

December 2015



DG John Donovan

District 5710

Eastern Kansas Rotary

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Be a gift to the world

DG John's Message

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To submit articles and pictures for the District Newsletter, send to Mandy Sheldon at mandy@rotary5710.org by the 15th of each month.

As the calendar year ends, and our Rotary year hits the halfway mark, now is the traditional time for reflection and looking forward. Just as January is named for Janus, the forward/backward looking Roman god of portals, now is our time to look back and plan ahead. Club presidents should bring a laptop to some wifi-enabled venue for their next board meeting, and go to Rotary.org and check your progress against the Presidential citation. Even if you've decided to not pursue that this year, it is still a good benchmark against which to measure your progress, take stock, and help your President-Elects and board get ready to ramp up for next year. After District Governor-Elect Chris Ford gets back from International Assembly mid-January, the schedule is going to pick up again as he readies next year's leadership team for their challenges, to set the stage to continue building on our successes! Remember – for the citation, all activities must be complete by 1 April! <https://www.rotary.org/myrotary/en/news-media/office-president/presidential-citation>

Now is the time to take stock of your recruiting and retention – next month is Rotary Awareness Month, so take the opportunity to make that extra effort to get yourself into the awareness of your community, and of your targeted membership demographics. Invite people to join you in your meetings, and more importantly, in your service projects. There is no rule that says every pair of hands has to belong to a Rotarian! Get them involved in Rotary in spite of themselves!

As important, and perhaps even more important, is keeping the ones you've already invested in. Year-to-date, we are down 15 members from our starting number. While it may seem counter-intuitive, our larger clubs have the greater problem – which isn't really a mystery. It's easy to get lost in the big clubs, especially if they have a fairly rigid structure that means you have to "make your bones" before you get a chance to really dig in and be involved. But this is a problem we ***all*** can work on, regardless of what your current position in your club is. Adopt A Newbie! Whether in the guise of a formal club-run new member integration program, or as a personal initiative to take the time to get to know the new members, and get them involved. Committee chairs, I'm especially looking at you. And for all you long-time members, don't be too quick to tell the new folks "That's not how we do it." Instead, hit 'em with, "Well, how do you think we should go about that?" And help them get involved. Because that's how we keep them! Share your Rotary Moment, and take the time to help them find theirs! Even if it means (shudder) doing something "new." ;)

Don't forget Presidents and Secretaries – you will shortly get your RI Dues invoice, and they're coming electronically, ***NOT IN THE MAIL!*** Be on the lookout!

John Donovan

Thank You!

I just got a note thanking us for our donation of District Designated Funds to Miles To End Polio – and I'm passing it on to you, because it was your club's fundraising, and your own personal giving that left us with sufficient funds to donate **\$25,000** to the event. This is your thank-you note from General Secretary Hewko – not just mine! - DG John

Dear District Governor Donovan:

I would like to offer my sincere thanks to you and to the Rotarians in District 5710 who contributed District Designated Funds to Miles to End Polio, the Rotary staff effort to raise funds for District 5500's Ride to End Polio fundraiser in Tucson, Arizona. The Ride to End Polio is part of El Tour de Tucson, a 104-mile ride that is one of the preeminent charity cycling events in the United States.

This year's Miles to End Polio was an extraordinary experience. An official team of eight Rotary staff members, plus additional staff and their families, joined Marga and me on this year's ride. Over 1,000 Rotarian and non-Rotarian individual donors contributed \$928,635 and 114 districts contributed an additional \$2,397,874 in District Designated Funds.

Ultimately, this year's Miles to End Polio raised over \$4.5 Million. When matched by Rotary's World Fund and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation support, over \$13.5 million has been made available for polio eradication.

I am most grateful to District 5710 and to the many Rotarians, districts and staff who supported this effort. Thank you again for your generosity.

Sincerely,

John Hewko
General Secretary
Rotary International

MORE GOOD NEWS!

