

# ROTARY REPORT

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Rotary



## Every Club Contributes!

District Foundation Chair (and PDG) Mike Blevins (Sayre) writes "I am happy to report that every club in our District has made a contribution to the Annual Fund of our Foundation—maybe for the first time in history." As of June 19, with 11 days left in the reporting period—District 5770 clubs had contributed \$140,818 to that fund. Sayre Rotarians have contributed an average of \$299.81. Cross Timbers Rotarians have donated \$292.34. Norman Rotarians have averaged \$251.06, and Shawnee Rotarians have averaged \$241.59. District wide contributions average \$107.82 per Rotarian.

District 5770 Polio Plus Chair (and PDG) Phil Moss (Cross Timbers) reports clubs have also contributed \$36,665 to the effort to eradicate polio. 26 of our 33 clubs had supported that effort. Additional contributions are anticipated before June 30, and we may yet meet our goal of \$43,661 by the end of the year. Norman Rotarians have averaged \$86.28 toward this effort. Chickasha Rotarians have averaged \$80.45 in the ongoing effort to end polio now.

District 5770 now numbers 50 Rotarians in the Paul Harris Society. Blevins reports "we have seven new Major Donors, one new Bequest Society member, and one new Benefactor" as well as "252 new and enhanced Paul Harris Fellows."

Our Rotarians have celebrated the Centennial of our Foundation in a big way!

## Meet Hal Pennington

After a rather lengthy process, Past President of Duncan Rotary Hal Pennington has been selected to serve as District 5770 Governor in 2019-2020. His title through June 30 is District Governor Nominee Designate.

Hal joined Duncan Rotary in 1985. He has also been a member of the Columbia, MO Rotary Club. In addition to President, Hal has served as Foundation Committee Chair, Clothe a Child chair, and Program Chair. Hal is a member of the Paul Harris Society and a multiple Paul Harris Fellow.

Hal is a graduate of OU Law, licensed to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court. He serves as a Director of Leadership Oklahoma, which he helped found. He has served as President of the Duncan Chamber of Commerce and Duncan Jaycees, and has chaired Stephens County United Way, Oklahoma Bankers Trust Division, and Duncan Public Schools Foundation.

The Council of Governors and the electors at the Rotary Roundup feel confident that Hal will provide exceptional leadership for our District.



## Rotary Roundup Educates, Entertains

The annual gathering of District 5770 Rotarians was held May 19-20 at the Chickasaw Business and Conference Center of the Harlan C. Stonecipher School of Business at East Central University in Ada. The event offered an agenda with something for every Rotarian interested in Serving Humanity.

The Roundup was structured around five of our Rotary Foundation's six areas of focus. Each general session dealt with one area. The Roundup began with a look at Basic Literacy, as Rotarians from Ada, Anadarko, Durant, Norman, Sayre, and Shawnee described their clubs' projects to encourage children toward reading.

The second general session focused on Water and Sanitation. Rather than exploring what District 5770 clubs are doing now, this session encouraged Rotarians to think about what was possible. From digging wells to cleaning up polluted streams, speakers encouraged Rotarians to consider what they could do to provide safe water where none is available.

General Session III addressed Disease Prevention and Treatment. Speakers from Ada Sunrise,

## District 5770 Loses 21 in 2016-17

Each year the most touching part of our annual conference is provided by PDGs Don Adkins (Norman) and David Shirley (Sooner) who conduct a brief Celebration of Life ceremony to commemorate members of our Rotary family we have lost since the prior conference. Below is a list of those Rotarians and Rotaractors and their clubs.

Ada Sunrise: Linda Lookingbill  
 Altus: L.D. Whitlock  
 Anadarko: David Evans  
 Chickasha: Dwain Jones, Elmer Kuntz  
 Duncan: Phil Parham, George Sherrill  
 East Central University Rotaract: Nisha Karki  
 Frederick: Jim Jack Loftis  
 Norman: Jeffery Burcham, Melba Jordan, Gerald McCullough, Don Geis  
 Norman Cross Timbers: John Rosser, Tony Averion  
 Norman Sooner: Don Sherman  
 Oklahoma University Rotaract: Daniel Holland  
 Pauls Valley: Jim Crews  
 Shawnee: William A. "Bill" Weaver, Bob R. Williams  
 Waurika: Bob Harrison

## New District Manual of Procedure

District 5770 has a new Manual of Procedure. The MOP also serves as the District Bylaws. Like club bylaws, this document should be reviewed and updated regularly. Delegates from all clubs attending the recent Rotary Roundup unanimously adopted the new document.

The new MOP has been posted to the District Website ([www.rotary5770.com](http://www.rotary5770.com)). It is now available for perusal by any District 5770 Rotarian. Our district is working to be transparent, and to serve as an example for our clubs. Updating our governing document and making them available to our Rotarians is an important step in that direction.

Shawnee, Greater Lawton, and Cross Timbers discussed how polio is contracted, how it impacted their families and themselves, and what Rotary is doing to End Polio Now.

The fourth General Session looked at one project in the area of Community and Economic Development. Dr. Kathy Parks shared Days for Girls, a non-Rotary project designed to enable young women to stay in school. The session was followed by a service opportunity where Rotarians assembled kits to be distributed to young women.

The fifth area of focused was addressed during the closing remarks by Rotary International President's Representative PDG Leah Lambrecht: Peace and Conflict Resolution. Lambrecht described a moving moment in the life of her stepfather as she encouraged Rotarians to always consider the perspective of the other party, even in the most difficult times.

