

ROTARY NOTARY



Member Birthdays:

Jaden Randle	10/29
Tom Church	10/30
Fred Heismeyer	10/31
Kevin Rathert	11/13

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Elizabeth Farha

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:
Scott Jensen

Member News:
Kelly Dandurand

Photography: Ric Wolford

Special Guests:
Elizabeth Cochran
Kirk Zahn

Rotary Anniversaries:
Craig Burns—29 years
John McEwen—26 years
Joyce Heismeyer—11 years
Anthony Ndungu—5 years
Markus Meyer—1 year

Wedding Anniversaries:
Kim & Beth Goodnight—
47 years
Scott & Amanda Holder—
17 years
Scott & Lori Hampel—9 years

Quote of the Week:

The most important thing about art is to work. Nothing else matters except sitting down every day and trying.

— Steven Pressfield

COWTOWN: A TRIP BACK IN TIME TO WICHITA'S FRONTIER YEARS

Anthony Horsch is the Director of Education and Interpretation for Old Cowtown Museum, or Cowtown, as we know it. Cowtown tells Wichita's founding story during the years of 1865–1880, when brave pioneers journeyed here to this settlement on the Chisholm Trail.



There was no reason for Wichita to exist, according to Anthony Horsch. Its rivers were not navigable and it wasn't anywhere near a railroad. Despite those limitations, in 1864 Jesse Chisholm established a trading post on the banks of the Little Arkansas River, part of a larger cattle trail that later became known as the Chisholm Trail. Eventually the railroads did come after local investors risked their fortunes to entice them by putting up a \$200,000 bond. Traders J. R. Mead and Darius Munger organized the Wichita Town Company, naming our city after the tribe of Native Americans who had lived here and were driven from the area by the Osage tribes.

Cowtown looks back at this period in Wichita's history, recreating it with a collection of historic structures, but also

a 10,000 piece permanent collection of period furnishings, art, clothing and domestic textiles, tools and machinery, farming equipment and rolling stock. Currently there are 54 historic and recreated buildings at Cowtown, which is located along the banks of the Arkansas River, just west of downtown Wichita. Half of the buildings are original, donated by people who care about preserving history.

Cowtown got its start in 1950 with the donation of a historic building. More donated buildings followed, and by 1954 visionaries imagined creating an entire town, including a train depot and grocery store. Today Cowtown includes five different districts: Residential, Industrial and Business, Old Town, Wichita's Beginnings, and Agriculture/Farming.

In 1958 the Girl Scouts began serving as volunteers, a partnership that would last for the next 50 years. Today, volunteers are a critical component of telling our city's history as interpreters of real people's lives. Interpreters serve as baseball players, gunfighters, saloon girls, cowboys, Victorian dancers, and more.

Horsch is realistic about the challenges Cowtown faces in connecting with the "TikTok generation," as he puts it. Another challenge is bringing visitors back after they've seen this living history museum once. The key, he believes, is to make history relevant to people coming up. Upcoming plans include more interactive exhibits, including a children's area with many hands-on activities. To Horsch, the future for this one-of-a-kind living museum is even more exciting than its past.

Club Announcements:

Guess how many turkey dinners EWR members have purchased so far? **49!** President



Dane Estok has issued a challenge to purchase just one more than last year! Let's reach our goal of **76** 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 the November 9 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.

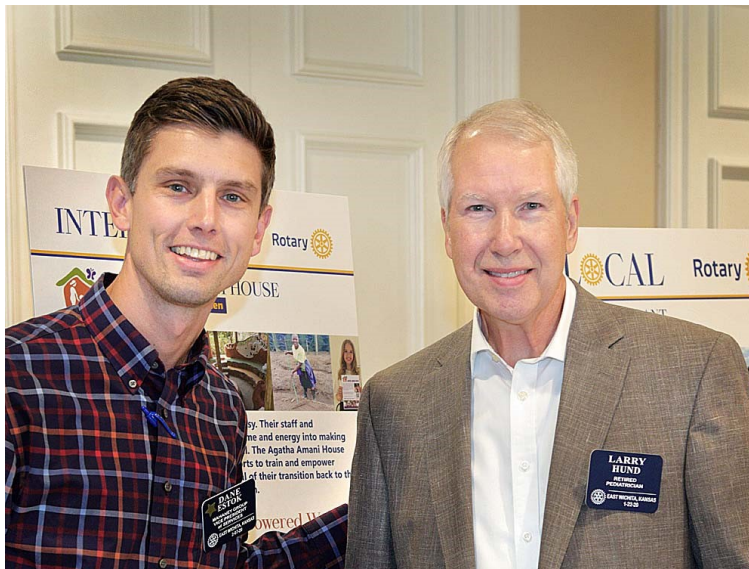
**Service Above Self Opportunity:**

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:

NO MEETING on **Wednesday, November 2**. See you back at the Wichita Country Club on November 9.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY



President Dane Estok presented Dr. Larry Hund with his first Paul Harris pin, which is a thank you for contributing at least \$1,000 to the Rotary International Foundation. We're grateful for this support, Larry, and glad you joined EWR!

AWARD FOR POLIO PLUS SUPPORT

Immediate Past President Greg Ek and members of East Wichita Rotary were honored at the Rotary District 5890 Conference for our support of the Polio Plus Campaign. Greg said, "Over the last few years we've raised funds for Polio Plus. Last year we raised more than \$4,000, which goes directly toward vaccines, which are approximately \$3.00 per vaccine. This means we impacted more than a thousand lives."

Rotary International's commitment to eradicate polio began in 1954. We have been so close to taking this disease off the face of the earth, but a case surfaced recently in New York recently, emphasizing the need to continue to raise funds, and awareness, through our support of the Polio Plus campaign.



COWTOWN'S INTERPRETERS BRING WICHITA'S EARLY HISTORY TO LIFE



Cowtown wouldn't exist without the many volunteers who serve as costumed interpreters. Here, four interpreters stand in front of a wood-framed depot build in 1887 and given to the Museum in 1954 by the Atchison Topeka & Santa Fe Railway Company.

Photo by Anne Schneider