



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

<i>Dustin Sylvester</i>	4/6
<i>Jeff DeGraffenreid</i>	4/7
<i>Terry Wiggers</i>	4/12

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Zach Wetta

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:

Jessica Dunbar

Member News:

Scott Hampel

Special Guests:

George Sorensen

Rotary Anniversaries:

Deb Brinegar—6 years

Wedding Anniversaries:

Geron & Rita Smith—6 years

Quote of the Week:

I will love the light for it shows me the way, yet I will endure the darkness because it shows me the stars.

— *Og Mandino*

HEALTHCARE IN WICHITA TODAY: A PERSPECTIVE FROM ASCENSION

Kevin Strecker is the ministry Market CEO for Ascension Via Christi, a position he has held since April 2022. He has devoted more than two decades to serving Ascension, where he currently leads the daily clinical, operational, strategic and financial responsibilities for the ministry.



Today's speaker, Kevin Strecker, offered some history about the organization he works for, Ascension. It is one of the largest private healthcare systems in the U.S., providing \$120 million annually in charity care. But in Kansas its origins more than 100 years ago are quite humble. In 1889 the Sisters of the Sorrowful Mother (SSM) sent sisters from Rome to take over a failing hospital. Years later, in 1902, the Sisters of St. Joseph (CSJ) came to southeast Kansas to set up a hospital to help people with lung diseases from coal mining. Then in 1942 sisters from that order came to Wichita to establish a hospital they named after St. Joseph.

For many years the two hospitals competed, but with dwindling numbers of women entering religious orders their leaders decided to merge in

1996 to become Via Christi, operated by representatives of both the SSM and CSJ. Then in 2008 both religious orders gave their shares of the ministry to Ascension, which today fully operates as a ministry of the church.

Geographically, Ascension is now the largest healthcare system in Kansas but the bulk of its operations are in Wichita. It is known for its high acuity programs in oncology, offering complex treatments such as bone marrow transplants and CAR T-cell therapy. It also offers the only Joint Commission accredited stroke program in the region.

Another strength of Ascension is its cardiac care, which is very comprehensive and internationally recognized. At Ascension St. Joseph, 101 beds are dedicated to behavioral health care. And Ascension St.

Francis provides the region's only burn center.

Looking toward the future, Strecker said, "Health care is really hard right now. There's downward pressure on reimbursement as well as rising costs and inflation." Reimbursement is a fixed rate yet the cost of supplies and pharmaceuticals continues to rise. Workforce challenges are what keeps him up at night, he admitted. Finding people to work, both as medical professionals and as support staff, is often daunting.

Despite these obstacles, Strecker's goal is to build the best healthcare system possible. A bright spot is partnering with local industry to lower healthcare costs by focusing on wellness and screening for early detection of illnesses. It's a positive and proactive solution to an issue that is challenging for all of us, employers and individuals alike.

Club Announcements:

The East Wichita Rotary scholarship application is now available on our website. Scholarships will now be awarded for \$1,500/year and renewable for three additional years. The deadline to submit an application is **April 15**. Please spread the word to Sedgwick County seniors, who will be attending a Kansas college, university or technical school in the fall.

A new community volunteer opportunity! Help clean up the Arkansas River on **Saturday, April 27!** All the details, including a link to sign up, are in Kim's pre-meeting email.

Mark your calendars now for Rotary Night on **May 9** at Riverfront Stadium to watch the Wichita Wind Surge take on the Arkansas Travelers. The cost per ticket is only \$10. Payments of cash, checks, or Venmo to **Jessica Dunbar** will be accepted beginning **March 20**.

The Downtown Rotary Club is hosting a classic car rally on **Thursday, May 16 from 5—8 pm**. See Kim's pre-meeting email for all the details.

Next Week:

NO MEETING on Wednesday, April 3. Get out and do some community service that day! We'll see you back at the Wichita Country Club on **Wednesday, April 10.**

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

Zach Wetta (L) served as today's greeter, with **Scott Hampel** delivering the Member News. The two were enjoying a conversation about growing up in large families. If you'd like to be a meeting greeter, just sign up at Kim's table. You'll get to know your fellow EWR members a little bit better, and provide some Service Above Self too!



