



Rotarians in Action



Rotary District 5630

2019-20 • Edition 3 • February 2020

Message from Scott McLaughlin, District Governor 2019-2020

Dear fellow Rotarians,

Congratulations as we are about to celebrate 115 years of Rotary Service to the world. On February 23, 2020, we will celebrate Rotary's 115th anniversary. And in District 5630, we have four clubs celebrating 100 years of Rotary in their communities: Alliance, Chadron, Grand Island and North Platte. Please join me in celebrating with these clubs on 100 years of Rotary service.

As you are probably aware, February is designated as Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution month. One of our Areas of Focus for Rotary International, "**Promoting Peace,**" represents our greatest commitment in supporting lasting peace throughout the world.

I recently attended the 2020 Rotary World Peace Conference in Ontario, California. I have always been myopic when I thought about Rotary's area of focus regarding Peace. In my mind it only occurred to me that Peace was the absence of conflict, or trying to attain peace through conflict resolution or keeping peace through treaties.

What I learned at the conference was that peace is involved in every one of the other areas of focus. In fact, what I now believe is that Rotary's Areas of Focus should really be a "Rotary Peace Pyramid."

I was privileged to hear 32 different speakers address Human Trafficking, Bullying in Schools, Sexual Harassment, Unconscious Bias, Mental Wellness, Social Media to Create Peace through Conversation, Maternal and Child Health a Challenge to World Peace, Building Peace through Music, and many other fascinating topics. There were 24 General Session speakers, 116 Breakout Sessions and numerous vendors and projects dealing with Peace throughout the world. It was truly a life changing weekend for Tracie and me.

Greetings to all,

It is my pleasure to announce to District 5630 the results of the District Governor Nominating Committee. I thank these committee members for their work: *Dale Schultz, Jerry Milner, Don Peterson and Dian Edwards.*

Their choice has been a Rotarian since 2002, has served as club president three times, and has been in three different Rotary clubs! As a humanitarian, this person embodies the Rotary ideal of "Service Above Self," having traveled hundreds of thousands of miles and worked tirelessly for our fellow man. She has traveled the world to more than 50 countries, including China, Philippines, Ghana, Kenya and most recently to Zimbabwe.

It gives me great pleasure to announce that our district will be championed again by a mother, wife and grandmother. She and her husband will serve with over 535 Rotary leaders worldwide for the Rotary year 2022-2023 as District 5630 Governor. Rotary currently connects 1,208,611 members of 35,945 clubs in over 200 countries.

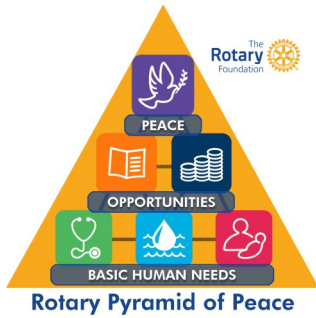
District Governors work to enrich the lives of their club members and partner with fellow International Governors in solving the world's humanitarian challenges, least of which will be Rotary's final mile to once and for all eradicate the scourge of Polio worldwide.

I'm thrilled to announce as our District Governor for the Rotary year 2022-23, *Deb McCaslin*, member of the Broken Bow Area Club.



**Congratulations,
Deb & Norm !!**

Cont'd page 2



Consider the base of the pyramid as basic human needs: Disease Prevention and Treatment, Water and Sanitation, and Maternal and Child Health. Build upon that level with opportunities: Basic Education and Literacy and Economic and Community Development. And at the top of

the pyramid, Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution. Without basic human needs, there is no inner peace or an ability for opportunity. And if not given the opportunity for education or the ability to provide for yourself or family, there is no external peace.

“Rotary’s goal today is to create environments where peace can be built and maintained through sustainable and measurable activities in communities worldwide. Peacebuilding remains a cornerstone of our mission as a humanitarian service organization.” Rotary has a [long history of Peacebuilding around the world](#). [Read these other stories of Rotary peacemaking](#) and find out how you can make an impact.

Conflicts can arise over land, water, religion, and health and are sustained by denying people – especially women and young girls – an education, the access to economies of scale, jobs, personal and professional advancement and even human dignity. So everything is sustained by Peace.

Rotary has made substantial investment to supporting Peace Makers from all over the world, giving them the opportunity to engage in Peace and Conflict areas of study and to develop their skills at six Rotary Peace Centers at seven prestigious universities throughout the world. The Rotary Peace Fellow scholarship offers a rigorous program of study and applied field experience in areas relating to peace and conflict resolution.

A new center on the African continent was just inaugurated this year at Makerere University in Uganda. Specific peace building programs have been developed in each center. Peace Fellows have the amazing opportunity to get Master’s degrees or the professional development program available only at Rotary Peace Centers. If you want to nominate someone for an amazing experience to become a peace builder, please reach out to me.

Scott McLaughlin

District Governor 2019-20
Kearney Dawn Rotary Club
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308-440-9240



February 2020 Presidential Message



Mark Daniel Maloney
RI President 2019-20

Happy 115th birthday, fellow Rotarians and members of the family of Rotary!

