

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)

Rotary
 Club of
 Florence

Schedule for Monday, September 9, 2024

LOCATION: Northern Kentucky Area Development District (NKADD),
 22 Spiral Drive, Florence, KY 41042

- 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

Monday's Program Speaker

Mark Staggs, Volunteer Program Director for Special Olympics of Northern Kentucky
 Topic: Special Olympics & the SCHICKEL PICKLE & WEINER FEST FUNDRAISERS

About the Speaker: Mark Staggs serves as the Volunteer Program Director for Special Olympics of Northern Kentucky. He, along with his wife Debbie, has been instrumental in leading the organization for over 27 years. Under their leadership, the program has significantly expanded from just seven one-day events to offering 17 sports with seasonal schedules, providing numerous opportunities for athletes with intellectual disabilities in the region.

In 2017, Mark and Debbie Staggs were honored as the Citizens of the Year by the Rotary Club of Florence, KY for their outstanding contributions. Their commitment to Special Olympics is deeply personal, having begun their volunteer work due to their own experiences as parents of special needs children. Their involvement has not only enriched the lives of the athletes but also fostered a sense of community and support among families.



This Week's Welcome Committee: Team 3

Team Lead: Neville Buchanan (Until replacement) Members: Will Baker, Neville Buchanan, Brad Hamblen, Carrie Herrmann, Tim Herrmann, Julie Pile

Upcoming Programs:

- Sept 16 - Michael Carr, PHD AI - Professor at Thomas More (Team 4)
- Sept 23 - Jarred Payne, Secretary - Brain Injury Alliance of Northern KY (Team 5)
- Sept 30 - Citizen of the Year **will be at the Florence Nature Event Center** (Team 1)
- Oct 7 - Jack Givens, 1978 University of Kentucky Men's Basketball champion and MVP (Team 7)
- Oct 14 - No meeting (Team Meeting, Community Service, & Meet a Member Week – go grab a coffee, lunch or even walk with a member who you don't know)

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

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

Brad Hamblen
 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
 Rotary
 w. Ad Buttons

- Oct 21 - Karen Brown, League of Women Voters (Team 6)
- Oct 28 - David Hastings, Housing Opportunities of Northern Kentucky (HONK) (Team 2)

Signature Upcoming Events:

- * Sept 30th - Citizen of the Year Celebration
- * Oct 4th - Annual Golf Outing
- * May 15-17, 2026 - District Conference at the Radisson (Save the date for Greg Palmer, District Governor next year)

Reminders:

- ◆ Can you sponsor or find someone who can be a Hole Sponsor or has a Team for our Annual Golf Outing on Oct 4th? Please get a pamphlet from Shawn Carroll.
- ◆ Sept 14, 2024 - RLI Rotary Leadership Institute in Lexington, KY
- ◆ Remember to try to meet up with fellow rotarians for coffee, lunch, or breakfast to get to know each other better; send the pictures to Julia Pile.
- ◆ If you are out and about traveling and manage to attend a Rotary Club, please be sure to share our "flag" with them and get one in return.
- ◆ Invite a friend to our meetings and share club info via Social Media and email.
- ◆ Want to join our club? Membership forms are available at the welcome desk.
- ◆ Share your Happy Dollar moments with the club.
- ◆ For DACdb training, contact Marcus@mpz.me.

Rotary Club Updates:

- ◆ Barbara Keeling has announced that Our Citizen of the Year this year will be Donna Wilmhoff.
- ◆ Thanks to Duane Froelicher and sons for putting up Rotary Signs at 3 or 4 different locations around Northern KY.
- ◆ Julia just came back from Ireland, Dublin, and visited the 1st Rotary Club outside of the USA.

Ongoing Opportunities:

- ⇒ Stay updated with our club at [News & Updates \(floencerotary.org\)](https://www.floencerotary.org)
- ⇒ Remember the collection we are doing for NKADD for the seniors. Please bring products to the meeting.
- ⇒ Continue to support our Annual Golf Outing through sponsorships and team participation (see Shawn Carroll).
- ⇒ Participate in inter-club visits and flag exchanges during your travels.
- ⇒ Attend the upcoming RLI Rotary Leadership Institute for personal and professional development.
- ⇒ 2024 Kenton County Rotary Club Charity Golf Ball drop. Benefiting polio eradication and more. Thursday, October the 24th 2024 at the St Bauer Barbara Church, \$10 per ball. Winner takes home 30%. Click [here to register](#).
- ⇒ Can you put a link to the volunteer sign-up? <https://tinyurl.com/rcofky-opportunities>





Income Required:

For the median-priced home:

- Annual income of \$110,871
- 50% increase since January 2020

Median household income in the United States: **\$74,755**

Janet Harrah, Senior Director, Center for Economic Analysis and Development. [Click Here](#) to view this significant program.

	Inflation July 2019-July 2024
Food at home	26.9%
Shelter	25.8%
New and used motor vehicles	24.5%
Motor fuels	25.2%
Household energy	31.7%
Tenant's and Household Insurance	3.6%
Average Weekly Earnings	21.4%
Inflation-Adjusted Avg. Weekly Earnings	1.5%



Janet Harrah
Center for Economic Analysis and Development



Presidential message



Stephanie A. Urchick

President 2024-25

September 2024

The Magic of Rotary is belonging, and it's a feeling that can appear when you least expect it.

Earlier this year, I was in Slovakia serving as a president's representative during a six-week trip through Europe. When I wrote to Katarina Cechova, governor of District 2240 at the time, I mentioned that my grandmother Veronica Zilka grew up in a small village in the area before settling in the U.S.

It wasn't long before Cechova tracked down my grandmother's village, Jakubova Vol'a. She even organized a visit for me, where I received an unforgettable Slovakian welcome.

When I entered the community center of Jakubova Vol'a, a small crowd of people dressed in traditional Slovakian clothing greeted me. They sang with beautiful and powerful Central European voices that reminded me of my grandmother.

A lot of families play cards or games when they get together. When I was young, my father would pick up his accordion and lead my family in song. My grandmother would sing along with her impressive voice.

When I walked into the community center and heard traditional music from my childhood — when I saw a woman play the accordion the way my dad played — I suddenly felt like a little girl sitting at my grandmother's house in Monessen, Pennsylvania. I burst into tears of joy at the memories.

But the magic didn't stop there. District Governor Cechova really outdid herself. A local genealogist worked with a videographer to make a short film about my grandmother. We watched the video together in the community center.

When the video ended, I turned around and saw a man standing in the back of the room. I quickly learned that this stranger, Frantisek Zilka, was my second cousin. His grandmother and mine had been sisters. I felt like I had been struck by lightning.

I visited my newfound cousin's home, which happens to be the home where my grandmother was born. There, he shared old photographs I had never seen of my dad, my uncle, and my grandmother.

Since then, I can't stop thinking about my family of Rotary. When I refer to you as my family, I'm not just being kind. I really think of everyone in Rotary as my family. But I never would have imagined that my Rotary family would introduce me to long-lost personal family.

Sitting in that community center listening to traditional Slovakian music from my childhood filled me with joy and a profound sense of belonging. I am so grateful to District Governor Cechova and everyone who helped create that magical experience.

As members of Rotary, we have a unique opportunity to share the same magic with each other and with the world. I encourage you to consider how you can help spread that magic and ensure other members of your club — other members of our Rotary family — feel like they truly belong.