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ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5630



2015 FEBRUARY - NEWSLETTER

District Governor's Message

By Koby Rickertsen
Rotary 5630 District Governor

HAPPY BIRTHDAY ROTARY!!!! Wow, it's hard to believe that Rotary Clubs have been making an impact in our communities and our world for 110 years. February 23, 2015 marks the birth of Rotary International and this year is a marque moment for the worlds first and largest service organization.

For me it has been an honor to be a small part of this amazing organization. So much rich history we had over the years. I think that it is fitting that we also celebrate World Understanding Month along with the birth of Rotary. I think it is interesting that it is named World Understanding instead of something like

"World Service". It is so important that we not only take time to understand the world that we live in and all the difference throughout, but also to understand our part in it.

Eradicating Polio from our world has been a paramount mission of Rotary for a good chunk of it's history. We can now see the finish line on this goal and within the next few years Rotary is going to be able to throw a giant party along with our global partners celebrating the news that no more children will ever have to live with this horrific disease! We have so much to celebrate as we look into the future, and I for one am excited to be a



*Koby Rickertson
District Governor*

part of such awesome-ness!

However, with all the things that we have to celebrate we must continue to strive for excellence. I believe that central and western Nebraska has some of the hardest working people in the world. We are achievers by nature and that is why our District leadership team had no problem setting some of the loftiest goals in our districts history. I will be honest,



we are asking a lot this year, but I know that my fellow Husker fans will not let me down. Every club that I visited has done amazing things in their communities and I know that together we can reach our goals and have a celebration May 29th and 30th in Gothenburg to celebrate our success!!!

As we start February thinking of the kind of cake we should get for our clubs the week of February 23rd to cele-

brate 110 years, and we reflect on our world and it's needs. Let's take some time to research all the things that Rotary has done for our country and our world and remember on February 23 that this entire movement started with 4 passionate guys in a law office in Chicago, IL. No club is too small to achieve greatness. We only need to set high goals and have the mindset that we cannot fail! In the words of General

George S. Patton "If you tell people where to go, but not how to get there, you will be amazed at the results." We know where we want to go my friends, my honest hope is that you all think of fun and exciting different ways to help us get there. #WeAreRotary!!!

Yours in Service,

Koby

Koby Rickertsen
District Governor

WELCOME OUR NEW JANUARY MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT

First Name	Last Name	Club	E-mail
Joe	Black	Grand Island	jblack@stuhrmuseum.org
John	Carrier	Minden	pastorjcarrier@gmail.com
Dean	Dragon	Imperial	
Terri	Dragon	Imperial	
Kirsten	Faessler	Lexington	kfaessler@lexrhc.org
Isaiah	Graham	St Paul	
Brenda	Hayes	Cambridge	
Matthew	Hoff	Grand Island Sunrise	huskerfan1977@yahoo.com
Sara	Jackson	Curtis	glennandsara@gmail.com
Lynn	Koch	Grand Island Sunrise	lynn.koch@greatwesternbank.com
Will	Rahjes	Gothenburg	wrahjes@gothenburgstatebank.com
Steven	Rasmusen	McCook	sasmusen@horizonbankne.com
Sean	Sabin	Gothenburg After Dark	sean@sabinsbodyshop.com

Host Clubs Sought for 2015-16 Rotary Exchange Students



The Rotary District 5630 Youth Exchange Committee is seeking host clubs for exchange students in the 2015-16 year. The Youth Exchange Committee has agreed to accept four in-bound students. Host clubs provide a monthly stipend for their student, find three host families, provide a club counselor for the student as well as a local coordinator to oversee the program on the club level.

Host clubs help the student adjust to life in Nebraska, provide transportation to district events and invite the student to be a part of their Rotary club. Adult volunteers working closely with the student must agree to have a criminal background check conducted, provide two references and participate in mandatory training prior to the student's arrival in August.

Clubs should contact District Youth Exchange Committee Chair Ronna Morse before March 1 if they are interested in hosting a student in 2015-16 or if they have questions about the youth exchange. She can be reached at ryechair@5630rye.org or 402-322-0404.