Much has changed in the world since 1905. Then, the global population was roughly 1.7 billion. Today, it is 7.7 billion. There were 5 telephones per 100

people in the United States 115 years ago. In 2020, it is estimated that 96 percent of the U.S. population has a cellphone — and both China and India have more than a billion cellphones in use.

In the 115 years since Rotary was founded, seemingly everything has changed except Rotary values. We began, and remain, committed to fellowship, integrity, diversity, service, and leadership. While our Service Above Self motto dates to 1911, the ethos behind those words had already been ingrained by Rotary’s founders.

As the pace of change worldwide continues to accelerate, the need for Rotary service is greater than ever. It’s one thing to read about service projects, quite another to see them in action and to see the grateful faces of people who have benefited from them. Rotary projects change lives and connect the world. And over the past year, I have seen some amazing Rotary projects in action.

Gay and I visited Japan’s Fukushima prefecture last year. Few places in the world have had to deal with the kind of devastation that visited Fukushima in March 2011, when a tsunami touched off by an earthquake led to disaster at a nuclear power plant. But the story of Fukushima today is not one of destruction; it is one of hope and renewal. Rotary grants have helped improve access to medical and mental health care for victims of the disaster and reduced the isolation of these communities by sharing the experiences of people from other parts of the world who have also recovered from disasters. Our grants have also helped to foster self-motivation and encourage sustainable long-term community recovery across the region.

In Shanghai, I learned about the **Careers in Care** program. This helps migrant workers fill the need for skilled professionals in elder care facilities. After taking a course, trainees receive certification to boost their employment prospects, while the care industry benefits from an expanded talent pool. Rotary projects like this are successful because they address a local need, and they have the potential to attract local government funding to sustain their impact.

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And in Guatemala, Gay and I went to Sumpango. Global grants there provide mechanical cows to produce soy milk; an improved water distribution system; water filters; clean compost latrines; family gardens; support for income generation; and training in WASH and literacy programs. The food items sold there not only provide nutrition to women and children, but also create a source of income for local women.

In every area of focus, and in every part of the world, Rotary projects are improving lives and helping communities adapt in a time of rapid change. As we celebrate another great year for Rotary, let us rededicate ourselves to strengthening the connections that make our service so impactful. We will make lives better as Rotary Connects the World.



If your club has not had the opportunity to hear from an exchange student recently, you are missing out on a lot of exciting news!



Districts 5630 and 5650 outbound orientation in Grand Island February 8, 2020

The **newly selected outbound students** have learned their host countries/districts. Many communities are involved in fundraising activities for their students, from dinners to pies to snow removal and beyond. The excitement is contagious!

Katelyn Cecrle (Hastings Sunrise) is aiming for Japan D2380.

Mary Ferrone (Hastings Noon) is heading for Multi-District Spain.

Halle Fiedler (Imperial) is excited to be going to Indonesia District 3420.

Erik Graff (McCook) is preparing for his exchange year in District 4710 Brazil.

Madeline Jorgenson (Gothenburg) is living her dream going to Sweden District 2340.

Gracia Lantis (North Platte) is preparing for Spain District 2201.

Trent Peterson (Gothenburg) is sharpening his skills for his time in Argentina District 4921.

Rotex Alumni are making plans for the **International Rotex Conference** in Curitiba Brazil in August. They are receiving support from their home clubs, District 5630 Governor and RYE budgets as well as their own resources. We look forward to hearing about their adventures and plans to remain connected to Rotary for a lifetime. These amazing young adults are OUR FUTURE!

Inbound and Outbound students are having the time of their lives, but rue the fact that their exchange year is half over! They are in the process of booking their return flights while they are making every effort to cram in everything they can imagine during the last few months of this year.

District Committee Rotarians are also preparing for a new adventure: learning a new database system for youth exchange documentation. This is a long and steep learning curve, but *Delane Wycoff* (North Platte) is gearing up for the task. He serves as the IT master for Rotary Youth Exchange, and we appreciate his efforts daily!

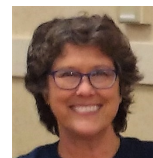
Melissa Propp RN (McCook) is monitoring the World Health Organization for news and recommendations for travel health and safety for all of our voyagers.

Todd Madison from Valentine has recently returned for his year-long sabbatical while he toured the world. We are excited to hear some of his stories.

Lastly, we introduce two new members to the District Youth Exchange Committee: *Michelle Kring* (North Platte) is the mother of two outbound students, *Abby* (Indonesia '17-18), and *Zach* (Argentina '19-20). She is also a host mom and food caterer for our district meetings. M-m-m-m. Next, *Stephanie Malcolm* joins us from Imperial. She is the mom of outbound Matilda (Spain '19-20.) We have an awesome committee and we look forward to this upcoming exchange year.

Paula Witt

District Youth Exchange Chair
wittc@icloud.com



Rotary: Making peace,
one exchange student at a time.

