



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

February 2023  
Vol. 104 No. 19  
"DEFY GRAVITY"

### **In this Issue**

Important Dates

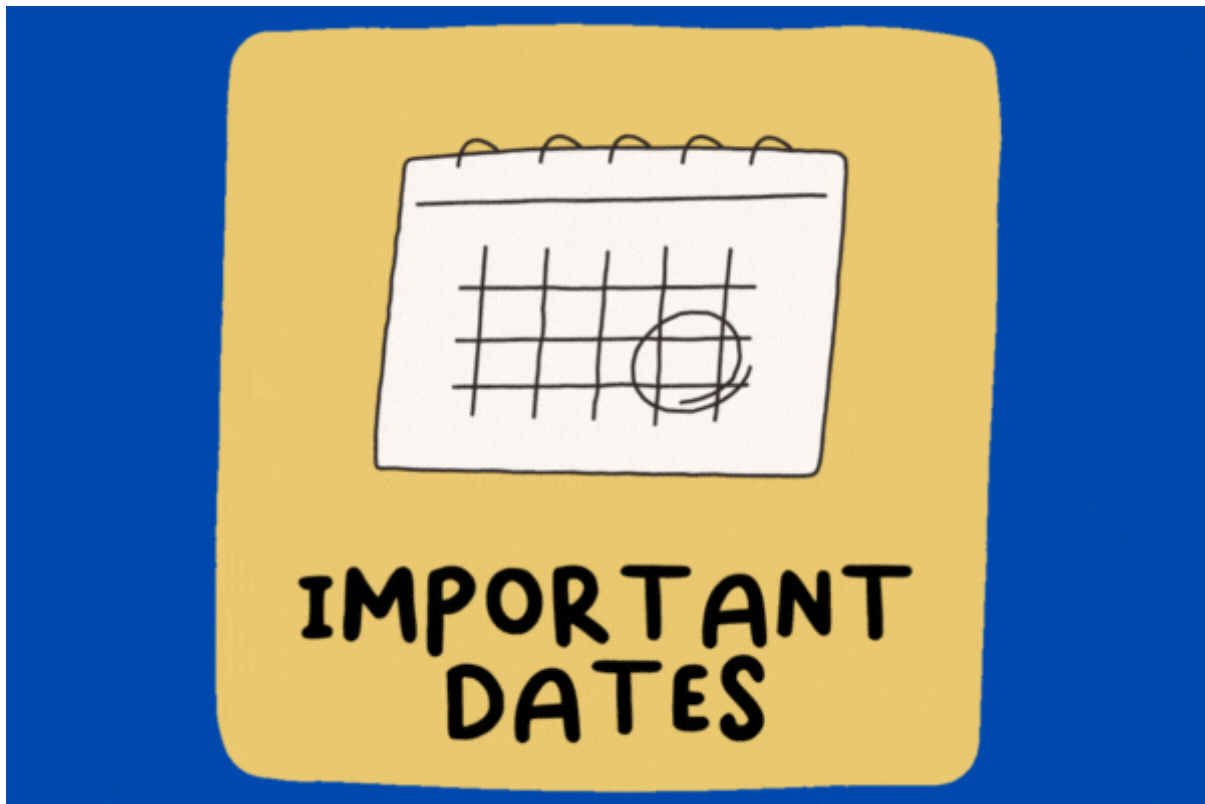
Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Autobiography

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays



**Feb 14** - (12:15 - 1:15) New Club Member Training

**Feb 15** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Joe Gaither, Coach and Mentor

**Feb 17** - (8 - 9 am) Membership Committee Meeting

**Feb 20** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Environment Committee Meeting

**Feb 22** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Mayor Sherman Lea, City of Roanoke

**Feb 24** - (8am) Prayer Breakfast Planning Meeting - See "Happenings"

**March 15** - Kiwanis Pancake Ticket sales begin

**March 16** - (6 - 9 pm) Kiwanis Social Night at Mill Mountain Theater, Jersey Boys and Reception

**April 22** - (9 am - noon) Kid's Fishing Day at HopeTree Family Services in Salem

**May 4** - (7:15 - 8:30 am) Prayer Breakfast

**May 6** - (7 am - 1 pm) Kiwanis Pancake and Auction Day!

---

## **February 15th Club Meeting - Joe Gaither**

Joe Gaither will be presenting on 42 Years of coaching and mentoring youth and high school sports.

Coach Joe Gaither is a youth basketball coach who led his teams to regional and national championships for over forty years—but this story is about so much more than basketball.

Joe's story grew from his African roots, his mother's struggles in the Jim Crow South, his start as a Black boy abandoned by his father, and his journey from player to coach, from young man to husband and father. Along the way, Coach Gaither became an inspiring mentor to hundreds of inner-city kids, enabling them to travel to distant cities for the first time in their lives, compete and win on the national level, and find a way to a college education that would otherwise be out of reach.

Coach Joe built a network of coaches, volunteers, donors, and non-profit organizations to improve the lives of his players long after their days on the court. You'll be inspired by this story about reaching across racial and economic divides for the good of a community. In The Coach

Gaither Story, youth basketball was simply the foundation for his ministry, a way of living out his faith in the service of a much larger and powerful story.