"You get a strange feeling when you're about to leave a place, like you'll not only miss the people you love but you'll miss the person you are now at this time and place because you never be this way ever again."

#leaving #goinghome #rotaryyouthexchange #exchangelife
#melancholy #bittersweet



Paul Alexander

DALLAS (AP) - As a tow-headed 6-year-old, Paul Alexander took apart everything, including his mother's blender, simply to understand how it worked. His father would be close behind, putting the pieces back together.



Alexander didn't know at that time there would be a day he wouldn't be able to take things apart, wouldn't be able to run around in the mud, or do other rambunctious activities the average 6-year-old could do. Paralytic polio would place him in an iron lung, a machine that forces air into his lungs with help from a pressurized system, about a week after he had checked into a Dallas

hospital in 1952 and shortly after he was prematurely pronounced dead.

Now Alexander, who is in his late 60s, is one of 10 people in the world who still live in an iron lung. He contracted the deadly illness toward the end of a major United States polio outbreak, and said his survival into his 60s wouldn't have been possible without the good hearts and grace of others like those in the Waxahachie Rotary Club. The Rotarians spent a recent Saturday morning building a ramp to help Alexander transport his 1,200-pound lung to and from the hospital more easily. [~READ MORE~](#)

**END
POLIO
NOW**

**MAKE
HISTORY
TODAY**

LEARN
ENDPOLIONOW.ORG



2015-2016 DISTRICT DIRECTORY

Work on the District Directory has begun, Please login to Clubrunner or Rotary.org to update your incoming officers and member data. You will also be contacted soon for your club advertisement for the directory. Full page ads are \$100 half-page ads are \$50. If you have questions or need help, please contact JoAnne Hoatson at daa@5630.rotarydistrictmail.org

2015 High Country PETS

March 6th – 8th, 2015

To register, visit your district website or go to: www.HighCountryPETS.org

President Elect Training in March is our first step in making 2015-2016 Rotary year a success in every club throughout our District. Great opportunity for President Elects and Nominees to meet and work with Club, District, and International Rotary leaders to make your Pets experience memorable. Our District will be holding a Leadership assembly on Friday morning March 6th from 8:00am – 11:30am prior to the opening session for Assistant Governors and District Chairs at the Renaissance Hotel to help facilitate what we know will be a great Pets experience.

See you in the Rockies in March!

[Click here for the full flyer](#)



South Central Youth Exchange Winter Meeting

Rotary District 5630's exchange students Amanda Mota E Mota of Brazil/Minden, Spriha Garg of India/Hastings and Raquel Miranda Mateo of Spain/Grand Island and District Youth Exchange Committee Chair Ronna Morse of Valentine took part in the 2015 South Central Rotary Youth Exchange (SCRYE) Winter Meeting in Tulsa, Okla., January 23-25.



Spriha Garg of India/Hastings; Raquel Miranda Mateo of Spain/Grand Island and Amanda Mota E Mota of Brazil/Minden.

The exchange students were hosted by Tulsa area families one night and on the second evening they were treated to a dance with over 170 other Rotary exchange students. Each of the students participated in skits performed with students from their home country at the Saturday evening banquet.



Spriha Garg, who is hosted by the Hastings Sunrise and Hastings Noon Rotary Clubs was selected to carry the Indian flag in the flag ceremony to open the Saturday evening banquet.



Raquel Miranda Mateo (front row center) who is hosted by the Grand Island Sunrise and Grand Island Noon Rotary Clubs, participated in the student choir, which performed at the banquet.

the student choir that performed at the banquet. Ronna participated in SCRYE youth exchange training workshops as well as in the multi-district's management committee and board of directors meetings.

Spriha was selected to carry the Indian flag in the opening flag ceremony and Raquel was a member of



Amanda Mota E Mota (4th from left) performed with other Brazilian exchange students at the SCRYE Winter Meeting Banquet.

District 5630 Moves Forward with e-Club Development

by Dian Edwards, Membership Extension Chair



Mission Statement of the Rotary District 5630 e-Club of the Midwest

"To provide a virtual District 5630 Rotary Club, enabled and sustained through technology, that accommodates schedules of mobile professionals, the limitations of homebound Rotarians, provides outreach to rural communities, and strengthens global connections in support of Rotary Projects through its Avenues of Service."

