



Rotary District 5710 Eastern Kansas Rotary

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rotary5710.org

Quarterly Newsletter - October, 2018

MESSAGE FROM DISTRICT GOVERNOR BLANCHE PARKS

Dear Friends in Rotary District #5710:

It's a Great Month to be a Rotarian!!

You and your families are cordially invited to attend the District #5710 "World Polio Day" Celebration at the Kansas Capital in Topeka on Wednesday, October 24, 2018, at 11:30 am. Polio Plus Chair Jim Arnett and I have enjoyed planning this exciting day. This first district wide polio event is sponsored by our District #5710, is free and open to Rotarians and the public. The agenda includes a one hour program, tour and one block "Walk for Polio". [Place this event on your calendars and be sure to register!](#) Some clubs are considering to count attendance at the event as a meeting. Also, I am requesting that we support other Polio events offered by clubs in our district.



I am still "On the Road Again" and having a wonderful time visiting Rotarians in their clubs across our great District. I am now over half way. Thank you for the great hospitality!

Congratulations to RI Director Larry Dimmitt on a very successful and exciting Zone Institute held in Boise, Idaho on September 4 – 9, 2018. This was the final Institute in our current Zone structure.

I am requesting all Rotarians to support the upcoming [Foundation Banquet](#) on November 3, 2018, at the Sheraton Hotel in Overland Park, Kansas. Chair Jim Mattes has an exciting program planned for everyone, plus great food and fellowship! See you there!

Congratulations to our clubs who were awarded District Grants. Grants were awarded for many outstanding projects to help us carry out our mission, improve the quality of life and help others.

One of the goals of a district is to support and strengthen clubs. As a result, we have worked to offer several outstanding programs to our members. One of these programs is the Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI). It is Rotary 101 for new and "seasoned" Rotarians. The first class was held in Topeka on September 15 – 16, 2018, with an attendance of 14 Rotarians! Thanks to RLI Chair, Neil Wakefield, Jared Holroyd, Assistant Chair and DeEtte Lombard, Ellen Bodgan, Jason Lieb for their excellent Facilitation. Our [next class](#) is scheduled to be held in Gardner, Kansas on October 20 – 21, 2018. Watch for additional classes. District #5710 is the only Kansas District to be RLI Certified.

We have received a grant from the Kansas Leadership Center and have 60 slots available for our District #5710 Rotarians. We are now in our second year of offering this outstanding "Leadership" training and those who have attended have provided "rave" reviews. Don't miss this opportunity! Watch the website for how you can get signed up!

Our District now has the Rotary Global Rewards Membership Benefits Program. Stay Tuned!

Thanks for all you do for Rotary. We are on a roll!!!!

DG Blanche

CELEBRATE WORLD POLIO DAY AT THE STATE CAPITOL

***Please Join Us on Wednesday, October 24, 2018 at 11:30 AM for the
World Polio Day Event at the State Capitol - All are Welcome!***

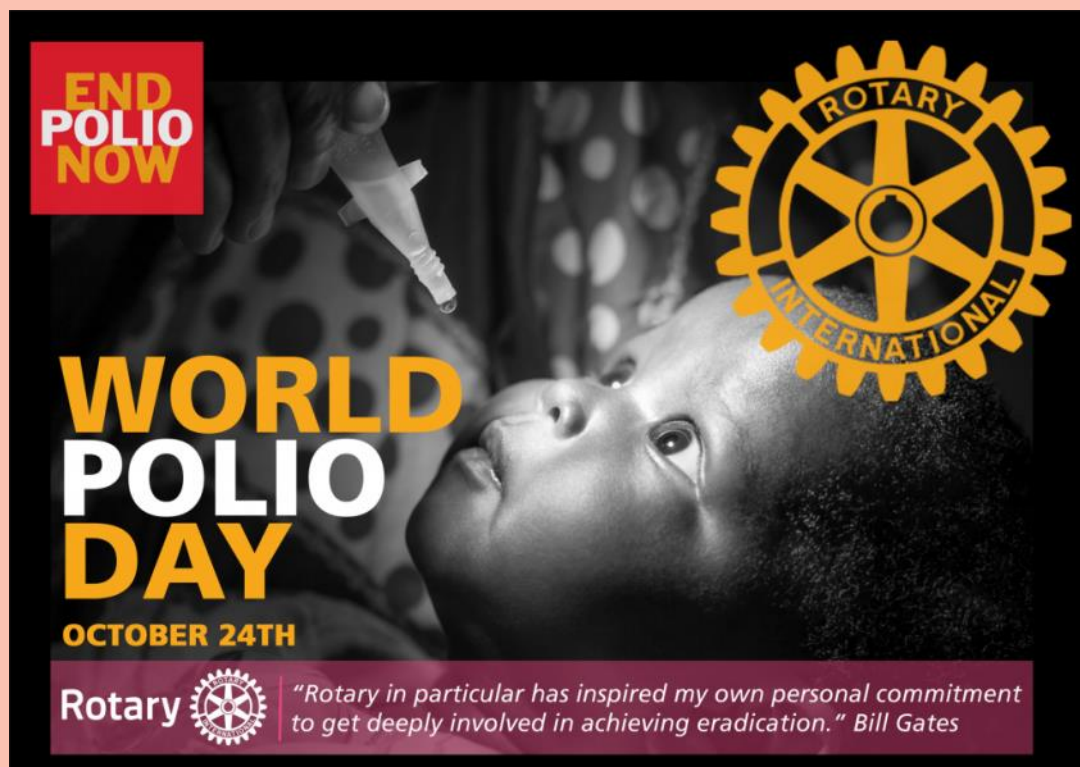
***We will gather on the South Steps of the Capitol to
celebrate Rotary's commitment to ending Polio forever!
Oct. 24 is the day that we let our community know that we are "this close!"***

