



# ROTARY NOTARY

## Member Birthdays:

Zach Wetta	1/21
Stewart Crow	1/28

## At Rotary Today:

**Greeter:** Joanne Rogers

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

Tom Church

## Special Guests:

Dean Kennedy  
Steve Marsh  
Cindy Miller  
Josh Turner  
Fe Vorderlandwehr

## Rotary Anniversaries:

Scott Hampel—22 years  
Richard Samaniego—11 years  
Kelly Dandurand—5 years  
Larry Hund—4 years

## Quote of the Week:

It has always been easy to hate and destroy. To build and to cherish is much more difficult.

— HRM Queen Elizabeth II

## EXCITING TIMES FOR WICHITA

Jeff Fluhr moved to Wichita from Baton Rouge in 2008 to serve as the President of Downtown Wichita. In 2015 his role expanded to assist in creating the Greater Wichita Partnership, a new regional economic development organization focused on developing a unique, holistic approach to community growth.

Meeting Jeff Fluhr is an unforgettable experience. He dazzles you with his ability to reel off statistics about the dollars invested in Wichita since his arrival, the number of jobs created, and investments being planned.

Even more dazzling is his passion for his adopted city of Wichita. A native of Louisville, KY, Fluhr attended graduate school at LSU in Baton Rouge where he earned a master's degree in landscape architecture, with an emphasis on urban planning. He stayed in Baton Rouge for 17 years because "it knew where it wanted to go."

Fluhr says Wichita is a similar type of city, and he's happy to help make incredible things happen here. He has put his education and experience to work by leading the strategic priorities of the Greater Wichita Partnership, which comprises ten



counties in the South Central Kansas region. Known as "The Partnership," the organization is supported by 130 investors, including both public and private organizations and businesses.

The Partnership seeks to fast-forward the region's economic growth through three strategic priorities that are highly detailed, research-driven plans: Creating jobs, attracting talent, and enhancing the quality of place.

The industries targeted by The Partnership are: Advanced Manufacturing, Aerospace, Agriculture, Energy, Healthcare, IT Systems and Support, and Transportation and Logistics. By focusing on these industries, investment in economic development, workforce initiatives, and marketing efforts from 2015—present have resulted in a capital investment of \$3.3 billion, and the crea-

tion of 13,059 jobs with an annual payroll of \$641 million. Additionally, in the pipeline are \$5.4 billion in real projects where the region is a finalist or has already been selected but an official announcement has not been made.

As examples of recent new investments and developments, Fluhr points to the new direct flight from Wichita to Washington D.C. on American Airlines, launched earlier this month. The new amphitheater at Exploration Place will be a unique destination, much like Tulsa's Gathering Place. Development on Douglas encourages people to walk the city from Old Town to Delano with attractive stops along the way.

Fluhr ended by telling us that we all build Wichita. About four years ago he and his wife made the decision to stay here for the long haul. He's excited about his role in creating a vibrant, thriving community where residents are proud to live, work, and play.

### 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.



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.

### RYLA Announcement:

Past District Governor Dean Kennedy announced that RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards, is planning an all-day event for high school freshmen, sophomores, and juniors on February 25 at the Kansas Cosmosphere. Children and grandchildren of Rotarians are welcome and encouraged to participate! Also the full RYLA camp will take place from May 28—May 31 at Southwestern College in Winfield.

Registration information is available at [www.sckans.edu/leadership](http://www.sckans.edu/leadership). Help your students discover their leadership potential and encourage them to sign up!

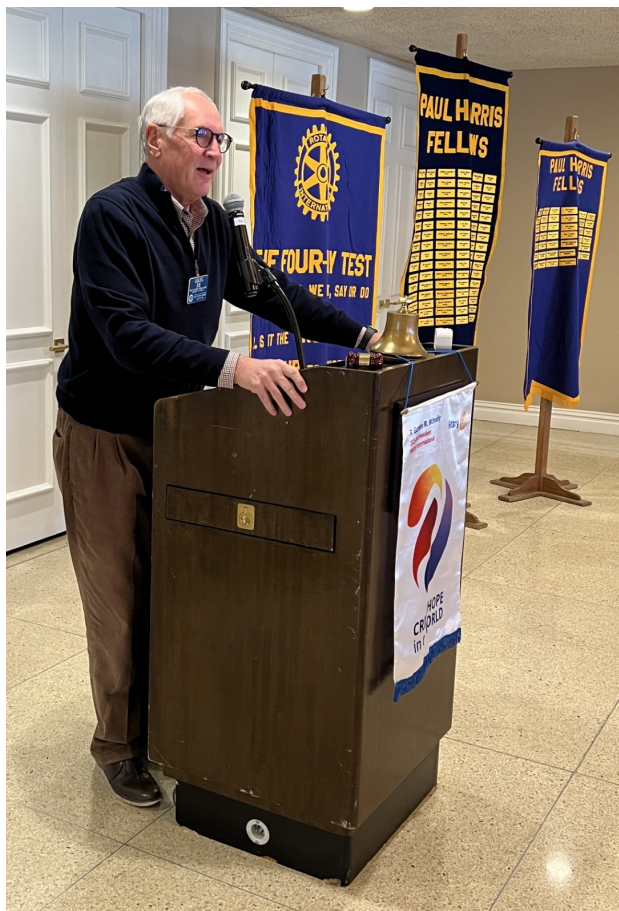
### Next Week:

RITE Teachers from Panama and Argentina will share their cultures and what they're learning on their visit here next **Wednesday, January 24**.

## MORE AT ROTARY TODAY



New EWR Member **Jeff DeGraffenreid** (L) accepts his Rotary pin from EWR President **Darin Kater** at today's meeting. Jeff is an attorney with Foulston Siefkin and a former member of the Downtown club. Jeff is looking forward to being involved with all things EWR. Welcome, Jeff!



Past President **Greg Ek** asked us to mark our calendars for the evening of **Wednesday, March 6**. Our club is planning a special celebration of the 40th anniversary of our charter as Rotary Club of East Wichita. This historic celebration will take place at the Marriott. Local journalist and former KAKE newsman Larry Hatteberg will be our featured speaker. Whether you're a long-time EWR member or have just joined our club, it promises to be an evening of delicious food, fellowship, and fond memories.