Please check out the District 5630 e-Club web site that has been established to host the Rotary e-Club of the Midwest, www.erotarymidwest.com.

Proposed President Timothy Loewenstein, timothy@0000.pro, and Proposed President-Elect Clint Haynes, chaynes@virsage.com, are working with a special ad hoc committee that has been formed to assist with the development and implementation of the club. Todd Spellman, taspell99@gmail.com, has been appointed to be the Special Representative for the Kearney Dawn Sponsor Club.

Our District e-Club is in the process of accepting qualifying member applications in support of our formal charter application. You can help us to reach our goal of a minimum of 30 charter members. The charter member application fee is \$15. Please send us names and contact information for friends, family, and others who you would recommend to be a part of the Wide World of Rotary! We will take it from there.

Ad Hoc Committee Co-Chairs:

Scott McLaughlin, scott@heartlandhosting.com

Dian Edwards, dq5630.2012@gmail.com

Gothenburg Interact



The seniors of the Gothenburg Interact club are selling Yuda Bands! We are working with the Yuda Band organization to raise scholarship money for two students in Guatemala to go to school. The bracelets are hand-made in Guatemala and there is not one exactly the same as another. They are only \$7 and we are hoping to sell 350 of them so that we can pay for a year of schooling for both students. We will be selling these bracelets from January 28th to February 11th at home basketball games and over the High School lunch hour.

For more information on how you can purchase your Yuda Band contact Shelby Loostrom 15loostrom@gothenburgswedes.org of GHS Interact.



Polio Update

EVEN ISIS KNOWS POLIO IS BAD

Even though the Islamic State (IS) has imposed many restrictions on Syrians and Iraqis in the territories currently under their control, polio vaccination has resumed and vaccination rates are high.

Max Fisher recently reported in VOX about the surprising success of polio vaccination:

For all of the medieval practices that ISIS imposes on the Syrians and Iraqis living under its rule, there is one area where the terrorist group has so far been tolerant: vaccines.



Even ISIS supports getting kids vaccinated

"An unexpected success of the polio immunization campaigns in Syria and Iraq has been the access granted to vaccinators in territory controlled by the militant group calling itself the Islamic State," **according to the Integrated Regional Information Networks (IRIN)**, a humanitarian news service formerly part of the UN.

The UN has called the polio immunization campaign in Syria — which had an outbreak in 2013 — a significant success. While it's possible the disease could come back, 8,500 health workers got as close as they could to immunizing everyone, especially children.

According to workers with the anti-polio campaign, ISIS allowed vaccinators even into areas where they had forbidden other humanitarian. Partly this was presumably in deference to local Syrians and Iraqis who want the vaccine, but also out of simple understanding that polio is bad and vaccines are good.



The head of an NGO that runs the vaccines recounted to IRIN that they reached out to ISIS: "We told them, 'This polio — it doesn't care about lines. It goes cross-line and cross-border as it wants.'" The Washington Post reported in June that ISIS members had in some cases gotten their own children vaccinated, or had helped facilitate safe passage.

On the narrow issue of vaccination, this puts ISIS ahead of some Americans who oppose vaccination for children. American anti-vaccination proponents have focused on the MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella) vaccine, though, rather than polio, **after a now-retracted study with false data, published in 1998, suggested a connection to autism**. Still, polio has come up; Ron Paul, in making the case that it was okay for some parents to refuse vaccines, **said in 2007**, "If you didn't take the vaccine for polio, you're not a danger to me. You're a danger to yourself."

As **Sarah Kliff put it**, writing in response to Chris Christie's characterization of vaccination as a personal choice, "Vaccination is not a personal decision. It has the potential to affect hundreds, maybe thousands, of other people."

ISIS is perhaps the cruelest, most barbaric group on earth today. It does many things that are far worse than denying vaccines to children. But that makes it all the more striking that even ISIS sees the value of immunizing children against contagious diseases.

