of 27. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## **Announcements and Business:**

1. Please disregard last week's tragic report on the illness of Julie Goyette, newly appointed Director of the Rockbridge Regional Library who was inducted as a new member on August 21. It was her father who underwent the heart attack, not Julie. We wish him a speedy recovery and return to normal life.
2. We need programs for Mid-January through June. Please remember that all of us should be trying to provide meaningful and thoughtful programs. The first six months have been spectacular. Please note that you shouldn't just mention a possible program to either President Emily or Scott Risser, but we are charging you with the task of getting the speaker here and providing support, including ascertaining AV needs.
3. November 11 is Veteran's Day. Kent McMichael reviewed plans for placing small US flags on the graves of all veterans in local cemeteries in observance of Veterans' Day. On Friday, November 8th, volunteers should report to Evergreen Cemetery at 3:00 pm or to Stonewall Jackson Cemetery at 3:30 pm. In-gathering of the flags will take place at similar times on Tuesday, November 12th. Please contact Kent and volunteer to help out, but go on out and help even if you don't sign up.
4. Kent also distributed photos showing progress in restoring headstones in Evergreen Cemetery. This work is being done by Hamric Memorials because the stones require a forklift for lifting and sand blasting for cleaning. He announced about \$1500 had been raised but an additional \$2500-3000 would be needed to complete the project. Please direct your contributions to Kent.
5. Jim Slack announced the results of the Rockbridge Community People's Choice Awards for 2013: Volunteer of the Year: Robby Jones (a former member and club president); Humanitarian/Volunteer of the Year: SPCA; Educator of the Year: Linda Franke; Employer of the Year: Rockbridge Area Health Center; and Citizen of the Year: Captain Bucky Miller. Congratulations to all!
6. The Lexington Sunrise Rotary Club has inquired of President Emily if our club would be interested in joining with them to build a Habitat for Humanity house here in Lexington. Please send a e-mail to Emily ([higgins540@gmail.com](mailto:higgins540@gmail.com)) informing her of your opinion.
7. S/T John explained that bills for last month look a little different because he only charged us for the steaks at our Annual Cook-Out at the Higgins abode.
8. A regular monthly Board meeting was held immediately following our regular meeting.

## **Minute for Rotary:**

From President Emily as read by PP Mary: Here is a short quote from Paul Harris in a speech given at the 1917 Atlanta Convention, just before the US enters WWI and ends its isolationism. *"Individual effort when well directed can accomplish much, but the greatest good must necessarily come from the combined efforts of many men. Individual effort may be turned to individual needs, but combined effort should be dedicated to the service of mankind. The power of combined effort knows no limitation."* (All members please reflect on this as we begin the busy holiday season)

**Program:**

Interact is the Rotary Club-sponsored organization for teenagers aged 14-18. Interact stands for International Action and carries out projects based on four main elements, Community Service, Finance, International Understanding and Club Service. The first Interact Club was founded in the USA in 1962. Now there are approximately 9000 Interact Clubs globally, with a membership of around 210,000 teenagers.

Interact is basically a mix of a service club and a social society, a little of both but not too much of either one. Tonight two Interact members from RCHS, Mason Grist and Henry Crossman, along with their school sponsor, Sarah Leadbetter, presented a short program that highlighted all that they do for their school community and the Rockbridge Community at large.

Mason and Henry showed a video of their numerous, varied activities of the year. The list includes: the Hospice Hustle; 1000 Peace Cranes; the Christmas Basket Program; Appreciate Diversity Week; the Boxerwood Festival; the RCHS Garden; the Cinderella Project; Earth Day; 4<sup>th</sup> of July Drink Sales; and design, and sales of Interact Tee Shirts.

In response to a question, Teacher-Sponsor Sarah Leadbetter reported that the club had suspended support of a school in Sierra Leone because of inadequate control of funds. They are pursuing another project in Guatemala to provide clean drinking water for a village.

They are an impressive group of young people involved in an impressive list of projects. We are proud to sponsor them.

**Happy Bucks:**

- Kent McMichael was happy to report that he and Betty recently took their camper to a park for three days; reason was to celebrate the fact that he had never been married to a 65-year-old woman before. He smoothed it over somewhat by remarking, "It ain't too bad."
- Scott Risser was happy to be told that the group having cocktails in the neighboring room were "older people;" in fact, he was ecstatic to learn that our group was not considered the older people.
- Betty McMichael was happy to contribute in celebration of the anniversary of her 39<sup>th</sup> birthday; she said Kent took all the glory out of it with his announcement, but she had a very nice time anyway.
- George Piegari thanked Kent for helping him out and predicted Kent wouldn't make it to Betty's 66<sup>th</sup>
- .
- Steve Grist was happy to have his son and the Interact Club here tonight.

