

THE *Frankfortarian*

THE OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF THE ROTARY CLUB OF FRANKFORT

1800 Benson Valley Road, Frankfort, KY 40601

*The weekly meeting of the Frankfort Rotary Club
airs on 'Cable 10' at 7pm Monday and 9am Tuesday*

ROTARY CLUB OF FRANKFORT, KENTUCKY

DISTRICT 6710 • CLUB NO. 3717 • ORGANIZED DECEMBER 1922

Vol. No. LI

Issue No. 38

September 23, 2026

Next Week's Meeting...

Katima Smith-Willis is a member of the Frankfort, KY Board of Commissioners, assuming office on January 1, 2025 thru January 1, 2027. Smith-Willis is running for re-election and will be on the ballot in the general election on November 3, 2026. Katima is also the Food and Beverage Manager at Castle & Key Distillery in Frankfort.



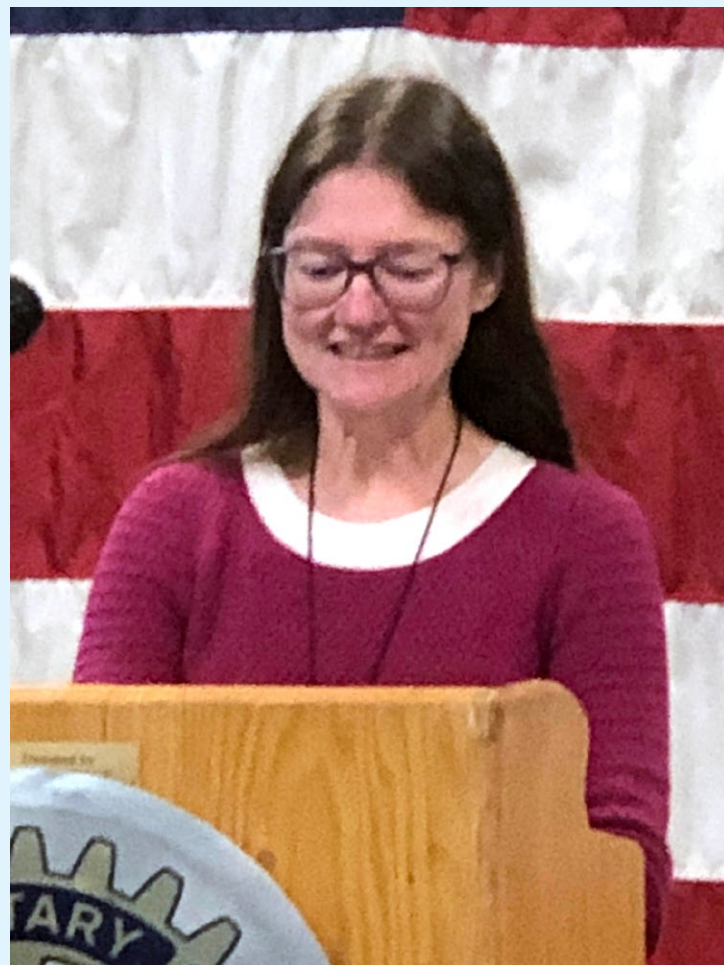
A devoted mother, she advocates for maternal health with the Breeding Barriers Council, a project of the ACLU of Kentucky. The Kentucky Gazette named her one of the 2023's Notable Women in Kentucky Politics and Government.

Opening Exercise and Greeter September 30, 2026

Opening exercise will be Bill Scott

Rotary Shirts

We're going to try and put together an order for Rotary shirts. If anyone is interested please go to the Russell Hampton website ([HERE](#)) under Rotary items and look at what shirts they have to offer. If you find one please write the item number down the amount and the size then let Paula Rarden know. If we can get enough shirts to order then shipping won't be as expensive.



Today's speaker was Barbara Mathis.



Attendance Pin Awarded

Congratulations to club member and District Governor Sherrill Smith (left) for receiving his 44 years of perfect attendance from Lee Troutwine.

RI 2027 Convention Registration Opens Sept. 17

The 2027 Rotary International Convention in Barcelona, Spain is set for June 26-30. Early bird registration opens September 17, 2026 at 12:01 am Evanston time. You can find the registration links on convention.rotary.org. Be sure to register by 11:59 pm Evanston time on September 21! After that prices increase by nearly 40% and then go up again on April 1, so DON'T WAIT. You have FIVE DAYS to get the best possible rates. You can also book your hotels beginning September 17. We look forward to welcoming you in Barcelona!

