



Rotary District 5710 Eastern Kansas Rotary

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[rotary5710.org](http://rotary5710.org)

July, 2018

## MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR BLANCHE PARKS

Dear Friends in Rotary District #5710:

Congratulations to District Governor Adam Ehlert on a job well done and a successful Rotary year! Thanks Adam for your friendship and support. Also, congratulations to our own RI Director Larry & Lois Dimmitt. I am just returning from the RI International Convention in Toronto, Canada, and I was so proud as RI Director Larry and Lois were introduced on stage. Our District is fortunate and proud to have an RI Director in our membership.



This year's international convention was a great experience! Rotarians from all over the world were in attendance and there was lots of learning and networking. I am fired up and ready to go for our District #5710 Rotary year! RI President Barry Rassin stated, "This is our time, this is our opportunity to do whatever we want to do."

We have a lot to do! And I am ready for an exciting year. I believe we have the power to make a difference and we have an opportunity to make this one of the best years Rotary has seen.

At the convention, we heard that Rotary has transformed the world by eradicating polio as we are now down to 11 polio cases. We have much to celebrate; however, we must finish the job.

Working with our young people will be one of my priorities this year. In our District we are fortunate to have our excellent RYLA, Youth Exchange, Interact and Rotaract programs. This year we will be celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Rotaract as part of Rotary's present and future. I plan to visit our Interact and Rotaract Clubs and programs and work to turn Rotaracters into Rotarians.

We look forward to the radio and billboard ads as part of our current Public Image *People of Action* campaign. This campaign will be a pilot project in partnership with surrounding districts. Another goal is to expand our Public Image to involve the television media also. We will be working to continue the momentum to raise and grow Rotary's image in our communities. With the expansion of the public image campaign and our emphasis on our young people, I anticipate we will see an increase in our club memberships!

As a District, we will continue to celebrate 30 years of Women in Rotary which will culminate in 2019.

We will be reciprocating the Friendship Exchange with fellow Rotarians in South Africa this year and there will be other opportunities for us to consider with fellow Rotarians.

Upcoming Club Visits are currently being planned. District #5710 Rotary Clubs are the best Rotary Clubs in the whole wide world!! I look forward to not only visiting each club with official brief remarks, but I am also coming to celebrate each club and all you do for Rotary. Let's have FUN and celebrate!

We have much work to do as Rotarians as we carry out our projects and work in our communities. Thank you for being *People of Action* and for your commitment to Rotary! I look forward to working with all of you and your clubs this coming year!

Sincerely,  
Blanche



## District News & Events

### MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR TEAM TRAINING

#### TEAM Rotary Training

Transform your club. Engage your members. Advance your mission. **Make a Difference!**

**Saturday, August 18, 2018 ~ 8:30 am - 1:00 pm**

Cider Gallery, 810 Pennsylvania St., Lawrence, KS

**\*\*Grants Training Session, 11:00—1:00 \*\* @ Lawrence Beer Co.**  
(next door to Cider Gallery within walking distance)



### ANOTHER EXCITING, SUCCESSFUL RYLA CAMP IN 2018

By Faron Barr

On June 7th, we graduated the RYLA 2018 camp! Rotary Youth Leadership Academy 2018 was attended by 65 brilliant students who learned about leadership, community service, and civic engagement. These students represented 25 clubs from all over the state of Kansas. This five-day experience featured several hands-on projects with many local leaders giving presentations that were educational, active, and enlightening.

As usual, there was one main group project that required a presentation by each group involving each participant in the group. The topic on which each small group presented was the group's choice of one of the following topics: Kansas Brain Drain, Year Round School, Crimes Against Humanities, and Friday Night Lights. This year we had 7 groups of 9-10 participants in each group lead by a KU student facilitator. The event finished with these groups presenting their presentations at a graduation ceremony attended by RYLA staff, parents, and Rotarians. Many of the students expressed that they were enriched by the experience and some even said it was life-changing. If you have not already heard from these students, I encourage you to reach out to them and hear their experiences.

