



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

Stewart Crow	1/28
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At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Denise Hearson

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

Special Guests:
Colby Monnington
Garon Smith

Photography: Ric Wolford

Rotary Anniversaries:
Scott Hampel—23 years
Justin Baxter—8 years
Deik Scram—8 years
Kelly Dandurand—4 years
Larry Hund—3 years

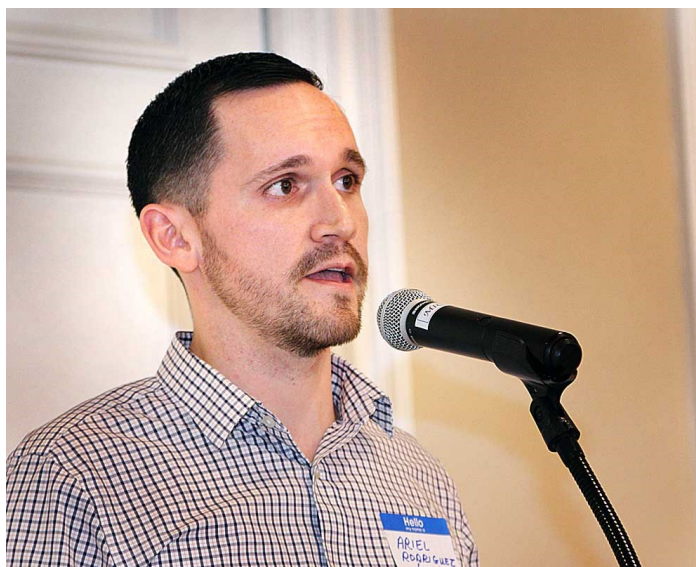
Wedding Anniversaries:
Jessica & Dustin Dunbar—
15 years

Quote of the Week:

Just don't give up trying to do
what you really want to do.
Where there is love and
inspiration, I don't think you can
go wrong.

— Ella Fitzgerald

ARIEL RODRIGUEZ TELLS EWR ALL ABOUT EMPOWER



Ariel Rodriguez is a Wichita native who joined Empower in 2021. Prior to his current position, he was the Executive Director of Rise Up for Youth, another example of his commitment to help the underserved in our community. Ariel is a proud dad whose newborn was born last Halloween.

Before today's meeting you might not have heard of Empower. Our speaker, Ariel Rodriguez, was here to tell us how this community-based organization is connecting residents and resources in Wichita's North End, located north of downtown in the area around 21st and Broadway.

The North End has a rich history. Settled in the late 1800s by Mexican immigrants it was soon incorporated into the city of Wichita. Through the mid 1960s residents of the area enjoyed economic prosperity due to the meat packing, flour mill, and railway industries nearby.

Today the area is experiencing a revitalization as the larger Wichita community is seeing the value of investing in the North End and its residents, the majority of whom

are Hispanic. For example, in early 2020 the City of Wichita conducted a \$1.8 million renovation of the Evergreen Community Center and Library. The Center houses multiple not-for-profit organizations under one roof. Another example of investment in the area is the purchase of the Nomar Theatre, which opened in 1929 and was one of the premiere movie theatres in Wichita.

As vital as the investment in physical space is to the North End, even more important is investing in the residents who live there. One out of every five entrepreneurs in the U.S. is Latino, with 4 of every 5 new businesses being started by Latinos. Another big statistic: Latinas are starting businesses at a rate that is seven times faster

than any other demographic. This population is motivated to work hard and succeed.

Yet there are barriers preventing wide-scale growth of these small businesses. For example, 40% of adults in the North End do not have a high school diploma. 66% work in blue collar service jobs. The average household earns \$35,000 annually as compared with \$55,000 in the City of Wichita overall. Empower works with community partners such as NexStep, Goodwill, WSU Tech, and the City of Wichita to provide ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages), GED exam preparation, and financial literacy classes, to name a few.

Want to know more about Empower? Come to the celebration on Friday, January 26 at 6 pm at Evergreen Center and learn about their big, bold vision for the future.

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!

Thank you!

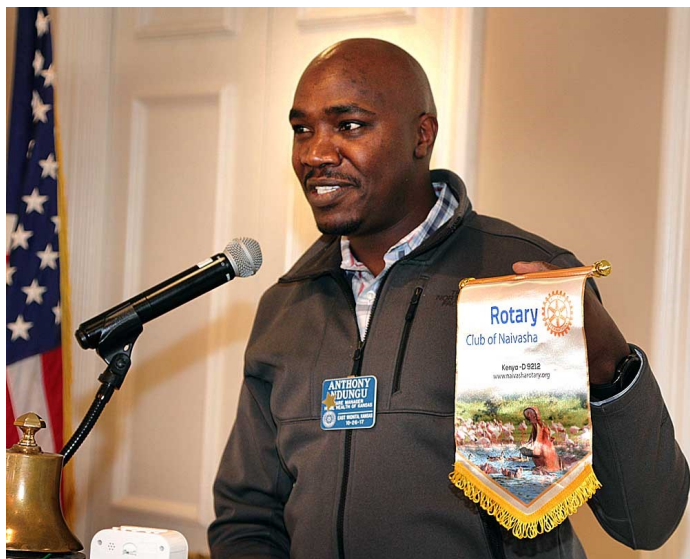
To Joyce and Fred Heismeyer for donating their Wichita Symphony tickets to be auctioned off as a fundraiser for our East Wichita Rotary Foundation. In a matter of minutes a quick \$100 was raised to support our club's scholarship fund. Thanks also to Jim Crawford, who purchased the tickets.

Next Week:

Our speaker will be Mandy Fleming, Director of Philanthropy at Heartspring. **NO MEETING on Wednesday, February 1.**

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

Our own **Anthony Ndungu** recently traveled with his family to Kenya, where he attended a Rotary meeting in Naivasha and brought back this colorful banner. Anthony also visited the Agatha Amani House, a shelter for survivors of sexual and domestic violence in Kenya.



Yes, you're seeing double! Here 's another photo of **Anthony Ndungu**. This time he is receiving his first ever Paul Harris pin for contributions to the Rotary International Foundation totaling \$1,000. **Dave Sproul** presented the pin.

Also being recognized at today's meeting for his generous support of the Rotary International Foundation, EWR President **Dane Estok** receives his Paul Harris Foundation + 4 pin from **Dave Sproul**. Congratulations and a big thank you, Dane!

