



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

September 2023  
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'DEFY GRAVITY'

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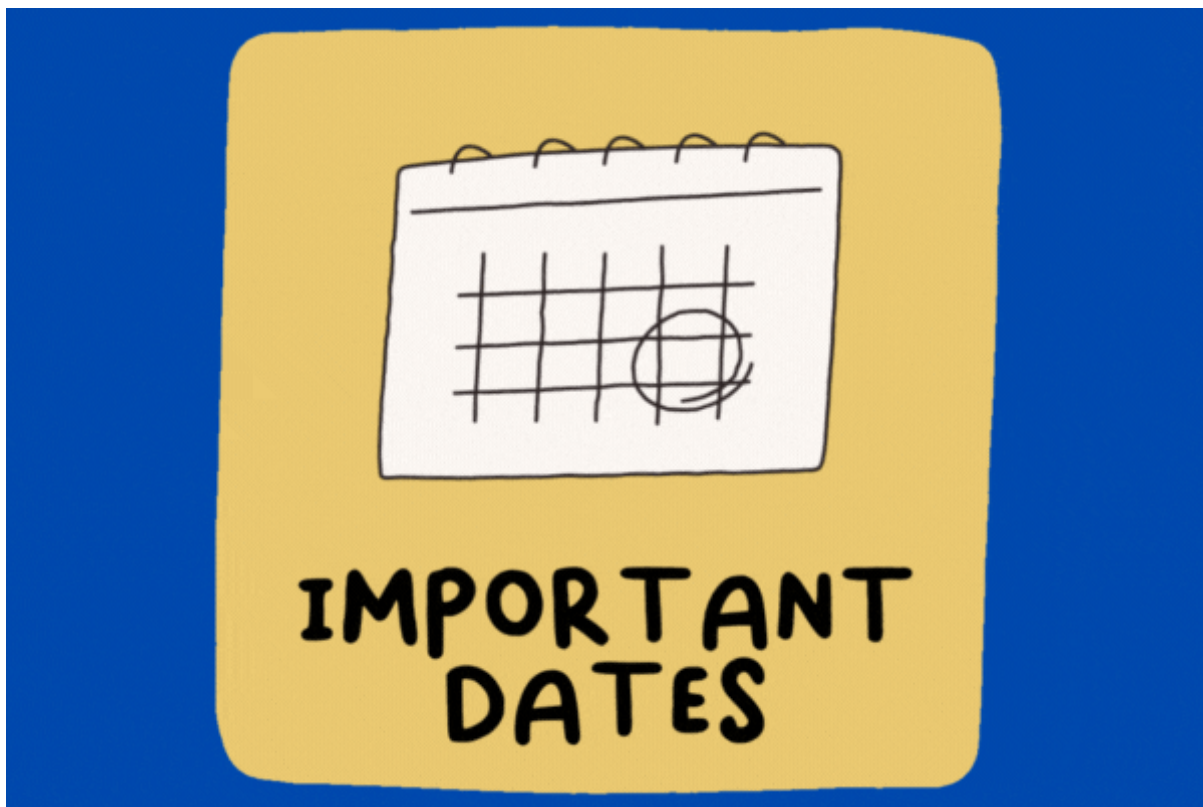
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## **Officer Installation and Dinner**

(This is in lieu of our regular meeting September 27)

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

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

**September 30** - Committee volunteer deadline

**October 3** - (2 - 4 pm) Board zoom meeting to review Service Budget requests

**October 4** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Dr. Verletta White, Superintendent of Roanoke City Public Schools

**October 11** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Dr. Mary Dana Hinton, President of Hollins University

**October 18** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting - Cleopatra Kitt, PhD, Vice President of Leadership Development with Retirement Unlimited, Inc.

**October 21** - Bocce Ball Tournament

**October 25** - (12:30 - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting

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**Wednesday, October 4th - Club Meeting - Dr. Verletta White, Superintendent of Roanoke City Public Schools**

Dr. White will provide remarks centering around the work that RCPS is doing to empower all students to dream, excel, and reach their full potential. She will also discuss how the school system is working to provide supports for the community through the establishment of the Booker T. Washington Center for Community Empowerment and Education.

A results-driven, student-centered, visionary leader, Dr. Verletta White was appointed Superintendent of Roanoke City Public Schools (RCPS) on July 1, 2020. She has been recognized regionally and nationally for her ability to bring together communities for the benefit of students. In 2023, she was named Virginia's 2024 State Superintendent of the Year, Virginia's Region VI Superintendent of the Year, and was also touted as one of the five superintendents in the nation to watch by K-12 Dive.

Dr. White has been praised for her ability to identify common pain points in the school community, which contributed to a new path forward for RCPS. To that end, she convened more than 40 community and educational leaders and garnered input from hundreds of students, staff, and community members to develop RCPS' 2022 – 2028 Strategic Plan: The Roadmap to Student Success.

In keeping with her desire for all students to graduate with a diploma and a resume rich with skills and experiences, Dr. White introduced Advancement Via Individual Determination (AVID) in RCPS middle and high schools. AVID seeks to close the opportunity gap in college acceptance and graduation rates among diverse and underrepresented students. Additionally, she created and received approval for the RCPS Equity in Action Plan, which will more than double RCPS' Career and Technical Education student seat capacity, centralize the division's administration offices, and establish the Booker T. Washington Community Empowerment and Education Center. Students in RCPS are demonstrating growth in reading due to Dr. White's focus on literacy, where teachers are having students read, write, and discuss relevant material in every class, every day.

