

President: Ian Addington
 P. Elect: Mark Willoughby
 Secretary: Susan Annear
 Treasurer: Tiffany Day
 SGT-at-Arms: Shawn Carroll



Mon Noon @ NKADD
 22 Spiral Dr, Florence, KY
 PO Box 6027, Florence, KY 41022
 District 6740
 859-282-0397 (Ian)



Schedule for September 30, 2024

Change of Venue for Today's Program: Florence Nature Event Center [7200 Nature Park Dr, Florence](#)

- 11:45 am – Lunch Buffet opens (\$13/person)
- 12:00 pm – Meeting Begins, Greeting, Prayer-Reflection-Inspiration, Pledge & 4-Way Test
- 12:15 pm – Program Begins
- 1:00 pm – Meeting Adjourned

Program: Citizen of the Year Award Celebration

The Rotary Club of Florence is proud to announce Donna Wilmhoff as our Citizen of the Year for 2024. Donna is a respected caterer and baker who has made significant contributions to our community, including providing meals for our Rotary Club. Known for her "heart of gold," Donna is a longtime volunteer with the Boone County Arboretum and the Rose Garden Home Mission. She is described as "a pillar of our Northern Kentucky community," admired and respected by her peers for her unwavering dedication to volunteerism and selfless service.



Donna's selection was influenced by the large outpouring of support from the community, with supporters using phrases like "mentor," "class act," and "generous, giving, and selfless" to describe her. Her actions are performed with a gentle, self-effacing humility that makes her contributions even more notable. Donna is equally committed to helping neighbors and strangers who need a kind word or a meal in times of trouble. Her ability to mobilize and motivate others is a testament to her leadership qualities and her genuine desire to effect positive change in our community.

We look forward to celebrating Donna's contributions to our community at our upcoming event. The program will feature Sean as the Master of Ceremonies, Gary providing the Introduction of our Honoree, and Dennis presenting the History of the Award. Join us for what promises to be an inspiring and memorable event as we honor Donna Wilmhoff, our 2024 Citizen of the Year.

Welcome Committee is Team 1 – Community Engagement and Honors

Team Lead: Barb Keeling & Shawn Carroll Members: Paul Feuse, Pat Gutzeit, Dennis McEvoy, Josh Quinn, Pat Raverty, Gary Wilmhoff

Upcoming Programs

- Oct 4 - Annual Golf Outing
- Oct 7 - Jack Givens, 1978 University of Kentucky Men's Basketball champion and MVP (Team 7)
- Oct 8 - Project Heart Restart Press Conference at Florence Nature Park
- Oct 14 - No meeting (Team Meeting, Community Service, & Meet a Member Week)
- Oct 21 - Karen Brown, League of Women Voters (Team 6)
- Oct 28 - David Hastings, Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK) (Team 2)
- Note: Regular meetings are held at NKADD unless otherwise specified. Julie will be out on Oct 7 and Oct 28.

Signature Upcoming Events

- Oct 4th - Annual Golf Outing

Member Birthdays	
List, Karralea	2 /7
W., Mark	19/7
Mardis, Dave	21/7
Moore, Gary	25/7
H., Carrie	8/1
Taylor, Monty	8/2

**Owner
Broker
Realtor**

Apex Realty Group
Jim Ferguson
 859-907-5466

WTLB
 PRODUCTIONS
Will Baker
 Independent Video Production Services
 WTLBProductions.com

Don Volland
HUFF
 REALTY
 A Berkshire Hathaway Affiliate
 859.653.5616

Mike Crane
 KY Farm Bureau
 Insurance
 859.586.6142

Beth Long
 NEW DAY RANCH
 (859) 322-2884

Greg Palmer
 PALMER CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, INC.
 859.282.1220

Brad Shipe
Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
 859.282.7040

To submit content for the Newsletter a week prior (Monday 7PM) to nevillewbuchanan@gmail.com. Please note that our meetings may be live streamed.

