Rotarians in Action





Rotary District 5630

2021-22 · Edition 2 · December 2021

Greetings from District Governor Bob Mayber



I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

The last five months have really passed quickly! It's extremely hard to believe that we are almost 50% through this Rotary year.

As I look back over that period, I see some progress being made in the district as we come out of Covid doldrums. Some clubs have attendance that is approaching or equaling the pre-pandemic levels while others are still meeting with just a few members. Some clubs continue to use Zoom as well as in-person meetings, which is the method I recommend. If you're not doing this and would like to, please contact me for some recommendations.

So, what are the highlights of the last few months? Most certainly we are proud of what we have done in feeding those in central and western Nebraska who are suffering from food insecurity. And we learned that there are plenty of our fellow Nebraskans who really need help with that.

Combined with our Hot Meals USA program run by Kearney Rotarian *Richard Cochran* and his connections with the USDA Farm to Table program, we were able to safely and efficiently deliver thousands of boxes filled with nutritious meals in our District. More than one million meals were distributed in this way throughout Nebraska, and Rotary had a great deal to do with it. We also have continued our global reach with water and building projects. Locally District Grants continue to provide funding for numerous needs in our communities.

Late in 2020, under the direction of *PDG Bob Taylor*, we joined the effort to stop human trafficking. Bob appointed Rotarian Angie Swanson, now with the McCook club, to chair the program. Then because of connections that PDG Scott McLaughlin had, Angie brought a huge anti-human-trafficking display to the schools in Imperial, Palisade, and McCook. Immediately, DGE Deb McCaslin latched onto the display and personnel and showed them off for almost seven days in the Broken Bow area. Hundreds of students listened to speaker *Jim Weber* as he described the horrors of human trafficking in Nebraska. There is no way to defend the traffickers. Human lives are forever changed by the actions of these people. We intend to pursue future partnerships with Mr. Weber and have already begun efforts in our multidistrict zone to prevent human trafficking.

Much has been accomplished, but more is needed!

-Bob

Mark your Calendar for our in-person Conference April 29 & 30. More details to follow!

DG Bob Mayber 2021-22North Platte Rotary Club
dg.2021@5630mail.org



ROTARY INTERNATIONAL

A Global Network of Community Volunteers

One Rotary Center

1560 Sherman Avenue Evanston, IL 60201 Rotary (

Rotary International President 2021-22 Shekhar Mehta

Member of Calcutta-Mahanagar Rotary Club West Bengal, India

District 5630 Central and Western Nebraska www.rotary5630.org

DISTRICT LEADERS

District Governor 2021-22

Bob Mayber dg.2021@5630mail.org

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Deb McCaslin dmccaslinx4@gmail.com

District Governor Nominee 2023-24

Glenn Knuth dg.2023@5630mail.org

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Lore Beckius loreb@wolfauto.com

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Jerry Milner jerrymilner@hotmail.com

District Foundation & Grants Chair

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District Grants Subcommittee Chair

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District Trainer

Teresa Saul rotarytrainer20@gmail.com

District Treasurer

Brooke Robertson brooke.robertson@ampf.com

PolioPlus Chair

Dr. Delane Wycoff delanew@charter.net

RAGAS (Rotary Action Group against Slavery)

Angela Swanson angieswanson@hotmail.com

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Monty Vonasek monty@centralvalleyinc.com
Cynthia Houlden houldencm@gmail.com

Youth Exchange Chair

Paula Witt wittinc@icloud.com

District Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Bryan daa@5630mail.org

Why is it important to improve your club's public image?

When your Rotary Club has a positive public image, your current members are motivated to be active AND prospective members are eager to join your club.

