



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

| | |
|---|-------|
| District Goals | 1 |
| New Rotary Members | 2 |
| DG's Message | 2-3 |
| RLI Update | 4 |
| ROCK STARS! | 5 |
| Greg Swinney joins Overseas Security Advisory Council | 6-7 |
| District Conference | 8 |
| 100 Holes of Golf | 9 |
| GI & Cozad Lead in Polio Support | 10 |
| Polio Update | 11 |
| St. Paul Club Happenings | 12 |
| India NID 2015 | 13 |
| Rodale Emken visits Tanzania | 14 |
| Why don't you like me? | 15 |
| District Calendar | 15 |
| Membership | 16-19 |
| District Assembly | 20 |
| District Executive Committee | 21 |

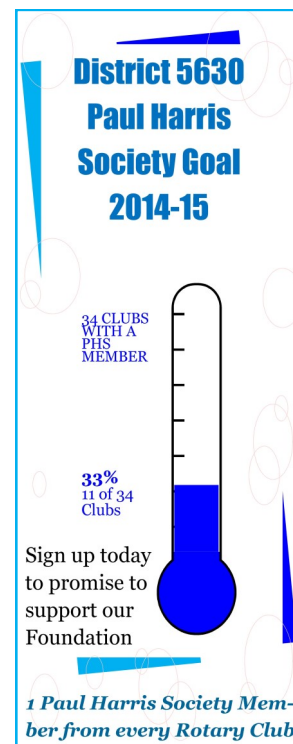
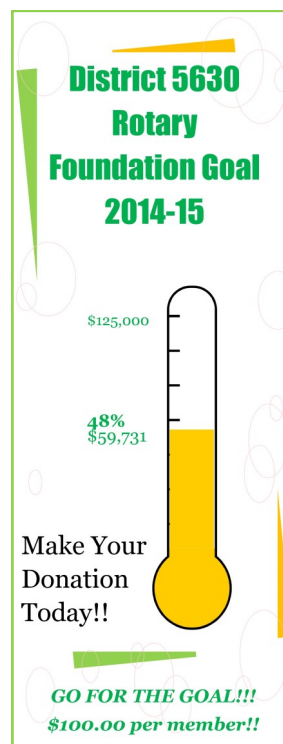
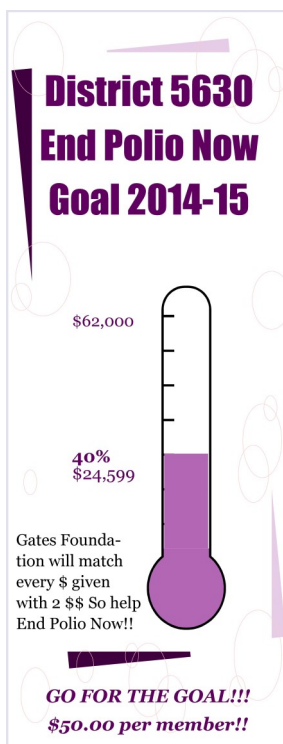
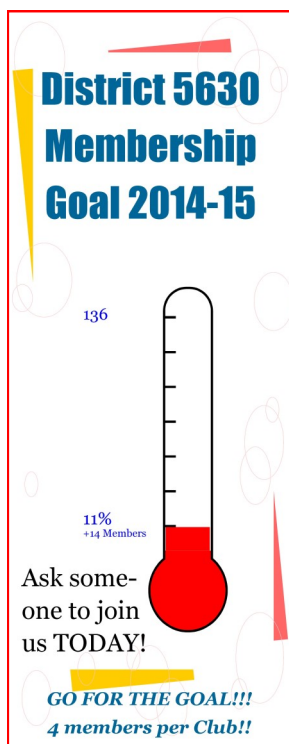
ROTARY INTERNATIONAL DISTRICT 5630

2015 MARCH NEWSLETTER

District GOALS!! 2014-2015

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

Here is where we are at today!!



