

Newark Rotary Committees 2024-2025

President	Janice LoRaso	Cell	740-334-9058		
President-Elect	Brendan Underwood	Office	740-450-2265	Cell	740-605-1981
President-Nominee	Nate Adams	Cell	740-323-6824		
Secretary	Tom Slater	Home	740-366-6143	Cell	740-398-1690
Treasurer	Ray Barber	Home	614-834-0657	Office	740-366-4444
Immediate Past President	Jim Cooper III	Cell	740-398-2347		
Club Service					
	Brendan Underwood	Office	740-450-2265		
Fellowship/Logistics	Eric Ricketts	Home	740-344-8709		
Club Programs	Pamela Watkins	Cell	440-264-3213		
Chaplain	Carol Thress/John Wilson	Cell	740-404-9551	Cell	740-877-7581
Music	Tom Slater	Home	740-366-6143		
Sergeant-at-Arms	Pat Jeffries	Home	740-344-3980	Cell	740-334-8302
Communications	Ben Mitchell	Cell	740-334-0510		
Historical	Angie Ryan		740-258-3498		
Social	Vacant				
Technology	Vacant				
Vocational Service					
	Nate Adams	Cell	740-323-6824		
Membership	Chuck Moore	Cell	740-877-7272		
Orientation	Tom Marcelain	Home	740-344-7895		
	Kate St. James	Home	614-365-1580		
Mentorship	Jeff James	Home	740-587-4447	Office	740-587-2746
Community Service					
	Peter Larson	Cell	614-226-2640		
Special Needs	Talya Greathouse	Home	614-496-7783	Office	740-348-1706
Rotary Awards	Jerry Besanceney	Home	614-394-3908		
Rotary Volunteers	Deb Tegtmeyer	Cell	740-348-6877		
Engagement	Melissa Owens	Home	740-507-3603		
Newark Rotary Foundation	Jack Neely	Cell	740-641-8197		
Fundraising	Dustin Neely	Cell	740-403-7336		
International Service					
	Joe Sinsabaugh	Cell	740-501-0875		
Rotary International Foundation	Jim Francis	Home	740-366-7677		
Grants	Pat Jeffries	Home	740-344-3980	Cell	740-334-8302
Global Projects	Joe Sinsabaugh	Cell	740-501-0875	Cell	
Polio Plus	Heather Powell	Cell	419-233-2930	Cell	
Youth Service					
	Jennifer Roberts	Cell	740-403-9552		
Youth Exchange	Beth Graff	Cell	740-225-9417	Office	740-920-4795
Junior Ethics	Trevor Thomas	Home	740-877-2591	Office	740-788-3118
Student Visits	Barb Quackenbush	Home	740-334-9107	Office	740-670-7041

ALWAYS IN OUR MEMORY 2015-16 PRESIDENT ERIN KENNEDY (1960-2015)

DISTRICT GOVERNORS FROM NEWARK ROTARY

•FRANK L BEGGS: 1927-28 •ROBERT C. BATTAT: 1970-71 •DONN E. ALSPACH: 1988-89
 •DARREL JONES: 1957-58 •THEODORE D. GRILEY: 1976-77 •ROBERT H. MCGAUGHY: 2003-2004
 GARY BAKER: 2024-25

DIRECTOR, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

THEODORE D. GRILEY: 1990-1992

TRUSTEE, ROTARY INTERNATIONAL FOUNDATION

THEODORE D. GRILEY: 2001-2005

ROTOGRAM

2024-2025

Rotary



WEEK OF MARCH 23, 2025

All Meetings At Noon Tuesday

THIS WEEK'S MEETING

Commercial Development in Licking County



Presented by Steve Layman of Shai-Hess Commercial Real Estate

This week's Rotary meeting will feature fellow Rotarian **Steve Layman** of Shai-Hess Commercial Real Estate, a seasoned real estate broker with decades of experience shaping Licking County's commercial landscape. Steve has been instrumental in land development, new construction, and historic redevelopment projects throughout the region.

UPCOMING PROGRAMS

April 1 - Jordan Davis - Executive Director of Smart Columbus

April 8 - Roger Geiger - Executive Director of Ohio Small Business Council

A ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CLUB

newarkohiorotary.org

District6690.org

[f /NewarkRotaryClub](https://www.facebook.com/NewarkRotaryClub)

LAST WEEK'S MEETING NOTES

President Janice LoRaso rang the bell. **Tom Slater** and **Peter Larson** started us singing "R-O-T-A-R-Y." **Ed Bohren** led us in an Irish-themed invocation and the Pledge of Allegiance. **Peter Larson** and **Tom Slater** then led us in the singing of "O Danny Boy" in honor of St. Patrick's Day.

