



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

September 2023  
Vol. 104 No. 50  
'DEFY GRAVITY'

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## **Committee Membership** **Mike O'Brochta, President-Elect**

All forty committees for next year have been established and each has a volunteer leader. Now it is your turn. Each and every member of our Club, and we have very active members in our Club, each and every member of our Club can volunteer for as many committees as they wish. Just contact each individual Chair of the committees you are interested in joining. Or, fill in a Committee Volunteer form available at our Club meetings. Note, and this is important, we are scrubbing the Directory to eliminate ghost committee members (names previously listed on a committee for people who have not been actively participating). Consequently, this is important too, we will not automatically carry over a name of a committee member from last year's Directory, you must re-volunteer. The deadline to volunteer for a committee is September 30. The Directory will be published in October. Now, on with the committee volunteering.

Committees are listed at the end of the email.

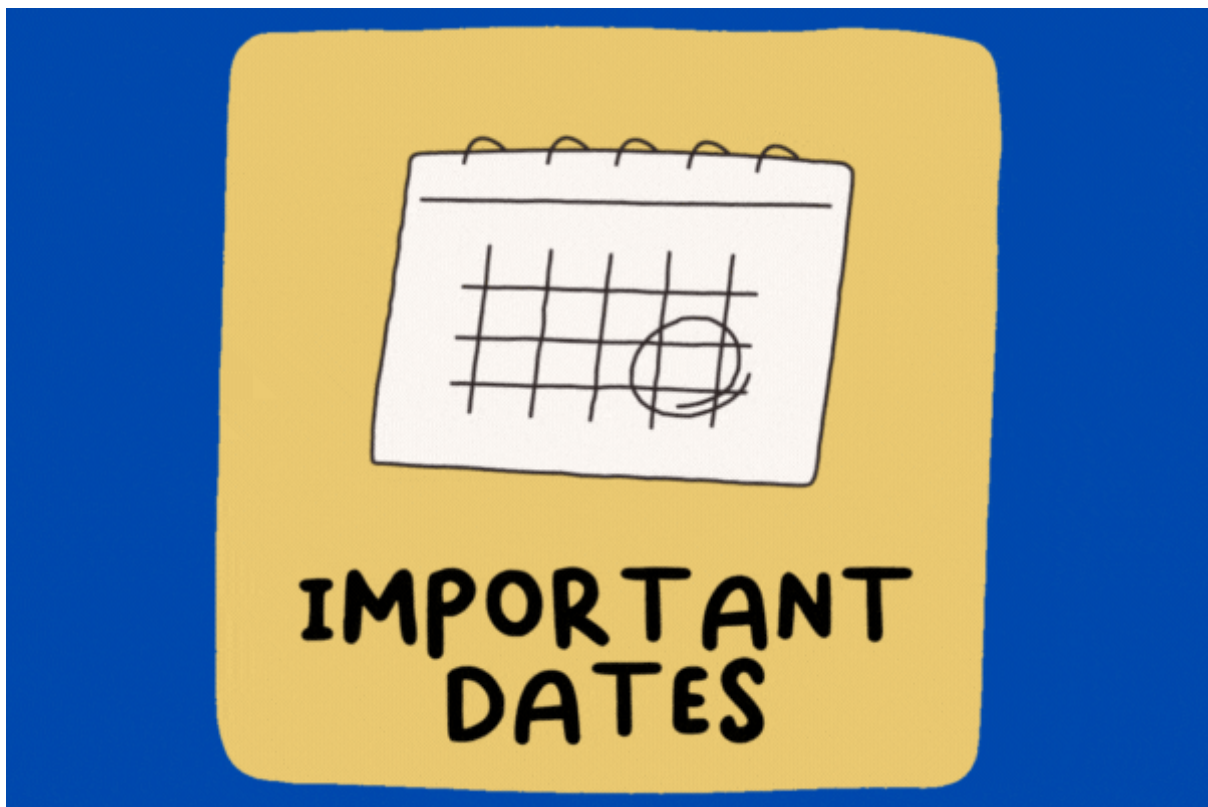
## Call for **Committee Volunteers**



### **Officer Installation and Dinner**

Take advantage of the opportunity to thank our outgoing and incoming leaders at our Officer Installation ceremony and dinner (New Orleans Gumbo) at Carvins Cove Wednesday September 27 at 5:00pm. No charge for members, virtual-plus members and guests \$12, casual dress. RSVP soonest to John Montgomery at [jmonty@cox.net](mailto:jmonty@cox.net) with your headcount numbers.

