

Rotarians in Action



Rotary District 5630

2022-23 • Edition 3 • Spring 2023

Coming soon: District 5630's 'Just Imagine' Conference

Whew – where has the year gone? I think it was just yesterday we gathered in North Platte for our first in-person conference since the onset of COVID – and here we are nearly a year later planning to do it again.

It's easy to talk about the whys of attending a Rotary district conference: Why come – why gather – why extend the handshake – why meet new people and make new friends - why learn more about who we are and what we do in our communities and around the world – why as Rotarians we make a difference just being ourselves – why mission matters – why 'Service Above Self' is more than a motto, it's a way of life.

Just Imagine the opportunity to learn from a few of the best – a future (coming July 1, 2023) Vice President of Rotary International **Pat Merryweather**; Immediate Past Rotary International Director **Suzi Howe**; Rotary International President Jennifer Jones' personal representative **Marshall Butler**; Retired Nebraska Secretary of State **Allen Beermann**; Membership guru **Faron Barr**. Just so you know, Marshall is a master story teller – he plans to talk about the art of telling a good story.

Just Imagine if we could as everyday citizens do something about the scourge of Human Trafficking. **Just Imagine** if we could arm our youth with the knowledge of what to look out for, things and situations to be wary of, and how to reach out if they – or we – see something that doesn't seem right. Saturday's panel is important. The conversation is important.

The conference has been around two years in the planning. We have folks joining from Naperville, Illinois; Houston, Texas; Jacksonville, Florida; Fort Collins, Colorado; Bismarck, North Dakota; and most importantly from across this great state of Nebraska we call home. **AND** we have our own skilled district leaders working

hard to prep important sessions that will help make our clubs stronger and able to do more good.

Here's the skinny:

Friday. Get to Know Broken Bow with tours of Becton Dickenson, Adams Land and Cattle, and Kinkaiders Brewery. In the afternoon plan to attend a business meeting. Each club has one vote, so plan to have someone there to represent or send a proxy. We'll go over the budget for this year and put into place the budget for 2023-2024. We plan to have an in depth talk about the "state of the district" and possible changes on the horizon.

That night a beer-pairing menu is planned at Kinkaiders (including NA beer and root beer). After filling the first room, we've negotiated and added a second room. Kinkaiders is closing to the public Friday evening just for us. Dinner starts at 5:30, with brewery tours to follow.

Saturday is the meat and potatoes of the conference. Action starts at 8 a.m. We'll honor our Rotary veterans, our club officers, and 50+ year members. Our Rotary Youth Exchange students will be there as well as Interact and Rotaract. They are fun. Come find out for yourself.

A human trafficking educational panel (**31:8 project** out of North Dakota; Nebraska State Trooper **Tim Flick**, Custer County Judge **Tami Schendt** and moderator **Angie Swanson**) is planned for that morning. It's not a session you will soon forget. The panel joins later as a breakout session and will also present for the Interact/RYE mini conference attendees. Our best defense against Human Trafficking is education.

It will be fun to hear about projects happening through our clubs and district worldwide: Ukraine, Turkey, Nigeria, Kenya, Zimbabwe. Thank you, Rotarians ... much work is being accomplished. We do have a challenge out there to raise \$10,000 for [Shelter Box](#), and if all works according to plan, fingers crossed, there is a good chance we will be talking with them via Zoom sometime during the day.

Continued next page

Breakouts are in the afternoon: Human Trafficking, Foundation, Public Information and Social Media 101, strategies for Membership growth, Polio and how to take a big project from conception to realization.

Dress Friday is casual; dress on Saturday is business casual. Some plan to dress up for the evening, but no worries either way. Wear your Rotary shirts if you have them.

We have some fun silent auction items coming in (mainly in descriptions) so bring your checkbook or credit card. There will be something for everyone.

But most importantly come – make friends – learn new things and feel energized at the end.

Here's a link to the [Agenda](#). See you in April.



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

**Lorena Beckius
Nominated as
District Governor
for 2025-26**



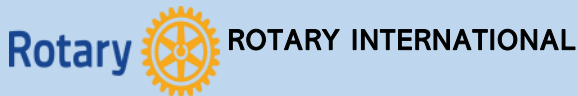
March 8, 2023 - from DG Deb McCaslin

Dear Rotarians, it is with great honor I have the privilege of passing on Rotary International's decision to accept District 5630's nomination of Lorena Beckius of Ogallala as our nominee for District Governor for 2025-2026.

