

February 2011

District and Club
Edition

District 5710

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2010-11

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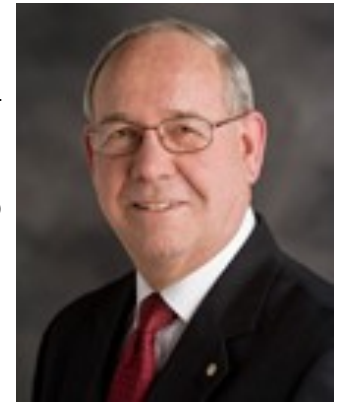
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To submit articles and pictures for the District Newsletter, send to Linda Ireland by the 15th of each month.

Rotary DNA

This Rotary year features a culture of innovation in which we are looking at all aspects of our policies, practices, and procedures to see if they can be modernized and improved. Not surprisingly for an old and large organization like ours, we are identifying many areas that could, and should, be brought up to date.

But at the same time, I fully recognize that some things are so significant in Rotary's success that they are sacrosanct. They are referred to in the RI Strategic Plan as our core values, but I prefer to call them our DNA. They are the characteristics that distinguish Rotary from all other organizations. They are the essence of who Rotarians are and what Rotarians have in common around the world.



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The five core values named in the RI Strategic Plan are fellowship, service, integrity, diversity, and leadership. Young people prefer the word *networking* to our traditional word of *fellowship*, but to me they are equivalent. Both words lead to lasting friendships in our clubs, which keep us together between projects and which make Rotary membership truly priceless. Friendship is clearly the most essential element of Rotary's DNA!

Rotarians should not worry that the current emphasis on modernization will damage our core values. That would be alien to Cowboy Logic, which includes the admonitions "Remember that some things are not for sale" and "Know where to draw the line." I want to assure Rotarians that we will not alter the values and attitudes that have made Rotary a premier organization – one that is now on the world stage through PolioPlus!

We have so much to be proud of as Rotarians. This is our finest hour, and our best days are still ahead as we help our clubs to be Bigger, Better, and Bolder. Along with our five core values, persistent progress is another prestigious part of Rotary's DNA!

Ray Klinginsmith
President, Rotary International

March is Literacy Month

From RI Community Service Update

March is Literacy Month, a time when Rotarians are encouraged to use their talents and resources to raise awareness about literacy issues in their communities and around the world. Consider organizing a community discussion about literacy and how to improve it in your area. Your club could also sponsor a literacy project, giving fundamental skills and new opportunities to some of the nearly 800 million people around the world who cannot read or write.

Glenn F Estess, Sr., 2010 Foundation Trustee Chair at Rotary International, wrote in his 2010 message: "Being literate does not just mean having the ability to read a book or a newspaper. Being literate means being able to comprehend the instructions on a medicine bottle, a set of directions, or a job posting. It means understanding the note written by a child's teacher. It means being able to use a computer, follow a recipe, or apply for a mortgage. Literacy means being part of the larger society. It means inclusion, and it means empowerment.



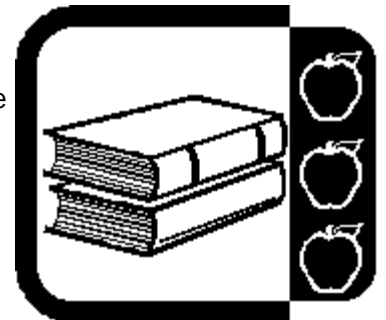
Those who cannot read or write, whether they are children or adults, are cut off from important information in ways too numerous to count. They are less likely to be healthy and more likely to be poor. And perhaps most critical of all, parents who cannot read are more likely to raise children who cannot read – perpetuating the cycle of illiteracy, and of poverty.

As a Rotarian and in my profession, I have seen so many simple and creative ways to break this cycle. Whether it is by volunteering in schools, by bringing education and training to adults, or simply by ensuring that all children have the books and supplies they need, we in Rotary can do so much. We can help others learn to read – and learn to help themselves."

Time to Nominate Your Club's 2011 Educator of the Year for District 5710

Rotary District 5710 would like to again honor and encourage educators from kindergarten through grade 12. The district will award teachers that are outstanding in their field and teachers who exemplify excellence. In doing so, we hope to also improve the perception of teaching as a viable and important vocation for future generations.

As in the past, the nominations will be reviewed by a panel of judges and three winners selected. These winners will be honored at the District Conference on April 30 at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas.



Nomination forms are due to Marie Pyko, District Literacy Chair, by **Wednesday, March 9, 2011.** Mail the forms to Marie Pyko, Topeka and Shawnee County Public Library, 1515 SW 10th Avenue, Topeka, KS 66604 or fax to 785-580-4496 or submit electronically to mpyko@tscpl.org.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR INSTRUCTIONS.](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE NOMINATION FORM.](#)

Books for Kids Scoreboard—as of 2/5/11

Article by Larry Williams, Johnson County Rotary Club

Overland Park - Jeff Goodwin	2,100
Johnson County – L. Williams/G.McCoy	801
Kansas City, KS – Frank Simonich.....	50
Lenexa – Moe Cougher.....	22
Overland Park South- Tim New	297
DeSoto – Kris Johnson	279
Shawnee Mission- M. Ormsby/D.Boone	131
Total	3,780

Although there were five fewer Rotary Clubs involved in the Books for Kids project this year, we still reached our goal of 3,200 books which equals the number of children involved in Head Start Programs in the Kansas City Metro. The estimated value of the new and used books given this year is \$11,550.

