

The Rotary Wheel

P.O. BOX 4376, OLATHE, KS 66063

March 2017

CHARTERED AUGUST 17, 1937



OLATHE ROTARY CLUB

District 5710 Club 1625



Rotary International is 112 Years Old!

Olathe Rotary Speakers/Events

- Mar 01 Manager Scott Meyers,
Olathe Digital
Communications
- Mar 08 Michael Meadows, Olathe
Parks and Recreation
Master Plan Update
- Mar 15 Pat O'Donnell, Club
Orientation Update
- Mar 22 Betsy Gillespie, Johnson
County Juvenile Courts
- Mar 29 Jon North, Mid-America
Nazarene University
- May 06 **Days of Wine and
Rotary, Ball Conference
Center**

Speaker Chair

Vanessa Vaughn West
VLVaughnWest@OLATHEKS.ORG

Olathe Rotary Delegation Departs for 10 Day Tour of Japan April 3rd



Delegation: From left, Dianne Daughtery (trip leader), Bill Treu, Vanessa Vaughn West, Chris Osborn (Delegate Mary Treu not pictured.)

In the spring of 1997, at the newly developed Calamity Line Park, surrounded by city officials, Rotarians and Parks staff and crew, Olathe's first gifted Sakura tree was given a new home to grow in and flourish. It was a gift to the community by Mr. Akio Fukushima of Maebashi, Japan and founding member of the Maebashi West Rotary Club. Hundreds of trees followed over the next 10 or so years along with some very popular and lively Cherry Blossom Festivals. Mr and Mrs Fukushima attended many of the festivals and were thrilled that so many people in Olathe could enjoy Japanese culture and music and could view Japan's sakura blooms, a symbol of renewal. The sakura also remind us each year that life is fleeting and to value our time with friends and family. In one of Mr. Fukushima's last visits, he remarked, "I think these trees are like my children. I hope they continue to represent the friendships between our communities for many years." Akio Fukushima died in February of 2014 followed by his wife in March of the same year.

The friendship between the Olathe and Maebashi West clubs was established in 1993 and commemorated with our first student exchange with Beth Melin and Tomoko Masuzawa. Today, more than 60 students have crossed the Pacific Ocean to experience each other's lifestyles and deepen our international friendships. Olathe Public Schools established a Japanese language program in 2001 and formalized a partnership with Kyoai Gakuen in Maebashi. Through that program, along with various Rotary adult exchanges, an estimated 500 people have opened their homes and hearts

2016-2017 Olathe Rotary Club Officers and Board

7/1/2016 to 6/30/2017

Larry Rinne, President

lrinne@comcast.net

Jason Armstrong, Past President

**Vanessa Vaughn West
President Elect**

Ernie Hicks, Treasurer, 13th yr
913 764-5197

ernieofolathe@yahoo.com

Doug Brownlee, Secretary, 2nd yr

Pat O'Donnell, Director
1st of 2 year term

Jasen Mangrum, Director
2nd of 2 year term

Aimee Hruska, Director
2nd of 2 year term

Karin Brownlee, Director
1st of 2 year term

Geoff Neufeld, Director
1st of 2 year term

Olathe Rotary Club Foundation

7/1/2016 to 7/30/2017
(Updated as of 2/1/2017)

President

Terry Lynch, 1st of 2 year term

Treasurer

Jason Armstrong, 1st of 2 year term

Secretary

Sandy Wilson, 1st of 2 year term

David Andrew, 1st of 2 yr term

Mark Myer, 1st of 2 yr term

Mark Romain, 2nd of 2 yr term

Ernie Hicks, 1st of 2 yr term

Larry Rinne, 1st of 1 yr term

Pat O'Donnell, 1st of 2 yr term

**Please Remember Our
Foundation When You Plan or
Rewrite Your Will or Trust**

making lasting memories and meaningful friendships with each other.

On April 3, a delegation, comprised of five Olathe Rotary Club members will depart for a 10-day tour of Japan including a 4-day home stay in Maebashi as the guests of the Maebashi West Rotary Club. They will enjoy peak sakura season while touring Tokyo, Kyoto, Himeji Castle and Hiroshima ending their trip in Maebashi. Members include President Elect-Vanessa Vaughn West, Bill and Mary Treu, Chris Osborn and trip leader-Dianne Daughtery. They are looking forward to sharing highlights of their trip and time with the Maebashi West Rotarians after their return.

A Message From Our 2017 Days of Wine and Rotary Chair, Jasen Mangrum

Days of Wine and Rotary is getting a face lift this year. This year's event will be at 6 PM on Saturday, May 6th and will be held at the Ball Conference Center in Olathe! We are looking forward to wonderful food and beverage vendors and a plethora of live and silent auction items up for bid.

In addition, we've added a raffle to the mix and the lucky winner will win a \$5,000 travel credit anywhere they would like to go. Tickets are \$10 a piece and include a buy-one-get-one-free meal up to \$15 at Jefferson's in Olathe, KS. All proceeds will benefit the Olathe Rotary Club Foundation.

The DOWR committee is always looking for volunteers to donate time collecting live and silent auction items. Or if you have items personally that you would like to donate, those would be welcomed too.

Please contact Jasen Mangrum if you would like to get involved in any way.
jmangrum@lawingfinancial.com

2017 Days of Wine and Rotary Committee Chairs

Jasen Mangrum - Head chair
Pat O'Donnell - Raffle
Jason Armstrong - Tickets
Vanessa Vaughn-West - Advertising/Communications
Aimee Hruska - Auction services
Nichole Asquith/Dacia Moore - Food
Terry Lynch - Wine
Larry Rinne - Advertising
Jasen Mangrum - Silent Auction
Live Auction - None
Chris Osgood - Music

2017 Days of Wine and Rotary Auctioneer, Hunter Sturgis

We are delighted to have auctioneer Hunter Sturgis work our live auction. He was the Kansas Auctioneers Association 2016 Rookie Auctioneer Champion, and will be exciting to watch. Olathe Rotary Club members will be spotters for our auction.

Hunter Sturgis, Sturgis Auction and Rental Service
13897 K92 Hwy Oskaloosa, KS 66066-5306, Phone: 913-396-2682
sturgisauctionservice@gmail.com

Olathe Rotary Club Approves New Membership Categories

The Olathe Rotary Club #1625 has approved two new membership categories, to be included in a two-year pilot project, designed to sustain and increase membership.

The first, is called a "**Legacy Membership**". Anyone related to a current active Rotarian will be considered for in this category. This means, someone legally related to a Rotarian in another district, zone or country can now benefit from their relatives' Rotary status. Olathe Legacy Members will enjoy two years of reduced dues and only pay for meals when they attend.

Rotary Clubs in District 5710 and surrounding districts will be encouraged to promote this new Legacy Member Plan to their members to increase the interest of their relatives in Rotary membership. This new membership category was created to attract people who are familiar with Rotary through family activity in other communities.

Another new membership category is "**Associate Member**" designed to attract those under 40 years of age. These new members will also have reduced Dues of only \$130 a year and pay as they go for meals until they reach 40 years of age.

Applications are available at www.olatherotary.com or in person at the weekly meeting at the Olathe Community Center on Wednesday at noon.

. For additional information contact:
Pat O'Donnell, poppyod@gmail.com, Cell: 316-734-0675