



ROTARY NOTARY

MEET ADMIRAL WINDWAGON SMITH, A.K.A. BARRY SCHWAN

Member Birthdays:

<i>Robin McGonigle</i>	6/27
<i>Kim Hurtig</i>	6/25
<i>Jim Cranford</i>	6/29

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Brittany Sweeney

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:

Kelly Dandurand

Special Guests:

Greg Calzonetti

Member News:

Kelly Dandurand

Rotary Anniversaries:

Michael Moeder—5 years
Vanessa Rohlman—3 years
Ryan Boss—1 year
Elizabeth Farha—1 year

Quote of the Week:

Opportunity is missed by most people because it is dressed in overalls and looks like work.

— Thomas Edison

Barry Schwan (L) with Nancy Duling, who became the RiverFest President and CEO in February of this year. Schwan loved his experience as admiral except for the weight of the admiral's coat and hat. He's working with Fruhauf Uniforms to design a coat that is more summer-friendly!



Although Barry Schwan has been involved with the Wichita River Festival for several years as both a sponsor and a volunteer, he never dreamed he'd be asked to serve as the festival's official mascot, Windwagon Smith.

As a sponsor, Schwan has supported RiverFest through the business he owns, House of Schwan, the Anheuser Busch distributor for Sedgwick County. House of Schwan sells more than 2,400 different SKUs of beer, spirits, and non-alcoholic beverages from 55 suppliers to liquor, grocery, and convenience stores along with bars and restaurants. The firm is a long-time sponsor of RiverFest. As a volunteer, Schwan has served on the festival's Operations Committee.

But there's nothing like being one of only 46 men and two women to wear the Admiral's jacket, serving serve as the face of one of the top 50 events worldwide in terms of

ticket sales at outdoor sites. Schwan so enjoyed his role of waving and having his picture taken that one day when he was out of uniform, his wife Cindy noticed him waving to people in the lobby of the Drury Hotel where they stayed during RiverFest. "Stop waving at everybody!" she exclaimed. "You're not in your Admiral uniform!"

Schwan shared a brief history of RiverFest with us. Its origins were in 1970 as a one-day celebration of Wichita's 100th birthday. The "Wichitennial" was so well received that plans were made to hold an annual celebration focused on our city's beautiful natural resource, the Arkansas River. Two years later, the first Wichitennial River Festival and Trader's Day was held on May 27, 1972. During that first year, organizers decided to keep the event affordable by selling buttons for \$1 apiece. Approximately

2,000 were sold that first year.

Sadly, the COVID pandemic forced a cancellation of the 2020 and 2021 festivals. But the event came roaring back this year with nine days of concerts and new events, including bringing the Budweiser Clydesdales to town. Other new events included the Fiesta del Rio, which brought Latin-American flair to the festival, and a pop-up Art Fest, meant to replicate the fun of the former Art and Book fair.

RiverFest also brought Willie Nelson to Wichita. The concert attracted a crowd of around 20,000 to the plaza and closed-off streets near Century II. For festival goers, it was an exciting comeback after two years without RiverFest.

Safety is of paramount importance to festival organizers and sponsors. Nancy Duling, President and CEO of RiverFest, touted the event's outstanding security after implementing measures including gated areas,

(cont'd on page 2)

Announcements:

Time's almost up to earn extra "points" toward your first or next level of Paul Harris

Fellow recognition! **Stuart Palmer** has offered to match points for any contribution of \$100—\$300 to the Rotary International Foundation if your gift is made by June 30. The offer has a two-fold benefit: Rotary District 5680 receives 50% of total donations to use for future granting purposes. The 50% comes to the District at the end of three years' time. Also, you'll be doubling your Paul Harris Fellow points.

The 2022—2023 EWR directory will be published next month. Do you have an updated head shot you'd like to include? And is your contact information correct? Please email your updates to Kim at your earliest convenience!

Next Week:

Celebrate our club's accomplishments and the leadership of President **Greg Ek** at the "Changing of the Guard" meeting next week. It's always an upbeat way to close out another great year with EWR!

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

Kelly Dandurand delivers Member News of the week, along with a story. This week she highlighted EWR members featured in Splurge! magazine: **Greg Ek, Tyler Fee, and Eileen Kludt.**

President-Elect **Dane Estok** announced that **Darin Kater** has accepted the opportunity to serve as President-Elect for the Rotary year that begins on July 1. Club members heartily voted "Yea" to officially confirm Darin's election.

