

# ROTARY NOTARY



## GRADUATION PLUS: HELPING HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SUCCEED

### Member Birthdays:

Steve Houlik	9/23
Joyce Heismeyer	9/29

### At Rotary Today:

**Greeter:** Ric Wolford

**Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:**  
Jim Crawford

**Photography:** Ric Wolford

### Special Guests:

Dr. Jyotshna Mahapatra  
Dr. S. Pattnaik  
Chris Stanyer

### Rotary Anniversaries:

Ryan Heikes—6 years

### Wedding Anniversaries:

Sam & Elizabeth Farha—  
8 years  
Justin & Meghan Baxter—  
5 years

### Quote of the Week:

Stay away from those people who try to disparage your ambitions. Small minds will always do that, but great minds will give you a feeling that you can become great too.

— Mark Twain



Kelly Bielefeld (L) is the Executive Director of the Office of College and Career Readiness for the Wichita Public Schools/USD 259. Gil Alvarez (R) is the district's Deputy Superintendent. Who's in the middle? **Anne Schneider**, district employee, EWR member, and editor of this newsletter.

**B**eing the largest school district in Kansas presents both opportunities and challenges to administrators who seek to provide students with the best education available.

Challenges come in the form of having a student population with many diverse needs and backgrounds. For example, more than 105 different languages are spoken in students' homes.

But opportunities abound as well. Teaming up with local businesses to identify the skills they need employees to have, Wichita Public Schools (WPS) has developed Graduation Plus, a plan to give high school graduates not only a diploma, but an industry-recognized credential.

Earning an industry credential such as a food handler's card or the Automotive Service Excellence certification is one

of four "Market Value Assets" WPS is helping students obtain. The other three assets are: 1) Work-Based Learning, where students work offsite for a certain number of hours per week, learning valuable workplace skills. 2) Entrepreneurial experience in creating a business and selling a product or service. "Market Days" at the district's high schools held every fall and spring give students the opportunity to create a product, sell it, and keep the net profits. 3) Earning college credit in high school through Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate, or Dual Credit programs gives students a head start on their plans for life after high school.

What are the benefits of all this investment in local high school students? For one, our graduates are Wichita's

future. More than 200,000 WPS graduates have shaped Wichita's legacy. Also, WPS graduates are annually the single largest source of future workforce members in our community. Partnerships to retain the talent we have are critical to ensure we have the workforce we need.

Helping students find their passion is an essential part of connecting them to the learning pathways available in high school. Beginning with seventh grade, every WPS student must create an individualized plan of study. Using an online app called "Xello," students identify what possible careers they might like to pursue and what coursework is necessary to begin working in that field. They can begin building a resume and tracking their career exploration opportunities. It's an exciting time for today's students as WPS helps them achieve their dreams for the future.

**Announcements:**

Mark your calendars NOW! On **Thursday, October 22** the Wichita-Sedgwick County Historical Society will host a special celebration of live online launch of the Sedgwick County Image archive. This is a project EWR helped fund with a 2021—2022 District Grant. Spouses and guests are welcome! More details to follow, but for now, please mark your calendar and plan to attend.

Special thanks to **Alison O'Trimble** for volunteering to chair our annual Thanksgiving dinner delivery drive! Last year's dinner was \$80.63 and we can assume that the price will go up. Donations in any amount are graciously accepted!



# MORE AT ROTARY TODAY



Dr. Jyotshna Mahapatra and her husband, Dr. S. Pattnaik, who are visiting from India, presented EWR President **Dane Estok** with a banner from their club. They are retired university professors who enjoy travel and community service. They are also long-time Rotarians. Because they have family here, they regularly visit Wichita and have visited our club before. Welcome back and we hope your stay this time is wonderful!

# ROTARIANS MIX IT UP AT CHICKEN 'N PICKLE



August 31 was a rare occurrence in that it was the fifth Wednesday of the month. Instead of a meeting, we had a mixer! The summer heat made it too hot to play pickleball, so we stayed indoors for tasty snacks and cool libations.



Clockwise from top: 1. **Stewart Crow** hams it up for the camera. 2. **Justin Baxter** gets ready to sample fried pickles, one of Chicken 'n Pickle's specialties. 3. **Alex Kruse** enjoys the food and atmosphere at Chicken 'n Pickle. 4. New EWR member **Scott Nelson** (L) and Club President **Dane Estok** wind down their work day with fun, food and friends from EWR.

**Service Above Self:**

**NO MEETING** on Wednesday, October 5 because it's the first Wednesday of the month. How about getting together with some of your fellow Rotarians for a special "Service Above Self" project that day or even that week? You'll feel good and even more important, you'll make a difference to someone who needs you.

**Next Week:**

Lindsay Benacka, Director of Arts and Cultural Services with the City of Wichita, will be our speaker.

