

# Rotarians in Action

Rotary



Rotary Opens Opportunities

Rotary District 5630

2020-21 • Edition 2 • December 2020

## ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

A Global Network of Community Volunteers  
One Rotary Center  
1560 Sherman Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201



### Rotary International President 2020-21

**Holger Knaack**

Member of Herzogtum Lauenburg-Molin, Germany

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[www.rotary5630.org](http://www.rotary5630.org)

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## Message from Bob Taylor, District Governor 2020-2021

Well, here we are in December of 2020, and COVID is still with us, but Rotary continues to adapt, bend and sway where needed, and continues to do what we do best, serve others. The rest of Rotary, and I, thank you for your willingness to continue your service.

As you can see from this newsletter, the articles, pictures, grants, and club successes have all aided the communities you serve, providing service and in some situations giving peace. Remember, those we serve in foreign countries have their holidays, which are not necessarily the same as ours. Their holidays aren't always celebrated in the peace and general tranquility that we enjoy. We here are truly blessed.

When a gift to the Rotary Foundation is given out of love (Your Rotary Heart) and sacrifice, you can be blessed. From your perspective, the donation is sometimes most valued.

I find giving to our Foundation is like that. Not all of us can do great gifts, but many of us can do small gifts with great love and heart. The true essence of the Holidays shines through when small gifts are given with great spirit. Go to [MyRotary.org/donate](http://MyRotary.org/donate) for the many ways you can provide. I do it painlessly through recurring donations – I recommend it!

Look around! Make it a great Holiday Season for those around you that could use your service. As I mentioned in my Club talk, remember, especially in the season, to give *grace*. There is precious little of it in these difficult times. Your family, friends, fellow Rotarians, and those we serve will thrive with your offer of goodwill.

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



### Bob Taylor

District Governor 2020-21

Alma Rotary Club

[botaylor2205@hotmail.com](mailto:botaylor2205@hotmail.com)

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# The World Awaits – A New Vaccine

## 2020 Covid-19

**T**he news in early December 2020 includes updates on the anticipated availability of a new vaccine to protect against Covid-19. New records are being set for rapid vaccine development and clinical trials to assure safety and efficacy. Major efforts to produce millions of doses of vaccines have been underway for months with the hope that they can be rapidly distributed if they earn approval. We have been made very aware that having a vaccine that works means nothing unless it can be produced in massive quantities.

## 1954 Polio

Dr. Jonas Salk made the cover of TIME magazine in 1954, hailed as a polio fighter for his invention of a vaccine to protect against polio. However, Dr. Salk had no way to grow enough polio virus to produce the vaccine needed to conduct clinical trials. Those successful trials from 1954 to 1955 would have been impossible without the essential work of *Dr. Leone Farrell*, a female scientist from Canada who is largely forgotten.



Leone Farrell, Ph.D.

Dr. Farrell, a PhD researcher at the University of Toronto, solved the problem of taking Salk's work from the laboratory bench and scaling it up to produce quantities large enough to supply the world. She is the developer of the "Toronto Method" for large-scale virus production. No laboratory in the USA had this capability.



Beginning in 1953, Farrell led a team of scientists at Toronto's Connaught Laboratories in developing a solution to the challenge of growing polio virus at large scale. Her method used a simple rocking motion of large flat bottles containing monkey kidney cells (MKC) and a synthetic nutrient "Medium 199" her lab had developed in the 1940s. The polio virus grew readily in the MKC culture, and Farrell's team provided the virus needed for Dr. Salk's clinical trial vaccines.

Dr. Farrell also undertook the mammoth task of producing enough polio virus to make millions of doses of vaccines. With support of the Canadian government she initiated an effort to launch large-scale production *before the clinical trials had been completed*. (Sound familiar?) She acquired laboratory space, new equipment, hired technicians and developed sourcing to supply nearly 200 monkeys a week.

Her laboratory packed their live virus with ice into the back of a station wagon which rushed it to laboratories in the U.S. There it was killed using Dr. Salk's method and processed into manufactured vaccine.

Read more about this Polio hero that history has largely forgotten at: [Leone N. Farrell - Wikipedia](#) and: [Leone Norwood Farrell, PhD | Post Polio: Polio Place](#)

## 2020 Polio (improved vaccine)

Although the Salk vaccine stopped polio in the developed world, it has been the Sabin (oral) vaccine which has moved the world near the goal of total polio eradication. Unfortunately, there is a rare problem with this highly successful vaccine. Using a live attenuated (weakened) virus, it can pass from one person to another. (Not a problem if enough people have already been immunized.) In under-immunized populations the vaccine can very rarely mutate and regain the potential to cause clinical disease. This is known as "vaccine-derived polio" and it has presented a dilemma because the cure has been the same vaccine which can rarely mutate back to a dangerous form.

