Rotarians in Action



• IMAGINE ROTARY

Rotary District 5630

2022-23 • Edition 1 • Winter 2022

Dear all,

In this season of thankfulness – I am thankful for all of you ... for your Rotary hearts and devotion to others. As I've traveled the district, one thing has come repeatedly to the forefront: the good work our clubs are accomplishing in their communities and across the world. For this many are grateful.

I have a couple of favors to ask.

First, please mark your calendars and plan to attend the following:

- Saturday morning, January 21, 2023, when we gather for District 5630's One Summit. The summit brings together membership, public information and foundation with the goal of exploring how the three impact each other and our clubs. District Trainer *Susan Jensen* has put together a terrific morning with the help of our District leadership. There is much we can learn from each other.
- March 3-5, 2023 PETS in Denver. PETs stands for President Elect Training, but don't let the title scare you off. It is an amazing opportunity to recharge your Rotary soul, and to expand your Rotary circle. This is a multi-district event. DGE *Glenn Knuth* is working hard with his fellow DGEs to bring the best to Denver. Please plan to send your President Elect and President Nominee. Your current president is also welcome to attend as are other up-and-coming leaders in your club. Reach out with any questions. The district will pay for conference registration, gas reimbursement (keep your receipts) and half of the hotel for PEs and PENs.
- April 28-29, 2023 District Conference in Broken Bow, Nebr. This is an event you won't want to miss. Registration opens up after the first of the year. Many thanks to the Broken Bow Area and Arnold Rotary Clubs and District leaders for the work they are already putting in on the event. The One Box Convention Center is pulling out all the stops!!! Be watching for information.
- July 9-13, 2023 RYLA at Camp Maranatha near Maxwell, Nebr. Thank you to our RYLA chairs Monty

Vonasek and **Kiersten Lange** for chairing this important event.

Next – and this is important – Your help is needed in filling a few extremely important roles:

- Our **DGN** (**District Governor Nominee**) *Scott McKelvey* has needed to resign due to increasing work time commitments. Please look at your clubs, your members, and your past presidents for someone you would like to nominate. The individual needs to be a past or current president, and because there will be a bit of a learning curve it would be best if it were someone who had some Rotary experience. They would have an invitation to attend the International Conference in Singapore in 2024. This individual would serve as DGE 2023-2024 and DG 2024-2025. According to our District protocols the nomination should come from the clubs.
- We will also be seeking a new **District Polio Chair** for 2023-24. (*Delane Wycoff* has done an amazing job, but he too would like to step down.) This is a three-year position.
- Our **Youth Protection Officer** *Sarah Mills* is looking for help tracking the background checks, research, etc., for Rotary Youth Exchange and RYLA. *Delane* and *Sarah* will offer all sorts of help and training. It would help if this person were tech savvy.

District Leadership is a great way to learn about Rotary and discover the great things going on beyond our clubs. Rotary International offers wonderful help and fantastic training. I personally have learned so much, and I do think it has helped my Rotary heart to grow.

Many thanks, stay warm, stay safe and have a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Sincerely,

Deb

DG Deb McCaslin 2022-23 Broken Bow Area Rotary Club 308-870-2909 5630.dg.2022@gmail.com



Winter 2022

Western Nebraska Imagine Rotary Tour - September 26-30, 2022



Glenn Knuth dg.2023@5630mail.org

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RAGAS (Rotary Action Group against Slavery) Angela Swanson angieswanson@hotmail.com

Rotaract Rep/RYLA Chair Kiersten Lange

kkierstenn@gmail.com

Youth Exchange Chair Paula Witt wittinc@icloud.com

District Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor Cheryl Bryan daa@5630mail.org

DG Visits Deb-Style









Above: Congratulating **Gothenburg** President *Randy Burge* and Foundation Chair *Joan Windrum* on being a 100% Paul Harris Fellow club.





Front: Kate Warner, Sarah Nickerson, Brenda Hayes, District Governor Deb McCaslin, <u>Cambridge</u> club president Debbi Runner, Kathy Benson. **Back:** Tyler Cappel, Russ Wood, Sam Jaeger, Cheryl Haakenson and Barb Langley.

Right:WithHoldregeclubpresidentKeriBerry.





Claude Berreckman, Governor Deb McCaslin,, Reggie Fox, Robert Dyer, and Cozad Rotary President Tim Sladek.

Claude, Reggie and Robert are new members of **Cozad**.



Rotary Youth Exchange News

We recently received applications and interviewed students for 2023-2024 international exchanges. District interviews were held in North Platte November 11-12. This year, two students will represent District 5630 Nebraska.

