



The Serving Tray

Rotary Club of Kirksville -- Charter 371 -- District 6040

www.kvrotary.org



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PRESIDENT RUTH ON SINGAPORE: Ruth gave a program on her attendance at the 2024 Rotary International Convention in Singapore. This the fifth or sixth RI convention she has attended (the first was in Seoul, South Korea). She attended the convention with her niece, Carrie, who Ruth hopes to recruit into the Rotary Club. Ruth stated that even when you travel alone to an RI Convention, you're never lonely because Rotarians are so friendly and accepting. As a case in point, she and Carrie made friends with Rotarians from Australia soon after they arrived at their hotel and socialized with their new Aussie friends throughout the convention. The atmosphere of the convention lived up to the theme "Sharing Connections with the



World." Ruth was impressed with the beautiful orchids and other flowers that grew wild in Singapore. There are no homeless people in the city because the state provides housing for people who would otherwise have nowhere to live. The zoo was unique in that the only fences separating people from animals were electronic ones. Even the restrooms were open-air (except for toilet stalls), with animals wandering in and out. The gardens near the Convention Center were beautiful, and the light show held in the garden on the last evening of the convention was impressive.

At the Convention, attendees were kept informed about scheduled events through a smart phone App rather than paper programs, in keeping with Rotary's seventh area of focus, supporting the environment. The Flag Ceremony of the Opening Session featured flags from all countries represented by Rotarians at the convention. The House of Friendship featured booths on Rotary Action Groups, all types of special projects, Rotary merchandise, and breakout sessions. There were Special Events for the Rotary Foundation and Major Donors where attendees learned how Rotary spends its money. Outgoing Rotary International President Gordon McNally explained how his brother's suicide fueled his focus on prioritizing mental health and well-being during the 2023-24 Rotary year. There were updates on polio eradication and how the polio surveillance program has provided information on malaria and other diseases. Rotarians learned about the efforts of two men from Cedar Rapids, IA, Peter Teahen and John Ockenfels, who in 2023 flew their Cessna airplane around the world to raise funds for polio eradication. "Dr. Toilet" shared his experience with starting 15 "Toilet Colleges" that have trained 75,000 graduates to properly use and clean toilets as part of Rotary's efforts to end "Toilet Taboo." Incoming RI President Stephanie Urchick urged Rotarians, particularly those in the United States, to create an action plan that will reverse the downward trend in Rotary membership and strengthen member engagement. The Convention ended with a rousing performance by the Red Hot Chili Pipers from Scotland!

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50-50 Drawing: Jeff to draw next week. Balance is \$167. Happy Bucks: \$52

Guests:

Mark Anderson (guest of Elizabeth Gregory)

Upcoming Programs:

- Aug. 14:** RYLA Students Presentation
- Aug. 21:** Mari Macomber/Unfunded Transportation Needs
- Aug. 28:** Dawn Howd/ TSU Lyceum Series
- Sept. 4:** Dan Slawski/Guardian Hills Veterans Retreat Center
- Sept. 11:** Bill Castles/United Way
- Sept. 18:** Ralph Cupelli/Service Recognition Program



THANKS, LADIES! Jeff said three hard workers (Debi, Jackie, and Annette) assembled 47 flags on Monday.

AUGUST IS MEMBERSHIP AND NEW CLUB DEVELOPMENT MONTH.

Announcements

- Ramey sent email regarding our club committees - please let her know if you would need any changes!
- **August 13th 5:00pm** first information zoom call for “Step Up” anti-bullying program. Contact Ruth or Mike Mitchell for information.
- **Aug. 21st - right after club meeting** PR Committee will meet at KCC.
- **Aug. 21st 6:40pm** - Rotary Board meeting at Alliant Bank

Announcements

- Nominations for the **Avenues of Service Award** are open now and can be made throughout the year. Please let Ruth know if you would like to nominate someone.
- Nominations for the **Service Award for a Polio-Free World** are being accepted until Oct. 1. Please let Ruth know if you would like to nominate someone.
- Nominations for the **Sylvia Whitlock Leadership Award** are accepted Aug. 1 - Aug. 31. Any member can nominate a fellow member who has advanced women in Rotary.