An executive meeting of past district governors, DGE Glenn Knuth and myself over the weekend voted unanimously to accept her application. Lorena's name was moved to the International level and a few minutes ago we received official word that her nomination has been accepted. Please join in congratulating Lorena. This is not a job accepted lightly!!!

Thanks, Lorena, for stepping up. We are here to support and help as you navigate this wonderful journey.

Lorena is a member of the Ogallala Rotary Club, a past club president, past District Membership Chair, and current District Public Image Chair.



A Global Network of Community Volunteers

One Rotary Center
1560 Sherman Avenue
Evanston, IL 60201
www.rotary.org

Rotary International President 2022-23 Jennifer Jones
Member of Windsor-Roseland Rotary Club
Ontario, Canada

DISTRICT 5630 LEADERS

District 5630 Central and Western Nebraska

www.rotary5630.org

District Governor 2022-23

Deb McCaslin 5630.dg.2022@gmail.com

District Treasurer

Brooke Robertson brooke.robertson@ampf.com

District Governor Elect 2023-24

Glenn Knuth dg.2023@5630mail.org

Leadership Development

Jerry Milner jerrymilner@hotmail.com

District Membership Chair

Kellie Soden rkasoden@msn.com

PolioPlus Chair

Dr. Delane Wycoff delanew@charter.net

District Public Image Chair

Lore Beckius loreb@wolfauto.com

RAGAS (Rotary Action Group against Slavery)

Angela Swanson angieswanson@hotmail.com

District Foundation & Grants Chair

PDG Dale Schultz dg.2018@5630mail.org

Rotaract Rep/Ryla Chair

Kiersten Lange kkierstenn@gmail.com

Global Grants Chair

PDG Don Peterson dg.2015@5630mail.org

Youth Exchange Chair

Paula Witt wittinc@icloud.com

District Trainer

Susan Jensen jensensm1@unk.edu

District Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Bryan daa@5630mail.org

RYE is ramping up again!

We have selected two students to represent District 5630 this upcoming exchange cycle. *Sienna Dutton* from **McCook** has been matched with Multi-District Spain for her year abroad. *Johan Mireles* from **Grant** will be studying in the Hiroshima, Japan, area during 2023-2024. Both of them are excited and prepared to represent their families, communities, sponsoring Rotary clubs, the state of Nebraska, and the USA.

Sienna and *Johan* and their families attended the Outbound Orientation February 24 to 26 at the Nebraska Youth Camp near Kearney. The Mireles and Dutton families were joined by outbound students and parents from the Omaha area, several Rotexes (former exchangers), and nine inbound students from District 5630 and 5650 (Eastern Nebraska and Western Iowa).



We even enjoyed a traditional Brazilian dinner, prepared by *Douglas* and *Maria*. Mm, Mm, Good!

We were honored to be greeted and encouraged by both District Governors *Deb McCaslin* (5630) and *Barbara Bartles* (5650) and 5630 DGE *Glenn Knuth*, *Delane Wycoff* (District Polio-Plus representative) and *Don Peterson* (District Grants Chair) shared some of the broader perspectives of Rotary with all the attendees.

At this moment, we have five clubs committed to hosting an exchange student in 2023-24, and at least one more club awaiting approval. We look forward to a busy and exciting re-boot of Rotary Youth Exchange in District 5630. Stay tuned for more information!

And another piece of good news: former exchanger *Juan Zanguitu* (Argentina 2019-2020) hosted by



Juan Zanguitu

Incoming Student from Argentina 2019-2020

Now a student with big plans at Mid-Plains Community College

North Platte Rotary is back in Nebraska! After graduating from North Platte High School, Juan returned to Nebraska to study at Mid-Plains Community College in North Platte (and re-welcomed by his former host families *Foust* and *Kring*).

He made the news recently for being awarded a \$5000 grant to assist in the development of affordable technology to monitor soil conditions to improve farming efficiency in poor countries like his own. His goal is to develop a low-cost, open-source, universal data logger to allow small producers and farmers in developing nations to implement affordable technology to increase efficiency and effective farming practices. This grant will cover the cost of developing prototype parts and more than 400 hours of testing. You can read more about this award and Juan's work at [Mid-Plains Community College News](#).

He hopes to begin field-testing in Argentina in July when he returns home for a visit. He will begin field-testing in Nebraska in August. He anticipates developing a phone app and distribution-readiness to third-world countries within one year.

Juan's personal goals include completing his Associate Degree from MPCC and then attending UNL or MIT for further education in computer software development and data analytics. He credits his Rotary Youth Exchange and his ability to graduate from a Nebraska high school, for his opportunities to study in America. He remains actively involved in Rotary Youth Exchange activities as a Rotex volunteer and mentor.