Guests: **President-Elect Brendan Underwood** introduced today's guests: **Kelly Jones** welcomed Maryann Crist, **Chuck Moore** welcomed Jay Snyder, **Veronica Patton** welcomed Mark Patton, **Tim Fitterer** welcomed Rebecca Fitterer, and **Brendan Underwood** welcomed Mitch Marchesky. Additionally, Zach Pipoly joined us as a visiting Rotarian from Strongsville.

Student Guests: **Barb Quackenbush** introduced students from Licking Heights and Northridge High School. Northridge students Ethan and Taryn shared their reflections on the past month of attending meetings.

Sergeant-at-Arms: **Pat Jeffries** issued fines to those not wearing pins or badges, as well as to raffle winner **Pamela Watkins**. **Rob Montagnese** was fined for celebrating TTUN's success in the B1G. Additional fines were handed out to Rotarians for being Irish, not wearing green, or even having an Irish name—though Patrick was exempt. To close, Pat auctioned off a cherry and apple pie, with all proceeds benefiting Operation Feed.

Last Week's Reporter: **Ben Mitchell**

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- **Dave Shull** reminded Rotarians that the Ride for Polio will take place on May 3, and more riders and walkers are needed. In April, contributions will be requested to support the ride. See **Heather Powell** if interested.
- **Caitlin Wilson** highlighted our support for Operation Feed this month, emphasizing that just \$25 can feed a family of four for a week. Monetary donations can be made via their website in addition to traditional food donations.
- Mitch Marchesky, guest of **Brendan Underwood**, announced that in partnership with the Newark Rotary Group, the Nightbirde Foundation will be assembling "Gifts of Hope" for women battling breast cancer, which will be distributed at the district conference in April.
- **Brendan Underwood** shared that Rotary Group District 6690 raised over \$25,000—far exceeding the \$15,000 goal—for the Soles for Souls fundraiser, making us the top donating district in Ohio. Every \$20 helps purchase shoes for children in need across the state.
- Congratulations to **Jack Neely** on winning the pie bake-off in support of Operation Feed! The event raised over \$2,000 for the cause.

PROGRAM

Fellow Rotarian, **Rob Montagnese**, introduced our speaker, Mark Kwamme, a seasoned venture capitalist and entrepreneur who has played a transformative role in Ohio's economic development.

Originally from Silicon Valley, Kwamme moved to Ohio in 2011 to join Governor John Kasich's administration as the director of the Department of Development. In this role, he led the transition to a private economic development model, ultimately creating JobsOhio. Under his leadership, JobsOhio helped revitalize the state's economy, propelling Ohio from 47th to first in the nation for job creation. His innovative approach included privatizing the state's liquor business to generate long-term funding for economic growth initiatives, a strategy that continues to benefit the state today.

After his tenure with JobsOhio, Kwamme recognized the untapped potential in the Midwest's startup ecosystem. In 2013, he co-founded Drive Capital, a venture capital firm focused on investing in high-growth companies outside the traditional tech hubs of Silicon Valley and New York. Based in Columbus, Drive Capital has managed over \$2.2 billion in investments, funding businesses across healthcare, software, and advanced manufacturing. His work with Drive Capital has played a crucial role in positioning Columbus as a growing technology and innovation hub, attracting talent and capital from across the country.

Following his success with Drive Capital, Kwamme pursued a lifelong passion for race car driving. He competed in prestigious global events, including the 24 Hours of Le Mans and the 24 Hours of Daytona, showcasing his drive for excellence in yet another arena. However, his deep commitment to fostering economic growth and opportunity in Ohio brought him back to the business world.

Inspired by the success of Singapore's Temasek model, Kwamme founded The Ohio Fund, an investment initiative focused on strengthening Ohio's economy through strategic investments in key industries. His vision for The Ohio Fund is to create sustainable, long-term economic growth by leveraging Ohio's existing strengths in manufacturing, healthcare, and technology, ensuring the state remains at the forefront of innovation.

Kwamme's leadership and investment strategies have had a profound impact on Ohio's economic landscape. Through his work with JobsOhio, Drive Capital, and now The Ohio Fund, he continues to shape the future of the state, ensuring it remains a competitive and thriving business environment. His dedication to innovation, job creation, and economic development makes him a key figure in Ohio's ongoing success story, solidifying his legacy as a leader who has truly made a difference.

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Apple pie is a lot like duct tape, it fixes everything." – Anonymous