On Giving Tuesday (1 December), [CNBC](#), one of the leading consumer and business news media outlets in the U.S., named its [top 10 charities](#) in the world, ranking **The Rotary Foundation** No. 5! Charities were chosen for changing the world while maintaining excellent financial standards. The article highlighted Rotary's tremendous work in eradicating polio.

Rotary Peace Fellowship Applicants Wanted!

Each year, Rotary selects individuals from around the world to receive fully funded academic fellowships at one of our peace centers. Each year, Rotary awards up to 50 Master's Degree fellowships at premier universities in fields related to peace and conflict resolution and prevention; and up to 50 Professional Development Certificates for those with more extensive experience in peace-related fields. We are now accepting applications for the 2017-18 Rotary Peace Fellowships program.

Our District has successfully nominated 5 Peace Fellow awardees in the last 6 years! Please help us continue the success of this program in District 5710 by recruiting prospective applicants.

Below is the process:

- Clubs recruit and nominate Peace Fellow applicants. You can send out a press release, meet with community partners, and promote it on social media. Clubs accept applications and perform interviews to determine who they want to nominate to move on to the District level. The 2016 deadline for club nominations is May 31, 2016.
- The District 5710 Committee interviews clubs' candidates and nominates who should move forward. District applications are due to Rotary by July 1. Rotary International makes the final selections and announces the world-wide selected Fellows in October, 2016.

Download the 2016 application [here](#). It is recommended that applicants complete this application and submit it to the club for review **prior** to completing the online application.

Find more information at this link to Rotary website: www.rotary.org/en/peace-fellowships

Please contact Patti (Bossert) Mellard, District Chair, with any questions. It is recommended that you ask applicants to call Patti prior to completing an application on-line. Patti can be reached at 785-272-9999 (w) or 785-640-9999 (c). Thank you!

PEACE Videos—Please Share!

Fellow Rotarians! I encourage you to please take time to view these two links – we all need to do our part in making this world a more peaceful place! These messages were created/produced by Rotarian Clay Myers-Bowman for the 2013 Peace Forum. Given the many tragic situations here and around the world today, these messages are more thought-provoking, relevant and action-invoking than ever!

<http://vimeo.com/68388772> - a 30 second peace PSA all are free to share -- through any and all media, local tv/radio, newsletters – help get the word out!!

<https://vimeo.com/63932209> - an 8 minute video from a District Peace Forum – please share, show during a meeting, it carries such an important message!!

Peace to you and yours this holiday season and every single day of the year -- year after year! Thank you for all you do.

Yours in Rotary Service,
PDG Deb

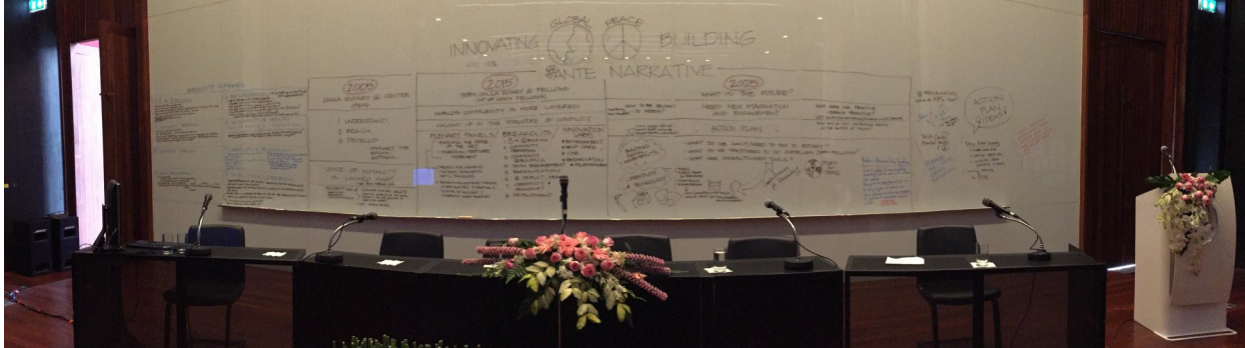
Updates on Former District 5710 Peace Fellows

Katrina Lewis, who was a Peace Fellow in 2012, attended the 10th Anniversary Conference "Innovating Global Peace Building" at the Rotary Peace Center at Chulalongkorn University in Bangkok, Thailand, November 26 - 27, 2015. The peace building topics presented included: women, mediation, community, youth, migration and refugees, radicalization, health, creativity and technology, and development. Katrina presented "Designing Peace" during the "Creativity and Technology in Peace Building" breakout session, along with three inspiring peace builders.



