

The War Whoop Weekly Bulletin

Rotary
Club



Kansas City, KS

Meeting Location: Meetings presently held via Zoom.
Office: P.O. Box 171384, Kansas City, KS 66117
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Websites: Club: www.rotarydowntownkck.org, District: www.rotary5710.org, International: www.rotary.org

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No. 25

LAST TUESDAY AT ROTARY - President **Scott Martens** opened the meeting and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. **David Bluford** provided a Hanukkah prayer for the invocation, and **Scott Kaufmann** then led club members in singing "We Wish You a Merry Christmas".

Dan Duncan, December program chair, introduced our speaker, **Chester Owens**, civil rights activist and former Kansas City, Kansas councilman, who shared a bit of his personal history and stories about Kansas City, Kansas. In the early 1980's, Mr. Owens was a member of our Rotary Club until other work and civic commitments caused him to resign from the Club.

In opening his talk, Mr. Owens remarked that to grow old is mandatory but to grow up and mature is optional. He is still growing and learning at the young age of 88 years and continues to be involved in several community projects.

Mr. Owens moved to Kansas City, Kansas from Arkansas with his family in 1946 and graduated from Sumner High School in 1949. He attended Sumner Junior College before joining the Air Force, where he served for four years during the Korean conflict. After his Air Force service, Mr. Owens returned to Kansas and attended Pittsburgh State University where he obtained his business degree. He then joined H.W. Sewing Company, a local insurance business. He worked for Mr. Sewing for 17 years before buying the company and continuing to run it until his retirement in 1998.

During his lifetime, Mr. Owens has been very involved in the Civil Rights movement in KCK. He had the privilege of meeting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in January of 1968 when Dr. King was in

town to travel to Manhattan to present that year's Landon Lecture at Kansas State University.

Also in 1968, to fight the decline in the Northeast area of KCK, he partnered with James McField to open a bookstore near 5th and Quindaro. The bookstore carried a broad collection of literature, including a large selection of African American literature. The bookstore hosted many events during its tenure, including a book signing by author Alex Haley upon the release of his novel *Roots*.

In 1982, Mr. Owens was elected as the first African American member of the Kansas City, Kansas City Council. This City Council election was his entry into the political arena. To the surprise of many, Mr. Owens, a Republican in Wyandotte County, won his primary election, receiving the most votes of any candidate, and then won his general county-wide election, receiving the second most votes of all candidates.

His advice concerning the current state of race and community relations is to open a dialogue rather than insist on giving your monologue, emphasizing the critical importance of listening to others. Mr. Owens explained that people don't have to agree on a topic, but, with an open discussion, he believes people could solve 99% of problems.

NEXT WEEK AT ROTARY - Our program will be a classification talk by our returning member, **Terry Woodbury**. **Dan Duncan** is the program chair for December.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Kansas Leadership Center leadership program seats are available to Rotarians from Rotary District 5710 with tuition paid through a Leadership Transformation Grant from The Kansas Leadership Center. During 2021, these leadership programs are scheduled to be held virtually. The three-part leadership experience begins with "Your Leadership Edge," which class is followed by the courses "Lead for Change" and "Equip to Lead." Enrollment for these programs is now open.

Thanks to all who have returned their **Annual Club Fundraising Pledge forms**. If you have not yet done so, please complete and return your pledge forms as soon as possible. Thanks!



Where the Gate to Kansas Swings Open

The Kansas City, Kansas Rotary Club was organized on November 2, 1915 and received its charter as Club No. 195 in January 1916. Its members take pride in more than 100 years of Rotary service to the community and to international fellowship. From this Club have come five District Governors and two Directors of Rotary International. The Club's history is as rich as that of the community it represents.

Following the Lewis and Clark expedition which camped at the confluence of the Kansas and Missouri rivers on June 26, 1804, in present day Kansas City, Kansas, this area became an important center for fur trappers. In the following years, many Indian tribes were relocated here from the East. In 1842 the Wyandot Indians acquired land here and founded a town. During this period, and for the next five decades, this area became the main gateway to the inviting majesty of the sprawling Kansas Prairie and the American West. This was where the frontier began. Pioneers found river transportation, outfitters and the beginning of the Santa Fe and Oregon Trails. After the covered wagons, came major trunk railroads and barge lines.

In 1886, Kansas City, Kansas received its charter as an incorporated city, combining the towns of Wyandot, Argentine and Armourdale. (Rosedale was added in 1922.) Kansas City, Kansas is the site of the first industrial park in the United States, home of the prestigious University of Kansas Medical Center, and the location of the National Agricultural Hall of Fame and the nationally recognized Kansas Speedway.

Near the geographical and population centers of the contiguous United States, it is in the temperate latitudes at an elevation of 726 feet above sea level. The average rainfall is 35 inches. The average mean temperature ranges from 30° F in January to 80° F in July. The lowest recorded temperature was -23° F on December 23, 1989, and the highest was 113° F on August 14, 1936. Our city's population of 145,000 and area of 155 square miles rank it 158th among cities in the United States.

Welcome to Kansas City, Kansas Rotary and the vibrant community it represents.

Service Above Self

Rotary Websites:

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Rotary Opens Opportunities

WHERE NEARBY TO MAKE UP ATTENDANCE

MONDAY

Bonner Springs (11:45am) ----- Twister Bar & Grill, 13100 Kansas Ave.
Overland Park (11:30am) ----- Doubletree Hotel, 10100 College Blvd.

TUESDAY

Gladstone (7:00am) ----- Fairview Christian Church, 1800 N.E. 65th

WEDNESDAY

Overland Park South (7:15am) ----- Deer Creek Country Club, 7000 W. 133rd
Leavenworth (Noon) ----- Riverfront Community Center, 123 S. Esplanade
KCI, Missouri (Noon) ----- Granite City Pub, 8461 NW Prairie View Rd.
Shawnee Mission (Noon) ----- Sylvester Powell Community Ctr, 6200 Martway, Mission
Olathe (Noon) ----- Hilton Garden Inn, 12080 S. Strang Line Road
Kansas City South, Missouri (Noon) ----- Margarita's, 13401 Holmes Rd.
Johnson County-Sunset (5:15pm) ----- Hilton Garden Inn Olathe, 119th & I-35
Waldo-Brookside, Missouri (5:15pm) ----- Waldo Pizza, 7433 Broadway

THURSDAY

Johnson County (7:15am) ----- Holiday Inn, 8787 Reeder St., OPKS
Leawood (7:15am) ----- Hallbrook Country Club, 11200 Overbrook Rd
Village West (7:15am) ----- Providence MC/Cafeteria Conference Rm, 8929 Parallel, KCK
Gardner (7:30am) ----- Gardner Community Ctr., 128 E. Park
Santa Fe Trail (7:30am) ----- Mid-Am Nazarene U, 2030 E. College Way, Olathe
Kansas City, Missouri (Noon) ----- The Gallery, 61 E. 14th Street, KCMO

FRIDAY

Desoto (7:00am) ----- Desoto United Methodist Church, 8760 Kill Creek Road
Shawnee (7:15 am) ----- Shawnee Town Hall, 11600 Johnson Drive
Plaza, Missouri (7:15am) ----- Grand Street Cafe, 4740 Grand Ave.
North Kansas City, Missouri (Noon) ----- NKC Library, 2251 Howell Street
Parkville, Missouri (Noon) ----- Park University Underground, Woodard Center
Lenexa (Noon) ----- Lakeview Village, Southridge Bldg., 14001 W. 92nd, 5th Floor

Please see the Secretary for the world directory of all Rotary Club's meeting times, days, and places.

2020-2021 Board of Directors

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