More clubs may have been involved than this, but have not reported as of this date. Any other Rotary Clubs can still be involved by collecting books for very young children and taking them to their local Head Start office. (Most school districts have Head Start programs.) We would be glad to report any additional clubs involved in this part of Rotary Literacy programs and add your books to the total.

This is the 5th Annual Books for Kids sponsored by Rotary in the metro area. In those years we have amassed a total of 25,201 books valued at \$116,832.

For further information contact the Books for Kids Co-Chairs at the Rotary Club of Johnson County.

Larry R. Williams williams3@kc.rr.com or Gina McCoy harrypenguin@msn.com

Kansas City Kansas Rotary Club Dictionary Project

The Kansas City, Kansas Rotary Club donated 456 dictionaries to the Kansas City, Kansas Public Schools. The dictionaries were distributed in January to middle schools and high schools in USD 500 to support students. The books were distributed to Eisenhower Middle School, Arrowhead Middle School, Northwest Middle School, Wyandotte High School and Fairfax Alternative School, Middle and High School.



ABOVE: Dictionaries presented by club member Mary Viveros to Ms. Molly Kennedy's 8th grade class at Eisenhower Middle School.

LEFT: Dictionaries presented to Ms. Hodges 6th grade class at Arrowhead Middle School.



Helping assemble the dictionaries were club members Pat Crilly, Bill Strumillo, George Turner and Ashley Adorante.

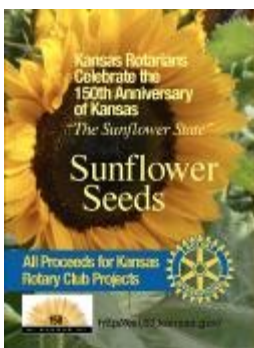
District 5710 - Kansas Sesquicentennial PolioPlus Projects



The **Topeka (Downtown) Rotary Club** has designed a Kansas Sesquicentennial license plate for Rotarians (pictured to the right) and your club has the opportunity to join in this project for PolioPlus. Your club can purchase these license plates for only \$7.00 (which is the cost of the plate and the shipping costs) and ask for a \$20.00 donation for each license plate. You can market these plates to Rotarians, family members, friends—with all profits from the donations going toward your club's PolioPlus goal. Each Rotary Club would send the profits from the license plates directly to Rotary International for PolioPlus in the club's name as their part of the state's sesquicentennial project.



These plates can be displayed on the front bumper or taped into a window to promote Rotarians in Kansas. If your club would like to be included in this project, contact **Anita Wolgast** (awolgast@cox.net) and a license plate and project details will be sent to your club.



Each Spring the **DeSoto Rotary Club** has grown fields of a variety of sunflowers, selling the sunflower blooms for a PolioPlus project. This year DeSoto Rotary is selling seed packages that contain seeds to grow the "Mammoth Gray Stripe" sunflower which produces huge yellow blossoms. All Kansas Rotary Clubs are invited to participate in utilizing this to celebrate the Kansas 150th Anniversary and to spread the good word about Rotary.

The seed package will display the graphic picture to the left. Each club can order 1,000 seeds for \$250 (25 cents per package). A suggested \$2.00 donation is printed on the package. This represents a potential for each club to raise \$1,750 for each 1,000 seed packages—or \$3,500 for 2,000 seed packages!

The packets will sell very quickly. What better present to purchase for a school teacher, your grandchildren, a boy scout/brownie troop, the little league baseball team, a prospective member to your club—the list is endless. Or you can give the packets away to spread the good word about Rotary. **Clubs will need to preorder seed packets by March 15th**, for this year's growing season. Contact **Graham Gordon** (thegordons2@gmail.com or 913-832-7954) for more information.

All PolioPlus Contributions are matched by the Bill and Linda Gates Foundation
WE ARE THIS CLOSE!

JOIN THESE PROJECTS!!

WHAT AN EASY WAY FOR YOUR CLUB TO RAISE FUNDS FOR POLIOPUS!!