- The name "Rotary" often isn't enough to spark people's interest and spur them to get involved.
- When people understand what your club does to make the world a better place, they'll be motivated to support your efforts and get involved. Strengthening Rotary's public image in your community will help you attract members, volunteers, partners, and donors.
- Promoting your club's good work in the local news media and on social media can also engage current members. Keeping members involved is much easier when they take pride in your club's accomplishments.
- People in the community are more likely to donate their time and money when they see the impact of your club's projects. It's also easier to find local partners to work with when they know and trust your club.
- Enhancing your club's public image also helps your club stand out from all the other opportunities that members of your community have to donate, volunteer, and get involved.
- As a Rotary member, you are an ambassador for our brand. Because you have direct experience with Rotary, you are in the best position to raise awareness and understanding among those who don't know us.
- Your club's interactions with the community greatly influence how people think about Rotary.
- Help your club build a strong public image in your community:
 - ♦ Publicize your projects and activities to influence how your club is perceived.
 - ♦ Share stories about how your club's projects affect the lives of people in your community.
 - Present your club as vibrant and your members as #Peopleofaction.
- Social Media: Post photos that reflect your club's diversity. Share news and personal stories about club projects and events. Invite your followers to learn more about your activities by providing links to your club website.
- Events: Plan activities that are of interest to your community. Encourage the public to participate in

(Cont'd next page)

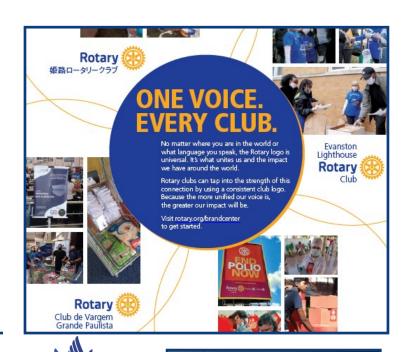
your events to build awareness of and support for your club.

Creating action photos is a great way to showcase your members. Use the <u>People of Action Photo Editor</u> for access to great templates that are brand compliant.

For questions or more information about how the public image district committee can help your club, please email me.



Lorena Beckius District Public Image Chair Ogallala Rotary Club loreb@wolfauto.com



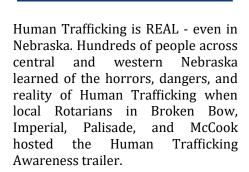


Rotary Action Group Against Slavery





During their McCook visit, RAGA Chair *Angie Swanson* presented a check to *Jim Weber*, President/CEO of Global Connection International to cover their travel expenses. Also on hand were DGE *Deb McCaslin* (Broken Bow Area), *JoAnn Weber* (GCI VP of Operations), PDG *Scott McLaughlin* (Kearney Dawn), *Kellie Soden* (McCook), *Lynn* and *Mike Russell* (GCI Presenters), *Luke McGinley* (McCook School Resource Officer) and *Jake Curl* (McCook High School Assistant Principal).



If you would like to bring this great exhibit piece to your community, please reach out to *Angie Swanson*, District Chair of RAGAS (Rotary Action Group Against Slavery) at AngieSwanson@hotmail.com or 308-352-6016.

Dear Foundation
Donor:

Because of you, The Rotary Foundation is supporting people of action who are improving lives through meaningful



and sustainable projects around the globe.

This year, with your support, we helped communities stay healthy by fighting diseases like <u>polio</u> and <u>COVID-19</u>. Rotary members supported our new area of focus through <u>projects</u> that help the environment. And we opened a <u>new peace center</u> in Africa, which will allow us to expand our work to build peace and prevent conflict.

Your gifts are more than donations. They bring peace, health, and opportunity to people in need. Your dedication to helping people through service and generous support of The Rotary Foundation makes all of this possible.

Thank you for all you do to create lasting change in your community and around the world.

Sincerely, The Rotary Foundation

Consider Corporate Memberships!

Do you know a local professional who wants to be part of Rotary, but is worried about having enough time? Do you want to establish a connection or partnership with an area business or corporation? If so, corporate memberships might be an option for your club.

A corporate membership allows Rotary clubs to involve a corporation – or any business, nonprofit, or government entity – by offering an alternative membership package to some of its employees. Having corporate members will increase your membership while expanding your network and visibility in your community. Members gain access to the fellowship and service opportunities of Rotary while allowing them a much smaller time commitment.

The *O'Neill Rotary Club* has nine Active Corporate members and nine Active Associate members. Each one of the Active Associates are involved through their organization's Corporate Membership. The club has benefited greatly from their corporate members, says Club President *Kayla Burdick*: "Our corporate members are very important to our club. In one Corporate Membership, we have many volunteers who show up to events, making these memberships vital to our programs." If you'd like to know more, give Kayla a call. (Log on to <u>DACdb</u> to find her number.) Or click on this link: <u>RI Guide to Corporate Membership</u>. There's also an informative <u>YouTube video</u> from Rotary Zone 32 that explains it.