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**September 20** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Robert Turcotte, Entre Computer Center

**September 27** - \*\*No meeting\*\*

**September 27** - (5:00-7:10pm) Officer Installation - Gumbo at Carvins Cove

**September 30** - Committee volunteer deadline

**October 21** - Bocce Ball Tournament

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## **Wednesday, September 20th, Club Meeting - Robert Turcotte, Entre Computer Center**

Robert Turcotte will be speaking on what is artificial intelligence (AI) and natural language progressing (NLP) and why is everyone talking about it.

Robert has been senior system consultant at Entre Computer Center for 34 years. He is a leader in the business community and numerous community organizations.



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**Highlights from our Last Club Meeting**



Andre Brooks tells her story of joining Kiwanis



Joe Gaither opens meeting with the call for introspection



Brooke Tolley receives her permanent member badge



Jonathan Lee announces Roanoke College's new football team



Megan Jester tells Roanoke College's story

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**Kiwanis**  
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Happenings

### **Welcome New Member!**

Captain Matt Trantham, along with his wife Major Cristina Trantham, is an officer in the Salvation Army and is leading the Army's efforts here in Roanoke for the next few years. Matt and Cristina most recently served in Salisbury, MD after stops in Charlotte, Rocky Mount, and Fayetteville, North Carolina. They have a 3-year-old son, Zachary, and are excited about the opportunity to serve the community in the Roanoke Valley. Additionally, Matt was previously a Kiwanian in Fayetteville, NC, and is looking forward to being an active member of our Club.

### **Notes from John Montgomery**

- Service Budget Funding Requests for 2023-24 are due to John Montgomery by this Friday.
- There is a Grants Review Committee zoom this Friday at 2; contact Bob Habermann for zoom info.
- Committee Sign-up Deadline is September 30. Send your choices to John Montgomery.

### **Capital District Leadership Training Opportunity**

Capital District offers a leadership training opportunity through the DEIBA Committee (DEIBA = Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Belonging, Accessibility) - Cheri and Dave Hartman are leaders on this effort. They highly recommend this training.

Relationship building is key to success with any group or organization in today's society. It is imperative for your club to foster an inclusive and welcoming climate for all. However, have you ever thought about why someone may not join a club, organization, or team? In this training, you

will learn to understand how bias and microaggressions can affect the relationship a group can have with each other and the communities they serve. Strategies will be presented on how to create a welcoming and inclusive environment for all, regardless of age, race, sex, gender, sexual orientation, and socioeconomic status. Tactics will also be presented on how to intervene and address any acts of bias or microaggressions that may arise within our Kiwanis family.

September 19, 2023

7:00 PM (EST)

[REGISTER HERE](#)

### **Meeting Recordings**

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

### **Autobiography, Mike O'Brochta, President-Elect**

On July 11, 2005, I wrote the following in my journal: “Our climbing team has just ascended past the twenty-thousand foot level on Mt. Aconcagua in Argentina, one of the world’s seven summits and the tallest mountain outside of the Himalayan mountain range. We are eight hours into our summit attempt, the temperature is well below zero, the air is chokingly thin, the summit is in sight, our depleted leg muscles are rubbery, dawn is breaking, and our guide just has fallen into a crevasse while attempting to lead us up a wall of overhanging unstable ice.” That’s right, our guide fell into a crevasse. I’d like to tell you a bit about what led me to this point and what happened next.

You see, setting and meeting goals, like climbing a mountain, began at an early age after my father was taken by cancer when I was eleven. Growing up below the poverty line with a largely absent mother, and then without a father, I figured that my life was going to depend largely on my own efforts. Goal: go to college. How: work many odd jobs after



school and summers. Goal: get a college degree for something at which I could earn a living. How: graduate with an electrical engineering degree from the largest engineering school in the country (Newark College of Engineering – 1,000 engineers in my graduating class – my good friend and fellow Kiwanian My Chung was one of them). How: work multiple jobs and compete for scholarships while averaging 21 credit hours every semester.

Goal: long-term stable employment. How: 33 years employed by the CIA as an engineer, project manager, director, and leader (incredibly talented people – unsung heroes – innovation and force of a good idea more important than seniority or title). One of those good ideas I worked on early in my career as the junior member of a team was the development of the most technologically advanced project at that time in the CIA – spent huge sums of your taxpayer money – thank you – it was 1983 – we now refer to it as a cell phone. That fortunate experience propelled me through an interesting career – eventually running CIA’s project management program – eventually allowing me to help develop federal project management standards. That also led me to start and run, after I retired from the CIA, a project management consulting company and to hold senior volunteer positions in the Project Management Institute, one of the largest professional organizations in the world.