Katrina assisted the conference organizers and master of ceremonies in creating the conference's written ante narrative, summarizing the Peace Center's past, present, and future peace building endeavors—from 2005, to 2015, to 2025 (below).

Katrina received the honor of being selected as the first designer for the Rotary Peace Fellow for professional studies in peace and conflict resolution at Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, Thailand from June - August 2012. The Fellowship was a life-changing experience, shaping Katrina's scholarly agenda to create a stronger link between design and peace.



Katrina and her sister Summer—also a former Peace Fellow—will be speaking at the upcoming Rotary World Peace Conference 2016 in Ontario, California, January 15-16. The conference will focus on connecting leaders and conflict resolution experts with the solutions to create a culture of peace. President Ravi as well as Past President and current Chair of the Trustees Ray Klingensmith will be in attendance. Learn more at www.peaceconference2016.org.



Presidential Conference Series
 Hosted by Rotary Districts 5330, 5320, 5340, 5300, 5280, 5240
www.peaceconference2016.org | 15-16 January 2016

District Events

For Details go to the District Events section at rotary5710.org

RLI—SESSION ONE

January 30, 2016—8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Ramada Hotel—Topeka, KS

RLI—SESSION TWO

February 20, 2016—8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Ramada Hotel—Topeka, KS

DISTRICT 5710 EXECUTIVE BOARD & COMMITTEE LEADERSHIP PLANNING RETREAT

March 4, 2016—11:00 AM to 5:00 PM
Location TBD

RLI—SESSION THREE

March 12, 2016—8:30 AM to 3:00 PM
Ramada Hotel—Topeka, KS

2016 HEARTLAND PETS

(President-Elect Training Session)
March 31—April 2, 2016
Four Points by Sheraton—Manhattan, Kansas

2016 DISTRICT ASSEMBLY & CONFERENCE

April 22 & 23, 2016
Riverfront Community Center—Leavenworth, Kansas

STAY UP TO DATE ON DISTRICT AND CLUB HAPPENINGS!

Follow District 5710 Eastern Kansas Rotary on Facebook.



Club Events

WE WANT TO KNOW ABOUT YOUR EVENTS!

FUNDRAISERS? Post here so other Rotarians can participate and raise \$\$ for you!

SOCIAL EVENTS? Post here... and Rotarians will join you (especially if there is food and drink!)

SERVICE PROJECTS? Post here... isn't that what we are about? Service Above Self!

If your club is on ClubRunner, add the event to your **website and click to share** with the District.

Not on ClubRunner? **Send the event details to Mandy** at Mandy@rotary5710.org.

Lawrence Rotary Clubs Ring Bells for the Salvation Army

While the first weekend in Lawrence may mean the annual Old-Fashioned Christmas Parade in Downtown Lawrence, it also means a day of service for the members of Lawrence area Rotary Clubs. All three local clubs staffed Salvation Army Red Kettles around Lawrence that day. (Lawrence Central's President-elect Jim Peters and Secretary Shelly McColm pictured below)



Lawrence Central Rotary

New Club Members for November

DeSoto	T.J. Topf
Gardner	Suzy Lowe, Don Roberts
Kansas City, KS	Kyle Fulbright
Lawrence	Porter Arneill, Mia Gonzalez, Whitney Lang Joshua Langlois, Kathryn Tuttle
Lawrence Jayhawk	Gina Meier-Hummel
Manhattan	James Genandt, Darin Russell
Olathe Noon	Pat O'Donnell
Overland Park	Kelsey Lang, Bobby Olm-Shipman, Jeanette Shade, John Shuchart, Brain Tobler
Overland Park South	Will Gladhart
Paola	Josh Morrill
Shawnee	Kristen Chapin
Topeka Downtown	Carol Bradbury
Western Jo. Co.	Kole Berg



Why did you join Rotary? Share with your club, your friends and family... the world!

