

The Rotary Wheel

P.O. BOX 4376, OLATHE, KS 66063

SEPTEMBER 2015

CHARTERED AUGUST 17, 1937



OLATHE ROTARY CLUB

District 5710 Club 1625



Don't Miss Sept 11th at Tanners!

Speakers/Events

- 09/02/15 John Staton, Director
Olathe Medical Center
- 09/09/15 Dr. Michael Monaco,
Kansas City Chiefs Team
Physician
- 09/16/15 Colin McKee and Larry
Peet, New Century Airport
Commission
- 09/23/15 Classification Talks
- 09/30/15 Karin Brownlee, Wind
Power Legislation

Larry Rinne, Speaker Chair
lrinne@comcast.net

Rotary District Governor, John Donovan, Visits Olathe Rotary in August



From right to left, Past District Governor, Wes McCoy, District Governor, John Donovan, Joe Beverage, Russell Hampton, Senator Karin Brownlee, Keith Johnson, owner of The Johnson's County Gazette.

District Governor John Donovan spoke to Olathe Rotarians about their many successes over the years, doing what you are really passionate about, changing lives, one life at a time and how Rotary can change your own life. He chronicled the history of Rotary. Our district has 46 clubs. District information can be found at: www.rotarydistrict5710.org.

John graduated from MU in 1980, and spent the next 20 years in the Army, stationed or deployed to Europe, Asia, Africa, Southwest Asia and South America before retiring from the Army in 2000. During that time John was a guest speaker at his father's Rotary Club in Columbia, and he was made a Paul Harris Fellow by his father in 1993 – thus setting the hook to pay it forward. Upon his retirement, John, his wife Beth, and son Andy settled in Leavenworth to start life after the Army.

John and his wife Beth live on a farm outside of Easton, KS where they keep horses, and raise angora goats, peafowl, Bourbon Red turkeys, ducks, chickens, and guineas. Despite being an MU grad, John has written tuition checks to both K-State and KU, and his son Andy and his family live in Lawrence.

2015-2016 Olathe Rotary Club Officers and Board

7/1/2015 to 6/30/2016

Jason Armstrong, President
jarmstrong@CACU.com

Geoff Neufeld, Past President

Larry Rinne, President Elect

Ernie Hicks, Treasurer, 12th yr
913 764-5197

ernieofolathe@yahoo.com

George Bentley, Secretary, 2nd yr

Cindy Vonfeldt

2nd of 2 year term

Vanessa Vaughn West

1st of 2 year term

Jasen Mangrum

1st of 2 year term

Cory Cairns

1st of 2 year term

Aimee Hruska

1st of 2 year term

Chris Osborn

1st of 2 year term

2015-2016 Olathe Rotary Club Foundation Officers and Board

President: Terry Lynch
tjl@midamericatitle.com

Treasurer: Ernie Hicks

Secretary: Sandy Wilson

Jason Armstrong

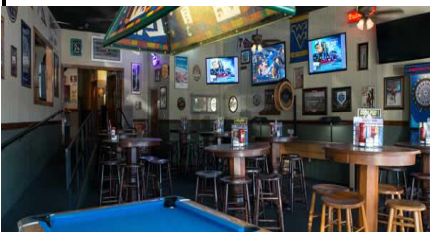
David Andrew

Mark Myer

Mark Romain

**Please Remember Our Foundation
When You
Plan or Rewrite Your Will or Trust**

September 11th Rotary Evening at Tanners Bar and Grill 10146 W. 119th Street



*Come Join Us!!
Get to know your fellow
Rotarians during a
fun and casual
gathering at Tanners.*

6:00 p.m to 10:00 p.m.

**It's a Kansas City Royals
Theme!!**

BUILDING A GLOBAL FUTURE THROUGH INTERNATIONAL FRIENDSHIPS

By Olathe Rotarian, Dianne Daugherty

The Olathe Rotary Club and the Maebashi West Rotary Club have enjoyed a 22 year partnership that has resulted in the exchanges of nearly 100 students through our Rotary summer exchange program; multiple adult group exchanges; a gift of over 400 cherry trees from Rotarian, Akio Fukushima; and a school partnership between the Olathe District Schools and Kyoai Gakuen. The school partnership, formed in 2000, has brought over 300 students from Japan and sent approximately 100 students to Japan from Olathe on teacher-guided study tours. This data is impressive, no doubt, but the exponential effect of these people to people interactions, sharing of homes, food, culture, language and friendships is immeasurable.

This past summer (2015), Olathe Northwest Senior, Aaron Taylor was selected as our Rotary Ambassador. He spent three activity-packed weeks in Maebashi, attending Kyoai Gakuen, visiting the Maebashi West Rotary Club, enjoying the benefits of the onsen (hot spring bath) and touring the beautiful and ornate Toshogu Shrine complex, nestled in the Nikko National Forest, about 3 hours from Maebashi. He especially enjoyed his home-stay because his host mother is a home economics teacher at Kyoai Gakuen and his home was an easy 5 min walk to school. He noted that the Japanese lifestyle and cuisine was fairly easy to adjust to and he enjoyed the views of the mountains every day. At school, he was able to communicate in Japanese, having studied it for four years in high school. The students also liked practicing their English with him. He made many new friends and is looking forward to visiting Japan and Maebashi again sometime in his future. He is currently pursuing a degree in education at Emporia State University.



Returning from Japan with Aaron was the Maebashi West Ambassador, Mayumi Murakami, a Junior at Gunma Prefectural Ohmama High School. Her parents are divorced and she now lives in a group home. She travels by train and on foot from Maebashi to Midori City each school day spending about one hour in transit each way. Instead of participating in club activities after school, she has a part-time job at a nearby super market. In her free time, she enjoys listening to music and playing soccer or tennis with her friends. Mayumi is a happy and outgoing girl. She enjoyed the short stay of 10 days with the Taylor family and they kept her busy every day. In addition to an exciting trip to Branson and Silver Dollar City, she enjoyed the Overland Park City market, the Plaza and Nelson-Adkins Museum and shopping with other high school students. Mayumi had never traveled outside of Japan prior to this exchange. She frequently commented about the friendliness of all the people she met here. She became very close to the Taylor family and wished she could spend more time here. This opportunity allowed her to improve her English skills and make new friends in Olathe. Mayumi intends to continue studying English and hopes she can use it in her future job pursuits possibly in the travel or service industry. In her speech at the Olathe Rotary Club, she expressed her sincere gratitude for being able to participate in this exchange program and is committed to continuing her association with Rotary International in the future.

The Rotary Summer Exchange program allows students a glimpse into the Japanese and Asian cultures. The exchange experience is always memorable and often life-changing. Many students have continued their Japanese studies and visited their host families in later years. All of them expand their world view and widen their circle of friends beyond Kansas to the United States' key ally in Asian affairs. Transformed by their experience over one summer, our students become Ambassadors for Peace throughout their lives.

Dianne Daugherty has been a member of the Olathe Rotary Club since 1988 and serves as the club's Youth Exchange Officer. After living in Japan for three years, she changed her career path and began teaching Japanese. She has been teaching at Olathe North High School for 14 years and JCCC for six years. In January 2015, she was elected President of the Heart of America Japan-America Society. She established a student taiko drum group in 2003 and was a founding member of an adult taiko group called Three Trails Taiko in 2010. Dianne also studies and plays the koto (a traditional Japanese zither) and has served as the Director of performing arts for the Greater KC Japan Festival for over 15 years. For more information about Japanese happenings in the KC area or about youth exchange, you can contact her at ddkototaiko@gmail.com.