



# ROTARY EXPRESS

Rotary Club of Harrisonville, Missouri | April 8, 2026 | **Service above self. One profits most who serves best.**

## Today's program



Anne Hickman's speaker today is **Jamie Oberly** with the Cass County WorkforceYOU organization. Her update will focus on the four key pillars of child care, housing, transportation and education.

## Future programs

**April 15** - Flag Program Kickoff - group photo at flag shed at 12 noon, then a pizza buffet lunch at Pizza Hut. The club will pick up the tab for the buffet and a drink.

**April 22** - Jason Winter

**April 29** - Tina Wittly

**May 6** - Jason Zaroor

## Birthdays

**April 13** .....R.J. Knox  
**April 15** .....Judy Franklin  
**April 19** .....Sam Styron  
**April 22** .....Emily Davis  
**April 30** .....Erik Winkler

## Officers & Directors

**President**.....Grant Purkey  
**President-Elect**.....Erik Winkler  
**President-Nominee** .....Annie Knox  
**Secretary**.....Dawson Dickey  
**Treasurer**.....Jesica Junge  
**Sergeant-at-Arms** .....Judy Franklin  
**Past President**.....Jon Taber  
**Directors**.....Larry Pfautsch, Cassie Wieberg, Jayden Love, Vanessa Hargrave  
**District Governor** .....Andrea Brady  
**Asst. Gov.**.....Bing Schimmelpfenning

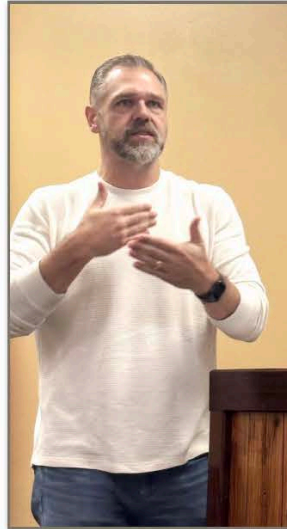
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## Rotarians get a primer on AI

The fast-evolving technology of artificial intelligence has been described as “the next industrial revolution,” Jason Watson told Rotarians last week.

Confounding to many, worrisome and even threatening to others, AI is something we are all having to embrace, so his presentation focused on demystifying it. The myth, he said, is that AI is like a robot that’s going to take over the world. The reality is that’s basically a vast database that reads and interprets at lightning speed. He prefers to think of it as a personal assistant.



As a software engineer for 25 years working in the education technology space, Jason uses AI in his work and personal life. The “toolbox” of AI assistants includes ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, Copilot and Perplexity, and those are just a few of the well-known brand names as companies incorporate AI into their products and software applications.

Jason said his company uses AI for everything from software development to data analysis. As a musician, Jason is building an application called BandTopia. “Claude is writing it for me with my direction,” he said.

As for the threat to people’s jobs, Jason believes, “It’s not that AI is going to replace jobs but that *people* who use AI are replacing jobs.” In other words, we have to use it because others will. Jason provided several examples of AI speeding up work and making people more productive, such as reviewing medical claims. In a real-time demonstration of AI capabilities, he called up the Rotary Club’s website and asked AI to redesign it with certain parameters, such as using Rotary colors. It took AI less than 10 minutes to complete the task.



## Welcome to Rotary

The club extends a hearty welcome to Stacy Christie, who was inducted last week by Cindy Greenwell and Grant Purkey. Stacy is executive director of Hope Haven of Cass County, a domestic violence shelter.

## Minutes from April 6 board meeting

The board held its monthly meeting at noon Monday, April 6, at Family Center Farm & Home. Attendees: Jon Taber, Larry Pfautsch, Jayden Love, Dawson Dickey, Erik Winkler and Cassie Wieberg.

The meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m. by President-Elect Erik Winkler. The March board minutes were reviewed and Larry Pfautsch moved to approve, Cassie Wieberg seconded, and the motion was approved. Treasurer Jessica Junge was not in attendance, so the treasurer's report was not given.

### Old Business

**2025 – 2026 Club Goals:** The club is keeping up with the club goals with an increase in club membership, social activities, and media stories.