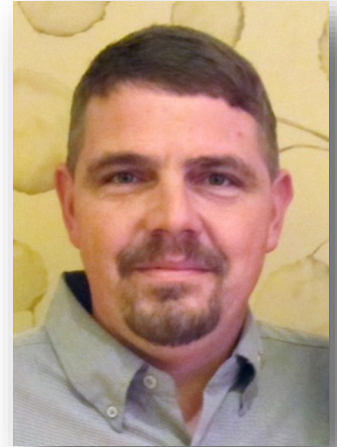


District Governor's Message

By KOBY RICKERTSEN
Rotary 5630 District Governor

One of my all time favorite movies is the 1999 Sci-Fi film "The Matrix" starring Keanu Reeves and Lawrence Fishburne. In this action packed story there is a moment between the character Morpheus (played by Fishburne) and Neo (played by Reeves) where Morpheus offers Neo the opportunity to fundamentally transform his understanding of the world as he knows it. In this 2 minute scene between the 2 characters,

Morpheus shows Neo 2 pills. One is blue, and if taken it will return Neo to the world he knows and he will wake up in his bed and continue with life as he knows it. However, if he takes the red pill his eyes will be opened and life will never been the same for him again. At the end of the seen Neo reaches for the red pill, and before taking it, Morpheus explains that all he is offering is the truth and nothing more.



*Koby Rickertson
District Governor*

As I have the rare option to sit at my desk today trying to come up with yet another message for our amazing newsletter, my thoughts turn to this epic scene of the cross-roads of Neo. I suppose

WELCOME OUR NEW FEBRUARY MEMBERS TO THE DISTRICT

| First Name | Last Name | Club | eMail |
|------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Kathy | Benson | O'Neill | kathy.benson@avera.org |
| Brenda | Brott | Burwell | brenda.brott@greatwesternbank.com |
| Adam | Daake | Kearney Dawn | adamdaake1@gmail.com |
| Deborah | Herzberg | Cambridge | |
| Matthew | Hoff | Grand Island Sunrise | huskerfan1977@yahoo.com |
| Jerry | Huisman | Grand Island | jerry@lacygc.com |
| Jeremy | Jensen | Grand Island | jeremy@helixfin.com |
| Michael | Mlejnek | Hastings Sunrise | |
| Jason | Stephens | North Platte Noon | jstephens@fsbwallace.com |
| D. Joe | Watkins | Grand Island | jwatkins@cccusa.net |
| Ryan | Williams | Hastings Sunrise | |



at this point you are thinking "Why?". Well, as I think of the choice that Neo is facing at that moment, I can relate this to Rotary in North America today. Though I am not a gloom and doom person the simple truth is that our membership is dwindling at a horrific rate. If we don't stand up and say "ENOUGH!", Rotary International is going to become the greatest export in the history of our country.

After visiting all of our amazing Rotary Clubs in this district, I get the feeling that many of the clubs find themselves in a similar scene as Neo did in the movie. We are at a crossroad and we have a choice to make. Do we as Rotarians take the "blue pill" and continue on with the same projects, fundraisers, members etc. Do we return to the belief that our club does all it can do for our community? Do we stay with the status quo? OR, do we take the "red pill" and fundamentally transform our organization by adding those new members and ideas that we know will

change our club forever? I know friends that this is a scary choice for us to face especially for those members of our clubs that helped to create the way things are today. However, I also know that a tiny ember can start a fire that can rage on for days, and weeks, and in some cases even months. This months newsletter is dedicated to showing ways to start that fire in your communities. Though we have the standard updates and reports, we have also inserted several articles that might be helpful if you and your club decides to take the "red pill" and make some changes for the future. I pray that you find some or all of our publication helpful.

It has been said about me that not only am I an out of the box thinker, I don't even know there is a box. I know that this was not meant, at the time, to be a compliment; but that is how I take it. I am always challenging the status quo and taking roads that most people would not think to take. To save

Rotary in North America, I believe we all need to be willing to take the "red pill" and start allowing those energetic crazy thinking folks like myself to have some input in our clubs. For 110 years, Rotarians have pioneered serving the world! Our history is so rich with amazing accomplishments. This was done simply by allowing members to be creative, and not understanding the definition of failure!

I know many of you are curious about what happens to Neo in the story of "The Matrix". Well, that is the amazing thing, Neo wakes up and faces the truth about the world, and he ends up saving a world he did not even know needed saving. Dream BIG my Rotary family, and remember End Polio Now started in one club where the members could not see how impossible the dream really was... Look at us now!