The event will include:

- ***Remarks from Polio Survivors***
- ***Information about Rotary's Involvement with Polio by our Chair Jim Arnett***
 - ***A World Polio Day Proclamation***
 - ***A "walk to end Polio" in front of the Capitol***
 - ***Tours of the Capitol and Dome***

We hope that you can join us for this very special event!

REGISTER HERE



ROTARY & POLIO ~ THEN, NOW & WHAT'S NEXT

By Jim Arnett – District 5710 Polio Ambassador

As the current year's celebration of World Polio Day on October 24th rapidly approaches it is fitting that the 1.2 million Rotarians around the world and the members of District 5710 pause to look back and be proud of the amazing progress toward our goal of complete eradication of Polio. Remember that when Dr. Albert Sabin was the keynote speaker of the 1985 International Convention in Kansas City, he said, "Don't just talk about eliminating Polio; Do it!" Recall that then over 350,000 cases of Polio were happening every year. Another child was contracting Polio about every 2 minutes every day!

Rotary International accepted the challenge and the goal of complete eradication of Polio and Polio Plus began to make a difference. Since then over 2.5 Billion children in over 200 countries have been vaccinated. More than ever there are compelling reasons why we must achieve our goal. Here are the Top 5 Reasons for Eradicating Polio:

1. Eradication will improve lives: 16 Million people are walking today who would have been paralyzed
2. To investment in the future: Without eradication in 10 years as many as 200,000 children could again be paralyzed a year – a polio-free world is a safer world for children everywhere
3. To improve child health: Surveillance networks and vaccination campaigns built to eradicate polio will enable efficient and timely monitoring and addressing other children's' health issues
4. To save money: A polio-free world will save global economy \$40-\$50 Billion in health costs within the next 20 years
5. To make history: Eradication will be one of history's great public health achievements as only the second human disease eliminated

Since 1985 Rotary Clubs worldwide have, including the Gates Matching Funds, donated over \$1.7 Billion to Polio Plus. And with the Gates Matching Challenge continuing for 2 more years Rotary has the potential to reach an additional \$450 Million for Polio Plus. Quoting Bill Gates, "We are ACHINGLY CLOSE to getting rid of Polio- more than 99.9 % of the way there. Finishing the job is a big challenge, but it is VERY DOABLE if we keep up the effort." Last year our District donated over \$100,000 leading, with the Gates Match, to almost Half a Million \$'s for Polio Plus. We did it last year and we can do it again!

So now is not too late to plan your Club's Polio Plus Events. There are great ideas for fundraising on endpolio.org Now is the time to promote public awareness of the need to support Polio Plus – wear the ENDPOLIONOW pin beside your Rotary pin – use your Club's social media to spread the word.

And remember to Get to a Polio-Free World with ZERO cases for at least 3 years we need to immunize 400 Million kids every year, hire > 150,000 immunization workers and improve how we monitor and detect any new cases and track circulating vaccine derived cases. Please continue to watch for the weekly "Box-Score" update of the Countdown to History – see that there were ZERO cases the last 2 weeks of September.

