



The Leawood Rotarian

The Newsletter of the Leawood Rotary Club

Celebrating Over 32 Years!

leawoodrotary.org

August 13, 2026

This Week's Program:

Friends of Litein – A.I.C. Litein Hospital in Kenya



Elaine Strid



OUR MISSION

To provide Christ-centered support for AIC Litein Hospital through financial contributions for equipment, education, and facility infrastructure improvements.

Upcoming Programs:

August 20: TUSONGE CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
Bill & Kathy Musgrave

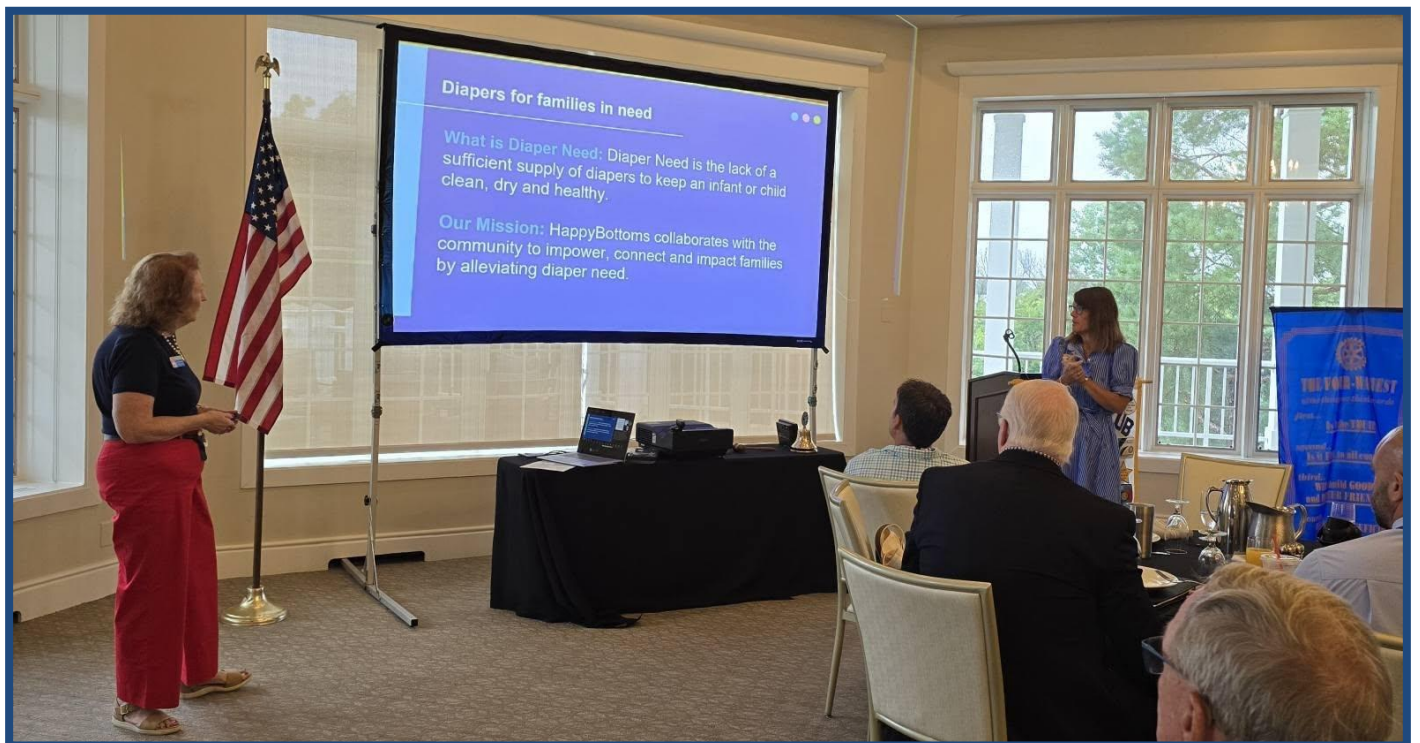
September 3: QUINDARO HISTORY

August Greeters:

Hemi Vats, Carlos Vides (Captain 8/13),
Doug Wesselschmidt (Captain 8/20), Dick Wetzler, Anita Williams,
Jonn Wullschleger, Kirt Yoder

Last Week

Last week's meeting opened with an invocation from Hemi Vats, followed by a Rotary Banner Exchange with Savannah, Georgia and Ciudad de Madero, Mexico. We also heard a vocational talk by Don Keith. Our featured program welcomed Susan Belger-Angulo from HappyBottoms, who shared how their organization is helping Kansas City families by providing diapers and other essentials to those in need.