Now a newly developed vaccine has been approved which has been genetically engineered to prevent mutation. It contains multiple safeguards to prevent the virus from regaining the ability to produce disease.

The WORLD NEEDS this new vaccine to finish the job of polio eradication. Through PolioPlus, Rotary provides vaccines to the world, and the Gates Foundation matches our dollars 2 for 1.

**In honor of that "someone" who already has everything, why not give to Polio Plus in their honor this Holiday? Donate at [endpolio.org/donate](https://endpolio.org/donate).**



**Dr. Delane Wycoff**

District PolioPlus Chair  
North Platte Rotary Club  
[delanew@charter.net](mailto:delanew@charter.net)

# Trafficking Talk

## Trafficking and Travels

**T**he busiest travel time of the year is upon us and after the crazy year we have all had, it is much needed. I hope you have the best time with your family and friends, but can I ask one favor of you all? Whether you are at a crowded airport waiting at your gate or a convenience store along a busy highway or the interstate, please stop and take a look around you. These are just a few of the places human traffickers will be frequenting this holiday season as they transport their victims.

While the majority of people will be wearing masks, you can still tell a lot about a person through eye contact and body language. Human traffickers will be using the cover of masks and the added hustle and bustle of the holiday crowds to transport their victims undetected. Many airlines have trained their employees about trafficking and what to look for, but we should look up from our phones every once in a while and see what's going on around us. If you see a child and an adult who don't appear to be related, or a child with visible bruising or abrasions, or a child who refuses to make eye contact, that child may be in danger. Alone, these actions may not be cause for concern, but two or more definitely could be. Other signs of trafficking are individuals who...

- Seem afraid of law enforcement or authority
- Do not carry their own travel documents
- Seem to have scripted or inconsistent stories
- Appear drugged or malnourished
- Have little to no belongings or luggage

If you notice anything suspicious or that seems out of the ordinary, do not attempt to raise any alarm or display any concern and do not approach or attempt to rescue the victim. Instead you should...

- Make note of any suspicious details, markings or tattoos on the suspected victim or trafficker
- Snap a picture of the suspected victim and trafficker if able to do so safely
- Notify law enforcement, flight attendants or airport police
- Report any incidents to the National Human Trafficking Hotline number at **888-373-7888** or text "BeFree" (**233733**) OR Homeland Security Tip Line: **866-347-2423**.

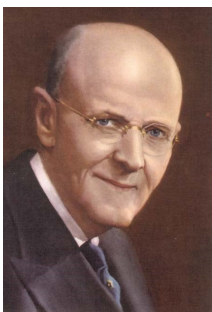
With our neighbors, family and friends, we Rotarians are 1.2 million strong across the whole globe. When we put service above self, we have the ability to change someone's life. What better gift can we all receive this holiday season than to give someone back their freedom? So, I ask you to please be observant this holiday season. Someone may be hoping you notice them. Someone may be hoping you are the answer to their prayers. You may save a life!

See more tips at [Dressembler.org Travel Tips](https://Dressembler.org/Travel_Tips) and [JustAskPrevention.org](https://JustAskPrevention.org).



**Angie Swanson**

District RAGAS Chair  
McCook Rotary Club  
AngieSwanson@hotmail.com  
308-352-6016



Christmas is a practice day. Men put into practice the best precepts that they have learned, the best that they know, the best that is possible for them ever to know. Giving takes the place of gaining. If the future growth of Rotary is as remarkable as its past and if Rotary remains true to its highest ideals, every day will be Christmas by and by.

From *The Rotarian*, December 1915  
*Honoring Our Past: The Words and Wisdom of Paul Harris*



**From District Treasurer  
Brooke Robertson**

Invoices for club dues went out on October 16 by email. Most clubs have paid. If yours hasn't, please mail your check to Brooke Robertson at 351 Crestview Drive; Ogallala, NE 69153.



## District 5630 RYE Offering Hybrid Exchange Plans

**A**s you all know, the Covid-19 pandemic has affected so many aspects of our personal, professional and Rotary lives. Youth Exchange has also been impacted. Last year's (2019-2020) inbound and outbound students returned home on different schedules. Selected students for 2020-2021 learned in June that their exchanges were cancelled. The district committee overseeing Youth Exchange met several times and consulted with Rotary International as well as SCRYE (South Central USA) and NAYEN (North American Youth Exchange) for directions for future exchanges.

As of now, District 5630 does not foresee the potential for safe and approved international travel prior to January 2022, after vaccines are widely available in host and sponsoring countries. The RYE committee is open to the potential of offering one to three students an opportunity to attempt a "hybrid" exchange for 2021-2022.