President **Greg Ek** named **Tom Morris** the EWR Athlete of the Year. No one else even comes close! Tom, an avid runner, recently completed six marathons in six states. Overall, he has run at least one marathon in 45 U.S. states, with a goal of running one in all 50 states. Tom, with this kind of calorie burn you have permission to visit the buffet line twice at our meetings! Congratulations on an amazing achievement!

WINDWAGON SMITH (CONT'D)

This photo of Barry Schwan, a.k.a. Windwagon Smith, was taken from the RiverFest's Facebook page. One of the great joys of serving as the Admiral this year was the opportunity for Schwan to get out and meet people from all walks of life who live and work in Wichita. Here he is with a young friend who seems unsure whether to be delighted or somewhat afraid of the man in red!

requiring buttons to enter events, and heightened security throughout the footprint of the festival, including posting police officers on building rooftops.

Although the numbers aren't in yet for this year's festival, Schwan is pleased with the turnout, sponsor support, and the hundreds of volunteers who make a difference. He thinks the numbers will compare favorably with 2019, when 95,000 buttons were sold and the event had an economic impact of \$28—\$32 million.

Schwan and Duling also thanked EWR members who sold food court tickets at the Festival this year. Our club is pleased to participate in what began in 1970 as a city-wide birthday party for Wichita and today, a nine-day celebration of why it's great to be a Wichitan.

Opera has spicy night in store for music lovers

Written by **SPLURGE!** staff

A spicy and spirited show is in store for concertgoers as the Wichita Grand Opera presents its upcoming Latin Night outdoor concert July 1, featuring an internationally acclaimed husband-and-wife singing duo. WGO general and music director Whitney Reader promises a “colorful” event that will include local talent and even food trucks at the venue.

“The Opera is presenting this evening to honor our wonderful Latino community here in Wichita,” said Reader, who took the helm at WGO in January. “It’s a wonderful way to celebrate who we are in Wichita. It will be an exciting evening.”

The location also makes the event unique: It will be held at the Paula and Barry Downing Amphitheater on the northeast side of the Wichita Art Museum. The monumental and colorful Chihuly Chandelier by international glass artist Dale Chihuly can be seen inside the museum from the amphitheater and will make a stunning backdrop for the stage. Reader said there isn’t a lot of room on stage, so a podium will be built to accommodate the performers.

The stars of the evening are soprano María Antúnez and tenor Martín Nusspaumer. The couple are originally from Uruguay and now live in Miami, traveling far and wide to star in operas, perform with symphonies, and appear on famous stages across the world.



Critics have deemed Antúnez “impressive,” “remarkable” and “smoldering.” A graduate of the Domingo-Cafritz Young Artist Program of Washington National Opera, she has appeared at the Kennedy Center in Washington, Los Angeles Opera, the National Center for the Performing Arts in Beijing, Charleston Ópera, Teatro Nacional in Santo Domingo, Teatro Solis in Montevideo and the Bolshoi Theatre in Moscow. She has performed in productions of Carmen, Don Giovanni, Così fan tutte, Le nozze di Figaro, Nabucco, Maria Stuarda and Madama Butterfly among others, according to her website mariaantunez.com, where you can hear excerpts of performances.

Meanwhile, Charleston Today deemed Nusspaumer’s performances as, “Astonishing; his presence enthralled the audience in almost an embarrassment of pleasure.” The recipient of an Artist Diploma from the School of the Arts in Charleston, he graduated from the Florida Grand Opera’s Young Artist Program and was a finalist in the



Palm Beach Opera Vocal Competition and the Southern Region Auditions of the Metropolitan Opera, according to his website, martinnusspaumer.com, where you can also hear excerpts from his performances.

Nusspaumer has been soloist among others with the Miami Symphony, the Charleston Symphony, Ankara’s Presidential Symphony Orchestra, the Odessa Philharmonic, Orchestra Firenze, the Philharmonic of Montevideo, and the Istanbul Symphony Orchestra. He has performed in such diverse works as Stravinsky’s Pulcinella, Handel’s Messiah, Bruckner’s Te Deum and Beethoven’s Ninth Symphony.

“Martín and María are world-class artists and they’re going to sing some amazing music,” said Reader. “Wichita is extremely fortunate to be able to host them. Don’t miss this unique night of cultural flair.”

Latin Night with the Wichita Grand Opera

Friday, July 1

Wichita Art Museum Amphitheater

For tickets, call **316.262.8054**
or visit wichitagrandopera.org.