Goal: fall in love and get married. How: beats me – this was not a goal I was conscious of – however, it was a goal my now wife, Beth, had. She says she was not shopping for a husband; I think otherwise. And after a short time dating, the light bulb went off, and it became my goal as well. However, as a typical socially backward engineer, I really did not understand the best way to go about meeting that goal. So, in one of those “it seemed like a good idea at the time” moments, I took Beth on a trip to share in one of my favorite hobbies, 10 days of backpacking in the White Mountains of New Hampshire. Mind you, I had not considered the fact that she had no backpacking experience and that ascending Mt.

Washington, the highest mountain in the Northeast, might put a strain on her and our relationship. But I did consider the odds. And, I did try to tip those odds in my favor when, after backpacking to the top of Mt.

Washington, when both of us were fatigued and dirty, I asked her to marry me. She immediately said “yes” and was overjoyed with tears. At least I think the tears were of joy. Either way, I had the map, compass, and food, so what else could she say.

Decades later, she is still dealing with a socially backward engineer, still backpacking, and still sharing a life filled with adventure. She has made a remarkable impression on so many lives beyond mine. Countless high school students are now on the right track because of her caring and guidance. Likewise, her thousands of volunteer hours, every year, year in and year out, have made a difference to people in the churches we have joined, at food banks, in soup kitchens, at museums, delivering meals, and in hospitals. Look up volunteer in the dictionary, and you will see Beth’s picture. Look up “the best thing we have ever done,” and you will see a picture of our son, William. We live through his accomplishments. He is smart and work extremely hard, earned a Doctorate in Political Science from Washington University in St. Louis, and is a professor at Texas Lutheran University outside of San Antonio.

Goal: make a difference. How: spend decades in leadership positions in Methodist and Presbyterian churches, in the Boy Scouts and, more recently, trying to help our Kiwanis Club build on its history of success and spread the word about our Club. Now, about that crevasse. My goals have always been long term. Meaning that I am more than willing to forgo short term gratification to invest in the future. I am more than willing to toil away day after day and live below my means if it results in financial security. I am more than willing, as you saw when I ran KPAD, to put monetary goals second in favor of the longer term goal of increasing our customer base and raising awareness of our Club. And, I am more than willing, after helping to extract our guide from that

crevasse, to turn around and descend down the mountain if it means I will live to see my family and climb again another day.

Goal: as President, move our Club forward. How: with your help. Thank you very much.



### New Interpretive Sign



Steve McGraw, Mike O’Brochta and Don Witt install new pollinator garden interpretive sign.

Close up of sign

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

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## Committees 2023-2024

- Administrative Budget – John Montgomery  
Implement strategies to strengthen and support the club’s administrative budget and prepare budget for board approval.

- Adult Care Thanksgiving – Don Chichester  
Coordinate Thanksgiving dinner for elderly at the Adult Care Center.
- Bocce – Greg Lionberger  
Plan and conduct fun Bocce event.
- Book Club (new) – Dave Hartman  
Jointly read, explore, and discuss selected books.
- Business Outreach (new) – Keith Hartman  
Form relationships between our club and local area businesses to increase our club's visibility, and enhance community awareness.
- CHIP Backpacks – Betsy Bohannon and Joe Lemmer  
Coordinate the collection of funds to purchase backpacks and school supplies for children entering elementary school.
- Environment – Dave Perry  
Plan and implement projects which have a positive impact on our local environment.
- Environment Scholarships – Rupe Cutler and Lee Osborne  
Subcommittee of Environment Committee. Solicit applications from Roanoke students currently attending one of four designated local colleges or universities and majoring in an environment-related degree, develop selection criteria, evaluate, and recommend scholarship awards.
- Fun – Lois James and Emily Bailey  
Conduct a variety of fun activities to encourage social interaction among our members; promote and encourage non-members to attend.
- Grand Angel Tree – Jill Sluss  
Solicit contributions to support the Family Service of Roanoke Valley gift program for the elderly in need.
- Grants – Bob Habermann  
Solicit proposals from local nonprofit organizations, develop selection criteria, evaluate, and recommend grant awards.
- High School Scholarships – Steve English  
Solicit applications from local High Schools with Key Clubs, develop selection criteria, evaluate, and recommend scholarship awards.
- Inductions – Don Wilson  
Conduct an induction ceremony for each new club member.
- Introspection – Preston Tyler  
Coordinate weekly club meeting introspection.
- Kids Fishing Day – Bob Rutherford and Mike Bell

Conduct a program for children to participate in a fishing rodeo.