Thank you to all the clubs who sponsored students this year. Without your support, this program would not be successful. In January of 2019, we will announce next year's dates. I would like each club in the district to be thinking of who they may want to sponsor to RYLA 2019. Let's work together to make every RYLA year successful by promoting the values of Rotary to our youth.

A photo album of more pictures is available on the district website, [here](#).



## MULTI-DISTRICT PUBLIC IMAGE CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY

By Pat O'Donnell, District P.I. Chair

Trying to promote Rotary beyond a local community is a challenge not for the faint of heart. Often times issues like District boundaries, media coverage areas, media standards and the multiple approvals required can test the resolve to the project.

Finding a way to be equitable for the major metro areas as well as the smaller rural communities adds to the challenge. In other words, will it be fair to all concerned? All four districts, 161 Clubs and some 7400 Rotarians.

Thanks to the leadership of District Governors, Adam Ehlert, Allen Garner, Robert Mendoza and Gary Norris we were able to develop a multi-district media campaign. RI Director Larry Dimmit opened the door to support from staff in Evanston who assisted in the development of the campaign and tracking logistics.

This effort has been developing as the 2017-2018 Rotary year is winding down adding yet another challenge when seeking support from Districts and Clubs. Some had available budget, while others did not. We adopted the stance that it did not matter what was given rather than something was given in the spirit of collaboration and it worked.

Following many rounds of exchanging drafts of the copy between Rotary staff, five public radio stations and District leaders, we reached the point of developing messages that spoke to our region, the new Rotary brand and the public radio standards.

Rotary International also stepped up and provided funding for 7 billboards located within the four district boundaries. Due to the response from the districts and Clubs, we are able to negotiate a 30 second video with the new People of Action brand to run on low power tv stations covering much of the Kansas/Missouri area. A ten second video provided by RI staff will also run on Facebook and LinkedIn during the campaign.

Next step was to coordinate the art work for billboards to be developed and installed around the multi-district region. We used the new billboard art available in the brand center, with one small alteration. All the media efforts are being directed to "FindRotary.org" which links directly to a special url developed by Rotary staff in order to track the number of "hits" and where the interested people were referred. This is the key to measuring the success of the campaign.

By the time this newsletter is distributed, the campaign will be underway, but the results not known. Watch for results in the coming months.



## NEW MEMBERS FOR JUNE

|                 |   |
|-----------------|---|
| Baldwin City    | Shpendi Lluhani   |
| DeSoto          | Andy Jacober  |
| Downtown Topeka | Zachary Ahrens, Susan Alexander, Lois Dimmitt, James Jeffries, Orion Jordon |
| Leawood         | Kevin Berman  |
| Louisburg       | Becky Bowes   |
| Manhattan Konza | Austin Peterson   |
| Marysville      | Chase Williams  |
| Shawnee         | Ross Johnson  |

WELCOME



## DISTRICT 5710 SUPPORT OF POLIO PLUS / 2017-2018

By Jim Arnett, District 5710 Polio Ambassador

There is good news for Polio Eradication in that as we approach the end of this Rotary Year, for the last month there have been ZERO new Polio cases. The total number of newly reported cases has remained at only 11, the last occurring in Pakistan on May 18th, and earlier, Afghanistan's most recent case occurred on April 27th. Major efforts and National Immunization Days have taken place in these countries, made possible by the continued dedication of Rotarians around the world. The individual 5710 Clubs and our District Foundation have helped by providing an amazing level of support of Polio Plus throughout this year. Here are some of the highlights and successes of that support for 2017-2018.

In October as World Polio Day approached, the District's Foundation agreed to challenge the District's 44 Clubs to a "6X Matching Gift" campaign. As the word spread, donations poured in from Clubs and Individual Rotarians and by November \$64,000.00 had been contributed which when combined with the District's and the Gates Foundation's matching gifts yielded \$372,000 for Polio Plus. With that success and continued enthusiasm from the Clubs, the District created the END POLIO NOW Flags to publicly promote Polio Plus and provide to Clubs to be flown during additional fundraising events that many Clubs had planned. As the annual District Conference approached the Club contributions for this year had reached \$92,000, and a new challenge was issued at the Conference to push the year's funds over the \$100,000 mark! And we did it!!! A special thank you goes to the Clubs whose year-end fundraising events included Polio Plus and took us over the top; and with matching donations helped District 5710's support approach one-half a \$Million for Polio Eradication.

