



ROTARY NOTARY

Birthdays:

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

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Dave Clothier

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:

Nancy Wiebe

Special Guests:

Phil Broz, Phoenix Home Care
Richard Campbell, Ameriprise Advisors

C.R. Hall, Hall's Culligan
Tiffany Hawkins, ISG Technology

Lindsay McClellan, Hall's Culligan

Sean Miller, Board President of CASA

Victor Peterson, EmberHope
Ashley Thorne, CASA

Rotary Anniversaries:

Angie George—12 years

Don Schierer—7 years

Dave Clothier—6 years

Fred Heismeyer—6 years

Steve Peterson—6 years

Brant Westbrook—5 years

Matt List—3 years

Quote of the Week:

Waste your money and you're only out of money, but waste your time and you've lost a part of your life.

—Michael LeBoenf

HOW TEN HOURS A MONTH CAN CHANGE A CHILD'S LIFE FOREVER

Kevin Smith was appointed to serve as an 18th Judicial District Judge in December, 2015. His cases include juvenile offenders and CINC (Child in Need of Care). He is passionate about the need for volunteers like those of us in Rotary to help children by serving as Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASAs).



Children who enter the child welfare system and require foster parenting usually end up with the odds stacked against them.

Judge Kevin Smith shared some sobering statistics with us. First, about half of all "fosters," that is, children in foster care, drop out of high school. Even more stunning is this statistic: more than 70 percent of prison inmates and inpatient drug/alcohol patients are products of foster care.

Children who are fosters become adults who are more likely to have children out of wedlock, commit crimes both as juveniles and adults, have their children taken away, be on welfare, and have children who follow the same path.

If all this sounds hopeless, it is. So where is the hope?

To Judge Smith, *we* are the hope for children whose own parents can't or won't take care of them. But how?

The obvious answer is to serve as foster parents. It's a very difficult job with no quitting time. It takes very special, patient people to become foster parents.

The other answer is to volunteer about ten hours a month to serve as a Court Appointed Special Advocate (CASA). This position requires intensive training up front, but afterward consists of regular contact with a child in the foster care system.

In a CINC (Child in Need of Care) case there are many voices clamoring to be heard in court. The child's mother, father, possibly grandparents, attorneys, child welfare officials, and others may present their case. But the CASA is

unique because he or she has no vested interest other than the welfare of the child.

How important is the relationship between a CASA and a child? Teens in foster care can become runaways and end up as victims of the sex trafficking industry. In Sedgwick County 25 foster children run away every year. In contrast, during the last five years only five youth with CASA volunteers have run away—and all have been found.

Judge Smith shared other startling statistics. The Department of Children and Families (DCF) spends \$20,000 per foster child. The cost to screen, train, and support one CASA is only \$200.

More government funding isn't always the answer. *You* are. Be that someone who gives a child hope just by being there. Consider becoming a CASA now!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO EAST WICHITA ROTARY!

Spring Events:

March 15—Deadline for bracket selection in our March Madness Raffle is before tip-off time of the first NCAA tournament game played on 3/15.

March 21—NO MEETING because of Spring Break.

April 14—Spring map painting at Gammon Elementary. (Rain date: April 28).

April 19—Serve dinner at The Lord’s Diner. Food Handler’s Card not required, but greatly appreciated.

May 5—Kentucky Derby Party at the Lux!

Paul Black, (R), introduced new member Greg Ek. Greg is a financial advisor at Morgan Stanley and was a member of Overland Park Rotary before moving to Wichita.

Mark Eby, below (L), is the CEO of the Kansas Humane Society. He was introduced by his sponsor, Scott Holder. Even though he could adopt more, Mark only has one dog because that’s what his pet prefers!

We are delighted to have both of these gentlemen join East Wichita Rotary. When you see them at an upcoming meeting, please introduce yourself and say hello.



You Heard It Here First

“I don’t even know where that is.” K-State alum Scott Holder, while introducing new EWR member Mark Eby, who attended the University of Oklahoma.

DEMONSTRATING SERVICE ABOVE SELF

Our own Ric Wolford takes photos at nearly every Rotary meeting. He’s a professional photographer with years of experience and his own business. But he contributes his talents to EWR because he cares about our club and the friendships he’s forged here.

Members of our club use his photos for Facebook posts, the slide shows you see at meetings, and this newsletter. They, too, contribute their skills for the good of EWR.

What special abilities can you contribute for the good of our members and those we serve? Are you an efficient planner and organizer? Do you like to take a project and run with it? Or do you enjoy hosting community service events?

Whatever your special gifts are, there’s probably a place for them in Rotary. If you’d like to volunteer, please let Scott Holder or Kim Hurtig know.



Next Week:

Adam Gragg, Therapist and Life/Career Coach, will talk about STRESS!