Rotary Award of Excellence

The success of Rotary's mission to make a positive, lasting difference in the world depends on a large network of people who put Service Above Self. That group includes people who are not Rotary members, but who support and extend our impact. Rotary International established the Rotary Award for Excellence in Service to Humanity to recognize those nonmembers who have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service through Rotary and in accordance with our ideals.

On August 7, Chuck Udell had the honor and privilege to present this prestigious award to Michelle Kerr, of Topeka, Kansas, in recognition of her extraordinary commitment to serving justice-involved women through the Rotary Intersection to Care (ITC) program at the Shawnee County Kansas Jail.

Michelle addresses the need for healing, dignity, & emotional support among justice-involved women facing trauma, instability, and low self-worth. Since June 2024, she has volunteered weekly through Rotary's Intersection leading Movement & Meditation sessions.

The Intersection to Care (ITC) program is a reentry initiative in Topeka, Kansas, created by the Rotary Club of Community Action Against Human Trafficking and partners like Valeo Behavioral Health Care. It helps incarcerated women at the Shawnee County Adult Detention Center avoid repeating cycles of jail and human trafficking by providing trauma-informed mentorship, safe housing, and support services. To read more about ITC, please go the August 2026 issue of Rotary Magazine.



JOIN US FOR THE

SAMMIE'S TOY DRIVE FUNDRAISER



SATURDAY, AUGUST 15TH
10:00-3:00

PRAIRIE STAR MIDDLE SCHOOL
14201 MISSION RD, LEAWOOD, KS 66224

**VENDORS, FOOD, CHILDRENS
ACTIVITIES, RAFFLES, AUCTIONS
AND MORE!**

**INTERESTED IN BEING A VENDOR? CONTACT SAMMIE
MAGEE AT 913-212-0226 OR
SAMMIESTOYDRIVE@GMAIL.COM**

August Birthdays

8/6 - Rick Robinson

8/9 - Kirk Nelsen

8/11 - Lisa May

8/12 - Prasad Saraph

8/17 - Rachel Rubin

8/26 - Rob Hindman

8/31 - Stephen Powell

8/31 - Ester Udell



Rotary Affinity Groups

“Friendship is the foundation of rotary.”

What are some activities that you like to do that could increase engagement through Rotary?

Book Club - 4

Golf - 4

Pickleball - 3

Movies - 3

Hiking - 3

Museums - 2

BBQ - 4

Bird Watching - 3

Model Trains - 1

Cigar Night - 1

Bowling - 3

Other Ideas?

Rotarian Cares Committee

Our club is looking to initiate a Rotary Cares-type committee, where we create a connection point for folks to share if they are dealing with a medical setback, caregiving for someone, or similar need. Stay tuned and get involved!



The Rotary Cares Committee

The purpose of this new initiative is simple: to provide a consistent, organized effort to support our members when they need it most.

This includes:

- *Checking in on members dealing with illness, injury, or personal difficulty.*
- *Sending sympathy, get well, or thinking-of-you cards.*
- *Helping us stay connected with valued members who are no longer able to attend meetings regularly.*

Rotarian Spotting

Ken Selzer is part of a formidable team at the Cystic Fibrosis Shoot for the Cure, now in its 24th year of raising important funds to find a cure for Cystic Fibrosis. Ken and his wife, Deb Grimes, have participated in this event every year.



