

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

Volume 83

March 18, 2022

No. 38

LAST TUESDAY AT ROTARY -President **Jen Wewers** opened the meeting and led members in the Pledge of Allegiance. **Karen Hostetler** provided a thoughtful invocation, remarking on the sadness and suffering caused by the war in Ukraine and praying for peace in that region. **Jay Dunlap** also shared a note from a Bishop Ward exchange student from Ukraine asking for support for her homeland.

Hank Chamberlain introduced our speaker, **Lewis Diuguid**, author, lecturer, and former journalist and editorial board member with THE KANSAS CITY STAR. Mr. Diuguid's career with THE KANSAS CITY STAR spanned almost four decades, beginning on May 23, 1977, and continuing until he resigned on October 7, 2016.

During his tenure at THE STAR, Mr. Diuguid advocated for more coverage of events in Wyandotte County. He indicated that THE STAR viewed KCK and Wyandotte County as "lesser" than other metro communities and exerted less effort to increase the paper's circulation in KCK and exerted almost no effort to secure KCK advertisers. The paper did, however, cover stories of crime and political corruption in KCK, while overlooking stories of KCK's positive impacts. In part, this lack of focus on KCK and Wyandotte County led Mr. Diuguid to follow the Washington High School Class of 1999 throughout their high school careers, writing a series of more than 100 columns on this class of students.

Inviting us to dream with him about what KCK and Wyandotte county might become, Mr. Diuguid explained that he believes Wyandotte County is well positioned on the precipice of change. Based on the last US census, the population of KCK has increased by almost 12,000 individuals, reversing decades of population

decline. The most recent demographics for Wyandotte County indicate that 37.2% of the population is white, 32.9% of the population is Latino/LatinX, and 20% of the population is black. An additional 5.4% of the population is Asian, with 1.4% of the population being Native American. Looking at these figures, Wyandotte County is a majority minority community, meaning that people of color, in the aggregate, form the largest group within the community. Mr. Diuguid believes that this diversity positions KCK and Wyandotte County as a leader because these local changing demographics are indicative of nationwide change. Six states and the District of Columbia are already majority minority communities, and approximately 42% of the entire US population consists of minority individuals.



Recognizing that KCK faces what some may characterize as problems to address, such as lower household and per capita income, high taxes, and the deteriorating or depressed value of housing stock and business properties, Mr. Diuguid quoted American industrialist Herman J. Kaiser who explained, "Problems are only opportunities in work clothes."

KCK has many vacant or underutilized real properties in the urban core, conveniently located near downtown KCMo and many metro area attractions. With land being such a limited resource, Mr. Diuguid believes that younger people simply need to be made aware of the benefits of living in downtown or midtown KCK neighborhoods. The housing prices in KCK are lower than in many other areas of the metro, and the rich ethnic traditions and diversity of KCK should be selling points. With an influx of new residents, KCK could become a model community for blending of various cultures and ethnicities. Mr. Diuguid proposed harnessing the human capital of KCK residents by asking that they teach the many languages, customs, and cultures of Wyandotte County

residents to others. This teaching would highlight the diversity of KCK and use that diversity to create financial investment and gains in the community.

Mr. Diuguid invited us to join him in viewing KCK's perceived problems as opportunities which could lead to an improved and more vibrant KCK.

BOARD ELECTIONS - At its March 8th meeting, the Club held elections for additional directors for the next Rotary year, which begins on July 1, 2022. **President Jen** presented the following slate of directors to fill new three-year terms beginning in July 1, 2022:

Ashley Adorante
John Freshnock

Greg Shondell made a motion to approve and elect the slate of directors as presented, and **Ken Davis** seconded the motion. Motion passed by acclamation.

President Jen also reported that **Jay Dunlap** had agreed to serve as Program Chair for the 2022-2023 Rotary year. Many thanks to Ashley, John, and Jay!

REPORT ON KCK ROTARY CLUB SERVICE - **Todd Jordan** reviewed the planning and discussions that have occurred over the past year, including Club Assemblies, a Board retreat, and the work of an Ad Hoc Committee, all centered on our Club's service activities. The key focus areas for our Club's service are: protecting the environment; supporting education; responding to human needs; recognizing and empowering community leaders; and providing international service. Todd distributed copies of the summary of these Club service priorities, and a copy of this summary is included with this War Whoop.

David Bluford, Service Committee Chair, then identified the members of the Club who have agreed to lead in these areas:
Environment (focus on Kaw Point Park and Heathwood Park) - still seeking a point person

Kaw Point Park Clean-up dates:

- Saturday, May 21st (9 am - Noon)
- Saturday, July 16th (9 am - Noon)
- Saturday, October 22nd (9 am - 11:30 am)

Human Needs - **David Bluford**

Upcoming Cross-Lines Community Outreach volunteer day -
Wednesday, April 14th to work in Community Market

Education - **Karole Bradford** and **Rosemary Podrebarac**

Community Leaders - **Terry Robinson**

International Service - **Karen Hostetler**

Special Projects - **Dan Duncan**

Partnering - **Jen Wewers**

Speakers - **Todd Jordan** (2021-2022), **Jay Dunlap** (2022-2023)

NEXT WEEK AT ROTARY - Our speaker will be **Commissioner Harold L. Johnson, Jr.**, Unified Government Commissioner for District 4 and current MARC Board Chair. **Hank Chamberlain** is the program chair for the month.

On **March 29, 2022**, and **April 5, 2022**, KCK Rotary will welcome Wyandotte County high school seniors who will be making presentations in hopes of receiving a **KCK Rotary Presidents' foundation scholarship**. We are in need of members willing to serve as judges one or both of those dates. Please let Karole or Rosemary know if you would be willing to serve as a judge.

Looking Ahead - on **March 29, 2022**, the Club will hold a **Fifth Tuesday** social event at the **Mockingbird Lounge** in KCK. Stay tuned for details!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Dan Duncan is leading the Club's effort to assemble a basket of goodies to donate 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 bring any items you wish to donate to our **Club meeting on March 22nd**. Please visit [visit Gathering For Good 2022 \(constantcontact.com\)](http://constantcontact.com) for more information and to register for the event.

Don't forget to bring your empty **egg cartons (1 dozen egg size)** to **Dave Skidgel**, who will collect the cartons and deliver them to a local food pantry so that they may be filled with fresh eggs for 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

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

Jim Knight

Melissa Sieben