Wild Poliovirus Weekly Update

COUNTDOWN TO HISTORY! **Week Ending 26 SEP 2018**



Total number of wild cases in 2015: 74

Total number of wild cases in 2016: 37

Total number of wild poliovirus cases in 2017: 22

Total number of wild poliovirus cases this week: 0

Total number of wild poliovirus cases in 2018: 18 (compared with 10 for the same period in 2017)

Total number of Circulating Vaccine Derived cases in 2018: 43

(compared to 49 by this date and total in 2017: 96)

<https://www.endpolio.org/world-polio-day>

FOUNDATION BANQUET 2018



Join us on Saturday, November 3 at 6:00 PM for the Annual District 5710 Rotary Foundation Dinner at the Overland Park Sheraton!

The evening will begin with a Cocktail/Social Hour, where you can visit with your fellow District Rotarians, followed by a wonderful dinner and entertainment. We'll also be presenting Club Achievements and Awards. You don't want to miss it!

Table Sponsorships are available for clubs again this year - so invite someone new!
It's going to be a great event.

[Click here to Register!](#)

STOMP OUT POLIO!

Bring awareness to Polio eradication by buying these classic kicks for the Rotary price of \$75 dollars!

Here's a breakdown of where your \$75 will go:

Pair of high-tops (\$17) + Shipping and supplies (\$5)
= Total shoe overhead (\$22)

So, Purchase price (\$75) - Overhead (\$22) = **\$53 to PolioPlus**

Which means...

PolioPlus donation (\$53) + Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation 2:1 match (\$106) = Total amount of funding to PolioPlus per pair of shoes - \$159 This fundraiser is a Rotarian-driven endeavor. We're this close.



[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & ORDER FORM](#)

NOMINATIONS FOR DISTRICT GOVERNOR

Each year at this time we begin the process of selecting a District Governor who will officially serve 3 years from now: July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022. As a schedule for review:

- From the time of the candidate's selection until June 30 2019, the Rotarian will be our district's DGND (District Governor Nominee Designate)
- From July 1 2019 until June 30 2020, the title is DGN, (District Governor Nominee)
- From July 1 2020 until June 30 2021, the title is DGE, (District Governor Elect)
- Finally from July 1 2021 until June 30 2022, they will serve as DG, (District Governor)



Following the completion of the DG year, there are various committee assignments for which the new PDG will be responsible. Reading the District MOP (Manual Of Procedure) available on the District website might be helpful. www.rotary5710.org Another helpful resource is the Rotary International MOP, which is also available on the District website.

Until the DG assumes office, lots will happen, mainly training. The candidate will be expected to attend Rotary Zone training events (5 days duration) each year to help prepare for serving as District Governor. In January, immediately preceding the year to serve as DG, they will be required to attend a worldwide week long training event in San Diego, CA. Which you really do want to attend, trust me! Additionally, funding is provided for the DGE (and when they are DG) to attend the RI Convention. They will attend the (mostly) monthly District level leadership meetings. Basically learning more about Rotary and how it and our District operate so that they can hit the ground running on July 1, 2021.

There are District budget line items to partially help with expenses during the DGN, DGE and DG years which he/she serves, the amounts vary from year to year. During the DG year, they also receives funding support from Rotary International for specific items. I should note that District and RI do **not** currently fund spouse/partner travel, except to International Assembly in San Diego, which is fully funded for both.

Requirements:

1. They must be a Past President of a Rotary Club at the time of nomination and by July 1, 2020, having been in Rotary for 7 years in total. They do not have to have 7 years at the time of nomination, but at the time of assuming the duties. You young-in-Rotary past presidents are encouraged to put your name in the hat!
2. They must be nominated, in writing, by the home Club and that document signed by the club president for the DG position and the Club acknowledges the responsibilities associated with being the Home Club of the District Governor. (sample attached)
3. The nominating committee will then interview all candidates and make a selection.
4. The deadline for nominations is by midnight of November 30, 2018 (scanned/photographic letters of nomination are acceptable – even preferred). Interviews and selection will then occur shortly thereafter.

If you are interested in serving, or know someone you believe would capably fill the role and enjoy serving Rotary as a District Governor, please discuss it regarding the club's role in nominating members for the District Governor position.

A special note to hard-working Rotarians with busy family lives... yes, you too, can be a District Governor. If you have questions, feel free to contact DG [Blanche Parks](#) or DGE [Jason Leib](#) on the time commitments and impacts. Being Governor is well within your grasp, and I strongly encourage you to give it consideration!

If there are any questions, please feel free to email or call PDG [Adam Ehlert](#) or any of our PDGs (Past District Governors).