First Ever Virtual Youth Exchange!

Early in the fall of 2021, leaders from **Rotary District** 3190 in



southern India approached **District 5630** leaders about working together on a Virtual Youth Exchange. That developed into weekly meetings and a whole committee of volunteers, including *PDG Don Peterson, PDG Jerry Milner, PDG Scott McLaughlin, DG Bob Mayber, DGE Deb McCaslin, DGN Glenn Knuth, Rotarians Cindy Houlden, Srivatsa Seshadri, Kenzie Choquette, Cheryl Bryan, and UNK professor Susan Jensen.* Rotarians Delane Wycoff and Dick Witt helped qualify the volunteers.

Six students have been chosen to participate: three from Kearney High School, and one each from Cozad High School, Chase County High in Imperial, and Hastings High. Starting on Saturday morning, January 8, and going for eight weeks, the students will meet via Zoom with six students from India and exchange information about daily life, language, music, art, traditions, food, climate, school, sports, and entertainment.

With Rotary's emphasis on peace and understanding, we are excited to be able to give these students a chance to meet and build friendships with teens in another country – an opportunity they might not otherwise have had.

Committee members have expressed one regret: They didn't have this opportunity when they were teenagers!



Update from Rotary's longtime partner, Shelter Box

Earthquake in Haiti: Helped 2,000 households with tarpaulins, tools and fixings, blankets, solar lights, kitchen sets, sleeping mats, mosquito nets, water carriers, soaps, and face masks. They will distribute cash grants to families to help fill any remaining shortages.

Conflicts in Mozambique, Ethiopia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, and Syria. Shelter Box has provided shelter kits and other needs to refugees and people displaced internally. Since 2011, they have sheltered over 300,000 people in Syria and 150,000 refugees in neighboring countries. They have response plans underway in Yemen and Nigeria to aid those displaced by conflict.

You can represent ShelterBox in District 5630! Learn more at <u>Shelter Box/Volunteer</u>. Your club can also be a <u>ShelterBox Hero</u> by giving \$1,000, \$3,000, or \$5000 during the Rotary year.

Bill Tobin, Rotary Club of El Dorado Hills, Calif.

1 - How Do District 5630 Rotary Clubs Observe World Polio Day?

Rotarians went above and beyond in October to help with Rotary's push to end polio. Here are some of the highlights.

Ogallala
Interact Club
Painting Pinkies
and raising polio
awareness. Looks
like they kept busy!









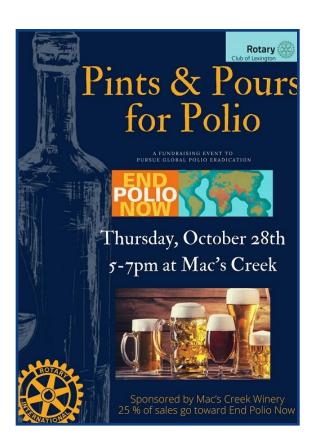
Not to be outdone, the **Ogallala Rotary Club** painted their pinkies purple – and sold purple plastic polio cups which gave contributors discounts when they showed them to retailers around town.

DGN and **Grand Island Sunrise** Club President *Glenn Knuth* examines the iron lung on display for Grand Island's Harvest of Harmony parade on October 2.

2 - How Do District 5630 Rotary Clubs Observe World Polio Day?



Rotary



The **Lexington** club got great press, great presence, and great polio awareness and financial support from their Pints for Polio event in October. The Mac's Creek Winery donated 25% of the night's proceeds to the End Polio Now campaign.



lung and Shelter Box at Curtis's Fall Festival.

McCue's Taproom in Kearney was the place to meet on November 11 for beer – and root beer, sponsored by **Kearney Area Rotaract**. Each pint sold raised \$1 to fight polio.

POLIO FACTS from EndPolio.org:

Since 1988, we've seen a worldwide reduction in polio cases of **99.9%.** For more than three years, we've seen wild polio cases in only two countries, Afghanistan and Pakistan.

Afghanistan Reported Cases in 2021: 4. *Past Years:* 2020:56. 2019:29. 2018:21. 2017:14

Pakistan Reported Cases in 2021: 1.