**Pot:**

Scott Risser won the raffle but not the BIG pot which now totals \$234.00.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Nov 13: Member Presentation by Derek Carter**  
**Nov 20: Club Assembly, President Emily**  
**Nov 27: THANKSGIVING EVE -- NO MEETING**  
**Dec 04: Malawi Medical Mission by Laura Simpson, ROD Josie McElroy**  
**Dec 11: Member Presentations**  
**Dec 18: Holiday Gathering at the Home of Josie McElroy**  
**Dec 25: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**  
**Jan 01: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**  
**Jan 08: Main Street Lexington by Stephanie Wilkinson, ROD Emily Higgins**

**END**



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**November 13, 2013**

**Volume LXVIII, Number 19**

President Emily presided. Guests: Jacki Bellairs, Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations for the VMI Foundation, was the guest of George Piegari. Visiting Rotarians: Sammy Moore of the Lexington Sunrise Club. Attendance: 29 members; and 2 guests for a total of 31. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club. First time over 30 in a while – RAH!!

## **Announcements and Business:**

1. President Emily announced that our club had received a check for \$362.00 from The Kroger Company as our 5% share of purchases made on our Kroger Gift Cards. Keep buying and eating. Thanksgiving should be especially productive!
2. We need programs for Mid-January through June. Please remember that all of us should be trying to provide meaningful and thoughtful programs. The first six months have been spectacular. Please note that you shouldn't just mention a possible program to either President Emily or Scott Risser, but we are charging you with the task of getting the speaker here and providing support, including ascertaining AV needs.
3. Kent McMichael led a contingent of members in placing small US flags on the graves of all veterans in Evergreen and Stonewall Jackson Cemeteries in observance of Veterans' Day. They put them out on Friday, November 8th, and gathered them in on Tuesday, November 12<sup>th</sup>. Evergreen Cemetery: 100 flags--down from last time by 9. Not too bad! Ed Claiborn and Linda put in and Ed and Jim Slack took out. Total 3.25 man-hours. Stonewall Jackson Cemetery: 671 flags--down from last time by 51. Not good! Kent, Betty McMichael, Allen Somerville Brown, John Tucker, Ed Claiborn and Hunter(granddaughter) put in Friday(549). Ran out of daylight. Kent and Hunter put in Saturday(122). Kent, Chip Honsinger, Ed Claiborn, Jim Slack Taylor (granddaughter) and Hunter (granddaughter) took out. Total 27 man-hours

Two or three people for Evergreen is good, however the only cure for not running out of daylight is more people to work Stonewall. That number should be 10; if this number cannot be reached then we will have to start at 2:00 instead of 3:30. For some reason, they ended up with more flags than they started with, not unusual these days. This is a significant project; so mark your calendar now to be available for Memorial Day. Thanks to Kent and all who came out to help.

4. The Lexington Sunrise Rotary Club has inquired if our club would be interested in joining with them to build a Habitat for Humanity house here in Lexington. Emily promises more info about this project next week.
5. Joe Milo reminded us that the next Winter Bazaar is coming up on the last weekend in February. Start squirreling away your white elephants and other goodies for this annual event. He is also seeking volunteers to lead this project.
6. We need to be thinking about what we can do for those whose lives are in utter chaos in the Philippines. We have a Shelter Box program that most of you know about, and we have been approached by the Sunrise Club to perhaps work with them in a program called "Stop Hunger Now." No commitments have been made; we can discuss these next week.
7. Next week is a club Assembly, a time to reflect on our club and some of the things we are doing or will be doing. If you would like to discuss something, contact Emily so she can prepare an agenda for the meeting.

## **Minute for Rotary:**

From President Emily: Giving our time to show our concern for our community obviously involves interpersonal skills, not the least of which is flexibility. This has been evident often in our club; sometimes being flexible has solved problems before they really started. Sometimes it

rankles many of us. The point is: we all want the same thing, to be of service, to strengthen our club, and prepare for the future. Let's embrace the randomness of life and the subset that includes our Rotary life. Our future here has never looked brighter.

