

leadership at Naropa University. While interviewing Peace Corps volunteers for her thesis on the impact of storytelling, she connected with Steve Werner, a former Peace Corps volunteer and a member of the Rotary Club of Denver Southeast. She began speaking at Rotary clubs, which led to the Rotary Club of Boulder Flatirons sponsoring her for an Ambassadorial Scholarship.

In the Peace Corps, Wegner Guilfoyle had read *Gaviotas*, Alan Weisman's account of a village in a desolate region of Colombia that used modern technologies to establish itself as a thriving and sustainable community. Inspired by the book, Wegner Guilfoyle chose to continue her environmental studies in Colombia at Universidad de los Andes and the Sasana institute.

Through a student at Sasana, Wegner Guilfoyle made another opportune acquaintance, a Microsoft employee who was leading a technology project with an Indigenous group in Colombia. From that connection grew an endeavor that would engage her for nearly a decade. Backed by funds from multiple Rotary clubs, District 5450 (northern Colorado), and The Rotary Foundation, Wegner Guilfoyle managed a project that provided solar panels and vaccines, rebuilt a school, and launched an organic coffee cooperative, Amas la Sierra, in Sogrome, a remote village in the Santa Marta Mountains of northern Colombia.

Wegner Guilfoyle accomplished all this while she held a full-time job with the University Corporation for Atmospheric Research, participated in community projects with the Boulder Flatirons club (which she joined in 2013), and began her pursuit of a PhD at the University of Colorado Denver. Her dissertation focused on efforts by four U.S. cities to mitigate climate change, a topic inspired by her work among the Arhuaco people in Sogrome, where men wear white hats to symbolize their reverence for the ice-capped mountains that surround them.

"Seeing the impacts of climate change on [the Arhuaco] — they're losing access to the water reserves in the ice — and knowing that I live in a country that's contributing to that, I focused my dissertation on the U.S., because we've got a lot of work to do," says Wegner Guilfoyle. "I wanted to look at what I can do in the place that I live."

Having joined the quest for clean energy at her new job — at the Joint Institute for Strategic Energy Analysis, which is based at the National Renewable Energy Laboratory — and with two young children, Wegner Guilfoyle has, for the time being, stepped away from the Boulder Flatirons club. But seemingly the impulse to mentor can be one of the traits of a good mother.

"Having kids reinforced my commitment to working in sustainability," she says. "I want to continue to model environmental leadership for them and show them ways to collaborate and innovate. People say, 'Kids are the future and they have to figure it out.' But I think we have to demonstrate leadership to them by finding ways to solve things so their future challenges aren't as overwhelming."

# THE EARLY RISER

EVERY ROTARIAN  
US \$100  
EVERY YEAR



11 August, 2023  
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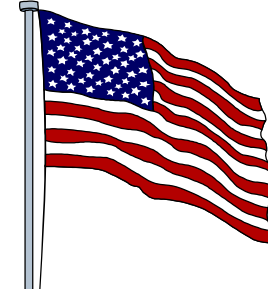
#### THE ROTARY 4 WAY TEST

First: Is it the TRUTH?

Second: Is it FAIR to all concerned?

Third: Will it build GOODWILL and BETTER FRIENDSHIPS?

Fourth: Will it be BENEFICIAL to all concerned?



#### 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



CREATE HOPE  
in the WORLD

2022-23 R.I. Officers ~ D5790

President of Rotary International: Gordon R. McInally

5790 District Governor: Patricia Peters

OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS – 2022-23

President: Ajay Kumar ~ President Elect: Ajay Kumar

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Treasurer: Ann Lucas ~ Executive Secretary: Jeani Secord