The proposed one-year hybrid plan would consist of a virtual exchange with another student and family in the host country. Weekly (or more) contacts could include conversations around language acquisition, local and cultural differences, foods, holidays, friends, school and daily life. Students would be encouraged to take online or digital learning classes related to their host country.

If the vaccine becomes widely available, travel restrictions lifted, and a safe exchange on both ends can be reasonably assured, exchange partners would be encouraged to travel to complete their exchanges in person. School attendance might not be a part of these exchanges.

Timelines would have to be very flexible, and applicants/families would be expected to host the exchange partner when it is safe to do so. This would likely be for a few weeks or months, similar to Short-Term Exchanges.

Students, families and clubs interested in pursuing a virtual exchange opportunity should contact District Chair **Paula Witt** of Hastings or Co-Chair **Jolyn Richardson** of Curtis.

### Call on Rotex!

Another aspect of Youth Exchange is the **Rotex community** – former exchange students; inbound or outbound. These young adults are the FUTURE OF ROTARY. They have great experiences and lessons to share with your Rotary club. They are willing and able to provide presentations, either in person or virtually.

Many of them are also interested in becoming members of a District 5630 e-Club and the North American Rotex Association. Your club should consider sponsoring their annual dues to secure their active involvement. Keeping them connected and participating in your activities is a great local investment in the future of your clubs!



**Paula Witt**

Youth Exchange Chair  
Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club  
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402-460-0005



### Where Can I Go Online to Learn about...

#### Attracting New Members?

Rotary.org: [Strategies for Attracting New Members](#) (1 hr. 15 min.)

#### New Member Orientation?

Rotary.org: ["Kick-Start Your New Member Orientation"](#) (45 min.)

District 5630 website: [New Member Orientation Handbook](#) (PDF)

#### Strengthening Club Members?

District 5630 website: [Membership Assessment Tools](#); [Creating Your Membership Plan](#) (PDF)

#### Fundraising?

Rotary.org: [Fundraising Basics](#) (15 minutes)



## District Makes Headway with All-Club Database Effort



A couple of years ago, District Governor Scott McLaughlin 2019-2020 made a great decision to enroll District 5630 in an online program called “DACdb.” The

program is a perfect fit for our 30-club district to handle communication and synchronization with Rotary International’s site, Rotary.org. There is no cost to clubs to use the program; the District pays the subscription fee.

The system works like this: Register at [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org) with the usual information: Name, Address, Phone number, Email address, etc., and take the opportunity to tell the Rotary world about your background, goals and accomplishments. This will give you a MyRotary.org account.

Registration at Rotary.org/Donate allows you to make direct contributions to our venerable international programs like PolioPlus, the World Fund, Rotary Foundation, Paul Harris Fellow, etc. So the point of registering at Rotary.org is to record member information that can then flow through the Rotary system going forward. If you have not signed into Rotary.org, I urge you to do it right away!

### The role of the DACdb program

DACdb communicates with Rotary.org and enables club and district leadership to quickly send messages and emails to every member who can receive such items.

It does more than that, though. From data entered about club member positions and accomplishments, attendance, and committee positions, you can generate concise and easy-to-read charts and reports in DACdb to help everyone become a better member.

Accounting functions are also available in the program which simplify the time-consuming and detail breakout of dues and donations. At a glance, club leaders can then quickly ascertain the condition of their club and its accomplishments vs. goals and benchmarks.



**DGE Bob Mayber 2021-22**  
**North Platte Rotary Club**  
[dg.2021@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2021@5630mail.org)

**Questions?** Please ask your club President about DACdb or reach out to me. Perhaps you can help organize a process to get every member of your club signed up at Rotary.org.

## Grow Your EQ: How to Become a More Effective Leader

*Please accept an opportunity to take a few moments out of your life to share inspiration, fellowship and purpose in a group setting during these dark days of winter and make a difference in sharing wisdom that can teach others today how to build a better world for tomorrow.”*



**PDG Jerry Milner** (2017-18) is offering a Leadership Practice course for District 5630. Initially, the course will involve virtual small groups of Rotarians throughout the District – either within or, preferably, across clubs.

The course will offer insights into the new and exciting field of Emotional Intelligence (EQ). As a result of breakthroughs in neuroscience, peer review studies are finding that those who develop and enhance EQ are more likely to achieve success as effective leaders in their communities, careers, or professions than those who have high IQs. These valuable lessons can also lead to more meaningful lives, resulting in increased happiness and purpose by reducing anxiety and increasing resilience.

The sessions will also examine the details and meaning of Rotary’s 4-Way Test, beginning with “Is It the Truth?” The groups will meet periodically as agreed to by the participants. Prior to each session, Jerry will provide materials which the group will discuss with a facilitator.

