



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

Matt List

6/7

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Alex Kruse

**Invocation, Flag Salute,
and Four-way test:**
Markus Meyer

Member News:
Scott Hampel

Special Guests:

Peggy Church
Dan Flowers
Gayle Goetz
Evan Kaufman
Joe and Nyakio Lake

Wedding Anniversaries:

John and Karol Schlicher—
59 years
Stewart and Ann Crow—
50 years
Tom and Jennifer Morris—
35 years

Quote of the Week:

If you want to thank a soldier,
be the kind of American worth
fighting for.

— Unknown

LEARNING ABOUT THE ROBERT J. DOLE VA MEDICAL CENTER

Candace Ifabyi is the CEO and Medical Director of the Robert J. Dole Medical and Regional Office Center. She came to Wichita in early 2021 and is a veteran of the U.S. Army Reserve, where she worked in medical supply and logistics. Accompanying her is Jeff Herndon, Public Affairs Officer for the Center.



You've probably passed our local VA Center many times while taking Kellogg across town. But do you know what goes on there? Today's speaker, Candace Ifabyi, shared several interesting facts about this facility and the services it provides. Here are a few: The Center's annual operating budget is \$360 million. The Center has 81 authorized beds. It is also a teaching hospital.

Ifabyi emphasized that the mission of the Center is to serve veterans only. The main building was finished in 1933 and saw its first patient that year. Nearly 70 years later, in 2002, the name was changed to the Robert J. Dole VA Medical Center, honoring Kansas son and U.S. Senator Bob Dole, a World War II veteran who spent many months recovering in a military hospital after receiving near-fatal injuries

from gunfire. Senator Dole, who passed away on December 5, 2021, was a staunch advocate for veterans and people with disabilities.

The Center, which is a Complexity Level 2 Medical Center, served more than 30,000 vets from 59 counties in 2020, including some Oklahoma counties. In addition, five community-based outpatient centers assist veterans in Dodge City, Hays, Hutchinson, Parsons, and Salina. Along with basic medical care the Center provides services for traumatic brain injury, homelessness, mental health care, prosthetics, orthotics, and extended care.

Something else you may not have known about our VA Center is that it offers whole health services that include classes in tai chi and diabetes management, as well as providing health

coaching and massage therapy. In 2021 the Center opened a 12-bed substance abuse residential rehabilitation and treatment facility that is currently at 80% capacity. Also in 2021 the Center opened its own Oncology Department. Just four months ago the Center opened its own MRI facility.

The fastest-growing population of veterans are women who have served our country. Currently there are 7,500 female veterans in the catchment area; 2,658 are receiving services from the Center.

Currently the Center is undergoing a major construction project to upgrade its electronic medical records systems, technology throughout the Center, make the veterans' rooms more homelike, and renovate all inpatient areas. According to our speaker, the improvements will make a wonderful place for veterans even better.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

Announcements:

Volunteer to sell food tickets at RiverFest! Our club is scheduled to help on June 9 and 10. Sign up sheets are available at Kim's table.

Step up and volunteer to be a greeter or prayer leader at an upcoming meeting! What a fun and easy way to offer Service Above Self!

Our own **Fred Heismeyer** will throw out the first pitch at the Wichita Wind Surge baseball game on June 1. Purchase special tickets for that evening and sit in seating just for Rotarians! To get your tickets click on this link and enter the code Rotary:

[Bit.ly/3rSdR/H](https://bit.ly/3rSdR/H)



EWR President **Greg Ek** presented the Distinguished Service Award to Past President **Joe Goetz** (2015–2016) for his many years of service to Rotary during his membership in four clubs across the U.S. Joe and his wife, Gayle, are moving to Wisconsin. Thank you, Joe, for all you've done. We'll miss you!

Denise Hearson, (L), introduced EWR Foundation scholarship recipient **Heather Mills**, who attends K-State. Heather is looking forward to her summer internship in the Accounts Receivable division of Spirit Aerosystems. She thanked us for being interested in her future!



Next Week:

NO MEETING on June 1 because of the Memorial Day holiday. See you at Riverfront Stadium on the evening of June 1 and back at the Wichita Country Club on June 8!



This collection of donations is just a portion of the puzzles, socks, and toiletries gathered by EWR members to give to our veterans who are at the local VA hospital. As always, our club members stepped up to help a good cause. The donations were presented to our speaker, who will distribute them to veterans on our behalf.