

Rotary Notary

Week of August 14th

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Angela Binyon

Invocation, Flag Salute & 4-Way Test:

Robin McGonigle

Special Guests:

Kat Lyon

(In for Chris Whitney from Intrust Bank)

New Member Announcement:

Randy Aronis

(Intro by Tim Link)

Member Birthdays:

Jaren Johnson - 8/16

Shelly Chinberg - 8/17

Angela Binyon - 21

Quote of the Year:

"Let's accomplish great things together"

-Anne Schneider

I Fly Wichita

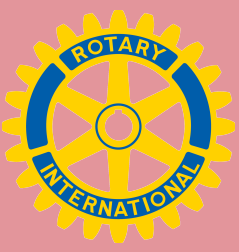
This week's speaker came to us from the Wichita Airport Authority. **Valarie Wise** wears many hats at the Airport Authority. Whether it be marketing, media, public relations, or Customer Service, she does it all. She took the opportunity in speaking with us to describe the 'I Fly Wichita' initiative (*which we all had heard of but few knew the details of*) as well as 3 key factors that effect that initiative; those being the **Challenges, Goals, and How Wichitans can help.**



Valerie began her talk by recapping the results of a 14,000 respondent survey administered by the Wichita Chamber Air Service Committee which showed that 'Air Fare' was a priority for air travel in Wichita. It became clear that both regional and national factors have a great deal of impact on the fares that we are offered here in Wichita. Regionally, the amount of passengers going through Dwight D. Eisenhower Airport had hit a peak in 2008 with 1,600,000 travelers before dropping off due to the economic downturn. Today, the airport has enjoyed a steady 5-year increase in passengers with 2018 seeing 1,665,000 travelers. The goal for 2019 is to get that number to 1,800,000 passengers.

The growth has been great for the airport; fueled largely by the increase in competition. Additions of both Low Cost and Ultra-low Cost carriers (*Southwest, Allegiant, and Frontier*) have helped lower air fares (*down almost 40% from 2000*) and add more flights to the schedule. However, maintaining this growth presents it's own list of challenges moving forward.

Near the top of that list is a Pilot Shortage that could leave as many as 15,000 planes sitting idle in the coming years if not rectified. Increases in Training costs coupled with flat to decreasing pilot salaries have Boeing anticipating a potential shortage of 206,000 pilots by the year 2038. Also included on that list of challenges is the recent consolidation trend that has been effecting the industry. The air industry in America now has 5 less airlines and 12 less domestic hubs than it did 20 years ago and that has the potential for an increase in costs to the consumer. And finally, 'Leakage', or the fleeing of area passengers to alternative airports, has been a factor for the Wichita airport as well; with the airport only capturing 58% of travelers in their assigned region.



I Fly...Buffalo & Brews



PHOTO COURTESY **BO RADER** THE WICHITA EAGLE

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Just Fly Baby...

So, what is an airport to do, and how can we, as Wichitans, help to maintain the gains that have been made since 2000? We can fly.

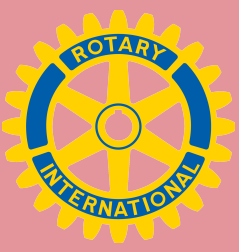
While many challenges are nationwide, Dwight D. Eisenhower National Airport does plan to remedy what they can by maintaining the competition they currently have as well as adding 7 new destinations in the next 5 years; **New York City, Washington D.C., Charoletter, Ft. Lauderdale, Salt Lake City, and San Francisco.** All of these efforts will be greatly impacted by the number of passengers they can generate. Plan 1 more trip this year, tell a friend about the new air fares, and utilize the low cost options if you can. All of these actions will help to keep the airlines we have and to keep them affordable. And if you happen to know a pilot or 2 (*cough, Kim Goodnight), encourage them to get certified and fly commercial. The fate of the airline industry depends on it!



Buffalo & Brews

Joe Sullivan took a minute this week to announce an upcoming fundraiser at 4 Mile Ranch. His acquaintance, David Mitchell, will be holding the fundraiser to benefit the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum. The event is on September 15th from 5:30 to 8:00 pm. There will be Bison Burgers, BBQ, wine, crafted beer, and music by "range roving trubadours" with singer, Steve Cormier.

It is \$80 per ticket and RSVPs can be given provided at 316-265-9314 or emailed at wschm@wichitahistory.org



Scholarship and New Member



Rotary Scholarship Students

John Alefs introduced **Jorge Godinez** and **Fatima Ortiz** to us this week; our final 2 scholarship recipients of 2019.

Fatima Ortiz was first up and is a brand new recipient. She graduated last spring from North Highschool and will be attending Newman University this fall where she will major in Education. Fatima took advantage of several service opportunities while in highschool including language translation for clinic patients, and reading to grade school students at the Wichita Public Library. It was there where she realized her dream of becoming an educator. She thanked the East Wichita Rotary for the opportunity to pursue that dream!

Jorge Godinez will be a Junior at WSU this year and has opted to shift his major from Communications to Health Science, with his sights set on the WSU PA program. For his service work, Jorge participates in the TRIOS Talent Search program that helps get low income candidates incorporated into higher educated. He helps these students in ACT prep courses and college coaching. Jorge gave a big thank you for his scholarship as his new major in Health Science will require many more books than Communications ever did.



New Member

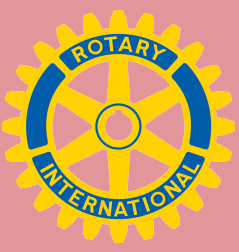
Tim Link had the honor of introducing us to his long time acquaintance and newest East Wichita Rotary member, **Randy Aronis**.

Randy and Tim met back in 1989 when Randy was a Government Affairs Liason at McConnel. During some time in radio, Randy even took part in a hospitality team that brought the self-described, "*Mayor of Realville*", Rush Limbaugh, to Wichita for a visit.

Randy graduated from North Highschool and attended WSU. He now works in Business Developement with Choose Networks.

Mr. Aronis went on to share with us that he is a bit of a bionic man, having had 4 joint replacements (2 knees, a hip, and shoulder). Randy lives in Wichita with his 3 kids and girlfriend. His mother and father are still with us (*at 89 & 90 respectively*) and will be celebrating their 70th Wedding anniversary this year!

Be sure to say hi to Randy and welcome him to the club when you see him!



Past Presidents

On The Horizon: Our first Fireside of the Rotary year will be next week at Evergy (formerly Westar Energy). Get signed up, if you haven't already, so we all have enough food.

NO MEETING SEPT. 4TH
Labor Day Week

August Mixer:

The next Rotary mixer will be **next Tuesday**, August 20th, at Deano's Grill and Tapworks on 21st and Webb. It's at 5:15pm or whenever you can get there!

Club Directory: The Club Directories are done! They are \$10 a piece. Contact Kim to get yours.

Next Week:
Fireside at Evergy



Anne made a point to honor past presidents this week. Pictured above (from left to right) are **Burke Jones, John Alefs, Brian Burrus, Scott Holder, Joe Getz, Fred Heismeyer, and Ric Wolford**. You can now identify any past presidents by the Star sticker in the bottom left corner of their name badge!



A subset of past presidents pose for a picture.

From Left to Right: **Brian Burrus, Ric Wolford, Burke Jones, and Scott Holder**

Burke appears to be giving us his patented "Deep Thought" pose. Which happens to be identical to his Happy, Sad, Mad, and Concerned poses.