### **Program:**

Derek Carter was installed as a new member on January 23<sup>rd</sup> of this year. Tonight, he was invited to present his autobiography so we might get to know him better. He even brought a photo album his parents put together for his recent 40<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Derek was born in Fort Worth, TX, and raised in Dallas. As you might expect, he is a life-long fan of the Dallas Cowboys (no boos, please). He is the middle child of three - he has an older brother and younger sister. His mother is a retired math teacher and father is a CPA turned entrepreneur.

Academics, church, and sports were the focus of his youth and they largely continue to be the focus of his present life. He attended W&L University, graduating in 1996 with a B.S. in Business Administration. A big part of his college experience was basketball. He was a 4-year starter and captain of the team his senior year.

Most of his professional career has been spent in insurance, finance, and investments – working for companies like Bank of America, New York Life, and currently Wells Fargo Advisors as a financial advisor. He has been active in the community as a member of Lexington Presbyterian Church, as a RARO coach (baseball, soccer, and basketball), and, of course, the Lexington Rotary Club. He has also been active in professional and other community organizations too numerous to mention.

He saved the best for last; he is the proud, single parent of two wonderful children: son Daniel, age 10, and daughter Ainsley, age 7½. Both attend Waddell Elementary School where they are both in the chess and book clubs and participate in RARO sports. Ainsley is very creative – she loves art, dance, and singing. Daniel is a budding engineer – he is in the robotics club and, like his Dad, loves sports.

Derek mentioned some interesting aspects of his life that he decided NOT to talk about:

- Having his teeth knocked out at age 8, and the extensive work to correct same.
- Playing for one of the top-ranked high school basketball teams and traveling to Australia with an all-star team.
- Mission work done with his church in Dallas and on a trip to Alaska.
- Job with a white-collar investigation firm and uncovering a CFO responsible for an undisclosed plane hijacking.
- Living in Manhattan on 9/11 and efforts of friends and neighbors to make it through that tragic day.
- Being on the #1-ranked equity research team in his sector during tenure in NYC.

Further thought brought him to the conclusion that the two most important aspects of his life were being part of a team and the presence of a mentor or coach within that team. Mentors he singled out were: his parents, his 7<sup>th</sup> grade basketball coach, an 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grade high school teacher, and a Sunday School teacher.

In conclusion, Derek appreciates being a part of Lexington and our Club as he tries to give back through coaching and community service. He specifically mentioned his appreciation of the leadership of Mary Sayre and Emily Higgins.

Thanks for a terrific presentation, Derek. You've set a high standard for those who must follow.

### **Happy Bucks:**

- Mary Sayre was happy on multiple counts: for Derek's nice compliment; and for seeing her niece, a ballerina, dance at the Kennedy Center last week.
- Bill Lowe was happy to remind us about packing Christmas baskets on December 21 and how much local folks benefit from them, including the packers; and explained the nature of his visit to the emergency room last week – chest pains that kept him up all night in the ER but turned out OK except he slept through Rotary last week.

- Linda Krantz was happy to report that her visit to traffic court in Charlottesville turned out well for her when the policeman who reported her failed to appear; and reported that her Mother's ashes (Mom donated her body to science) arrived today so, in memory, told one of her Mom's jokes (a good one!).
- Derek was happy on three counts: that he made it through his presentation tonight; that his son turns 10 on Monday; and lastly, and for his daughter, just 'cause.
- George Piegari was happy to acknowledge that his mother, while not as old as Linda's, turned 93 and is in good health; and also was happy to have a young "old friend" as his guest tonight.
- Chip was happy to relate a story about a trucker who took the trouble to donate a damaged container of meat to RARA rather than just toss it out.
- Jana Shearer was happy(?) to note that this was her last week in her twenties (don't rub it in, Jana).
- Dick Minnix was happy to welcome Wally and Dot Fogo as new residents of Kendal at Lexington.
- Mary Honsinger was happy to report the recent celebration of her Mother's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday – Mom was at her party physically but not sure about mentally; and related her visit to a hospital in NJ with apparent appendicitis which lasted 3.5 days without finding any cause.
- Ed Jeffries was happy to donate in honor of two of Linda's most terrific jokes.
- Josie McElroy was happy to note that her Mother celebrated her 96<sup>th</sup> birthday.
- Emily Higgins was happy on multiple counts: she attended a VDOT conference with Mike last week, usually "doom and gloom" but more upbeat this year because a Democrat was elected; she got to see and visit with her grandchildren in northern VA; she and Josie played tennis (Rena and Venus) real well today; glad to see old friend Jacki here tonight (Emily taught two of her children at RCHS); she has agreed to serve as corporate fund raiser for the Conway Cup (a 3-on-3 tournament); and Derek's fantastic presentation.
- Stewart Fleming was happy to note how thankful he was that the Democrats passed the Affordable Care Act (didn't some Republicans vote for it also?).
- Betty McMichael was sorry the Commonwealth of VA does not offer a "None of the Above" choice on its ballot.

