



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

Scott Hampel	8/24
Bobbi Hansen	8/27

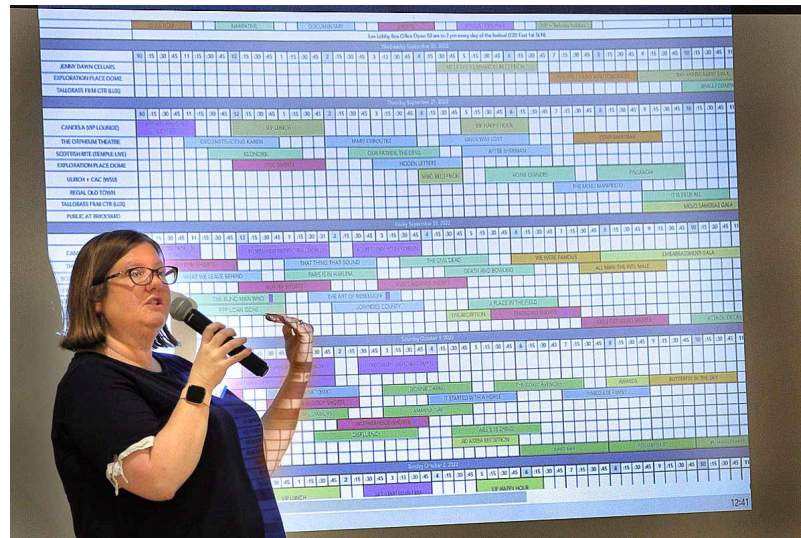
At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Joyce Heismeyer

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:
Fred Heismeyer

Photography:
Ric Wolford

FILMS AND FUN GALORE AT THE TALLGRASS FILM FESTIVAL



Melanie Addington has worked in the film festival world since 2006, first as a volunteer and then as the Oxford Film Festival Director in August 2015. She became the Director of the Tallgrass Film Festival in 2021. This year's festival will present 85 events over 5 days.

When you meet Melanie Addington, you know she loves her job. She's enthusiastic and excited about the Tallgrass Film Festival (TFF), but she also has the right background and experience.

Those are great qualities because, as she explained, she is tasked with not only putting on a great festival, but growing it. This year's festival takes place from September 28 through October 2. The venues for film watching and galas are all downtown.

The film center has a new home at the Lux. Other venues this year include the Scottish Rite Temple, the Regal Theater in Old Town, the Advanced Learning Library, and the Exploration Place Dome.

In addition to hours of film watching, attendees can also be part of a tribute to film

maker Lloyd Kaufman, who will receive the festival's Ad Astra Award. [Ad Astra is the first part of the motto of Kansas, which is "Ad aster per aspera, to the stars through hardships." Thus, Ad Astera means, "To the Stars."] Tall grass will screen Kaufman's cult classic, *The Toxic Avenger* (1984), *Poultrygeist* (2006), and his latest film, *Shakespeare's Shitstorm* (2021).

But the best part of the festival, according to our own **Michael Moeder**, whose firm is a sponsor of TFF, are the various themed galas. On Friday, September 30, TFF will host a double gala event featuring a documentary about local punk band *The Embarrassment*. EWR members of a certain age may remember this quartet that was active from 1979 to 1983. Following the world premiere of the documentary, *We Were Famous, You*

Don't Remember: The Embarrassment, the gala will host a reunion concert of the band's members.

Two cinema classics will get big screen treatment at TFF, including one with a Wichita reference. Released in 1987, *Planes, Trains and Automobiles*, stars Steve Martin and John Candy as two travelers trying to get home to Chicago for the Thanksgiving holiday. The film includes a lengthy scene taking place in Wichita, where the two are forced to stay after their plane is diverted from Chicago. The second film, *Donnie Darko*, released in 2001, is a psychological thriller about a troubled teenager who is plagued by visions of a man in a large rabbit suit who manipulates him to commit a series of crimes.

Naturally, hosting galas and film showings for five days
cont. on p. 2

Quote of the Week:

The most difficult thing is the decision to act; the rest is merely tenacity.

—Amelia Earhart

Announcements:

NO MEETING on August 31 BUT instead, join your EWR friends for a fun mixer at Chicken-N-Pickle—1240 N Greenwich- from 4:00—6:00 p.m. We'll meet in the Fireside room, which is right next to the inside bar. Bring your spouse, a colleague, a prospective applicant...all are welcome!

Also, **NO MEETING on Wednesday, September 7** because it is the first Wednesday of the month.