- Kiwanis Foundation – Lee Osborne

Build and manage an endowment that will support the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke in effecting meaningful and lasting changes in our community and our world.

- Kiwanis Kares – Jenny Lee

Tend to members' needs outside Kiwanis meetings.

- Kiwanis Pancake and Auction Day (KPAD) – Jeanne Bollendorf

Conduct annual signature fundraising event to include serving pancakes, auctioning the Mill Mountain Star, and conducting a yard sale.

- Meals on Wheels – Don Wilson

Participate in the Meals on Wheels program.

- Meeting Set-Up and Break-Down – John Ewart and Joe Lemmer

Perform weekly set-up of club meeting elements including keyboard, pipe, drape, banners, gavel and bell.

- Meeting Zoom (new) – Stephanie Moon Reynolds

Perform weekly set-up of club meeting Zoom cameras and presentation computer.

- Membership – Milton Hardy

Increase and diversify membership; assist new members in becoming engaged with the club and its service activities.

- Nature Park – Rupe Cutler, Cheri Hartman, and Don Witt

Subcommittee of Environment Committee. Develop a park adjacent to the Kiwanis Playground that provides educational and recreational opportunities for area residents.

- Newsletter – Alex Barge

Edit and publish weekly club newsletter.

- Nominating Committee – Jenny Lee

Develop a slate of candidates for officers and directors.

- Photographer – Don Witt

Take photos of weekly meeting and other club events.

- Pledge of Allegiance – Harry Zulauf

Coordinate weekly club meeting introspection.

- Policy (new) – Lee Osborne

Conduct review of existing club policy documents, develop updates where needed, and present updated documents for approval.

- Prayer Breakfast – David Hartman  
Organize and lead an interfaith breakfast on the National Day of Prayer to develop understanding and goodwill among those professing different religious faiths.
- Presidential Advisors – Mike O’Brochta  
Provide information, recommendations, and guidance to the club President.
- Programs – Joyce Montgomery  
Recruit speakers for weekly meetings to address meaningful topics related to the mission, vision and values of the club.
- Public Relations & Marketing – Jeanne Bollendorf and Peg McGuire  
Promote and enhance the image of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke within our community.
- Salvation Army Bell Ringers – Ken Briggs  
Ring the bell for the Salvation Army during the three nights of “Dickens of a Christmas.”
- Service Leadership Programs – Reif Kessler  
Advise, support and encourage leadership and growth among students in local school Key Clubs, the Westside K-Kids Club, and the Aktion Club.
- Music – Judy Clark  
Coordinate occasional music and songs for club meetings and other events.
- Sponsorships – Tom Miller and Ben Spiker  
Solicit support from corporate sponsors.
- Spring Fun Day – Joe Gaither and Cheri Hartman  
Participate in community event held in proximity to the Kiwanis Playground and Nature Park.
- Strategic Planning (new) – Bill Bestpitch  
Develop a blueprint plan for the club’s future.
- Webmaster – Mike O’Brochta  
Maintain content on club’s website.
- Welcome – Pegram Johnson  
Greet attendees and introduce visitors at each meeting.
- West End Center Holiday Party – Lois James  
Conduct the annual Holiday party for West End Center children, including the purchase and wrapping of gifts and arranging for a visit from Santa and the gang.
- Young Professionals – Kevin Reeder  
Develop programs and implement strategies designed to make Kiwanis an

attractive option for a younger audience of professionals within our community.

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## **Kiwanian Birthdays**

September 3 Vern Danielsen  
September 4 Betsy Bohannon  
September 4 Joe Bradney  
September 5 Sam Lionberger III  
September 7 Jackie Bledsoe  
September 9 Lee Learman  
September 11 Calvin Witt  
September 13 Neal Kinsey  
September 13 Jessie Coffman  
September 14 Eric Danielsen  
September 15 Mike Leigh  
September 16 Ken Briggs  
September 16 LeeAnn Linkenhoker  
September 16 Glenn Pierce  
September 21 John Ewart  
September 23 Mike Loveman  
September 23 Mike Adams  
September 24 Dave Spangler

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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

David Hartman, 2024

Bob Habermann, 2025

Sheila Umberger, 2025

Harry Zulauf, 2025



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