Contact

Anita Wolgast—awolgast@cox.net

Graham Gordon—thegordons2@gmail.com or 913-832-7954

Dates to Remember for 2010-11

2011

MARCH: LITERACY MONTH

- 5 Pre-PETS (West), Ramada Inn, Topeka,
8:00 am—12:00 pm
(See District Website for details)
- 5 Foundation Alumni Reception and
Ambassadorial Scholars Banquet, Tiffany
Greens Golf Club, Kansas City, MO
- 9 2011 Educator of the Year Nominations
Due to Marie Pyko
- 16 Ambassadorial Scholarship Applications
Due to Frances Strieby
- 26 Ambassadorial Scholarship Interviews, At-
chison, 8:00 am, Atchison Heritage Confer-
ence Center
- TBD Presidential Citations due

APRIL: ROTARY MAGAZINE MONTH

- 7-9 President-Elect, Secretary-Elect training in
Salina - *ALL incoming Presidents are
required to attend.*
- 16 GSE Team from Australia to Kansas
- 19 Paul Harris's birthday
- 28 District PDG Dinner, Overland Park**
- 29 District Assembly, Overland Park**
- 30-5/1 District Conference, Overland Park**

MAY

- 16 GSE Team returns to Australia
- 21-25 Rotary International Convention, New Or-
leans, LA**

JUNE: ROTARY FELLOWSHIPS MONTH

- 5-9 RYLA, University of Kansas, Lawrence

SAVE THE DATE

- April 28—PDG Banquet
April 29—District Assembly
April 30—District Conference
May 1—Memorial Service and Foundation Breakfast

The 2011 District Assembly and Conference will at held at the Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. Details coming soon.

Upcoming Club Event

DETAILS AVAILABLE ON THE DISTRICT HOME PAGE
UNDER CLUB EVENTS

BURLINGTON ROTARY CLUB

No-Limit Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament
March 5—Registration 2:00pm, Play Begins at 3:00pm
[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

LENEXA ROTARY CLUB

Shrimp Fest and Bingo Fundraiser Event
March 5—Shrimp Fest 5:30 pm, Bingo 7:00 pm
[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

TOPEKA WEST ROTARY CLUB

A Benefit for Marian Clinic—Old Fashion Kansas Barbeque
March 5—Social Hour 6:00 pm, Dinner 7:00 pm
[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO](#)

OLATHE ROTARY CLUB

March 11—Soups & Hoops
5:30-8:30—Olathe North High School
Contact: Nicole Asquith, nicholeasquith@yahoo.com

VALLEY FALLS ROTARY CLUB

March 12—Basketball Tournament
Contact Dr. James Rider, 785-945-6894

OLATHE ROTARY CLUB

Days of Wine and Rotary
May 14 (Details provided later)

VILLAGE WEST ROTARY

Service Club Challenge
May 31 (Details provided later)

Upcoming Deadlines

- March 9—Educator of the Year Nominations
- March 15—Preorder Sunflower Seed Packages from the
DeSoto Rotary Club
- March 16—Ambassadorial Scholar Applications

District Membership Numbers

Month of January

Clubs with zero entered for the current month's membership/attendance % did not submit a Secretary's Report to the District website for the month of December by the deadline date of February 15.

The membership count listed for July 1, 2010 reflects the information Rotary International received on club Semi-Annual Reports (SAR's) submitted for that date. This is the number that will be used to calculate membership growth in our District for 2010-11.

Foundation Alumni Reception and Ambassadorial Scholars Banquet

Rotary International, Districts 6040, 6080
and 5710

Foundation Alumni Reception and Ambassadorial
Scholars Banquet

Saturday, March 5, 2011

Tiffany Greens Golf Club, 6100 NW Tiffany
Springs Parkway, Kansas City, Missouri

Reception 5:30 pm Dinner 7:00 pm

Foundation Alumni, including GSE team members and leaders, Ambassadorial and World Peace Scholars and Rotary Volunteers, are invited to attend the Fourth Annual Foundation Alumni Reception in Kansas City, MO. There is no charge for the Reception, but if you wish to stay for the Banquet, the cost is \$25 per person.

[CLICK HERE FOR THE EVENT FLYER](#)



Club	7/1/2010 Membership	Membership As Of 1/31/2011	January Attendance
Atchison	79	74	61.96%
Baldwin City	15	16	66.00%
Blue Rapids	21	0	0.00%
Blue Valley	14	14	91.00%
Bonner Springs	26	0	0.00%
Burlingame	12	13	57.69%
Burlington	33	31	67.59%
Council Grove	0	0	0.00%
DeSoto	39	43	49.42%
Emporia	68	64	49.78%
Frankfort	24	23	68.00%
Gardner	61	63	62.45%
Garnett	30	0	0.00%
Holton	24	24	63.00%
Howard	19	19	80.30%
Indian Creek Sunset-Prov.	6	5	60.00%
Johnson County	43	40	77.12%
Johnson County-Sunset	0	0	0.00%
Junction City	86	77	35.00%
Junction City-Flint Hills	21	0	0.00%
Kansas City	54	57	73.00%
Lawrence	197	199	44.38%
Lawrence Central	32	31	55.00%
Lawrence Jayhawk	66	71	61.48%
Leavenworth	94	93	72.27%
Leawood	55	55	81.60%
Lenexa	43	49	80.66%
Louisburg	42	39	45.00%
Manhattan	210	217	57.50%
Manhattan Konza	73	77	54.75%
Marysville	50	48	66.00%
Olathe	0	0	0.00%
Olathe-Santa Fe Trail	39	33	61.00%
Osawatomie	22	23	64.00%
Oskaloosa	34	33	65.00%
Ottawa	17	30	0.00%
Overbrook	32	32	77.00%
Overland Park	146	141	62.53%
Overland Park South	89	92	69.30%
Paola	32	35	57.00%
Shawnee	60	62	73.00%
Shawnee Mission	62	52	56.73%
Spring Hill	16	18	77.00%
Topeka Downtown	196	194	52.79%
Topeka North	16	20	66.00%
Topeka South	114	114	73.00%
Topeka West	21	22	82.00%
Valley Falls	18	18	72.00%
Village West	38	38	73.64%
	2396	2399	60.65% **

