

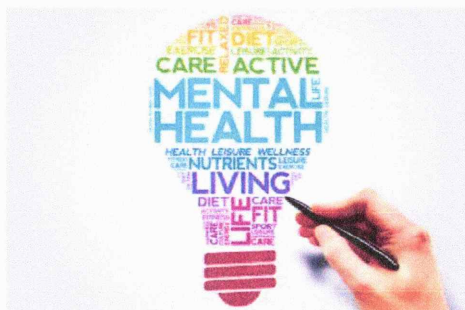
Week of March 12, 2025

ROTARY NOTARY



Stephanie A. Urchick
2024-25 President

Mary Jones, CEO/President of the Mental Health America of South Central Kansas, gave our club an wonderful overview of the mental health landscape in our area. Mary began by highlighting some startling national statistics such as 5% of adults and 13% of youth report serious thoughts of suicide and 18% of adults in the US had a substance use disorder in the past year. Locally, she stated that there is an estimate of over 600 people who are homeless, although this estimate may be low and over 40 people died on the streets of Wichita due to issues around homeless conditions. She talked about the partnerships of many agencies who are working together to reduce homelessness and increase services for those with mental health issues, as well as the good that is happening with the Multi-Agency Center that just opened and the building of the South Central Regional Mental Health Hospital to meet the most serious cases of mental illness. In conclusion she emphasized the services needed for the homeless population; are those of housing, employment, mental health support, substance abuse programs, case management, hot meal sites, food bank access, and access to other service resources. Anyone of us who travel up/down Broadway are very aware of the homelessness in our community, but this situation is across our county and state. ***Thanks Mary for educating EW Rotarians.***



LOOKING AHEAD

MARCH 19

NO MEETING

SPRING BREAK

MARCH 25

SERVICE PROJECT

SIMPLY HYGIENE (8:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m.)

APRIL 9

FIRESIDE

WSU TECH'S NICHE (downtown)

APRIL 18

SCHOLARSHIP DEADLINE

SEE MORE INFORMATION ON OUR WEBSITE

EWR IS SEEKING CANDIDATES FOR OUR COLLEGE SCHOLARSHIPS. IF YOU KNOW OF A WORTHY CANDIDATE, ENCOURAGE THEM TO APPLY. FOR MORE INFORMATION AND AN APPLICATION GO TO OUR CLUB'S WEBSITE AT WWW.EASTWICHITAROTARY.ORG.

Take a look at our club's website for upcoming programs and other news.

Kansas Legislative Actions Supporting Mental Health

• **10 million in federal funding** awarded in August 2023 to enhance the integration of primary and behavioral health care.

• **\$10 million in additional federal funding** announced in December 2024 to further advance whole-person care by fostering collaboration between behavioral health clinics and primary care providers.

• **\$1 million federal planning grant** received in March 2023 to support the transition of Community Mental Health Centers to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics, aiming to expand access to integrated care.

• **\$9 million grant over five years** announced in September 2022 to improve student behavioral health services in southeast Kansas through the KanAWARE initiative.

• **\$13.5 million in Mental Health Intervention Team grants** allocated in fiscal year 2024 to school districts for enhancing mental health services within educational settings.

MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION

Multi-Agency Center (MAC)



- MAC brings together multiple providers to provide wrap-around services at the same location as additional year-round, low-barrier shelter beds for anyone experiencing homelessness or at-risk of being homeless to receive services designed to move people into housing.
- The homeless population in Wichita ranges from 700-1200 people at a time.
- Since November 2024, HumanKind Ministries, Inc. Has been providing emergency winter shelter at the site of the future MAC, serving hundreds of people each day.
- The EWS is an emergency winter shelter that provides a space for people to get off the streets and provide them with means and shelter them overnight.
- Specifically, MHASCK has served over 140 individuals, linking them to services and other help.
- Starting April 1, 2025, MAC board will take over supervision of operations. The fully formed vision is to create a space here in our community where a person can come in off the streets.