Clubs Join Together to Collect Coats for Kids

Eleven Kansas City area Rotary Clubs joined with KMBZ Radio and several community business partners for a service project to collect new and used coats for Kansas City area children who might otherwise go without during the cold winter months.

Throughout the campaign that ran November 2- December 4, KMBZ talent encouraged listeners to donate used or new coats or cash to buy coats. Rotary members were at various designated locations throughout the metro accepting the donations and were recognized on-air during the station's promotions. Several members joined KMBZ December 4 for the day-long finale broadcast at Gail's Harley Davidson, collecting, sorting and loading the coats for over-night cleaning by Pride Cleaners. Others helped deliver the 6,000 coats the next morning to area schools who will distribute them to children in need.



“Over 13,000 of the 19,000 students in our district serves lives in poverty, so when the community comes together to provide for our students it really makes an impact on their lives.”- Dr. Cynthia Lane, Superintendent, Kansas City, Kansas School District

“Through Coats for Kids, our school district was able to provide a warm winter coat to every needy student in the District.” - Elizabeth Streich, Director of Community Relations- Independent, Missouri School District

The clubs involved were: Johnson County, Johnson County-Sunset, Leawood, Lenexa, Olathe Noon, Olathe-Sante Fe Trail, Overland Park, Overland Park South, Shawnee, Shawnee Mission, and Village West.



Michelle Herman, President, Johnson County Sunset pictured at right.

K-State Student Awarded Global Grant Scholarship



Jessica Munoz, graduate with an MA in theatre and concentration in Drama Therapy in August 2015, is the recipient of a Rotary Global Grant Scholarship. This \$30,000 scholarship is awarded for graduate level academic studies and/or research, which must occur in a foreign country. The scholar completes classes, conducts research /or a substantial project that aligns with one of Rotary's areas of focus, which include peace and conflict prevention/resolution, disease prevention and treatment, water and sanitation, maternal and child health, basic education and literacy, and economic and community development.

The interview and selection process is rigorous requiring the development of a partnership between the university in the host country and Rotary clubs where the scholar will study. Her work beginning in February of 2016 melds with many of the focus areas, but specifically with peace and conflict resolution, maternal and child health and disease prevention and treatment.

Munoz will use her knowledge in the field of drama therapy with the experience and knowledge of her supervisor from La Universidad del Norte, Dr. Palacio Sañudo to facilitate a treatment project for posttraumatic stress disorder using trauma-centered group drama therapy with populations of displaced women. Drama therapy is an action based creative art therapy that uses theatrical frameworks and experiential processes for therapeutic relief and healing.

With this award, Munoz joins the ranks with two other K-Staters who have received Rotary Global Grant scholarships including Myriah Smith (BS in Modern Language, 2012) and Christian Cruz (PhD Plant Pathology).

Topeka South's Sole Mates Program Reaches Milestone

Topeka South Rotary's 'Sole Mates' project has reached a tremendous milestone! The club members have purchased new shoes and socks for their **1000th child** since the program's inception in the fall of 2012.

All Rotary clubs are faced with aging membership and the challenge of finding projects that can hold strong year after year while drawing in new members. During a brain storming session, Rotarian Bill Conn presented the need children have for new shoes. The idea he brought from a Rotary club in California, to address a need such as shoes rather than the typical winter coat, has developed into a strong year-round project for Topeka South Rotary.