Past Years: 2020:84, 2019:147, 2018:12, 2017:18,

Broken Bow Area Donates Flags

October 12: **Broken Bow** Rotarians *Deb McCaslin*, left, and *Michelle Nelson*, right, presented two flags to Broken Bow Mayor *Rod Sonnichsen* for the Broken Bow Public Library. They also donated two flags to the Custer County Fairgrounds.

Cambridge Helps with Lions' Toy Drive



Cambridge Area Rotary Club collected new toy donations from club members for the Lion's Club Christmas Project. Pictured with the collection are members (L to R) *Tyler Cappel, Russ Wood, Debbi Runner, Kathy Benson, Pat Gufford* and *Sarah Nickerson*.

Chadron Provides Christmas Wreaths



Chadron Rotary sold and delivered Christmas wreaths to local homes, businesses, and cemeteries.

Chadron Feeds Firefighters



HotMeals provided the food and **Chadron** club members served hundreds of meals to hungry firefighters who came from all over Nebraska and other states to fight wildfires near Crawford.

Grand Island Sunrise Parks Buses



For Grand Island's Harvest of Harmony Parade, which features over 90 high school bands, **Grand Island Sunrise** directed the flow of buses, helped park them, and hosted and fed the drivers at Fonner Park. *Photos by Nancy Jones*



In September, **Grand Island** Rotarians poured their efforts into hanging sheetrock inside House #109, alongside other volunteers and future homebuyers. Their work included hanging sheetrock and pouring concrete for the driveway and front porch. Thanks to *LeAnne Doose* for capturing the moments.

Imperial Spreads Christmas Cheer



Imperial sponsored a matinee showing of *The Polar Express* for locals on December 4. Patrons were instructed to wear their jammies. Pictured: *Amanda Libra*, Club President *Eric Exum*, and *Abby Cyboron* with their young guests.

Lake Mac Rotaract Collects Shoes to Give



Lake Mac Rotaract requested, collected, and sorted shoes from the community and local schools. The shoe drive provides shoes and business opportunities for third world countries through <u>Funds2Orgs</u> while raising funds for Rotaract's Share & Care Program.

The Kearney Clubs Dance!





Members of Kearney and Kearney Dawn enjoyed the gala performance of dancers at Kearney's Dancing with the Stars 4 at Crane River Theater. Center front: Kearney Noon Rotarian Alexis McNeil, who was onstage with her dance partner, Nathan Lefeber. The \$53,000 raised will be shared among the Rotary clubs, Compass, Make a Wish Foundation, and Teammates. Photo Credit: Kerri Garrison.

Kearney Dawn Gives Boxes of Toys



Each year **Kearney Dawn** Rotarians and honor students gather to pack boxes full of toothbrushes, combs, toys, notepads, pencils, backpacks, tee shirts, socks, soap and more for Operation Christmas Child, a Samaritan's Purse project. Over the last ten years they have packed more than 800 boxes.

Kearney Area Rotaract Gives Away Toys, Serves Hot Meals, and Volunteers at KDWTS



Kearney Dawn Rotaract collected 75 different toys, blankets, and winter apparel for children served by Kearney/Buffalo County CASA.

From left to right: Luxie West, Sam Thede, Katie Cipperley, Hayley Pullen, Sydney Owen, and Emma Bond.





Left: Rotaractors *Kiersten Lange, Hayley Pullen,* and *Katie Cipperley* got all dressed up to serve at the Kearney Dancing with the Stars on October 30. Above: Handing out hot meals at Law Enforcement Appreciation Night on October 21.

North Platte Noon Serves Ice Cream and Chili



On December 4, **North Platte** Rotarians served at the concession stand at Cody Park where it's reported that *Don Kurre* makes a perfect ice cream twist cone. They also showed up to serve at the Mid-Plains United Way Chili Cook-Off. Great job of displaying club pride with their Rotary t-shirts!

Valentine Sponsors a Dog Walk Fundraiser







Valentine Rotary sponsored a "Pooch Scoot Run/Walk/Crawl" to raise money for pet stations around town. The \$25 registration fee included a post-race meal at <u>Bolo Beer Co.</u> catered by <u>Hoebe's Smoke & Meats</u>. There was also a Pooch Smooch Photo Booth, door prizes, and treats. The **Interact Club** also got involved, selling dog treats at Bolo.

