

The Rotary Wheel

P.O. BOX 4376, OLATHE, KS 66063

September 2018

CHARTERED AUGUST 9, 1937



OLATHE ROTARY CLUB

District 5710

Club 1625



Mark Your Calendar: Saturday, March 23, 2019--Olathe Rotary Special Event Fundraiser

Olathe Rotary Speakers/Events

- Sep 05 No Meeting
- Sep 12 Ronnie Mesker, Johnson County Election Commissioner
- Sep 19 Michael Copeland, Olathe Mayor
- Sep 26 Stan Weber, KSU Broadcaster
- Mar 23 Olathe Rotary Special Event Fundraiser, Embassy Suites in Olathe Evening

Vernon Avant, Program Chair
coachavant@gmail.com

Rotary 5710 District Governor, Blanche Parks, Visits Olathe Rotary



Olathe Rotary President, Pat O'Donnell, accepts Banner from District Governor, Blanche Parks

Our Rotary District is comprised of 45 clubs in Eastern Kansas, with over 2400 members. Our 2018-2019 District Governor, Blanche Parks, spoke to Olathe Rotarians in August about her goals for the year. Rotarians thoroughly enjoyed her visit. Blanche joined Downtown Topeka Rotary in 1999 and served as President in 2012. She retired from the State of Kansas with extensive experience as a manager and director in a variety of state agencies. She developed and implemented the *Kansas Learning Quest 529 College Savings Plan* in the Office of the Kansas State Treasurer. While Director, the program held \$480 million in assets and was ranked in the top five college savings programs in the nation by *CNN/Money Magazine*. Blanche has actively worked on the District level for 8 years where she has served as Assistant Governor, and District Trainer. As RLI Coordinator, she developed and implemented the 1st Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) in District #5710 and coordinated all training for the RLI Certified Facilitators. She has attended three Rotary International Conventions in Bangkok, Thailand; Sao Paul, Brazil and Atlanta, Georgia. Blanche is a graduate of Washburn University of Topeka with Bachelor's and Master's Degrees. She has also earned the Kansas Certified Public Manger (CPM) designation from Kansas University. She was married 30 years to the (late) Attorney Sherman A. Parks Jr., and has 2 grown children.

2018-2019

Olathe Rotary Club Officers and Board

7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019

Pat O'Donnell, President

Vanessa Vaughn West, Past President

Terry Lynch, President Elect

Dacia Moore, Secretary
Year 2

Jason Armstrong, Treasurer
Year 2

Jasen Mangrum, Director
2ndnd of 2 year term

Chad Hollins, Director
2nd of 2 year term

Karin Brownlee, Director
1st of 2 year term

Bob Bardeen, Director
1st of 2 year term

Vernon Avant, Director
2nd of 2 year term

Chris Osborn, Director
1st of 2 year term

Olathe Rotary Club Foundation

7/1/2018 to 6/30/2019

President

Terry Lynch, 1st of 1 year term
tjl@midamericatitle.com

Treasurer

Jason Armstrong, 1st of 2 year term

Secretary

Sandy Wilson, 1st of 2 year term
swilson199@msn.com

David Andrew, 1st of 2 yr term

Mark Myer, 1st of 2 yr term

Mark Romain, 1st of 2 yr term

Pat O'Donnell, 1st of 1 yr term

Include our Foundation Among Your Beneficiaries in your Will, Trust, or IRA

by stating:

"Olathe Rotary Club Foundation"

"Tax ID Number: 38-3746610"

Nature of intended gift

Percentage or dollar amount of gift



DM Blanche helped four new members update their red badge to their blue badge. From above right, Tara Markley, Alex Richard, David Caldwell, and Bob Bardeen.



Above, a toast with DM Blanche.

Left, DM Blanche honored women in Olathe Rotary with over 20 years of service: Karin Brownlee (1995), Dianne Daughtery (1988), and Sandy Wilson (1995).





