

## **Keynote Speakers**

We will have two lunch-time speakers:

Laurel Graefe from the FED in Nashville, the youngest ever director of the FED will be giving a talk "What is up at the FED?" Talking about the world, affects and leadership.

We will also have Kelly Atkinson, a dynamic speaker from Rotary in Utah will engage the audience with a conversation about membership, and building a strong and engaging club.

## **Keynote Speakers**

### **[Kelly C. Atkinson](#)**

Kelly has been a chartered member of the West Jordan Rotary Club since 1986. He served in the Utah State Legislature for a decade and was the first member of his party elected from his Legislative District since the Great Depression.

Kelly is a passionate Rotarian who enjoys the many friendships and acquaintances that come from membership in the most important non-denominational, non-governmental organization on the face of the planet, Rotary!

Past Rotary International President Ray Klinginsmith has encouraged Rotary's Past District Governors to stay active and involved. Kelly does this by providing Rotarians with his insights and experiences learned throughout his Rotary journey.

NOTE: In 2012, to promote better communications among the PDGs, President Klinginsmith, created a PDG Fellowship in Rotary.

### **[Laurel Graefe](#)**

(pronounced gray-fee)

Laurel is the regional executive at the Nashville Branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta. As the senior officer leading the Federal Reserve in Tennessee, she is responsible for the branch's board of directors and strategic direction, oversees its economic research activities, and advises on monetary policy. Her work gathering and synthesizing insight from business executives and community leaders brings Main Street perspectives to national monetary policy deliberations.

Laurel represents the Fed in regular speeches about the business environment, the future of the American economy, and risks to the economic outlook. Her work has been published in The Wall Street Journal, The Economist, and MarketWatch, among others, and featured on National Public Radio. She also coauthored The Handbook of Oil Politics, published by Routledge. Prior to assuming her current position, Laurel served as director of the Nashville Branch's Regional Economic Information Network and held a number of positions with the Atlanta office of the Federal Reserve, including as a director overseeing inflation and energy market analysis for the Research Department. She joined the Bank in 2005 as an intern specializing in international economics.

Laurel is deeply engaged in her community, including serving on the boards of the Economics and Finance Department at Tennessee State University, TennGreen Land Conservancy, and Leadership Middle Tennessee. She is also chair of the Federal

Reserve's Diversity Advisory Council. Laurel was named a 2020 Woman of Influence by the Nashville Business Journal and a 2021 Most Powerful Woman by Nfocus Magazine; she is a member of the 2022 class of Leadership Nashville and was elected as a Tennessee representative to the International Women's Forum. She earned an MBA with honors from Vanderbilt's Owen Graduate School of Management and a bachelor's degree in economics, summa cum laude, from Agnes Scott College.