With the new Rotary Year starting please encourage your club members to turn out and support "STRIKE-OUT-POLIO" on July 27th at the T-Bones Park, and start planning your End-Polio-Now fund raisers for World Polio Day October 24th. See the May Newsletter for Polio Event Ideas, wear your "End Polio Now" lapel button and remember, we are "THIS CLOSE"!



Come Celebrate District 5710 with friends and family as we gather to welcome Blanche Parks as our new District Governor and raise money and awareness for the fight against Polio!

Fri, July 27, 2018  
5 - 10:00 PM

Eventbrite

**ENDPOLIONOW**

**Strike Out**

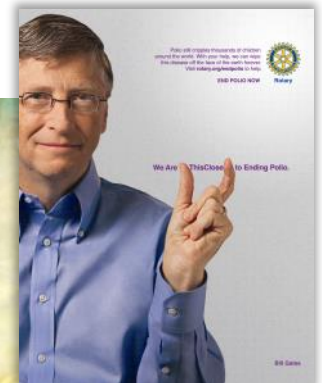
**POLIO**

T-Bones Ballpark • 1800 Village West Parkway • Kansas City, KS 66111

We will celebrate our fight against polio as we cheer on the T-Bones against Chicago starting at 7:05pm! Come early for food, drinks and fellowship. We will have a few small activities for the kids and a brief update and talk from Blanche Parks, our new District 5710 Governor!

Please contact Ben McNany of the Village West Rotary Club at [benm@mcananyconstruction.com](mailto:benm@mcananyconstruction.com) or at 913-631-5440

[www.tbonesbaseball.com](http://www.tbonesbaseball.com)



## ROTARY DISTRICT PEACE COMMITTEE NEWS



### Peace Fellowship Program

District 5710 has endorsed three outstanding candidates for the Peace Fellowship professional development certificate program. This is a 3-month program in peace and conflict resolution at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand. The tuition and fees, room and board, round-trip transportation, and all study expenses are paid by Rotary International. There is no fee to our district or the nominating club for this invaluable program!

Our candidates are:

**Gregory Paul**, Interim Dept Head of Communication Studies, Kansas State University – nominated by the Manhattan Club

**Stephanie Keith**, Director of Operations and Outreach, Avanse, Chicago, IL – nominated by the Manhattan Club

**Captain Michael Cross**, Community Outreach Bureau, Topeka Police Department – nominated by the Topeka South Club

Congratulations to these candidates on their endorsement by District 5710 and we wish them the best of luck in the international selection process. Rotary International will announce awarded Fellows in November 2018. If you would like more information on how to nominate a candidate next year, please contact Patti Mellard at [patti@keystaffing.com](mailto:patti@keystaffing.com).

### Rotary District 5710 takes a stand against human sex trafficking!

District 5710 has partnered with the Kansas Office of the Attorney General fight against human sex trafficking. We have joined the **Demand an End** public awareness campaign to bring attention to those who purchase sex with minors in our communities. This important effort is being launched on July 9<sup>th</sup> with a news conference. DG Blanche Parks will represent Rotary and deliver words of support at this press conference.

All clubs are asked to join in support of this partnership; here are ways to get involved:

Attend the District TEAM Training on Saturday, August 18, 8:30-1:00 to hear a presentation on the subject.

Contact District Peace Chair Patti Mellard **after July 9** for more information or to set up a time for her or a committee member to bring a program to your club.

Patti's contact info: [patti@keystaffing.com](mailto:patti@keystaffing.com), work (785) 272-9999, cell (785) 640-9999.