A Taste of Olathe feat.
the O-Town Throw Down

OLATHE ROTARY SPECIAL EVENT FUNDRAISER MARCH 23, 2019



Save the Date: O-Town Throw Down, March 23, 2019

Olathe Rotary Club will present the O-Town Throw Down, a competition featuring Pro-Am teams made up of Olathe North Culinary Program's senior students, partnered with Kansas City's best chefs in a head-to-head cooking competition on Saturday night, March 23, 2019 at the Embassy Suites in Olathe.

The competition will be the centerpiece of Olathe Rotary's Taste of the Town, a night with 500 guests tasting wine and craft-beer and sampling food from Kansas City's finest restaurants, all to benefit the Olathe North Culinary program, programs supporting the 7,000+ Olathe children who live in poverty and the Olathe Rotary Foundation Endowment.

The winner of the competition will take home bragging rights and their names will be emblazoned on the competition trophy that will be showcased at the Les Arts Culinaires, Olathe North Culinary's restaurant. The event will also feature a limited live and silent auction.

More details are forthcoming...but mark your calendars now and join us for a fun, competitive and tasty evening.

In service,

Vanessa Vaughn West,
2017-2018 Olathe Rotary President

Olathe Rotary Keynote Speaker Brings LOCAL Human Trafficking To the Forefront



August 8th guest speaker Amy Rowden, a sexual assault prevention advocate and Kansas City Outreach Ministry Team Leader discussed the purpose of the organization called Lions Beauty Queens, a 501(C)3 non-profit charitable organization. She said the hope is to love people, build relationships, and do their part to prevent Human Trafficking. "We can all do something. Reach One...Reach the World!" She said there are many "strip clubs" throughout the Kansas City area, including Olathe, that draw women in, and then they feel they cannot get out, when it really is possible to do so. She said reaching these women is important to let them know their value, and encourage and empower them. If you would like to help this outreach to women in the

sex industry, you can pay online through PayPal or send monetary gifts to: Lion's Beauty Queens (LBQ), PO Box 6425, Lee's Summit, MO. 64064. For more information go to www.lionsbeautyqueens.org.

Amy and her daughter are pictured above.

Rotary

For more than 110 years, Rotarians have bridged cultures and connected continents to champion peace, to fight illiteracy and poverty, to promote clean water and sanitation, and to fight disease.

Rotarians have immunized 2.5 BILLION children against polio and are resolved to rid the world of polio forever. We also educate and equip communities to stop other diseases and expand access to health care.

Rotarians give 16 MILLION volunteer hours every year.

Rotarians carry out service projects that enhance economic and community development and create opportunities for decent and productive work for young and old.

**Deadline for your October Olathe Rotary Newsletter information is Thursday, September 26th.
Please email to swilson199@msn.com, Sandy Wilson.**

Olathe Rotary Paul Harris Fellows for the 2017-2018 Rotary Year

Rotary started with the vision of one man — Paul Harris. The Chicago attorney formed the Rotary Club of Chicago on 23 February 1905, so professionals with diverse backgrounds could exchange ideas, form meaningful, lifelong friendships, and give back to their communities.

The Paul Harris Fellow program recognizes individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to **The Rotary Foundation of Rotary International**. (Can accumulate through recurring gifts, or given all at one time.) The honor was established in 1957 to show appreciation for contributions that support our Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Foundation grant. To recognize someone else as a Paul Harris Fellow, a Rotarian can give that amount in their name. The recipient does not need to be a Rotarian.

Rotarians who give \$1000 annually become members of the **Paul Harris Society**.

The Rotary Foundation has a **four-star rating from Charity Navigator**, an evaluator of U.S. charities. **The rating, which is the highest that Charity Navigator assigns, reflects the Rotary Foundation's sound fiscal management and commitment to accountability and transparency.** Through Paul Harris and Paul Harris Society gifts, members are supporting work in Rotary's six areas of focus: **promoting peace, fighting disease, providing clean water, saving mothers and children, supporting education, and growing local economies around the world.**

****Not only will Paul Harris gifts help Rotarians reach out and touch mankind all over the world, **a large portion of a club's contributions to The Rotary Foundation, will be returned to that club's district in the form of District Grants** to help local clubs with the resources needed to spread these great programs to those most in need of them in their own communities.