**Percentage for Clubs Reporting

Clubs With Over 70% Membership Attendance for January

Will your club be listed here next month?

Blue Valley	91.00%
Topeka West.....	82.00%
Leawood	81.60%
Lenexa	80.66%
Howard	80.30%
Johnson County.....	77.12%
Overbrook	77.00%
Spring Hill	77.00%
Village West.....	73.64%
Kansas City.....	73.00%
Shawnee.....	73.00%
Topeka South	73.00%
Leavenworth.....	72.27%
Valley Falls.....	72.00%

Average Attendance (for the reporting clubs) for the month of January: 60.65%

Clubs with 65% to 70% Attendance:

Overland Park South—	69.30%
Frankfort—	68.00%
Burlington—	67.59%
Baldwin City—	66.00%
Marysville—	66.00%
Topeka North—	66.00%
Oskaloosa—	65.00%

New Club Members for January

Johnson County	Kimberlee Johnson
Junction City.....	Tim Hobbs
Lawrence.....	Suzanne Cotrel Doyle
Lawrence Central.....	Jane Stevens
Leavenworth	Patrick Kitchens
Lenexa.....	Peter Lindstrom
Louisburg	Brandon Steinert
Manhattan Konza	Susanne Kufahl
Oskaloosa	Connie Bryant, Gary Bryant
Ottawa	Amy Welton
Overland Park	Elaine Scott
Topeka Downtown	Joanne Budler
Topeka North	Lisa Propps

Western Johnson County Rotary Club Forms

Our newest club was granted provisional status on February 7. Lori Maher has been appointed President through June 30, 2011. The club held its first “regular” meeting on February 8 with 24 in attendance. The club has a diverse range of classifications and nearly 50% of the chartering members to date are female.

The Lenexa, Shawnee and Johnson County Clubs have agreed to financially support the formation of this club. They will provide funds to purchase supplies to formalize the meetings, register for a ClubRunner website, and send the club’s President-elect and Secretary-elect to PETS/SETS in Salina.

Come join this group of energized and committed individuals who are passionate about becoming Rotarians.

KC Sports Grille, 10064 Woodland, Lenexa, KS
(K-10 and Woodland)
5:15-6:15 pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday
7:30 am on the 2nd, 4th and 5th Tuesday



District Youth Exchange Corner

This month we spotlight two of our boys here in the district.

First we have Jean Montane de la Roque from Southern France. Jean's family hosted our outbound student from Overland Park, Amelia Hanzlick, when she first arrived in France. His father is a physician at the local hospital and his mother stays at home with him. He is the youngest of 4 (two boys and two girls). He enjoys hunting and has played Tennis since the age of 4. He has wanted to be an exchange student for the last few years and always wanted to come the U.S. He lives in a big house in the country with his family and loves his family dog. Jean is currently being hosted by the Downtown Topeka Rotary Club and attends Hayden High School. He is always easy to spot because of his bright red hair. He wants to work in marketing in the future.



L to R: Christian, Joy and Jean coming in from a recent snowball fight.

Second we have Christian Otzen from Otterup, Denmark. Christian is the youngest of 5 siblings. There are 24 years between him and his oldest brother. His father is retired and his mother works for the post office. His siblings are very worldly and have lived in areas such as Sri Lanka, Scotland, Netherlands and Singapore. Christian is no stranger to life in a foreign country. He spent his first 7 years living in Islamabad Pakistan and in Kampala, Uganda. The last 3 years he has attend the Royal Theater's ballet school in Odense. He loves to dance and act. He wants to be an actor when he grows up. If that falls through he wants to be a dentist. Christian is being hosted by the Overland Park South Rotary Club and attends Shawnee Mission South High School. He has had 16 years of English in school.



Alina, Christian and Ana at the recent SCRYE convention in Tulsa.

Both boys have been wonderful ambassadors for their country and for their Rotary club here. Jean's English has really improved since he has been here and been immersed in our culture. At our recent outbound orientation Christian gave very good advise to the students that will leave in August. He said to go into an exchange with a clear mind and no expectations of what is to happen. Accept things as different and don't compare them to things in your home country and you will get a great exchange experience.



The whole group just after the SCRYE convention banquet.