The Roundup also featured Breakout Sessions following up the preceding General Session, offering training, or encouraging participation in District programs. For example, after the first General Session, Rotarians could attend an orientation session for first-time attendees or one of two Basic Literacy follow-ups. Later sessions addressed RYLA, Rotary Youth Exchange, Membership Recruitment and Retention, Secretary Training, Treasurer Training, Assistant Governor Training, and a Presidents-Elect Training Seminar make-up, and Grants Certification.

The Roundup also featured welcomes from the President of ECU and the Mayor of Ada, both of whom cooperated in an effort to power wash the campus and city for visiting Rotarians. Past ECU President John Hargrave reminded Rotarians of the value of free speech as well as remaining positive when the world turns negative. Rotarians also got a chance to hear the award-winning, internationally known Chickasaw and Mississippi Choctaw ensemble Injunuity perform. Injunuity's unofficial motto is "This isn't your grandfather's flute music."

## A Note from the Governor

I want to thank you for the honor of serving as District Governor this Rotary year. Jennifer and I have enjoyed visiting each club, expanding our Rotary family, and getting to see first hand the difference each club makes in its community. We felt welcome at every stop, and we appreciate the way clubs put themselves out to make sure visiting vegans found something to eat as we shared a meal.

Let me also extend a special thank you to everyone who attended a District-wide event. We had four of them this year: District Assembly, All Clubs Meeting, Foundation Recognition Dinner, and Rotary Roundup. Our team worked hard to assure no one attending would feel they had wasted their time or money. Our goal throughout was to provide value: we felt we owed that to our Rotarians.

I would be remiss if I did not applaud the generosity of Rotarians throughout the district in supporting our Rotary Foundation. As you have read elsewhere in this document, your generosity this year has been outstanding. As you already know, your contributions allow us to do good in the world, including right here at home.

My goal this year has been to remind every District 5770 Rotarian how much they are valued. I felt—and still feel—the Governor should be the first person in Rotary to remind you of the worthiness of your efforts. Through Rotary we are able to brighten both our communities and our world one person and one project at a time.

Thank you for making a difference. And thanks again for allowing me the pleasure of serving as your District Governor.



## Congratulations and a Challenge by District Membership Chair – Jim Mason

Congratulations to the Seminole Rotary Club which leads District 5770 with +10 member growth for the current Rotary year (granted that this was in part to getting some documentation updated)! Our other growth Rotary Clubs (with one month to go) are: Ada Sunrise, Pauls Valley, Ardmore (Arbuckle Sunrise), Cyril, Duncan, Binger, Elk City, Moore, and Madill!!! Way to Go!! – Sharing Rotary with new Rotarians!!!

District Rotary Clubs who continue with the same number of members are: Anadarko, Hobart, Norman, Walters, and Waurika.

Unfortunately, these 15 growing and thriving Rotary Clubs are more than offset by the 18 Rotary Clubs in our District who have less members today than when we started the year. That is right, District 5770 is down -33 members for the first eleven months of this year.

If your Club was not mentioned in the two lists above that obviously means that your club is one of the 18 who have lost more members than were retained!! Membership truly is the life blood of a club and a District. If you are not growing, then you are dying!

After three years of consecutive growth as a district (+24, +5, +5 = +34), we (at -33) are almost back where we were four years ago. Have you shared Rotary with someone this year and invited them into your Club? After all, someone invited you to join Rotary – share the experience!

Together we Rotarians are the best non-denominational, non-

governmental entity in the world in combating polio, providing water wells and humanitarian aid, while building good will and friendships that can eventually lead to world peace!!! What an objective!

We Rotarians have a tremendous impact on our local communities and provide opportunities for community service to many, many individual Rotarians to the benefit of our communities! We collectively are so much more than just a “meet to eat and have a program club”!

Membership growth does not just happen on it's own – a club must plan for it! In just a few days, this year's officers will turn the club leadership over to a new group of officers. I and our district membership team are here to help. We are happy to share ideas on how to develop and follow a membership plan for your club. I'll be happy to email you an example of a successful membership campaign. Contact me at 405-664-0273, masonj@elkcity.com

Rotary has implemented new guidelines that may be a better fit for someone whose job or family situation has changed causing them to have dropped out of your club. Satellite clubs and e-clubs may be a good option, several have two regular meeting, one project session and one social session. Requirements for perfect attendance have been relaxed. But Rotary is still Rotary, we have just adjusted to the times.

I challenge each of you reading this article to bring a friend to Rotary and ask someone new to become a Rotarian this year!

## Looking Ahead by Arlie Daniel, 2017-18 Governor

District Rotarians, we are soon to start a new year in Rotary. As we do, I ask that you keep in mind that we are making a difference not only in our local communities, but in the entire world. There are all kinds of projects that are done here in Oklahoma that few people know about. There are also differences being made by clubs and individual members of our local communities that few people know about.

One thing I want us all to work on this Rotary year is to make sure people around our district and around the world know how much of a difference we are making to help the world be a better place for all of us.

One way we can do that is by broadcasting on Facebook and the local media what is happening locally. How many people in your community are spending their time and money making your community a better place to live? Share it loud and clear. Send that information to RI also as President Ian Riseley is trying to collect the total hours and money spent around the world by Rotarians. He is hoping to make the world news by his end-of-the-year report. So, every time you and your club do something, no matter how small the impact you may think it makes, give us all the report so we can send the world a message about how great ROTARY is.

This is only one small part of what a difference you really make in your community. Your every day connections with other people in your community tells them that Rotary does make a difference! Have a GREAT Rotary year!



Arlie Daniel (right) Carter Waid (center) and I believe Larry Duffy (left.)