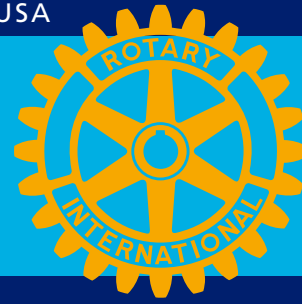




Rotary

ZONES 21 - 27



Larry Dimmitt, RI Director 2018-2020

JUNE 2019
Number 5

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District 5710 Follows the Yellow Brick Road to Their Annual Conference

by Blanche Parks, Governor, 5710

The Kansas Rotary 5710 District Conference was held April 26 – 27, 2019, at the new Cyrus Hotel. The theme was “Follow the Yellow Brick Road to Topeka, Kansas”, and focused on the Wizard of Oz theme.

Rotarians have conveyed what a great time they had as the conference was educational and FUN!

Approximately 200 Rotarians were in attendance during the two days. It was so exciting to listen to the wonderful music of RI Director Larry Dimmitt and his Bluegrass Band.



RI Director, Larry Dimmitt, along with the Bluemont Singers Revival, entertained with bluegrass music during the “Yellow Brick Road” District Conference.

Conference highlights included: a simulated RI Flag ceremony featuring 177 flags of the Rotary world carried by Youth Exchange students and Rotarians from various countries. There was a special Youth Track featuring a panel of Youth Exchange and Interact students. The panel was highlighted by a Skype presentation from Rotaractors as they participated in their Box Shelter Project at the Kansas State University (KSU) campus.

The theme was carried out with attendees marching behind the Topeka High Drumline and then watching the Kansas Ballet dance to the theme of the Wizard of Oz. We had two wonderful keynote speakers - RI Representative Shirley Grace from Fresno, California and Dr Todd Bow tie Jenkins from Arkansas.

There were many presentations that focused on a variety of Rotary areas. We heard about Polio Plus, Global Grants, International Travel to Guatemala

and various countries, Club Projects, and Fundraisers. We were provided educational presentations on a variety of topics that include “30 Years of Women in the Rotary.” There was a panel on Human Trafficking, which ended in a Service Project for attendees.

Attendees were provided lots of awards and recognition. OzSome Rotarian awards were provided to clubs who presented one name of a member who represented “Service Above Self” in their club. It was a weekend of Rotary celebration, education and Fun as Rotarians followed the Yellow Brick Road to celebrate Rotary!



BE THE INSPIRATION

A Message from your RI Director

by RI Director
Larry Dimmitt
larrydimmitt@gmail.com



HELLO fellow Rotarians!

1. A lot has happened since our last newsletter. Over 500 members of the 2019 The Council on Legislation met April 15-18, with some notable enactments. Most notable was the provision that makes Rotaract Clubs members for Rotary International, like Rotary clubs. Under this provision Rotaract clubs will be able to receive District Grant funds. Also, Rotaract clubs will be able to participate in Global Grants, though not as a primary sponsor. This is an historic development as it elevates Rotaract from being a Rotary Foundation program to being a partner member of Rotary. This will hopefully lead to more Rotaractors to join Rotary clubs going forward.

Another key development at the COL was the approval of RI seeking to become a 501 (c)(3) organization under US tax laws. The Foundation enjoys that status now. This means that contributions to RI may receive favorable tax treatment. The new tax status will save Rotarians about \$700,000 annually due to reduced vendor fees and tax savings. The status of Rotary clubs will not change under the new tax status of Rotary International.

2. The Board of Directors has passed some significant items in its last two meetings relating to membership, including continuing a trial of a non-participant Rotary model where individuals in Rotary would not belong to a Rotary club; and new initiatives to increase membership

diversity in the next several years. Also enacted is a new Rotary Strategic Plan, introduced at the Hamburg Convention, to increase Rotary's effectiveness around the world.

3. As we prepare to implement zone realignment, we note with pride the accomplishments

of Zones 27 and 21B the last eight or nine years, and look forward to the challenges and opportunities that lay ahead in our new Zones. We wish those joining new Zones 26 and 27 and Zone 31 the very best in their new environments. In addition, for those preparing to comprise new Zone 29 we look forward to developing new relationships as we enter 2019-20.