District Youth Exchange Corner

Dear Rotarians,

It is hard to believe that we are already working on next years group of students. With next years students there will be a shift in responsibilities at the district level. Robert Thompson from the Gardner Rotary Club and I will be sharing the YEO (Youth Exchange Officer) position as CO-YEO's. Robert will handle the inbound students and I will handle our Kansas kids that we send out this August. With that note we are sending out 11 students this year—10 from District 5710 and one from District 5670. **We are now looking for host clubs and host families for the 12 inbound students we are anticipating for this August.** We are expecting students from Sweden, Denmark, Belgium, France, Spain, Austria, Switzerland, Germany, Romania, Taiwan and Japan. Remember that **host families do not have to be Rotarians.** Please contact Stephen Wheatley at wheatleydc@sbcglobal.net or Robert Thompson at ratratrat@yahoo.com. We are here to help.

Stephen Wheatley
District Youth Exchange Officer Outbound

Robert Thompson
District Youth Exchange Officer Inbound



Ambassadorial Scholarship Day

The Atchison Club will host the Annual Ambassadorial Scholarship interviews on March 26, 2011. Students will compete for the two, \$24,000 scholarships to be awarded that day. Interviewers from Rotary Clubs across our District #5710 will meet at the Atchison Heritage Conference Center, 710 S 9th Street at 8:00 SHARP! (The phone number to the conference center is 913-367-1162). We will interview the students and make the final selections.

The Atchison Rotary Club has served as host for this event for thirty-eight years and it has become an important activity for all club members.

Applications are still available. There are still clubs in our district who have not asked for applications. Contact Frances Strieby for information at 913-367-6441 or fstrieby@atchchildcare.org. Students will need a Rotary Club in #5710 to sponsor them. If you know any student who would be interest in applying for the scholarships, let them know that the **applications are due by March 16, 2011.**

[CLICK HERE to download the 2012-13 Ambassadorial Scholar Application](#)

If you are interested in being an interviewer please contact Carrie Sowers by March 16, 2011, csowers@atchchildcare.org or 913-367-6441.

Francis Strieby
Carrie Sowers
District Ambassadorial Scholarship Co-Chairs



Village West Awards First Honorary Member

On January 27, 2011, Pat Sedlock was named as the first ever Honorary Lifelong Member of the Village West Rotary Club. Pat is a Charter Member of the club which began in 2006. Her deep community involvement was critical to the club's inception and growth, as well as its signature event, the annual Parade Of Heroes.

“Without Pat’s boundless energy and friendliness, our club would not be where it is today, and that is why it is so exciting that our Board has unanimously voted to bestow this honor on Pat,” said club President Adam Ehlert. “Pat’s service is truly selfless, and our community is certainly a better place because of her work.”

Pictured to the right: President Adam Ehlert, Pat Sedlock with her Honorary Member Certificate.



Ottawa Rotary Club Adds 13 New Members

The Ottawa Rotary Club has grown by thirteen new members since July 1. Club Trainer Ed Coulter held an orientation meeting for new members with eight new members attending. Gordon Billingsley and Dean Katt gave vocational talks and Traci Fruit gave a presentation on the Group Study Exchange trip to Australia.



New Members L to R: Judd Mourning, Kristin Allan, James Wacker



L to R: President Tom Weigand and new member John Powell



Far left picture: L to R
New Member Gordon Billingsley and President Tom Weigand



Right picture L to R
President Tom Weigand and new member Brian Dennis

Olathe Rotarian Tom Hall Celebrates His 103rd Birthday



Olathe Rotary Club Rotarian Tom Hall celebrated his 103rd birthday at his club meeting on January 26. Tom joined Rotary in 1935 and joined the Olathe Rotary Club when it chartered on August 9, 1937. He served as the club's president in 1945-46 and is a multiple Paul Harris Fellow. Tom is still active and attends the weekly meet-

ings—he still drives every week—and participates in events in any way he can. Tom is an asset to his club and community!

Pictured to the right is Tom Hall and his daughter.



Shawnee Rotary Club Awards Eight Paul Harris Fellows

The Shawnee Rotary Club has awarded Paul Harris Fellows to eight members. Pictured to the right are DG John Vandewalle presenting the awards to (L to R)

Charlie Clark
Todd Goodman
Tom Miller
Trisha Stevenson
Patrick Hammod
Joni Pflumm
Dave Huston
Pete Haven

This award recognizes significant contributions to Rotary International.



RYLA 2011 SCHEDULED

The University of Kansas in Lawrence will once again host District 5710's Rotary Youth Leadership Academy (RYLA) from June 5 to June 9. Cost per student is \$300 (\$275 registration fee paid by the sponsoring club and \$25 application fee paid by the student). Over 70 students attended last year's RYLA, engaging in a wide range of leadership development, communication, and community service activities. Applications are due to the District Office by May 6. For questions, please contact John Curran of the Olathe Rotary Club at jjcurran@msn.com.



For a copy of the RYLA registration form, [CLICK HERE](#).

Leawood Rotary Club Annual Awards Dinner

The Leawood Rotary Club held their annual awards dinner on February 5. Several awards were presented and in total, 26 Paul Harris Fellowships were awarded to club members.



