



ROTARY NOTARY

Member Birthdays:

<i>Susan Addington</i>	10/3
<i>Michael Caffrey</i>	10/6

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Brian Burrus

Invocation, Flag Salute, and Four-way test:
Fred Heismeyer

Rotary Anniversaries:
Kevin Rathert—25 years
Lynn Jeane—22 years

Wedding Anniversaries:
Justin and Meghan Baxter—4 years
Michael Moeder and Rebecca Tong—4 years

Photography:
Ric Wolford

Quote of the Week:

Happiness does not come from football awards. It's terrible to correlate happiness with football. Happiness comes from a good job, being able to feed your wife and kids. I don't dream football, I dream the American dream – two cars in a garage, be a happy father.

— Barry Sanders

WHAT'S NEW AT THE INTRUST BANK ARENA?

AJ Boleski is the General Manager of the INTRUST Bank Arena, Wichita's premier entertainment venue. A 20-year veteran of ASM Global, AJ and his team have also managed the Orpheum Theatre since 2013.



What if you operated one of the top 50 entertainment venues in the U.S. and had to shut down for 18 months because of a global pandemic? That's what happened to AJ Boleski, General Manager of Wichita's INTRUST Bank Arena, which hosts 350,000 guests annually and has hosted nearly 4 million guests since opening in 2010.

The INTRUST Bank Arena (IBA) hosted Blake Shelton in March 2020. And then it closed. Today has been AJ's first opportunity to speak to groups like EWR since then.

However, the IBA didn't shut down altogether during its 18-month closure. Many will remember that it hosted the first public COVID vaccinations last spring. But AJ and his staff are happy to announce that live shows have returned, beginning on Saturday, October 2 with the comedy group Dude Perfect,

an American sports and comedy group headquartered in Frisco, TX. Former college roommates, the quintet hosts a YouTube channel with 56.7 million subscribers. After the past year and a half, it seems fitting to kick off a new season of events with a group of guys who can make us laugh.

Christian hip hop rapper and singer TobyMac is on the schedule for the following Saturday, October 9, followed by another Toby, Toby Keith, on Friday, October 15. The Wichita Thunder professional hockey team kicks off its season on Friday, October 29, and coming up in late January is ventriloquist Jeff Dunham.

Even more exciting is knowing that the IBA will host the Women's NCAA Division I Basketball Regionals from March 25-28 next spring. Looking ahead, the IBA will host the

Men's NCAA Division I Basketball Regionals in 2025.

Other fun facts about Wichita's premier entertainment venue: its seating capacity for the Metallica concert was 15,690. For an NCAA basketball game the capacity is 15,004, and for most concerts it's 10,500. The lower bowl can accommodate 6,500 guests, and a theater showing will host 3,500 guests.

2020 marked the ten-year anniversary of the INTRUST Bank Arena. 890 events were held during the first ten years, hosting 3,828,676 guests, with a total of \$168 million in economic activity, or \$16.8 million annually.

What lies ahead? ASM Global, the management company that operates IBA, will begin operating Century II beginning in January 2022. Summing up his experience this past year, AJ says his goal is to keep moving forward and not go back.

Announcements:

Across the Rotary world, October 24 is World Polio Day. **Kelly Dandurand** will chair this event for EWR. In the past our club members have raised funds to support Polio Plus, Rotary International's vaccination program. *Your donation to the campaign will count toward your Paul Harris fellow standing.*

Reds Whites and Blues Wine Dinner:

Our fellow Rotarians in West Wichita are hosting a wine dinner on Saturday, October 9 at the Dugan-Gorges Conference Center located at Newman University. Doors open at 6:30 and tickets are \$75. Please see Kim's pre-meeting email for a flyer with all the details.

District Conference:

Our annual District Conference will be held October 29—30 here in Wichita. District Governor Fred Heismeyer promises a fun, as well as educational time. More details to follow next week!

Next Week:

Humanities Kansas speaker Ron Wilson will talk about "Ruralpreneurs: Tumbleweeds and Talents in Kansas Communities."

TURKEY DRIVE 2021



As part of our commitment to Service Above Self, East Wichita Rotarians have been delivering Thanksgiving turkey dinners to area families in need for at least the last 15 years. Not only do Rotarians deliver a delicious dinner that serves four to six hungry people, but they do so with a smile and a big helping of good cheer. For some, that means almost as much as the mashed potatoes and pumpkin pie.

The above photo was taken in 2016 but the process is pretty much the same every year. Individual club members make donations to purchase the dinners, which we estimate will cost between \$75—\$80 this year, our Club Executive Kim Hurtig buys them, faithful John McEwen gets a trailer and picks them up for distribution, and then presto! We distribute them to families and bring a lot of joy in the process.

In keeping with our them of "And One" we are setting a goal of adding one more dinner to last year's delivery total of 60. Please consider making a donation to buy a dinner, sign up to deliver one, or do both. You'll kick off the holiday season knowing you did something good, giving you a warm glow that will last well into the new year.

HAVE YOU SIGNED UP FOR OUR UPCOMING FIRESIDE ON OCT 20?

Next Wednesday, October 6 will be the last day to sign up for a tour at McConnell Air Force Base, arranged by our own **Cathy McClain**.

We will get to see the KC-135 and the new refueler, the KC-46. Reservations are **REQUIRED**, and up to 80 may attend. You may bring **one** guest at a cost of \$12 for lunch.

All attendees must provide their name, birthdate, and KS driver's license number for a pre-event security check. Plan for a longer meeting than usual. We will meet at Countryside Christian Church, 1919 S. Rock Road, and depart promptly at 11:30 on Air Force buses to go to the base.

Masks will be required of all attending. This is an exciting opportunity made possible by a fellow EWR member—one of the amazing benefits of being part of Rotary!

