



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

<i>Phil May</i>	3/2
<i>Brian Burrus</i>	3/3
<i>Dustin Jackson</i>	3/4

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Joanne Rogers

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:

Fred Thurlow

Special Guests:

Magnus Assarsson
Michael Caffrey
Roz Hutchinson

Member News: Britt Fulmer

Rotary Anniversaries:

Angie George—13 years
Don Schierer—8 years
Fred Heismeyer—7 years
Steve Peterson—7 years
Brant Westbrook—6 years
Matt List—4 years
Phil Broz—1 year

Wedding Anniversary:

Scott and Ann Jensen—11 years

Engagement:

Phil Broz and Claudia Lacy will marry this fall. Congratulations!

Quote of the Week:

Most of the important things in the world have been accomplished by people who have kept on trying when there seemed to be no hope at all.

— Dale Carnegie

A NEW DELIVERY SYSTEM FOR MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Laurie Labarca has spent her entire professional career working for the Ascension Via Christi health care system. Currently she is the Hospital President for Ascension Via Christi St. Joseph. Labarca also serves in leadership positions on the boards of several local organizations, including Wichita State University and the Heartspring Foundation.



Laurie Labarca and the team at Ascension Via Christi are part of a revolution, a revolution in the way mental health services are being provided locally. A coalition, headed by Sedgwick County Sheriff Jeff Easter, identified needs and opportunities to restructure the current system that treats mental health and substance use disorders.

Why does this matter? Right now both medical personnel and law enforcement officers are seeing an increase in violent behavior among persons with mental illness and substance abuse issues. Emergency medical staff have experienced injuries, such as broken arms. In addition, a shortage of both inpatient and outpatient beds, and a rising need for beds for young children and teens are among the reasons why city leaders

came together.

For answers, the coalition looked at a model of care in San Antonio, one that was 18 years in the making. Community leaders were considering building a second 1,000 bed prison at a cost of \$400 million. Instead, they created something resembling a college campus. At “Haven of Hope,” participants work their way through levels of intervention, leading to independent living.

One of the amazing results of San Antonio’s project is an 80% reduction in homelessness, along with a decrease in healthcare costs and suicide rates.

Here in Wichita, behavioral health has been identified as one of the top 2-3 priorities. Ascension Via Christi is taking the lead with a pro-

ject renewal at its St. Joseph campus. Four units have been created at a cost of \$50 million, creating one campus with a continuum including behavioral health services and medical care.

The renovation has resulted in a total of 101 private rooms, including 25 for senior care; 12 medical beds; 14 beds for patients from 12—19 years old, and 4 beds for children ages 4 to 11. A psychiatric observation unit will open this spring.

There’s much more to be done. If Wichita were to have a campus model like San Antonio, where would it be located? City leaders will visit San Antonio this fall for inspiration and ideas. Labarca showed us that our city is moving forward in positive ways to help all its residents who experience behavioral health issues.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

Upcoming Events:

March 13—NO MEETING.
Enjoy your Spring Break!

April 2—An opportunity for service above self at The Lord's Diner. Please sign up at next week's meeting or sign up online. The link is in the pre-meeting email sent by Kim.

Online Now:

Help spread the word! The 2019—2020 East Wichita Rotary Foundation scholarship application is now available on our website, <https://eastwichitarotary.org>.

You Shop. Amazon Gives:

The AmazonSmile Foundation sent the East Wichita Rotary Foundation a check for \$95.42 for activity from October 1—December 31, 2018. What an easy way to raise funds for our Foundation! Do you shop on amazon.com? Just visit smile.amazon.com to get started.

Next Week:

Chuck Gumbert, former Tomcat pilot and currently business coach and turnaround specialist™ will be our speaker.



Great times! This group of EWR members and friends ventured to Old Town just hours after the EWR meeting concluded to the Pour House for an evening of friendship, food, and fun.

A mixer is a great way to get to know your fellow Rotarians. Spouses, friends, family members, and even your boss (if you need brownie points) are welcome.

Mixers are monthly and they're held mostly in east Wichita, occasionally downtown or even in the wild, wild west. We visit new restaurants and old favorites. The best part is, they're something to look forward to. EWR member **Michael Moeder** has been putting them together for us this past year and he's doing a great job. Thanks, Michael! And thanks, **Fred Heismeyer**, for taking this photo to share with EWR.



For the second year EWR is sponsoring the "Battle of the Brackets" to benefit the East Wichita Rotary Foundation, which provides college scholarships to deserving local students. Last year's battle raised \$1,250!

Each bracket is \$25. The winner will receive a \$100 cash prize and two non-winning brackets will be drawn at random for a cash prize of \$50 each.

To participate, purchase a bracket from club executive **Kim Hurtig** at next week's meeting OR send her an email at hurtigfamily@att.net so she can get you set up. The brackets will be announced on March 17, Selection Sunday.

This event is open to everyone, not just East Wichita Rotarians. Spread the word to your family, friends, co-workers...let's make this bigger and better than ever!