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**Kiwanis**  
CLUB OF ROANOKE

February 2025  
Vol. 106 No. 18  
"WHAT IS YOUR  
SUPERPOWER"



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Important Dates

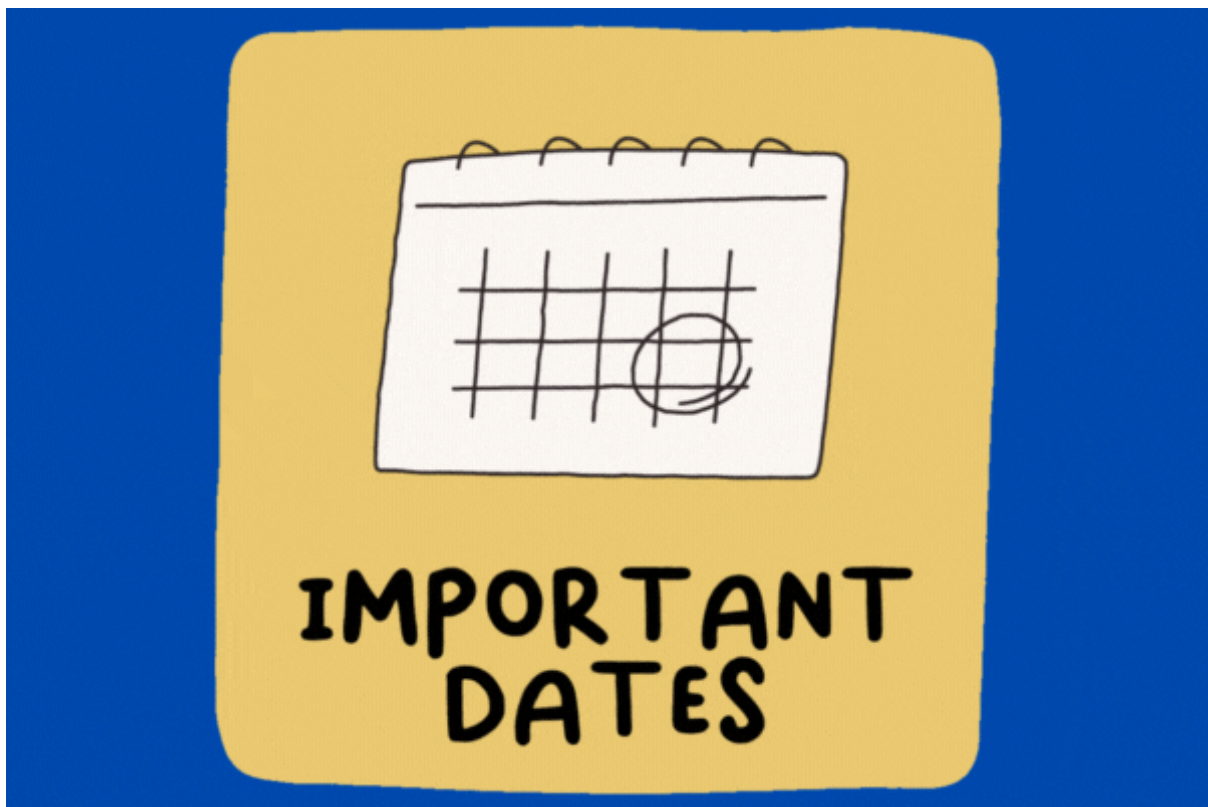
Speakers' Info

Feature Photos

Kiwanis Happenings

Kiwanian Birthdays





**February 25** - (6 - 7:30 pm) KPAD Team Draft

**February 26** - (12:20\* - 1:30 pm) Club Meeting, Cheryl Mosley, United Way Helping Families

**February 26** - (1:35pm) Membership and Engagement Meeting

**February 26** - (1:35pm) Environment Committee Meeting

**February 28** - (8 am) Spring Fun Day Virtual Planning Meeting

**February 28** - (9:30 am) Interfaith Breakfast Planning Meeting

**March 1** - (6 - 9 pm) Fun Party/Dance

**March 5** - (6 pm) Book Club - South County Library

**March 13** - (6 - 9 pm) Mill Mountain Theater

**April 12** - (6:45 - 10:45 am) Blue Ridge Marathon

**May 1** - (7:30 - 9 am) Prayer Breakfast

**May 10** - (7 - 1 am) Kiwanis Pancake and Auction Day (KPAD)

**May 31** - (9-11 am set up, 11 am - 3 pm event) Spring Fun Day

You can always stay up-to-date by checking out the calendar on our [website here](#).

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## **February 26th Club Meeting - Cheryl Mosley, United Way ~ Helping Families\***

Join us Wednesday for our weekly meeting at 12:30 PM in Charter Hall on the third floor of the City Market Building to listen to Cheryl Mosley, Vice President of Community Impact at United Way of Virginia's Blue Ridge.

Every week throughout the month of February we are featuring a speaker from our local United Way. Meeting attendees will be treated to an across-the-board look into, not only the United Way, but into the fabric of our community as well.