---

**February 22nd - Sherman Lea, Mayor of the City**

## of Roanoke

Sherman P. Lea was elected Mayor of the City of Roanoke on May 3, 2016. Mayor Lea began his political career as a member of Roanoke City Council on July 1, 2004 and has served 12 consecutive years, holding the position of Vice-Mayor between 2008 and 2010. During his tenure, Mayor Lea has served as Chairperson of the Personnel Committee, and member of the Audit and Legislative Committees. As a member of City Council, Mayor Lea formed the Domestic Violence Task Force in 2005, and began the annual Lea Youth Outdoor Basketball League in 2015 and the Lea's High School Winter Classic Basketball Challenge in 2015.

As a professional, Mayor Lea spent 36 years with the Virginia Department of Corrections assisting people with criminal convictions as they re-entered the community upon release from incarceration. His career dates back to 1976, when he began working as the Institutional Parole Officer with the Virginia Correctional Center for Women in Goochland. Mayor Lea later served as the Adult Probation and Parole Officer, from 1978 to 1984, working in Danville and Pittsylvania County.

In 1984, he was named Chief Probation and Parole Officer becoming the first African American to hold that position in Virginia. Mayor Lea was promoted in 1992 to the Western Regional Director. Despite retirement in 2012, he continues to work with individuals seeking release from incarceration through his appointment in 2014 to the Virginia Parole Board by Governor Terry McAuliffe.

Additionally, Mayor Lea is the founder and president of S.P. Lea & Associates, facilitating training sessions on topics including leadership, management theories and practices, and maintaining the skills needed to remain successful in our ever-changing work environment. He has facilitated workshops for various groups and at various institutions of higher learning to include the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice and Virginia University of Lynchburg. He has also conducted classroom lectures for educators studying to become superintendents.

Mayor Lea has been involved in numerous civic and volunteer activities; as well

as committees, programs, and initiatives including:

- ~ Member, Virginia Probation and Parole Association (VPPA)
- ~ Member, National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ)
- ~ Member, Virginia Correctional Association (VCA)
- ~ Chair, State Board of Directors, Virginia CARES, Inc.
- ~ Regional Surrogate, Attorney General Mark Herring Campaign
- ~ Former Chair, Board of Directors, Total Action for Progress (TAP)
- ~ Former Chair, Blue Ridge Regional School Board Association
- ~ Former Member, Virginia School Board Association (VSBA)
- ~ Founder and Chair of the Annual Western Virginia Education Classic Football Game
- ~ Member, Board of Visitors, Livingstone College, Salisbury, North Carolina
- ~ Former, Virginia High School League Football/Basketball Official
- ~ Former, College Football Official (ACC, ODAC, and CIAA)

On September 20, 2019, Mayor Lea was inducted into the Virginia Union University Athletic Hall of Fame. Mayor Lea was awarded the 2010 William L. Hastie Award by the National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ) and named the 2014 Citizen of the Year by the Gamma Alpha Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in sociology from Virginia Union University and an honorary doctorate in Humane Letters for Humanitarian Work in the Community from Bethlehem Bible College.

Personally, Mayor Lea is an Associate Minister of Garden of Prayer No. 7. He was married for 44 years to the late Clara S. Lea, the proud father to Erica L. Rosser and Sherman P. Lea, Jr.; and the loving grandfather to twin granddaughters Jaylen and Mya, and grandson Jonathan, Jr.



**Highlights from our last club meeting!**





Note that the group of seated people in the above photo are the Nomination Committee working to identify the next round of Board Member and Vice President.



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

## **New Members**

Four new members were approved at the board meeting yesterday -- Nancy Horn (sponsored by Steve McGraw). Nancy was a previous member from 2001-2008

Dan Chitwood (sponsored by Diane Chitwood). Dan was a previous member from 2000-2022.

Bert Boyd (sponsored by Rupert Cutler).

Peg McGuire (sponsored by Jeanne Bollendorf).

## **Prayer Breakfast**

There is a Prayer Breakfast planning meeting scheduled for Wednesday, February 24th, at 6 pm. Anyone interested in helping this committee is welcome to join via Zoom.

May 4th at Kazim Shriners of Roanoke, 627 Campbell Ave. Breakfast buffet opens at 7:00am. Program runs from 7:15-8:30am. Sam Rasoul is the keynote speaker addressing the Building Bridges theme. Tickets cost \$8.00 per person.

Questions? Cheri and Dave Hartman  
davidhartman4@cox.net

## **Meeting Recordings**

Note that club meeting recordings can be found on our YouTube channel [here](#).

*Please email any potential happenings to Alex at [abarge11@gmail.com](mailto:abarge11@gmail.com).*

---

## **Kiwanian Birthdays**

February 6 -- Barry Akers

February 14 -- Clark Goodman

February 14 -- Mike Quinn

February 18 -- Kathy Cohen

February 24 -- Tara Marciniak

February 28 -- Betsy Head

---





**Kiwaniis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

2022-23

Officers:

Ben Spiker, President

Mike O'Brochta, President-Elect

Jeanne Bollendorf, Vice President

John Montgomery, Secretary-  
Treasurer

Clark Goodman, Past President

Directors:

Don Wilson, President, Kiwanis  
Foundation of Roanoke -Term Ends  
2023

Jamie Bailey, 2023

Luke Young, 2023

LeeAnn Linkenhoker, 2023

Kevin Reeder, 2024

Stephanie Moon Reynolds, 2024

Bob Habermann, 2025

Bruce Swanson, 2025

Sheila Umberger, 2025

Harry Zulauf, 2025



Copyright © 2023 Kiwanis Club of Roanoke, All rights reserved.

Want to change how you receive these emails?

You can [update your preferences](#) or [unsubscribe from this list](#).



mailchimp