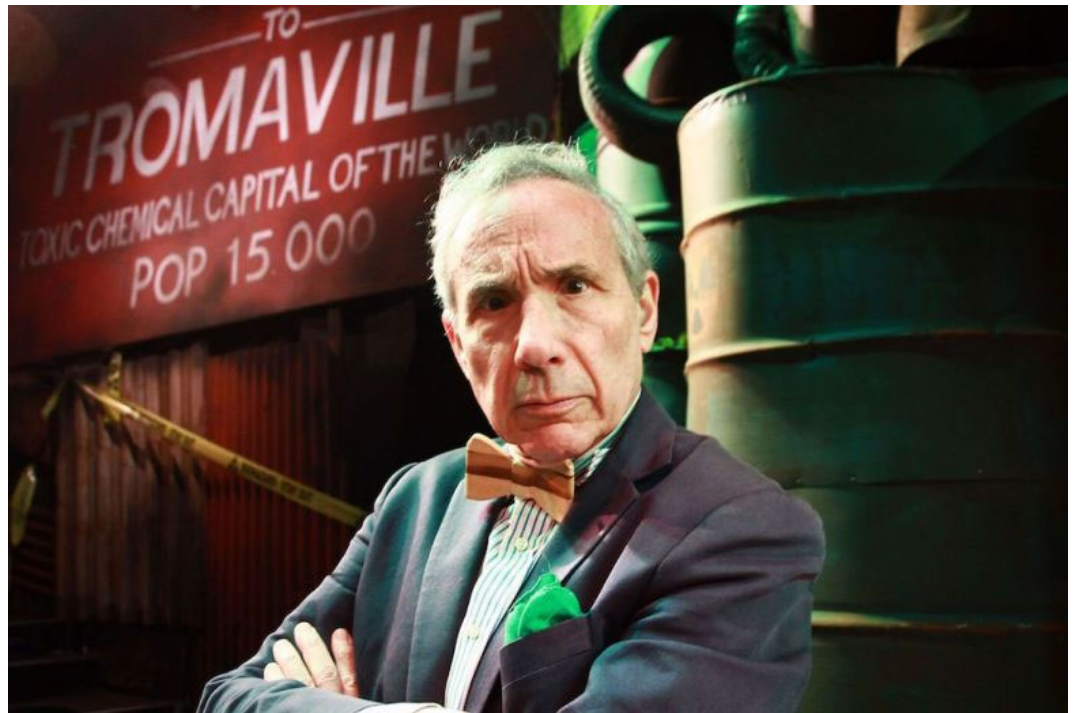
Meet The Board:

- President—Dane Estok
- President-Elect—Darin Kater
- VP Programs—Michael Moeder
- Treasurer—Brittany Sweeney
- Secretary—Deb Brinegar
- Immediate Past President—Greg Ek
- Community Service—Tom Church
- Foundation Liaison—Denise Hearson
- Public Relations—Elizabeth Farha
- Membership—Alex Kruse
- IT Administrator—Anthony Ndungu
- Social Activities—Jessica Dunbar
- The Rotary Foundation—Dave Sproul

Wednesday, August 24:

Wendell Funk, President of Wichita Independent Business Association (WIBA), will be our speaker.

SO...WHO IS LLOYD KAUFMAN?



Lloyd Kaufman will be honored at this year's Tallgrass Film Festival with the Ad Astera Award. Kaufman, an American film director, screenwriter, producer, and actor, is the co-founder with Michael Herz of Troma Entertainment film studio. Kaufman is the subject of the forthcoming book *Toxic Schlock: Conversations with Lloyd Kaufman* by Andrew J. Rausch and Chris Watson.

TALLGRASS FILM FESTIVAL (CONT'D)



requires a lot of people power. And that's where YOU come in. TFF volunteer opportunities range from driving film makers from the airport to their hotel, serving as ushers, selling tickets at the box office, or serving food and beverages.

Depending on the number of volunteer hours you contribute, you could earn free tickets to film screenings and/or galas, all the way up to a Tallpass. The Tallpass, valued at \$250, provides access to all in-person and virtual films, as well as the VIP Lounge and party access, plus exclusive Tallpass events. To sign up, just contact the TFF office.

There's something for everyone at TFF, including the "Smallgrass" Film Festival on Saturday, October 1, featuring children's films. If you've never been to a film festival, check out the "shorts," or films that are less than 40 minutes long, as defined by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. Most shorts are around 5 minutes long. Once the complete film schedule is released later this month on August 29, you can filter the selections to reflect your preferences.

Get out, watch films, and have fun right in our own Wichita backyard. For more information, visit tallgrassfilm.org.