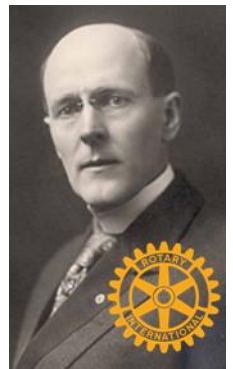
**END  
DEMAND AN  
END**

## A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE PAUL HARRIS FELLOW

By: John Donovan, District Historian

As someone interested in the history of Rotary, my club, and our District, I spend a lot of time poking around websites, reading the archives of *The Rotarian* Magazine, plowing through the Proceedings of the International Convention which for many decades also served the same purpose of the current Manual of Procedure regarding governance. One of those websites is that of the Rotary Global History Fellowship, of which I am a member.

The RGHF website offers [this history of the Paul Harris Fellow](#): "The most important step to promote voluntary giving to The Rotary Foundation occurred in January, 1957, when the Paul Harris Fellow recognition was established and bestowed to those who showed appreciation for and encourage substantial contributions to what was then the Foundation's only program, Rotary Foundation Fellowships for Advanced Study, the precursor to Ambassadorial Scholarships. Early Paul Harris Fellows received a certificate of recognition with three categories of distinction based on cumulative giving: Individual PHF (\$1000), Honorary Fellow (\$500-1000), Memorial Contributor, (\$100-300). The first Paul Harris Fellows include 1937-38 RI Director Allison G. Brush and longtime RI Treasurer Rufus F. Chapin, both for donations they made in 1946. Mrs. Adan Vargas was the first woman to receive the recognition, for a gift made in 1953. Mrs. Harry L. Jones was the second, and one of only five people recognized for contributions made in 1957. In January 1958, a new form of recognition of Sustaining Contributor for minimum annual contributions of \$100 was authorized. The Sustaining Contributor recognition was in the form of a pocket card. "



I would note that the PHF originally was for a straight up \$1000 donation, or that cumulative amount in any given year. Not a cumulative total over multiple years as we know it today. The Rotarian published the list of PHFs (also called Major Donors at the time) until they got up to 1000, which took until 1970. That led me to poke through all the lists, to figure out who our first Paul Harris Fellows were in the clubs that now comprise D5710.

Our first PHF was in 1965, to William Bunten, of Topeka West. Our second was in 1967, to Homer Hiebert of Topeka Noon, and his was a posthumous recognition. Our third, and last of the first 1000, in 1970, was DG Ray Dobnick, of Leavenworth. He's not listed as a posthumous recognition, but it's possible. He died in office, in a car wreck in Shawnee Mission, when coming back from an event there, in May 1970.

I feel I should note that \$1000 in 1965 when Bill Bunten made his contribution equals \$8,063.72 in May 2018, according to the CPI calculator at the US Bureau of Labor Statistics. Today's Major Donor Level 1 (\$10K) wouldn't even be a PHF +1 by that standard. Things change.

Next month I'll have a piece on history of the PHF recognition, and as a plug for the TEAM Rotary Foundation, Membership and Leadership event in Manhattan in August, if you'd like to see the history of the PHF in artifacts, I'll have my collection of medals and pins for your viewing pleasure...





## OVERLAND PARK SOUTH SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

On Friday, April 13th, Rebecca Williams from the Overland Park South Rotary Club presented checks to the winner & runner-up for the OPS Rotary Scholarship for CAPS students. Anna Castillo received a check for \$1,000 and Jackie Flores received \$500. Both of these students submitted impressive essays for the scholarship contest, then gave presentations at an Overland Park South Rotary club meeting. The Rotary is proud to help these students further their education and look forward to great accomplishments in their future.



## LAWRENCE ROTARY CELEBRATES END OF A SUCCESSFUL YEAR

Oh what a night! On Monday, June 16, Lawrence Rotarians gathered at Maceli's Banquet Hall & Catering to celebrate the success of the 2017-2018 Rotary year under the leadership of President Kathleen Morgan. Everyone had a blast due to the great work of the Year End Celebration Committee, chaired by Kay Brada.