4. Zone 29 District Leadership Institute. The Zone 29 District Leadership is calling you to come take part. This will be the first meeting of our new Zone 29, and the organizers are excited about bringing all district leaders together for this historic event. The activities will begin July 12 with a presentation by PDG Newell Krogmann from Minnesota about One Rotary Summit. It will be followed by the Institute itself which begins Friday night with a dinner featuring Brian King, RI Director of Membership Development, as our speaker. On Saturday district leadership sessions will be held throughout the day involving DGs, DGNs, and Foundation, Membership and Public Image District Chairs. This first-time event will be



From left, Lois Dimmitt, Larry Dimmitt, Kelly Harper, District 5680 Governor Kurt Harper, RI President-Elect Holger Knaack and Susanne Knaack.

held at the Embassy Suites near the airport in Kansas City. For information about registration and lodging, see Ri Zones 28-29.org.

5. Other items:

A. The McPherson, Kansas Rotary Club celebrated its 100th Anniversary May 18 in McPherson. Congressman Roger Marshall was the keynote speaker. Also in attendance



Left to right, Club President Penny Pyle, DG Andrea Krauss and, PDG and US Congressman Roger Marshall.

was RI Director Larry Dimmitt, who presented Major Donor Level III awards to PDG Mike and Leonor Mills. It was a very festive affair held in the McPherson Museum.

B. Great Convention in Hamburg.

Over 25,000 Rotarians and guests attended the Convention in Hamburg, including many from Zones 21B, 27 and folks from future Zones 29, 26, 27 and



RI Director Larry and members of new zone 29 taken at a Beer Fest in downtown Hamburg.

31. Needless to say, folks were having a good time "Capturing the Moment!"

Hamilton Montana Rotary Club Helps Interact Students Visit Guatemala

by Victoria Emmons, D5390

For many years, Interact students at the Corvallis and Darby High Schools have worked with the Rotary Club of Hamilton, Montana, on various local service projects in the Bitterroot Valley. They organized an annual paper drive for SAFE, a nonprofit that offers emergency shelter to families and individuals victimized by domestic or sexual violence; a biannual Eastside highway clean-up in Corvallis; and an annual street clean-up in Darby. The Corvallis Interact Club, established 12 years ago and with approximately 80 members, undertakes one local service project each month during the school year. The Darby Interact Club, now in its third year, has 20 members.

Given the clubs' success on the local level, students began to question whether they might consider an international service project. Last summer, nine members of the Corvallis High School Interact Club did just that. They experienced the ultimate international service project — traveling to Guatemala to help people first-hand.

Early in 2018, the Corvallis Interact students began discussing the possibility of an international service project. Club president Kaylee Evans worked with Marilyn Morris, a member of the Rotary Club of Hamilton, to develop the concept. Rotary's international student exchange program had been a strong program for many years, but the concept of Interact students doing a

service project in a foreign country was a new and challenging idea.

As they worked together to develop a plan, Morris reached out to George Gerard and the Rotary Club of Libby which has received global grants from the Rotary International Foundation

to volunteer as trip organizers and chaperones. The students and their chaperones (see photo) departed on July 6 and returned to Montana on July 15. The project was truly remarkable and demonstrates the difference that Rotarians can make in the world to "Be the Inspiration."



The Corvallis Interact group in Guatemala. Front row: Jay Evans (a parent), Brian Healy, Christian Reed, Kaylee Evans and Maria Hickey. Back row: Ben Carrasco, Nick Spenetta, Kristen Saturday, Drew Schlinggen, Ann Saturday (a parent), and Libby Rotarian Mick Shea.

for water projects in Guatemala. Their partnership with the Libby Club enabled the Hamilton Club to receive a Rotary grant of \$1,000, which was matched by contributions to the club's foundation totaling \$1,100. That enabled the team to purchase three computers, classroom desks, a printer and miscellaneous supplies for a school in Guatemala. Once in country, the Interact team outfitted the classroom and added a new window to the building, while village members helped paint the room. The Interact team also taught local students how to use the computers.

Gerard, then president of the Libby Club, and member Mick Shea agreed

After returning to school in Montana, we asked Interact students to share their thoughts about the trip.

Why did you want to go to Guatemala?

"I knew it would be a life changing opportunity."
 "I wanted to help people in a foreign country."
 "I wanted a chance to travel to somewhere new and to help other people, so the proposed Guatemala trip was a perfect opportunity."

How did you earn money to afford the trip?

