

As Bushmina worked to create a housing-specific platform called Spaces for Ukraine, she used the United for Peace webpage to post information and a form to match refugees with hosts. The page also offers updates about projects in neighboring countries, information about free rail, bus, and air transportation available to refugees, and tips for helping people at the border. There are lists of needed supplies and options for making donations as well.

"Rotaract clubs have the chance to get an overview of what's going on in and around Ukraine, and then decide what projects they can help implement," Leitner says. "We want to make it as easy as possible for our members to connect and collaborate."

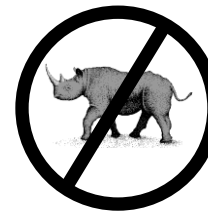
Leitner and other leaders of Rotaract Europe meet weekly over Zoom with Rotaract representatives from each European country to exchange ideas and share updates about projects. These meetings have helped foster better communication and organization, she says.

Since it began as a coalition of clubs in 1988, Rotaract Europe has focused on sharing information about Rotaract activities across borders. But the effort to help Ukrainians is different, Leitner says: "We are being much more proactive than in the past. The passion and energy of Rotaractors are really motivating us to do more."

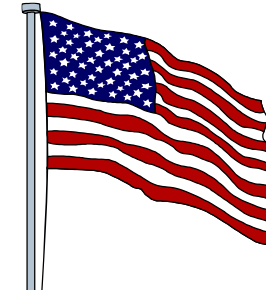
# THE EARLY RISER



13 May, 2022  
Volume 39, Number 36



**DON'T BE A R.I.N.O.**  
(Rotarian In Name Only!)



## ROTARY PRAYER

Oh Lord, and giver of all good, we thank Thee for our daily food.

May Rotary friends and Rotary ways, help to serve Thee all of our days.

# THE ROTARY CLUB OF WICHITA FALLS NORTH



SERVE TO CHANGE LIVES

**2021-22 R.I. Officers ~ D5790**

President of Rotary International: Shekhar Mehta

District Governor: Kayla Christianson

**OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2021-22**

President: Clint Wood ~ President Elect: Ajay Kumar

Secretary: Tom Sheriff ~ Treasurer: Ann Lucas

Executive Secretary: Jeani Secord ~ Sgt. at Arms: Joe Clement

Directors: Clint Wood – Phil Waggoner ~ Gary Southard ~ Mike Crocker

Tom Cale ~Tom Sheriff & Troy Secord (PDG Ex-Officios)

Website: [www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org](http://www.wichitafallsnorthrotaryclub.org)

## ***FUTURE PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS***

May 13----- Jeani Secord  
May 15----- Dedication ceremony at Rotary Park. 1:00 PM  
May 20----- Troy Secord  
May 21---- **Flag work day – 9:00 AM - 31 Fry St. Lakeside City – Tom’s house.**  
May 27----- Tom Sheriff  
June 3 ----- Gary Southard  
June 10----- Phil Waggoner  
June 17----- Tom Cale  
June 24----- Joe Clement  
July 1----- David Collins  
July 8----- Mike Crocker  
July 15 ----- Larry Gunnell  
July 22 ----- Ann Lucas  
July 29 ----- Bill Neale

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## **NEWS FROM OUR LAST CLUB MEETING AT JIMMY’S EGG**

The invocation was led by President Clint and the pledges were expertly led by Gary.

The brag bucket was fed by Gary, Clint (2), Ajay and Joe.

Our special guest was Matthew Milhollen!

Phil Waggoner was celebrating his 29th club anniversary. Congratulations!

Rob introduced Dirk Welch, head of MSU-Burns Fantasy of Lights, as our program. Dirk gave an interesting program on the history of the MSU-Burns Fantasy of Lights.

The raffle raised \$20.00. Gary drew the 8 of hearts for a \$5.00 prize. If this week’s winner draws the ace of spades they will win \$121.00 + ½ Of what is raised today.

Joe led the club in the 4-Way Test of the Things we think, say or do.

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## ***NEWS FROM ROTARY INTERNATIONAL:***

### **EUROPEAN ROTARACT CLUBS ORGANIZE TO HELP THE UKRANIAN REFUGEES:**

Within hours of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine in late February 2022, Iryna Bushmina fled her home in Kyiv. Along with her sister and her three-month-old nephew, she journeyed to Vienna, Austria, staying with Rotary members along the way. Their generosity inspired Bushmina, a member of the Rotaract Club of Kyiv-City and the district Rotaract representative for Ukraine, to organize a larger-scale relief effort — and now, an online platform she created has helped Rotaract and Rotary members find shelter for thousands of Ukrainian refugees.

Across Europe, Rotaract members are using digital tools to share information and coordinate to help people who have been affected by the war in Ukraine. By routing communications through the European Rotaract Information Centre (also known as [Rotaract Europe](#)), a multidistrict information organization that serves clubs in more than 40 countries, these young members are using the power of Rotary's global network to direct aid where it's needed most.

Shortly after the war began, Christiane Leitner, the president of Rotaract Europe, learned about a project that was already underway to help Ukrainians. Led by the Rotaract Club of Klagenfurt-Wörthersee, Austria, Rotaractors coordinated using the Rotaract Europe website, then packed five vans and cars full of relief supplies and drove through the night to the Polish-Ukrainian border, where local Rotaractors were waiting to deliver the aid.

"This really stood out to me as an example of how quickly our Rotary network can make things happen," says Leitner, a member of the Rotaract Club of Linz, Austria. After learning about dozens of Rotaract initiatives that started within a week of the invasion, she realized that Rotaract Europe could play a key role in coordinating communication among Rotaract and Rotary clubs and districts and facilitating partnerships that could lead to projects.

Rotaract Europe leaders have compiled information for refugees as well as for volunteers on their website under the heading United for Peace. As