McCook, Ogallala, and St. Paul Rotary and Interact Go Out to Clean Up





St. Paul Rotary was joined by **Interact** students and the Boy Scout troop for their usual Highway 92 trash pickup.

1 - How Do District 5630 Rotary Clubs Honor Their Own?

With Paul Harris Fellows



In the last quarter, **North Platte Noon** Club Foundation Chair *Kendi McClain* has presented Paul Harris Fellows to club members DG *Bob Mayber, Dan O'Neill*, club president *Louise Hoffmann*, and Past President and Treasurer *Don Kurre*.



North Platte Sunrise: Club President Emma Reichenberg presents +1 pin to Linda Rousey.



DG Bob Mayber presented Cambridge member Brenda Hayes with her Paul Harris +1 pin.



At the **Kearney Noon** Club, Club Foundation Chair *Tammy Jackson* presented Paul Harris awards to *Douglas Deterding* and *Bob Derr*.



Left: **Grand Island Noon** recognized Paul Harris recipients *Donald Dietemeyer, Jerry Jensen, Kurt Haecker* and *Luke Biggs,* pictured with club president *Brad Mellema*.

The Paul Harris Fellow acknowledges individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

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2 - How Do District 5630 Rotary Clubs Honor Their Own?

With Paul Harris Fellows and a Presidential Citation







O'Neill Club President *Kayla Burdick* got to present Paul Harris Fellows on three occasions to three generous Rotarians: *Marv Fritz, Ron Anderson*, and club treasurer *Cindy Cole*.



Cambridge Area Rotary Club received the 2020-21 Rotary Citation Award from *DG Bob Mayber*. This award comes from the club setting and meeting 18 of 25 goals for the year.

Their club worked hard for their area communities and Rotary International. Great job to all of the club members. Pictured (L to R) *Kathy Benson, Sam Jaeger, Sarah Nickerson, Russ Wood, Brenda Hayes, DG Bob Mayber, Reg Warner, Club President Debbi Runner, Derek Downer,* and *Linda Sandman*.



Richard F. Kauders

January 6, 1947 - November 17, 2021

The Kearney Rotary Club mourns the loss of their dear friend and fellow Rotarian Richard Kauders. He and his wife Audrey moved to Kearney in 2002, where he enjoyed retirement after working 29 years with the Union Pacific Railroad. Audrey was director of the Museum of Nebraska Art in Kearney before retiring in 2019. Richard was active in the community, involved in church activities and the arts community in Kearney. He was known for his "dry wit and generous spirit."

1 - How Do District 5630 Rotary Clubs Promote Education?

They Give Hundreds of Dictionaries to Third Graders



Mrs. Behrend's 3rd grade class at Creek Valley Elementary asked lots of questions about Rotary and loved the dictionaries they received from **Chappell** Rotary.



Hitchcock County third graders showing off their new dictionaries from **McCook** Rotary.





These Lexington elementary students didn't waste any time looking up words in their dictionaries. According to the *Lexington Clipper-Herald*, students "yelled with approval" when Lexington Rotary club member *Bernie Svoboda* suggested that if they aced their spelling tests for the rest of the year, the teachers would have to spell the 1,909-letter word on page 373 of their new dictionaries. Photo: *Lexington Clipper-Herald*



The goal of the Ogallala Club is "to provide a personalized dictionary to every third grader in Ogallala, Big Springs, Paxton and Arthur to improve their communication skills and make the most of their education."

2 - How Do District 5630 Rotary Clubs Promote Education?

They Give Hundreds of Dictionaries to Third Graders



From President-Elect *Cindy Houlden*: In this our 16th year of our dictionary project, members of the **Kearney Dawn** Rotary Club distributed approximately 700 dictionaries to all 3rd graders attending school in Buffalo County absolutely **FREE**! It is this spirit of giving and caring in community service that rewards us as Rotarians. On the left is *David Hallet* at Amherst and *Don Peterson*, on the right, is at Pleasanton.



The **O'Neill** Rotary Club recently gave away 125 dictionaries to local school children in the O'Neill area.

In the last 15 years, the club has given over 700 dictionaries to Holt County students in both public and private elementary schools, including O'Neill Public, St. Mary's, Word of Life, Chambers, Stuart, West Holt and Atkinson St. Joseph's. They include a copy of the "Four-Way Test" in each book.