Sienna Dutton is a junior at McCook High School. She maintains a 4.0+ GPA and is actively involved in school leadership, sports, community, and church life. During last year's interviews, a younger Sienna was offered the choice to delay her exchange for one year, giving her the opportunity to complete her graduation requirements and fundraise for her exchange. She and her family expressed genuine thanks for the additional year of solidifying her/their commitment and preparing for her year abroad. We have already secured her "match" with Multi-District Spain.

Johan Mireles will represent the Grant Rotary Club as he makes plans for his exchange next year. He is hoping to further his graphic arts interests and potential career. Johan is a leader in his school, community, and Youth Group. He was inspired to pursue this adventure by his brother Jordan, who is currently exchanging in Germany. His parents, Christina and Ricardo, are strong supporters of Rotary Youth Exchange and active in their community.



Our current inbound students **Inigo Pintato** (Spain), **Maria Augusta Michelato** (Brazil), **Clara Scheunert** (Germany), **Douglas Machado** (Brazil) and Annabel **Hirche** (Germany) – pictured here with **Todd Madison** (Valentine) and **Delane Wycoff** (North Platte) participated in community service at the North Platte Habitat for Humanity site, providing indoor painting.

In addition, they were included in the interview process and grew their leadership skills. All these amazing students spent an evening and overnight enjoying each



others' company and musical talents, along with a wide variety of games and activities.

Current outbound students **Rudi Anderson** (Hyannis/ Ogallala) and **Jordan Mireles** (Grant) are mastering their second languages, learning culture and making lifelong friends in Brazil and Germany, respectively.

Following a two-year hiatus from hosting foreign exchange students in our district, the number of applicants for this opportunity is down, here and around the world. Without the exposure to students from varying cultural backgrounds in our schools, Nebraska students are missing the joy and motivation to study abroad.

Rotary is **The Gold Standard** for youth exchange across the globe. Rotarians throughout our District ought to be proud of this recognition and embrace our excellence by recruiting and supporting the youth in our communities to pursue this opportunity.

Some Rotary Clubs who have been active in youth exchange in the past have not submitted sponsorship recently. Some larger clubs, with the resources, schools and host families available in the community, are losing students to other exchange programs. Some smaller communities have recruited students but are unwilling or unable to host for a variety of reasons.

We need everyone – every Rotarian, every Rotary Club – to renew their commitment to **The Future of Rotary:** <u>Youth Exchange</u>.

If you would like a speaker for one of your upcoming meetings, to learn more about this awesome program, contact one of our district committee members, a current exchange student or Paula Witt.

> **Paula Witt** Youth Exchange Chair Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club wittinc@icloud.com



Winter 2022

MEMBERSHIP: START YOUR CLUB ON A PATH TO VIBRANCY

Vibrant clubs engage their members, conduct meaningful projects, and try new ideas. List the new ideas your club wants to try, and create a plan to increase community interest and attract more members.

As you develop your plan, use these tips and ideas, and let your club evolve.

Decide what you'd like your club to be like in three to five years.

- Plan an annual visioning session, and use the <u>Rotary</u> <u>Club Health Check</u> to identify your club's strengths and areas that need improvement.
- Use the <u>Strategic Planning Guide</u> to set long-term goals.

Decide on your annual goals, and enter them into <u>Rotary Club Central</u>.

- Focus on something your club is good at, and make it something your club is great at.
- Update committees once a month on your goal progress.

Hold club meetings that keep members engaged and informed.

- Conduct the <u>Member Satisfaction Survey</u> to find out what your members like and don't like about your club, and create a plan for implementing changes.
- <u>Vary your meeting format</u> to include a mix of traditional and online meetings, service projects, and social gatherings.

Communicate openly in your club.

- Share information at club meetings, on your club website, and through social media, and check regularly to see how members are feeling.
- Use the templates and resources in the <u>Rotary Brand</u> <u>Center</u> to create your club brochures and newsletters.

Prepare members for future roles to smooth leadership transitions.

- Ensure continuity by making appointments for multiple years, having a current, incoming, and past chair on each committee.
- Conduct on-the-job training for incoming club officers, and have job descriptions for each officer.

Adapt your club's bylaws to reflect the way the club works.

- Involve your members when you review your club's bylaws every year.
- Edit the <u>Recommended Rotary Club Bylaws</u> template to reflect new practices and procedures.

Develop strong relationships within your club.

- Find suggestions in <u>Introducing New Members to</u> <u>Rotary</u>.
- Sit with different people at each meeting.

Make sure all members are involved in activities that genuinely interest them.

- Conduct a member-interest survey, and use the results to plan projects, activities, and engaging meetings.
- Get new members involved early by learning their interests and giving them a role in the club.

