

The War Whoop Weekly Bulletin



Kansas City, KS

Meeting Location: Meetings presently held via Zoom.
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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 - President Jen Wewers opened the meeting and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. In honor of Martin Luther King Day, Rick Behrens provided the invocation, and Scott Kaufmann led members in singing “He’s Got the Whole World in His Hands”.

Jay Dunlap then introduced our speaker, Henry W. Wash, Founder and Executive Director of High Aspirations, an after-school program for African American male students. Abandoned as infant, Mr. Wash struggled with stuttering issues and, as a youth, was told he couldn’t learn. He graduated high school and began attending community college, until lack of tuition funds forced him to quit. Then, Mr. Wash learned of the Henry W. Bloch Scholarship program. He applied and became a Henry W. Bloch scholar and found his mentor in Mr. Bloch. After receiving this scholarship, Mr. Wash finished his community college degree, attended university and received his bachelor’s degree, and then continued his education and received his Master’s degree from the Henry W. Bloch School of Management at UMKC.

Summing up the goal of High Aspirations in simple terms, Mr. Wash explained that he founded High Aspirations in 2004 to teach young African American men (ages 8 - 18) how to behave decently. High Aspirations became a full-time program in 2009 with a Mission of supporting these young men socially, emotionally, spiritually, and academically and the Core Values of quality, challenge, and love.

High Aspirations’ method of helping young men is a data driven, research-based approach founded on its four building blocks of social, emotional, academic, and spiritual support. By supporting young African American males living in high-risk communities, Mr. Wash explained that High Aspirations provides a solution to a

problem rather than expending time simply talking about the problem.

After providing some startling statistics concerning success rates of African American males in high school and college, Mr. Wash shared the results of The University of Kansas’ recent evaluation of the High Aspirations program. The KU research indicates that the young men who participate in the High Aspirations program have increased GPA’s and academic success as well as indicators of improved social, emotional, and spiritual well-being. Those young men who gain the most are those who maintain close relationships with their mentors and attend most of the High Aspirations sessions.

High Aspirations has purchased and renovated a building in the urban core which houses the spaces used for mentoring, a kitchen, meeting rooms, classroom space, and a game room. Recognizing the need within most urban communities, Mr. Wash’s vision is to take the High Aspirations program and replicate it throughout the country. At present, High Aspirations only operates in Kansas City, Missouri, but Mr. Wash would love to expand the program to KCK. Mr. Wash closed with one of his favorite sayings, “How can you go another way if you know no other way?” For more information, please visit the website: [High Aspirations - Serving African American Males in Kansas City Since 2004 \(highaspirationskc.org\)](http://HighAspirations-ServingAfricanAmericanMalesinKansasCitySince2004(highaspirationskc.org))

NEXT WEEK AT ROTARY - Our speaker will be Brennan Crawford, Executive Director of Community Housing of Wyandotte County (CHWC), who will be speaking about CHWC’s work in KCK. Jay Dunlap is the program chair for the month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Don’t forget to save your empty egg cartons (1 dozen egg size) and bring them to Rotary. Dave Skidgel has volunteered to collect the egg cartons and deliver them to a local food pantry so that they may be filled with fresh eggs for their clients.

President Jen reminded everyone to consider and search for new members for our Club. Remember that membership is everyone’s responsibility! If you need a membership application, please contact Rosemary Podrebarac.

Contribution acknowledgment letters for 2021 contributions to the KCK Rotary Presidents’ Foundation have been mailed to members. If you are expecting a letter and have not received 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. (Rosdale 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. 110th, 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. 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) ----- American Legion, 410 E. Dennis Ave.
Kansas City South, Missouri (Noon) ----- RC's Restaurant, 330 E. 135th St.
Johnson County-Sunset (5:15 pm) ----- Hilton Garden Inn Olathe, 119th & 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. 14th 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. 92nd, 5th Floor

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

2021-2022 Board of Directors

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