Brad Handlen
 859-466-7230

Dennis McEvoy

 Be a gift to the world
Past District Gov

Shawn Carroll
 New Perceptions
 859.344.9322

Gary Griesser

 859.586.6225

Michelle Owen
Forcht Bank
 Happier Banking
 (859) 361-4174

Support

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- May 15-17, 2026 - District Conference at the Radisson (Save the date for Greg Palmer, District Governor next year)

Reminders

- October 4th - Sponsor or find sponsors for Hole Sponsor or Teams for Annual Golf Outing
- October 8th - Project Heart Restart Press Conference 1 pm Florence Nature Park
- Meet up with fellow Rotarians for coffee, lunch, or breakfast; send pictures to Julia Pile
- Share club info via Social Media and email
- Invite friends to meetings
- Share Happy Dollar moments with the club
- For DACdb training, contact Marcus@mpz.me
- Nominations needed for President-Elect (following Mark's presidency)



Last Week's Program: A Journey Through Brain Injury Recovery

Last week, our club had the privilege of hearing from Jared Payne, Secretary of the Brain Injury Alliance of Northern Kentucky. Jared shared his inspiring personal journey of recovery from a brain injury and shed light on the crucial work of the Alliance in our community.

Jared's Unexpected Journey

In January 2018, Jared's life took an unexpected turn when he woke up one morning unable to control his body. What started as a severe headache quickly escalated into a life-altering experience. Initially misdiagnosed, Jared's condition worsened until he was finally diagnosed with a brain infection that led to a significant brain injury.

Jared's road to recovery was long and challenging:

- Multiple hospital stays and treatments across various facilities
- Intensive physical therapy at Gateway Rehabilitation Hospital
- Relearning basic skills like sitting up, rolling over, and eventually walking
- Ongoing therapy and recovery efforts spanning nearly 7 years

One of the most poignant moments Jared shared was his experience of complete dependence during his early recovery. He recounted the emotional and physical challenges of not being able to perform basic tasks independently, emphasizing the importance of perseverance and support in the recovery process.

The Power of Small Victories

Jared's story highlighted the significance of celebrating small victories in the recovery journey. He shared a touching anecdote about the first time he was able to change his bedsheets independently post-injury - a task many of us take for granted. This accomplishment, seemingly minor to others, represented a major milestone in his journey towards regaining independence.

Brain Injury Alliance of Northern Kentucky: A Beacon of Hope

Through his experience, Jared became involved with the Brain Injury Alliance of Northern Kentucky, an organization that plays a vital role in supporting individuals and families affected by brain injuries. The Alliance offers a range of crucial services:

- Monthly Support Groups: Providing a platform for survivors and caregivers to share experiences and coping strategies.
- Financial Assistance Programs: Helping with costs of medical equipment, services, and adaptive technologies that insurance might not cover.
- Transportation and Grocery Delivery Services: Assisting those who may have lost their ability to drive or shop independently.
- Community Outreach and Prevention: Organizing helmet giveaways and educational programs to prevent brain injuries.
- Advocacy: Working to improve services and support for brain injury survivors at local and state levels.

The Ongoing Journey of Recovery

Jared emphasized that recovery from a brain injury is often a lifelong process. He shared his current goal of walking unassisted, demonstrating that progress continues years after the initial injury. His story serves as an inspiration to others facing similar challenges and a reminder of the incredible resilience of the human spirit.

How Rotarians Can Make a Difference

As Rotarians committed to "Service Above Self," we have numerous opportunities to support the brain injury community:

- Volunteer: Offer your time and skills to the Brain Injury Alliance's events and programs.
- Donate: Financial contributions help sustain and expand the Alliance's crucial services.
- Raise Awareness: Share information about brain injury prevention and the resources available through the Alliance.
- Professional Support: If you have relevant professional skills (medical, legal, financial), consider offering pro bono services.
- Inclusive Events: Ensure our Rotary events are accessible and welcoming to individuals with all abilities.

Learn More and Get Involved

To learn more about the Brain Injury Alliance of Northern Kentucky or to get involved, visit their website at BIANK.org. Your support can make a significant difference in the lives of brain injury survivors and their families in our community.