Labor Day 5K Sponsorships

For over 30 years, the Leawood Rotary Club has been actively working to create lasting positive change in the Leawood Community, the Kansas City Metro Area, and the World Community. You are cordially invited to help sponsor the 2026 Leawood Rotary Club's Labor Day 5k Run. One hundred percent of the net proceeds from this race will help fund Leawood Rotary Club's multiple charitable efforts during the coming year, including:

- College Scholarships for KC Students in need
- Project C.U.R.E.'s Medical Supply Distribution
- Johnson County Christmas Bureau
- Human Trafficking Prevention
- Polio Vaccinations
- Disaster Relief



EVENT SPONSOR: \$6,000

- Top billing on all promotional and advertising, press releases and Leawood Rotary website
- Corporate team of twenty runners
- Company logo on t-shirt, largest font, at the top
- A large banner listing company as event sponsor at the start/finish
- Opportunity to speak at the starting line on race day
- Sponsorship acknowledgements on P.A. system throughout event
- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

PLATINUM SPONSOR: \$3,000

- Second billing on all promotional and all advertising, press releases and Leawood Rotary website
- Corporate team of fifteen runners
- Company logo on t-shirt, listed under the Event Sponsor
- Sponsorship acknowledgements on P.A. system throughout event
- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

GOLD SPONSOR: \$1,200

- Team of five runners
- Company logo on t-shirt, (listed under Platinum Sponsor, smaller font)
- Sponsorship acknowledgements on P.A. system throughout event
- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

SILVER SPONSOR: \$600

- Team of two runners
- Company logo on t-shirt, (listed under Gold Sponsor, smaller font)
- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

BRONZE SPONSOR: \$300

- Sponsorship acknowledgement during Leawood Rotary meetings

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 6

SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES

GRADE SCHOOLS

In 1937 the farm land now included in the platted areas of Leawood was served by two rural grade schools, Corinth District No. 32 at 83rd and Mission Road, and Linwood No. 1 at 92nd and Mission Road. Corinth was housed in a small, 2-room building, and all eight grades were under the instruction of only two teachers, whereas Linwood had only one room and one teacher for all eight grades. As families with children moved into Leawood was served by two rural grade schools, Corinth District. enlarge the school to four rooms. This work was done at cost by Kroh Brothers. Later, numerous enlargements were made to accommodate the influx of children. At the suggestion of Kroh Brothers, an adjoining landowner, Webster W. Withers, made a gift of land so that future expansion and necessary playgrounds would be possible.

Later, the same type of co-operation between the Linwood School Board and the Developer enabled the school, within its limited financial capabilities, to meet the educational needs of an increasing number of Leawood children. Tax revenues always lagged considerably behind the need, and only through careful planning by a succession of dedicated school officials were the two schools able to achieve their present size and excellence. As Leawood grew, new schools were added, these being Somerset in 1953, Marsha Bagby in 1958, and Brookwood in 1960. Size ranges from 16 rooms at Marsha Bagby to 30 rooms at Corinth, and all have libraries and multi-purpose areas containing gymnasium, auditorium and cafeteria.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 6

HIGH SCHOOLS

The first Leawood residents with high school students found a much less stringent situation than those with children in the grades, for the Shawnee Mission High School was a well-established, well-run school with an ever-increasing capacity. As families continued to move to Johnson County, the original Shawnee Mission High School was re-named Shawnee Mission North, and one by one the other "East", "South", "West", and "Northwest" Shawnee Mission High Schools came into being. Compressed into such a relatively short period, the orderly growth of this sizeable, high-quality educational complex has been quite remarkable.