WHY WE NEED ROTARY GLOBAL REWARDS!

by Grant Glenn, District Global Rewards Chairman, and Past President of Topeka Downtown

When our Rotary District Governor Blanche Parks asked me to chair the District Rotary Global Rewards Program, I had to research it to be sure that I understood what the program was about. I was not a devout user! But I have been to the mountain top, and I am here to tell you why you should not only go there, but show the way to your club members.

While I think we can agree that there might be easier ways to design and use this kind of program, once you learn about it and get in the habit of using it, you will find it is really not that hard to save money.

What Is Rotary Global Rewards and Why Does It Exist?

Rotary International has developed a membership benefit program for our members called Rotary Global Rewards or Rotary Rewards. It provides members discounts on participating goods and services and oftentimes provides donations to the RI Foundation.

There are two ways to access this discount program, through the website portal <https://my.rotary.org/en/member-center/rotary-global-rewards/offers#/offers/featured> or on a mobile phone application "Rotary Global Rewards" from the Play Store.



In this day where our members have much competition for their time and money, the Rewards Program increases value to our members giving them more reasons to join and stay a member. It is important to learn about this program, use it and talk it up so that other members of your club perceive the importance of this benefit!

The benefit I use the most often is the portal to Amazon, where up to six percent of my purchase price is donated by Amazon to the RI Foundation. However, I have received 25% off my printing at Kinko's. These benefits are worth the small trouble I go to be opening my application on my phone or going to the website portal.

If you forget the website address, you can just Google "Rotary Rewards" and use the site as your portal to savings. If you want to dig a little deeper, there is a video on this program at <https://vimeo.com/285328510>

I would be pleased to speak at your club and help your members understand why they should be using this great membership benefit. Gmglenn73@gmail.com, 913-488-0759.

ROTARY LEADERSHIP INSTITUTE

PLEASE JOIN US OCTOBER 20 & 21

8 AM TO 5 PM

WATER DISTRICT 7 OFFICE

534 W. MAIN STREET

GARDNER, KS 66030

*[Click here to learn
more about RLI!](#)*



Cost is \$55.00. If your club pays for two enrollments through 2018/2019 we will provide a third enrollment free. [Click here](#) to register!

YOUTH EXCHANGE NEWS

By Stephen Wheatley

The district is now taking applications for Outbound Exchange Students for the 2019-2020 school year. Applicants CAN be relatives of Rotarians and need to be between 15 1/2 and 18 1/2 years old at the time of travel (August 2019). Graduated seniors that fit this age range are also eligible. Clubs should now be identifying students and interviewing them. District level interviews are scheduled for December 8th. Completed applications are due to district Youth Exchange Officer Stephen Wheatley by December 1st. There is no cost to the clubs to sponsor an outbound exchange student. Some clubs choose to help the student but it isn't mandatory.

If you would like further information please contact Stephen Wheatley at wheatleydc@sbcglobal.net.

(top right) Several of last year's recently returned students.

(bottom right) Mix of last year's outbound students, This year's inbound students and a few of the outbound students that hadn't departed at the time of our inbound orientation.



SAVE THE DATE FOR THE 2019 DISTRICT CONFERENCE



Follow
The
Yellow

Brick
Road To
2019
District
Conference

TOPEKA, KANSAS

**FUN
Activities
For The
Whole Family
Oriented**

SAVE THE DATE—APRIL 26-27, 2019

ARE YOU A PEACEBUILDER CLUB?

DG Blanche's goal is for every club in District 5710 to help build stronger, more harmonious communities and a more peaceful world by becoming a **Peacebuilder club**. Your responsibility as a Peacebuilder Club is to **educate and empower** Rotarians, Interactors, Rotaractors, and others in your community regarding peacebuilding principle and strategies. One of the goals is to recognize that every Club project in all 6 areas of focus contributes to building community and peace.



This program will give you the tools to maximize the community-building and peacebuilding impact of your **existing** projects!

Please visit the District website "Club/District Resources" area to learn more, or [click this link](#).

Contact Patti Mellard, 785-640-9999, patti@keystaffing.com if you have any questions.

UPDATE FROM GLOBAL GRANT SCHOLAR GLORIA FUNCHEON

I arrived at Gatwick on the morning of the 17th and was very happy to be met by Jo and David from the Winslow Club. After a long flight, it was really nice to see smiling faces excited to meet me!