Each of the students worked to raise a portion of the money needed for the trip, but they also cited the help they received from the Hamilton Rotary Club, which held several fundraisers. In all, the total cost was about \$20,000.

What was the hardest adjustment you had to make?

With the exception of one student who had been to Guatemala, the respondents to this question all cited water and personal hygiene as issues:

Continued on page 4

Guatemala Project Continued from page 3

“Everywhere we went, we had to be cautious about where the water was coming from and how our food was prepared...because it could be contaminated.”

“As Americans, we don’t think of our food and water as potentially contaminated; but in Guatemala, we had to take that fact into our food and beverage choices.”

What was one of the best moments of the trip?

Despite the challenges of being in a country where water quality is an issue for many, the Corvallis Interact students cited several positive experiences:

“One of the best moments of my trip was watching the reactions of all the different people when we helped them, whether it was watching the people in San Andres Itzapa receive the first water filter or the village students receive their computers.”

“Seeing the gratitude and happiness in the eyes of the people in the community where the water filters were given.”

“The best moment was when we handed soccer balls and dolls to the children.”

“When we set up the computer room and saw the kids’ faces as they walked in.”

What differences from our culture did you observe and were there any similarities?

The responses to this question were quite interesting:

“I learned how generally calm the culture is. Everyone has work to do, but in Guatemala everything feels more peaceful than the constant hubbub of America.”

“The surprisingly alive Aztec culture and tradition, even today.”

“The communities where we visited were much closer knit than ours.”

“It seemed to me like they valued the importance of family more than

we do.”

“The people in Guatemala are much more inviting than people around here. The entire community invited us into their homes with open arms. That’s not something you see around here.”

“Closer knit communities and a lot more willingness to share. People in general were a lot friendlier.”

“In both countries, religion is very important to many people.”

“People in Guatemala are so willing to help one another, even if they don’t know the person being helped ... just like here!”

“I noticed some fashion trends which also exist in the U.S.”

What was your favorite food?

“I loved the homemade tortillas.”

“The eggs and beans for breakfast.”

“I like their fruit, as well as the sweet bread that was sold from little shops alongside the road in San Andres Itzapa.”

“The fresh fruit and orange juice.”

“We had some really good, home-cooked food at Maya Pedal which we were lucky to share with some of the families who ran Maya Pedal.”

What is your favorite story from the trip?

“My favorite story is how I bartered in the markets. I got a wallet to drop 50 Guatemalan Quetzales from its asking price!”

“Every experience and activity down in Guatemala was truly fascinating, as well as eye opening.”

“One of my favorite stories was when our group blew through multiple packs of wafers and other snacks in our rooms at Maya Pedal. We also created a mosquito extermination task force for our room each night.”

“My favorite story was being able to play with the kids and create a bond with them, and also getting to speak Spanish!”

“Honestly, there are too many to

count. We made so many great memories that many of us are definitely considering returning or doing another service trip.”

In the September issue of *The Rotarian*, Rick Steves authored an article entitled “Travel as a Force for Peace.” He urges Rotarians to “take a trip outside your comfort zone and come back with a broader perspective.” Clearly, the Corvallis Interact students that visited Guatemala are evidence that Steves’ article speaks the truth.

Thank you from your RI Director

I want to personally thank Glenda Thomas, PDG from District 5770 who has served as the Editor for our Newsletter over the last several years. She has done a great job of gathering information about the twenty-two districts covered by our publication and has been so diligent in seeing that the information was reported accurately and in an interesting way. I also want to thank Christi Moore and Dale Flowers who have worked tirelessly with Glenda to see that the Newsletter is published promptly and in an appealing manner. We owe a lot to these three as they move into other Rotary Zones. Our loss is truly their gain.

Thanks.

Larry

Gates: Rotary Is The Reason Polio Will Be Eradicated

by Devin Thorpe, District 5420 Chief of Staff

In a speech to a joint District 5030 and 5080 Conference on May 18, 2018, Bill Gates said, “We’re going to get to the end of [polio] and Rotary will be the reason.”

Just prior to the meeting, I had the opportunity to sit down with Gates and RI President Barry Rassin to discuss the unique partnership between the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Rotary for a **Forbes** article.