At left: Rotarian *Carol Sibbel* with the Chambers Public School third graders.

St. Paul Rotary delivered dictionaries to St. Paul, Loup City, St. Libory, and Palmer Elementary Schools. At right: Palmer Public School third graders welcomed Rotarians *Tom Powell, Dave Brehm,* and *Bridget Lassen* to their classroom to receive 21 brand new Scholastic Dictionaries.



How Do District Rotary Clubs Welcome New Members?

With Handshakes and Copies of the Four-Way Test



Chadron welcomes *Tyler McCarthy* to their club.



In October, **McCook** Rotary welcomed Chamber Director *Brandi McConnell* as their newest member.

With Induction Ceremonies, Hugs, and Welcome Packets



Left: On August 11, Lexington Rotary welcomed eight new members Six are shown here, with DG Bob Mayber and Club President Scott McKelvey. The new members are Brenna Bartruff, Jasmyn Brooks, Shea Coakley, Christy Freihage, Kyle Hoehner, Bailey Irwin, Alisa Keiser, and Silvia Prado.

Below: In November, **North Platte** Noon welcomed new member *Josh Sperle* (on the right).







Broken Bow Area Club President *Jess McCaslin* introduced new Rotarians *Keith Ellis* and *Michaela Lewis*.

How Does St. Paul Rotary Make Children Happy?

By Giving Them Bikes - and Helmets, and Water Bottle Holders, and...

It began with a couple of church pastors – Russ Anderson and Steven Neal – who were Rotarians in St. Paul, hosting a "bicycle blessing" and bike obstacle path for students. They were joined by Rotarians *John Rogers* and *Loraine Lawler* and her husband *Roger*, who set up a station where the students had tires checked and chains adjusted. Then another club member, *Arlan Johnson*, began providing bottles of water, the bikers began decorating their bikes, and Club member *Tracy Dietz* provided water bottle holders.

Recognizing that some youngsters couldn't own a bike, *John Rogers* (pictured at right) decided to donate several bikes that he had found or received. This was the beginning of the **St. Paul Bike Shop** in a storefront on Main Street graciously donated by the Masonic Lodge. *Harold Rickertsen*, St. Paul Rotary's lead person on recycling, started combing the piles and found several bikes to give to John. The Rotarians refurbished some and used others for parts. And the St. Paul Rotary Club pledged \$1000 to get the St. Paul Bike Shop started.



Before long, Club members and people throughout the community were donating bicycles.

When the club realized the need for safety equipment, Rotary members *Isaiah Graham* and *Jordan Meyer*, with the support of Homestead Bank, donated 72 helmets, even for those not needing a bike.

In 2020, when the "blessing of the bikes" was cancelled due to the coronavirus, Rotary member *Bridgett Besse* came up with the idea to do a weekly bike ride. The bikers all gathered down by the Bike Shop and did a ride around town, followed by some ice cream at the Sweet Shoppe in St. Paul, sponsored by the Rotary Club.



The Bike Shop continues to be busy. When the chamber asked for businesses to decorate light poles for Halloween, John reached out to the youth for help. He provided wheels and the kids decorated them, resulting in a first-place prize, which John graciously donated to the kids' pre-school. In the spring, the club erected six bike racks in St. Paul: two for the ball fields, two for the swimming pool, and two for the hospital.

John puts in an average of 15 hours per week at the Bike Shop. Additional volunteers put in 3 to 5 hours per week. Students from St. Paul Public Schools can earn their required community service hours by helping at the shop. On average, it takes around \$20 per bike to make them safe for their prospective riders. The shop gives away about 250 bikes per year. To John, having a bike to ride is a necessary need for any child growing up.

If this sounds like a project your club could copy, John "The Bike Guy" Rogers is available to tell your club how. (He's listed on <u>District 5630's Speaker's Bureau</u>.) E-mail him at www.iwrogers49@vahoo.com. You can also find more information at Facebook @St. Paul Bikes.

District 5630 *Rotarians in Action* is published quarterly. Archives are posted in PDF format at rotary5630.org and at 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, 2022. Please submit your photos and/or articles by Tuesday, March 1, to daa@5630mail.org.

Thanks, Cheryl Bryan

Rotary District 5630 - Rotarians in Action



2021-22 RI President: Shekhar Mehta District Governor: Bob Mayber

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