



ROTARY CLUB OF FLORENCE

President: Jim Ferguson
 Secretary: Carrie Herrmann
 Treasurer: Ian Addington
 SGT-at-Arms: Shawn Carroll
 P. Elect: Frank Schneider



Mondays 12 pm at the Hilton
 7373 Turfway Rd, Florence KY
 Box 6027 Florence KY 41022
 District 6740
 859-334-0157



TODAY'S SCHEDULE, APRIL 1ST, 2019

11:45 Buffet Opens (\$14 for Buffet, Coffee, Tea, & Dessert)
 12:15 President Jim Ferguson Presiding
Team 3 Greeting, Prayer, Pledge and 4Way Test
 12:30 Future of Healthcare. Frank Schneider (Froelicher)
 1:00 Meeting Adjourned

PROGRAMS

APRIL	TEAM
8 Voice of America (<u>Flanagin</u>)	4
15 State Senate Legislative update. <u>John Schickel (Howard)</u>	5
22 Teacher of Year: <u>Nikole Mahortey</u> , Walton High; <u>Trisha Ridener</u> , Walton Elem.; <u>Samantha Richards</u> , Erpenbeck Elem.; <u>Tiffany Westhoff</u> , Boone High (<u>Keeling</u>)	6
29 Rotary Scholarship (<u>Rahn</u>)	7
MAY	TEAM
6 CFA KY Fried Pensions. <u>Chris Tobe (Froelicher)</u>	8
13 Club Assembly / New Member Pinning Ceremony (<u>Schneider</u>)	9
20 Legacy series. Dr. <u>Herbert Booth (Froelicher)</u>	1
27 Memorial Day - No Meeting	
JUNE	TEAM
3 Linden Grove Cemetery (<u>Stefen</u>)	2
10 Paul Harris Fellows (<u>Greg Palmer</u>)	3
17 Club Assembly / New Member Pinning Ceremony (<u>Schneider</u>)	4

People of Action

SPONSORERS: We need 10 more Ad Button Club Sponsors. Only \$100/yr.
ROTARY BUSINESS CARD: Please invite potential new members (Carrie)
OUR 2ND QUARTER COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNER (CPS): We will support **New Day Ranch and Mary Rose Mission**. If you'd like to serve any evening of the week at **MRM**, sign up by [clicking here](#). To serve at **New Day Ranch**, you must complete a volunteer application. [Click here](#). Donations up to a total of \$500 will be matched by the Rotary Foundation and equally split between both organizations for your 2nd quarter donations.
INTERACT: Is in full out fundraising mode.
 => If you are part of a corporation that can sponsor a Interactor, please let Barb know.
 => If you need any help around house or yard, please let Barb know.
 => For Flapjacks turn up **April 20th between 8-10 a.m.** @ Applebee's on Turfway.
SCHOLARSHIP NOMINATION. Awarded on April 29th during our meeting.

3/28-30	PETS. Midsouthpets.org in Chattanooga.
4/5	RI MULTI-DISTRICT CONFERENCE , 6740 & 6780 Gatlinburg. The Park Vista Hotel.
4/3-24	RYLE HIGH: Assistance needed reviewing their Senior Exit Projects. Click here
4/20	INTERACT CLUB: 8-10 a.m. Short Stack for a Tall Cause. Applebee's on Turfway.
5/15	POLICE LUNCHEs: Members, please sponsor a Police Officer's Lunch when you buy your lunch. Goal is 189. 31 lunches sponsored at our last meeting!
5/20	ANNUAL CLUB RAFFLE
6/1	FREE FISHING DAY (DOOR PRIZES NEEDED) & CLAY PIGEON
6/1	RI CONVENTION. Click to register. Location is Hamburg, Germany.
6/10	FOUNDATION LUNCH: Honor Paul Harris inductees. DG Hammond is speaker.

Happy Birthday

Hartke, Wayne	11-Apr
Raverty, Patrick	13-Apr
Howard, Adam	14-Apr
Keeling, Barbara	21-Apr
Wolfer, David	25-Apr
Hodges, Joy	30-Apr

Jerry Meyer
 schwaab, inc
 800.935.9877

Shawn Carroll
 New Perceptions
 859.344.9322

Wayne Hartke
 SERVPRO
 859.746.3400

Mike Crane
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 Frank Schneider
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Dennis McEvoy
 Be a gift to the world
 Past District Gov.

MASTER PROVISIONS
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Newsletter: Nevillew Buchanan@gmail.com
 Twitter & Facebook: [jpile@stingermediallc.com](https://www.facebook.com/jpile@stingermediallc.com)

BE AWARE: Meeting is [Live Streamed](#)

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Mr. Theme Park Reflects on Coney Island

Written By: Patrick Moynahan

Dennis Speigel says Mickey Mouse and Minnie Mouse mingled with visitors at Coney Island in Cincinnati before Disneyland was ever built.

And he has the pictures to prove it - photographs shot in the late 1940s.

Walt Disney opened Disneyland in 1955. He was one of the best friends of Coney Island President Ed Schott, and he visited the Cincinnati amusement park often, according to Speigel.

"(Walt Disney) used to come to Coney all the time when he was getting ideas for Disneyland," said Speigel, president of International Theme Park Services, Inc. "He always said Coney was his favorite."

Speigel shared photographs and amusing stories of Coney Island and Kings Island at a recent meeting of the Rotary Club of Florence. He began work as a ticket taker at the front gate of Coney Island in the 1960s, then rose to assistant park manager at Coney and later served as assistant general manager when the park relocated to Warren County as Kings Island in 1972.

Speigel, known as "Mr. Theme Park" for his work in the industry internationally, showed the Rotarians a snapshot of a check for \$1 that Disney gave to Schott "for consultation." He offered Schott 30 percent of Disneyland for \$5 million, he said.

He also showed pictures of the most popular attractions at Coney Island in the 1900s, including The Lost River water flume ride. The

Lost River was tagged the "tunnel of love" by some people because of a long, dark tunnel just before the drop to the water that provided young couples an opportunity for some hugging and kissing.

What people didn't know was that a man with a stick was stationed in the tunnel.

"If someone got too frisky, he'd tap them with the stick," Speigel said.

The Skee Ball and Dodge 'Em cars also were popular. People would spend as much as \$500 to win a \$12 toaster, he noted amid laughter.

The bumper cars remain the most popular ride in the world at most every park, Speigel said. His company has worked on 50 projects in six countries and every one has bumper cars.

"I guess people just want to run into each other," he said.

Located beside the Ohio River just east of Interstate 275, Coney Island was prone to flooding. The operators could not move all the rides when flooding came, and sometimes the horses would float off the merry-go-round.

"We'd find them in Louisville and all over the river and people would actually bring them back," Speigel said. "We never lost one."

Flooding contributed to the decision to move the park. Also, ex-

pansion was not possible because of the river, the thoroughbred racing track, U.S. Route 50 and the community of California bordered Coney.

Kings Island cost \$37 million to build when it opened in 1972 under new owners Taft Broadcasting Co. By comparison, a single new roller coaster costs around \$40 million today, according to Speigel.

The operators moved the entire amusement park (but not all the rides) in 30 days, including the trees in the park mall. The operators aggressively projected first-year attendance of 2 million and drew 1,012,000. Cedar Fair purchased Kings Island in 2006 for \$1.24 billion and the park currently attracts about 3.5 million visitors a year, according to Speigel.

"Kings Island has always been in the Top 15 amusement parks in the world," Speigel said.