On Saturday the 22nd, all UK and Ireland scholars were invited to attend a day-long (LINK Meeting) orientation in Coventry. This was a great opportunity to get to know more about Rotary International, meet other scholars, and learn a bit about British culture (we even went over some slang terms that we would be likely to hear).

At the LINK Meeting I met Genevieve - the other district scholar from Topeka! She will be studying in Dublin.

On the afternoon of the 30th, the London-based scholars were invited to a tea and greeting. Jo (my host counsellor) attended with me, and I also had the opportunity to meet Neil Beeton from the Newport Pagnell club, with whom we had been in previous correspondence. This afternoon tea was a great chance to catch up with the other London scholars and meet some of the London clubs Rotary members.

Last week I attended various orientations at SOAS to become more acquainted with the campus and institution. I went on a library tour, went to the clubs fair to find out more ways to get involved with the student body (there is a running club!), and attended an impromptu Samba dance class on the campus square.

Classes started on Monday of this week. It is clear that there will be a lot of reading required, but I am very excited about having the time to really get into this content material in a meaningful way. There will be very few assignments, so I really have to make sure that what I do turn in is perfect.

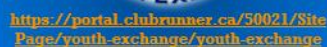
As was correctly predicted, I have had a very difficult time finding a place to live. I have contacted at least 100 different people offering a room and have seen 20 in person. I am still couch surfing, but I am confident that by this weekend I will have an actual home.

There is already interest for me to visit Rotary clubs! I will be speaking at the Winslow (host) club on October 23. I'm going to Amphyll in March, and likely Newport Pagnell and Coventry in January. I am very lucky to have Jo as my host counsellor - she has been very supportive and is very active! I wouldn't be surprised if I end up doing 10+ talks.

Gloria was sponsored by the Lawrence Rotary Club. She is studying at the University of London in the School of Oriental and African Studies.



A group of approximately 15 students and one adult woman, likely a teacher, are posing for a group photo in a classroom. The students are dressed in casual attire, including t-shirts, sweaters, and jeans. Some students are wearing lanyards with ID badges. The background shows typical classroom elements like desks, chairs, and educational posters on the wall. The overall atmosphere is positive and collaborative.



WHERE IN THE WORLD IS THE DISTRICT GOVERNOR?



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District 5710



Rotary
International HQ

Evanston IL
<https://www.rotary.org/>









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LAWRENCE CENTRAL'S COMMUNITY BIKE RIDE

On Saturday, Sept. 15, Lawrence Central hosted the 2nd ride of its "Community Bike Ride" initiative. In spite of warm weather, overlap with the KU football game, and a variety of other options, they were able to total 79 participants. Along with the ride was a successful helmet giveaway – as well as providing neon safety vests and shirts.

For the year (they hosted another ride in July), they had 247 participants, and gave away 107 helmets, 98 vests, and 105 shirts. And, importantly, it was another successful year without injuries. Multiple participants shared that it was "...my first time on this trail!" and more than one family shared that they were back with kids who had graduated from the club's training-wheel takeoff clinic (that Jane Huesemann leads).

From the Ride Chairperson—"Speaking for the group – each time we help fit a child (or adult) with a helmet – provide them with a bright (neon) vest or bright shirt – we know we are proactively promoting well being (safety). It means a lot to us – and we could not pull this off without your help.

We are looking forward to coming back in 2019 and we hope you choose to be along for the ride!"



Lawrence Central Rotary Kicks Off [Holiday Wreath Sales](#)

Help LCR fund their twice-annual Lawrence Community Bike Ride, [Lawrence Kids Calendar](#) and other service initiatives! LCR receives 20% of each sale. Do you purchase corporate or family gifts each holiday season? Make these beautiful, natural decorations part of your holiday giving tradition. Thank you for your support. Contact lawrencecentralrotary@gmail.com if questions.

OVERLAND PARK SOUTH ROTARY

First, our club is proud to announce that we reached our goal of raising \$4000 for Growing Futures to help them as they recover from some water damage that occurred a short time ago. At right is a picture of Harold Frye presenting the organization with the funds.

Second, our club is proud to announce that we will be a chartering organization for Pack 3425 and on August 8 we presented the pack with a check for \$500.

And finally, our club is thrilled to announce that we will be presenting the Crawdaddies Crawfish Boil next May. We will provide more information on this in the next quarterly newsletter but hope everyone will save the date - **Saturday May 4, 2018.**



VILLAGE WEST PRESENTS PROCEEDS FROM SEAFOOD FEST



The Village West Rotary Club recently presented a check to CLJ Foundation. CLJ Foundation works with and supports developmentally disabled young adults in Wyandotte County by teaching them skills, assisting them in finding jobs, arranging for transportation and offering social activities. The money was raised through Village West's annual Seafood Fest. CLJ Foundation has helped support the Seafood Fest with attendance and entertainment from their young adults.