**50th Anniversary Project:** Erik informed the board that, at the most recent committee meeting, Grant presented turf samples for selection. He also mentioned that the Rotary emblem will be embedded into the turf, either behind home plate or in the outfield. The board discussed the possibility of organizing a community outreach meeting to gather feedback regarding preferred playground equipment. The next committee meeting is scheduled for April 22, following the regular lunch meeting, and will focus on identifying foundations for grant opportunities.

**Rotary T-Shirts:** Vanessa Hargrave is working on the T-shirts and will have an update for the board.

### Food 4 Thought Program

**Assistance:** Rotary will assist at the Food 4 Thought Program at station 42 on May 13, 2026, at 3:30 p.m. Five to six Rotarians are needed to help pack food boxes. A sign-up Genius link will be sent out.

### New Business

#### Larry Job Duties Distribution:

Larry Pfautsch told the board he wants to delegate his tasks. Nancy Shelton may take over the newsletter, with Erik following up. Dawson Dickey will handle the Sign-up Genius and program calendar. Cassie Wieberg will manage the website and coordinate with Larry for a smooth transition.

#### 2026 Rotary Flag Program:

- Email campaign was launched on 2/24/2025 – had 103 businesses participate.

- 2025 goal – add 25-30 additional businesses.
- Erik informed the board that the email campaign was successful, with many businesses paying to participate. Tina Witty and Erik will collaborate to reach out to those businesses that have not yet paid.
- The kickoff picture will be taken at the USDA flag shed on April 15 followed by lunch at Pizza Hut instead of the usual Community Center meeting.

**New Membership:** Dawson had presented the membership application for Dan Stafford from Reed Ford. Jon Taber motion to approve, Jaydon Love seconded the motion. Board approved.

**Leave of absence:** Chuck Weedman told Grant that he needed leave of absence but did not tell Grant for how long. Erik will reach out to Chuck to see how long and will get back to the board via email for approval.

**New Classroom Partner date:** The rescheduled classroom partner will be held on April 17 at 2:30 p.m. This will be the one room schoolhouse with John Foster. If John can't do it that day the classroom partner will work on a garden.

**Senior Day of Service:** Senior Day of Service is scheduled for May 5 and Rotary will be serving hot dogs to students at Harrisonville Methodist Church. Eight Rotarians are needed from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. to assist with set-up, cooking, serving, and cleanup. A Sign-Up Genius link will be sent out. Erik will discuss using a grill with Jason Winter.

#### Cass Career Center Young

**Professionals:** Jayden Love stated that the monthly Cass Career Center's Young Professional Award recipients will attend a lunch meeting. She will coordinate with Nicole Tews to determine a suitable date for their attendance and will inform the board once the date is confirmed.

**50th Anniversary Dinner:** Larry Pfautsch suggested hosting a 50th anniversary dinner with a speaker to attract community members and raise funds for the Miracle Field. Erik and Larry will coordinate to find a speaker.

**Installation Dinner:** The Installation Dinner is scheduled to take place during the week of June 15. Erik will research potential venues for the event and report to the board with recommended locations and proposed times.

Motion to adjourn was made by Jon Taber at 1:06 p.m. with Cassie Wieberg seconding the motion. Motion passed.

The next board meeting will be at noon Monday, May 4, at the Family Center Conference Room.

- Dawson Dickey, Secretary

## Club Calendar

Wednesday, April 15

**Flag Program Kickoff** - Group photo at flag shed at noon, then buffet lunch at Pizza Hut

Friday, April 17

**Classroom Partner Visit** - 2:30 p.m., Rock Ford School Living History Classroom

Wednesday, April 22

**50th Anniversary Committee Meeting** - 1 p.m., following lunch meeting

Thursday, April 30

**Monthly Social Hour** - 4-5 p.m., El Puerto Mexican Restaurant

Monday, May 4

**Monthly Board Meeting** - 12 noon, Family Center Farm & Home

Tuesday, May 5

**Senior Day of Service** - Rotary serves lunch to HHS seniors at United Methodist Church

Wednesday, May 13

**Food4Thought (pack food boxes)** - 3:30 - 4:30 p.m., Station 42



Next year's Rotary International theme is "Create Lasting Impact" depicted in this banner that President-Elect Erik Winkler brought back from the Show Me Rotary conference and presented to President Grant Purkey.