Rotary Clubs in our District are busy doing humanitarian service projects locally in their communities and globally. Currently **24 District grant projects** are in motion by our Clubs, making **\$30,000** worth of positive difference while engaging our communities in the work of Rotary. Our District & Clubs are also engaged in **16 active Global grants** totaling over **\$1.5 million dollars** of humanitarian service in Argentina, Ecuador, Guatemala, Kenya, India, Mexico City, and Nigeria.

The work of Rotary is very strong in our District because of the engaged Rotarians in our Clubs and their vision to support the Annual Fund of our Rotary Foundation. Currently our District and Clubs are on schedule to reach our goal for Annual Fund giving at 69% of \$105,700.

	Number of Members	Annual Fund				
		Goal	% Goals Received	Total	Per Capita	Goal Achieved
2019-20	1,122	\$105,700	90.3%	\$73,583	\$65.58	69.6%
2018-19	1,168	\$86,000	93.5%	\$105,685	\$90.48	122.9%
2017-18	1,175	\$68,620	81.3%	\$84,499	\$71.91	123.1%
2016-17	1,230	\$88,900	78.8%	\$88,598	\$72.03	99.7%
2015-16	1,196	\$118,185	100.0%	\$98,085	\$82.01	83.0%

Now is a great time to talk about the Foundation at your weekly club meetings on where you are with your goals and the difference you plan to make locally and globally through Rotary.

**Rotary Connects the World
when we support our Rotary
Foundation!**

Don Peterson
PDG 2015-16
District 5630 Foundation Chair
dg.2015@5630mail.org



**EVERY
ROTARIAN
EVERY
YEAR**

Rotarian gave \$100 **Every Year**, we could nearly double our efforts to help the needy throughout the world.

Go ahead! Give \$2 a week to the Rotary Foundation.
The easiest way is through Recurring Donations
at Rotary.org/Donate.

Every District's goal is for all its members to become **Sustaining Members** - Rotarians who give \$100 or more per year to the Rotary Foundation. If **Every**

Calling all Rotarians - Please share your story!

We all have a story to tell, and newsletter editor Cheryl Bryan and I would love to hear yours. With this in mind ... District 5630 Rotarians, please consider this a personal invitation to share your story. **What you have to say is important.**

Each story is unique, each Rotarian is unique, and no story is trivial. It could be as simple as walking down the street following a meeting - having just learned something you didn't know before and thinking, "I like Rotary's format, and Rotary's motto 'Service Above Self' is something I can get behind."

Here are the questions we are asking you to think about:

- What year did you join Rotary?
- How and when did you hear of the organization, and what triggered your individual interest?
- AND - most importantly: What was your turning point? When did you feel you truly 'got it'? What was that one incident or group of incidents, or words, or examples of actions that triggered your emotions, or even the emotions of someone near and dear that had you thinking, I understand the need ... I get it.

Please jot these down and send to dmccaslinx4@gmail.com. Include a photo if you like, especially if it is with your fellow Rotarians. With your permission we would love to share your story on Facebook and then collate our stories onto the website: Why Rotary - Why central Nebraska - Why District 5630 - Why our membership has meaning - Why being connected to the world has its own feelings of satisfaction - Why Rotary not only connects but opens doors of opportunity and friendships.

Thank you!



Deb McCaslin

District Public Image Chair 2019-20
DGEN 2022-23
dmccaslinx4@gmail.com
Text or phone 308-870-2909



Our Membership Challenge

Just as the picture depicts, our membership numbers in the district are at

crisis point. This is certainly not to blame any one person, club or challenge. We have arrived here as the consequence of our lack of action, and acceptance that we have a problem. In a 12-Step program (like Alcoholics Anonymous) they tell you the first thing you must do is to admit that you a problem. Well folks, we have a problem.

This is not to say that some of our clubs aren't doing great, in fact some are on FIRE! Visit the current [District 5630 Membership Chart](#) to see how your club is performing.

There is also a great Rotary tool you can use in your club, called the [Rotary Club Health Check](#).

Every club has plenty of potential for Growing Rotary Membership. It is as simple as 1) admitting you too have a problem, 2) accepting the fact it can be better and 3) inviting some new faces to join you. If we waited for complete strangers to just walk through the doors of our Rotary meetings, we would certainly not have survived for 115 years as an organization.

So how can you, one individual Rotarian, make a difference?

First - Take a realistic look at your current club members. Are they all just like you? Of course they're not. Start by creating a list of 5 to 10 potential members (family, friends, neighbors, co-workers, community leaders, etc.). Are the mayor, police chief, fire chief, school superintendent, hospital CEO, car dealership salesman, co-op manager, librarian, seed dealer, insurance or real estate brokers members? If the answer is no, invite them! They might join, but not if you don't ask. It might be the obvious choices we are not even considering for membership.

Who is missing from your club? Look at your professional classifications in your community. Are there any other professionals (insurance, automobile, legal, medical, real estate, agricultural, graphical, grocers, eco, domestic, etc.) whom you can invite to talk about their vocation? I'll bet there are plenty. Write them down, compile a master list. Write out a personal invitation on a card and send it to them. Follow up with a personal visit, invite them to coffee or call them. They might not even

be aware they are welcome to join. They may not have ever been invited. So quit procrastinating and Just Do It! (to borrow a phrase). And don't forget to ask people to join in on your club projects. Invite them to your social events. These are a great way to just relax and get to know each other better.