Nigerian takes office as president of Rotary International

Second African to lead the global membership organization will focus on peacebuilding and lasting community impact

by Rotary International

Born in the city of Ibadan, Nigeria, **Olayinka H. Babalola** received his engineering degree in 1988. He worked for 25 years in the oil and gas industry, holding senior positions at Shell PLC. He is the founder of two companies: an oil and gas infrastructure delivery company and an executive coaching and organizational performance advisory group.



Babalola’s professional affiliations include the Institute of Directors, the Nigerian Society of Engineers, the Institute of Safety Professionals of Nigeria, and the Association of Change Management Professionals. He is a member of Jericho Businessmen Club, an organization in Ibadan that governments on economic and social policy. His first experience of Rotary was through a decade of service in Rotaract. Babalola was the charter

president of his university Rotaract club and participated in cultural exchanges and twinning with clubs in Japan and Côte d’Ivoire. During his Rotaract days, he also organized extramural classes for disabled children at a Cheshire Home supported by local clubs. Babalola joined the Rotary Club of Trans Amadi in 1994. He went on to serve on committees including the End Polio Now: Countdown to History Campaign Committee and the Nigeria PolioPlus Committee prior to joining the RI Board as a director and later as vice president. In the early 2000s, Babalola helped launch the Safe Blood Africa project to improve the availability of safe blood in hospitals in Nigeria and across Africa. The initiative has installed blood banks and donated bloodmobiles that are still operating today. Babalola provided local Rotary leadership for polio eradication in Nigeria’s conflict-affected northeast. Through unannounced site visits with local officials that ensured accountability in vaccine distribution, Babalola made his own contribution to helping eradicate polio in Nigeria, and by extension in Africa, in 2020. An adult literacy project led by his club profoundly changed Babalola’s perspective. When people his own age

appeared for classes, he was shocked to learn that they couldn’t read or write. At graduation, a mother shared how she could now read pharmacy labels for her children’s medicine. “That grounded me,” Babalola says. “It took my feet and properly planted me in my community.” As RI president, Babalola wants to help restore members’ emotional connection to the organization and their sense of belonging. “We do things for others, but Rotary is also our own,” he says. “When something is your own, you want to fight for it. ‘It is my duty to help it thrive.’ When you see how Rotary has made a lasting impact on your life, then you can tell that story.” Babalola enjoys golf, swimming, forest walking, and photographing cloud formations. He hopes to someday exhibit his photos or publish them in a book. He has received the Africa Centennial Heroes Award, the Regional Service Award for a Polio-Free World, the RI Service Above Self Award, and The Rotary Foundation Citation for Meritorious Service. Babalola and his wife, Precy, a Rotary member, live in Port Harcourt. They support The Rotary Foundation through a named endowment and as Arch Klumph Society members.

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS: 2026-27

		OFFICE	HOME	E-MAIL
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Sergeant-at-Arms	Steve Dooley		(502) 226-0973	bubdooley51@yahoo.com
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Olayinka “Yinka” Hakeem Babalola
Rotary Club of Trans Amadi, Nigeria
President, Rotary International
Sherrill Smith, Frankfort
Governor of District 6710

The Rotary Club of Frankfort Meets Every
Wednesday at the American Legion Post #7,
164 Versailles Rd. from 11:45 a.m.–1 p.m.

Frankfort Rotary Club website:
www.frankfort-rotary.org
District website
www.rotarydistrict6710.org
Rotary International
www.rotary.org/

NEIGHBORING CLUBS		
Monday:	Eminence-Henry County Public Library	12:00 noon
	Owenton-Smith House	12:10 p.m.
Tuesday:	Lexington Sunrise-Shriners Hospital	7:00 a.m.
	Georgetown-Galvin’s on Main (Downtown).....	12:00 noon
	Shelbyville-Centenary United Methodist.....	12:00 noon
Thursday:	Lawrenceburg-Anderson Co. Extension Ofc.	12:00 noon
	Lexington-Fasig Tipton.....	12:00 noon
	Louisville-Galt House.....	12:10 p.m.