

# 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)

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**LAST TUESDAY AT ROTARY** - President **Jen Wewers** opened the meeting and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Focusing on thankfulness and hope, **Hank Chamberlain** provided the invocation, and **Scott Kaufmann** led members in singing “Viva Le Rotary”. We also welcomed guests **Assistant District Attorney Njeri Mwangi** and **Melody Burns**, VISTA at the UG Department of Planning + Urban Design.

**Mark Dupree** introduced our speaker, **Dr. Evelyn Hill**, Director of Equity and Justice at Avenue of Life, an organization that focuses on “breaking the cycle of poverty through community development” and empowering low-income families to become financially self-sufficient. Prior to joining the Avenue of Life staff, Dr. Hill has served in many capacities within the KCK community, including being a member of the Kansas City, Kansas Board of Education for more than eight years and serving as the Board of Education President for three years.

The Mission of Avenue of Life is to mobilize our community and to equip and empower low-income individuals and families to be self-sustained and independent. Avenue of Life also has a vision of being a catalyst for transformation in our community by breaking the cycle of poverty through community development, collaborative partnerships, and wrap around services.

The main office for Avenue of Life is located at 500 North 7<sup>th</sup> Street, just south of Memorial Hall. Other buildings operated by Avenue of Life include its facility in Kansas City, Missouri, at which they run a recycling process, recycling mattresses and other items, and Avenue Youth House which is a home in KCK for young adults ages 16 through 24. In addition to other activities, Avenue of Life serves hot meals to the homeless and others, acts as a warming center during the day several days a week, have computer lab, music room, etc.

Impact KCK is a program run by Avenue of Life in collaboration with 40 partner organizations. This program assists students in the KCK School

District and their families who are experiencing homelessness, connecting these individuals and families to other agencies to provide wrap-around services to meet all their needs.

Dr. Hill shared some impressive statistics on the work of Avenue of Life and Impact KCK:

- From August 2015 through June 2020 -
  - reduced student homelessness in KCK School District by 50%
  - served almost 1500 families
  - housed almost 450 families
  - assisted almost 350 families to find employment
  - prevented 316 families from being homeless
- From July 2020 through June 2021 -
  - 61 families housed
  - 102 families employed
  - 316 families prevented from homelessness
- From July 2021 - November 2021, continuing to feel the stress of the pandemic, Avenue of Life assisted 410 families, primarily with housing and utility costs

The Justice and Equity Coalition is a more recently launched effort of Avenue of Life which assists families with matters involving the judicial system and provides victim and policy advocacy.

For more information about Avenue of Life and its work in KCK, please visit [Home \(avenueoflife.org\)](http://Home.avenueoflife.org).

**NEXT WEEK AT ROTARY** - Our speaker will be **Moses Wyatt, Jr.**, the Founder/CEO of The Jegna Klub, a Behavior Intervention Specialist at Grant Elementary School, and recently appointed Youth Advocate Liaison to KCK Mayor Garner’s office. **Mark Dupree** is the program chair for the month.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS:

**Rotary District 5710** is holding its **Gathering for Good**, a fundraiser for The Rotary Foundation (of Rotary International), on Saturday, **March 26, 2022**. The in-person event will be held at Prairie Band Casino, but Rotarians may also attend the event virtually. In addition to dinner, the evening includes entertainment and a silent and live auction. Register at [Gathering For Good 2022 \(constantcontact.com\)](http://GatheringForGood2022.constantcontact.com).

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.



## *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**

Jen Wewers

President

Karole Bradford

Vice President

Greg Shondell

Treasurer

Rosemary Podrebarac

Secretary

Jim Knight

Sergeant at Arms

Scott Martens

Past President

#### **Directors**

Ashley Adorante

David Bluford

Jay Dunlap

Mark Dupree

John Freshnock

Phil Gibbs

Todd Jordan

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