Olathe Rotary is proud to have **339** Paul Harris Fellows named since 1977!

**Our Rotary Foundation drive is normally in October and November,
but donations are accepted any time during the Rotary year (7/1/18 – 6/30/19).**

**For over 35 years, Darrel McDaniel has served as our Rotary International Foundation Chair.
THANK YOU DARREL!! Darrel's email: djkmcdan@aol.com**

We Thank and Honor Our Eight 2017-2018 Paul Harris Fellows:

Patrick O'Donnell: Pat joined Olathe Rotary November 4th, 2015. Prior to becoming a member of Olathe Rotary, he was a member of the East Wichita Rotary Club for 8 years, where he served on the Board of Directors and achieved his first Paul Harris Fellow Award. Pat was Olathe Rotary 2017 Rotarian of the Year, and is serving as Olathe Rotary President during the 2018-2019 Rotary year. He is also serving as District 5710 Image Chair. As of 2016, he became the webmaster for our OlatheRotary.org website. Pat attended high school in Charlotte, NC and received a degree in Dept. of Defense Information School from the University of Cincinnati. He married Linda in 1972. They have three children, Ryan, Tim and Trish. Following a tour of duty in the Navy, he spent over 20 years in Radio and Television News as a reporter, photographer and news manager in Denver, Louisville, Salt Lake City and Chicago. Pat joined the Boeing Company to develop corporate television network and later served as a Loaned Executive in the Wichita market. In 1996 he joined Via Christi Health System as Director of Community Mission Services. In January of 2001 he became Executive Director of Dear Neighbor Ministries for The Sisters of St. Joseph. As the program grew, he assumed the Fundraising and Communications responsibilities. Pat retired in April, 2015, and moved to Olathe to be near his children. This is Pat's 3rd Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Pat was also presented with his 4th Paul Harris Fellow Award when he was named and honored by his daughter, Trish Reedy. She is a member of Overland Park Rotary Club, and served as President in the 2016-2017 Rotary year.

Karin Brownlee: Karin joined Olathe Rotary in 1996. Her sponsor was Fred Pfeifer. Because of her demands serving in the Kansas Senate, she transferred her membership to Santa Fe Trail Rotary when it began because of their morning meeting time. She returned to Olathe Rotary in 2013. Karin attended Olathe North High School and received a BS degree in Microbiology from Kansas State University. She and her husband, Doug, are members of Olathe Rotary. They have four grown children and sixteen grandchildren. Karin served 14 years in the Kansas Senate and had a number of statewide board appointments, including a gubernatorial cabinet position. She has been involved in a number of groups in the Olathe community over the years. She served several years on the foundation board for the Mahaffie Stagecoach Stop and is currently serving on the Boys and Girls Advisory board in Olathe and was recently elected to the Olathe City Council. She and Doug have been active at the Olathe Bible Church for more than 32 years. Her current job is in government affairs, lobbying in Topeka for a number of business interests. Her largest client is NextEra Energy Resources, the largest wind developer in the U.S. When not working in her new position, she enjoys K-State sports such as football and basketball. During the summer she enjoys growing flowers, trimming trees, and swimming. This is Karin's first Paul Harris Fellow Award.

2017-2018 Olathe Rotary Paul Harris Fellows.....cont.....