Gary Bussing received his Paul Harris Major Donor pin from DG John Vandewalle.



The club was pleased to award PHFs to members Richard Waldron, Chuck Udell, John Wurzer, Ken Seizer and Ron Slepitz. Unable to attend was Joe Crawford and Neil Sommers.



Nancy Barber received a PHF +3 and +4. Shown is President Gary Bussing, Nancy and Foundation Chair Chuck Sweeney. Unable to attend were Stu Sharpe and Jake Schloegel who both earned +4 awards.



Rotarians receiving PHF +1 awards were Bill Ramsey, Chuck Sweeney, Marnie Clawson, Wayne Starr, Margie Valentine, Jim Rawlings, Marc Rawlings, Marc McCarty and John Meier.



Ron Slepitz was named Leawood Rotarian of the Year for his work as Chair of the International Committee and the many other projects in which he has been involved.



The club named two new members Leawood Rotary Rookies of the Year. John Wurzer for his work as Chair of the Club Service Committee and Chuck Udell for his work as co-chair of the Foundation Committee.



Major General Vincent K. Brooks—Army Applied Rotary's Motto in Iraq

Adapted from an article in The Daily Union, Junction City, by Mike Heronemus

The 1st Infantry Division commanding general told his fellow Junction City Rotarians Tuesday that he spent the past year in Iraq living up to the club's motto of Service Before Self.

Maj. Gen. Vincent K. Brooks, who also serves as Fort Riley's commanding general, told his club members during lunch at the Courtyard by Marriott that while commanding the Army elements in nine provinces in the southern half of Iraq until recently, he and the U.S. soldiers under his command constantly looked for opportunities to meet that country's needs. The result, he said, was "800 or so projects throughout the nine provinces."



Projects could be as small as giving a small local businessman a grant to cover start-up costs so he could become financially self-sufficient, Brooks said, to large construction projects, such as replacing a community building destroyed in fighting with a new "friendship hall" where people could meet, weddings could take place and other social events could be scheduled. "By the time we left, things were going great guns," Brooks said about use of the building.

One project Brooks especially wanted to share was the completion of a children's hospital that treats cancer cases. It is located in a petroleum production area where the infrastructure has not been well maintained and where burning gas flumes are prevalent, he explained. That burning gas fills the air with petroleum fumes, which causes a lot of respiratory and other health problems, he said. Construction on the hospital began in 2005. The 194-bed hospital was completed in 2010 at a cost of \$166 million and outfitted with modern medical equipment, Brooks said.

Part of Brooks' responsibility was to oversee the drawdown of U.S. troops in Iraq as part of Operation New Dawn, in which the nation's security is being handed back to the Army and police security forces. Responding to another question, Brooks assured the Rotarians that the Iraqi Army is fully capable of handling the nation's security.

While serving his year tour of duty, Brooks said he observed zero security incidents in eight of the nine provinces in his area of operation and related comments from Iraqi voters who were pleased to see their Army protecting them while they voted.

Brooks expressed hope, however, that the changes he has seen made in Iraq over the past few years will mean a permanent change for the country and the Mideast. He also believes that because the United States got involved, "the world got better."

Foundation Thought

"The Rotary Foundation has been so effective because it matches money with people. In the words of Arch Klumph: 'Money alone does little good. Individual service is helpless without money. The two together can be a Godsend to civilization.'" From *A Century of Service: The Story of Rotary International* by David C. Forward

CLUB NEWS

Village West Rotary Club

- The club is planning the Service Club Challenge, a collection of canned goods for Harvester's which will take place May 31.
- The club held a Club Assembly this month to discuss progress toward yearly goals, long-range plans and next year's club leadership.
- The club has begun a "battle of the sexes" membership drive. With their first new member approved, that converts three points to the men's side of the scoreboard!

Topeka West Rotary Club

- A Wine and Cheese held for potential new members at Southwind Art Gallery resulted in the induction of two new member to the club. New members are Jim Herynk (sponsored by Carolyn Conroy) and Donna Eberly (sponsored by Brian Jacques). Through a raffle, the Wine and Cheese also raised \$800 for PolioPlus in less than two hours.
- The club is busy preparing for their March 5 Benefit for Marian Clinic—a Good Old Fashioned Kansas Barbeque to be hold at Shawnee County Club. Members are busy marketing the event, as well as coordinating ticket sale, décor and entertainment.
- Aparna Dasaraju (pictured to the right), Washburn Rural High School Interact Club President spoke to the Topeka West club about the club's activities. The Topeka West Club is hoping to involve the WRHS Interact Club with the Benefit for Marian Clinic .