Cheryl will address the UWRV collaborative to give youth an opportunity in afterschool programs to succeed in school and in life. She will also address the collaborative to help adults toward self-sufficiency by improving their job skills and providing other supports to allow them to succeed. A representative from one of these collaboratives will join Cheryl.

With over 20 years of nonprofit leadership experience, Cheryl is passionate about advancing equitable opportunities and building thriving communities that will support our efforts in helping 10,000 families reach self-sufficiency by 2030. She is also the owner of Mahogany Design Collective where she is committed to the art of discovering and curating the essence of each client's vision for their home & lifestyle.

\*Please note the meeting will start 10 minutes early at 12:20 pm.



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## Highlights From Our Last Meeting

(two weeks ago)



Joe Gaither accepts the Kiwanis grant for SOULL



Grant recipient Kathleen Thorall explains the history of Tudor House



Denise Ellis explains United Way's early childhood initiative



Leslie Clark describes United Way's family health strategies



**Kiwanis**  
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Happenings

### **Message from John**

We extend our sympathy to the family of Past President Andy Stone, who unexpectedly lost his cousin Susan Williams of Roanoke last Wednesday. Susan had formerly served as executive director of the Local Office on Aging for 32 years. LOA is currently, and has long been, the largest grant recipient of the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke.

Get well wishes to Lourice Taylor, Past President J.C.'s wife, who underwent successful knee replacement surgery on Monday.

Several Roanoke Kiwanians are headed to Cambridge, Maryland this weekend for the Capital District Kiwanis Midyear Convention. Safe travels -- and represent our club well!

### **Kiwanis Social!**

Our sweethearts  
Our anniversary  
Our Kiwanis friendships!

Saturday, March 1, 2025  
Harrison Museum, 6:00 PM  
Cocktail Party, Beer and Wine  
Dancing with Deejay  
\$50 per couple/\$25 single



### **Social at Mill Mountain Theater**

Join us for a social evening on March 13 at the Mill Mountain Theater. Drinks and hors d'oeuvres will be served on the second floor of the Center In The Square building just outside of the Harrison Museum beginning at 6:00pm. Waitress will be performed in the Trinkle Main Stage theater at 7:30pm. The cost is TBD for Kiwanis Club members, family, friends, and guests.

Waitress, The Musical is based on the 2007 film of the same name, with a book by Jessie Nelson and music and lyrics by Sara Bareilles. The musical follows Jenna Hunterson, a waitress and expert pie maker at Joe's Diner, who finds herself in an unfulfilling marriage to her controlling husband, Earl. When Jenna discovers she's pregnant, she begins to re-evaluate her life and dreams of escape. Encouraged by her quirky fellow waitresses, Dawn and Becky, and supported by an unexpected romantic connection with her gynecologist, Dr. Pomatter, Jenna starts to find her way to a new beginning. The show is celebrated for its emotional depth, witty dialogue, and catchy, soulful songs that explore themes of love, resilience, and self-discovery.



### **Kiwanians – It’s Marathon Time Again! April 12, 2025**

April in Roanoke means spring flowers and the Blue Ridge Marathon! For a second year in a row, the Club will be running the Aid Station BRP Roanoke Mountain Middle in support of the race. This location has the best views on the course and is a favorite of the runners. The station is located at the Roanoke Mountain Overlook, on Roanoke Mountain Road, 24014 (click the link to see the location on Google Maps (<https://goo.gl/maps/gajAaWG8zaa1wbZF8>)). We will be handing out drinks and enthusiastically encouraging the runners. The shift starts at 6:45 and ends around 10:45 AM. You can drive up to the Aid Station by taking the Roanoke Mountain Parkway (on the right off the Blue Ridge Parkway just north of the intersection with Mill Mountain Parkway).

**Note: Volunteers must be in place BEFORE the Blue Ridge Parkway closes at 7:00 AM!**

If 6:45 AM is too early for you, we also need at least three (3) Kiwanians to be course marshals and there are volunteer opportunities on other days including Friday night (April 11) at the welcome event. The Club is committed to fifteen (15) volunteers overall. Click this link to volunteer <https://runsignup.com/Race/Volunteer/VA/Roanoke/BlueRidge#43929>. After it loads, scroll down to BRP Roanoke Mountain Middle hosted by the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. Check the box and click the Volunteer button. This will take you to the registration page. The Task Password is kiwanis, all lower case. If you would like to sign up for a different task, scroll up to see other opportunities (no Task Password needed for those). When you register, make sure to select that you are with the Kiwanis Club of Roanoke. This is one of the choices to the question “Are you registering with an incentive

group?” If you are already a registered user from past years, there is an option to pull up your information and avoid some typing! Remember to enter your tee shirt size!

Phone or Email Mike McEvoy if you have questions!