Rotarian Jamie Stafford was recently recognized as one of 'Topeka's Top 20 Under 40' by the Jayhawk Area Boy Scouts for her leadership in the project. Jamie took Bill's idea and with the help of several other Rotarians contacted Topeka area schools and found that the need for new shoes existed. Through partnerships with Topeka schools, children in need are identified by school Counselors and Communities In Schools liaisons and then transported on scheduled shoe days to

Payless Shoe Source. Once at the store, the staff measure the children's feet, and then they are paired up one-to-one with a Rotarian. Volunteers have recognized that not only do the kids need new shoes but they relish in the attention they receive. Additionally, it didn't take long to discover the need for new socks. Throughout the year, many children arrive without socks on, even in the January freezing weather conditions due to not having running water at home to wash them, or to no water from frozen pipes.

Sole Mates addresses causes of conflict including poverty, inequality, and unequal distribution of resources. Providing children adequate shoes allows them to be better participants in activities & alleviates some issues that result from not having "the right things." If shoes are not replaced often, they become a hospitable environment for bacteria to thrive. For many of the families serviced, shoes are handed down from child to child creating more opportunity for unsanitary situations. Short term effects of shoes that do not properly fit include blisters, pressure sores & ingrown toe nails. Children could end up with deformities, posture problems & joint issues.

Having a properly fitting, decent pair of shoes, may seem trivial but to many children it could mean the difference between academic excellence and a child who struggles. **Congratulations to Topeka South Rotary on meeting this important and life-changing milestone!**



Burlington Club Keeping Busy

The Burlington Rotary Club concluded its annual beef and freezer raffle, which raised enough money, after expenses, to fund four \$500 senior scholarships. A Burlington woman won the raffle, which included \$600 worth of beef AND a freezer. Additionally, the club passed a basket over a month's time and collected money to purchase a Shelter Box.



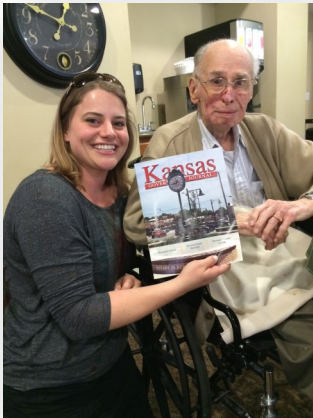
Four Emporia State University students from Pakistan presented an interesting program Dec. 3 about their homeland. The following week, Guy Hargreaves, a former DEA agent, spoke about his book, "Operation: Trip to Oz," which is about the largest and most effective LSD drug bust in the United States and probably the world ... and the bust happened in Kansas. The club's Dec. 17 program featured Andrea Jones talking about her job with the U.S. Census Bureau.

Emporia Happy Bucks Help Hungry ESU Students

This fall the Emporia Rotary Club collected Happy Bucks for Emporia State University students. The Associated Student Government has a wonderful program that allows students who are hungry to come to Corky's Cupboard. This is a food pantry where students can obtain canned goods and food items to help them when they are hungry or in a money crunch. The Emporia Rotary club presented Corky's Cupboard with a check for a little over \$700.00. Food pantry's are available in many towns and cities, but this food pantry is for ESU students only. It targets a large population that many times can not get help when in need. The Emporia Rotary club also collects canned good and cash for The Salvation Army during the holiday season. It is one more way that Rotarians can be a Gift to the World.



Shawnee Mission's Rotary Clock Garners Publicity



The Rotary Clock purchased by the Shawnee Mission Rotary club in 2014 was featured on the cover of the most recent edition of the Kansas Government Journal. The article outlined recent improvements to Mission's downtown since the major street renovations that happened last year. The clock is located in the heart of Mission's downtown district at Johnson Drive and Woodson, a corner that is now known as "Rotary Plaza." The clock honors three Shawnee Mission Rotarians: Dr. John Hollyman, O.M. Ashe, and Reuben Sell. You can read the article [here](#).

Shawnee Mission club member Emily Randel shows off the cover of the Kansas Government Journal featuring Mission's Rotary Plaza to one of the honorees, Dr. John Hollyman.

Marysville 'Toys for Tots' Program

What a wonderful year! The club served 440 children in 153 families throughout Marshall County, KS—82 of those children were teens who received a \$20 gift certificate, rather than toys. Each family received a basic care need items bag with toothpaste, tooth brushes and soap. If they had small children, they also received diapers, wipes and formula.