**Pot:**

Chip Honsinger won the raffle but not the BIG pot which now totals \$260.50.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

- Nov 20: Club Assembly, President Emily**
- Nov 27: THANKSGIVING EVE -- NO MEETING**
- Dec 04: Malawi Medical Mission by Laura Simpson, ROD Josie McElroy**
- Dec 11: World Book Night by Anna Lisa Fitzgerald and Jerry Nay, ROD Julie Goyette**
- Dec 18: Holiday Gathering at the Home of Josie McElroy**
- Dec 25: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**
- Jan 01: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**
- Jan 08: Main Street Lexington by Stephanie Wilkinson, ROD Emily Higgins**

**END**



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91st YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

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

November 20, 2013

Volume LXVIII, Number 20

President Emily presided. Guests: None. Visiting Rotarians: None. Attendance: 27 members; and no guests for a total of 27. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. **NO MEETING NEXT WEEK!! Happy Thanksgiving to all. Only the turkey is supposed to be stuffed!**
2. We still need programs for the new year. Remember that all members are expected to shepherd programs under the Rotarian of the Day (ROD) plan.
3. President Emily announced plans for two February programs. February 12<sup>th</sup> will be our Awards/Charter Night celebration. In addition to the usual awards, we will have a guest speak on "The Humor of Winston Churchill." February 26<sup>th</sup> will be dubbed "Family Fun Night with Dick and Rae," where Dick and Rae will present one of their fun science shows. Members will be encouraged to bring their families, especially children and/or grandchildren and friends.
4. On Friday November 22 at 2:30 pm, Colonel Wallace E. Fogo (Ret) was honored by the United States Marine Corps for his service in three wars: WWII, Korea, and Vietnam. The ceremony was held in Kilbourne Hall at VMI. Congratulations, Wally!

## Minute for Rotary:

President Emily: Heather and I went to visit and observe the Interact Club at their monthly group meeting. As you know from their talk a few weeks ago, they do a lot, but to watch them today in "working mode" was simply inspiring to me. They had only 10 minutes to discuss 3 large projects, get everyone signed up and organized. No problems, everyone attentive and making a difference. They should be our Role Models.

## Program:

A Club Assembly was conducted by President Emily. Discussion was limited to the following two topics:

- Support for the Philippines Recovery: Club members showed strong support for an effort to alleviate suffering from the tragic devastation by the typhoon. The Shelter Box Program was singled out as a possible avenue for our club. One comment suggested use of some club savings if financial resources were lacking.
- RCHS Interact Club Finances: Traditionally, the Christmas Basket Program has provided gifts/toys for children under age 15 for those families served. Our local Interact Club adopted the project of providing gifts for 15-18 year-olds several years ago. They typically spend \$20 per child and this year expect about 170 children in this age group, a significant increase. They are struggling to find the financial resources needed. They usually rely on sale of water at the July 4<sup>th</sup> Balloon Rally but sales fell short this year because of weather. Members are urged to contribute to the Interact Club individually to help them out. (Report your contribution to Treasurer John so you can get tax credit.)

Of course, any club action must be approved by our Board of Directors. The purpose of these discussions was to determine club opinion.

## Happy Bucks:

1. Betty McMichael was happy to tell a joke much too long to include here; see her for a repeat.
2. Allan Somerville Brown was happy to volunteer to help Skip crack the code to determine why he is unable to open the pdf files for the District Newsletter.

3. Skip Ravenhorst was happy to contribute in honor of the construction process going on at his home which he adores but his wife hates.
4. Heather Branstetter was happy because the Interact Club meeting was fun.
5. Dick Minnix was happy on two counts: he was reminded by Betty's joke of an incident on a cruise where a lady wondered why officials were leading dogs up and down aisles of luggage – another passenger remarked, "Lady, if the dog pauses by your suitcase, you better hope he cocks his leg;" also, he announced the ceremony in Announcement 4 above.
6. Emily Higgins was happy to announce her Mother's 86<sup>th</sup> birthday today and Mom's impending wedding on November 30<sup>th</sup>; by the time we see Emily again, she'll have a new Dad.
7. Julie Goyette was happy to note Nick Cuzzimano's participation in the Veteran's Day ceremonies.