Yours in Service,

Koby

Koby Rickertsen
District Governor



Rotary Leadership Institute Update

by **Dian Edwards, D5630 RLI Coordinator**

I am pleased to report that 44 District 5630 Rotarians have completed Part I of the Great Plains Rotary Leadership Institute Training offered during this Rotary Year. Fourteen have also completed Part II. Additional training dates have been scheduled as follows:

RLI Part I – March 28, 2015 – Riverside Golf Club, Grand Island

RLI Parts I and II (Expanded Session Covering Both Parts) – April 17-18, 2015 – Berean Church, Alliance

RLI Part II – March 28, 2015 – Riverside Golf Club, Grand Island

RLI Part III – March 28, 2015 – Riverside Golf Club, Grand Island

RLI Part III – May 29, 2015 – Comfort Inn and Suites, Gothenburg

Please take a few minutes to review Great Plains Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) web site, <http://rligreatplains.org/>, for a summary overview of RLI with links to online registration.

The fees for attending RLI have been waived for this Rotary budget year. Training materials and meals are provided. So, this is a GREAT and AFFORDABLE opportunity for our District Rotarians to learn more about Rotary, its organization, strategic planning, services, and leadership opportunities.

All District 5630 Rotarians are encouraged to enroll in this valuable training. Completion of Part I is a prerequisite to enrollment in Part II. Completion of Parts I and II is a prerequisite to enrollment in Part III. There is still time for **you** to complete the three parts of training required for graduation at the 2015 District Conference in Gothenburg. If you have questions or would like some advice about how to proceed, please contact Dian Edwards, dg5630.2012@gmail.com or 402-340-6166.

Water and Sanitation



Rotary members carry out service projects that enhance water access, sanitation, and hygiene in communities around the world. Get involved with Rotary to improve health through clean water.

Rotary 

DONATE: www.rotary.org

Funding:
\$11.2m

Number of grants:
198

ROCK STARS



FOUNDATION ROCK STARS!!

100% Paul Harris Club

Rotary Club of Arnold 100%



Top 5 Annual Per Capita Giving Clubs

| | |
|---------------------------------|----------|
| Rotary Club of Arnold | \$214.29 |
| Rotary Club of Burwell | \$192.69 |
| Rotary Club of Hastings Sunrise | \$176.21 |
| Rotary Club of Kearney Dawn | \$106.51 |
| Rotary Club of Alliance | \$84.48 |



Top 5 EREY Clubs

| | | |
|---------------------------------|-----|------------------|
| Rotary Club of Kearney Dawn | 98% | \$106.51/ Member |
| Rotary Club of St Paul | 96% | \$ 76.51/ Member |
| Rotary Club of Hastings Sunrise | 93% | \$176.21/ Member |
| Rotary Club of Chadron | 92% | \$58.52/ Member |
| Rotary Club of Lexington | 91% | \$19.97/ Member |



Top 5 Sustaining Member Contenders

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|-----------------------|
| Rotary Club of Hastings Sunrise | 83% | 24 out of 29 Members |
| Rotary Club of Chadron | 29% | 15 out of 52 Members |
| Rotary Club of North Platte Noon | 22% | 24 out of 109 Members |
| Rotary Club of Burwell | 20% | 4 out of 20 Members |
| Rotary Club of Kearney Noon | 20% | 13 out of 65 Members |
| Rotary Club of Kearney Dawn | 20% | 8 out of 41 Members |



MEMBERSHIP ROCK STARS!!

Increase Membership by New Member

| | |
|-----------------------|----|
| O'Neill | +9 |
| Gothenburg After Dark | +4 |
| Imperial | +4 |
| Chadron | +3 |
| Hastings Noon | +3 |
| Kearney Dawn | +3 |

**Economic and
Community Development**

**Funding:
\$7.8m**
**Number
of grants:
148**

Rotary invests in people to create economic improvement in their lives and their communities. Get involved with Rotary to develop communities around the globe.