**What’s in it for you?** First of all, at this initial stage, it’s an opportunity to build friendships and network with other Rotarians in our District. It will enhance your ability to be more effective with your own leadership skills. Most important — this is Rotary, after all — it will motivate you to serve those outside Rotary and adopt Rotary’s best practices: The 4-Way Test, Service Above Self, Doing Good in the World, being People of Action.

The sessions will include topics such as 1) Knowing the truth and your authentic self; 2) Bias and how to create awareness; 3) Happiness and trust; 4) Gratitude; and 5) Mindfulness.

If you’d like to develop your leadership skills – with the option of facilitating groups – Jerry wants to hear from you. Phone him at 308-380-2731 or email [jerrymilner@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrymilner@hotmail.com).

There’s no financial cost – this is a service to you from the District 5630 Leadership Team.

# How We Serve Our Communities

Areas of Focus: Community Economic Development and Supporting the Environment



Cathrin Carithers,  
Connie Francis,  
and Melanie Morrison

**Kearney Dawn** Rotarians ready to deliver 50 boxes for Samaritan Purse's Operation Christmas Child filled with gifts. In "normal" years, they've been able to fill 250 boxes.



From **Chappell**: "With the help of a District Grant, the **Chappell** Rotary Club helped purchase plants for the renovated downtown area in Chappell. On October 5, they helped to plant the 500 plants. Participating Rotarians were **Mary Hughes, Anita Rogers** (wife of Milt), **Shaunna Mashek, Patrick Ningen, Sam Dailey, Anita Nein**, and **Connie Loos**. Several Chappell citizens also assisted, as well as some of the FHA students."



Ringin' bells for the Salvation Army:  
**Kearney Dawn**  
Rotarians **Carol Lentell, Randy Kratochvil** with his three granddaughters, and **Connie Francis** with her grandson, Josh Sykes.

**Rotary kids and grandkids get in on the Rotary Action!**



From **Imperial**: "In November the **Imperial Rotary Club** cleaned up a three-mile section of Highway 6. Volunteers included current Rotarians and future ones! It was cold, but rewarding. We picked up a lot of trash!

"As in many communities, Covid has hit Imperial pretty hard. We have continued to meet via Zoom meetings. We plan to help local restaurants by delivering meals during the winter months and continue with a Mobile Food bank. People in need drive through our food bank, and we load their vehicle with a box of food."



# How We Serve Our Communities

Areas of Focus: Disease Prevention and Treatment; Economic and Community Development



10-year-old Carter Weems (center front) received a specialized wheelchair, thanks to collaborative efforts of Broken Bow area organizations, led by the **Broken Bow Area Rotary Club**.

Working with the Broken Bow Elks, The Children's Christmas Fund, Custer County Salvation Army, Sandhills Community Collaborative, Broken Bow Lions Club, Broken Bow Optimists, TEAM Physical Therapy and Central Nebraska Medical Clinic, **Broken Bow Area Rotary Club** helped lead the collaborative effort to purchase a much-needed specialized wheelchair for young Carter Weems.

The chair makes it possible for Carter to join in family activities, including meals, which he was not able to do before adding this resource. The parents were deeply humbled and surprised at the speed that this was accomplished. Pictured with Carter are Rotarians **Jacob Meyer** and **Trish McCarron**. Also pictured are Carter's parents Riley and Jennifer Weems.



## Fundraising Idea during Covid Tonja Brown, Grand Island Rotary Club

Last fall, event planning was well underway for the annual Taste of Grand Island, typically held in the spring. Then the pandemic hit. We discussed postponing to fall, as well as cancelling.

In years past, the proceeds from this event have been given largely to **Youth Leadership Tomorrow (YLT)**, a local leadership program for high school students. YLT considers Taste of Grand Island one of their significant fundraising events, and as with most organizations, the pandemic has taken a significant financial toll. The prospects of cancelling seemed disheartening to all involved.



So, it was time for some creative brainstorming. The event took on a new form under the old name—**Taste of Grand Island Bid to Give**. Sponsorships and auction items that play a role in the physical event became the primary focus of a virtual event. The 48-hour online auction event took place October 4-6.

Proceeds totaled \$9350. This is several thousand dollars short of where we typically land with the physical event, but we can say we made the most of the circumstances and pulled off a successful virtual event to benefit Youth Leadership Tomorrow.



# How We Serve Our Communities

Areas of Focus: Community Economic Development; Supporting the Environment



**St. Paul Rotary** sold 100 raffle tickets for the chance to win a beautiful bike donated by St. Paul Bikes Shop, owned by Rotarian **John Rogers**. Pictured are Rogers and Quentin drawing the winning ticket. Accepting the check on behalf of the Food Pantry is **Sandi Mudloff** with Rotarians **Loraine Lawler** and **Rogers**.

**The Cambridge Rotary Club** and **Cambridge Supermarket** provided lunch for the **Lady Trojans volleyball team** and coaches as they headed to the district competition.