**Pot:**

Heather Branstetter won the raffle but not the BIG pot which now totals \$280.00.

**The Importance of Walking:**

Walking can add minutes to your life; this enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$4,000 per month.

My grandpa started walking five miles a day when he was 60. Now he's 97 years old and we have no idea where the hell he is.

The only reason I would take up walking is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I joined a health club last year, spent about 250 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently you have to go there!

Every time I hear the dirty word 'exercise', I wash my mouth out with chocolate.

I do have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

The advantage of exercising every day is so when you die, they'll say, 'Well, he looks good doesn't he.'

We all get heavier as we get older, because there's a lot more information in our heads. That's my story and I'm sticking to it.

Every time I start thinking too much about how I look, I just find a pub with a Happy Hour and by the time I leave, I look just fine.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Nov 27: THANKSGIVING EVE -- NO MEETING**

**Dec 04: Malawi Medical Mission by Laura Simpson, ROD Josie McElroy**

**Dec 11: World Book Night by Anna Lisa Fitzgerald and Jerry Nay, ROD Julie Goyette**

**Dec 18: Holiday Gathering at the Home of Josie McElroy**

**Dec 25: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**

**Jan 01: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**

**Jan 08: Main Street Lexington by Stephanie Wilkinson, ROD Emily Higgins**

**END**



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

December 04, 2013

Volume LXVIII, Number 21

President Emily presided. Guest: our speaker, Laura Hamilton Simpson. Visiting Rotarians: Ulf Ambjornson of the Belleair Rotary Club in FL. Attendance: 32 members and 2 guests for a total of 34. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. We still need programs for the new year. Remember that all members are expected to shepherd programs under the Rotarian of the Day (ROD) plan.
2. President Emily announced receipt of a check for \$278 from The Kroger Company as our 5% share of purchases made by club members with Kroger Gift Cards.
3. President Emily also announced receipt of a check for \$4600 as our share of the proceeds from the recent Rockbridge Community Festival and commended Derek Carter and Max Ivankov for their roles in leading the Festival to its most profitable year.
4. PAG Betty McMichael reminded us of the upcoming Christmas Basket packing and delivery. The largest number of baskets in our history (since 1948) will be packed and delivered on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Packing should commence about 8 am and deliveries about 10:30 am. Betty will coordinate our club deliveries in Lexington. Mark your calendars and sign up now to come out and help. And be sure to bring your children along to deliver. Remember, they probably think everyone lives like your family so it is an eye-opener for children to see the conditions under which many in our community live.
5. Dick Minnix sadly announced the death of Jane G. Carpenter, Partner of PDG Rae, on Monday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Borden Health Center at Kendal at Lexington where she had resided for most of 2013. Dick urged members to attend her memorial service on Saturday and sit in a group. (See the obituary in the Roanoke Times on December 4 for more details.)
6. Joe Milo reminded us of the Annual Winter Bazaar scheduled for Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>.
7. Plan now to bring your Partner to the Christmas Gathering at Josie McElroys' on December 18<sup>th</sup>. Everyone brings an hors d'oeuvre to share and any libation you wish to drink and share. Holiday attire (even Santa suits) is expected.

## New Member Installed:

Membership Chair Chip Honsinger presided over the installation of our newest member:

**Jacqueline B. (Jacki) Bellairs.** Classification: College Foundations. Born in Harrisonburg, she earned her B.S. in Education from JMU. She taught at Waddell Elementary in Lexington for 3 years. Her three children attended Lexington public schools.

Jacki recently returned to Lexington after working for 3 years as Director of Annual Giving at Southeastern University in Hammond, LA (about 20 miles north of New Orleans). She currently works at the VMI Foundation as Director of Corporate and Foundation Relations. Sponsor: George Piegari.

In view of Jacki's job, Chip reviewed the history of the Rotary Foundation (RF). He noted that individual giving by VMI alumni far outstripped Rotarians giving to the RF and challenged us to do better.

Jacki's home address is P. O. Box 1582 and she can be reached at 464-7287 (ext 270)(B) or 985-415-9450(C). Her e-mail address is [jackibellairs@yahoo.com](mailto:jackibellairs@yahoo.com).