During the dinner, David Ambler honored 50 Year Rotarians, Phil Rankin and Don Johnston. Also acknowledged were Jeff and Mary Weinberg, whose leadership made it possible for a Pavilion to be constructed in the next couple months at the Rotary Arboretum in partnership with Lawrence Kansas Parks and Recreation. In addition to acknowledging all of the club's new members and Rotary Primers, we honored the Club's non-Rotarian of the year, Nancy Thellman. The discretionary President's "Rock Star" Award was presented to Sergeant at Arms Phil McKnight. We also enjoyed Rotary songs in a jazz style from the Four-Way-Test Jazz Quartet, curated by Cal Downs. The evening concluded with Kathleen Morgan passing the Rotary crown and scepter to 2018-2019 President Derek Kwan.



## LENEXA ROTARY BUILDS RAMP FOR HOMEOWNER

Once again Lenexa Rotary paid for a new ramp and teamed up with HopeBUILDERS to install it one Saturday in June. Thanks to Greg, Tim, Steve N, Steve A, Phil, Matt, Jim, Andy H, Rhonda, Jason, Bill, Rick, Andy R. This has been a great project the last two years. Nothing is better than to see the homeowner's first ride on the ramp.



Since 2000, HopeBUILDERS has been helping people in the Kansas City Metro area live in Safety, Comfort, and Dignity. HopeBUILDERS exists to ensure that those in need, those in our own back yards, are not forgotten.



## OVERBROOK ROTARY WRAPS UP YEAR

June was pretty busy for the Overbrook club. Here are some highlights:

- We welcomed a new member, John Fairchild (pictured with President Jon Wilhite and Membership Chairman Ken Herin).
- Our club sponsored three local high school students to attend Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) in Lawrence, Kansas on June 3-7.
- We had a very special guest this month. Melissa Jarboe, who's husband was killed in Afghanistan in 2012, is Founder and CEO of Military Veteran Project ([militaryveteranproject.org](http://militaryveteranproject.org)). She is pictured with Club President Jon Wilhite and President Wilhite and Rotarian Bob Buffum.
- Finally, our year-end picnic was held June 26<sup>th</sup> at our Rotary Shelter House at the Friesen (former Rotarian) City Lake. Rotarians, spouses, and our junior high & high school students of the year were in attendance.



## TOPEKA SOUTH GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR THE FOUNDATION

It was a hot one this year! Topeka South Rotary gives a big thank you to Gary Lucas for once again chairing our golf tourney, to Capitol Federal for being our title sponsor, to all of our wonderful 42 hole sponsors, 19 teams, and volunteers who helped make our 26th annual TSR Golf Tournament a huge success!

We raised \$6,300 for the Rotary Foundation!





## LEAVENWORTH ROTARY

We have four new Paul Harris Fellows!

Recently we named four new Paul Harris Fellows in support of President Adam's Drive for 45 Campaign --- they are Mike Robinson (for his work on programs this year), Pat Proctor (for his work in support of the District conference), Jim Madigan (for his work on the Scholarship committee) and Tiffany Andrews (for her work in public relations this year). All were given the PHF certificate, lapel pin and medal; pictured are , PDG John Donovan with Mike and Pat, Foundation Chair and PHF Chair, and President Tamara Sevcik with Tiffany and DeEtte Lombard with Jim. Congrats to all and thanks for your service!



Drum roll please --- this year's President's award goes to Rotarian Tiffany Andrews! She was recognized for her great work in our Public Relations area, she stepped up as our photographer throughout the year and started helping with the administration of our Facebook page; Tiffany has also volunteered to work with our Rotaract Club in the new year; we sure appreciate your service, Tiffany...with congratulations and many thanks!

New board inducted at our last meeting in June...pictured left to right Dawn Weston, Mike Gould (Directors), Karel Sigtenhorst (Sergeant at Arms), Maria Minchew (President Elect), Larry Martin (Incoming President), Timothy Moran (President Elect Nominee), Kurt Seelbach (Treasurer), DeEtte Lombard (Secretary) and Tamara Sevcik (Outgoing President); not pictured Mike Roth and Randy Johnson (Directors). Congrats to all and many thanks to everyone for volunteering to serve on our board; here's to a great 2018-2019 operating year!