**Above:** Co-President **Debbi Runner**, club member **Sarah Nickerson**, Co-President **Barb Langley**, and **Margo Kent** from the school.

## New Ogallala Rotaract Club Honored by Their Community



Chartered in February 2020, the **Lake Mac Rotaract Club** has been “super busy” with community projects. Two of their latest projects were collecting coats for the Sandhills Crisis Intervention Center in Ogallala and overseeing a Sharing and Caring gift drive for local children. In early December, the Keith County Chamber awarded them with the 2020 Service Organization award. **Congratulations!**



**O**ur thanks to the 17 clubs who returned the “Covid Survey” we sent out in late November: Alliance, Alma, Chadron, Chappell, Cozad, Grand Island Sunrise, Grant, Hastings Noon, Holdrege, Kearney Dawn, Kearney Noon, Kimball, Lexington, North Platte Sunrise, Ogallala, St. Paul, and Valentine. Here’s what you said about:

**Meetings:** Four clubs are not meeting, four are meeting virtually, four are meeting only in person – and the other five have a mix. Four clubs have not seen any difference in attendance – the others are seeing smaller meetings.

Fifteen clubs are still meeting weekly. There’s a mix of engagement in virtual meetings. Generally, it seems to

take more effort to engage people in online meetings or to get to follow through on the discussions.

**Projects:** Twelve clubs report having to cancel projects. Seven have seen just a small impact on funds raised; three have seen a major drop; four have rescheduled their events. Two clubs have seen an increase in supporting Rotary causes, like the Foundation, helping with community projects, etc.; six have seen an increase; and nine clubs report the same level of giving and involvement.

**Help Wanted?** Only one club requested training. Nine others want to see examples of successful club events, programs, and fundraisers. *[Aren’t you glad you’re reading this newsletter?]*

In order of popularity, the kind of training you would like to have is Fundraising (7); Membership Growth (5);

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## Dictionary Projects Around the District

Area of Focus: Basic Education and Literature

Even in this day of laptops and tablets, our District third graders love owning their own dictionaries. Despite this year's unique challenges, District clubs have pulled it off! Here's how they've done it.

### Kearney Dawn Rotary Dictionary Project

Rotary clubs throughout the world believe very strongly in supporting the development of our youth. The Kearney Dawn club assists Buffalo County students in completing the school year as good writers, active readers, and creative thinkers by providing them with their very own personal dictionaries. For the past 15 years, Kearney Dawn Rotary has distributed approximately 700 dictionaries per year to all 3<sup>rd</sup> graders attending schools in Buffalo County. That is a total of 10,500 dictionaries gifted to students!

The gift of these dictionaries would not have been possible without our Partners in Rotary. We are indebted to our members, local businesses, and Kearney Public Schools for their support of this valuable project. It is this spirit of giving and caring in community service, which rewards us as Rotarians. ~Cindy Houlden, Kearney Dawn PE



Kearney's Zion Lutheran 3<sup>rd</sup> graders showing sign language they learned from dictionaries presented (via Zoom) by Kearney Dawn members **Anita Lorentzen** and **Toni Hill**.



3<sup>rd</sup> graders at Windy Hills Elementary searching their dictionaries for words from the 4-Way Test suggested by Kearney Dawn Rotarian **Carol Pelster** via Zoom.

### St. Paul's Dictionary Project



Students learning writing and dictionary skills in the third grade are thrilled to receive their very

own personal dictionaries. For years the St. Paul Rotary Club has provided every third grader in the area with a full color Scholastic Dictionary. Pictured above are third graders from Loup City and Palmer. Making the delivery to Palmer are Rotarians **Rob Rawley** and **Joe Mlinar**.

"This week our 2020 Dictionary project has warmed my heart.

"First I received these thank you notes in the mail. Then I saw the donations received through Give Where You Live 2020. Combined with the earlier donations from sponsors, we have not only covered the total expense of the 2020 project, we will have approximately \$200 to carry over to next year's project."