A little background on the Toys for Tots Program. It was started originally in the early 80's then dropped when the originator moved out of town. It was picked up again in 1986 by Marysville Rotary President Bill Oborny and his wife Marlise. At that time, it was mainly already-used wooden toys that were refurbished. In the late 80's we were able to use a Southwestern Bell Building and at that time the focus changed to new toys. We are now able to use a portion of the National Guard Armory for the few days that we do the program.

Money is raised through a raffle that Marysville Rotary does each year and also private donations as well as a few donation jars at convenience stores.

Leavenworth Rotary



Rotarian Joan Murnane-Rendall was named Rotarian of the Year at our recent CHRISTmas party; since becoming a member, Joan has been very involved in many projects to include STEM, Membership Ambassador Program and Wheel Watcher duties; thanks for your hard work, Joan and congratulations! (left)



Rotarians have been busy delivering dictionaries to local third grade students in Leavenworth, Lansing and Pleasant Ridge; over 700 dictionaries were delivered this year! At each of the deliveries, Dictionary Project Chair, Rotarian Bill Kromer give the students a quick lesson in how they can best use their dictionaries. (right)

Members of a third grade class at Lansing Elementary School were very excited about receiving their dictionaries; with Rotarian Wujeong Duncan. (left)



Members of a third grade class at Bradley Elementary School after receiving their dictionaries; with Rotarian Tom Gray. (below)



Several Rotarians came out to support and honor Veterans at our local Veterans' Day Parade; pictured left to right are Rotarian Tamara Sevcik, President Ellen Bogdan, Medal of Honor Recipient & Honorary Rotarian Roger Donlon and Rotarian Wujeong Duncan. Many thanks to Rotarian Brian Wepking for taking on Wheel Watcher duties on Veterans' Day. (left)

Lawrence Central

Lawrence Central Rotary is a small but mighty club of 30 dedicated members who are known city-wide in Lawrence for their sponsorship of a biking website and bike rides for all ages in the summer and fall. But Central Rotarians don't rest on their laurels when the temperature drops. December is a busy month for them too as they work to benefit Rotary and the community.



Sales of Christmas wreaths and holiday decorations from Lynch Farm netted close to \$1,000 for local and international Rotary projects. Thanks to everyone from the district who purchased! (President Kate Campbell is enjoying this table-top tree in her home.)



Rotarian Joe Jarvis coordinated club contributions to the Salvation Army's "Adopt a Family" program for Christmas. Lawrence Central provided each family member with a new clothing outfit, a personal item/gift, and grocery store gift certificates so the family could purchase a holiday meal. "For a lot of us Christmas comes every year, and we have no problem being able to provide for our families. But there are some families where that's not the case. People in a loving community, just like Lawrence, stepping up and saying, you know what, I'm grateful for what I have, and I want to be able to share that with someone else," said Lt. Marisa McCluer of the Salvation Army. (Quote courtesy Channel 6 Lawrence)



A tradition for Central Rotary is a festive Christmas luncheon at the historic Eldridge Hotel with choirs from one of the two local high schools providing the music. (Right: Lawrence High School Chorale sings at the annual Christmas lunch.)



An emphasis on youth at the holidays was further carried out by two December speakers. Justine Burton, who was homeless as a teenager, now heads StopGap, Inc. This local agency works to ease the transition from foster care or group home to life-on-their-own for teenagers who turn 18 and "age-out" of the system.

Dr. Ed Berger, retiring President of Hutchinson Community College and current Chair of Revitalization Initiatives at the Kansas Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, spoke about Cosmosphere field trips, science camps and trying to get students as young as elementary school age interested in creative innovations and leadership.



KSU Rotaract News!

