



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 30 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

February 19, 2026

February 19 Meeting:

Invoker – John Meier

Main Presentation: Janice Taylor with the Global Birthing Home Foundation, 5000 W. 134th St., Leawood, KS 66209



Treasurer

Janice is retired from a 40-year career in IT management. She is a 2014 graduate from Rockhurst University with a BA in Nonprofit Leadership, with an emphasis on fundraising/development. Founder of the annual Kansas City Haiti Symposium and actively involved with supporting Haiti ministries since 2004. Janice joined the board in 2016.



Our mission is to significantly reduce maternal and infant mortality rates in underserved communities.

Our vision is we believe every mother and every infant, regardless of skin color, country of origin, religion, economic or social status deserves access to high quality and culturally relevant healthcare – the foundation of healthy, empowered communities.

Extra: New Member Induction: Andrew Pujado

Extra: Kirt Yoder Anti-Human Trafficking Committee Update



Click link below to launch Zoom

[Launch Meeting - Zoom](#)

Meeting ID: 813 1042 7816

Passcode: Rotary

February Greeters:

Ken Selzer, Stu Sharp, Chuck Sipple, Ron Slepitz, Diane Stoddard, Tom Sullivan

Greeter Captains:

February 19 – Tom Sullivan

For the Goal – A Service Opportunity in Leawood

Happy New Year, Rotarians-

As we prepare to welcome people from around the globe to Kansas City, it will come as no surprise that the City of Leawood has a committee of busy volunteers and staff who are organizing many events. From Watch Parties to Business Readiness Grants, from a better-than-ever Celebration in the Park for America's 250th, to a **new** Independence Day parade on the morning of July 4, we are busy AND excited!

Our theme is "For the Goal" in honor of the soccer statue in City Park.

Rotarians Stephen Powell and I are enjoying our time on the executive committee and are very excited about the many things we've already accomplished.

So finally- the reason for this note: This spring, we are inviting Leawood community groups and individuals to help us pick up litter along some of our main corridors and intersections.

We've created the following SignUpGenius and I ask that you consider signing up AND sharing it with anyone who might be interested.

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/30E0B49A9AB2CA7FD0-61376952-leawood>



We may add more dates and locations once these start to fill, so I'll probably share it again in early March. But I'd VERY MUCH appreciate it if you'd consider being an early-signer-upper!

Please let me or Stephen know if you have any questions.

With appreciation--

Lisa Harrison

913.522.5049

Last Week's Meeting

Rotarians heard from Lisa Harrison and Stephen Powell about the community's work to prepare for the World Cup, inducted new member Bill Spillar and heard from REACH mentee, Richard Candelario, about the impact our club's scholarship has made on his life. Davis Harrison gave a vocational talk as well. Busy morning!



Vocational Talk: Davis Harrison



New Member Induction: Bill Spillar



Main Speakers:
Lisa Harrison & Stephen Powell



REACH Mentee: Richard Candelario

Happy Bottoms Service Project

Leawood Rotarians gathered February 11 for another diaper-packing service project at Happy Bottoms. For those not familiar with Happy Bottoms, it is a community-based diaper bank that provides diaper products to needy families in the community. We support them financially and provide hands on service several times a year to pack diapers into smaller kits for distribution. It is located on 79th Street just east of Wornall Road in Kansas City, MO. Watch for future opportunities in 2026!



happybottomsTM
diapers for families in need

Happy Bottoms Service Project



Happy Bottoms Service Project



Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!

April 7:

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
6-8 pm

Dine & Drink to benefit Polio Plus



Chicken N Pickle
5901 W 135th St.
Overland Park, KS 66223

April 11:

Gathering for Good Event - Lawrence, KS

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.

Doubletree Hotel – 200 McDonald Drive

You're invited *Back to the 60's* at Gathering for Good, a themed evening benefiting The Rotary Foundation!

Event Highlights:

- Live & silent auction (proceeds benefit The Rotary Foundation and are credited to the winning member)
- Wine & Liquor Pull
- Trivia game
- Open bar with themed drinks
- 60's attire encouraged

Tickets are \$75 per person (covers event costs, no donation to the Foundation is included in ticket price).



Visit the [Event Site](#) to get your tickets today!

Upcoming Events – Save the Dates!

April 30:

Fifth Thursday Social Event - Discover O.P.

5:00 – 7:00 p.m.

8001 Santa Fe Dr., Overland Park, KS

Save the Date!

Leawood Rotary Social Event

Thursday, April 30, 2026 – 5 p.m. to 7 p.m.



- *Food & Beverages provided!*
- *See the newest attraction in Downtown O.P.!*
- *Details to come.*

Discover O.P. - 8001 Santa Fe Drive, Overland Park, KS

Leawood History: Fritz's Superior Meats

10326 State Line Road



January 5, 1985 Kansas City Star

Company favors flavor of smoke

With the hustle and bustle of the holidays behind them, employees of Fritz's Superior Meat & Sausage Co. of Leawood are busy cleaning the plant and fixing machinery.

