



## *From the President*

While our year continues to have challenges with the pandemic, there are so many things I feel energized about this year. We have a lot of engagement with our in person and Zoom meetings and I have been so fortunate to have strong club leaders stepping up to the plate with our work and helping to make our club and our community stronger and resilient.

Resilience is my word for the year which has informed so many of my personal and professional choices. We have been incredibly nimble with how we are meeting, how we are providing community service and how we are staying connected as a club. We are living our 2021-2022 theme, Serve to Change Lives. Some of the lives are in the community but some of those lives are right in our own club. We are figuring out how to be that dynamic forward direction club in an usual environment.

I will continue to focus on how we can remain connected as a club and build more and better friendships. I will continue to focus on how we can all help our community through service and giving. I will also continue to focus on growing our impact and growing our club membership. We have so many things going for us. Wonderful members, wonderful and meaningful community service and absolutely the best venue in the community to host our in-person meetings. We can't thank Brendan and the Zoo enough for helping us find our dedicated home.

As I continue with my year, I will be looking for opportunities to celebrate members and service monthly. Don't hesitate to send me a suggestion about an improvement, a new community service we might consider or a potential speaker. I will make sure that our Rotary Board discusses all your ideas.

Thank you for being amazing Rotarians and helping to make our community and our world a better place.  
*- Marie Pyco, President 2021-2022*

## *Topeka Rotary Foundation*

### **Minutes Topeka Rotary Foundation Trustees August 24, 2021**

On August 24, 2021, the regular monthly meeting of the Topeka Rotary Foundation Trustees was held.

Joseph Karnes, VP, Trust Officer with Central National Bank gave their quarterly report. They anticipate continued earnings to support the general market and

reviewed the club's status year to date. Mr. Karnes estimates that the club has earned some 9% return year to date and he does not recommend any change to our current investment position.

Discussion was had on the third year of the Signature Grant. The Day Center is requesting up to \$57,666.22 for continued operation of the Day Center for next year. Our prior commitment was to fund operations up to \$20,000 for this 3<sup>rd</sup> year. Some discussion was had about where they planned on obtaining the remaining funding and it was reported that they anticipate obtaining grants. Although the trustees do not have information as to exactly what grants are available or where they will get additional funding, the Center has been able to obtain additional funding so far and the trustees are aware that there are grants available for domestic battery projects.

The Trustees voted to approve funding for next year in the amount of \$20,000 upon Lon Lewis's motion and Rebecca Crotty's second.

The following officers were elected for next year:

Joan Wagnon – President  
Trey George – Vice President  
Bob Clawson – Treasurer  
Rebecca Crotty – Secretary

## *September Programs*

September 2: Program: Senator Jerry Moran  
Location: Kay's Garden

September 9: Program: Kansas Book Festival  
Location: Zoom

September 16: Program: Keepers of the Sandlot -  
Former major league baseball player  
Location: Kay's Garden

September 23: Program: Topeka Symphony  
Location: Zoom

September 30: Program: Club Social  
Location: To be announced

## *Other Events*

September 14, 4:00 p.m. - Board Meeting

## August Club Board Minutes

*Edited - Be sure to access the full report at [topekarotary.org](http://topekarotary.org)*

### Meetings, Programs and Socials:

President Pyko discussed plans for upcoming meetings, socials and other events. Consensus achieved to continue with our present plan for continuing “in-person/ ZOOM hybrid meetings” through the end of the current quarter, and then move to the hybrid schedule for meetings every week beginning in October, 2021. Members will be required to wear masks at in person meetings when not seated at tables or when not eating. This policy will remain in place until further Board action amends it. Marie and Zach will prepare and disburse educational information on this decision to all club members.

Members were also requested to offer ideas/ suggestions for Socials (usually planned for 5th Thursdays).

**Community Service Committee** reported that new information on programs and service options would be provided with a presentation to the club in a future meeting.

**New Member applications** from Jonathan Noble and Brett Robison were reviewed and approved.

**Social Justice Committee report:** Glenda DuBoise, noted ongoing process of reviewing club diversity and devising ways to integrate that information into plans for recruiting and retaining members. We will continue engagement in the “Rotary Cubed” cooperation with the Rotary clubs of Minneapolis and Harlem as a part of this initiative.

**Public Relations Committee chair,** Zach Ahrens, encouraged all committees to use the newly revived club newsletter, as well as the ClubRunner email system to keep the whole club advised of committee activities and plans. Rollout is underway for the first edition to be distributed on Sept. 2.

**President Pyko announced upcoming “Disaster Trailer Event”,** in which a Rotary project of the Kearney, NE club will bring their grant-funded trailer designed for providing meals during disaster events, to Topeka in the near future. We are asked to help by providing volunteers to help serve the meals they prepare. Consensus to support this project, with Marie to send out more information as soon as it is available.

**Other business** included a request from Vince as program chair for input from Board/Club members on ideas for future programs.



## New Members

### BRETT ROBISON

Brett Robison joined the Topeka Symphony Orchestra in May 2021 as Executive Director. Before coming to Northeast Kansas, Brett had been a full-time assistant professor of music at Viterbo University where his primary responsibility was directing the choral program.

Early in his career, Brett was a public-school music educator and taught in Minnesota, Iowa, and Arizona. Brett has found a calling in nonprofit leadership and recently completed a Master of Business Administration. He brings a growth mindset to the organizations he serves and a passion for music, music education, and working for the underserved in our communities. Brett loves to travel, hike, read, golf, and spend quality time with his wife, three children, and grandson.

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### JONATHAN NOBLE

Jonathan got his undergrad at Kansas State University, and has a bachelor's of science in Information Systems. He worked for a small engineering firm for several years before moving to Topeka to go to law school at Washburn. He worked at Kansas Legal Services in Emporia for 3 years before he went to the Lyon County Attorney's Office. In both of those positions, he worked closely with victims of domestic violence. He later moved to the Attorney General's office after he wed his spouse, Shelley Woodard.

In order to get back to working directly with people, he left the AG's office and is now working as a Public Defender here in Topeka.

## Rotary Intl. Foundation

\$15,000 is the 21-22 goal for the Rotary Club of Topeka's contributions to the Rotary International Foundation. At the August 19 club meeting we talked about every Rotarian gifting \$100 every year. This alone would achieve the goal. Please make your annual, quarterly or monthly gift to the R.I. Foundation – the quarterly dues statements are a great way to do this. You can also make contributions directly to R.I. through the user-friendly site:

<https://www.rotary.org/en/donate>

Contact Roger Aeschliman 267-8782 with questions.

### Rotary Club of Topeka

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