Club President, Alejandra Rivarola, celebrated the last meeting of 2015 on Sunday 12/20 with the club [Rotaract Club Trinidad Asunción D4845 R.I.](#) in Paraguay, strengthening relationships and future partnerships between both clubs. (Alejandra is in the center of the photo at right)



Sadly, our District lost four wonderful Rotarians last month. These last pages are in remembrance of them.

Mark Bettencourt—Manhattan Konza

Dr. Mark Laton Bettencourt, 54, of Wamego, KS passed away unexpectedly in a car accident on Cayman Brac, in the Cayman Islands on Sunday, November 15, 2015.



He was born in Oakland, CA on December 23, 1960 to Lee and Martha (Elder) Bettencourt. He grew up in Havensville, KS and graduated from Onaga High School, Onaga, KS in 1979. After high school he attended Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, where he received his Bachelor of Science degree and the University Of Houston School Of Optometry in 1986, where he received his Doctor of Optometry. Dr. Bettencourt practiced in Wichita Falls, TX before starting Bettencourt Eye Care in Wamego, KS in 1994. Dr. Bettencourt was the owner and operator of Vision Source offices in Wamego and Manhattan, KS..

Mark had a passion and excitement for life, for today, for tomorrow and for tomorrow's tomorrow in his heart, on his face, and in his open love for the ones he called family and friends. As one of his closest friends said it best, no one does life better than Mark. Dr. Bettencourt... perhaps the only ones to call him Doctor was his patients, but to the rest he will always remain Mark. Mark attacked life. He relished life. He shared life. One of Mark's favorite sayings that he lived by was "No one cares how much you know until they know how much you care". Mark cared for others and for all of us because of this our lives are a little brighter.

Mark married Angie Lang Bettencourt, in 2000 in Wamego, KS. They were blessed with 15 years of marriage. He had a close relationship with the Lord, and was an active member of St Bernard's Parish in Wamego, KS. He was a member of the St. Bernard Knights of Columbus, Kansas Director of Vision Source, Manhattan Konza Rotary Club, American Optometric Association, Kansas Optometric Association and past member of Wamego USD 320 school board. Mark enjoyed weightlifting and nutrition, scuba diving, and all sporting activities involving his children. His compassion for others led Mark to take the opportunity to serve on several Optometric mission trips abroad.

Bill Irons—Atchison Rotary



William "Bill" Irons passed away on November 16, 2015. Bill credited his father, Forest, in teaching him values and skills that guided him throughout his life. He taught him how to hunt, fish and survive. His Father taught him "No man is better than you and no job is beneath you."

In 1937 Bill graduated from Omaha Technical School and went to work for an optical company. In 1939 Bill married Dorothy Claire Barnes and their first son Forest was born in 1941. When WWII broke out, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corp and earned the rank of 1st sergeant. Bill was a proud Marine the rest of his life. He was part of the "Greatest Generation". He served proudly in the South Pacific during the war.

After the war Bill's daughter Susan was born in 1949 and Bill began using the business knowledge he developed while a Marine. He became a professional buyer for a hardware company in Omaha, Nebraska. In 1952 John Mize offered Bill a job with Blish Mize and moved his family to Atchison, KS. Bill worked as a purchasing agent until his retirement in 1982. After retirement, Bill, an expert in the world of antiques, began refurbishing and refinishing furniture.

On September 11, 1976 Bill married the love of his life Mary Ann "Sally" Arensberg-Brungardt and spent the next 39 years building wonderful memories together.

Bill was proud of Atchison and was involved in many civic activities providing his time and talents to many causes. He was active for over 64 years in the American Legion, over 50 years on the board of the United Way. A life member of the Atchison Masonic Lodge and a life member of the Atchison Chamber of Commerce. He was awarded "The Friend of Education" by USD #409 Atchison. In Rotary, Bill was a 33 year member, the Club Historian, Multiple Paul Harris Fellow and the recipient of the distinguished Rotarian Foundation "Citation for Meritorious Service."

