



# ROTARY NOTARY

## Member Birthdays:

Jessica Dunbar	1/11
Stewart Crow	1/28

## At Rotary Today:

**Greeter:** Scott Hampel

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

## Special Guests:

Chris Addington  
Sam Farha  
Nancy Knapp  
Makenna Miller  
Gerald Norwood  
Darren Smith

**Photography:** Ric Wolford

## Rotary Anniversaries:

John Schlicher—38 years  
Steve Houlik—37 years  
Jim Crawford—12 years  
Shane Pullman—4 years  
Ken Moldenhauer—3 years

## Quote of the Week:

Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Louis Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo Da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein.

— H. Jackson Brown Jr.

## MEET KEVIN SAAL, WSU's 19TH DIRECTOR OF ATHLETICS



EWR President-Elect Darin Kater introduced Kevin Saal, a native of Manhattan, Kansas. He came to WSU from Murray State University, where he served as Director of Athletics from 2019-2022. Saal has also worked in athletics at the University of Kentucky, K-State, and the University of Missouri -Kansas City.

Having a father who was an industrial/organizational psychology professor and a mother who was an academic advisor, both at K-State, made for interesting dinner table conversation, according to Kevin Saal. To him, these conversations framed a mindset focused on the importance of student development in a university environment.

That mindset provides the foundation for the way Saal views and treats student-athletes. He believes they are students first, emphasizing the importance of their academic career. Their wider role as persons in the community comes next, then their role as players, and finally, achieving the status of being professionals, meaning people who are gainfully

employed. This process of student development prioritizes the "Shocker Way" core values of character, integrity, knowledge and stewardship.

Saal shared several interesting statistics about WSU student-athletes. Currently there are just over 250 student-athletes representing 30 U.S. states and 24 countries. Of those, 117 are on full scholarship. More than half are the first generation in their families to attend college.

This diverse background of cultures and life experiences could make academic life challenging for student-athletes, but the fact is that they outperform the general student body. For the past 17 consecutive years/34 semesters, WSU's athletics department has maintained a 3.0 overall GPA. During the

spring of 2022, they achieved a 3.3 GPA. In his five-year plan, Saal would like to attain a 3.3 GPA at least five out of the next ten semesters, and reach 3.4 at least once.

In addition to Shocker athletes' academic performance, Saal also has his eyes on more championships. Since joining the AAC (American Athletic Conference) in 2017, the Shockers have won six AAC championships in women's cross country, men's and women's outdoor track and field, volleyball, softball, and men's basketball. He admits his goal is aggressive and bold: with 15 sports programs making up WSU's athletics program, Saal seeks to win 15 championships in the next five years. With his razor-sharp focus and wealth of experience in athletics, Kevin Saal is a man with a strong, achievable vision for Shocker Nation.



**Club Announcements:**

The Downtown Wichita Rotary Club is hosting a Joint Rotary meeting on **Monday, January 30 at 11:30 a.m.** featuring a panel that will address issues of human trafficking. The meeting takes place at Botanica, 701 Amidon St. Reservations are needed to get a good head count for meals. The cost for lunch is \$18, payable at the meeting. Only cash and checks are allowed—no credit cards or Venmo. There's a sign-up sheet at Kim's table.

An opportunity for Service Above Self! Join fellow EWR members as we put together food packages at the Kansas Food Bank from 1:30—3:30 p.m. **Wednesday, February 1** in place of our regular meeting. The project needs 5—20 volunteers. Sign up at Kim's table!

**Congratulations:**

On Tuesday, January 17 our own **Reverend Robin McGonigle** will celebrate 30 years as an ordained minister. She was among the first women in Wichita to be ordained.

**Next Week:**

See you back at the Wichita Country Club next **Wednesday, January 18**. Our speaker will be Ariel Rodriguez, Executive Director of Empower Evergreen.

# CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY PARTY PIX

The Wichita Country Club is always beautifully decorated for the holidays and a great location for our club's annual Christmas Party.



(L) Ann and Stewart Crow always dress festively for the annual party. (R) Tom Church with party co-sponsor Julia Shetlar from Berkshire Hathaway Home Services.



(L) Eileen Kludt and Joyce Heismeyer smile for the camera. (R) Longtime EWR members John Schlicher, Joanne Rogers and Bobbi Hansen were among the many who attended.



Students from the Urban Prep Academy here in Wichita serenaded club members with carols and other songs, providing the day's joyful musical entertainment.