

The relationship between North and South Koreans is complex. As part of a single nation for thousands of years, they share the same language and observe the same traditional holidays. However, the memory of espionage after the Korean War lingers. In South Korea, those from the North must adapt to an unfamiliar capitalist system and culture without any family or friends, while enduring suspicions and prejudice against them.

In 2016, with support from the Rotary Club of Ulsan Daeduck, North Korean immigrants chartered the Rotary Club of Ulsan Freedom — a fitting name for those who risked their lives for their freedom.

Ju Eun Seok, the founder of the Ulsan Freedom club, spent six years in China between crossing the Yalu River in 1997 and arriving in Korea with her son in 2003. Immediately thereafter, she attended college and majored in social work with the aim of helping North Korean defectors adapt to society. From 2010 to 2013, she served as a counselor for defectors in the Ulsan area and supported the early stages of their settlement. “I am as happy as if it happens to me when I see North Koreans getting vocational training, adapting to society, and getting a job,” she says. She currently works as a unification education instructor.

“Life in China had always been anxious and tough because of the fear that I might get discovered and forced to return to North Korea,” Seok says. “My Chinese husband and I had to frequently flee during the night to avoid the crackdowns by Chinese officials. It was difficult to adapt, even after the arrival in Korea. I could not understand what people were saying — they used unfamiliar capitalism terms such as ‘stock market’ or ‘investment.’ English words had become integrated into everyday conversation.”

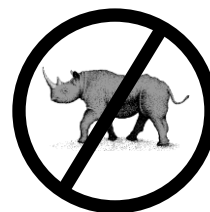
However, Seok says many South Korean people helped her and other defectors. Rotary clubs offered scholarships and supported their settlement. After she spent a few years participating with Rotary clubs in Ulsan, the then-governor of District 3721, Hae-Sang Choi, suggested to her that Rotary could be a starting point for others to build relationships with the community.

# THE EARLY RISER

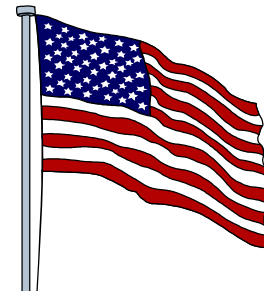
EVERY ROTARIAN  
US \$100  
EVERY YEAR



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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:

Secretary: Tom Sheriff ~ Treasurer: Ann Lucas

Executive Secretary: Jeani Secord ~ Sgt. at Arms: Larry Gunnell

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***

- July 23 ----- Phil Waggoner
- July 30 ----- David Collins
- August 6 ----- Mike Crocker
- August 13 ----- Larry Gunnell
- August 20 ----- Ajay Kumar
- August 27 ----- Ann Lucas
- September 3 ----- Bill Neale
- September 10 ----- Tom Ostovich
- September 17 ----- Jeani Secord
- September 24 ----- Rob Noble
- October 1 ----- Troy Secord
- October 8 ----- Tom Sheriff
- October 15 ----- Gary Southard
- October 22 ----- Phil Waggoner
- October 29 ----- Tom Cale

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***NEWS FROM OUR LAST CLUB MEETING AT THE VANTAGE POINT CONDOMENIA:***

President Clint led the club in the Rotary Prayer and Tom C. led us in the Pledges.

Mike Crocker presented the brag bucket. Clint was the lone person donating. I guess it was a slow week for our club members!

Jeani announced that Tom O. is having a birthday this week. Congratulations!

Tom C. presented the program last week. He introduced Jeff Baker, the Shelter Director for Faith Mission. He presented an excellent program about homelessness and Faith Mission’s program to give people a “hand up” out of homelessness.

The raffle raised \$13.00. Out of the Secord’s combined tickets it happened to be one of Jeani’s tickets that was drawn. Jeani drew the king of diamonds for a \$10.00 prize. If this week’s winner draws the ace of spades they will win \$216.00 + ½ of what is raised today. It’s getting closer to the ace of spades. GOOD LUCK.



**JEFF BAKER FROM FAITH MISSION**

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***NEWS FROM ROTAY INTERNATIONAL:***

**FORMER REFUGEES HELP RECENT DEFECTORS ADAPT TO SOUTH KOREA**

Since the end of World War II, the Korean Peninsula has been divided. Partitioned in 1945 — the North under Soviet occupation and the South under U.S. occupation — the nations, still in conflict, have struggled for decades to achieve a peaceful relationship.

In the years since the divide, more than 30,000 people from the North have escaped through China and come to South Korea for a new beginning. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of people defecting has drastically declined due to increased border security. Before the outbreak, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un’s regime had also increased border patrols and added an electrified fence, making escape more difficult.

Those who make it to South Korea go through a government-run, three-month resettlement process. Once they are released, a police officer is assigned to watch them. The work of building a new life in a different Korean culture is up to them.