ISIS's pro-vaccine stance is particularly striking given that other Islamist extremists, such as the Pakistani Taliban, have opposed vaccines, calling them a "conspiracy of Jews and Christians to make Muslims impotent and stunt the growth of Muslims."





2015 District Conference Gothenburg, NE

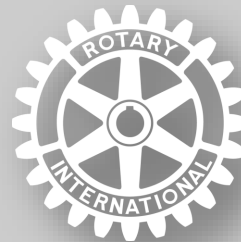


Join area Rotarians and Rotary Youth for PATRIOTIC NIGHT—**Hero's Night Friday May 29, 2015** at Walkers Steakhouse in Gothenburg. **Dress in Red White and Blue** and be entertained by 2014 Miss Veteran America Amanda Wirtz. We are also asking each Rotary Club (Rotoract and Interact included) to nominate a community hero to be recognized during this event. Come help celebrate our Successful year and the hero's that live among us!

Murder Mystery Dinner

Our Governor Koby Rickertsen and his wife Carrie invite you to the annual Governors Banquet Saturday night. We are going to the Awards! Enjoy an exciting Murder Mystery Dinner followed by our District Awards (in the style of the Oscars). Walk down the Red Carpet into an exciting world of awards and celebration!! Also, be apart of the first ever District Conference "Passing of the Pin". Governor Koby is excited to celebrate all we have done over the last year and the great Rotarians that made it happen. Mark May 29 and 30 on your calendar TODAY!





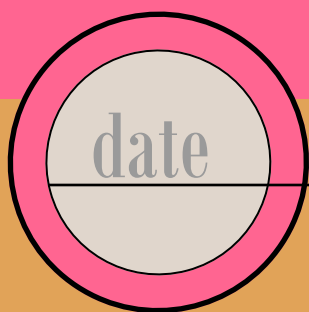
Wild Horse Golf Course

Gothenburg, NE

100 Holes of Golf Tournament

District 5630 fundraiser for District Youth Programs official event. Full day of activities including lunch, raffle, hole in one contest, 18 holes of golf and end the day with our Foundation Dinner at the clubhouse. We would love to see not only the golfers but their fans as well. Come cheer on your team and be a part of this fun filled day!!

Team Packets are being sent out to Rotary, Rotoract and Interact Clubs **NEXT WEEK**