Rotary

DONATE: www.rotary.org



Swinney of Kearney Rotary joins Overseas Security Advisory Council to focus on travel safety

By MARY JANE SKALA Hub Staff Writer
Reprinted from Kearney Hub (kearneyhub.com)

KEARNEY — When recent trouble broke out in Nigeria, Greg Swinney got an e-mail about it before news organizations reported it.

From the middle of Nebraska, Swinney is helping keep an eye on the safety of relief workers and people from faith-based and nonprofit organizations who travel for global relief efforts and short-term mission trips.

He recently was invited to join a 15-member steering committee of the Overseas Security Advisory Council, which is part of the U.S. Department of State/ Bureau of Diplomatic Security. Founded in 1985, the OASC provides reliable security information from all over the world. Swinney is part of a new division being structured specifically for faith-based organizations.

The OASC website includes daily briefings on terror threats and incidents. Its entry for Friday mentioned incidents in Mongolia, South Africa, Burundi and Somalia. In his new role, he will attend no meetings; all communication takes place online.

"I am honored to be a part of this. I can offer information to people who make a difference in the world," he said.

Since 2010, Swinney has been the ministry facilitator for Crossroads International Student Ministries, and he knows firsthand how valuable his new position will be. A few years ago, he was with 128 American college students who were heading home after working in Mexico when a bomb threat closed the border at Piedras Negras, Texas. They were delayed two hours.

"We had to be very cautious in getting out of there," he said.

Travel threats exist in places such as Colombia, where cartels will kidnap Americans and hold them for ransom, he said. Relief workers face dangers in Muslim nations in northern Africa.

If a church group, for example, just takes clothes to Belgium, now we have reliable connections that can give us dependable security," Swinney said.

The new role also fits into his role as the national representative with the National Association of College Ministries, which includes 120 campus ministries around the world. Members often take

Basic Education and Literacy



Rotary members provide technology, teacher training, vocational training teams, student meal programs, and low-cost textbooks to communities. Get involved with Rotary to provide access to a bright future.

Rotary  DONATE: www.rotary.org

Funding:
\$6.8m
Number
of grants:
121





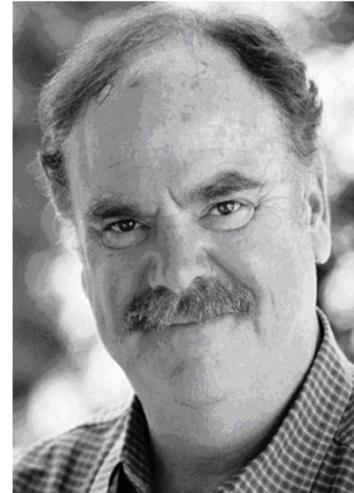
mission trips to Third World nations.

For Swinney, working with international students is a joy. Among other things, CISM aims to provide foreign students at the University of Nebraska at Kearney with a fuller view of American life.

"Eighty percent of international students never see the inside of an American home," he said. Yet, many of them go on to become highly influential in their countries back home.

"Just to have them see the Sandhills would make a difference," he said.

He noted that more and more foreign students are attending American colleges and universities. At the University of Southern California, for example, one in five students is from overseas, representing 161 nations. The numbers of Saudi Arabian students at U.S. universities has climbed 25 percent in recent years, and the University of Illinois now has more than 10,000 foreign students, he said.



Greg Swinney

"We have the best university system in the world. People all over the world want to come study in the U.S., yet a lot of Americans don't take the time to get to know these kids," he added.

He is pleased when Kearney residents welcome students into their homes. "There's no agenda. They just become friends," he said. "It's a good way to welcome people."

A native of Wayne, he graduated from Nebraska Christian College. He received a master's degree in communication from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a master's degree in the New Testament from the Cincinnati Christian Seminary. Previously, he spent 26 years as statewide ministry director for Christian Student Fellowship.

He values his travel with students, who, both here and abroad, open his eyes to the world. Speaking about a recent church relief trip to Honduras, he said, "The Honduran kids gave us ideas. They were very helpful."

He and his wife, Laurie, an accounting professor at UNK, are the parents of two grown children. He also is a frequent contributor to magazines and has written a book, "The Solid Foundations Spiritual Notebook."