Meadowlark 3<sup>rd</sup> Graders

**Cindy Houlden**

Kearney Dawn President-Elect



## More Dictionaries from Minden, Alma, McCook, and Ogallala Rotary Clubs

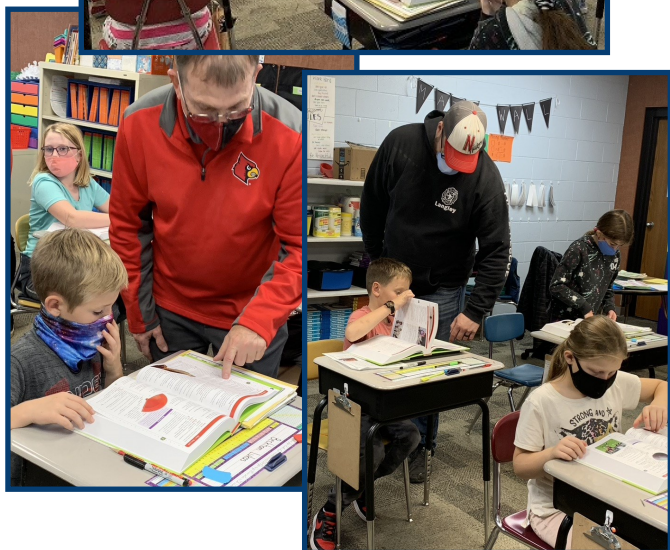


**McCook** Rotarians label and put letters to parents in the dictionaries for Red Willow and Hitchcock County 3rd graders. The letters explain the why and who behind the dictionaries. Since they're not permitted in the classroom, the club is making a video of the presentation for the teachers to show the children as they present the dictionaries.

Pictured (left to right): **Dennis Berry**, **Liz Knedlik**, **Sharon Kircher**, and **Melanie Goodenberger**



**Minden** Rotarians prepared 100 dictionaries for all 3rd graders in Kearney County. Club President **Cassandra Tomsen** had hoped to personally hand her 3rd grade daughter her dictionary, but she had to be content with delivering them to the front door.



**Alma** Rotarians DG **Bob Taylor**, Sheriff's Deputy **Jesse Langley**, and **Jon Davis**, Alma School Superintendent, provided personal instructions when they delivered dictionaries to Alma third graders.

Rotaractor **Rebekkah Draucker** delivered dictionaries to the third graders in Arthur. Every year, the **Ogallala** Rotary Club provides dictionaries for every third grader in Arthur, Paxton, Big Spring and Ogallala.



## Memories of Club Visits by our District Governor, Bob Taylor



### Reflections from Bob's Club Talks

*"Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth."* Shekhar Mehta, RI President-Elect

#### Expanding Your Horizons

- Are you thinking outside the box and exploring beyond your club to the world of engagement that Rotary offers?
- Have you reviewed the courses in [Rotary.org's Learning Center](https://www.rotary.org/learning-center) for professional updates and Toastmaster's range of offerings?
- Have you participated in or created a grant outside the four walls of your club?
- In Rotary, pretty much everything starts at the club level. Has your club discussed how to improve the club, allowing it to reach further, exploring new ways to accomplish projects or service?

Remember — where some see obstacles, others see opportunity. You are in charge of your club's destiny. Make it a great one!

### Vibrancy and Membership

- Are you helping your club become more vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive? Are you helping your club close the "back door" of membership loss? Are you quickly integrating new members into projects and club decisions? Have you elected a Chairman of Fun?
- Are you growing your Rotary "heart" and allowing others to develop theirs through your actions?
- Membership growth involves every member inviting others to join. Reach out to young friends who need to network and engage in their community. Focus on groups that are already meeting that can be enhanced by putting the Rotary organization around them.
- Are you giving *grace* to your club, neighbors, family, and friends? We are living in a crazy time. Your offer of grace could mean the world to that one person.

Together, let's move Rotary forward. Don't stand still. Strengthen your Rotary Heart, and let's make 2020-21 a good year to remember.



## Hand Planter Project: More than Putting Seeds in the Ground

Because of his family relationship with Dr. Bill Raun of Oklahoma State University, because OSU has developed a [hand corn planter](#) for use in underdeveloped countries, and because **Kevin Raun** is a Minden Rotarian, an entire community in Uganda has the means to feed, clothe, and educate their children.



Now instead of poking holes in the ground and planting the seeds by hand, the farmer fills the OSU hand planter—which uses a mechanism attached to the bottom of a PVC pipe. When the planter penetrates the ground, it pushes a mechanism that releases one seed at the proper soil depth and covers it. It's not only more efficient, it prevents seed waste and health problems caused by the constant bending and contact with chemically treated seeds.

While the District worked a \$59,000 Global Grant to implement master distribution and installation of multiple hand planters in Nigeria, our Rotary contact with Ugandans paid off when OSU shipped a single planter to Njeru, Uganda. The recipients are Kaweesi Sulaiman, Jr. and John Luyima, who run SOFCEO (Shield of Faith Community Empowerment Organization) in Jinja. In normal times they shelter and mentor from 45 to 65 children who are abandoned, orphaned, or are street children. They used the planting device developed at OSU to plant about three acres of maize, or corn.

Here are tidbits from a text message from John Luyima, shared by DGE Bob Mayber.