Coach new and continuing members in leading.

- Appoint a club training committee to oversee training for members.
- Use the <u>Leadership in Action Guide on Starting a</u> <u>Program</u> to develop members' leadership skills.

Create practical committees for your club.

- Small clubs: Consider how you can combine the work of committees.
- Large clubs: Create additional committees to get all members involved.

Adapted from *Be a Vibrant Club*

Happy Holidays to everyone! Be sure you've set up your My Rotary login and take advantage of all the amazing training in the Learning Center.

Kellie Soden District Membership Chair McCook Rotary Club rkasoden@msn.com 303-589-3459



Public Image: Why Holidays Posts Are Very Important

S ocial media posts during the holiday season can be some of the most valuable content you produce for social media platforms. With the right tools, they can be easy to produce, but should never be overlooked as a crucial part of your social media marketing plan.

Holiday Social Media Posts Have Emotional Appeal

Despite all the posts about seasonal depression, people are actually happier than average on holidays. Whatever their religious leanings, people tend to be happiest on Christmas, with Thanksgiving and New Year's Eve not far behind. Of course, there are plenty of other holidays that make people happy: Best Friend's Day, National Donut Day, National Social Media Day – there are so many holidays and pseudo-holidays that create wonderful emotional touch points in your marketing campaign for Facebook and other platforms.

Holiday Posts Foster a Sense of Community

A well-crafted holiday post can encourage people to feel a part of something bigger, especially when your post encourages them to give back to the community or to your Rotary Club, to share for greater rewards, or to remind them what's really important during the holidays. Interactive posts are also good for encouraging participation and community.



#WearBlueDay: January 11

January 11, 2023, is Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

T o raise awareness of human trafficking, please wear blue on January 11 and send a picture to me.

You can take photos of friends, family, and colleagues wearing blue and share them on social media – Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram – with the **#WearBlueDay** hashtag. Anyone can participate, all you need is a piece of blue clothing!



Angie Swanson

District Chair, <u>RAGAS</u> (Rotary Action Group Against Slavery) McCook Rotary Club AngieSwanson@hotmail.com 308-352-6016 Showing gratitude plays the dual role of humanizing our brand (Rotary), and connecting with followers of another business or company. Virtually every festival and celebratory season involves gratitude in some form or another and taking the time to express your gratitude for family, friends, colleagues, employees, and local businesses can help your followers recognize your club's devotion to kindness, consideration, and healthy attitudes and practices. A Christmas post might involve making a video to express gratitude to our volunteers and club members for working so hard during the year.

This holiday season is the perfect time to showcase your service projects and tell the story about any fundraiser going on during this time. If you need help with posts or any social media tips, we have a great Public Image committee at your fingertips.

If you have any questions, please email us at pi@rotary5630.org.

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





Personal note from Lorena:

I am extremely proud of our amazing Public Image team. All the hard work we did last year paid off. We received a certificate as a district for doing the PI Zone citation and then we were awarded the Public Image Award winner for the Zone.

Out of so many districts this is a huge honor for our District 5630. Without all your help and work this would not be possible. I am so lucky to have such a talented team. Congrats, Team. Woohoo!!



Coming in 2023!



Open to all District 5630 Rotarians.

Join Rotarians and Rotaractors interacting at this **One Summit** designed for you and your club membership. It will be time well spent for all levels of membership – new members to experienced members and those in between. This summit counts as Rotary Leadership Institute training.

Gain a better understanding of how Membership, Public Image, and The Rotary Foundation work together.

Registration is open!



A new E-Club is being created in western Nebraska! An organizational meeting is planned for **January 2023**.

The club is especially designed for those who have previously participated in District 5630's youth programs: RYLA, Rotary Youth Exchange, Rotaract, and Interact.

Phone or email Kiersten Lange at (308) 530-0657 or kkierstenn@gmail.com for more information.

S390 5420 5440 5450 5470 5630 High Country PETS Colorado Idaho Montana Nebraska Utah Wyoming



High County PETS is coming in March.

If you're a President-Elect or President-Elect Nominee, you don't want to miss this opportunity.

March 3-5, 2023 Westin Westminster Hotel

The Multi-District 2023 HIGH COUNTRY PETS is excited to again host incoming club presidents (PEs), presidentelect-nominees (PENs), and spouses, along with assistant governors (AGs) all from 6 Rotary Districts.

HCPETS will feature interactive breakout sessions, thought provoking speakers, district updates, and of course networking.

Registration is open at <u>HighCountryPETS.org</u>.

<u>Speeches from the 2022 High Country PETS</u> are also available at the website.