Second - Consider forming a **Satellite club** in a nearby town or village, on a different day, around a specific cause or at a member-rich location (hospitals, schools, colleges, plants, retirement communities). These missing members are all over the place, but they might not be able to join you on the day or times you regularly meet. So go meet them at their time, at their location. Smaller pockets of members can be an integral part of your club and might be able to join you on your projects.

I have created a [map of community opportunities](#) - towns close to our club communities where there is no Rotary club. On the map I have marked 14 "target" communities with a green rectangle.

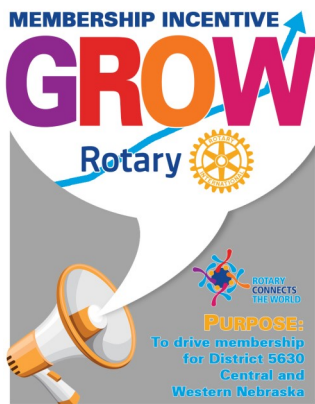
The No. 1 reason people join Rotary is to do **LOCAL Service**. They need to learn what Rotary is all about through service to their own community. Communities need and want service opportunities for their own residents. Rotary can fill those shoes.

Our mission is broad and flexible. We can (and should) extend the hand of friendship from Rotary to these neighboring towns. Schedule a community Town Hall and social evening in these communities. Invite residents for pizza, burgers, brats with beverages (soda or beer) and discuss what needs and opportunities Rotary can help meet. These smaller satellite clubs will be autonomous, with their own leadership, conducting their own fundraising, developing their own ideas and projects, but will count in *your* club member numbers! Plant the seed and it will grow. I bet that many of you already live in these neighboring communities, so you can be our CHAMPION for Rotary!

The district wants to help with the planning, advertising, logistics, funding (food and travel expenses) and the support for these new members. On the district website Resources Page, you will find [tools for Satellite Clubs](#). Check out these helpful guides. I'd be interested in hearing what you think about these tools.

Let's all GROW ROTARY together!

~Scott McLaughlin, District Governor 2019-20



On page 5 I set forth my ideas of how to Grow Rotary in your clubs. To help encourage every member to INVITE and ASK for membership I am offering the largest membership incentive EVER!

For EVERY new member that you sign up and induct, the district will **reward \$125!**

This is retroactive to January 1, 2020 and will run through the end of this Rotary year, June 30, 2020. As with any reward, there are a few steps for you to complete. These 8 steps are short, easily accomplished, and should already be included with every new member anyway. I'm just reinforcing them by holding you accountable. **To be eligible, new members must:**

1. Attend 4 meetings in the first 60 days
2. Review the Rotary International website, Rotary.org
 - a. Register their own account
 - b. Complete their own profile
 - c. Take a look around the website, look at About Rotary, Rotary Foundation, and Membership
3. Give a short classification talk to the club
4. Serve as a club greeter at least two times during the introductory period
5. Attend a Club board or business meeting
6. Mingle with club members to meet every club member
7. Serve on a club committee
8. Bring a guest to a club function (meeting, social, project)

The district will write checks to the clubs for \$75 for each new member who signs up and fulfills these steps. An additional \$50 will be contributed to the sponsoring Rotarian's Rotary Foundation MyRotary.org account. See the [New Member Incentive](#) document. Complete the form and return it to me before June 30, and a check will be sent to the club for **EVERY NEW MEMBER** inducted!

You have the support of the entire district leadership team including myself, all three of the incoming district governors, and at least four of the most recent past district governors. All of us want to help, will travel at your request, and are absolutely committed to making this work for YOU and your CLUB. Please reach out to any one of us for help.

I'm looking forward to approving many checks to your club.

Scott McLaughlin, District Governor 2019-20



Two Chances to Learn: Leadership and Membership



The Rotary Leadership Institute (RLI) and District Conference

If you've never participated in a **Rotary Leadership Institute**, you probably don't know what you don't know. RLI is offered at **no charge** to District 5630 participants and is facilitated by our own *Dian Edwards*.

(Does anyone have better credentials? Dian has served Rotary as the 2012-13 District Governor, 2019-20 Region 34 Rotary Coordinator, and 2020-21 Region 36 Rotary Coordinator. She is also the Chair of the Beyond Borders eClub, a satellite of Kearney Dawn Rotary Club.)

RLI consists of three parts. The first part will be live, on April 30, 2020, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 pm in Kearney – the day before the **May 1 District Conference**. The second and third parts will be covered in five 2-hour online segments, to be scheduled by class consensus.

This is an ideal opportunity for you to ensure the future of your club by exposing your members to new avenues of leadership – which, by the way, can also be transferred to their professional lives.

If you'd like to register, contact Dian at dg5630.2012@gmail.com or at 402-340-6166. More information is also available on this [Class of 2020 RLI Flyer](#).

Learn More About Membership Expansion Opportunities!

