



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

Larry Hund	10/23
Jaden Randle	10/29
Tom Church	10/30
Fred Heismeyer	10/31

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Susan Addington

**Invocation, Flag Salute,
and Four-way test:**
Jessica Dunbar

Photography: Ric Wolford

Special Guests:
Michael Andrusak
Nikki Powers
Zach Wetta

Wedding Anniversaries:
Anthony & Emma Ndungu —
11 years

Quote of the Week:

The best way to appreciate your
job is to imagine yourself
without one.

— Oscar Wilde

COL. EDWARD SYKES: A FIGHTER PILOT NEVER RESTS ON HIS LAURELS



Col. Edward Sykes decided in college that he wanted to be a fighter pilot. He earned his degree in electrical engineering and his ROTC commission at the University of Wisconsin. At graduation, the head of his ROTC program told him, “You’re so dumb you didn’t even know you couldn’t do it,” meaning Sykes wasn’t afraid to take chances. Sykes told us that the luckiest day of our lives was the day we were born here in the United States of America.

After graduating from college, Edward Sykes went on to flight school for the Air Force and was stationed at McConnell Air Force Base. His class started with 22 fighter pilots and ended with 16 who went to war together. Every time he sees the photo he thinks of his wife, who was pregnant with their first child.

Col. Sykes recalls that one of the most exhilarating things about being a fighter pilot is getting shot at and missed. The opposite, however, is one of the most hair-raising things one can experience in life.

While overseas, Col. Sykes experienced the deaths of several of his fellow pilots. His friend and roommate at the Thailand air base, Lt. Dave Dinan, was shot down. He ejected from his plane but died after falling 100 feet.

Sykes was responsible for gathering his belongings and transferring them to family members. It was impossible at the time to recover Lt. Dinan’s body because of the hazardous conditions at the site.

Years later, in 2009, Sykes saw Lt. Dinan’s name on the Vietnam Memorial and learned that his body had not been recovered. He vowed to help find him and return him home.

It was a journey that took 9 years and involved working with military organizations that had already conducted missions to find Lt. Dinan’s remains. The pararescueman, or PJ, who had been lowered from a steel hoist to locate Dinan after the crash, traveled to Laos at Sykes’ suggestion to help pinpoint the exact location where he had seen the body.

Ultimately, human remains and other artifacts were delivered to the DPAA forensic laboratory in Hawaii. After analysis, the medical examiners declared the remains to be those of Lt. Dinan.

That led to a memorial service on April 25, 2018 at Arlington National Cemetery. Col. Sykes was there, along with Lt. Dinan’s brothers and fellow members of the 34th Tactical Fighter Squadron. Lt. Dinan had come home; but there are still two more bodies from the 34th Squadron that have not been recovered.

Col. Sykes is on a mission again, this time to find the remains of these two men and bring them home. “I have no time to die,” he said. “I have to find these guys before I reach my expiration date.” Thank you, Col. Sykes for your service and dedication to this country.

Club Announcements:

Guess how many turkey dinners EWR members have purchased so far? 36! President



Dane Estok has issued a challenge to purchase just one more than last year! Let's reach our goal of 75 dinners and, more important, make lots of families happy! You can make your donation through our EWR club website: eastwichitarotary.org, or by bringing a check to a meeting.

Speaking of holidays, please mark

Wednesday, December 14 on your calendar for a special

Christmas Holiday luncheon at our regular lunch meeting site—the Wichita Country Club! Your cost is covered and you can bring a spouse or guest for just \$25. Want more information? Talk with Kim or sign up online.

**Service Above Self Opportunity:**

On **Wednesday, November 2**, volunteers are needed to help set up a house for a refugee family and/or volunteer at the International Rescue Committee warehouse. Seven volunteers are needed at the home and five can lend a hand at the warehouse putting furniture together. If you have a few hours to help, please sign up!

Next Week:

Anne Kraybill with the Wichita Art Museum will be our speaker on **Wednesday, October 26**. **NO MEETING** on November 2.

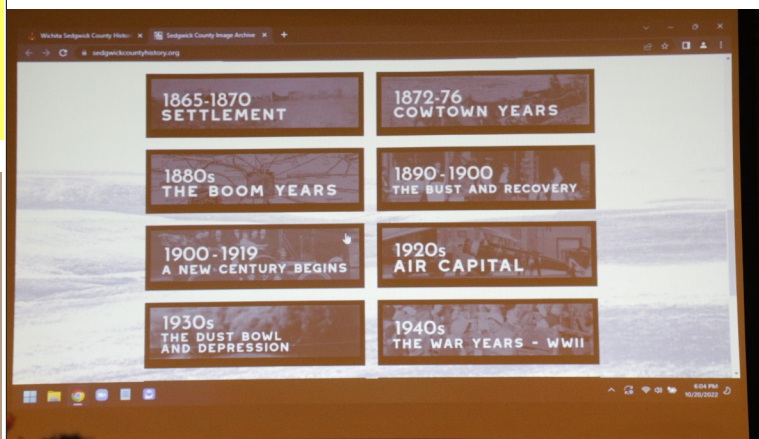
MORE AT ROTARY TODAY



Another Rotary banner exchange! Nikki Powers, a Montana cattle rancher and member of the Anaconda Montana Rotary Club, presented their club banner to EWR President **Dane Estok**, who reciprocated. Originally from Leon, KS, Nikki is in town visiting and looked online for a Rotary club to check out. We're glad you stopped by, Nikki! Come back and see us again!

DISTRICT GRANT CELEBRATION

The Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Museum hosted a reception on October 20 to thank EWR for the District Grant that has made possible their new online photo archive. Pictured L to R: **Dane Estok**, EWR; **Eric Cale**, the Museum's Executive Director; and **Samantha Carter**, Lead Educator.



This is a screenshot of the menu for the new online archive. Historians, educators, and students alike will be able to easily access photos from different eras in Wichita and Sedgwick County's history, thanks to this new digital tool.