

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 - Pinch hitting for **President Jen Wewers**, Vice President **Karole Bradford** opened the meeting, and **Hank Chamberlain** led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. Reflecting on the day's significance in many world religions and noting that March is Women's History Month, **Karole Bradford** also provided the invocation. **Scott Kaufmann** then led members in singing "Happy Birthday" to members with March Birthdays: **Hank Chamberlain**, **Dan Duncan**, and **Terry Robinson**. Then, members joined in singing "Battle Hymn of the Republic." We also welcomed guests **Viet Le**, Assistant District Attorney in the Wyandotte County DA's office, and **Melody Burns**, VISTA at the UG Department of Planning + Urban Design.

Hank Chamberlain introduced our speaker, **LaVert Murray**, Economic Development Advisor and Business Liaison to Mayor Tyrone Garner's office. Mr. Murray has returned to the UG after retiring a few years ago from a career with the UG that spanned more than three decades. During his previous tenure at the UG, Mr. Murray was involved in the planning and development of numerous projects such as the Kansas Speedway as well as many downtown KCK projects, including, among others, the Hilton Garden Inn and BPU buildings on Minnesota Avenue, the Dole Federal Courthouse on State Avenue, the US Post Office located on Nebraska, and the former EPA building (now the Strawberry Hill Campus of The University of Kansas Health System).

As part of his job, Mr. Murray also oversaw the construction of the Jack Reardon Convention Center (originally known as the Constitution Convention Center). Although plans had been proposed to raze the Jack Reardon Center for construction of a mixed-use building which would include additional residential apartments, Mayor Garner's vision for Downtown KCK involves renovation and

possible expansion, rather than demolition, of the Jack Reardon Center. The developer of the apartments proposed for the Reardon Center site may now be investigating the UMB site at 6th and Minnesota Avenue as an alternate site for the proposed apartments.

In addition to the renovation of the Reardon Center, one of the downtown area priorities is to create a new entryway to downtown from the east. While Mr. Murray could not share the specifics, plans are in process for the development of a project to be located on the surface parking lot near 4th and Minnesota Avenue. Mr. Murray's vision also includes skywalks, similar to the skywalks on The University of Kansas Health System campus, connecting various buildings along Minnesota Avenue in the downtown area.

Several months ago, Dr. Greg Mosier, President of KCKCC, spoke to the Club about the planned construction of a downtown campus for KCKCC, which will also include space for the YMCA and Wyandot Behavioral Health Network. Mr. Murray reported that the KCKCC downtown campus project fits with Mayor Garner's vision for the downtown area. With all these development plans, the future of downtown KCK looks bright - and busy!

NEXT WEEK AT ROTARY - The speaker for next week has not yet been confirmed. **Hank Chamberlain** is the program chair for the month.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

At its March meeting, the Board agreed to keep the meal cost at \$65 for the last quarter of this Rotary year. The meal costs will be reconsidered for the first billing for the next Rotary year, which begins on July 1, 2022.

The Board also recommended donating a basket for the auction at **Rotary District 5710's Gathering for Good** fundraiser, scheduled for March 26, 2022. Proceeds from the auction are directed to The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International. Please visit [Gathering For Good 2022 \(constantcontact.com\)](http://constantcontact.com) for more information and to register for the event.

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. 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

Officers

Jen Wewers

President

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Vice President

Greg Shondell

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Rosemary Podrebarac

Secretary

Jim Knight

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