As part of his new role, he will help plan national conferences about crime, terrorism, security, cybersecurity and more with churches, mission organizations, and campus ministries. The next one, set for June 1-2 in Plano, Texas, will bring in 50 denominational leaders from across the nation. "I am honored to be part of that," Swinney said.



2015 District Conference Gothenburg, NE

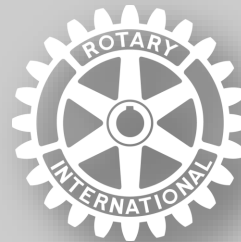


Join area Rotarians and Rotary Youth for PATRIOTIC NIGHT—**Hero's Night Friday May 29, 2015** at Walkers Steakhouse in Gothenburg. **Dress in Red White and Blue** and be entertained by 2014 Miss Veteran America Amanda Wirtz. We are also asking each Rotary Club (Rotoract and Interact included) to nominate 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!





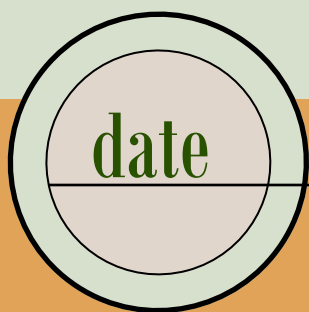
Wild Horse Golf Course

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 available from your
Club President



May 1, 2015



10:00AM

Shotgun Start

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



dg5630.2014@gmail.com or 308 529 0067



GRAND ISLAND ROTARY AND COZAD ROTARY CLUBS LEADING THIS YEAR'S POLIO PLUS SUPPORT

The tally of Dollars donated to Polio Plus since July, 2014 shows Grand Island Rotary Club currently leading at an average of \$92.75 per member with Cozad Rotary at \$83.33 per member. These clubs are followed by: Grant (\$48.78), Arnold (\$47.50), North Platte (\$42.91), Kearney (\$37.97), Ogallala (\$27.03), Hastings Sunrise (\$24.52), Sidney (\$23.81) and Kearney Dawn (\$11.58). Four additional clubs have donated less than \$10 per member and nineteen clubs stand at \$0.

If every club member donates **just \$1 per week**, this would be more than \$50 per member per year. This is the suggested MINIMUM goal for each club's contribution to Polio Plus, which remains the TOP PRIORITY of Rotary International and is the most important part of Rotary's service to world health.

If your club still stands at zero, perhaps your members might consider your plans for the next four months. You may have Polio Plus fundraising events planned. If not, how will you reach \$50 per member by the end of June? **Even starting from zero this late in the year, if every club member were to contribute \$3 per week from now until July, your club could meet the minimum suggested support of \$50 per member.** In recent years we have had several clubs that were above \$100 per member and each year we have one or two clubs that exceed \$200 per member per year (average of all funds submitted). The donated funds might come out of individual member's pockets, from fundraising events, from special donor contributions...whatever. It is all very much needed and sincerely appreciated!

Did you know that Rotary International is the primary source of funding for the vaccines that are used in polio immunizations around the world? Even in countries where government vaccinators administer the vaccine, Rotary provides the vaccine, itself. This is true even in the regions of Iraq and Syria currently under the control of the barbaric militants known as ISIS.

Polio Update



NIGERIA MARKS SIX MONTHS WITHOUT A CASE OF POLIO

It has been over six months since any case of polio was reported anywhere in Africa. Continued vaccinations are needed with intense monitoring to assure that new cases are prevented. The potential for re-introduction and new outbreaks remains a concern which can be prevented only with ongoing vaccination efforts.

PAKISTAN ROTARY CLUBS ARE RAISING NATIONAL SUPPORT FOR POLIO ERADICATION

Sunday, March 1, 2015 was the final day of the Fourth Annual Fatima-Shah Muhammad Memorial Hockey Tournament. This is field hockey (not ice hockey). The theme of the tournament is "Make Pakistan Polio Free / End Polio Now". Twenty seven teams participated and there was a Polio Awareness Walk during half-time of the final match.



This effort has been organized with the support of the Rotary Club of Lahore Garrison, PARADISE and PROMARK. This tournament and those held in the three previous years have been tremendously successful in getting vast coverage in the print and internet media.