May 1, 2015



10:00AM

Shotgun Start

**Looking for a
foursome from
each club.**



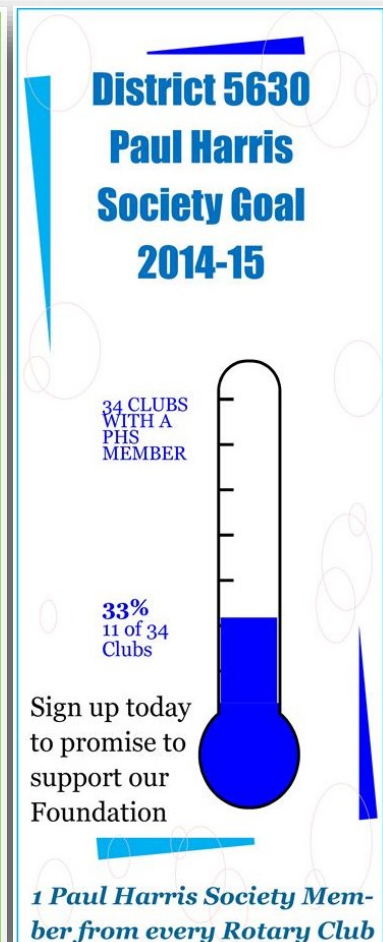
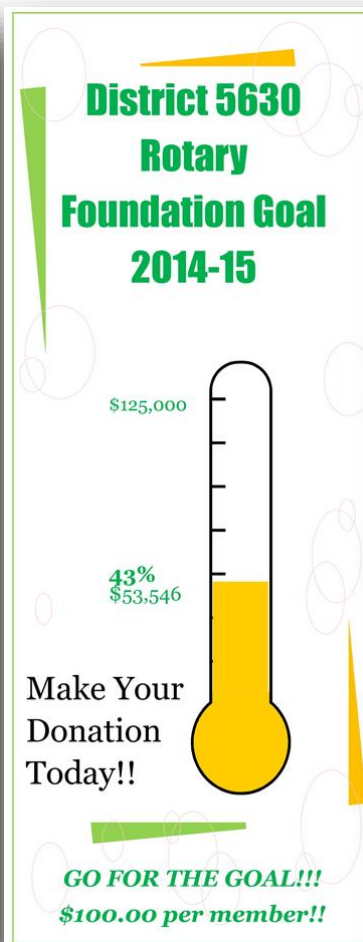
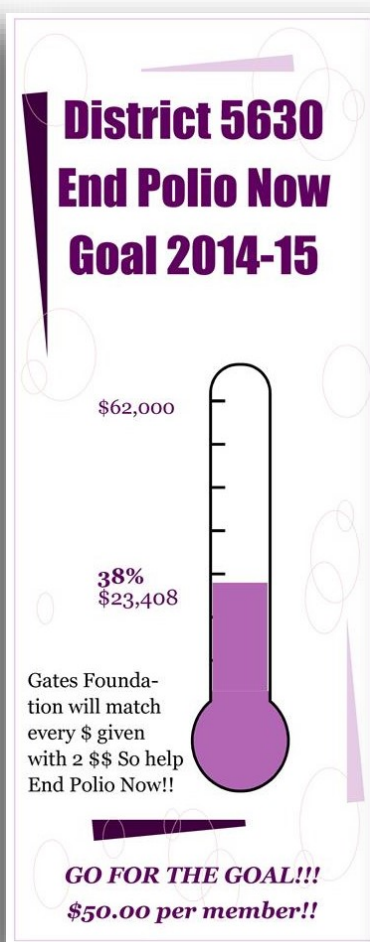
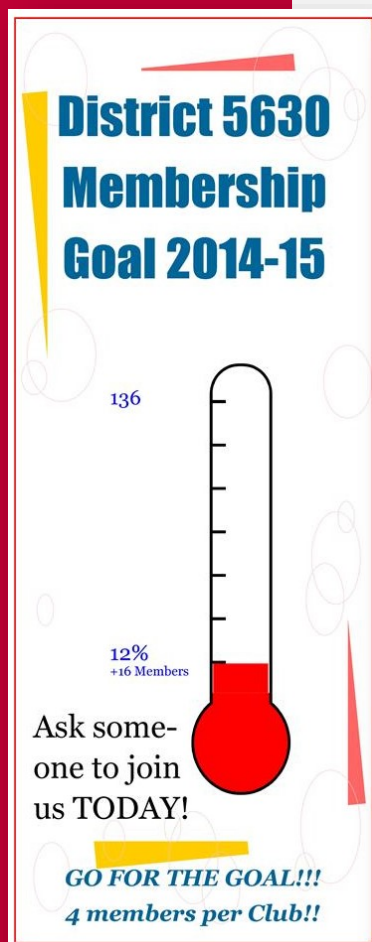
dg5630.2014@gmail.com or 308 529 0067



2014-2015 District Goals

We are hoping to announce at District conference this coming May 30th that we have met and exceeded these goals!! Help out and let's all get this done over the next 5 months!!

HERE IS WHERE WE ARE TODAY!!



February District Calendar	
DATE	
All February	February Theme—World Understanding
February 12	PETS Planning Committee Conference Call

District Executive Committee

District Governor

2014-2015

Koby Rickertsen

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Gothenburg, NE 69138
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District Governor Nominee

2016-2017

Tom Mortimer

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PO Box 166
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(308) 754-5482 F
308-750-0017 C
dg.2016@5630.rotarydistrictmail.org

Past District Governor

2013-2014

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413 Seminole Drive
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District Trainer

2014-2015

Mary Eisenzimmer

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District Governor Elect

2015-2016

Don Peterson

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District Secretary

2014-2015

Loraine Lawler

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District Treasurer

2014-2015

Jason Stephens

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Rotary District 5630 Office

JoAnne Hoatson

District Executive Secretary

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