

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. 28

LAST TUESDAY AT ROTARY - President **Scott Martens** opened the meeting and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Hank Chamberlain** provided the invocation, **Ken Davis** then led club members in singing "Happy Birthday" to Club members celebrating January birthdays Frank Simonich, Melissa Sieben, and Bill Strumillo.

Ken Davis, January program chair, introduced our speaker, **Senator Pat Pettey**, who serves as Kansas State Senator for District 6 and as the Kansas Senate Minority Whip since 2013. Senator Pettey also serves on several committees and will be the ranking Democrat on the Public Health and Welfare, Ways and Means, and Transportation committees this year. This legislative session promises to be interesting, and the Senate will welcome many new members, with 35% turnover in the Senate this year.

Senator Pettey grew up in Kansas City, Kansas, attending Turner schools before obtaining her Bachelor of Science and Master's degrees in Education from The University of Kansas. Prior to her service in the Kansas legislature, Senator Pettey taught in the Turner School District for 36 years and served as a Commissioner for the Unified Government of Wyandotte County/Kansas City, Kansas.

This year's legislative session will open with uncertainty about how the Senate and House will conduct their business. With fewer State Senators than House Members, the Senate Chambers does not pose the same space constraints as does the House Chamber when attempting to allow for social distancing. Much committee work may be conducted remotely, but all votes must be taken in person at the State capitol.

When the legislative session opens, the Senate will welcome many new members, with 35% turnover in the Senate this year.

COVID-19 will pose not only logistical issues for the Senate but also several opportunities for legislation. For example, the legislature may consider regulations addressing the continued use of and requirements for using telehealth or telemedicine post-pandemic together with the associated Medicaid reimbursement issues, although Senator Pettey does not expect that Medicaid expansion will get out of committee this year. Additionally, the issue of immunity from civil liability for nursing homes and other entities from COVID-19 damages will likely be discussed during the upcoming legislative session.

In addition, the pandemic has posed many concerns in the school funding arena. Virtual schooling has led to questions about how to calculate attendance, and attendance figures directly impact funding in the K-12 schools. For the universities within the state, although enrollment did not decrease drastically, the pandemic has caused significant loss of revenue because of the cancellation of many sporting and other revenue producing events. In fact, the University of Kansas anticipates a revenue shortfall of \$120 million.

With most of the states surrounding Kansas having higher minimum wages, Senator Pettey plans to introduce legislation to raise the minimum wage in the Kansas. Senator Pettey is also interested in allowing local option to the counties to set minimum wage within the county as well as the county's option to select its own election commissioner rather than having the election commissioner appointed from Topeka.

On a bright note, Senator Pettey noted that December tax collections for the State exceeded projections by \$16 million. Unfortunately, the legislature will still have to tackle a state budget with a projected shortfall of \$119 million in 2022.

NEXT WEEK AT ROTARY - Our Club will honor the **Unified Government Department of Public Health** and will be joined by **Juliann Van Liew, MPH**, Director of the UG Department of Public Health, and **Dr. Allen Greiner**, Chief Medical Officer for the UG Department of Public Health. **Ken Davis** is the program chair for January.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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:

KCK Club: www.rotarydowntownkck.org, District: www.rotary5710.org, International: www.rotary.org



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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