"It will be slow for the next couple of months," said Fred A. Plapp, 59, who — with his brother, Elmer, 54, and mother, Rose, 82 — owns and operates the company.

The company takes advantage of the quieter periods to perform needed chores at the shop that are hard to do in the busier times, Mr. Plapp said.

"But you should have seen it last week," he said. "We were so busy they had to direct traffic outside."

Business is good year-round, Mr. Plapp said, but the period from about two weeks before Thanksgiving through New Year's Day is one of the busiest for the company, which processes and sells hickory-smoked meat products, including ham, ba-

con, barbecued ribs, brisket, corned beef, knackwurst, liverwurst, Polish sausage, smoked sausage, salami, bologna, wieners, pastrami, turkey, chicken and even fish. The company also sells cheese, salads and breads, and it does custom smoking.

On average, he said, the company processes and sells 20,000 to 25,000 pounds of meat each week.

Projected sales for 1984 are about \$1.5 million, Mr. Plapp said, about the same as in 1983.

Fritz's, which has 17 full-time employees doing such jobs as linking and stuffing sausages or boning meat, hires five or six additional workers to help out during the holiday season, Mr. Plapp said.

The summer months are also an exceptionally busy time for the company, he said, bringing increased sales of wieners and other meats for picnics and outdoor cooking.

Leawood History: Fritz's Superior Meats

Continued...

All of the meat items the company sells are processed, cured and smoked under federal inspection at the company's plant at 10326 State Line Road.

"Everything we sell, we grind, chop and smoke ourselves," Mr Plapp said. "We get the raw material and process it."

The Sambol Packing Co. of Kansas City, Kan., and the Wyssmann Meat Co. of Kansas City are among Fritz's suppliers, Mr. Plapp said.

Fritz's started as the Superior Meat & Sausage Co. at 1819 W. 39th St. The company was started in 1927 by Mr. Plapp's mother and father, the late Fritz Plapp.

The company moved to its current location in 1971.

When his parents came to this country from Germany in 1923, Mr. Plapp said, his father brought along a diploma that had been awarded to him 11 years earlier in Stuttgart. The ornate document, inscribed in Gothic print, hangs on the store wall and is proof that, at age 17, Fritz Plapp had successfully completed a three-year

apprenticeship and was classified as a master sausage maker.

Both Fred and Elmer Plapp worked in the shop while attending grade school. They and Mrs. Plapp took over the business after Fritz Plapp died in 1946.

Although they have been approached several times about selling the company, the Plapps intend to keep it in the family.

Although neither of Fred Plapp's two children works for the company, Elmer Plapp's son, Kurt, and son-in-law, Bob Reeves, are learning the business.



Rose Plapp and her sons, Fred A. Plapp (left) and Elmer Plapp, process and sell their popular Polish sausage and other meat products at Fritz's Superior Meat & Sausage Co. in Leawood. Mrs. Plapp's late husband, Fritz, started the meat-smoking company in 1927.

Elmer A. Plapp

Elmer A. Plapp, 64, Leawood, owner of a meat company, died May 4, 1994, at the University of Kansas Medical Center. Memorial services will be at 4:30 p.m. Saturday at the Village Presbyterian Church; cremation.

Mr. Plapp had owned Fritz's Superior Meat & Sausage Co. for 46 years. He was a Navy veteran and a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. He was a member of the church. He was a lifelong area resident.

Survivors include his wife, Marvella Plapp of the home; a son, Kurt Plapp, a daughter, Karen Reeves, and his mother, Rose Plapp, all of Overland Park; a brother, Fred Plapp, Mission; and two grandchildren.



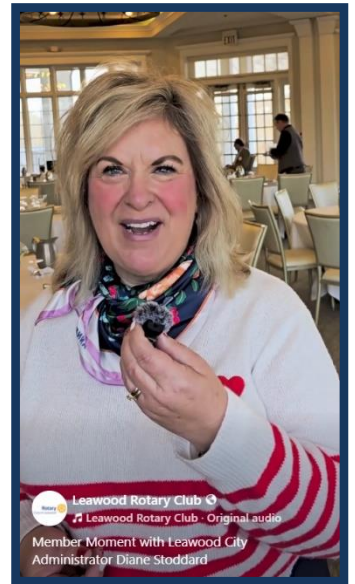
Elmer A. Plapp

Member Moment

In our third installment of "Rotary Member Moment," we feature member Diane Stoddard, who is also the City Administrator for the City of Leawood.

You can watch Diane's video on Facebook by clicking on the link below:

[\(2\) Facebook](#)



Correction:

Last week's newsletter included the Rotary anniversaries for February. One of our founding members, Dick Wetzler, was inadvertently left of the list. Apologies to Dick for this oversight!

Looking Ahead to March Programs:

March 5 - Sammie's Toy Drive [Home | Sammie's Toy Drive](#)

March 12 – Anti-Human Trafficking

March 19 – Crossroads First Fridays – Jeff Owens

March 26 – Board Meeting