ARRESTS OVER REFUSALS OF POLIO VACCINE

After 13,000 to 16,000 cases of polio vaccine refusals in 2014 which also saw 306 new polio cases, breaking all previous records in Pakistan, arrests warrants are now being issued against parents which have refused vaccination for their children. In some cases, the threat of incarceration is enough to persuade families to have their children protected. In other cases, it takes a few days behind bars for them to see reason. When the children are documented as receiving the vaccine or brought in to be vaccinated, the jailed parent is released. Hundreds of warrants have been issued so far, but only time will tell if this and other measures to overcome the extreme resistance to vaccination in the remote tribal areas of Pakistan will begin to reduce the growing numbers of polio cases record-



St Paul Rotary Club Happenings

On the Right: President Tom Powell presents member Stephanie Grabowski as a Paul Harris Fellow. This brings the total number of PHF for the St Paul Club to 33. Out of those 33 Paul Harris Fellows, 13 members have multiples that total 28!



On the Left: Lorraine Lawler meets with Howard County Sheriff Tom Busch and K-9 officer Justice.

INDIA

National Immunization Day 2015



Sometimes one needs an adventure to make life interesting. Last fall I received an email inviting me to a National Immunization Day (NID) in India. On February 13 I boarded a plane in Denver to begin a 22 hour journey to Delhi, India. Our group of 62 people from the US, Canada, Australian began a tour of some of the historical sites of India. We saw the Red Fort, the Taj Mahal, and the India Gate.

The tourist sites were great, but the highlights of the trip came after we met Rotarians from clubs in New Delhi and Jaipur. We saw the Jaipur foot factory. People arrive at the front door and walk out two days later with a new prosthetic leg – at a cost of \$50! In the midst of one of the worse slums of Delhi, we visited a Rotary school teaching the alphabet to preschool children and life skills to adult women. We marched in a Parade celebrating the three years that India has been Polio free. Three hundred school children chanted “One, Two, Three Four, No more polio!” We marched behind a pipe and drum band, stilt walkers, camels, and an International group of Rotarians through a poor neighborhood, bringing everyone out to watch.

On Sunday, we headed to a small village two hours from Delhi. After meeting the Rotarian Polio Chairperson for that district, we were taken to a small house that was the center for distributing the Polio Vaccine. Our team of four had the privilege of putting two drops of the vaccine into the mouths of the young children, and painting the left pinkie finger purple. Monday, the campaign went door to door to find the children that had been missed the first day. One hundred seventy million children were given the Polio vaccine in this campaign. India will have three NIDs and two Sub-National Days this year. Sometimes one needs an adventure in your life!



I will be happy to share my adventure with Rotary Clubs, just drop me a line at tghyde@gmail.com.

Tom Hyde, President, Sidney Rotary Club



Rodale Emken visits Tanzania

From the Rotary Club of Mwika



Our Club, located so far from the main traffic way, rarely has visitors from far, least of all, surprise drop ins. We were, indeed, surprised and delighted to receive fellow Rotarians from Nebraska and Arizona. Thank you for visiting with us. It is always enriching to hear about other Clubs. Our Club Secretary, Rtn. Anence Kawiche, reported on your visit to the Club this Friday.



We are a relatively new Club, barely out of the toddler stage as we approach 4 years. Our membership is only 14. So, to hear of a Club with a robust membership base of 81 makes us wonder if and when ours will ever reach that stage.

Thank you for the kind contribution of \$250 from Rotary Club of Holdrige. Our Club has decided to apply your contribution to having our Club banners made. We hope we will have an opportunity to present our banner to you.

Please convey our warm greetings and thanks to the Rotary Club of Holdridge.

Yours in Rotary,
Young Kimaro
Immediate Past President, Rotary Club of
Mwika
on the slopes of Mount Kilimanjaro



Why don't you like me?



Are you on Facebook? If not go create and account now! <https://www.facebook.com/?rdr> I am happy to help my contact information is below.

Welcome back!

Have you liked District 5630 on Facebook? If not click this link and like it now, <https://www.facebook.com/rotary5630?ref=hl> or type Rotary District 5630 in the search bar.

Welcome back!

Now that you like your District Facebook page you will have the ability to see what is going on in our clubs, the district, and the world. Please like and share content with your friends that you find interesting, and don't forget to encourage your club members to get out there and do the same.