The effort to eradicate polio is coordinated by the Global Polio Eradication Initiative—an entity that exists only on paper—comprised of Rotary, the Gates Foundation, the US. Centers for Disease Control, the World Health Organization and UNICEF. Within that global partnership, Rotary and the Gates Foundation work closely on fundraising.

The Gates Foundation continues to fund a \$2 for \$1 match of the money Rotary raises for polio eradication. In addition, the Gates Foundation provides additional funding to UNICEF and the WHO, the primary implementation partners for the field work involved in

polio eradication.

In our conversation, I asked President Rassin how Rotary would respond to a request for help on another project from the Gates Foundation.

“We’re in. I’ll tell you that right now. This is a wonderful partnership,” he said. Over the years, Rotary has raised \$1.9 billion in the polio effort, \$885 million of which came from the Gates Foundation. To put that in perspective, the Gates Foundation—the largest private foundation in the world—has donated a total of \$3.7 billion, which includes the funds donated through Rotary.

Under Gates’s personal leadership, the Gates Foundation led the development of a new vaccine that brings many of the benefits of the Salk and Sabin vaccines in one. Like the Sabin vaccine, it can be delivered orally. Like the Salk vaccine, it won’t mutate into a form of the live virus. It will be uniquely powerful in ending outbreaks of circulating vaccine derived polio virus that can occur with about one in every five million doses of the oral vaccine.

Warren Buffett, Chairman and CEO of Berkshire Hathaway, is the third Trustee of the Gates Foundation, along with Bill and Melinda Gates. Gates told me that when he acknowledged to Buffett the challenges and delays with eradicating polio in Pakistan and Afghanistan, he responded, “You gotta keep going, you know.” Buffett’s message is an important one for Rotarians. Gates explained in his speech in Spokane that if we ease up on our efforts, polio will return with a vengeance, potentially reaching hundreds of thousands of cases again within a few years. So far, 18 million cases of polio have been prevented. The goal remains the complete eradication of the disease so that no child will ever die or be paralyzed by it again.

President Rassin summarized the power of the Rotary-Gates partnership well. “The beauty of it is that we recognize that when we do things together, we can do so much more.”

Devin Thorp is a regular Forbes contributor based in Salt Lake City.



Author Thorp visits with RI President, Barry Rassin and Bill Gates

District 5610 Rotarians Inducted into the South Dakota Hall Of Fame

by Nicole Rawden, District 5610

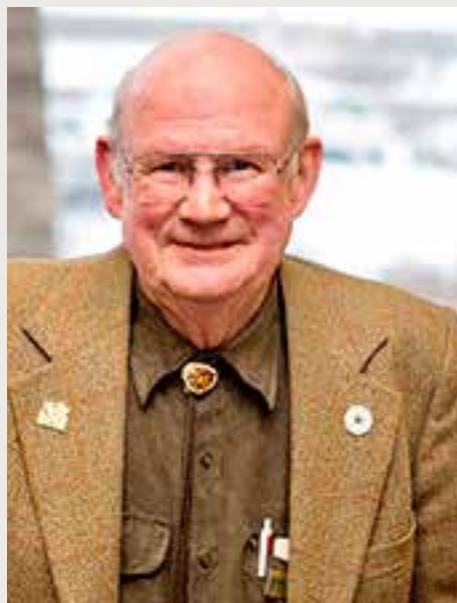
Rotarians, Dr. Reuben Bareis of Rapid City and Dick Brown of Custer, are two of the 10 individuals in the 2019 class to be inducted into the South Dakota Hall of Fame. The South Dakota Hall of Fame is celebrating its 45th year and recognizes individuals who impact the state through the mission to Champion a Culture of Excellence. The inductee accomplishments reach beyond South Dakota in representing and building the future for the state.

Brown has been a member of the Custer Rotary Club since moving there twelve years ago. Prior to his move to Custer, he was a member of a Sioux Falls Rotary club and served as the President. Bareis is a lifetime supporter of Rotary, including service as the Rapid City Club president, hosting youth exchange, hosting for friendship exchange, and serving as a leader in club projects.

The Honors Ceremony will be held in Chamberlain/Oacoma, SD on September 13 and 14, 2019, and is open to the public. A table for 10 has been reserved for Rotarians that want to be there to celebrate the induction of these two to the Hall of Fame. Contact Linda Peterson, Linda4Rotary@me.com or Carol Johnson at cjohnsonandassociates@gmail.com to reserve a spot at the table. The biographies of the two provided below, and further information on the SD Hall of Fame, are located at <https://sdhalloffame.blog/2019/05/02/sd-hall-of-fame-class-of-2019/>.

