



ROTARY NOTARY

Birthdays:

Joyce Heismeyer	9/29
Susan Addington	10/3

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Fred Heismeyer

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:
Robin McGonigle

Rotary Anniversaries:

Kevin Rathert—22 years
Lynn Jeane—19 years
Nancy Wiebe—4 years

Wedding Anniversaries:

Marshall and JoAnn Millsap—24 years
Justin and Meghan Baxter—1 year

Quote of the Week:

Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the axe.

—Abraham Lincoln

ROTARY IS GOING TO THE DOGS (AND CATS AND RABBITS...)



Mark Eby has been the CEO of the Kansas Humane Society since 2014. Founded by prominent Wichitans of the day, the organization celebrates its 130th birthday this year. It is one of the oldest not-for-profit organizations in our community and the largest animal shelter in Kansas. So far this year, 5,377 animals have been adopted at the Kansas Humane Society.

Some Rotarians were afraid to visit the Kansas Humane Society (KHS) for today's Fireside meeting. Not afraid of the animals themselves, but afraid we'd end up falling in love with a kitten or puppy and insisting on taking one home.

Yes, there were some very adorable animals that we couldn't help fawning over. The great thing about KHS is how committed they are to ensure their animals are adopted. In fact, an animal is adopted there on average every 15 minutes that the shelter is open.

Even better news: the save rate is 94%. That's phenomenal, given that KHS takes every animal that comes in, including those that are vicious and may have attacked someone. When Eby arrived at KHS the save rate was 72%.

The animal population at KHS consists mostly of dogs and cats, with a few rabbits up for adoption as well. The facility does not handle reptiles—those are available at the Wichita Animal Shelter next door.

Three full-time veterinarians work at KHS, along with 47 other full time and 15 part-time employees. The veterinarians work diligently to spay and neuter the dogs and cats who come there. During 2017 a total of 9,120 spay/neuter surgeries were performed, with 31% of those subsidized by donors for qualified owners. Another 907 procedures were for feral cats.

Most impressive about the facility is its cleanliness. Staff and volunteers do 27 loads of laundry daily. They hand wash every pet dish. Living areas are cleaned

multiple times a day. A new innovation implemented last year was the creation of a special ward for dogs with kennel cough, which is the equivalent of a human cold and runs its course within a couple of weeks.

The annual budget for KHS is \$3.8 million. Half of its income is raised through Woofstock, the organization's only annual fundraising event, and private donations. KHS does not receive any government or United Way funding.

How can you help? Sign up to attend Woofstock, which is always held on the first Saturday in October. (October 6 this year.) Adopt an animal, donate, volunteer, or help provide much-needed items like peanut butter, old bath towels, newspapers, and pet treats. The complete list is on their website:

www.kshumane.org

MEET JAREN JOHNSON

Upcoming Events:

October 2—Remember the film “Catch Me If You Can?” about Frank Abagnale, who posed as a Pan American World Airways pilot and other schemes before his 19th birthday? He will present “Outsmart Con Artists” at the Hughes Metroplex on Tuesday, October 2 from 6:30—8 p.m. The presentation is free to the public.

October 5—OSCAR (Our School Cares About Reading) Reading Day at Buckner Elementary. Sign up to read out loud to a charming group of children who think you’re cool because you read!

October 20—Help distribute hygiene items to very grateful families at the Head-to-Toe Hygiene Pantry! We need 12-15 Rotarians to help for a few hours.



Jaren Johnson (L) is our newest EWR member. He has recently joined J.P. Weigand & Sons, Inc. as a sales associate. Jaren is looking forward to participating in both service projects and fun. He’s seen here with his sponsor, Kim Goodnight.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY

This wall inside the KHS building features memorials to beloved pets whose owners remember them with a ceramic likeness. The memorials are also a fundraiser for KHS, which relies entirely on fees and contributions for financial support.



Our Condolences:

To Kim Hurtig, whose father passed away last week.

Next Week:

Jeff Geoffroy will present “Security Challenges in an Uncertain World.”



“Take me home, Fred and Joyce!” This precious pooch was one of several animals introduced to EWR members during today’s Fireside. Didn’t take one with you today? Don’t worry, says Mark Eby. All of the animals we saw will be adopted. That’s great news!