Join Information Sessions to be held
via Zoom Teleconference

on **March 3, 2020** at 3:00 p.m. CST
and 7:00 p.m. CST.

For logon information,
contact **Rotary Coordinator Dian Edwards**
at dg5630.2012@gmail.com.

If you cannot attend,
email Dian for the recording and handouts.

Broken Bow Area's "All Things Rotary" Brings in 3 New Members



The format was simple: Organize a gathering focused on all the good Rotary accomplishes, locally and globally, and provide information on the framework which achieves these goals.

Held in the Jennie M. Melham Memorial Medical Center's conference room (Broken Bow Area's usual meeting place) with lunch provided, the meeting zeroed in on Rotary's goals, mission statement, the Four-Way Test, and avenues of focus.

Past Broken Bow Area Rotary President and DGEN *Deb McCaslin* spoke about how the organization operates locally, regionally, and internationally. She also provided an overview of their past and current projects. With eight overseas Rotary mission trips under her belt, she told about her first trip with Alliance for Smiles, which was when she truly "understood" the meaning of Rotary.

"I've lived overseas, so when we landed I expected things to be different – the sights, the smells, the language. What caught me off guard wasn't our differences, but how alike we are. Here were moms and dads, grandmas and grandpas all wanting the same thing: to provide a better life for their children. Isn't that what moms and dads do everywhere?"

This segued into a presentation by PDG *Don Peterson* on the Rotary food trailer, the service it provided during Nebraska's floods last year, and how it stands at the ready. He also spoke about District 5630's international projects and how our members interact.

District Governor Elect *Bob Taylor* welcomed those present into the "family of Rotary," saying how Rotary works with its members in this "culture of busyness" we live in, and that Rotary works hard to work for its most important asset, its members.

Three new members signed up that day, with two others asking for forms to take home and ponder.

To quote incoming District Governor *Bob Taylor*, "I thought those were pretty good results by doing the thing that many Rotarians don't get around to, that is "to ask" and follow-up on the "ask!"



If you would like a copy of the "All Things Rotary" PowerPoint used for the meeting, contact *Deb McCaslin* at dmccaslinx4@gmail.com. She will help customize the presentation for your club.

Minden Club Sponsors Global Grant to Help Farmers in Nigeria



GreenSeeder planter used near Lira, Uganda for maize



Minden Rotary is sponsoring a \$59,500 Global Grant to provide seed planters and training to farmers in Nigeria. On hand for the launch of the project were DG *Scott McLaughlin*, DGE *Bob Taylor*, PDG *Dale Schultz*, DGN *Bob Mayber*, and PDG *Don Peterson*, shown here with Minden Rotarians, including Team Leader *Kevin Raun*.

According to United Nations data, nearly as much corn is planted in the world by hand each year as is mechanically planted in the U.S. The GreenSeeder Planter, developed by scientists at Oklahoma State University, uses a mechanism attached to the bottom of a PVC pipe. The farmer fills the pipe with seed then uses the planter to penetrate the ground, at the same time releasing one seed at the proper soil depth.

"Singulation is important in a corn field," said Minden Rotarian *Kevin Raun*, whose brother helped develop the planter. Farmers in countries like Uganda and Nigeria have good seed, but "Corn needs to be planted one seed at a time. Hand planting with primitive methods puts three or more seeds in the same hole."

The seed planter ensures more uniform crops, increases yields, and improves efficiency. It also prevents the adverse health effects from constant bending and handling seed that has chemicals on it.

This project will initially provide 25 farmers in Nigeria with 25 GreenSeeder planters. A Vocational Training Team will be in Nigeria for two weeks in March to provide training.

The Abuja Wuse II Rotary Club is co-sponsoring the project, with funds coming from District 5750 in Oklahoma as well the Milano-Giardini club in Italy.

To see a copy of the Global Grant Application or watch a one-minute instructional video on how the planter is used, see Oklahoma State's website.

POLIO CASES ARE INCREASING! WHAT'S GOING ON?



Figures are now in for 2019 and Polio cases were up! (WAY UP!) Why? The short answer : “Taliban anti-vaxers!”

Efforts to eradicate polio have made enormous progress in the last 31 years. In 1988 when Rotary International first developed a vision for a polio-free world, there were 350,000 annual cases world-wide. All three strains of wild type polio virus (Type 1, Type 2, and Type 3) were in wide circulation on continents of Asia, Africa and South America and could still be found in several countries of Western Europe. Today two of those wild polio viruses (Type 2 and Type 3) are considered eradicated. Type 1 wild polio virus remains and is found in only two countries: Afghanistan and Pakistan. In the regions where Afghanistan and Pakistan meet, Type 1 polio virus is often detectable in open sewage and in water supplies.

In the mountainous border areas of these two countries, where poor living conditions are common, the Taliban have significant influence. In an environment where polio virus is easily found, full immunization coverage is essential to stopping the spread of this often paralytic and potentially fatal disease. Efforts to fully vaccinate all children under age 5 have shown mixed progress in this region, with case numbers reaching an all-time low of 22 in 2017. Under years of Taliban influence, missed vaccination rates have risen, declined, then again risen with 173 cases in 2019.