GOOD NEWS UPDATE: AGATHA AMANI WATER PROJECT



In 2023 our club raised \$2,500 to help purchase water tanks for the Agatha Amani House, which is a shelter for survivors of sexual and domestic violence in Kenya, one of only a handful of domestic violence shelters in a country of 56 million residents. A unique partnership of Kansans from St. Thomas and St. Michael Episcopal churches in the Kansas City area are part of what Agatha Amani House founder Nyakio Kaniu-Lake calls K2K, or "Kansas to Kenya", an annual program where Kansas volunteers travel to Kenya to help plant crops and build facilities. Each new water tank holds 5,000 liters of water; construction was completed earlier this month. All of the installation work was done by hand, without machines. Above (L), the two new tanks. (R) Workers install rebar by hand for the floor.



Job Opening for East Wichita Rotary Club Executive

Desire to make a difference in your community, to be a stay-at-home Mom or Dad? Given retirement, the Rotary Club of East Wichita is looking for a new Club Executive beginning June 1st. Expressions of inquiry and resumes for this contract labor position may be sent to tpchurch@cox.net. Description of associated activities may be found on the East Wichita Rotary Facebook page.

Rotary Club of East Wichita Club Executive (RCEW) Functions

Contract Services overview: The Club Executive (CE) supports and performs the administrative tasks necessary for the smooth operation of the club, reporting to the Officers of the Board. The position is a part-time contract labor position (estimated 20 hours per week) as outlined below.

Qualifications:

The RCEW Club Executive shall:

- Be supportive of Rotary's Object, Four Way Test, and Code of Conduct.
- Demonstrate competence with computer technology, social media, bookkeeping and communication software.
- Have excellent communication, organizational and interpersonal relationship skills.

Weekly

- Compose pre-meeting e-mail to be delivered Tuesday, prior to each week's Wednesday meeting, sharing speaker and program information; upcoming calendar events and membership announcements.
- Prepare meeting agenda for said meetings, sending working draft to the President/presider of the meeting.
- Attend each weekly meeting, arriving in time to set up badges, banners, etc., and be available to entertain member questions, greet guests, receive payments, present sign-up sheets for club activities.
- Record member attendance at meetings, logging attendance into ClubRunner.
- Meeting follow-up tasks.

Monthly

- Draft board meeting agenda in consultation with the President, then deliver to Board members in advance of the meeting.
- Take minutes of the Board meeting, sending draft to club secretary for review prior to disseminating to the full board.
- Prepare and distribute monthly financial statements via e-mail to the club officers.
- Assist club Treasurer in presenting materials to the board and club at large.
- Complete ClubRunner attendance report.

Semi-annually

- Generate dues invoices and e-mail to members, tracking receivables, keeping Treasurer and President updated on late payments; sending thank-you response acknowledgment to each member as dues are received, sending reminder notices to those with outstanding balances due.
- Remit to Rotary Foundation RI contributions paid with dues.
- Track contributions made to the Rotary Club of East Wichita Foundation and update RCEWF contribution spreadsheet for the Foundation's treasurer; and deposit contributions received with dues payments.
- Re-alphabetize and renumber member badge box.

Annually

- Prepare and remit Form 1096/Form 1099 for club executive's contract labor.
- Update and distribute Club directory.
- Work with President, President-Elect, and Treasurer to develop the next year's budget.
- Assist RCEW Foundation to schedule scholarship recipient visits to the club.
- Assist RYLA chairperson in registering sponsored students.
- Update bank signature cards as new club officers take office.
- Support the Thanksgiving Turkey Drive Chairperson with donation collection, delivery team signups, placing order for dinners, etc.

As needed or requested

- Event planning for off-site meetings.
- Update club website.
- Assist with processing new member applications.
- Cut checks via software; sign as "second signer" and secure primary signature from club President.
- Make deposits as needed, normally once per week.
- Serve as point of contact regarding any venue where meetings are scheduled.
- Keep PHF banner updated with new names of first-time PHF recipients.
- Keep club President informed of matters that need to be shared.

