



ROTARY NOTARY

Birthdays:

<i>Eileen Kludt</i>	8/29
<i>Ruth Ann Messner</i>	9/6
<i>Angie George</i>	9/7
<i>Scott Post</i>	9/11
<i>Richard Strunk</i>	9/11

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Eileen Kludt

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:
Anne Schneider

Special Guests:
Jaren Johnson
Christopher Mohr

Wedding Anniversary:
Kevin and Lori Rathert—
32 years

Quote of the Week:

Try a thing you haven't done three times. Once, to get over the fear of doing it. Twice, to learn how to do it. And a third time to figure out whether you like it or not.

— *Virgil Thomson*

A LEAGUE OF THEIR OWN: LEAGUE 42 HELPS KIDS SHINE



How did Bob Lutz come up with the name League 42? He wanted to do something to honor Jackie Robinson, who wore the number 42 on his Brooklyn Dodgers jersey. In 1997, Major League Baseball retired the number 42 across all major league teams in honor of Robinson. When coming up with possible names, an early supporter suggested "League 42," the perfect choice.

Journalists aren't supposed to be biased. And sports journalists aren't supposed to be fans of the teams they cover. During his 43 years as a sports journalist at the Wichita Eagle, Bob Lutz maintained his impartiality by being an observer and writer, but not a devotee of the teams he covered. The only team he was an enthusiast of all those years, Lutz says, is the St. Louis Cardinals, his boyhood favorite.

Now that's all changed. Lutz started League 42 in 2013 because he and some others believed every child should have the opportunity to play the greatest sport in the world. League 42 is a baseball league for kids ages 5 to 14. And Bob Lutz is unabashedly its biggest fan.

League 42 brings together

volunteer coaches, assistant coaches, parents, and players to not only learn the fundamentals of the game of baseball, but to learn good sportsmanship and life skills. The other key emphasis is letting everyone play.

There were 180 players during that first season which began in April 2014. During the season that ended last month 600 youth participated on 42 teams. "We could easily get to 800 kids but we're not equipped to do so," Lutz remarked.

Growth is definitely part of the immediate future for League 42, however. The teams practice and play at McAdams Park, located just north of 13th Street and west of I-135. The City of Wichita has been a great partner in making League 42 an enjoyable experience not only for the players, but

for the family and friends who support them. Their investment of \$1.5 million renovated two existing fields and added a third. There are now three fields, a spacious concession stand, and plenty of seating for fans.

Another part of League 42's growth is off the field. Local businessman and philanthropist David Murfin purchased land across from McAdams Park that will be used to create a new education center for players. Sure, they'll continue to learn the fundamentals of baseball, but they'll also have the opportunity to learn more about STEM subjects—Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math—that can lead to greater academic and career success. To Lutz and others involved in League 42, helping kids be successful off the field is the success that matters.

MORE ABOUT LEAGUE 42

Upcoming Events:

September 20—Volunteer service at The Lord’s Diner. Mark your calendars now!

September 22—Map painting project at Hyde Elementary School from 8 to noon. Donuts, coffee, and fun provided!

September 26—Fireside at the Kansas Humane Society!



Registration for League 42 begins in September. The cost for one child is \$30, which includes uniforms and equipment. More than one child in the family? No problem. The cost is still \$30, thanks to generous supporters who believe in League 42.

Fun Fundraiser:

Wines from Down Under is an Australian –themed dinner paired with wines to raise funds for the West Wichita Charitable Foundation of West Wichita Rotary. It happens on Saturday, September 22 at the Doubletree by Hilton Hotel at the airport. Purchase a ticket for \$75 by contacting Diane Walker at dwalkr@sbcglobal.net.

“One of the first things we had to do was show them [the players] which hand to put the glove on,” Bob Lutz said about the first days of League 42.



Will this youngster become a Major League Baseball player someday? That would be great. But, according to Bob Lutz, even better is seeing players finish high school with good prospects for employment who then become good parents.

Next Week:

NO MEETING next week due to the Labor Day holiday. See you in two weeks on Wednesday, September 12!