



# ROTARY NOTARY

## RITE: A CULTURAL, EDUCATIONAL AND FRIENDSHIP EXCHANGE

### Member Birthdays:

<i>Drew Rooks</i>	2/9
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### At Rotary Today:

**Greeter:** Tammie Rhea

**Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:**  
Markus Meyer

### Special Guests:

Clay & Kate Bastian  
Dalia Hale  
Armida Hight  
Carla Shartz  
DeAnn Sullivan

**Photography:** Ric Wolford

### Rotary Anniversaries:

Dustin Sylvester—1 year

### Wedding Anniversaries:

Anne & Seth Schneider—6 years  
Matt & Jessica Leavitt—4 years

### Quote of the Week:

I love you not only for what you are, but for what I am when I am with you. I love you not only for what you have made of yourself, but for what you are making of me. I love you for the part of me that you bring out.

— Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Dori Cascante traveled for the first time outside of her native city of David in Panama to participate in the Rotary Inter-Country Teacher Exchange, or RITE. Here she is receiving our club's flag from President-Elect **Darin Kater**. Dori has enjoyed her month-long stay in Wichita, where the temperatures have been a bit chillier than what she's used to.



Typically the RITE program brings four to six visitors to Wichita from Argentina and Panama during January and February. But the last few years have been anything but typical. This year, only one teacher was able to come here to learn more about teaching English to students in her native country. Dori Cascante is about to conclude a four-week visit to Wichita where she has toured private, parochial, and public schools to learn new techniques for teaching English.

The trip hasn't been all work, however. Dori has also sampled our city's arts and culture, attending a performance of "Legally Blonde," a WSU Basketball game, and the "Expedition: Dinosaur" exhibit at Exploration Place, which made her see dinosaurs in a different way. Although her visit will end this week,

the memories and friendships she has made will last for the rest of her life.

Memories and lifelong friends are among the many great benefits of participating in RITE, both as a visiting teacher and as a host family, according to Dalia Hale. A retired teacher, Hale helps develop the teachers' schedules while they are visiting. Travel to Wichita always begins in January, right after Martin Luther King Day, and goes for four weeks. That's because in both Panama and Argentina this time period is part of summer break, which begins just before Christmas and ends in early March.

DeAnn Sullivan shared some statistics regarding RITE's impact on students and teachers. In Wichita the program has hosted 86 teachers. Having a different host family each week for

four weeks means that 344 families have hosted our visiting teachers.

RITE also has an outbound element, where Wichita sends teachers to Panama. Locally, 74 teachers have participated. Some quick calculations show that each teacher impacts 1,000 students over time, meaning RITE has given an estimated 74,000 Panama students the opportunity to improve their English skills.

Local Rotarian Armida Hite has been a champion of RITE since becoming involved in it nearly 30 years ago. It began when Rotary International President Carlos Conseco wanted to start a teacher exchange. Later, Rotary Club of West Wichita sent teachers to Mexico in 1996 to teach English to emergency providers. Today it has been embraced by multiple Wichita area clubs, promoting peace and world understanding through friendship.

**Club Announcements:**

The AmazonSmile charitable giving program is being discontinued. All purchases made between now and **February 20** will continue to benefit the East Wichita Rotary Foundation. If you're signed up to support AmazonSmile and are considering making an Amazon purchase in the next few weeks, please place your order by February 20.

Greeters and prayer leaders are needed for most meetings between now and the end of our Rotary year, which is June 30. Please look for an available time slot and sign up at Kim's table at our next meeting.

The US Naval Concert Band will perform in Wichita on Monday, March 6. at 7:00 p.m. Tickets are free! All the details and a link to get free tickets are in Kim's pre-meeting email of February 7.

**Foundation Campaign Update:**

Susan Addington presented a report on the success of the Capital Campaign to start an endowment for the EWR Foundation. The campaign was launched with a goal of raising \$25,000. We exceeded that goal and raised a total of \$47,564.85 to ensure future scholarship support for Sedgwick County students.

**Next Week:**

Daniel White of Allen Gibbs & Houlik will discuss the 5 Languages of Appreciation in the workplace.

# MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

**Dave Sproul** presents a Paul Harris + 1 pin to **Eileen Kludt**, who was also a supporter of our foundation's endowment campaign. Thank you, Eileen, for your generosity and good cheer!



**Dave Sproul** presented another Paul Harris + 1 pin to **Marc Campbell**, a Charter Member of our club. Our club was admitted to Rotary International on March 6, 1984. Seems like yesterday! Thanks, Marc, for your support and participation in EWR all these years!

# VALENTINE'S DAY FUN FACTS



- According to Hallmark, 145 million greeting cards are exchanged every year for Valentine's Day.
- About 20 percent of pet owners give Valentine's Day cards to their pets.
- Candy hearts were originally medical lozenges.
- 8 billion conversation hearts are made each year.
- The heart shape wasn't always a romantic symbol.
- Over \$1 billion worth of chocolate is purchased for Valentine's Day.
- Lovebirds are actual birds. The term "lovebirds" is often used to describe a couple in love, but it's also the common name for the Agapornis bird.
- The first valentine was reportedly a poem written by a French medieval duke named Charles to his wife in 1415.
- 250 million roses are grown just for Valentine's Day.
- Chocolates didn't always mean love. Physicians in the old days would recommend chocolate to people who were suffering from a broken heart or pining after a lost love.

*Taken from weareteachers.com*