In the months that followed the killing of Osama bin Laden, stories circulated that bin Laden’s location had been revealed to the CIA through a sham hepatitis B vaccination team who obtained DNA samples from some of the household occupants, eventually proving their family connection to bin Laden. In response, Taliban responded by opposing all vaccination teams, including polio vaccinators. Since 2012, vaccinators (and the guards deployed to protect them) have been assassinated in alarming numbers in Pakistan, interrupting vaccination delivery and leading to a rise in polio cases to 306 in 2014. After a lull in vaccinator killings the number of polio cases dropped in 2017, but killings resumed in 2018. There have been 92 vaccination-related deaths in Pakistan through 2019.

In Pakistan, many believe that “polio drops” are a western plot to reduce Muslim population by causing children to be infertile. A significant source of myths and falsehoods about polio vaccines has been social media. In 2019 a fake video showed boys collapsing after receiving polio drops. This video led to mob violence and the burning of at least one vaccination center. In some areas,

the rate of vaccine refusals rose to more than 80%. Across Pakistan, the number of refused vaccinations has risen to over two million. One consequence: In the first 36 days of 2020, Pakistan exceeded the total number of polio cases it had for the entire year of 2017.



A child has his finger marked to indicate he has been vaccinated after receiving oral polio drops in Rawalpindi, Pakistan, on April 23, 2019. SABRINA TOPPA FOR FOREIGN POLICY

What is being done amid murders, mistrust and misinformation to counter these alarming developments? Pakistan has announced that Facebook will help by removing posted material containing anti-vaccine content. Local Imams are being urged to educate their congregations during Friday sermons that sterilization myths are false and that refusing polio drops only endangers their children.

Cross-border movements between Afghanistan and Pakistan are believed to be a long-standing source of populations that avoid vaccination on either side of the border. Increased border monitoring was recently announced by Pakistan’s Prime Minister.

In Afghanistan, polio vaccination is government-mandated for all children. However, in some areas controlled by Taliban, vaccination teams are consistently refused access. These unvaccinated areas are where some polio cases have occurred.

In Pakistan, most government-paid women vaccinators carry on with their work, despite the danger and fear. Some are sole breadwinners for their households and have no other option. In January 2020, two more women vaccinators were killed in a drive-by shooting as men on a motorbike sped past. Large vaccination drives are being scheduled across the country during February.

Meanwhile in the REST OF THE WORLD... **polio vaccinations must continue** to maintain population immunity and prevent re-introduction of polio. Vaccinations must continue to protect the whole world. As long as the virus remains in circulation anywhere, it is only a plane ride away. Rotary International is the primary provider of polio vaccine around the world and this essential health resource receives funding through Polio Plus, an arm of The Rotary Foundation.

A big THANK YOU to all who are helping by “doing their part” to support Polio Plus!

Delane Wycoff

PolioPlus Chair, District 5630
delanew@charter.net





District 5630 Rotarian of the Year Award

The **Rotarian of the Year** award recognizes District 5630 Rotarians who, through their Rotary service, have made the community locally and internationally a better place to live and work and have made significant contributions to Rotary and the community in the form of leadership or in the advancement of ideas and service.

The District 5630 Rotarian of the Year Award may be presented to any Rotarian (other than an honorary member) who has been a member of a Rotary club in District 5630 for the past year.

Criteria

The nominee must have demonstrated exemplary humanitarian service, with an emphasis on personal volunteer efforts and active involvement in helping others through Rotary. Service rendered by the nominee through Rotary must have been on a continuing basis. The award will not be given solely in recognition of one's performance in an elected or appointed Rotary assignment. Personal financial contributions to The Rotary Foundation or any individual project are secondary considerations for this award. The primary consideration for this award is outstanding service in Rotary. Other civic accomplishments may be considered but shall not be a basis for selection. The Five Avenues of Service, the Object of Rotary, and the Four-Way Test should serve as a guide in evaluating a potential candidate.

Eligibility

The nominee must have consistently demonstrated support of the Object of Rotary through participation in service activities in all or most of the Five Avenues of Service: Club, Vocational, Community, Youth and International. An individual may receive this award only once, and the nominee must be an active Rotarian in good standing. The District Governor, Governor Elect, Governor Elect nominee and Immediate Past Governor are ineligible to receive the award.

The Award

The award will be up to the District Governor. It may be a special piece of art, etched glass, or a trophy, engraved with the recipient's name, name of their club, date of presentation, and the words "District 5630 Rotarian of the Year." A Rotary banner embroidered with "Home Club of the Rotarian of the Year" will be presented to the member's club to be displayed by the club for one year. The award will be presented at the District Conference

and the candidate selected is expected to attend to receive the award.

Nomination and Selection Process

Nominations may be made by any District 5630 Rotarian and should be endorsed by the club President/Secretary or a board member on behalf of the Board of Directors of a District 5630 Rotary club. The current District Governor will select a committee of three District 5630 Rotarians as the award selection committee. The Governor will participate as a fourth non-voting member of the committee. When possible, past recipients of the award will be selected to serve on the committee. The committee members are responsible to promote and publicize the award and encourage nominations.