Sgt at Arms: Joe Clement: Directors: Clint Wood Phil Waggoner ~ Gary Southard

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

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

## ***FUTURE PROGRAM ASSIGNMENTS***

August 11 - Joe Clement~Anthony Watkins~Director of the ARC, W.C.  
August 18 ----- **Board Meeting**  
August 25 ----- DG Visit ~ District Governor Pat Peters  
September 1 ----- Mike Crocker  
September 8 ----- Julie Day  
September 15 ----- **Board Meeting**  
September 22 ----- Brandy Fields  
September 29 ----- Larry Gunnell  
October 6 ----- Ann Lucas  
October 13 --- Matthew Milhollon~Kimber Hopkins~Emily's Legacy Rescue  
October 20 ----- **Board Meeting**  
October 27 ----- Mrunalini Radkar

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

Julie led the club in the Rotary Prayer and Clint led us in the Pledges.

The brag bucket was fed by Troy (2), Oku and Phil.

Josh Waggoner, son of Phil, was visiting because his son Landon was the guest speaker.

A wedding anniversary was announced for Oku and Melissa. Congratulations!

Julie let the club know that the "Texoma Gives" website is complete. Thank you for a difficult job, well done.

Phil introduced Landon Waggoner as the program for the day. Landon is Phil's Grandson. Landon told us about his recent trip to Camp RYLA. Landon gave a great presentation!

The raffle raised \$28.00 and Clint was the lucky winner, AGAIN. He drew the 7 of spades for a \$5.00 prize. If this week's raffle winner draws the ace of spades they will win \$58.00 + ½ of what is raised today. GOOD LUCK!

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

### **A MISSION TO HELP THE WORLD GO GREEN**

In 2005, midway through a two-year assignment with the **Peace Corps**, Kristin Wegner Guilfoyle returned home to Illinois to attend a friend's wedding. That's when fate came striding down the aisle.

At the reception, Wegner Guilfoyle was seated at a table with a judge who was a member of the Rotary Club of Joliet. Wegner Guilfoyle told the judge about her work with biosand water filters in the Dominican Republic. The next week, at the judge's invitation, she spoke to the Joliet club — and, after she returned to her Peace Corps posting, club members provided her with financial and practical support, as well as some invaluable guidance about the direction of her life.

"It was completely serendipitous," says Wegner Guilfoyle, looking back at the chance seating arrangements at the wedding. "To be honest, I didn't know where I fit in when I started with the Peace Corps. Rotary helped me see how to use some of my different skills in applicable ways to make a difference."

Eighteen years after that fortunate encounter at her friend's wedding, and with the knowledge gained from her Peace Corps experience, a Rotary Ambassadorial Scholarship, and her own Rotary service, Wegner Guilfoyle has a clearly defined mission: to help the world go green. That impulse was there from the beginning.

"Part of my childhood was learning about the environment," she says. "We always did stuff outdoors, and I would go to environmental education camp. And I remember writing a letter to the local newspaper about pollution." At Purdue University, she began pursuing a degree in civil engineering, but the classes she took, and the emotional impact of the 9/11 attacks, changed her course. "The more I studied and learned," she says, "the more I wanted to work on peace and sustainability and create a positive change in the world."

After graduation, Wegner Guilfoyle joined the Peace Corps for the two-year assignment in the Dominican Republic. She extended her stay for a third year after the Joliet club arranged for more than \$11,000 in funding for the biosand filters project. What's more, two members who were civil engineers — Harold Hamilton and Dan Malinowski, still members all these years later — visited Wegner Guilfoyle in the Dominican Republic, providing technical expertise about water filtration and sustainability.

As she worked alongside her mentors, Wegner Guilfoyle guided members of a youth group called Brigada Verde: the green brigade. She taught several high school students how to use the water filters, and they deployed across the country to train other students and adults. In addition to collaborating with rural and urban communities on water, sanitation, and education projects, that opportunity to offer lessons in "leadership development" remains one of her proudest Peace Corps achievements.

Having a better sense of her career path, Wegner Guilfoyle made her next stop Boulder, Colorado, where she earned a master's degree in environmental