Paula Witt

Youth Exchange Chair
Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club
wittinc@icloud.com
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Enjoying Exchange Students



Rotary Youth Exchange student *Douglas* provided **Hastings Sunrise Rotary** with an insightful presentation about his home country, Brazil, talked about his exchange experience and career aspirations, and provided club President *Susie Kryzsko* with flags from his local Rotary club.



Maria, **Gothenburg's** RYE student from Brazil, cooked and offered an authentic Brazilian meal as a fundraiser for her USA tour later in the year.



On January 4, *Annabel*, North Platte's Rotary Youth Exchange student from Germany, spoke with the **North Platte Noon** club, then graced the **North Platte Sunrise** club meeting the next day, speaking of life in Germany and how the food she misses most from home is their bread.



Iñigo, **Ogallala's** exchange student from Spain, was recently inducted into the Spanish Honor Society.



Rotary Youth Exchange students attended the Tri-City Storm hockey game and enjoyed the noise, food and of course a good fight on the ice!

Rotary



Rotary Action Group Against Slavery



Passion With a Purpose

“We would love to think human trafficking doesn’t exist in District 5630 – after all this is Nebraska – we know our towns, we know our communities – but to say it doesn’t exist is simply not true,” states our fearless DG *Deb McCaslin*. “We owe it to our communities, to our neighbors, to our children to fight against this scourge, and one way to fight is through education. The formation of a cause-based club focused on the fight against human trafficking is important, critically important. I’m proud that 5630 under the leadership of Angie Swanson is taking this on.”

Cause-based clubs are those whose members have chosen to concentrate on a specific area of focus or passion such as military/veterans or human trafficking. They are a great alternative to traditional meetings because the club can decide how and when the meetings will be held and also direct their service projects specifically to the cause of their choice. This is a great way to engage and hopefully retain and/or gain new members, which is something Rotary is always working to do.

We are in the very beginning stages of forming this cause-based club here in District 5630. When I say beginning stages I mean we’ve had a few Zoom calls with an established human trafficking cause-based club and have begun a list of what will be required to start our own.

We know this will not be something that comes together in the next few months, and we definitely have our work cut out for us. Deb has the commitment of several potential members to join this new club, and while I don’t intend to poach any members from other clubs in our districts, I would encourage any of you interested in learning more about this human trafficking cause-based club to reach out to Deb or me.

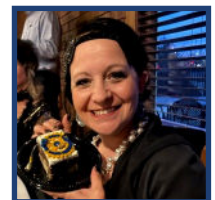
We do know this will be an E-Club (on Zoom) with community service projects completed in each of the members’ communities when possible. I would also like to collaborate on projects with other End Human Trafficking clubs in the States and possibly around the world in the future.

Stay tuned for more information coming your way. I am excited for this adventure, and I can’t wait to grow our District while doing our part to end human trafficking.

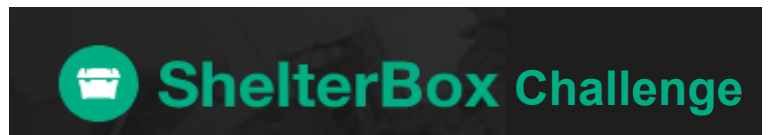
Here’s a link to a step-by-step manual – [Starting a Cause-Based Rotary Club](#) – published by Minnesota Rotary clubs after they formed a Veterans Club. They have also started an End Human Trafficking e-club.

Angie Swanson

District Chair, [RAGAS](#)
(Rotary Action Group Against Slavery)
McCook Rotary Club
AngieSwanson@hotmail.com
308-352-6016



January 11: District 5630 Rotarians wore blue to recognize [National Human Trafficking Day](#).



The **St. Paul Rotary Club** is challenging every Rotarian and club in the district to donate money to buy [Shelter Boxes](#) for people in need in Turkey, Syria, and Ukraine.

Please send a check to District 5630, c/o 351 Crestview Dr. Ogallala, NE 69153. Our goal is to reach \$10,000 to buy 10 shelter boxes. Please mail your check by April 22 so we can announce the results at the District Conference on April 29.

Watch and share [St. Paul’s Video Challenge](#).

JUST FOR YOU:

HOW TO STRENGTHEN YOUR MEMBERSHIP

Log in to My Rotary then Click on the Links Below

ASSESS

Membership Assessment Tools (Recently Updated)

Be intentional about improving your club experience. Use these tools and their results to make changes.