Nomination forms must be received by the District Governor by April 1st, 2020. The committee will make a selection NO LATER than April 15. The recipient's name will be held in confidence of the selection committee and the District Governor and announced at the District Conference.

Please use only [this Nomination Form](#).

~Scott McLaughlin, DG 2019-20

Life-Changing, Life-Saving Trip to Kenya

North Platte Rotarians *Bob Mayber* (DGN 2021-22) and *Dr. Kim Baxter* recently returned from Kenya where they helped deliver both services and goods on behalf of the many Rotarians to whom the people of this area are precious. Here is Bob's story, in his own words:



Bob Mayber
DG 2021-22

The shrill announcement of an alarm broke the silence at 4:10 a.m. on Thursday, January 30. The time had come to go to Kenya. For about six months or more I had planned to accompany Dr. Kim Baxter on another one of his eye care mission trips and to also follow up on the Rotary project that was done in Shikunga, Kenya in 2018-2019.

I couldn't help but wonder what the next 10 days held for me as Dr. Baxter and I worked our way through TSA and ticketing and crowds and buses and trains. The first day seemed to last 30 hours; actually it was 26! We flew from North Platte to Denver where we were joined by the Lincoln Nebraska group of opticians and volunteers (Dr. Jim Devine and his crew).

*The group then flew from Denver to Frankfurt where we were joined by *Dr. Ralph DeHaan's crew, then from Frankfurt to Nairobi. The next morning we jumped on*



Entire project team, leaving their hotel in Nairobi for the short flight to Kisumu.

another airplane to Kisumu, which is about 200 miles from Nairobi, and then we bussed to Kakamega, Kenya. We settled in for the night at Siaya house there and after an early breakfast left for our first destination. (It was now Sunday in Kenya, due to the nine-hour time differential.)

We drove for 45 to 50 minutes with our group of 15 and arrived at the first orphanage school run by *Pastor Silvanus Malaho. This facility was the recipient of Dr. Baxter's earlier efforts to provide clean water and other basic amenities for the children and adults there as well as holding a previous eye clinic.

We exited the vans and walked into the church service. The people there were waiting for our arrival, so we joined in on a very moving and spiritual service. Beautiful voices beginning with young children could be heard praising the Lord and celebrating life. Several of the speakers were young pastors broadcasting a message filled with thanksgiving, hope, and optimism.

We quickly joined in song and thoroughly participated in the remainder of the service. It became obvious to me once again that there but one God: One God for all his children, regardless of race, color, or creed. After church we enjoyed a lunch of grilled chicken with rice and beans. Pretty tasty.

And then just as quickly, our first eye clinic began! In the next six hours our crew would see almost 200 patients.

Each day thereafter, our routine was the same: breakfast, then a bus ride, then clinics. All in all, our crew conducted eye exams on almost 1100 patients and screened a few hundred more who had no vision problem.

One particular day Dr. Baxter and Florida Rotarian Kerry Ann Schultz-Battle visited the Kakamega hospital to follow up on the previous international project. It was amazing to see what had been accomplished at the hospital while the project was still ongoing. It became obvious that the work Rotary was conducting there was not only a good idea but was life-saving.

Two years ago, this hospital had one incubator for two million people. When Dr. Baxter and Rotary were finished, they had nine incubators. With the partnership of Johns Hopkins Hospital, the hospital received much-needed equipment and training. The end result is a drastically reduced mortality rate, which had been among the highest in the world. What a worthwhile project!

Dr. Baxter also followed up and discussed future needs of the hospital and examined other ways we could help. There is no doubt in my mind that Rotary will continue to do its magic in Kenya.

**Editor's note:* Both Dr. DeHaan and Pastor Malaho are members of the Beyond Borders Rotary e-Club, a satellite of Kearney Dawn Rotary.



Applications Open for Great Plains RYLA July 15-19, 2020

Deadline to apply is March 24, 2020

Great Plains Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), sponsored by Districts 5630 and District 5610, serves youth who are high school sophomores and juniors. The leadership training program promotes, encourages and rewards outstanding young people who want to become better leaders.

This all-expenses-paid five-day conference brings together special young men and women to share ideas about becoming better leaders. Action-packed activities like problem-solving games, challenge courses, group discussions and team-building activities help participants build confidence and leadership skills.

RYLA emphasizes leadership, citizenship, and personal growth. It aims to 1) demonstrate Rotary's respect and concern for youth; 2) provide an effective training experience for selected youth and potential leaders; 3) encourage leadership of youth by youth; and 4) publicly recognize young people who are rendering service to their communities.

Clubs in Rotary District 5630 have hosted Great Plains RYLA for more than 1,200 students since 1990 at the Nebraska State 4-H campground facilities near Halsey in the scenic Nebraska Sandhills.

To be eligible, students must be enrolled as a student or home-schooled in a community within the boundaries of Rotary District 5630; be a high school sophomore or junior; commit to full participation in the program and attend camp on all dates; and have a desire to develop and utilize leadership skills.