Village West 2018/19 president Ben McAnany, Connie Johnson – founder and Executive Director of CLJ Foundation and Ms. Mac a volunteer with CLJ Foundation.

OVERBROOK ROTARY GETS KIDS FISHING

The Club was proud to once again co-sponsor the 10th annual Steve Cross Memorial Children's Fishing Derby on September 8th.

The fishing derby is a joint effort sponsored by the Overbrook Rotary Club and the Overbrook Parks and Recreation department. There was a great turnout and every child who attended got a fishing rod, tackle box, goody bag, and door prize.



In other club news, Overbrook Rotarians Vic Robbins and Karla Wiscombe recently presented Overbrook 3rd grade teacher, Ashley Fawl, a check for \$170. The 3rd grade class is raising money for a school therapy dog.

LEAWOOD ROTARY STAYS BUSY

By Tom Koch

Leawood Rotary has had an outstanding first quarter of Rotary year 2018-2019 completing an outstanding fund raiser, and, several amazing service projects – all while enjoying servicing others. And there were several social events.

Fund Raiser - Leawood Rotary Labor Day 5K ...

The club hosted a most successful Labor Day 5K run chaired by Lisa Harrison and Rick Robinson.. This event was started in 2015 and is one of our primary fund raisers. St. Joseph Hospital and Healient Physicians Group were title sponsors and overall sponsorship contributions were outstanding. Leawood Mayor Peggy Dunn addressed the runners and guests at the starting ceremony as over 250 runners of varying skill levels participated. While all the numbers are not yet finalized, the event was an amazing success and plans are already underway for an even greater Labor Day 5K Run next year.

In the recent past ...

Rotary Summer Youth Camp Service Day: On Saturday, July 28th, nine of our members traveled to the Rotary Youth Camp in Lee's Summit to enthusiastically help with cleanup, gardening, and general repair tasks. Lisa May chaired this successful project. Plans call for another trip next spring before the camping season starts.

Playground USA Painting Project: Our members led by project chair Rob Hindman participated in the rehabilitation of Stilwell Elementary School's Playground USA Map on September 15th. Also in attendance was the school Principal who expressed his appreciation and his belief that students would be very excited to see the fresh, brightly painted map.

Adopt-A-Trail Program: We're proud to announce that the Director of Parks and Recreation for the City of Leawood has selected the Leawood Rotary Club as the city's first "Adopt-A-Trail" sponsoring organization. Our half-mile section of the Tomahawk Trail/Creek system has been identified. Periodic cleanup details and procedures are under discussion and our first "On-The-Trail" day is tentatively scheduled for early November. Chuck Sipple, a member of the Community Service Committee was instrumental in making this happen.

Rotary Encouraging Academic Collegiate Help (REACH): The first meeting of the new school year was well attended by mentors and mentees alike. Started in 2005 by the Leawood Club, members mentor, teach, coach and encourage approximately 20 Bishop Ward High School Juniors and Seniors each year to pursue a college education. Our club funds up to eight annual college scholarships (\$1,500 each, per year) to the graduates of Bishop Ward that have successfully completed the REACH program. Much of the money raised by our club goes to fund this scholarship program. Dave Anderson and his team have done an incredible job.

Looking ahead...

The club's upcoming community service events include: October 13th, Christmas in October – painting the exterior of a selected home. November 15th, collection day in support of Johnson County Christmas Bureau Coat Drive. November 23rd, packing a minimum of 5,000 meals for RISE/Stop Hunger NOW.



ROTARY'S INTERNATIONAL REACH

District 5710 sent a Group Study Exchange team to Kenya and Uganda (District 9200) in 2013. One of the team members, Jennifer Noll, stayed in Uganda for several days with Rotarian Lilian Matovu of the Seeta Rotary Club there. (The District, by the way, is now District 9211.)

This year Lilian attended the June Rotary International Convention in Toronto and then came to the Kansas City area for her first visit to the United States.

Her husband, who is also a Rotarian, was unable to get a visa. She stayed several days in DeSoto with Jennifer and her family (top right). Rotarian Andrea Norris, who had been on the GSE planning committee, asked Lawrence Rotarians if they would like to host Lilian for a few days around July 4.