Vanessa Vaughn West: Vanessa joined Olathe Rotary April 8th, 2015. Her sponsor was Wes McCoy. She attended Raytown High School and received a BA in Communication and a Minor in Spanish from the University of Missouri. She married Jim in 2008. They have two children, Tycho and Aristotle. She is Community Relations Manager for the City of Olathe. She is involved with a number of organizations including Women of Color Leadership (Conference Planning Committee), Olathe PDAB and Olathe Human Relations Commission (Staff Liaison), Olathe Latino Coalition and Hispanic Heritage Committee member, Missouri Bankers Association (Young Banker's Board), United Way (volunteer), Dance Theatre (Board), and Metropolitan KC Arts. She received the Certified Public Manager certificate and Public Engagement and Innovative Government Certifications in 2017 and 2018. Her hobbies include Latin and Ballroom Dance, crafting, cooking, and international travel. Vanessa served Olathe Rotary as President 2017-2018. This is her first Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Frank Jenkins: Frank joined Olathe Rotary November 1, 1975. His sponsor was Owen Brown. At this time, Frank is the second oldest active member in our club. He attended Shawnee West High School in Overland Park and graduated in 1964. He received an undergraduate degree from University of Kansas and then went on to obtain his Law Degree. Frank started practicing with the Low Firm in Olathe in 1971 and is still practicing with the firm. He has been the inductor of new members for Olathe Rotary for several years. When not practicing law, he enjoys fishing and playing golf. This is Frank's 3rd Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Dwight Douglas: Dwight joined Olathe Rotary December 1st, 1995. His sponsor was Joyce Kocher. He attended Capital High School in Boise, Idaho and received his Bachelors in Christian Education at the NW Nazarene University in Nampa, Idaho. Dwight received his Masters of Religious Education from Nazarene Theological Seminary. He and his wife, Marita, have two daughters, Danna and Lisa, and one son Mike. They have 5 grandchildren. Dwight is involved with the US Dream Academy, a charitable organization focusing on teaching and mentoring at risk children. He is a board member on the Mayors Christmas Tree effort. His hobbies include hunting, flying, writing, photography and spending time with his grandchildren. Dwight is grateful to Olathe Rotary for the friendships over the years and for the support sustained to him when he was facing his two heart transplants. This is Dwight's 4th Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Vernon Avant: Vernon joined Olathe Rotary May 28, 2013. His sponsor was Eric Strickland. Vernon graduated from Drake University and is an Executive Business Consultant with HCMKC. He has been an active resident of Johnson County for over 20 years. He has built several businesses in the insurance, financial service, tax and accounting training, and human resources and telecommunications fields. Vernon is an Olathe Rotary Board member and has scheduled Rotary weekly speaker programs for 2017-2018 and will continue to do so for the 2018-2019 Rotary year. This is Vernon's first Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Thomas Marsh: Tom joined Olathe Rotary August 15th, 2001. He was sponsored by Ed Pogue. Born and raised in Port Huron, Michigan, he attended local schools, and graduated from Western Michigan University in Kalamazoo Michigan. He also received Ford Executive Development from University of Michigan Business School and Duke University. He and his wife Katie, have 3 sons, Peter, Stephen and Adam, and 9 wonderful grandchildren. They have been married 32 years. Tom is retired from Ford Motor Company as a Ford Division Regional Operations Manager. He enjoys traveling with Katie, spending time with grand-kids, attending car shows and outdoor activities, and studying Great Lakes History. Among others, Tom earned recognition from the Ford Fund (foundation) for his service on the Minneapolis, MN Regional Board and from the City of Olathe for Planning Commission service of 8 years, 6 years as Chair. He is thankful for Olathe Rotary fellowship and the like-minded focus on service. This is Tom's 2nd Paul Harris Fellow Award.

Eric Hughes: Eric joined Olathe Rotary Club July 8th, 2009. His sponsor was Darrel McDaniel. Eric was born in Olathe, attended Olathe North High School, then Emporia State University where he received a BS in Business Administration. He married Charlene in 1984. They have two daughters, Ashley Eisenhauer and Abby Coursen. Eric is the owner of Strickland Construction Company in Olathe. He enjoys fishing, golf, softball, and basketball. Eric is involved with the Olathe Medical Center as a Board Member, the Olathe Chamber of Commerce, and the Olathe Economic Development Committee. He is Co-Chairman of the Olathe Miracle League. Eric is Past President of Olathe Rotary. This is his 3rd Paul Harris Award.

***Paul Harris Fellows, thank you for your gift and commitment
to Change People's Lives!***

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Are Waiting for a Lifesaving Transplant**

Midwest Transplant Network saves lives by honoring the gift of organ and tissue donations with dignity and compassion.

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www.mwtn.org