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

**Program:**

Laura Hamilton Simpson was born in Amagansett, NY, but raised in Rockbridge County. She currently lives in Lexington with her husband, Peter, and children: Henry (8), and Helen (6). She holds a BA in Classics from the University of Mary Washington and both BS and MS in Nursing from UVa. Laura has worked as a nurse for 10 years. She began her nursing career as a labor and delivery nurse; after 6 years in this role, she focused on training as a Family Nurse Practitioner and Clinical Nurse Specialist in Public Health. Currently she is working with Valley Program for Aging Services to start a home care organization that will provide affordable, quality care for elders in the Rockbridge area.

In May 2013 she traveled to Malawi with a non-profit organization, Villages in Partnership (VIP), and the University of Virginia. She was deeply touched by the friends she made in the villages and inspired by the impact of VIP's work. She dreams of returning to Malawi in the future and introducing her family to the beautiful people living there.

"VIP is a community of people and organizations who are devoted to sharing with the poorest of the poor in the impoverished nation of Malawi, Africa. It all began with a quiet but unshakable feeling in the mind and heart of co-founder Liz Heinzl-Nelson that she was being called to be in community with and serve the poor. In response to that call, Liz and her husband, co-founder Rev. Stephen Heinzl-Nelson, spent a year in Malawi with their family getting to know the country and its people, building relationships, and discerning how they and others could partner with people there to help change each other's lives.

"VIP is the outgrowth of the seeds the Heinzl-Nelsons planted during their time in Malawi. Those seeds have grown into what is now a vibrant, wide-ranging development organization. The needs and extent of poverty that exists in Malawi is staggering, and at times can seem overwhelming. But at VIP, they have learned that by working closely with the villagers and partners on the ground in Malawi to understand and appreciate the issues they face, to share one another's burdens, and to brainstorm and prioritize coordinated long-term solutions to address those issues, we can make a significant difference and change each other's lives for the better.

"VIP was birthed by the Allentown Presbyterian Church. It has grown rapidly and expanded beyond the Allentown community to encompass "villages" throughout the U.S., and even the U.K. In 2012, VIP separately incorporated itself and is now a stand-alone 501(c)(3) charitable organization.

"VIP's mission is to build partnerships between villages in the developed world and villages in Malawi to bring about life-changing development for all. Their method is to work with local development experts in Malawi to implement programs designed to simultaneously address the inter-connected web of root causes of extreme poverty: lack of access to clean water, food insecurity, poor health care, inadequate education, insufficient infrastructure, and lack of economic opportunities." See <http://www.villagesinpartnership.org> for more info.

**Birthdays and Anniversaries in December:**

Happy Birthday to: Bill Lowe on the 1<sup>st</sup>; Joe Pagnum on the 6<sup>th</sup>; Woody Dykes on the 9<sup>th</sup>; Debbie Barron on the 21<sup>st</sup>; and Sheryl Carls on the 31<sup>st</sup>.

Happy Anniversary to: Dot and Wally Fogo on the 5<sup>th</sup>; Laura and Bill Stearns on the 21<sup>st</sup>; and Barbara and Scott Risser on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**Happy Bucks:**

- Emily Higgins was happy to have married off her 86-year-old mother and promises to bring the video to a future meeting; and happy to spend Thanksgiving in Charlotte with her husband's family.
- Jim Slack is happy the Annual Bazaar is scheduled for February 22<sup>nd</sup> because that is the 8<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his moving to Lexington.
- Julie Goyette is happy that her son will be graduating from college in two weeks.
- Mary Sayre was happy that VT beat UVa.
- Josie McElroy was happy to have friend Laura as our speaker; and her 96-year-old parents from Ohio are visiting.

- Skip was happy for contractors finishing the foundation for an addition before the impending weather.
- Bill Lowe was happy to remind us of the Christmas Basket Program and to bring our children along to deliver; was happy even though he and Nancy had to sleep in the basement in order to accomodate their four daughters and families for Thanksgiving; and, finally, was thankful for the fantastic ending of the Auburn-Alabama football game.
- MeLou Piegari was happy to be here to support and congratulate our newest member, Jacki.
- Mary Huger was so, so sorry that Auburn won.
- Nick Cuzzimano was happy that Wally was recognized as a war hero – not many Marines survive three wars.
- President Emily was happy to contribute in honor of Jacki.