*"It's a pleasure to inform you that we have a lot of rain here and we expect higher yields than we expected before from our maize. This is because in most cases it has been rare to receive heavy rains in second planting season like this season."*

*"Thank you so much Rotarian for taking a lead in food production campaign in Sofceo and in the entire community. It's no longer "SOFCEO gardens" but demonstration fields to the community people. You really played a great role in solving food shortage problems as we have it in mind that if we continue with corn planting, "It can get us enough food to feed children and to sell some to solve other organization problems like school fees, buying children clothes etc. You're now on SOFCEO walls of heroes indeed."*



## FUN Raising



Rotarians from Ogallala, North Platte, and even from Ashland, NE, participated in the Kayak Big Mac Paddledemic Edition



On November 7, **Ogallala Rotary** held their popular fundraiser, this year named Kayak Big Mac "Paddledemic Edition." Seventy people registered for the hybrid event, with 57 kayaks participating on Lake McConaughy.

The Club is grateful to the dive & rescue team, the Games & Parks boating law enforcement, the Ogallala volunteer fire and rescue, the State patrol and sheriff — and the amazing sponsors and volunteers.

Money raised will provide life jackets for local kids.

See more pictures at [Facebook @OgallalaRotary](#).



## North Platte News

### North Platte Noon Honors One, Adds Two



**Left:** In November, Rotarian Gene Stadler received a quilt of honor made by fellow Rotarian Marilyn McGahan. **Right,** left to right: Club President **Tom Moore**, new Rotarian **Dennis Thompson**, **Mark Mendenhall**, and new Rotarian **Michelle Lupomech**.



### North Platte Sunrise Update from Club President Emma Reichenberg



Club President **Emma Reichenberg** 2020-21 and outgoing President **Brent Montgomery**

The North Platte Sunrise Rotary group has worked hard to remain a consistent and reliable service group throughout this year, as it has been tough on so many.

In recent months the Sunrise Rotary meeting location has changed to the local community college after hearing a program from the Vice President of the college and learning about their ability to remain in session and adapt to new COVID19 restrictions and regulations to maintain the safety of our community and its students. This new meeting space has allowed our club to continue the work of Rotary as best we can, and still consider and work around our members' concerns and safety!

Our annual Husker football pool has continued as allowable, and we have seen an extra excitement in the winners as the privilege of seeing college football in session continues.

Our club has also been partnering with a local pickle ball group in organizing a fundraiser tournament, but this has been postponed and will likely take place in the spring when we can use outdoor courts.

Our club was also able to help sponsor a wonderful district project through North Platte local Rotarian **Kim Baxter** and his passion for bringing medical assistance overseas.

Overall this has been a year of trials and adjusting, but North Platte Sunrise is proud to be a part of Rotary International!



### Great Ideas from the Cambridge Club



**PolioPlus  
Fundraiser**



Left: Club Co-President **Debbi Runner** delivers "Purple Pinkie" donuts pre-ordered by local businesses at \$15/dozen. **Shirley K's Coffee Shop** donated the donuts to the club at cost. In just a day and a half, the club sold 14 dozen. All proceeds went toward PolioPlus.



**Club Co-Presidents Debbi Runner and Barb Langley**

When **Debbi Runner** expressed hesitancy about becoming Cambridge Rotary Club President, Past President **Barb Langley** stepped in to help. While Debbi is "officially" the President, Barb stands at her side to assist where needed.

They collaborate on meetings and projects, and both attended the PETS conference, which was "fun and educational for both of us."



## Rotary District 5630 Speakers Bureau:

### *What If?*

What a year!

Our clubs have gone from in person – to Zoom – to hybrid – and back again ... and it's been a challenge. But we have an idea!

**What if** across the District we put our collective heads together to offer outstanding programs, through Zoom, or in person, or with hybrid creativity – that offer something different – something great – something creative – something we should know but have forgotten – something that will make our communities safer, or better, or more informed? **What if** we extended our reach across the state, across the world?

What we have in mind is a **District 5630 Speakers Bureau** with information shared through DACdb. As Rotarians we have phenomenal reach. We bring different perspectives, different circles of friends, and different arrays of acquaintances. **What if** when we have a speaker who brings something special to our clubs we ask this speaker if they would be willing to share their expertise with other Rotary clubs across District 5630?

**What if** when we are thinking about something different for our “Zoom meetings” or have a last-minute cancellation we had a ready list of guests to pull from, *and what if* we asked our friends (and not necessarily Rotarians) to join the meeting because we believe they would find the speaker interesting? **What if** we invited them to attend – not necessarily to join – but to log on and test the waters? They might like what they see.

**Here is the challenge.** Please think about the speakers you have had at your club through the last year or two and send me the names of three or four of the best, with a brief sentence or two and what they talked about and contact info. We'll do the heavy lifting to reach out and see if they would be willing to be part of the initial District 5630 Speakers Bureau contact list. This doesn't require any obligation – just a nod that says if asked and if convenient they'd be willing to share their knowledge with other Rotarians.

