



ROTARY NOTARY

NICODEMUS: CELEBRATING FREEDOM IN THE FREE LAND OF KANSAS

Member Birthdays:

<i>Craig Burns</i>	7/22
<i>Justin Baxter</i>	7/26
<i>Larry McNeil</i>	7/30

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Fred Thurlow

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:

Fred Thurlow

Rotary Anniversaries:

Robin McGonigle—7 years

Wedding Anniversaries:

Lynn & Pat Jeane—50 years

Denise & Tracy Hearson—29 years

Jaden & Jacque Randle—25 years

Drew & Abby Rooks—10 years

Quote of the Week:

When everything seems to be going against you, remember that the airplane takes off against the wind, not with it.

— Henry Ford



Angela Bates (L), Humanities Kansas speaker, stands with her best friend from college, Kathy Hayes. Bates is also the Executive Director and past president of the Nicodemus Historical Society.

Angela Bates proudly and enthusiastically shares the story of the community of Nicodemus, Kansas, as a speaker for Humanities Kansas.

Slavery was an ugly part of our nation’s history, it’s true. But Angela would like all of us to focus on the change that happened when slavery ended and African-Americans were emancipated. That is why she shares the story of the town her ancestors helped found.

Named after the biblical figure Nicodemus, the community is located on the Solomon River in Graham County. It is the only remaining town located west of the Mississippi River that was established by African-Americans during the Reconstruction Period following the Civil War.

The first residents of Nicodemus journeyed from Kentucky to the free soil of Kansas in 1877. Kansas appealed to them because it represented a land of freedom

and opportunity, a place where slavery had never taken place. To them, abolitionist John Brown helped paved the way for their freedom by arming slaves.

Angela’s great-grandmother, Emma Johnson Williams, was one of those freed slaves, who left Kentucky in 1877. She was a former slave of Richard M. Johnson, who was Vice President of the United States under Martin Van Buren. Pregnant with a baby boy whom she would name Henry, Emma arrived in Nicodemus months before her husband, who was to meet her in the spring. The birth of baby Henry was a marvel—he was born free.

Life in Nicodemus was not easy for those pioneers. Resources were scarce and the settlers lacked the tools necessary to cultivate the land—plows, wagons, and horses. A later wave of settlers came from Kentucky and Mississippi,

bringing with them the farm equipment and tools needed. By 1880 churches, a school, a hotel, and two stores had been established.

But that short growth spurt wasn’t enough to keep the town thriving. Many settlers left because the land was so hard to farm. Despite an effort to attract the railroads, none of them located near the town. Years later, the Dust Bowl and Great Depression contributed more to the decline of the community.

In 1976 Nicodemus was named a National Historic Landmark and on November 12, 1996 it was designated as part of the National Park System as a National Historic Site. Five historic buildings make up the site.

The 143rd annual Emancipation Celebration will take place later this month, from July 29—August 1. Descendants from all over the world will converge to celebrate their heritage and history. Angela Bates and her family would love to see you there.

Announcements:

Check out the Paul Harris banner, updated to include all those who received their first Paul Harris Fellow during the past Rotary year.

The badge box has been renumbered and re-alphabetized. Check out the number on the back of your badge to put it back in its proper slot.

Kim is working on the new Club picture directory. If you have a change to your contact information OR if you'd like to submit a new headshot, please send it to Kim ASAP!

To thank today's speaker, a \$25 honorarium will be made in her name to the East Wichita Rotary Foundation.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

Susan Addington, President of the East Wichita Rotary Foundation, introduced three scholarship recipients at today's meeting. L to R: Heather Mills, Noah Betlach, and Jorge Godinez.

This was a challenging year for students to continue their education in the virtual world. But today's three scholarship recipients showed us how they've overcome those challenges. Heather Mills will be a sophomore at K-State. She changed her major to Accounting and was also one of the managers of the women's volleyball team, where her responsibilities included setting up meal plans and doing laundry for team members. Noah Betlach, who just graduated from Goddard High School, will attend WSU Tech, where he will earn welding credentials in order to finance additional education to become a marine biologist. He is also an Eagle Scout. Jorge Godinez is finishing up his college education where he will apply to enter the Physician's Assistant program at WSU. During the past year he missed face-to-face interaction with his professors and proudly states that he survived clinical pharmacology.

We salute all three of you for your persistence and dedication this past year!

Congratulations!

Dane Estok and his wife Kristin had baby number three, two months ago.

Tyler Fee and his wife Katie are the proud parents of a baby girl, their second child.

REMEMBERING BRITT FULMER

One of the charter members of East Wichita Rotary, Britt Fulmer was unforgettable. Not only for his impeccable style (he always attended Rotary meetings wearing a jacket and tie), but also for the humorous way he delivered the Member News. Always upbeat, yet with a wry sense of delivery, he was a joy to know.

Britt passed away on June 28 after battling colon cancer for 17 months. We treasure memories of our friend, extending sympathies to his wife, Brenda, and his daughters, Lauren McBride and Morgan Fulmer.



This photo of Britt Fulmer seasoning his lunch was taken on April 26, 2017 and published in the Rotary Notary for that day. It seems that Britt's tablemates noticed how much he enjoyed seasoning his meal, resulting in the caption, "Hey, Britt, why don't you have some food with your pepper???"

Next Week:

Our own **Anne Schneider** will co-present with her mentor and friend, Patty Stuever, on "8 to Great."