**Pot:**

Derek Carter won the raffle but not the BIG pot which now totals \$306.50.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Dec 11: World Book Night by Anna Lisa Fitzgerald and Jerry Nay, ROD Julie Goyette**

**Dec 18: Holiday Gathering at the Home of Josie McElroy**

**Dec 25: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**

**Jan 01: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**

**Jan 08: Main Street Lexington by Stephanie Wilkinson, ROD Emily Higgins**

**END**



# THE LEXINGTON ROTARY CLUB BULLETIN

CHARTERED FEBRUARY 1, 1922

NUMBER 1062

91st YEAR OF "SERVICE ABOVE SELF"

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

December 11, 2013

Volume LXVIII, Number 22

President Emily presided. Guest: our speaker, Anna-Lisa Nay Fitzgerald. Visiting Rotarians: Bill Luton of the Lexington Sunrise Club. Attendance: 23 members and 2 guests for a total of 25. Meeting held at the Lexington Golf and Country Club.

## Announcements and Business:

1. President Emily reported that our Club, in cooperation with the Sunrise Club, sent two representatives of the RCHS Interact Club to the Annual RYLA Conference at VA Tech.
2. PAG Betty McMichael reminded us of the upcoming Christmas Basket packing and delivery. The largest number of baskets in our history (since 1948) will be packed and delivered on Saturday, December 21<sup>st</sup>. Packing should commence about 8 am and deliveries about 10:00 am. Our Club is responsible for delivering 81 baskets in the Lexington South area; this is the area of the city that lies South of Nelson Street. Betty will probably have city maps to guide us in some of the unfamiliar areas of Lexington South. It is more efficient if members form delivery teams with one driver and one or more to carry baskets to the front doors of homes. (Your editor suggests that it would be educational to bring along your children and/or grandchildren -- it may open their eyes to see how some other people live.) Pick-up trucks, station wagons, and SUVs are ideal for hauling baskets. You should also bring gloves with you.
3. If you haven't done so yet, please send your contribution today to: Rockbridge Christmas Baskets Program, P. O. Box 1030, Lexington, VA 24450.
4. Joe Milo reminded us of the Annual Winter Bazaar scheduled for Saturday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>, and urged us to begin to save our "stuff" for sale at the event.
5. Don't forget the Christmas Gathering at Josie and Stephen McElroys' next Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, beginning at 6:00 pm. Josie suggests "festive" garb and asks members to bring a libation (i.e., BYOB) and an hors d'oeuvre to share. Partners are encouraged to attend in order to raise the general tone of the gathering. **DIRECTIONS TO JOSIE'S HOME: Go east on Rt 60 from downtown toward BV. Turn L at the traffic light in front of the Hampton Inn – Col Alto. Take the next R onto Lewis Street, then take the next R onto Morningside Drive. Her home, 406 Morningside Drive, is the 2<sup>nd</sup> house on the L at the corner of Morningside and Hillcrest Lane. She says it is a large, old, brick home. OK to park along the L side of Morningside, in the empty lot on Hillcrest Lane (along the side of the home) or in the parking lot at Central Elementary School, down the street.**
6. Secretary John has passed along info that Chuck Barger will be away from Lexington for about three weeks beginning on December 17<sup>th</sup>. He will be in Houston, the town where open heart surgery was invented, undergoing bypass surgery himself. No other details are available at this time.

## Minute for Rotary:

Because of the impending packing of Christmas baskets, Dick Minnix gave a brief history of the program. To give a better picture than Dick's brief comments, a copy of an article that appeared in the News-Gazette on the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the program in 1998 will be sent to all members under separate cover.

## Program:

ROD Julia Goyette introduced Anna-Lisa Nay Fitzgerald as our speaker. She was born in Atlanta but moved to Lexington in 1975 with her parents, Ann and Jerry Nay. She graduated from LHS and VCU with a BS in Fine Arts. Some 14 years ago, she became owner of Lexington's

oldest book store, now known as **Books & Co. and Toys, Too!** She came to talk about the third annual World Book Night.

Each year, World Book Night is celebrated around the world on April 23 as the UNESCO International Day of the Book. In the Catalan region of Spain, the day is celebrated by giving a book and a flower to a loved one.

World Book Night was the product of a round table discussion at London's Book Industry Conference in May 2010, the purpose of which was to imagine a way to encourage more adults to read. What better way to spread a love for reading than to inspire passionate readers to go out into their communities and share copies of their favorite books with those who don't regularly read? World Book Night was first celebrated in the UK and Ireland in 2011; in 2012, it was also celebrated in the USA and Germany.

