



ROTARY NOTARY

Birthdays:

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| <i>John Hurst</i> | 11/06 |
| <i>Steve Peterson</i> | 11/06 |

At Rotary Today:

Greeter: Ryan Henry

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

Rotary Anniversary:

Craig Burns, 24 years
Mac McKee, 23 years
John McEwen, 21 years
Joyce Heismeyer, 6 years

Special Guests:

Barbara Crawford, wife of Jim Crawford
Wendy Johnson, USD 259 staff and wife of Terry Wiggers

You Heard It Here First

Scott Holder apologized for the microphone, which faded in and out a few times during Dr. Thompson's presentation. "I've thought about this, and I believe the Russians have hacked us," he said.

Quote of the Week:

Doubt kills more dreams than failure ever will.

—*Karim Seddiki*

ALICIA THOMPSON: FROM STUDENT TO TEACHER TO SUPERINTENDENT



Last February Alicia Thompson was named Superintendent of the Wichita Public Schools. Dr. Thompson attended Carter Elementary, Chisholm Trail Elementary, Brooks Middle School, and Heights High School. Wanting to make a difference in the lives of children, she briefly considered a career as a pediatrician but became a teacher instead. As an administrator she was one of two superintendents for elementary schools. She's pictured here with Wendy Johnson, (L), Division Director, Strategic Communications.

Alicia Thompson is proud of the Wichita Public Schools. You can hear the delight in her voice as she talks about the students she's met as a teacher, administrator, and now the leader of the largest school district in Kansas. She mentioned that the size of some districts—1,700—equals the student body at just one of our high schools.

With the size of our district comes great diversity. Different cultures, languages, and learning styles are all part of the makeup of each classroom. Students come from 96 countries with more than 119 languages spoken in the home.

For Dr. Thompson and her staff, this diversity leads to literacy challenges. It also leads to differences in

parental engagement.

"For some parents in crisis, they're engaged if they get their child up, get him dressed, and put him on the bus," Thompson explained. For other parents, engagement means volunteering at their child's school. "We're most successful at involving parents when we meet them where they are and help them see the importance of their involvement."

When asked about absenteeism and the issues it causes, Dr. Thompson explained that not all schools have equal attendance issues. The district has identified specific patterns regarding the elementary and middle schools that "feed" into a particular school, called "feeder patterns," to deal with attendance issues early on. West High, located south and west of downtown Wichita, is a school

that is being targeted with special programs to deal with attendance issues.

Dr. Thompson and her staff are committed to create successful high school graduates who have:

- 1) Academic preparation
- 2) Cognitive preparation
- 3) Technical skills
- 4) Employability skills
- 5) Civic engagement.

To help students identify possible career paths, the district uses a tool that navigates through career and technical education pathways in six areas.

It takes all of us to help our schools, and students, be the best they can be. There's a role for nearly everyone—reading out loud, listening to students read, helping at lunch, and assisting at the library. Thompson urged us to contact the district, visit a school, and get involved.

Upcoming Events:

Tuesday, Nov. 21—Turkey delivery, followed by mixer at Deano's, 21st and Webb (SE corner). Kick off the Thanksgiving holiday with friends from Rotary! The fun begins at 5:15.

Wednesday, Nov. 22— No Rotary meeting.

Saturday, December 2— Annual party to decorate Christmas trees with residents of the Wichita Children's Home.

Wednesday, Dec. 13—Annual Rotary Christmas party at the Wichita Country Club.

Talking Turkey:

One of our most popular projects is purchasing a turkey dinner for a family in need. Rotarians purchased 100 dinners last year; let's make it at least 101 this year. Each dinner, which serves 6, costs \$57. Consider making a donation to purchase one dinner, but contributions in any amount are welcome and appreciated. **The deadline to make a contribution is NEXT WEDNESDAY, November 8.** Delivery day is **TUESDAY, November 21.**

**Next Week:**

Our speaker next Wednesday will be Jessica Blood of Blood Orchard and ReBorn Boutique.

MORE AT ROTARY TODAY



Ryan Henry, (R), greets Tim Link (L) before today's meeting. Volunteering to serve as a greeter or to lead the invocation/four-way test/flag salute is a great way to show service above self. Sign up to volunteer by contacting Kim Hurtig.



Anthony Ndungu (pronounced Dun-goo) is our club's newest member. He hasn't been formally introduced yet, but be sure and introduce yourself to him when you see him at a meeting.

Todd Bailey discussed a new strategy for recruiting prospects and members for our club. New members will be matched with a mentor, who will introduce them to other club members and help them enjoy their Rotary experience even more.

Thanks to **Fred Thurlow**, who has agreed to fill the vacant position on the board of the Rotary Club of East Wichita Foundation, which provides college scholarships to area students.

You won't want to miss the Christmas party, said **Drew Rooks**. Great food along with amazing entertainment! Invitations will be mailed this week.

A SNAPSHOT OF USD 259

Following is a snapshot of student demographic data taken annually in September. It represents the total number of students served by the Wichita Public Schools, including full- and part-time students, pre-school, and special programs.



- USD 259 is the largest school district in Kansas and the fourth largest employer in south central Kansas.
- There are 50,641 students enrolled in the district.
- Students come from 96 countries and more than 119 languages are spoken in their homes.
- More than 32,000 lunches and nearly 13,000 breakfasts are served every day during the school year.
- More than 16,000 students travel to school by bus.
- More than 500 businesses and community partners support students.
- Graduation rates in 2016 were 73%, up 15.7% in six years. Graduates earned more than \$34.5 million in total scholarships in 2017.
- The district has 54 elementary schools, 15 middle schools, 3 K-8 schools, 9 high schools, 8 special schools, and 4 special program locations. Of these school sites, 24 house magnet school programs.

Source: www.usd259.org