Diana Carlin and PDG Vickie Randel were happy to host her. With Diana and her husband, Topeka Rotarian Joe Pierron, she enjoyed a relaxing July 4th, then toured the Topeka State Capitol and the judicial building. On July 6 she had dinner with Vickie, Diana, Joe, Andrea, and Andrea's husband Tom Beisecker, at Tom and Andrea's farm in Baldwin City (at left).



Vickie showed her around KU, the Lawrence Rotary Arboretum, the Nelson-Atkins Museum and the Plaza. There was also some time for shopping. Everyone had a delightful experience. Here are pictures with Jennifer and her family, at the farm dinner, and of Lilian's six children back in Uganda.

TOPEKA SOUTH PUMPKIN RUN

Love to run (or walk with your family)? Want to raise awareness and money to support Polio Plus? Then make sure to sign up for the Topeka South Rotary's 6th Annual Pumpkin Run on **Saturday, October 27.**

The race will take place at Lake Shawnee.

7:30 am Registration and packet pickup

8:30 am Race begins

9:45 am Awards Ceremony

COSTS

\$25 before 10/13/2018

\$30 after and walk up

\$50 family stroll (2 or more)



COSTUME CONTEST

Make sure to wear your best Halloween costume and participate in our costume contest.

May the best princess or ghost win!

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

LEAVENWORTH ROTARY



The Rotary Club is off to a great start this operational year. Picture here is the membership with President-Elect Maria Minchew, President Larry Martin and Vice President Timothy Moran (front row). Our first service project of the year, our bi-annual OTC Med Drive (partnering with the Lansing Lions) in support of the Saint Vincent Clinic was a resounding success!



We bid a fond farewell to long-time Rotarian Rod Rivard (pictured with his spouse, Gladys) as he and Gladys retire to Florida; Rod has been a Rotarian since 1987 serving as President in 1995-1996 and a two-time Rotarian of the Year; Rod will be missed, and we wish him all the best in Florida!



Rotarian Jim McKinney was recognized as a Paul Harris Fellow plus 5 at a recent meeting; he has donated \$6000 to the Rotary International Foundation; Jim is pictured with Rotary Club Foundation Chair, DeEtte Lombard; he received a special Paul Harris pin with a sapphire stone for his recent donation. Also recognized this quarter, Don Murphy was recognized for multiple PHFs and Wendell Maddox received his first PHF in September. Congrats to all!

New member Terri Wojtalewicz was welcomed to our club in July and worked hard doing service projects to lose her red new member ribbon in September...she is pictured with her sponsor, VP Timothy Moran...YAY, Rotarian Terri!



OTC Med Drive --- several Rotarians worked this quarter with the Lansing Lions Club to collect OTC Meds for our local free clinic (Saint Vincent's); since February 2013, we've collected over \$29,046 worth of OTC medicines and over \$5,859 in cash; partnering with another local non-profit organization, the Lansing Lions --- next OTC Med Drive is scheduled for May 2019 (this is a bi-annual service project).



We were happy to welcome LTG(R) Robert Arter to a meeting in September; he is pictured (at right) with President Larry Martin and Past President Rick Hansen.



Meals on Wheels Deliveries continue every Monday; pictured here are Rotarians Mike Suozzo and Tamara Sevcik.



Rotarian Bill Kromer will be honored as our Veteran honoree this year at the Veterans' Day Parade; a unanimous choice by our board; congrats, Bill!

Grant recipient for Sunflower Girls State, Taylor Edwards, is recognized by President Larry after she provides insight on her experience at Girls State this year.



Past President Ellen Bogdan helping to keep our Rotary Park pristine during our monthly summer clean ups.

USM Rotaract Club Sign Up was conducted this quarter; approximately 20 students showed interest in joining the club.



WHY I VOLUNTEER

By Marc Shaffer, Overland Park South

Being a member of Rotary has given me so much, both personally and professionally. I wanted to share my experience to give you an idea of how the clubs operate. If you have an interest in joining Rotary, I'd be happy to help you get plugged in.

Rotary is an international organization where neighbors, friends and problem-solvers share ideas, join leaders, and act to create lasting change. These clubs meet across the world and you can almost always find a local group to join. I am a member of the Overland Park South Rotary Club. We meet at Deer Creek Golf Club near 130th and Metcalf every Wednesday at 7:30am (breakfast included!)



Rotary was founded by Paul Harris in an effort to help network and connect in the community. I can attribute many business connections and clients to Rotary so I'm happy that it has contributed to my success, which, in turn, allows me more flexibility to give back financially to the causes the organization serves.

