



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

<i>Schoen Fitzgerald</i>	12/31
<i>Stuart Palmer</i>	1/2
<i>Jessica Dunbar</i>	1/12
<i>Zach Wetta</i>	1/21
<i>Stewart Crow</i>	1/28

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Geron Smith

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

Fred Heismeyer

Special Guests:

Kaitlyn Brown

Jeff DeGraffenreid

Jessica Emrick

Abbie Holden

Jim Jonas

Mia Lee

Steve Marsh

Cindy Miller

Evin Miller

Dick & Margaret Wieland

Rotary Anniversaries:

John Schlicher—39 years

Jim Crawford—13 years

Justin Baxter—9 years

Deik Scram—9 years

Shane Pullman—5 years

Ken Moldenhauer—4 years

Stuart Palmer—1 year (after

many with Jackson Hole, WY)

Wedding Anniversaries:

Susan & Chris Addington—

49 years

Quote of the Week:

If you want to fly, give up
everything that weighs you
down. — Buddha

MEET WICHITA MAYOR, LILY WU



Lily Wu is the 103rd mayor of Wichita and the first Asian-American to serve in that position. In the general election held last November, Wu defeated the incumbent mayor by just over 10,000 votes. A former television reporter and anchor, Wu moved to Wichita as a child from Guatemala, where her working-class parents arrived from China. Wu speaks fluent Cantonese, Spanish, and English.

When Lily Wu addressed East Wichita Rotary last June, she spoke about her love for Wichita and gratitude for the many mentors who have shaped her life.

She's even more grateful now, having won the local mayoral election handily by promising to restore trust in City Hall, keeping families safe, and opposing tax increases.

But to do her job well, she emphasized that she needs to hear from *all* Wichitans, including business owners and not-for-profit agency representatives. She encouraged citizens to attend weekly City Council meetings, which take place on the first, second, and third Tuesdays of the month at City Hall, 455 N. Main.

Another way citizens can participate in city government is to become involved with one of the many advisory boards or committees that provide expertise and guidance to the City Council and staff. The City's website at Wichita.gov lists the various boards and committees as well as an application form.

Mayor Wu devoted half of her presentation to Q & A. Here is a portion:

Q: What are your biggest challenges right now?

A: The issue of housing homeless persons in our community. I've attended task force meetings and this issue will require city, county, and not-for-profits working together to solve the problem. The County Commission just elected Ryan Baty as chairman and Sarah

Lopez as Chair Pro Tem. They, along with Councilman J.V. Johnston and me will meet soon. In addition, state legislators are working on the creation of a mental health hospital, a top priority for this region.

Q: We continue to export our best and brightest young people to other communities. What is being done to keep them here?

A: Brain drain is real. Why do our top young people leave? Because they have good job opportunities elsewhere. We need to increase job opportunities for them to offer more choices. I'm encouraged by the example of Novacoast, [a cybersecurity, identity and access company], which moved its headquarters from California to Wichita in 2022. We have something special here! Let's all be better advocates of our city and its people!

Club Announcements:

Our next EWR mixer is scheduled for **Wednesday, January 31**. There is no meeting that day because it's the fifth Wednesday of the month. We'll meet at Bowlero, formerly The Alley, next to the Warren East Theater. Bring your spouse, friend, or a colleague! The fun begins at 5 pm.

Our next community service project is scheduled for **Wednesday, February 7** at the Ronald McDonald House. This year we'll prepare breakfast. EWR member **Brittany Sweeney** is planning this event and needs a few more volunteers to work from 8—10:30 a.m. that day.

The badge box has been re-alphabetized and renumbered. Please look for the number on the back of your badge and return it to its appropriate slot as you leave our meetings.

EWR 40th Anniversary Celebration:

Our club will celebrate its 40th anniversary this spring. **Michael Moeder** and **Greg Ek** are leading the planning for this historic event, but could use your help. If you can offer your party-planning know-how, please reach out to them and make this a celebration we'll all remember.

Next Week:

Jeff Fluhr of the Greater Wichita Partnership will be our speaker. See you at the Wichita Country Club on **Wednesday, January 17**.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY



One of the best things about January is dining at the Wichita Marriott! Our own **Angela Binyon**, accompanied by her colleague Jessica Emrick, were our hosts for today's meeting. The Marriott served a tasty buffet luncheon and the service was impeccable. Thanks, Angela, and your team for a wonderful time.

See the dessert bar just behind **Deik Scram** and **John McEwen**? The deliciousness and variety are one of the many reasons we love coming to the Marriott every January!



EWR President-Elect **Tom Church** (L) presents a certificate to **Greg Ek**, recognizing his charter membership in Rotary District 5680's Polio Plus Society. Around the world, Rotary's End Polio Now campaign has reduced polio cases by 99.9% since Rotary International's first project to vaccinate children in the Philippines in 1979.