Honorees and Rotarians of District 5610 are:

REUBEN BAREIS Rapid City, SD | Medical Changing the Course for Elderly Caregiving



When Dr. Bareis relocated to Rapid City in 1957, only a single care facility for the elderly existed. Reuben is one of the original board members and helped break ground at Westhills Village Retirement Community. Six more facilities eventually followed, and Dr. Bareis served as medical director of three of them. His work continues to influence South Dakota in this critical care need. Dr. Bareis retired in 1999

after almost 50 years of practicing internal medicine and geriatrics with many accomplishments as a kind and compassionate community leader. (Insert Reuben photo)

DICK BROWN Custer, SD | Philanthropic Public Service Leader & Conservationist



A native of Dell Rapids and USD Political Science alumnus, Dick Brown left for Washington, D.C. in 1967 for doctoral studies and to work for U.S. Senator Karl Mundt. He then went on to lead the ten-state Missouri River Basin Commission in Omaha. In 1979, he returned to his beloved South Dakota where his impact has been felt statewide with involvement in the state legislature, charitable organizations, and outdoor recreation.



**Zones 25B and 29 Institute
September 24-29, 2019
Overland Park Sheraton Hotel, Overland Park, KS**

Featuring: Quality Leadership Development for District Leaders, PDGs, DGs, DGEs, DGNs, DRFCs, DRPICS, DRCs, and Emerging Leaders
Enjoy fun luncheons and dinners with outstanding local entertainment!

Outstanding Speakers:



**Rotary
President
Elect
Holger
Knaack**



**Rotary
Past Vice-
President
/Trustee
2019-23
Jennifer
Jones**



**Rotary
Past
Director
Larry
Lunsford**



**Hosts:
Director
Larry
and Lois
Dimmitt**

Who is invited?

As a result of zone "realignment," this year's Institute will include Rotarians from Texas, South Dakota, Nebraska, Kansas as well as folks from North Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Northern Illinois, Iowa and even Canada!

**Institute Chair Ronney Reynolds from Texas and
Vice-Chair Holly Callen from Minnesota
invite all Rotarians and their families to attend.**

Hotel information: Book your group rate for 2019 Rotary Zones 25B-29 Institute
Register: Zones 25B-29 Institute

Agenda:

The Zone Training program also includes a dynamic Leadership Development Program, Best Practice Exchanges for District Governors and Past District Governors, as well as Workshops for Foundation, Membership, Public Image, and District Training team members led by facilitators with expertise in each of these areas of responsibility.

DGEs, DGNs, and Spouse/Partners: Training begins with dinner at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 24, and concludes at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 27. The institute continues until Sunday, September 29, at 10:00 a.m.

DGs, Leadership Development, District Foundation Chairs, District Membership Chairs, District Public Image Chairs, District Trainers: Training begins at 8:00 a.m. on Thursday, September 26, and concludes at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 27. Optional dinner is available for those desire to arrive by 6:00 p.m. on Wednesday evening, September 25. The institute continues until Sunday, September 29, at 10:00 a.m.

PDGs: The PDG Forum begins at 8:00 a.m. and ends at 11:30 a.m. on Friday, September 27.

All training group registrations include participation in the All Class Reunion Dinner to be held on Thursday evening, September 26.

The Zone Institute begins at noon on Friday, September 27 and concludes on Sunday, September 29. at 10:00 a.m. Entertainment and experts, leaders, and Rotary speakers will be featured!

Saturday afternoon excursions:

Kansas City offers world-class attractions to enhance your visit here. Links to each venue below for information only. Signup to attend on Zone 25B-29 Institute Registration page.



iFLY is where the dream of flight becomes a reality. Become a part of something bigger than yourself. You'll fall in love with the sensation & the freedom that comes with floating on air and when you do, there's a new & exciting sport of indoor bodyflight to become involved in. The iFLY experience, from check-in to check out, lasts roughly 1.5 – 2 hours and is equivalent to 1.5 skydives. <https://www.iflyworld.com/kansas-city/>

Boulevard Brewery Tour Enjoy a private, guided walking tour of their expansive facility and after the tour head to the Beer Hall Tasting Room for samples of their broad selections. <https://www.boulevard.com/visit-us/tours/>