Each year, 30- 35 books are chosen by an independent panel of librarians and booksellers. The authors of the books waive their royalties and the publishers agree to pay the costs of producing the specially-printed World Book Night U.S. editions. Bookstores and libraries sign up to be community host locations for the volunteer book givers.

After the book titles are announced, members of the public apply to personally hand out 20 copies of a particular title in their community. World Book Night U.S. vets the applications, and the givers are chosen based on their ability to reach light and non-readers. The selected givers choose a local participating bookstore or library from which to pick up the 20 copies of their book, and World Book Night U.S. delivers the books to these host locations.

Givers pick up their books in the week before World Book Night. On April 23rd, they give their books to those who don't regularly read and/or people who don't normally have access to printed books, for reasons of means or geography.

Why does World Book Night exist? Reading for pleasure improves literacy, actively engaging emerging readers in their desire to read. Reading changes lives, improves employability, social interaction, enfranchisement, and can have a positive effect on mental health and happiness. Book readers are more likely to participate in positive activities such as volunteering, attending cultural events, and even physical exercise.

#### **Summary of Board Actions at December 4<sup>th</sup> Meeting:**

- Gave \$1000 to the Shelter Box Fund. We are asking our members to personally donate if they wish, in order that we might match the club's initial donation. If each active member donated around \$30, this would be feasible. We are setting a deadline in January. More information will be available at our next meeting.
- The membership initiative of providing a free meal for the Rotarian who brings a prospective member to the club has been extended, with a review of the policy in April. We have added six new members in the calendar year and are growing with leaps and bounds. Keep up the good work.
- The Board approved of a \$100 donation to the RCHS Interact Club to help defray costs of their Christmas Basket program gifts.
- A Paul Harris Award committee comprised of Mary Sayre, John Tucker and Julie Goyette is beginning work. If you have any suggestions for our Awards Ceremony in February, please contact one of them.

#### **Happy Bucks:**

- Heather Branstetter was happy to commend the recent music program at the Krantz home.
- Julie Goyette was happy to thank Anna-Lisa for bringing our program tonight about a mutual passion.
- Derek Carter was happy to note that Anna-Lisa hosts the book club in which his daughter participates.
- Chip Honsinger was happy to bring this weekends Army-Navy football game to our attention; he urged all uncommitted members to cheer for Navy in anticipation of a big win; and cautioned us to look for Partner Mary jumping up and down on TV as she attends her first game in the series.
- John Furgerson also was happy to endorse Navy.

- Scott Risser was happy to endorse our speaker since his wife served as an Army librarian; and also pointed out that Navy was a four letter word.
- Kent McMichael was happy to point out that the Army and a KA alum supplied Navy with their fight song because of some supposed Navy inability to rhyme.
- Anna-Lisa was happy to point out that her son had been promoted from Private First Class to Lance Corporal and will soon deploy from Okinawa with the Marines to the Philippines to assist in disaster relief.
- Bill Lowe was happy to claim to be an neutral observer (USAF) in the Army-Navy competition and urged support for both schools; was also happy to report that he is headed to Pasadena to see “real” football; and expressed appreciation for anticipated future support of the Basket program.
- Mary Honsinger was happy to yell “Beat Army.”
- Linda Krantz was happy that Heather mentioned the recent Krantz music program; announced their December 20<sup>th</sup> Holiday Sing-Along and urged interested members to e-mail her to get on her notification list; and was proud to have finally gotten her shingles vaccination today.
- Emily Higgins was happy to report that she was just finishing her 88<sup>th</sup> book of the year well on her way to her goal of 100 per year; and is looking forward to an upcoming visit to FL.
- John Tucker was happy with the turnout of members for the memorial service for Jane Carpenter, and especially for PE Scott who gave up his aisle seat for the convenience of Partner Anne.
- Dick Minnix was happy to praise the very able current leadership of the Basket Program: Co-Chairs Ab Hammond, Audrey Hawkins, John Smith, and our own Bill Lowe.

**Pot:**

Stewart Fleming won the raffle but not the BIG pot which now totals \$322.00.

**Future Programs & Activities:**

**Dec 18: Holiday Gathering at the Home of Josie McElroy**

**Dec 25: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**

**Jan 01: HOLIDAY BREAK – NO MEETING**

**Jan 08: Main Street Lexington by Stephanie Wilkinson, ROD Emily Higgins**

**END**