

Upcoming Speakers

12/21 - **John Cashion**, Paducah Author, Historian & Photographer
12/28 - **NO MEETING** (week between Christmas & the New Year)
1/4 - **Warren Sabin**, Executive Director, Arkansas Innovation Hub, Little Rock, AR

Club Leaders



Glen Anderson
President



Melanie W. McNeill
President-Elect



Shawn Turner
Secretary



Thomas Scott Taylor
Treasurer

Mardie R. Herndon
Rotary Foundation Chair

Don Barger
Sergeant-at-Arms



John A. Williams Jr.
iPast President

Denise A. Chapman
Club Executive Secretary

Board of Directors Currently Serving

Barry Smith

Bruce Akin

Clay Howerton

David Hutcheson

Dee Dee Whittaker

Don Barger

Frank Bennett

John Williams, Jr.

Lewis Carr

Maurie McGarvey

Melanie McNeill

Randy Bridges

Scott Taylor

Shawn Turner

Susan Carr

Terry Reeves

Birthdays

Joni Hogancamp

December 19

Mary E. Hammond

December 23

Michael P. Resnick

December 24

Scott Garrett

December 25

Chris McNeill

December 25

Susan Guess

December 26

'Personalizing' Rotary's Fight Against Polio

December 14, 2016



Speaker: Dr. Jessiann McCarthy, former Psychiatric Clinic Program Director at Penn State University native of Paducah. Dr. McCarthy was introduced by Rotarian Dan Key.

Topic: "A Primer on Polio". Dr. McCarthy's late husband, Dr. William "Mac" McCarthy, was a childhood victim of polio and succumbed to Post-polio Syndrome in 1998 at the age of 56.

Top Ten Takeaways for Rotarians:

-Dr. Jessiann Dortch McCarthy grew up in Paducah. Her father, Nat Dortch, Sr., was one of three members of the Rotary Club of Paducah to serve as Rotary District Governor. His term was in 1957-58.

-She met her husband at Penn State University. She ascended to a Director's position at the school's psychiatric clinic. He was an Associate Professor of Entomology and Genetics at Penn State. She affectionately described her husband's academic accomplishments as those of an "over-achiever". She added that over-achieving is typical of polio victims as the result of the physical struggles they must persevere. One of Dr. William McCarthy's projects was tested aboard the space shuttle Columbia in 1996.

-Dr. McCarthy told of her husband's lifelong struggles with polio, starting as a child in 1948. He was diagnosed at the age of seven, which led to hospitalization for nine months at Grasslands Hospital in Valhalla, New York. The facility was known for devoting entire buildings to treat victims of prevalent medical illnesses of the era such as polio, scarlet fever and diphtheria.

-There was wide-spread fear of polio and other diseases in the late 40's, and treatment facilities often appeared harsh. Mrs. McCarthy described childhood pictures of her husband being watched over by his parents who had to wear straitjackets to discourage them from touching their loved ones.

-William McCarthy's condition eventually began to improve and by the age of 12 he no longer required a wheelchair. Scars remained, however, as he suffered severe scoliosis (curvature of the spine).

-Soon after the McCarthy's were married, he began to suffer symptoms described as Post-Polio Syndrome (PPS). This condition occurs in some people as the result of gradual tissue deterioration from the initial polio effects. The condition affected Dr. McCarthy by increasing the amount of stress and pressure on his lungs.

-Doctors eventually chose to treat him with the device known as the Iron Lung. The patient's body is sealed inside a chamber from the neck down. Pressure inside the chamber is increased and decreased to simulate breathing, thus giving the patient relief. An Iron Lung machine was placed in the McCarthy's home, allowing him to avoid constant hospitalization for some 20 years.

-Dr. William "Mac" McCarthy died in 1998 at the age of 56. "I despise, to the point of hatred, that thing called polio," said Mrs. McCarthy. "It's difficult to tell Mac's story, but I also feel strongly about "personalizing" Rotary's connection to fighting polio.

-Since 1988, polio cases worldwide have decreased 99.9%. In 2016, only three countries have witnessed cases of "wild polio": Afghanistan (12), Pakistan (16), and Nigeria (4)

David R. Clark
December 29
George G Sirk Jr.
January 06
James Smolen
January 11
Joni F. Goodman
January 11
John R Anderson Jr.
January 15

-For more information on efforts to end polio worldwide, including Rotary International's connection, visit www.endpolio.org.

Next week's program features John Cashon, Paducah author, historian and photographer.

As a reminder, there will be **no meeting December 28th**, the week between Christmas and New Year's.

Announcements

December 14, 2016

-Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive: "We raised how much?" Rotarians Joni Goodman and Bruce Akin gave a recap of last week's bell ringing project to raise money for the Salvation Army. When the drive began, the club sought two goals...fill all the volunteer slots, and, exceed the previous amount raised, which was \$6,500. All slots were filled throughout the day with smiling Rotarians and other volunteers. At Wednesday's meeting, Joni and Bruce were proud to report that \$7,195 were raised. By the end of the meeting, however, Rotarians dug a little deeper and the new total amount raised is \$7,500!!! As much as we enjoy our "competitive spirit" of exceeding goals, we are most rewarded with the ability to put "Service Above Self." Thanks to all who participated, and thanks go out to the Salvation Army for their efforts to serve the community.

-Rotarian Zach Hosman reported that at least 16 Rotarians had volunteered to visit nursing and assisted living homes in the area Thursday night for **Christmas Caroling**.

-A charitable contribution was presented to **Easter Seals – West Kentucky** by the Rotary Club of Paducah. Hayley Coble of the Easter Seals Center accepted the check on their behalf.

-The club's **Board of Directors** meets Wednesday, December 21st at 5:15 PM at the McCracken County Public Library.

-Election of Board Members - The club held its election of members to the Board of Directors for the year starting July 1, 2017. Officers serving will be: Melanie McNeill, President; Dee Dee Whitaker, President-elect; Randy Bridges, Vice-President; Shawn Turner, Secretary; Scott Taylor, Treasurer; Don Barger, Sergeant-at-Arms. Elected to a two-year term on the Board of Directors were: Zach Hosman, Laurie Latham, Terry Reeves, and Barry Smith. Elected to a one-year term were: Brad Clark, Emerson Goodwin, and David Hutcheson.

Guests

December 14, 2016

Genie Drossos, Juliette Grumley, Gail Ransler, Nancy Duff and Suellen Johnson – guests of Basil Drossos;
Miranda Wood – guest of Brad Clark;
Suzanne Borodofsky – guest of Phyllis Russell;
Claire Key and Nan Waldrop – guests of Dan Key;
Marjorie Heyduck – guest of Chuck Heyduck;
Jeane Framptom – guest of Joe Framptom;



Nina Brown and Jacob Curry – student guests from Paducah Tilghman;
Christina Pray, Henny Ransdell and Matthew Jordan – student guests from McCracken County.