Applications will be open February 1 to March 31, 2023. See **greatplainsryla.org** for more information and to apply. For information on volunteering as a RYLA Junior or Senior Counselor, see the "Volunteers" tab.





Ticket winners and sellers enjoyed their bus ride to the Nebraska vs. Georgia Southern game on September 10th.

Participants enjoyed the round-trip motorcoach ride, tickets to the game, a prime rib buffet at Chances "R" in York, and two tailgate passes. Of the net proceeds totaling \$27,336, \$400 was awarded to clubs with 100% participation, plus \$6738 to the District, \$6723 to District clubs, and \$13,475 to the Rotary Foundation.

Thanks to everyone who participated this year! You have made a difference.

-Paul Stec and Tiffany Ritchie

Happy Anniversary!





The <u>Holdrege</u> club has been going strong since July 1, 1922! Keynote speaker at their celebration was **Curt Tomasevicz**, Olympic gold and silver medalist TEAM USA bobsled and former Nebraska Husker,



The <u>O'Neill</u> club was chartered on November 24, 1992. As a charter member of the club, **Ron Anderson** also celebrates 30 years with the club.

District 5630 Interact

News





Congratulations to the student members of the newly launched <u>Central Nebraska Interact Club</u>, with students from all over Custer County, sponsored by the <u>Arnold</u> club. A majority of the chapter's executive board were RYLA attendees this past summer. Phone 308-708-9211 or email centralneinteract@gmail.com to learn more. #centralneinteract.



<u>St. Paul Interact</u> members are serving their community by helping out shoppers this Christmas.



New Interact Club Helping to Rebuild Halsey

The Central Nebraska Interact's Club first project was to help rebuild the Halsey 4-H camp, tragically lost to the Bovee range fire in October.

Designed by *Delaney Rogers*, founding member of the Interact group, and Kearney Dawn Rotarian *Scott McLaughlin*, the group offered T-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies. All proceeds go to the 4-H Foundation Fund for the rebuilding of the camp.

District 5630 Clubs: Serving Their Communities - 1



The **Gothenburg** club provided a couple of park benches at Lake Helen for residents to enjoy.

> Thanks to the <u>Grand Island</u> club, working with the Hall County Historical Society, this Century Clock now graces the city's historic Railside.





Members of the <u>Grand Island Sunrise</u> club were on hand to help out at the city's Harvest of Harmony Parade and celebration on October 1.





The **Imperial** club chose a beautiful day in November for their highway cleanup.



Great turnout for <u>McCook</u> Rotary's highway cleanup in October. The **McCook Interact Club** was a great help.



District 5630 Clubs: Serving Their Communities - 2





<u>McCook</u> Rotarians served food at the McCook Community Foundation Fund Sehnert Community Celebration. Proceeds go toward the McCook Mural Project.



North Platte Rotarians bundled up to support the annual Veteran's Day parade.



Congratulations to the **Ogallala** club, nominated for Service Organization of the Year by Keith County Chamber.





Junk Jaunt for the **Orphan Grain Train**: *Roxie Lehmen* of the <u>**St. Paul</u>** club collected, packed, and delivered donations of excess clothes and household items from community residents.</u>

Lake Mac Rotaract joined the fun at Ogallala's Fire & Rescue Auxiliary Winter Wonderland, decorating cookies and ornaments for the event.

Decking the Halls with Service



The <u>Chadron</u> club sold and delivered wreaths to area homes. They also offered to place the wreaths in the local cemetery.



The **Broken Bow** club had fun participating in the Children's Gift and Food distribution.

It's simple! Pick a tag from the tree, buy the suggested gift, return the unwrapped gift. <u>Lake Mac Rotaract</u> wraps the gifts, and participating families pick them up at Pinnacle Bank in Ogallala.



Since 2010, the **Grand Island Noon** Rotary Club has partnered with The Salvation Army and Ace Hardware to staff a full Saturday of bell ringing during December. They even have special aprons for the occasion. This annual service project is an easy way for them to have a little fun while supporting a great cause, especially during the holiday season.



Keri and *Hannah* of the <u>Holdrege</u> club took a couple of shifts at Orscheln's to ring the Salvation Army bell.



It's time again for **Cozad's** annual Polar Express!

District 5630 Rotarians: Encouraging the Youth



Cambridge Area hosted a Cambridge High School Girl's and Sponsors Appreciation Supper, hearing about the girls' activities and the sponsors' roles at the school.



<u>Hastings Sunrise</u> pledged to donate \$2500 to their three local high schools for the next 3 years to support area youth education.