Topeka Downtown Rotary Club

- The club purchased books for their program speakers to sign. The books are then donated to Avondale East Elementary Schools.
- The club made donations to the Topeka Rescue Mission, Salvation Army, Doorstep Utility Relief Fund and their Youth Exchange student.
- Donated \$100 towards the restoration of the Library at New Orleans Mission.
- The club has purchased Kansas Rotarian License Plates as a fundraiser for PolioPlus. The project will be shared with all Rotary Clubs in Kansas. Purchase the license plate for \$7 (the cost of the plate and shipping), then sell to club members, family members, friends, etc for a suggested donation of \$20. Profits go to RI for PolioPlus in the name of the club. For details see page 4.
- Club Rotarians Jim Ogle and Nancy Daniels were named Topeka Martin Luther King Award Recipients. Rotarian Scott Gales was named a Topeka Chamber of Commerce Member-Volunteer of the Year Award Recipient.



Spring Hill Rotary club

- The club is 35 pounds lighter due to their "Pounds for Polio Project." A club member pledged to give \$5 in each person's name for every pound lost between December 14 and February 22. The four participating Rotarian's effort added \$175 to the polio grant challenge fund. The lighter Rotarians are Linda Rogers, Stevie Morris, Sharon Meek, and Kim Thompson. Congratulations ladies!
- The club is in the think of a community needs assessment project.—Project Connect. Members are canvassing 50+ Spring Hill organizations, businesses and city services. Surveys were mailed out seeking to find a way to *fill in giving gaps*, not duplicate efforts already in place by other groups. The results will be shared in the hoped of building a stronger community!

CLUB NEWS

Overland Park Rotary Club

- The club has chosen the charities for the 2011 Star Spangled Spectacular. They are: The Down Syndrome Association, Head Start of Shawnee Mission, and Safe Home. In addition, a portion of the proceeds from the event will be donated to the club's Foundation to assist in funding the Youth Leadership Institute.
- Rotarian Christina Eldridge spent two weeks in Mali, Africa to deliver school supplies donated by the club and inspect the well the club provided funds to repair.
- The club will hold a social at Tannin's Wine Bar on March 3.

Overbrook Rotary Club

- In January the club enjoyed an inspirational program by District 5710 Ambassadorial Scholar Rohan Radhakrishna. Rohan has returned from his year in India and was in Topeka for the holidays. He presented an amazing Power Point presentation summarizing his year. Rohan has returned to the University of California Berkeley/San Francisco to finish his education to become a doctor. Pictured to the right: Club Treasurer Bruce Smith and Rohan Radhakrishna.



Ottawa Rotary Club

- The club volunteered to assist Namana Project in filling meals for over 100,000 Haitians.
- Two members donated to the Panama Clean Water Project with the club matching the donations.
- The club is preparing for their Annual Chili/Soup and Bingo fundraiser.
- The club has added thirteen new members since July 1. See article on page 10.

Olathe Rotary Club

- The club is helping sponsor "Soups and Hoops" a community fundraiser to benefit the building of a Hospice House on the Olathe Medical Center campus. The event is being organized by a variety of civic organizations and community members in Olathe. The event will be March 11, 5:30-8:00 at Olathe North High School where the National Award-Winning Culinary Arts program (2010 National Champions) will prepare a soup dinner, featuring the favorite soups of Kansas Basketball coaches. The first Big 12 Semi-Final game will be shown on four large screen projectors at the school. Tickets are \$15 per person, kids 6 and under eat free. To order tickets, contact Nichole Asquith, nicholeasquith@yahoo.com.
- Olathe Rotarian and PDG Wes McCoy just returned from a water project in Guatemala with Heart to Heart International.
- The club is preparing for its 2nd Annual Days of Wine & Rotary event which will be held on May 14 at the Overland Park Convention Center. Members are working on securing auction items and ticket sales. The event benefits Elizabeth's Kids—an orphanage in Romania; Heart to Heart International; and the A.L.L. Fund.



Johnson County Rotary Club

- New member Kimberlee Johnson was inducted. Kim was sponsored by Ray Makalous.
- Ray Makalous was named Rotarian of the Month for his membership recruiting efforts.



**EACH ROTARIAN:
REACH ONE, KEEP ONE**

CLUB NEWS

Manhattan Rotary Club

- Congratulations to Julia Yang and K.R. Azad, Manhattan High School Students of the Month for January.
- The club recognized seven Paul Harris Fellows. As the club continues to emphasize the Every Rotarian, Every Year program, the number of multiple PHFs continues to grow.



L to R: Julia Yang, K.R. Azad, Students of the Month



L to R: C Clyde Jones, presenter; Paul Harris Fellows Barry Flinchbaugh; President Sue Maes.



Multiple Paul Harris Presentation L to R: Front Row, Dick Marston (PHF+1), John W. Walters (PHF+1), Bill Barney (PHF+2); Back Row, Bill Muir (PHF+2), Tom Fryer (PHF+3), Rick Gwaltney (PHF+1) and Tom Holcombe (PHF+2).



Leawood Rotary Club

- The club was pleased to have DG John Vandewalle visit and present a check in the amount of \$4,300 to Kristin Wetzler of S.A.F.E. (Swaziland Arts for Education), a foundation Kristin started to provide education assistance to young children in Swaziland. Kristin is the daughter of Leawood Rotarian Dick Wetzler. Pictured to the right is DG John presenting the check to Kristin.
- The club has been approved to sponsor an Open World visit in May by six Russian social workers. The club is very excited for this unique opportunity.