Mental Health and Homelessness

- 691 persons are homeless in Wichita and Sedgwick County.
- 188 of the 691 individuals are unsheltered – this is a 25% increase from last year.
- Wichita is higher than the national average of percentage of homeless people with a serious mental illness.
- 46 homeless people as of fall 2024 had died in Sedgwick County. This is an increase from all of 2023.
- Serious mental illness is a significant risk factor for losing housing.



Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition Wichita – Sedgwick County

In 2019, a group of leaders from law enforcement, health care, behavioral health programs, private businesses, education and local nonprofits formed the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Coalition. It was the natural evolution of a group that had been working at the intersection of mental health, substance abuse and homeless issues in Wichita and the surrounding areas for several years.

MHSAC's mission is to develop a sustainable, accessible and integrated system of care that serves people with mental health and substance abuse disorders who are in crisis, to efficiently and effectively deliver services that create positive outcomes.

My purpose, passion in Rotary – and pet portraits

By George Lewis, Rotary Club of Venice-Nokomis, Florida, USA
from Rotary 360—The official blog of Rotary International, March 28, 2024

Extraordinary.

Amazing.

Spectacular.

This is how I feel about Rotary. I'll be 90 years old in June and joined Rotary at a relatively late age. I went on my first volunteer trip to Guatemala in 2006 to help install stoves for Mayan families. Those stoves changed their lives, and the experience changed mine.

As we installed stoves, I enjoyed talking with the families and asked them what other assistance would be helpful. Most often, someone would reply that clean drinking water would be the most significant improvement. I promised them I would help, and that became my purpose in Rotary.

When you reach my age, you realize that without a *purpose*, you are like a rudderless boat. Purpose with a capital "P" gives one the excitement to live. I learned how Rotary Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) grants worked and began putting them together. I realized these grants could be extraordinarily impactful because they used both district funds and matching funds from The Rotary Foundation.

I approached other clubs in my district and elsewhere in the U.S. and Canada. Amazingly, the idea caught on. Soon, we were doing grants for clean water all over the world. As of 2023, these water projects have helped more than 2 million people in 34 countries. If that's not spectacular, I don't know what is! My Purpose has become a Passion. I think about it day and night.

Since it worked once, I'm trying it again. My new Passion is to help kids with cleft lip and palate deformities. When I retired in 2000 after a career as a stockbroker with Merrill Lynch, I took an adult education class in oil painting and got hooked. I use only one palette knife and no brushes. I now use the hobby to support cleft palate surgeries. I have painted almost 800 pet portraits to raise money for this cause. The funds go to support Rotary global grants. (Watch my one-minute video to learn more.)

It breaks my heart to see kids in that condition, and thankfully, Rotary allows me to help change their lives. Before the surgeries, they are outcasts. They have a hard time eating and drinking. Surgeries fix all that, which brings me great joy and happiness.

It wouldn't have happened without a Purpose that became my Passion. My excitement keeps me going – even at 90.



One of Lewis' oil paintings, a pet portrait

March is Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene
month for Rotary International





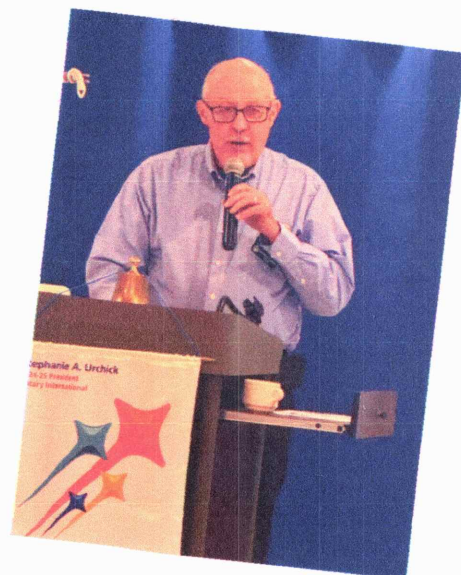
New member, Joan Moore was welcomed into EWR this week. Be sure to meet her and continue to invite others to join our club

Rotarian Joyce was Joan's sponsor.



Snap shots from this week's meeting

Rotarian Susan introduced our guest speaker. Thanks Susan for being our Programs' Chair.



