



Rotary Club of Florence

President: Frank Schneider
Secretary: [Carrie Herrmann](#)
Treasurer: Ian Addington
SGT-at-Arms: Shawn Carroll
P. Elect: Peter Weickgenannt



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



TODAY'S SCHEDULE, MARCH 16th, 2020

- 11:45 Buffet Opens (\$15 for Buffet, Coffee, Tea, & Dessert)
- 12:15 President [Frank Schneider](#) Presiding
Team 9 Greeting, Prayer, Pledge and 4Way Test
- 12:30 Club Assembly / New Member Pinning , Ceremony (Schneider)
- 1:00 Meeting Adjourned

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

Date	Program	Presenter	T
23	History of Triple Crown	Jim Berling (Dieter)	1
30	Ark Encounter	Mark Looy (Froelicher)	2
04/6	Life Learning Center	Alecia Webb-Edgington (Froelicher)	3
13	Fire Chief City of Florence	Scott Knoll (Froelicher)	4
20	Teacher of the Year		5
27	Offsite meeting	Ignite (Pile)	6
05/4	Scholarship presentation	(Wolford)	7
11	Boone County Underground RailRoad	Cheri Herman (Froelicher)	8

PEOPLE OF ACTION

DATES & ACTIVITIES BELOW SUBJECT TO CHANGE DUE TO THE CORONA VIRUS.

- * **3/30—4/3 INTERVIEWS FOR SCHOLARSHIP PRESENTATION:** The Rotary Club of Florence awards a \$1,000 scholarship to one student at each of the area Boone County high schools. The interviews will take place during the week of March 30 - April 3, 2020, with all of the interviews being in the morning. A sign-up sheet will be passed around during the next 3 meetings ... please let us know if you can help out any of those days. (Dave Wolfer davewolfer60@gmail.com)
- * **3/23-27 COOPER HIGH SCHOOL EXIT INTERVIEWS.** Please use this [link \(t.ly/7J8rW\)](https://t.ly/7J8rW) to serve our local high school (Jim Ferguson).
- * **4/20 TEACHER OF THE YEAR.** ([Barb Keeling](#)).
- * **OUR 1ST QUARTER COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTNER:** Our first quarter CSPs are GO Pantry and New Perceptions. To volunteer with Go Pantry, email roger@masterprovisions.org or sign up at gopantry.org to help at one of their 1Q pack events: March 4/5 (Wed or Thurs) March 8 (Sun). See [Shawn Carroll](#) for volunteer opportunities at New Perceptions. We have **\$140 of \$500** in donations from Rotary members so far this quarter. This will be matched and split equally between GO Pantry and New Perceptions. Donations may be made payable to Florence Rotary Foundation and given to [Billy Santos](#) or [Greg Palmer](#).
- * **4 PRESIDENTIAL INITIATIVES:** GROW +20; RAISE 20K; DEV. 20K; DIVERSITY
- * **MEAL AD \$100/quarter & runs weekly.** **PATRON AD** is \$100/year runs every 3rd week.
- * **VOLUNTEER HOURS:** Please turn in to [Carrie Herrmann](#)
- * **ROTARY BUSINESS CARD:** Rotary is fun! Please invite new members to join! Tell them about our great programs and how Rotary has changed you for the better.
- * **WHO ARE WE:** We are a community service organization focusing on "service above self". Guests are always welcome. More info: www.florencerotary.org or [Facebook](#).
- * **PHOTOS NEEDED FOR DACDB.** To upload your photo, 1st login [here t.ly/P33Pe](https://t.ly/P33Pe) then click [here t.ly/y55d0](https://t.ly/y55d0). If you don't have a photo see [Paul Feuss](#) (our club photographer).
- * **DACDB COORDINATOR SOUGHT:** See Frank for more info.
- * Have you seen our billboard on Carothers Road in Newport?