(LEFT) President Tamara welcomes President Larry with the gavel pass!

And, last but not least...

New members lose there new member ribbons! Congrats to John Robinson (pictured with President Tamara), Tim Vandall, (pictured with Derek Wohlge-muth) and Chuck Webster, (pictured with Mike Sevcik); congrats and many thanks for your hard work and service!



## MANHATTAN ENDS YEAR WITH CELEBRATIONS

The month of June was a month to celebrate for the Manhattan Rotary Club.

The programs featured Stephanie Peterson and Jared Trembley sharing an exciting new transit system in the Manhattan area; an inspiring and educational presentation from Richard Pitts about the history of the Juneteenth Celebration; a unique presentation by President Vern's son, Jordan, as he shared his experience of being a Chaplain assigned to Army Special Operations and his completion of Ranger School; and finally with for DG C. Clyde Jones recapping his 60 years in Rotary.

The cup money for the month of April was for the Juneteenth celebration. Many members attended and provided free ice cream for kids.

The club welcomed new members; Cole Buckman, Rachel Herrod, Nathalie Kind-Chalmers.

The Club celebrated 100 years of Service Above Self with; DG Adam Ehlert presenting the Governor's Award to President Vern for the District's Outstanding Club for 2017-18; Manhattan Mayor and Rotarian, Linda Morse, reading a proclamation of the clubs 100 years of serving the community; first MRC woman Rotarian, Tracey DeBruyn, sharing about Manhattan's leadership in adding women to the club; RI Director-Elect Larry Dimmit thanking and inspiring the club for another 100 years; Major General John Kolasheski thanking the club for its support of the men and women serving our country; Former DG C. Clyde Jones announcing Rotarian of the Year award to Phil Howe for his work as a community philanthropist and Christian Nolte for her great work with the birthing kit project.

President Vern passed the gavel to President Elect John Armbrust prior to departing for the Rotary International Convention in Toronto.



## OLATHE ROTARY SERVICE PROJECT

Members of the Olathe Rotary Club recently painted a map of the United States on the playground of Central Elementary. What a great service project for their community!





## HOLTON GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

The Holton Rotary club sponsored a four-person scramble golf tournament at Holton Country Club on June 15 to support its Holton High School Scholarship program. Lunch was served at HCC for all participants. They had seven teams play and numerous local business hole sponsors. The club raised approximately \$1500 during this worthwhile event. They awarded a \$1000 scholarship in May to a deserving Holton High Sr. Student, Janae Skaggs. Everyone enjoyed the beautiful day golfing and lunch!



## KANSAS CITY AWARDS SCHOLARSHIPS AND TEACHER AWARDS

The Kansas City, Kansas Rotary Club announced the winners of its annual Student Scholarship Contest and recognized outstanding educators from each of the Wyandotte County high schools at the Club's May 1st luncheon meeting.

The Club awarded \$1,000 college scholarships to each of two area high school seniors: Suan Sonna and Vanessa Obi, both from Sumner Academy. The Club awards these scholarships to the top female and male students who participate in the Club's scholarship speech contest. These students competed with other outstanding high school students from our Wyandotte County schools. All the students exemplify the highest academic, service and character standards in our community. We can all be proud of what Wyandotte County has helped produce in these students. The Kansas City, Kansas Rotary Club congratulates them and wishes them the best in their pursuit of higher education.

In addition that day, the Club recognized outstanding teachers from each of Wyandotte County's nine high schools. This annual program of the Kansas City, Kansas Rotary Club honors teachers in the county who represent the best of our community. The teachers were introduced by the respective school's administrator, and the Club learned of each teacher's unique contributions to the individual schools. Each educator was presented a plaque of appreciation. We are grateful to these teachers who give so much of themselves to educate and prepare our youth for the future.