Do you want help setting up your Rotary club Facebook page? Would you like tips on how to make social media work for you? I will be available at President Elect Training Seminar in Denver, or you can reach out to me by e-mail @ 5630pr@gmail.com

Thank you for liking me J #GOROTARY

Brett M. Meyer; PRC District 5630 - 308-529-1518



| DATE | March District Calendar |
|--------------|------------------------------|
| All February | March Theme—Literacy |
| March 6—8 | High Country PETS—Denver, CO |
| March 21 | District Assembly |



Membership

MEET MY VIBRANT CLUB

When I became the president of my Rotary club, we had nine members. We were a dinner club and had two-hour-long meetings at a children's restaurant. The first thing we did to reinvigorate the club was move our meetings to a golf and country club in our area. This was a venue where professionals would want to gather for a meeting — and it was free. We then changed the format of our meetings from dinner to a cocktail-and-appetizer style of meeting. This enabled us to keep our meeting to one hour long, was cost-effective, and allowed our younger members to get home to their families for dinner. Finally, we added variety to the structure of our weekly meetings. Week one includes a vocational talk, so members know about each other's businesses. Week two is a Rotary information session. Week three is where we feature a guest speaker, and week four is our club assembly, where the entire club is updated on projects and fundraisers. We asked club members to make a list of potential members and then phoned them and personally invited them to join the club. This resulted in 11 new members, 90 percent of whom were under the age of 40. Then we made sure that each new member joined a committee based on their interest. Finally, we make sure that we have a lot of fun at every one of our meetings. This has been a crucial element for us, as it has led to camaraderie and enhanced fellowship.

Nick Krayacich Rotary Club of LaSalle-Centennial Canada

WHO ARE YOUR PROSPECTIVE MEMBERS?

Who are the prospective members in your community? In addition to friends, neighbors, and business acquaintances, other groups could be a good fit for your club. For example, consider nonmember volunteers who have participated in your service projects, those who have indicated an interest in your club but never joined, and former mem-

bers who've left your club or another club in the area. Members often leave for a short time but will return once they are invited. Consider young professionals who have participated in Rotary's programs, such as former Group Study Exchange or vocational training team members, Ambassadorial Scholars, Rotary Peace Fellows, and Rotaractors, as well as the parents and grandparents of Interactors, RYLA participants, and Rotary Youth Exchange students. Youth Exchange host families may also include prospective members. Once a year, ask club members to complete the survey to identify prospective members in Membership Assessment Tools. This simple activity asks members to think about people they know in the community who might be good

Maternal and Child Health



Funding:
\$5.1m
Number
of grants:
69



Rotary members around the world improve access to essential medical services and support trained health care providers for mothers and children. Get involved with Rotary to improve health in developing communities.



DONATE: www.rotary.org



club members. Use the survey results to talk with members about your club's culture and whether these prospective members would be a good fit. Are their jobs located in the area? Is the club's meeting time convenient for them? Do they exhibit the characteristics of leaders? Do they differ from current club members in ways that would bring some diversity to your membership? A thoughtful selection process can mean the difference between inducting a short-term, inactive member and finding a lifelong, committed, engaged Rotarian. If you find a promising person but learn that your meeting time or The top reason that people join a Rotary club is to make a positive impact in their community through service. Partner with local organizations like young professional networks or professional women's organizations to identify prospective members for your club. STRENGTHENING YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHAPTER 3: ATTRACTING NEW MEMBERS 13 location, for example, is not a good fit, recommend him or her to another Rotary club. Remember, even if the prospective members you identify do not join, it's worthwhile to engage them as volunteers, donors, or simply friends of your club.

ENGAGING EXISTING MEMBERS

What if you thought of your members as your best customers? What keeps them coming back? Think of your members as customers and work hard to deliver an experience that keeps them engaged and excited about Rotary. It is well known that engaged members are more likely to stay with your club, so be sure to show your appreciation regularly and make sure that they have a variety of options for getting involved and staying active in your club:

- Make members feel appreciated by recognizing their achievements and celebratory occasions, such as club membership milestones, work promotions, or birthdays.
- Develop a formalized mentoring program for involved members to support less active or new members.
- Get regular feedback from members to confirm that they are experiencing the benefits they were promised when they joined.
- Encourage them to serve on committees that suit their skills or interests.

