

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

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**LAST TUESDAY AT ROTARY** - President Jen Wewers opened the meeting and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. With a prayer for these times of the COVID-19 pandemic, Karole Braford provided the invocation, and Scott Kaufmann led members in singing “Hey, Look Me Over.” We also welcomed visitors Fernanda Tomé, President of the Rotaract Club of Western Kansas City, and Melody Burns, a VISTA member in the UG’s Department of Planning and Urban Design.

Todd Jordan, program chair for the day, introduced our speaker, **KCK Police Chief Karl Oakman**, who was sworn in as Chief of Police for Kansas City, Kansas, on June 14, 2021. A native of KCK, Chief Oakman returns home to lead the KCK Police Department after almost 30 years of service with the Kansas City, Missouri, Police Department, most recently serving as a deputy chief since 2017.

Sharing information about his background and family, Chief Oakman described how he grew up in the Argentine area of KCK and attended Harmon High School. Losing his father when he was age six and losing his mother at age 11, Chief Oakman and his two siblings were then raised by their oldest sister, who was just finishing high school when their mother died. After college, Chief Oakman decided to join the police department because of his positive experiences with police during his youth and because of his desire to make a difference. At the time, the KCK PD was not hiring, and so Chief Oakman crossed the river to join the KCMO PD.

Beginning his career as an officer in the East Patrol Division of the KCMO PD, Chief Oakman worked his way up the ranks and served in many capacities from patrol to investigations to information services and crisis intervention. While a Major in the department, he served

as the City Liaison, where he learned the value of compromise and relationship building.

Becoming KCK Police Chief allows Chief Oakman to return to his hometown to lead and improve a department with many great officers. He believes the role of the police department is serving the community rather than policing the community. In implementing this philosophy, Chief Oakman has three primary goals for the KCK PD, which are 1) to strengthen relationships between the police and all members of the community so as to reduce crime, improve trust, and aid recruiting; 2) to continue to develop a diverse professional workforce, focusing on training and career development and officer wellness; and 3) to improve the department’s efficiency through technology and resource allocation.

**NEXT WEEK AT ROTARY** - Our speaker will be Michele Surber, Regional Executive Director of Caritas Clinics - Kansas, who manages Duchesne Clinic in KCK as well as clinics in Leavenworth and Topeka. Todd Jordan is the program chair for the day.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

The next clean-up and landscaping day at **Kaw Point Park** will be held on **Saturday, August 21<sup>st</sup>**, from 9 am - Noon. Bring your own work gloves!

The **2021 District 5710 Rotary Conference** will be held October 21-23, 2021, in Manhattan, Kansas. The conference theme is “Fourth and Inches,” as we are in the fourth decade of our fight to eradicate the polio virus, and we are inches away from our goal. Rotarians may attend the Conference either in person or virtually. Early bird discounts are available through September 15, 2021. For more information, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/5710DC2021>.

Although the Rotary year just started, it is time to begin the process to select the **District Governor Nominee - Designate to serve as District Governor in 2024-2025!** If anyone is interested in exploring this position, please advise the Board of Directors. To be considered as a candidate for District Governor Nominee, the individual must be recommended by resolution of his or her home Rotary Club submitted to the District by November 1, 2021.

With the beginning of another Rotary year, just a reminder that you may **make up meetings** missed this Rotary year until the close of the Rotary year on June 30, 2022. If you have attended another Rotary Club’s meeting or a Rotary webinar, please advise **Rosemary Podrebarac** to obtain your make-up credit.



## *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 of the nationally recognized Kansas Speedway.

Near the geographical and population centers of the contiguous United States, Kansas City, Kansas 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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## **SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES**

### **WHERE NEARBY TO MAKE UP ATTENDANCE**

#### MONDAY

Bonner Springs (11:45 am) ----- Twister Bar & Grill, 13100 Kansas Ave.  
Overland Park (Noon) ----- Overland Park Chamber, 9001 W. 110<sup>th</sup>, Bldg #150

#### TUESDAY

Gladstone (7:00 am) ----- Fairview Christian Church, 1800 N.E. 65th  
Western Johnson County (5:30 pm) ----- Blue Moose, 10064 Woodland Rd., Lenexa

#### WEDNESDAY

Overland Park South (7:15 am) ----- 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) ----- American Legion, 410 E. Dennis Ave.  
Kansas City South, Missouri (Noon) ----- RC's Restaurant, 330 E. 135<sup>th</sup> St.  
Johnson County-Sunset (5:15 pm) ----- Hilton Garden Inn Olathe, 119<sup>th</sup> & I-35  
Waldo-Brookside, Missouri (5:30 pm) ----- Waldo Pizza, 7433 Broadway

#### THURSDAY

Johnson County (7:15 am) ----- Holiday Inn, 8787 Reeder St., OPKS  
Leawood (7:15 am) ----- Hereford House, 5001 Town Center Dr.  
Village West (7:30 am) ----- Providence MC/Cafeteria Conference Rm, 8929 Parallel, KCK  
Gardner (7:30 am) ----- Gardner Community Ctr., 128 E. Park  
Santa Fe Trail (7:30 am) ----- 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 (7:00 am) ----- Desoto United Methodist Church, 8760 Kill Creek Road  
Shawnee (7:15 am) ----- Shawnee Town Hall, 11600 Johnson Drive  
Plaza, Missouri (7:15 am) ----- Grand Street Cafe, 4740 Grand Ave.  
North Kansas City, Missouri (Noon) ----- NKC Parks & Rec., 1201 Clark Fergusson Dr.  
Parkville, Missouri (Noon) ----- Park University Underground, Distance Learning Ctr.  
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 meeting times, days, and places.

### **2021-2022 Board of Directors**

#### **Officers**

Jan Wewers

President

Karole Bradford

Vice President

Greg Shondell

Treasurer

Rosemary Podrebarac

Secretary

Jim Knight

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#### **Directors**

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David Bluford

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