National WWI Museum and Memorial [Steeped in history](#), the National WWI Museum and Memorial is America's only museum dedicated to sharing the stories of the Great War through the eyes of those who lived it. Interactive displays, thought-provoking films and eyewitness testimonies help guide visitors through one of the [largest collections of WWI artifacts](#) in the world. From the first shots fired in 1914 to the last attempts at peace in 1919, this award-winning museum offers a global perspective of "The War to End All Wars," and includes firsthand accounts from the battlefield and home front alike. Visit the National WWI Museum and Memorial and learn

why the First World War wasn't the last. <https://www.theworldwar.org/>

Hotel information: [Book your group rate for 2019 Rotary Zones 25B-29 Institute Register: Zones 25B-29 Institute](#)

A Century of Giving – Norman Rotary Club Marks 100 Years of Community Service

by James Chappel, President, Norman Rotary Club, D5770

If something good happened in Norman, Oklahoma over the past 100 years, there's a good chance one or more Rotarians had something to do with it, said Don Adkins, who has been a Rotarian for more than 60 years. That's the legacy the Norman Rotary Club chapter 1749 has been celebrating in 2019.

The club marked its 100th anniversary this spring and it commemorated the milestone with an April 27 Gala in the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History on the University of Oklahoma campus.

Guest speaker and Past District Governor Marilyn Kaplan talked about her early experiences as a Rotarian while a member of the Norman Rotary Club in 1992, reminding members of their many accomplishments through the years.

The Norman Rotary club was established on May 1, 1919 by a collection of 22 charter members led by University of Oklahoma President, Stratton Brooks. The members applied for admission under the sponsorship of what is now known as Oklahoma City's Downtown Rotary Club, which has grown to be one of the world's largest Rotary chapters.

Once established, the Norman club went to work immediately, forming a Boy Scout committee during its first meeting. Through the 1920s, the club treated children to annual Christmas movies, bought books for the fledgling Norman Public Library and installed playground equipment on a parcel of railroad



Governor Dennis Brigham (D5770) acknowledges Enduring Service and Commitment of Norman Rotarians. Brigham is also a member of the Norman Rotary Club.

easement that eventually became Andrews Park.

There is a lot of community service to look back on, said Mary Sherman, who became club president in 1995 and district governor in 2008-09.

Sherman joined Rotary the year after women were first admitted and was personally involved in projects that provided South African students with laptops and that created a micro-financing program for impoverished women in Peru. The club also contributed \$25,000 to construction



Norman Rotarians and guests celebrate at their Centennial Banquet held at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History on the University of Oklahoma campus.

of the Sam Noble Museum in the mid-1990s, and a decade after that, it funded renovations at Norman's Rotary Park, she said.

Rotarian Adkins said Norman Rotary has had a lot of accomplishments to celebrate through the years. Adkins also served as district governor in 2002-03.

"If there was a project of community interest, people in the Rotary Club would be involved," he said. "That's just a statement in fact."

Other past projects have included tree plantings, Safety Town enhancements at Norman's Sooner Mall and a Kidspace playground construction project at Reaves Park. The club also built the main building for Bridges, a Norman program that assists high school students who are homeless due to family crisis.

Current service projects include the club's annual Bueno Brunch fundraiser, the Rotary Success Cycle program benefiting Norman Public Schools and the Rotary Road Rally fundraiser. The club also teams with other Norman Rotary clubs to hold Le Tour de Vin, an event to fund a variety of community projects, programs and initiatives.

Money the Norman Rotary Club raises is returned to the community through nonprofit organizations that submit grant proposals each year.

"Service above self" was the motto back then, and it continues to be the club's purpose today, said Norman Rotary Club President

James Chappel.

"There's a lot of excitement in the club," he said. "What's interesting is that the older group is excited to get here, while the younger group is looking for what's next."