All students, regardless of GPA or stage of leadership development, are encouraged to apply. Having a parent or relative who is a Rotarian does not increase a student's likelihood of attending. See GreatPlainsRYLA.org for brochures, posters, and applications. Also see Facebook.com/greatplainsryla.

Club News - 1

Area 1 - Chappell



When Chappell Rotarians delivered dictionaries to the Creek Valley third graders to tell them about the different projects that they help with, the students had a list of questions.

Area 2 - Imperial



No reason to spend New Year's Eve by yourself or be without chocolate on Valentine's Day in Imperial! The Rotary Club's New Year's Eve Mobsters & Lobsters gala raised over \$5K for the club, and their annual Chocolate Affair, on February 13, was also a great success.



Imperial's Interact Club is ready to serve. Way to go, girls!

Area 2 - Ogallala



Honor to whom honor is due: Above - Just some of Ogallala's members who give to the Foundation every year (Sustaining Members). Right - 30-year club member Herb Knudsen.



Ogallala is also planning a March 23rd Grocery Grab for the community. Funds raised will benefit the club's eyecare project.

Area 2 - McCook



Above: McCook Interactors and residents of Highland Park Assisted Living decorate Christmas cookies.

Right: McCook Rotarians prepare dictionaries for Hitchcock and Red Willow County 3rd graders.

Club News - 2

Area 3 - North Platte Noon



Rotarians *Bob Mayber* (DGN 2021-22) and *Kim Baxter* present the North Platte Noon Club banner to Kakamega Rotary Club leaders. See Bob's Kenya story starting on page 9.

Area 3 - Cozad



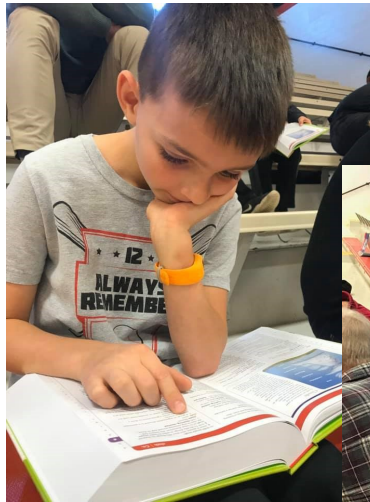
Thanks to Cozad Rotarians and local FCCLA members, families in Cozad – many in their pajamas! – enjoyed movies, hot chocolate, and cookies in the Wilson Public Library while awaiting their turn on the trolley, which provided a tour of Christmas lights, a visit with Santa, and a bell for all the believers.

Area 3 - Lexington



Rotarians partnered with local Baptist church organization Christmas Impact to donate 26 sets of bedding to help those in need in Lexington.

Area 4 - Alma



Alma Rotary:
Dictionaries to Alma
Public School
3rd Graders.



No doubt about it: Kids love their own dictionaries, and Rotarians love to give them!

Area 4 - Holdrege



Holdrege Rotarians presented dictionaries to students in Bertrand, Loomis, and Holdrege. They looked up the word "service" and told about ways they provide service to their community, school, and families. **Above:** Rotarians *Keri Berry* and *Michele High* with Bertrand 3rd graders.

Area 4 - Minden



Minden Rotarian *Kevin Raun* demonstrates the GreenSeeder Planter. The Minden Rotary Club is sponsoring a \$59,500 Global Grant to provide the planters and training to farmers in Nigeria. See page 7 for more details about the project.

Club News - 3

Area 4 - Beyond Borders e-Club



Pastor *Silvanus Malaho*, a member of the Beyond Borders eClub, oversees the Ambassadors of Love Children's Home/School in Shikunga in Kenya. Donations from individual Rotarians, North Platte McDavid Elementary Students, North Platte Catholic Churches, and others helped him provide much-needed mattresses for his kids, many of whom were sleeping on paper-thin blankets or on a dirt floor.

Consider Beyond Borders eClub!

If you have club members who are moving away or dropping out because of time conflicts, suggest **Beyond Borders, a satellite of Kearney Dawn.**

See meeting times posted on Facebook @BeyondBordersRotaryeClub or email Chair Dian Edwards at dg5630.2012@gmail.com.

Area 6 - Arnold



Arnold's Rock & Roll Bingo on January 29 proved to be very successful both in fun and funds raised for local and international causes.

Area 5 - St. Paul



Officers of the 16-member St. Paul Interact Club recently reported 88 volunteer hours and \$1,075 raised toward Rotary Youth Leadership Camp and Polio Plus. Pictured are Ethan Uhlir and Brooke Poppert.

The publication target date for the next District 5630 newsletter is **May 18, 2020.**

Please submit your photos and/or articles by **Monday, May 4, to cheryl@cherylsdesk.com.**

Thanks, *Cheryl*

Area 6 - Broken Bow Area



The Broken Bow Area Rotary Club was nominated as Non-Profit Organization of the Year by the Broken Bow Chamber. *More Broken Bow Area news on page 7.*

Rotary District 5630 - Rotarians in Action



2019-20

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