Happy Birthday!	Dieter, Beth	20-Mar	Happy Birthday!
	Webster, Matt	20-Mar	
	Volland, Don	24-Mar	
	Schickel, John	29-Mar	

Frank Schneider
Meal Sponsor
GATEWAY REHABILITATION HOSPITAL
513-781-8940

Jim Ferguson
Meal Sponsor
APEX REALTY GROUP
859-907-5466

Fundraiser
Gary Stewart
Concert Emcee

John Schickel
KENTUCKY STATE
Senator
859.384.7506

Gary Griesser
859.586.6225

Jim Ferguson
APEX REALTY GROUP
859.907.5466

Greg Palmer
PALMER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, INC.
859.282.1220

John & Connie
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Articles Written By: Patrick Moynahan

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Former Refugee Helps Others Build American Dream

Written By: J. Patrick Moynahan, Mar-01-2020



Mirsada Kadiric.

Disparaging political rhetoric about immigrants in the United States during the 2016 presidential campaign triggered flashbacks for

Watching a national newscast, she heard candidates express concerns about who the immigrants were, whether they had documentation, and what they were planning to do. Some of the comments were “so cruel” they touched her personally.

“Memories flashed back of what it felt like to be a refugee, how we were forced from our home with nothing but the clothes on our backs and how we struggled to survive with no food and water,” Kadiric said.

“... how we ran to stay alive when they released us from the concentration camp when they started shooting after us.”

That TV newscast compelled Kadiric to begin helping other refugees experience the American dream she enjoyed. She shared her journey from Bosnian refugee to U.S. citizen and a successful marketing career with members of the Rotary Club of Florence at a recent luncheon.

Kadiric also shares the story of her struggles as an immigrant in a book titled “I Am a Refugee: Finding Home Again in America.” She currently serves as board president for Refugee Connect, a non-profit organization that helps refugees adapt to life in the U.S.

Kadiric’s family was a victim of ethnic fighting in Bosnia in the early 1990s. She was 10 years old when a truck stopped in front of her home as she leisurely watched her father enjoy a meal she helped to prepare. Armed men ordered everyone out of the house with arms raised.

“That was the day they took my dad to a concentration camp ... the last time I ever saw him,” she said.

Two weeks later, they took Kadiric and her mother to a different concentration and “bombed our home to the ground,” she said.

Thus began a six-year struggle to find a new homeland. Kadiric said she and her mother crossed several borders in Western Europe on foot with no passports. They came to the United States in 1998, when she was 16, because “America was one of the few places to give us the option of a permanent place to

call home.”

The Kadirics came to America under a legal immigration status granted to people facing persecution in their home country because of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion. Refugees undergo intense background checks - “for good reason,” Kadiric said - because they are on a path to citizenship.

Like most immigrants, she said, her impression of the United States was based on Hollywood movies and TV shows. She expected to find sunny beaches, palm trees, fancy cars and beautiful people based on her favorite TV show, “Beverly Hills 90210.”

“You can only imagine the shock I experienced when I ended up here at Boone County High School,” she said, to laughter.

Kadiric struggled to adjust, often eating alone in the high school cafeteria. She found her footing at Northern Kentucky University after the campus newspaper, The Northerner, published a story about Bosnian refugees and other students “welcomed me into their hearts.”

She became a U.S. citizen in 2004 and spent the next 10 years building her American dream. She was named the Outstanding Student in Marketing at NKU in 2004, the Outstanding Young Researcher in 2015. Her marketing career was flourishing and she was traveling the world when she saw that TV newscast decrying immigrants in a hotel room in London.

Kadiric has since devoted herself to helping other refugees realize their dreams. Refugee Connect provides direct services to new immigrants and collaborates with more than 100 other non-profit agencies to help connect refugees with schools, medical care, etc.

New American Economic data showed Kentucky was home to 14,814 refugees in 2015 and 4,714 resettled in the commonwealth between 2016 and 2018, according to Kadiric. They contributed substantially to the economy: \$233 million in spending power and \$77.4 million in taxes paid.

“As a refugee, you are just happy to have a home without fear for your life,” Kadiric said. “You are working like no one else to contribute to your community because you know what it’s like to lose it all.”



Covington Rotary 100 celebration