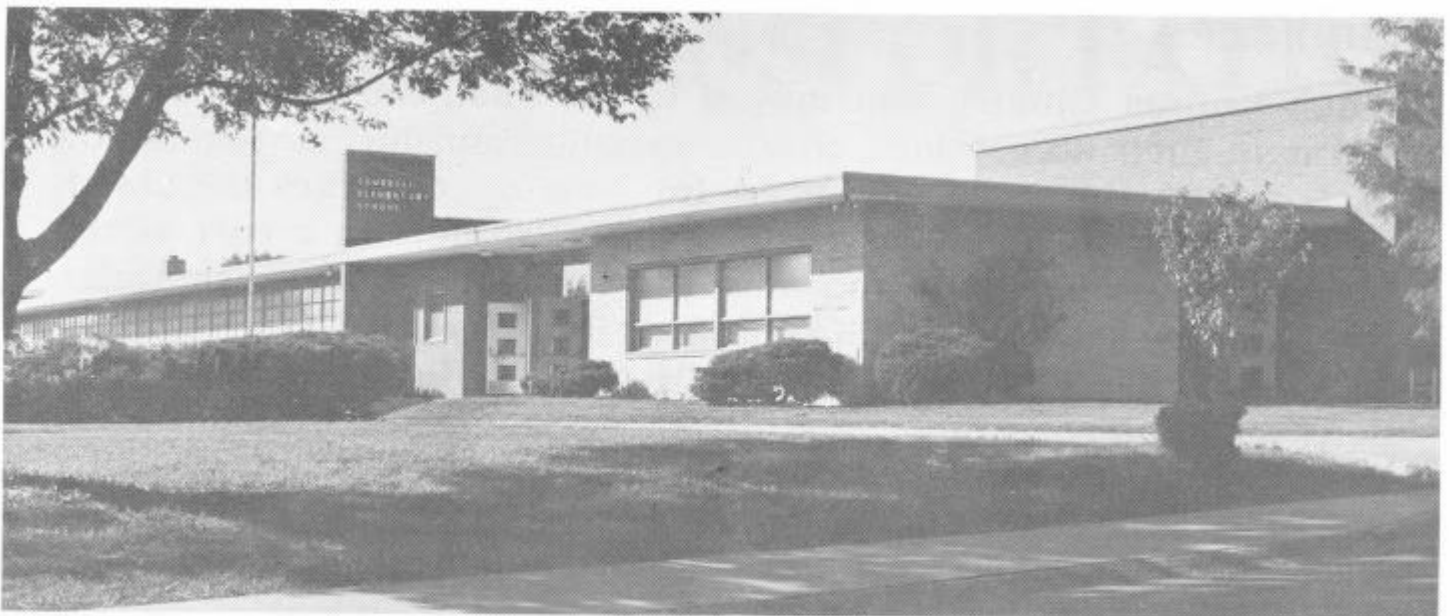
Corinth School in 1938 had only two rooms for the eight grades. The first addition was in 1940, and since then the school has been expanded to 30 rooms.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 6



The original Linwood School was a one-room wooden structure built in 1883 at a cost of \$1,133.78 on a one-acre site costing \$100.00. In 1940 this old building was replaced by a one-room brick schoolhouse. In 1950 two more rooms were added so that the eight grades then were divided among the three rooms. Today Linwood has 20 rooms and a combination gymnasium, auditorium and cafeteria.



In 1953 Corinth became so crowded that a separate school was needed. Somerset today has 25 rooms and a fine new library.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 6



As Leawood expanded southward the Marsha Bagby School, with 16 rooms was built in 1958.



Another school, Brookwood, was built in 1960 on 103rd Street to serve new homes in that area. It has 23 rooms and a gymnasium-auditorium-cafeteria.

Leawood History: As Told by John Kroh

Part 6

CHURCHES

When Kansas Citians first moved to Leawood they continued to maintain their accustomed church membership, but as population in Leawood increased the need for near-by churches increased. Church sites had been reserved by Kroh Brothers as a part of the over-all development plan, and in due course a Presbyterian Church was established at 83rd and Belinder, a Baptist Church at 83rd and State Line, and a Methodist Church at 95th and Belinder. Later, Catholic and Lutheran churches were built on Mission Road north of 95th, but these were on lands not originally owned by Kroh Brothers.

VI. PARKS

Using the J. C. Nichols subdivision planning as a model, Kroh Brothers provided several small parklets in its earlier plattings, such as at 81st and Manor, 87th and Lee and 92nd and Manor. However, like the Nichols Co., experience demonstrated that homeowners near these parklets objected to their use, often by persons not living in the neighborhood, and supervision, mowing and other care presented problems for the Homes Association. Accordingly, creation of these parklets was discontinued.

As 3-2 Baseball and other sports became more popular, the Leawood City Council voiced a desire for a larger, city-controlled park, and Kroh Brothers made a gift in 1965 to the City of 5-acres on the west side of Lee Boulevard at Indian Creek. Also, at the City's request in 1965, Kroh Brothers leased to the City for park purposes a 45-acre tract on the east side of Lee Boulevard, Highway 435 to Indian Creek. The 5-year lease provided for payment by the City of real estate taxes and a rental of \$1.00 per year. It also provided for a 5-year renewal and the option for the City to purchase the tract at a negotiated price not to exceed \$3,500.00 per acre.

In 1970 this lease was renewed until 1975, with the same options of a 5-year renewal and a maximum \$3,500.00 per acre purchase price.