Evelyn Van Kemseke—Shawnee Rotary

Evelyn Madge Van Kemseke, charter member of the Shawnee Rotary Club, died Nov. 18 at her home. She was 87 years old. Mrs. Van Kemseke grew up in a poor family during the Depression. She later told friends and family members that her childhood experience of licking her plate clean and nevertheless going to bed hungry gave her a determination to help others. And, she did. A lifelong resident of Shawnee, she began volunteering for community organizations when her children were little. She served in leadership roles in many community organizations dealing with safety, charity and strategic use of resources. She founded the now defunct Safety Council in Shawnee and began the school crossing guard program there. She helped expand the United Way campaign into Johnson County and was one of the founders of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau.



But the *piece de resistance* of her charitable efforts was the founding of Shawnee Community Services in 1982. This organization, which continues its efforts today under the supervision of her daughters Sylvia Terry and Marlisha Van Kemseke, is a food pantry and community service organization that provides a “hand up” to needy families and works to end homelessness. As an example, Shawnee Community Services planned to provide 400 Thanksgiving meals this year for families in need. Mrs. Van Kemseke continued to come in to work every day until shortly before her death, her daughters said.

Tributes poured in after her death. Many Rotarians remembered her fondly on Facebook and in other social media. “I have never known anyone that gave more of themselves to help those in need than Evelyn,” posted fellow Shawnee Rotarian Doug Gibb. Former Mayor Jeff Meyers told the Shawnee Dispatch that Mrs. Van Kemseke was a “non-stop worker who always worked to make things better.”

She won numerous honors from Rotary and other organizations. In August she was nominated by Rotary and had a seat of honor at a Kansas City Royals game. Funeral services were Nov. 25 at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Shawnee.



“Buck” Newsom—Lawrence Rotary

John "Buck" Newsom, beloved husband, father and grandfather died Thursday, November 26, 2015, at the age of 96. Buck was born in Durham, NC, the son of Gene and Annie Laurie Newsom. He attended Duke University for one year and graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in February 1941.

Upon graduation, he reported to the USS Hopkins as Chief Engineer and Gunnery Officer. The Hopkins entered Pearl Harbor on December 9th, 1941, took over the anti-submarine patrol and sank a Japanese submarine. Buck went through lighter-than-air training (blimp pilot training) at Lakehurst, NJ and Moffett Field, CA. He returned to sea on the USS California participating in the Okinawa Third Fleet operation campaigns. After assisting in placing the California in the reserve fleet, Buck then spent six months on the USS Saint Paul in China. He returned to aviation on the staff of Naval Operations and was Commanding Officer of the squadron ZP-2 in Brunswick, GA. After a tour as Plans Officer on the staff of Commander Fleet Air Wings, Atlantic, he was assigned as Commanding Officer, Naval ROTC Unit and Professor of Naval Science at the University of Kansas. Buck ended his Navy career as Fleet Personnel Officer, Pacific Fleet in Hawaii. He retired in September 1964 as a Captain in the U.S. Navy. After retiring, Buck returned to Lawrence to work for Centron Productions for 20 years, followed by a five year association with Corporate Productions, Toluca Lake, CA.

Buck was a member of Rotary International beginning in 1948. He was District Governor of District 5710 and a Paul Harris Fellow. He served as the first chairman, Board of Governors, for the Lawrence Memorial Hospital Endowment Association, Chairman of the United Way Fund, member of the Lawrence/Douglas County Planning Commission, a Big Brother for three young boys and served on the Board of Directors of Big Brothers.

Buck was a Red Cross Blood Donor for 25 years, donating 90 pints of blood. He served as Treasurer of the Military Officers of America for 12 years, delivered meals for the Senior Center for 25 years until the age of 94. He was a docent for the Chamber of Commerce of Lawrence, giving tours of Lawrence for 18 years and worked at the Visitor's Center for 15 years. He enjoyed golf, the beaches of Florida, collecting stamps, carved wooden Santas, decanters, pipes and coins. He especially enjoyed public speaking, giving five to seven speeches per year for 20 years to service clubs, military groups, social clubs, student and Veteran groups. He spoke at the Dole Institute for Politics 11 times in eight years.