

# 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  
kckrotary@gmail.com

Websites: Club: [www.rotarydowntownkck.org](http://www.rotarydowntownkck.org), District: [www.rotary5710.org](http://www.rotary5710.org), International: [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org)

Volume 82

March 12, 2021

No. 37

**LAST TUESDAY AT ROTARY** - President **Scott Martens** opened the meeting and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Rick Behrens** provided an invocation in honor of Women's History Month and invited members to provide the names of women who inspired them. In addition to some famous women, many people recognized their mothers, grandmothers, wives, and aunts. **Scott Kaufmann** then led club members in singing "When Irish Eyes Are Smiling."

Continuing a month of programs in honor of Women's History Month, **Mark Dupree**, March program chair, introduced our speaker, **Sharla Smith, Ph.D., MPH**, an assistant professor at The University of Kansas School of Medicine in Kansas City and founder of Kansas Birth Equity Network. She is a health services researcher who has been working in public health since 2006, and her current research focuses on maternal and infant health disparities.

Dr. Smith began her remarks by asking how a person defines "disparity." "Why is reducing disparity important?" is the related question and focus of her work. Dr. Smith mentioned several areas of disparity, including residential segregation (which may relate to increased exposure to pollutants and infectious agents), poverty (leading to income inequality, food insecurity, lack of housing), and perceived pain threshold disparity.

Through her research and work, Dr. Smith and several colleagues formed Kansas Birth Equity Network (K-BEN) in order to create an awareness around and locate solutions for disparities in infant mortality and maternal health. K-BEN has a mission of eliminating health disparities for African Americans in Kansas by increasing awareness of the high rate of African American maternal and infant mortality and connecting individuals with local resources.

Some startling statistics shared by Dr. Smith include:

- black women are 2-3 times more likely to die during childbirth or from childbirth complications than white women;
- 3 in 5 pregnancy-related deaths could be prevented;
- heart disease and stroke are the cause of approximately 34% of pregnancy-related deaths;
- black women are more likely to suffer from chronic stress; and
- for every 1000 live births in the state of Kansas, 10.7 black infants die during the first year of life as compared to 4.3 white infants who die during the first year of life.

Through education and outreach, K-BEN has a five-year agenda to reduce the disparities in neo-natal health. Dr. Smith explained the K-BEN mantra of "Stop, Look, Listen and Think." In describing how Rotarians can support the work of K-BEN, she mentioned that the Club has already taken the first step: understanding the problem. To continue assisting to reduce health disparities, Dr. Smith recommends creating awareness of the health disparity issues with others and advocating for ways to reduce health disparities.

If anyone has questions for Dr. Smith, she may be reached via e-mail at [ssmith37@kumc.edu](mailto:ssmith37@kumc.edu).

**NEXT WEEK AT ROTARY** - Our speaker will be **Teneca Clark**, Regional General Manager of Production at Heartland Coca-Cola Bottling Company. **Mark Dupree** is the program chair for March.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The Board voted at its March Board meeting to keep Club meetings virtual via Zoom through the end of May 2021.

Our **March Fifth Tuesday** meeting, on March 30, 2021, will be a **Virtual Bingo** party at 5 pm. Please send your RSVP to Rosemary Podrebarac. The Zoom link and bingo cards will be sent later this month.

The Club is planning an area clean-up or related activity in honor of **Earth Day, April 22, 2021**. More details will be forthcoming.

**District 5710's Gathering for Good**, a fundraiser for the Rotary Foundation, is scheduled for March 20, 2021, at 5:30 pm, at the Prairie Band Casino. Information on ticket and table purchase may be found on the District's website. Rotarians may also attend the event virtually for free.



## *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. 65<sup>th</sup>

#### WEDNESDAY

Overland Park South (7:15am) ----- Deer Creek Country Club, 7000 W. 133<sup>rd</sup>  
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, 119<sup>th</sup> & 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. 14<sup>th</sup> 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. 92<sup>nd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> Floor

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

### **2020-2021 Board of Directors**

#### ***Officers***

Scott Martens  
President  
Jen Wewers  
Vice President  
Greg Shondell  
Treasurer  
Rosemary Podrebarac  
Secretary  
Jim Knight  
Sergeant at Arms  
John Freshnock  
Past President

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Karole Bradford  
Phil Gibbs  
Todd Jordan  
Jim Knight  
Melissa Sieben