Why I Joined Rotary

In an effort to learn about the community in which I live and work, I decided to join my local Rotary Club. My mentor and now business partner was a member of the Leawood Rotary Club, and I knew I wanted to grow outside of his network. I visited other area Clubs and found the perfect fit for me in OP South.

Did you know there are 14 Rotary Clubs in Johnson County, all with unique members and cultures?

Even though OP South was a morning club, they still had HIGH energy. I noticed that many members had developed personal friendships and regularly met outside of Club meetings for socials or help growing their business. I may have started out as the only person in the room in my 20's, but I was confident that the energy and culture of this club would attract more young professionals and I can confirm it has done just that.

Exposure to Charities and Volunteer Opportunities

When I first joined Rotary, I had limited exposure to local and international charities and volunteer opportunities. Rotary was a great way for me to get exposure to those in my community and learn more about them from their leaders who regularly came to speak at our meetings. My Club specifically chooses to benefit children's charities and I now serve to help a few of these charities outside of my Rotary involvement.



Leadership Development

Rotary continually helps me grow personally and professionally. I often say that Rotary paved the way for my leadership development. In the Overland Park South Rotary Club, the members are very enthusiastic about younger members who want to volunteer and give back. As a new member, I was a "yes man," never turning down a request to help in various roles within the Club and volunteer for our events. This mentality helped me get out of my comfort zone, become more comfortable in various situations, develop better friendships

AND gave me more exposure to each facet of our Club and its community reach.

Within a year of membership, I was asked to serve on the sponsorship committee for the Jazz in the Woods event in Corporate Woods. I helped the Chair of the event raise money to not only put on the event, with a budget over \$200,000, but to also net money for our children's charity beneficiaries. This paved the way to me chairing the event the following year to help net over \$60,000 for these charities: Fox 4 Love Fund, Lee Ann Britain Infant Development Center, Operation Breakthrough.

My involvement in Jazz in the Woods led me to serve on the Board which better taught me how to work with groups of people on a common cause. In 2011 I was asked to serve as Club President. This allowed me to learn to work with people with different

talents and skills and made me realize how important it is to make sure everyone is in the “right seat on the bus” to make sure that the “bus goes to where it is supposed to.” Everyone doesn’t always get along, but the role of the President is to direct the efforts in the same direction to get things accomplished for our members and our community.



International Travel

Rotary has allowed me to travel internationally. Fortunately, our Club pays for the President to attend the Rotary International Conference the May leading into Presidency. I was lucky to spend a week in Lisbon, Portugal with 25,000 Rotarians from all over the world. Rotary is a big deal in other countries! Many conference attendees wore Rotary clothing from head to toe.

I was amazed to find that Rotary in other countries wasn’t for everyone; it was reserved for the highest leaders and/or dignitaries. Unfortunately, this often meant that other international Rotarians were not young. It was at the conference that I learned about the international efforts of Rotary. They are currently trying to eradicate polio with a focus on providing clean water around the world when the disease is gone. I suspect that Rotary International will win the Nobel Peace Prize once this goal has been met.

Friends Across the World

Rotary has provided me with friends all over. Not only are there approximately 100 members in the Overland Park South Club but I’ve also met members in other area Clubs and in other parts of the country and the world.

In October of 2016, I traveled to the Rotary Leadership Institute in Salt Lake City to learn how other young Rotarians are growing their membership and their impact in the community. The Overland Park South Rotary Club is a part of District 5710 so I’ve traveled to training events for Club leadership in Lawrence, Topeka, Manhattan and Salina. When I bought in as an owner for my business, I had several friends in different professions to help me with all the things I should be considering. Their life experience has really helped me over the years and I look forward to giving my experience back to future members.



Just Plain Fun

Rotarians can get a job DONE, but we’re not always serious. One of my favorite Club memories/traditions is when the Pledge Class roasts the outgoing President when the leadership turns over for the new year. After serving my year as President, the members had no issue making fun of my past dating history and commitment issues during my roast. Our Sergeant of Arms tells a joke every week to get our meetings started, we laugh and enjoy each other’s company during our events, and we plan socials for a variety of preferences...including ordering a party bus to attend the Ugly Sweater Party that benefits Operation Breakthrough. Being a part of this group is just plain fun.



Rotary Leadership Institute in Gardner—Oct. 20/21

[REGISTER HERE](#)

World Polio Day at the State Capitol –Oct. 24

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Foundation Banquet—November 3 @ OP Sheraton

[REGISTER HERE](#)