Lawrence Central Rotary Club



- The club is planning the Community Family Bike Ride scheduled for July 16 which continues the club's emphasis on healthy lifestyle through biking. Club members have represented the club at the City Bike Advisory Committee meetings held on a monthly basis. The third "Ride Lawrence" bike rack is being constructed.
- The club welcomes its newest member, Jane Stevens, pictured to the left. Jane and Lawrence Central have many shared interests. Jane is a media specialist working for The World Company and brings an extensive knowledge of journalism, social media, education and the importance of healthy children (physically, mentally, and emotionally) to build a strong world community.

Atchison Rotary Club

- Even through the January weather, the club was able to hold all of their meetings—and attendance stayed strong!
- The club will soon induct two new members.
- The club did classification talks for one meeting which was well received by members.

CLUB NEWS

Lawrence Jayhawk Rotary Club

- The club donated savings from having a continental breakfast rather than a full breakfast to make a donation to the BackSnack program. BackSnack was initiated in 2004 by Harvesters in Kansas City to relieve weekend hunger and reduce food insecurity for children. Trinity Episcopal Church is the Community Partner for Lawrence and distributes food to 180 elementary school children in back packs that they take home for the weekend. The club donation will help supplement the food distributed.
- On January 6, Rotarian Margie Lawrence hosted the club at Bishop Seabury Academy, a private school serving grades 6-12. Margie is the Development Director and vocal music teacher. Headmaster Don Schawang was the speaker for the meeting. Linda Nixon Farrar was inducted as a new member during this special meeting. Linda is the Vice President/Chief Operating Officer at Brewster Place Retirement Community in Topeka.
- The club held the Fourth Annual Martin Luther King Day Breakfast on January with over 130 in attendance. Rotarians John Conard, Jr. and Bernie Kish organize this event each year in cooperation with the Lawrence Ecumenical Fellowship. This year's keynote speaker was Wayne Simien, founder and president of *Called to Greatness* ministry. Wayne grew up in Leavenworth, is a former KU Basketball player and was a member of the Miami Heat basketball team that won the 2005-06 NBA championship. Wayne decided to retire from professional basketball in 2009 to pursue work in Christian ministry.



L to R: John Conard, Jr., Rev. Wayne Simien, Rev. Paul Winn and Bernie Kish.

Gardner Rotary Club

- The club held its annual International Project Fundraiser. The event was held at La Carretta with delicious appetizers and drinks. The event raised funds for the Panama Water Project and raised \$1,597. The club gave a matching donation of \$1,000 to bring the total to \$2,597. Members of the Lawrence Rotary Club will be travelling to Panama for this project and joined the club at this fundraiser. International Committee Chair Melissa Mundt delivered the check to the Lawrence Club.
- Rotarians Robert Thompson and Bobbi McClintock attended SCRYE with the District Exchange Students.



Johnson County Sunset Rotary Club

- In January the club participated in a service project. Club member worked in teams to build "diaper cakes." These were then donated to needy mothers. It was a fun activity that added to a team spirit the club already has. Pictured to the right in President-elect A.W. Pickel and member Jenny Kaveney.
- Club members Matthew Young returned to Chacala, Mexico in February. He will report back to the club on the progress the club has started in Zacualpan. Matt, and Cindy Huston shared the club presentation with the Johnson County Rotary Club to continue to develop district partnership with their sister club in La Penita.



CLUB NEWS

Emporia Rotary Club

- The club inducted new member Mark Remmert pictured to the right. Also joining the club is Julia Pyle.
- Robert Thompson District Youth Exchange Inbound Coordinator, along with two of the current Youth Exchange student from Belgium, Camille Vanderheyden (hosted by the Gardner club) and Joe Lavet (hosted by the Shawnee and Lenexa clubs.)



Pictured above L to Right: Robert Thompson, Melissa Windsor (former student host), Camille Vanderheyden, Jodi Heerman and Joe Lavet.

Pictured to the left L to Right: Joe Lavet, Camille Vanderheyden, Robert Thompson

Mark Remmert, New Member to the right.



DeSoto Rotary Club

- Plans are will underway for the First Annual State-wide Sunflower Seed Sales project designed this year to help celebrate the Kansas Sesquicentennial and to spread the good news about Rotary. All Kansas clubs are invited to join this project. (See page 4 for details)
- Plans for the Third Annual Sunflower fields of sunflower growing project are well underway.
- The club assisted the Manhattan Konza Club with funds to support their bio-sand filter project in Panama.
- The club attended the GSE Team planning meeting in preparation for the DeSoto Club hosting of the Australian team's farewell picnic in May.
- Mr. Gordon Riley (pictured to the left) provided the program at a recent meeting. He discussed his career as a electrician.



Garnett Rotary Club

- The club is planning their Radio Auction scheduled for April 5 and 6.