President Tom continues to bring strong leadership to our club with vision and humor!

GREAT
FELLOWSHIP
WITH
EAST WICHITA
ROTARIANS



ONCE AGAIN, A
WONDERFUL
LUNCH BY WCC.
THANKS TO ALL
THE STAFF FOR
YOUR EXCELLENT
SERVICE



Heartland

President Elect Leadership Seminar



D5680 Governor line and guest speakers during PETS gather for a picture. PETS was inspirational and fun.



EW Rotarians attend president-elect training. Thanks PE Brittney, PEN Andrew, ES Steve, and PDG Fred for taking valuable time to learn more about Rotary and leadership.



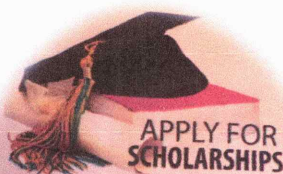
D5680 participants and guest speakers gather for a picture. Far left is RI Director Salvadore Rizzo Tavares, from Mexico.

TWO IMPORTANT SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

JOIN IN OUR ANNUAL MARCH MADNESS FUND RAISER TO FUND SCHOLARSHIPS.

AND

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS ARE NOW BEING ACCEPTED, SO IF YOU KNOW A WORTHY STUDENT, ENCOURGE THEM TO APPLY.



APPLICATIONS NOW BEING ACCEPTED

Kansai Wakai Rotary Foundation is offering a limited number of \$1,000 scholarships to selected qualifying high school graduates. The scholarships are paid directly to the school in two installments of \$500 per semester. Scholarships are awarded to each semester which can result in a \$5,000-\$8,000 total award if conditions are met.

Eligibility:

- Applicant must be a May 2025 graduate of a Sedgewick County, Kansas high school
- Full-time student in the Fall of 2025
- Applicant must attend a technical school, a public or private community college, or university located in Kansas
- Minimum cumulative high school GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale

Scholarships are selected based on need for assistance, academic achievement, reference letters, and background, honors and awards, and school or community activities.

Members of Foundation Board Members are not eligible.

Forms and Scholarship Guidelines can be accessed by clicking on the links below.

For more information, please visit our website at www.kansairotary.org.

April 19, 2025



Buy Your Brackets

\$25 per bracket - buy as many as you like

1st Prize - \$160

2nd Prize - \$115

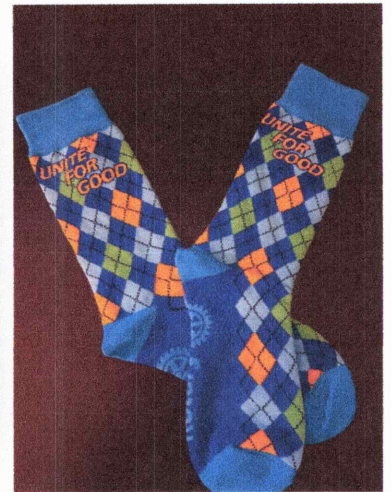
3rd Prize - \$75

3 Random Draws - \$50 each

Deadline March 12

PROCEEDS BENEFIT

DISTRICT AND RI NEWS



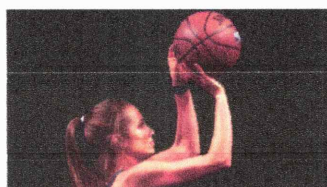
March	RI's Women in Action Month
April 24-30, 2025	World Immunization Week
May 27—30, 2025	RYLA Summer Camp
June 13—14, 2025	Rotary Young Professionals Forum (Ensenada, Mexico)
June 21—25, 2025	RI Convention, Calgary, Canada
July 1, 2025	NEW ROTARY YEAR
October 17-19, 2025	District Conference, Hays, KS

ALL EWR ROTARIANS SHOULD PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR AND ATTEND!



PUT THESE DATES ON
YOUR CALENDAR!

JOKE OF THE WEEK



Why did the basketball player
go to jail?

He shot the ball.

"Great leaders communicate and great communicators lead."
by Simon Sinek