Kearney's participation in the "Give Where You Live" program yielded \$3,000 for the Dolly Parton Imagination Library, which will deliver age-appropriate books each month to area children ages 0 to 5.



McCook Rotary member *Dennis Berry* hands out "Kids Scoop" to St.

Patrick 3rd graders. The colorful newspaper is filled with activities encouraging students to read. Thanks to many great community sponsors, all area third graders will receive the monthly paper free this school year.



McCook worked with local Scouts to prepare packages for the "Adopt-a-Chaplain" program, which sends goodies and cards to soldiers overseas during the holidays. Rotary also made a donation to the local Troop.

District 5630 Dictionary Days





Before making deliveries for the 17th year, <u>Kearney Dawn</u> Rotarians gathered to label and box some 700 dictionaries for Buffalo County students. It's a highlight of the year for the Rotarians – and the third graders.





As they handed out dictionaries, <u>Lexington</u> club members warned the 3rd graders "not to read it all in one night."



St. Paul Rotarians *Riley Peters, Dave Harrington,* and *Dave Brehm* visited third graders in Loup City Public Schools to give away Scholastic dictionaries. St. Paul has given dictionaries for over 15 years.

Congratulations to These Paul Harris Fellows



Paula Witt (right), HastingsSunrise, receiving her PaulHarris+2 pin frompresident Susie Kryzsko.

Kearney Dawn's *Dr. Sri Seshadri* (club Foundation Chair) and *Craig Fidler* (on left) are Paul Harris +3 fellows, pictured with club president *Scott McLaughlin.*



DG *Deb McCaslin* presented <u>St. Paul</u> member *Tracey Deitz with* her first Paul Harris award



Thomas Moore of North Platte Noon received his Paul Harris +3 pin from Foundation Chair *Kendi McClain*.



Raising Awareness and Funds for Polio Eradication





Cambridge Area Rotary Club and Amateur's Bar 'N Grill teamed up for Pints for Polio, with a percentage of pint sales donated by Amateur's to Polio Plus. **McCook** Rotary members and friends joined in.



<u>Gothenburg's</u> Pints for Polio included an iron lung display, polio vaccine information, and the movie *Breathe*, about British polio survivor Robin Cavendish.







<u>McCook's</u> Pints for Polio involved stopping by <u>The</u> <u>Scoop</u> on West 10th and purchasing a pint of ice cream with optional purple sprinkles.



<u>Ogallala</u> called in the ghouls – and the special talents of club secretary Jim Delahunty – to raise money for Polio Plus.



<u>Cambridge Area</u> purchased specially

prepared purple pinkie long johns, and they painted students' pinkies purple at Cambridge schools. **At left**: Membership chair *Derek Downer* and president *Debbi Runner*.

District 5630 Rotarians: Welcome New Members



Club President *Tim Sladek* and Membership *Lyle Davis* welcome <u>Cozad's</u> newest member, *James Ford*. More new Cozad members are shown on page 3.



<u>Gothenburg Noon</u> celebrated two new members in October, welcoming Dave Zorn and Tanner Focken. New member not pictured: Amber Burge.



It's official: District 5630 clubs are attracting younger members!

The following data appeared in the **November Membership Update** from Rotary International Regional Membership Officer *Emily Tucker*.



Hastings Sunrise club president *Susie Kryzsko* presents a membership badge to new member *Dan Peters*.

DISTRICT MEMBERSHIP PROGRESS TO GOAL REPORT

Below are a couple highlights from the November 2022 District Membership Progress to Goal report.

Highest % of members under 40: District 5840 in Zone 25B @ 7.87% District 5630 in Zone 29 @ 11.18%

For the full Zone 25B report, <u>click here</u>. For the full Zone 29 report, <u>click here</u>.

From Rotary Founder Paul Harris



Raising Funds to Do Good in the World





Ogallala's 8th Kayak Big Mac at Lake McConaughy raises funds for water projects locally and internationally. This year's funds are to be spent on the Collister Park water fountain and the Keystone-Lemoyne Dive Rescue Team for their yearly involvement in the event as safety boats.



The <u>North Platte Sunrise</u> Potato Fundraiser, held in Wild Bill's parking lot, raised over \$1,000 to support club projects, including <u>Rotary Youth Exchange</u>.



District 5630 Rotarians served meals and helped publicize HotMeals USA at Memorial Stadium on a cold day in November. On right: DG *Deb McCaslin* and DGE *Glenn Knuth*.

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 17, 2022. Please submit your photos and/or articles by Monday, February 27, to daa@5630mail.org. Thanks, *Cheryl Bryan*

Rotary District 5630 - Rotarians in Action



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