Dr. White believes students remain safe and productive when they are connected to their school and involved with meaningful activities. As a result, RCPS launched Staying Safe by Staying Connected summer athletic and theater camps for middle school students. Additionally, an annual student job fair, RCPS Works was launched to connect students who are looking for summer, after-school, or long-term employment with more than 80 area employers.

Often referring to Roanoke City as "the sweetest City on earth," Dr. White is involved and engaged within the community. She serves on boards and advisory councils for many local, regional, and state organizations, including the Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, United Way of Roanoke Valley, Community Foundation Serving Western Virginia, Western Virginia Public Education Consortium, Blue Ridge Partnership for Health Sciences Careers, Roanoke Education Foundation, Virginia Alliance of Black School Educators, and more. She is also a proud member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., and the Girl Friends, Inc.

Previously, Dr. White served the students and families of Baltimore, Maryland through her work in Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS), the 25th largest school system in the nation. From 2017 to 2019 she led BCPS as Interim Superintendent of Schools and from 2019 to 2020 she served as a Consultant to the Superintendent, researching factors impacting teacher recruitment and retention. Throughout her career, Dr. White served in various roles, including, teacher, teacher mentor, assistant principal, principal, executive director of professional development, assistant superintendent, and chief academic officer.

Dr. White holds a Bachelor of Science degree in education from Towson University, a Master of Arts degree in leadership in teaching from the Notre Dame of Maryland University, and a Doctor of Education (Ed.D.) degree in urban educational leadership from Morgan State University.

Dr. White and her husband, Sidney, are the proud parents of two grown children, Victoria and Bethany, both of whom graduated from public schools.



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## **Wednesday, October 11th, Club Meeting - Dr. Mary Dana Hinton, President of Hollins University**

Dr. Mary Dana Hinton will be speaking on developing outstanding leadership from unexpected places. She will discuss how the leadership qualities we need at this moment are often cultivated in people and communities who have historically been denied access to leadership roles.

Dr. Mary Dana Hinton is the 13th president of Hollins University in Roanoke, Virginia, and President Emerita of the College of Saint Benedict in St. Joseph, Minnesota. An active and respected proponent of the liberal arts and inclusion, her leadership reflects a deep and abiding commitment to educational equity and the education of women. Hinton is a member of the board of directors for the American Association of Colleges and Universities, InterFaith America, Mount Saint Mary's University (CA), The Teagle Foundation and the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, where she is the vice chair. She is a Commissioner on the AGB Council on Higher Education as a Strategic Asset and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Hinton's scholarship focuses on higher education leadership, strategic planning, the role of education in peace building, African American religious history, and inclusion in higher education. She is the author of *The Commercial Church: Black Churches and the New Religious Marketplace in America* and a frequent op-ed contributor across higher education publications. Hinton's new book *Leading from the Margins*, based on her TedX Talk of the same name, will be published by Johns Hopkins University Press in 2024.



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**Wednesday, October 18th, Club Meeting - Cleopatra  
Kitt, PhD, Vice President of Leadership Development  
with Retirement Unlimited, Inc.**

Ivies Incorporated of the Roanoke Valley has a focused strategic growth plan

for collaboration, cadence, and a community centric focus. They are focused on creating signature programs to impact the lives of our community.

Dr. Kitt has worked for the Fralin and Waldron families in Roanoke for twenty-six years. She has worked as the CEO of LifeWorks Advantage, Director of Special Projects-Operations, Vice President of Operations, licensed Nursing Home Administrator and Nursing Home. She has a PhD in Healthcare Administration from the Virginia University of Lynchburg and a MPH from the University of South Carolina.



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## **Highlights from our Last Club Meeting**





Set-up crew getting ready for the meeting



Don Chichester distributing sign-up sheets



Mayor Sherman Lea with Miss Virginia Katie Rose



Speaker Robert Turcotte presents a program on artificial intelligence



**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

Happenings

**Notes from John Montgomery**

- Committee Sign-up Deadline is September 30. Send your choices to

John Montgomery.

### **Volunteers Needed**

Meals on Wheels, a program of the Local Office on Aging. They are in dire need of volunteers to run routes from the Vinton location. Don Wilson, our Kiwanis Meals on Wheels chairperson, will run the route with any volunteers during their first time to "show them the ropes."

Please reach out to Don if you are interested or have any questions 540.520.3208 or email at [dwils4230@gmail.com](mailto:dwils4230@gmail.com)

### **Meeting Recordings**

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

### **Congrats John Montgomery**

Congratulations to the Capital District Kiwanis September Member of the Month, John Montgomery!

"John joined the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke in 1997 and a year later was invited to join the board. He served as a distinguished Club president from 2004 to 2005 and four years later he served as his division's lieutenant governor. John has held the position of secretary/treasurer for the club for many years and during the past year, he has also served as editor of The Capital Kiwanian. From 2018 to 2021, he also served as the Southwest Virginia Region trustee. He is always willing to help with a local, Division or District project and lend a helping hand or provide guidance to anyone who can use his expertise. This is also demonstrated by his serving as an educator within the Division and District. John is always the humble gentleman and truly exemplifies the definition of service to others."

CAPITAL DISTRICT KIWANIS  
**MEMBER  
OF THE MONTH**



**JOHN MONTGOMERY**  
Kiwaniis Club of Roanoke, VA



**Kiwaniis**  
CAPITAL DISTRICT

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

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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



**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

David Hartman, 2024

Bob Habermann, 2025

Sheila Umberger, 2025

Harry Zulauf, 2025



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