Rotary Weekend Getaway - Sulphur, OK

During their pathway of becoming District Governor, DG Dennis Brigham of District 5770 and DG Jessica Sherrill of District 5750, both from Oklahoma, recognized an incredible opportunity to host a joint district conference of a "Rotary Weekend Getaway" at the Artesian Hotel in Sulphur, OK. Following are descriptions of the event from the perspective of each Governor.

by Governor Jessica Sherrill, D5750

The Artesian was a place often visited by DG Jessica and mother for mom-daughter weekends and with her Alpha Chi Omega sorority sisters as a relaxing girls' trip destination. Her heart was set on a Rotary Weekend Getaway in that very spot which was situated within the District to the south governed by DG Dennis. DG Jessica says, "Dennis and I share an appreciation for shenanigans and complement each other with our unique strengths and interests, which made this Rotary Weekend Getaway such a raging success!"

As parents and Rotarians, DG Jessica and DG Dennis decided the Rotary Weekend Getaway must be family-friendly and offer something for everyone! RYLA elder and Rotaracter Taylor Broyles with her fellow RYLA elder, Anna, organized kid-friendly activities to occupy Rotary kids during training and parties. Rotary parents were able to truly relax knowing their kiddos were on-site and making their own Rotary connections. DG Jessica's 5 year old daughter, Ainsley, ran to hug her new friend she'd met the day before and the two girls rushed to the family tables to play and eat. To see Rotary bring together little ones is incredible and heartwarming! DG Jessica's 9 year old son, Hill, also met kids his age and organized an all-kid swimming opportunity in the Artesian's indoor pool.

For the first time, the PDG Honors Breakfast and All Club Luncheon offered "family tables" with legos, crayons, and play-doh to entertain little ones while also enabling families to celebrate Rotary together. Some adults mentioned being jealous and also wanting

play-doh and legos Both districts arranged for youth exchange students to attend and celebrate Rotary too!

DG Jessica was able to truly share the joy of Rotary while sitting next to her daughter and son along with her husband, Jay - instead of having to choose between Rotary and family. Rotary should be for families, but we have to provide opportunities to let the two worlds cooperatively collide.

What resulted was Rotarians from several generations connecting and inspiring each other! As a second-generation Rotarian, DG Jessica honored her husband and kids with PHF awards as a way to perpetuate forward the legacy of Rotary shared with her by her late mother.



DG Dennis Brigham of District 5770 and DG Jessica Sherrill of District 5750 led the weekend getaway.

by Governor Dennis Brigham, D5770

As DG Jessica and I began our journey almost three years ago we made a pact that we would work together and combine forces whenever possible. So when it was time to consider District Conference it was a no brainer that we would do a joint Conference for our two Districts!

We began our Rotary Weekend Getaway with an opportunity for service at the Chickasaw National Recreation Area. Formerly the Platt National Park. it was a perfect setting to begin the Getaway! The first evening was our Rotary Foundation Honors Banquet where we recognized donors from both Districts that had reached a milestone in the past Rotary year. Our President's Rep Patrick Eakes was spot on in his message

Then it was full speed ahead on Saturday with our Past District Governor Breakfast, the organized chaos of our Idea exchange, our exchange students, and our RYLA programs! Lunch was a family affair with Dr. Bowtie Todd Jenkins as our speaker. Rotarians and clubs from both districts were also honored.

After an afternoon of exploring Sulphur, Oklahoma it was time for our Kentucky Derby Party / Foundation Fundraiser! There were Bow Ties, Hats, and horse racing... the District Governors even saddled up! It was a weekend of family, a weekend of old friends and new. It was a Rotary Weekend Getaway!



DG Dennis and DG Jessica “horsing” around at the Kentucky Derby party.



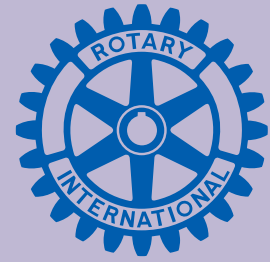
KidsCON provides opportunities for Rotarians’ kids to be a part of the Weekend.



Youth Exchange students from both districts attended and presented on their experience.



Rotary Weekend Getaway lady attendees created fascinators at the event.



Rotary International Director

Zones 21 - 27

Larry Dimmitt

2018-2020

larrydimmitt@gmail.com

785-232-9933



BE THE INSPIRATION

**Published quarterly by Zones
21 - 27 Newsletter Team**

PDG Glenda L. Thomas

Norman Sooner RC, OK

405-364-4244

glthomas2501@sbcglobal.net

Christi Moore

Norman Sooner RC, OK

405-590-8807

cmoore@csbi.org

C. Dale Flowers

Littleton RC, CO

303-794-4218

rotary@cdale.com