- Give members a clear sense of your club's long-range goals and mission.
- Invite them to attend a district conference or seminar.
- Keep a list of service projects, and have members take turns leading projects that interest them.
- Poll members on their interests and schedule speakers who are stimulating and inspiring.
- Feature photographs of your members at recent club projects and events on your club website and Facebook page and in newsletters to recognize their contributions.
- Update members regularly on progress toward club goals as a way to build loyalty, pride, and an understanding of the need for longterm involvement.

Disease Prevention and Treatment

Funding: \$14.2m*
Number of grants: 265*
*Does not include polio eradication funding

Polio has been reduced by 99% in the last 30 years, but children everywhere remain at risk until we eliminate the final 1%.

Rotary

DONATE: www.rotary.org



ALASKAN ROTARIANS SEE MEMBERSHIP HIKE WHILE UNITING TO BUILD PARK



Members of the Rotary Club of Eagle River Area in Alaska, USA, with some of the parents and children who will benefit from the all-inclusive playground the club helped build.

Photo Credit: Courtesy of the Rotary Club of Eagle River Area

The Rotary Club of Eagle River Area in Alaska experienced a 50 percent increase in membership after building a playground designed for children with disabilities to play alongside their classmates.

Former club president Tonya Gamble says the club is always looking for ways to increase membership, but it wasn't until they took on the park project that the club saw its membership rise from 29 to 43 members. Rotary members helped raise funds and assemble the park equipment.

"When children get together and play, they realize they have more in common than differences," Gamble says. "That concept is what the community really liked."

Club members sent fundraising letters to local businesses, held a community meeting, spoke at the chamber of commerce, and had their project featured in the local newspaper. "With this project, we had such good PR in the community that we had people coming to us," Gamble says.

The project resulted from a suggestion made by club member Seth Kelley, who was also the executive director of FOCUS Inc., a local nonprofit that provides services to the families of children and adults with disabilities. The parents of his clients had expressed their desire for a playground that their children could also use. The playground area in the local park had just one set of swings and a



couple of other playground pieces that had been hand-me-downs.

Thomas Wilder was one of those people who responded to the publicity. After retiring and settling down in Eagle River in 2008, he started looking for a place where he could make a difference among friends.

"The Eagle River Area club clearly had a lot going on. My friends were always talking about service projects, firesides, and other activities that appealed to me," Wilder says. "But what sealed the deal [of joining the club] was the ability to immediately get involved in a big, worthy, and tangible project."

The idea to build the first all-inclusive playground in the state came out of the club's five-year plan, which Gamble says was essential in determining their club's overall goals. Finding what members deemed a "signature community project" would help the club fulfill its goal of working to build healthy communities.

As a new member, Wilder says he enjoyed having an immediate effect on the community. In addition to helping construct the playground, he secured a grant that helped pay for it.

"It's bigger than myself, something that makes a positive impact," Wilder adds.

By Daniela Garcia

Rotary News

27-MAR-2014

[RSS](#)

MEMBERSHIP IDEAS

[Click here](#) for a good tool for Club Membership



District Assembly

DISTRICT ASSEMBLY

Dear JoAnne,
You are invited to District 5630 District Assembly. Please find the details and registration information below.



2015 District Assembly

March 21, 2015

University of NE at Kearney

9:30am - 3:30pm

Entire conference available via ZOOM

TO REGISTER

CALL or eMAIL

JoAnne Hoatson; District Administrative Assistant

(308) 539-5756

daa@5630.rotarydistrictmail.org

Join the
conference
via



Topic: Rotary District 5630's District Assembly via Zoom
Time: Mar 21, 2015 9:30 AM (GMT-5:00) Central Time (US and Canada)

Join from PC, Mac, iOS or Android: <https://zoom.us/j/7682795630>

Or join by phone:

+1 (415) 762-9988 or +1 (646) 568-7788 US Toll

Meeting ID: 768 279 5630

International numbers available: <https://zoom.us/j/zoomconference>

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