



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

Larry McNeil	7/30
Ken Moldenhauer	8/6
Brant Westbrook	8/7

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Susan Addington

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

Rotary Anniversaries:
Bobbi Hansen—30 years
Randy Aronis—2 years

Wedding Anniversaries:
Tom and Peggy Church—
50 years
Matt and Julia List—31 years
Tyler and Katie Fee—5 years

Quote of the Week:

We are all the same in this
notion: the potential for
greatness lives within each of us.

— Wilma Rudolph, three-time
Olympic gold medalist

THE DOCKUM DRUGSTORE SIT-IN OF 1958



This is a photo of the Dockum Drugstore that was located on the southeast corner of Douglas and Broadway where members of the NAACP Youth Council sat at the popular lunch counter for three weeks until the owner agreed to serve them, ending segregation.

For years the story of the Dockum Drugstore sit-in was waiting to be told to the world. It is a story of youth who used their time and energy to peacefully protest the practice of segregation here in Wichita. It is also a story of courage, persistence, and careful planning.

The backdrop to the sit-in, which took place from July 19 through August 11, 1958, was the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s, exposing racial divisions in American society. In 1954 the Supreme Court ruled that state laws establishing racial segregation in public schools were unconstitutional. But other parts of community life were still heavily segregated, including the popular lunch counter at the Dockum Drug Store.

Ron Walters, president of the local NAACP Youth Council, was home from college for the summer and had a job

downtown. But as an African-American man, he was not allowed to eat at the lunch counter. Instead, he and other African-Americans could only buy a sack lunch at the back door.

A born leader, Walters and his cousin, Carol Parks, started planning a way to make an impact. They enlisted the help of Chester Lewis, a Wichita attorney, who fought against discriminatory practices. Lewis inspired and mentored the members of the youth council. A woman named Rosa Hughes served as their youth advisor.

As part of their preparation, youth council members role-played in the basement of St. Peter Claver Catholic Church, taking on the roles of taunters and bystanders, as well as practicing their own measured responses.

At 10:00 on the morning of Saturday, July 19, 1958, ten members of the NAACP

Youth Council entered the Dockum drugstore one by one and sat at the lunch counter, indicating they intended to stay at their posts until they were served. At times they encountered hostile shoppers, at others people who were quietly sympathetic.

After three weeks of having his lunch counter occupied by the protesters, a manager told the staff, "Serve them—I'm losing too much money." Ultimately all of the Dockum store locations in Kansas were desegregated.

Although it attracted little media attention at the time, the sit-in inspired other anti-segregation sit-ins in Oklahoma City a week later, and Greensboro, North Carolina, in 1960. In 1998 a bronze sculpture was installed in downtown Wichita near the site of the sit-in. It depicts the historic lunch counter and the brave youth whose peaceful protest sparked lasting societal change.

Announcements:

Colorado peaches are being sold as a fundraiser for the Rotary Club of Newton; if interested, check out the details in yesterday's pre-meeting email.

We have hard copies of the 2021—2022 EWR Club Picture Directory available for \$10. Buy yours from Kim at the next meeting! A special thanks to Jim Pirtle, past EWR member, of DOCS (Documents on Command Services) for printing such a beautiful directory for us every year. See Jim and the DOCS team for all your printing and copying needs! Just call 316-263-1881.

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

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

Another accomplished group of students EWR Foundation Scholarship students shared their hopes, dreams, and tales of college life with us today. L to R they are: Kamryn Villa will be a senior at KU and is studying pre-med. She will take the MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) in January. Chloe Brown, who is studying graphic design, took lots of introductory art classes last year. In her spare time she did volunteer fundraising work. Chris Burrell will be a senior at K-State. This summer he is working at Textron Aviation in an internship position. He was delighted to share with us that he has completed the difficult engineering classes – including Calculus I, II, and III. Fatima Ortiz will be a junior at Newman University. She is majoring in secondary education with a minor in English and has just completed a minor in Spanish. As a volunteer she enjoys helping students who have come to the United States from Mexico and helping them file for citizenship.

Prisca Barnes is the founder and CEO of Storytime Village, a local organization that is committed to provide family engagement around reading and access to books for all children. She is also a speaker for Humanities Kansas.

**DID SOMEONE SAY EWR MIXER??**

Our friend and fellow EWR member Angela Binyon did! Angela is the Director of Sales and Marketing at the Wichita Marriott Hotel. She and her crew are ready to bring back an EWR tradition of mixing it up with your fellow Rotarians for an after-work gathering. The Marriott has graciously offered to provide light hors d'oeuvres—enjoy your beverage of choice from the cash bar.

As always, you can bring your spouse, your significant other, a prospective Rotarian, or a good friend. COVID cancelled our mixers for awhile, and coming back to the classy Wichita Marriott is a great way to kick off a new EWR year.

Mark your calendars for:

EWR Summer Mixer

Thursday, August 26 from 4:30—6:30 p.m.

**The Greatroom Restaurant and Bar
at the Wichita Marriott**

Next Week:

We will hear from Bert Ussery, who will have a First Responders Event.