This is what we need from you to get started:

- Speaker's Name
- Brief sentence about the individual
- The nature of their talk
- Contact info (email – cell phone)
- If they are or aren't a Rotarian

Maybe the speaker is you – or someone fabulous in your club or office! Each of us has our own stories to tell, and I'd love to hear what you have to say.

We'll let you know when it is up and running.

Thank you for your help – and **please register on [DACdb](#)** – it's a wonderful platform.

**Deb McCaslin**

DGN 2022-23

Broken Bow Area Rotary Club  
Dmccaslinx4@gmail.com



### **Program Ideas during Covid — Paula Witt, Hastings Sunrise Club**

Hastings Sunrise continues to meet weekly at 7 am on Tuesdays via Zoom. Impressively, we have had slightly better attendance virtually.

Our weekly presentations are of interest to members and the community. These have been high quality and generated a lot of involvement:

- Local SASA director: Effects of pandemic on social isolation and domestic violence
- Mentoring Works (Former Big Brothers/Big Sisters)
- School Superintendent: Covid response in the schools
- School Counselor: Mental health needs in the schools
- School Principal: E-learning efforts in the schools
- Physical Therapist: Interventions in COVID season
- Local Health Department Director: Community Covid responses
- Cooperative project with Kiwanis Club: Musical Playgrounds
- Hastings Museum Director: Virtual learning opportunities
- District Governor Presentation
- Local Chamber President: Community projects; new businesses
- Hastings College: Alive and Well in Central Nebraska
- Hastings Public Schools Foundation: Voice amplification system project
- Monthly admin meetings and reporting
- Hastings College Backpack Program: Weekend food supplies to needy families.





## Big Red Blowout 2020

**E**ven though there were no tickets to a Husker game, no bus trip, no tailgating, and no Chances “R” in September, District 5630 Rotarians still contributed to the Big Red Blowout — supporting their clubs and the Rotary Foundation, while keeping district dues down.

The following winners of the Big Red Blowout drawing received \$250.

Buyer	Seller	Club
Kacy Anderson	Joyce Anderson	McCook
Ann Neiffer	Monty Neiffer	Valentine
Shelly McQuillan	Shelly McQuillan	Ogallala
Deb McCaslin	Deb McCaslin	Broken Bow
Don Kurre	Don Kurre	North Platte
Ella Lange	Fritz Anderson	Grand Island Sunrise
Leah Michel	Douglas Koopman	Hastings Sunrise
Bruce Johnson	Bruce Johnson	Valentine
Gary Reinsch	Jess McCaslin	Broken Bow
Lore Beckius	Lore Beckius	Ogallala

Top sellers were **Paul Stec** (\$2,000) and **Deb McCaslin** (\$800). **Grand Island Sunrise, Hastings Sunrise**, and Kearney **Dawn** were 100% Clubs.

We sold 3105 tickets for a total of \$31,435.

**Thanks to all who participated.**



Cont'd from page 8

Member Retention (3); Club Development (2); Using DACdb (2); and Virtual Meetings (2).

**Covid Effect?** Most of the clubs think that after the pandemic crisis is behind us, their club will carry on much as before.

Some seem dejected about their member involvement, and don't see it changing: “Overall, I see a lack of interest in donating time or money...There was, prior to Covid, a severe burnout from the select few, and not enough desire to participate from the remaining members to fill in...” “In our club we have always struggled with membership. I don't see that either getting better or worse, or going away any time soon.”

Others were more hopeful: “We will allow the Zoom option for every meeting to engage members who are out of town, do not live near our meeting place, etc. We will appreciate our in-person meetings and renewed camaraderie!” “People will be excited to meet and visit with people again.”

And one provides a realistic view: “Those who are invested in Rotary will be invested in Rotary....Since people's activity has been hampered, one can argue that people will be ready to go and be more involved. You never know, but I feel that looking at our club, our club will pick up where it left off.”



**Cheryl Bryan**

District Administrative Assistant  
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District 5630 *Rotarians in Action* is published quarterly. Archives are posted in PDF format at [rotary5630.org](http://rotary5630.org) and at [DACdb.com](http://DACdb.com)—District. We encourage Rotarians to use this newsletter both internally and externally as a resource for club newsletters and for the advancement of Rotary.

The publication target date for the next District 5630 newsletter is **March 15, 2021.**

Please submit your photos and/or articles by **Monday, March 1**, to [daa@5630mail.org](mailto:daa@5630mail.org).

Thanks, *Cheryl*

## Rotary District 5630 - *Rotarians in Action*



2020-21

RI President: **Holger Knaack**  
District Governor: **Bob Taylor**

Newsletter Editor: *Cheryl Bryan (Cheryl@cherylsdesk.com)*