### **Autobiography - Ryan LaFountain**

I hail from a small village in upstate New York called Champlain. People never seem to believe me when I tell them that - that small places could exist in New York! As of the 2020 census, Champlain had a population of 1,170 - so when I say I come from a place with more cows than people, it's no joke. My mother is from Quebec originally, so I grew up speaking both English and French, and I regularly communicate with my Québécois family in French when we talk via Facebook or when we visit in-person. When I was a toddler, we moved from New York to Ohio, where we lived in suburban Dayton and suburban Cleveland, before moving back to upstate New York just before middle school. My love of service grew from my middle school experience.

I became a member of my school's Builder's Club in eighth grade, under the guidance of Spanish teacher Mark Blower, and I moved on up to Key Club in high school, under the guidance of our superintendent Chris DeGrandpré. While in Key Club, I served as my club's President my junior year and Treasurer my senior year. We were able to grow the club from roughly 8 regularly attending students to nearly 25 committed members during my period of leadership and Key Club grew from being an obscure club that people thought was to apprentice locksmiths to a leading club known for its service.

Following high school, my wings took hold and I flew to Baldwin-Wallace College in Berea, Ohio, where I intended on becoming a social studies teacher. That path didn't bear out, as a job with Upward Bound tutoring the inner-city students of Cleveland, Ohio, proved to be rougher than I was able to handle. I settled with a political science major with no minors, as my mind found everything to be interesting, from geology to economics and I both couldn't and refused to find a minor field of study. After taking an extra semester to get my grades in order, I completed coursework in December 2006 and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in 2007.

The month after I completed my coursework, I moved to Athens, Georgia, where I began a 14-year career working for credit unions. My work for credit



unions helped to further shape my views on service and the importance of treating all work with respect. In my time with credit unions, I moved from the teller line to branch management. In 2011, I moved to Blacksburg, and in 2014, I moved to Roanoke, all the time working for credit unions and remaining committed to the work supporting our members' success. I began coursework with Virginia Tech in fall 2019 in pursuit of an Masters of Business Administration, which I completed in the summer of 2022, following a 10-month break due to COVID-19.

But that's all prologue to now. In March 2021, I was asked if I was interested in running for Commissioner of the Revenue. It took little time to answer that question. I felt strongly about serving the city and the people who have welcomed me, who have been kind to me, and who have supported me since I moved here. I gladly said yes. I was elected in November 2021 and I am seeking election to a second term this year.

My soon-to-be wife, Emily, and I live in northeast Roanoke on Oliver Road with our 1-year-old daughter Cora, her children Ellie, Philip, and Iris, and our dog Marcy. We love our city and I am looking forward to our continued future here in our amazing, 8-time All-America City Award-winning home called Roanoke, Virginia.



### **The Possibility Project - Kids Need Kiwanis**

Through the Kiwanis Children's Fund, US\$2.25 addresses the needs of one

child. Imagine the possibilities if we raised US\$25 million — enough for Kiwanis clubs and members to serve 10 million children around the world. That's the goal of The Possibility Project. Join the first fundraising campaign that solely supports Kiwanis and the children we serve. Learn more here: <https://www.kiwanis.org/who-we-are/kiwanis-childrens-fund/possibility-project/>

### **Book Club**

The book club will continue to meet at the South County Library on Merriman Road at 6 pm on first Wednesdays = the usual schedule if the library has their community room available then. They are set to meet on March 5th at 6 pm. Please contact Dave or Cheri Hartman for more info.

### **Twinning**

Mike McEvoy and Mike O'Brochta wearing authentic Harris Tweed caps from Scotland.



### **First Responders**

Kiwanians, many of you may recall that our club presented awards to Roanoke City and County first responders for several years. There has been some discussion about whether we should restart this program. If any club member feels passionately about this initiative and has an interest in leading it, please contact Club President, Jeanne Bollendorf for a conversation - email [Jeannekiwanis@gmail.com](mailto:Jeannekiwanis@gmail.com) or call 757-773-3312

***My Superpower is...***

*January/February –*

??????

*Why is this space empty?! Our Kiwanians have not lifted up any Club members for Superpower Awards - President Jeanne wants to hear from you!*

**Meeting Recordings**

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

**Club Meeting Zoom Info**

Here is the [zoom link](#)

Meeting ID: 817 8581 5453

Passcode: 102906

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

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 **Forward**

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**Kiwanian Birthdays**

Chris Rouse	February 4
Barry Akers	February 6
Keith Hartman	February 11
Mike Quinn	February 14
Steve Willis	February 16
Kathy Cohen	February 18
Tara Marciniak	February 24
Betsy Head	February 28



Officers:

Jeanne Bollendorf, President  
Joyce Montgomery, President-Elect  
David Hartman, Vice President  
John Montgomery, Secretary-  
Treasurer  
Mike O'Brochta, Past President

Directors:

Lee Osborne, President, Kiwanis  
Foundation of Roanoke  
Bob Habermann, 2025  
Sheila Umberger, 2025  
Harry Zulauf, 2025  
Bill Bestpitch, 2026  
Greg Lionberger, 2026  
Alex Barge, 2026  
Preston Tyler, 2027  
Bert Boyd, 2027  
Keith Hartman, 2027



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