



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

<i>Deik Scram</i>	2/1
<i>Alex Kruse</i>	2/2
<i>Andrew Prigmore</i>	2/15
<i>Cathy McClain</i>	2/19

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Susan Addington

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

Member News:
Kelly Dandurand

Special Guests:
Michael Gelber
Dalia Hale
Eric McGonigle
Jamie Pearson

Rotary Anniversaries:
Marc Campbell—40 years
CHARTER MEMBER
Dave Sproul—40 years
CHARTER MEMBER
Tom Church—38 years w/
Rotary; 4 years w/EWR
Eileen Kludt—11 years
Dane Estok—4 years
Brittany Sweeney—3 years
Dustin Sylvester—2 years
Geron Smith—1 year

Wedding Anniversaries:
Anne & Seth Schneider—7 years
Matt & Jessica Leavitt—5 years

Quote of the Week:

Act as if what you do makes a difference. IT DOES.

— William James

CHARMED BY RITE VISITORS FROM ARGENTINA AND PANAMA



RITE Visitors from Argentina and Panama presented their flags to EWR President Darin Kater, who then gifted them with our club's flag. L to R: Florencia Zappia, Ingrid Villamonte, **Darin Kater**, Gimena Rios, Ivan Guerra, and Dalia Hale.

Early in the calendar year our club is treated to a visit from Rotarians who are here as part of RITE—Rotary Inter-country Teacher Exchange program. And every time they visit, it's as though they're bringing a little piece of their home countries to share with us.

This year's visitors are from Argentina and Panama. During a break in their school year they're in Wichita to learn more about the profession of teaching as well as sample American culture. Ingrid Villamonte, from Panama, noted that she had

never seen snow until arriving here and was actually enjoying the cold weather. Panama, she told us, is either rainy or hot, but never cold.

We also learned that teachers, both public and private, are mandated to teach English in Argentine schools. [This could explain why their English is excellent!]

Florencia Zappia and Gimena Rios, both Argentine teachers, explained that Argentina is a country of six regions. They are both from Buenos Aires, a city of 15.6 million that is the nation's

capital. The tango is their country's national dance. While both of them are very busy serving as teachers, they manage to have fun with their families and doing volunteer work. Florencia volunteers at a local animal shelter and grows her long dark hair to donate it to an organization that makes wigs for people who have lost their hair. Gimena also volunteers in her community, cleaning rivers and collecting Christmas gifts for underprivileged children.

Ivan Guerra and Ingrid Villamonte are from Panama, home of the famous Panama Canal. (cont'd on p. 2)

Club Announcements:**THERE HAS BEEN A CHANGE OF LOCATION FOR OUR CLUB MIXER!**

We'll meet at Carlos O'Kelly's, 11317 E 13th on **Wednesday, January 31**. Bring your spouse, friend, or a colleague! The fun begins at 5 pm.

On Wednesday, March 6 our club will celebrate its 40th anniversary. A special celebration is being planned for an evening event at the Wichita Marriott from 6:00—8:30 p.m. Reservations are \$40 per person; your check is your reservation. Larry Hatteberg will be our emcee and speaker for the evening. Kim is accepting reservations for this event through February 28.

Do you have any historic photos to share at our celebration? Send them to Michael Moeder, michael@moederassociates.com

RYLA Announcement:

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. Help your students discover their leadership potential and encourage them to sign up!

Next Week:

NO MEETING on January 31—but come to the mixer! And no meeting on February 7. See you at the Wichita Country Club on Valentine's Day, **Wednesday, February 14**.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY



As we look ahead to our club's 40th anniversary celebration on March 6, we're pleased that three of our Charter Members are still active members of East Wichita Rotary! President **Darin Kater, L**, stands with **Larry McNeil, Marc Campbell, and Dave Sproul**. Congratulations, gentlemen! We appreciate and enjoy your friendship!

RITE VISITORS (CONT'D FROM P. 1)

Located in Central America, Panama spans the southern tip of North America, extending into the northern part of South America. Our Panamanian visitors explained that they had to travel for eight hours by bus to get to the airport for their trip to the United States. As part of their service to their Rotary Club, David, which was chartered on February 3, 1932, they provide water filters to indigenous people in rural communities who do not have access to potable water.

The long days of teaching school and the sacrifices needed to get there—Ingrid explained that she used to have to take a bus on a five-hour one-way trip to get to her school before moving—do not seem to dampen the spirits of these dedicated teachers. Ingrid is the only English teacher at her school, which serves 247 students from kindergarten through sixth grade. Ivan works on an Indian reservation and is provided with no classroom supplies. Florencia teaches three shifts of school for a total of 12 hours per day and Gimena teaches two shifts for 10 hours daily.

Dalia Hale, a retired teacher and member of the West Wichita Rotary Club, accompanied the RITE visitors. She helps coordinate the exchange program, which includes sending teachers from Wichita to Panama for two weeks during the summer. A visitor to Panama herself, she said that the capital, Panama City, is nicknamed "Panhattan" for its resemblance to the Big Apple. It is a very beautiful city and inexpensive to visit—an Uber ride from one end of the city to the other is just \$4. As a result of U.S. involvement in the construction of the Panama Canal, which was constructed from 1904—1914, there continues to be much American cultural influence in Panama.

We are grateful as a club to experience a bit of international culture and friendship with our visitors. And we thank our club members and their spouses who serve as hosts, which are the heart of this program: **Eric and Robin McGonigle, Fred and Joyce Heismeyer, and Tom and Peggy Church**. We wish our new friends safe travels home and great memories of their Wichita visit.