

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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LAST TUESDAY AT ROTARY - Program Chair **Karole Bradford** opened the meeting, and **Ken Davis** led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Dan Duncan** provided the invocation, and **Scott Kaufmann** then led club members in singing "You're a Grand Old Flag". Fun fact: no Club members have birthdays in February.

Todd Jordan, February program chair, introduced our speaker, **Spark Bookhart**, Executive Director of YouthBuild in KCK. Mr. Bookhart's affiliation with YouthBuild began with his service on the Advisory Board. When the former Executive Director left, Mr. Bookhart, saying he "got lucky", was recruited to take over the reins as Executive Director.

YouthBuild is a national program, founded in 1978 in Harlem by Dorothy Stoneman, a Harvard educated teacher, who wanted to involve youth who were disengaged from school and to provide them with opportunities. The young people told her that they wanted the skills necessary to renovate brownstones and other dilapidated properties in their neighborhood. From the program's founding, Ms. Stoneman served in the capacity of Executive Director until her retirement approximately four years ago. Now, YouthBuild boasts approximately 290-300 programs throughout the US and 3-4 dozen additional programs located internationally.

Founded in 2001 as a program of United Way of Wyandotte County, YouthBuild KCK is the only such program in both the Kansas City metro area and the entire state of Kansas. YouthBuild KCK's mission is "Rebuilding Communities and Transforming Lives." The pillars of YouthBuild KCK are Education, Construction, Service, Leadership, and Mentoring.

Funding for YouthBuild KCK comes from several sources, including the US Department of Labor, Americorps, and United Way. Additionally, YouthBuild relies on the assistance from many local partners, including the KCK Housing Authority and KCKCC.

The YouthBuild program is open to youth aged 16-24. Mr. Bookhart reports that most of the young people involved in the KCK YouthBuild program fall in the 18-22 year old age bracket. The participants generally complete the program in 9-12 months. In order to graduate from the YouthBuild KCK program, the participant must attain a high school diploma (GED), obtain a certification in some construction trade, complete 450 hours of community service, and either enroll in a post-secondary education program or obtain living wage employment. Explaining that the program uses the construction trades to help educate the participants, Mr. Bookhart used the illustration that the process for calculating how much flooring is needed for a particular job is the same as calculating the area of an object in geometry.

On average, over the lifetime of the YouthBuild KCK program, thirty-five youth are served each year. Some of the trainees find employment in the construction trades, and others join the military or Americorps or continue their education in either a vocational program or college.

Presently, KCK YouthBuild is working on construction of a house at 2520 Cissna. Someone donated the property to the program several years ago, and YouthBuild KCK has since demolished the old structure on the property, cleared the site of vegetation, and begun construction of a new residence. After UG approval of the foundation in November, the YouthBuild trainees are ready to begin vertical construction, and progress will now become very evident.

Health Report: Good news! Several Club members have already received at least the first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

NEXT WEEK AT ROTARY - Our speaker will be **Randy Callstrom**, Executive Director of Wyandot Behavioral Health Network, a family of organizations providing mental health services to the community. **Todd Jordan** is the program chair for February.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Check your e-mail for information about two upcoming District-wide virtual meetings. On Thursday, February 18th, the District is sponsoring a program on cybersecurity, and on Wednesday, February 24th, the Olathe Rotary Club is inviting the entire District to join their meeting when Jennifer Jones, Rotary President-elect nominee, will be the speaker. Ms. Jones has been nominated to become the first female RI President in the 2022-2023 year. To join the February 24th meeting, click this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88104389967>.

Contribution acknowledgment letters for 2020 contributions to the KCK Rotary Foundation have been mailed to members. If you are expecting a letter and do not receive it, please contact **Greg Shondell**.



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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Scott Martens
President
Jen Wewers
Vice President
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Secretary
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Sergeant at Arms
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