- Getting to Know Prospective and New Members (member interest survey)
- Understanding How Your Club Represents Your Community (diversity assessment)
- Finding People to Invite (prospective member exercise)
- Engaging and Keeping Members (retention assessment and analysis)
- Enhancing the Club Experience (member satisfaction survey)
- Understanding Why Members Leave (exit survey)

WELCOME

• Introducing New Members to Rotary

Develop a process for engaging new members from the start by helping them get involved, connecting them with a mentor, and pacing the learning over time.

• Rotary Basics

This comprehensive guide covers everything from how Rotary began to how you can optimize your membership experience.

• Connect for Good

This eight-page guide shows how to get involved and connect with Rotary.

Emily Tucker, our Regional Membership Chair, does a great job in advising us on how to increase – and even more important – retain our membership. Please use these tools provided at the [Learning Center at Rotary.org](http://LearningCenteratRotary.org) to learn from those who have found what works in growing your membership.

And please remember I'm here to help you with your membership challenges -- and to celebrate your success!

Kellie Soden

District Membership Chair
McCook Rotary Club
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303-589-3459



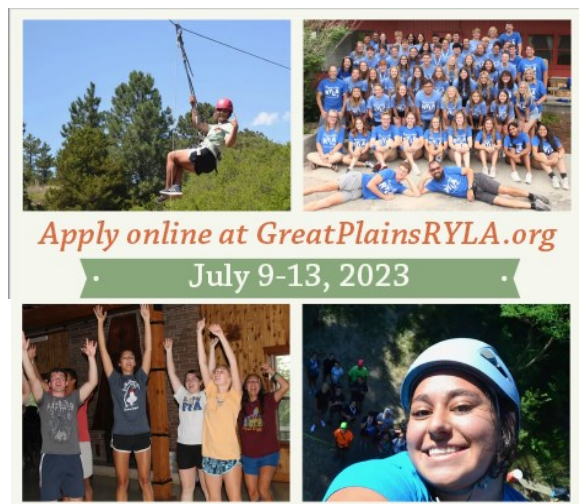
RYLA APPLICATIONS CLOSE MARCH 31

RYLA student applications are open until **Friday, March 31**, so you still have a little time to reach out to your area schools. It is open to sophomores and juniors who exhibit leadership or potential leadership abilities.

You'll find the application, FAQs, and lots of helpful information about RYLA at GreatPlainsRYLA.org.

Held from July 9-13, this year's camp will be at [Maranatha Camp](http://MaranathaCamp) near Maxwell, Nebraska.

If you need help with contacting schools or how to reach out, please get in touch with *Monty Vonasek* or *Kiersten Lange* at chair@gpryla.org.



Tips for Growing Your Club's Public Image

Rotary clubs, just like businesses, need a good public image to foster growth and success. The simplest ideas can become effective Public Image practices that can be integrated into your club processes and annual goals. Ask yourselves what your ultimate goal is and then develop strategies to attain it.

Getting Started. Review your marketing and membership goals. Is your club's priority to build membership or to enhance its image and visibility in the community? Or both? Do you want to target a specific demographic, like younger members? Defining your desired outcomes helps you determine your strategies.

Evaluation. Discuss with club members what they feel is the current image of the club in the community. Ask your family and friends how they see your club and compare this data with how your members view your club.

Inventory. It doesn't take much money to promote your club effectively. Often local TV and radio stations and newspapers provide community announcements for free or for a low cost. Your website and social media channels not only reach a global audience, but easily reach prospective members with your message. The more people are aware of your club, the more inclined they are to participate in future events and meetings.

The Message. Just like a business, your club needs a mission statement or slogan that defines your club. An effective statement can maximize your brand, giving prospective members something to remember you by. Make your slogan or mission statement short and relatable to your "audience."

Be Involved. Sponsor local youth clubs, high school teams or events – great marketing opportunities that are not costly. Sponsorships ensure that more people become aware of your club.

Be Contemporary. A single brochure is no longer enough to effectively promote your club and its activities. Your promotional materials, including your website, should reflect your club's diversity and character. Use color in your promotional materials to catch your target audience's attention. Your promotional materials and website ultimately define your club's persona and character, so go ahead, be creative!

Be Relevant. Just like a business, your club has competitors. In recent years every affliction or cause seems to have been organized into a self-standing not-for-profit organization. They all contribute to society,

but they also draw people and dollars away from your club. When picking philanthropic activities, make sure they attract interest to your cause. Will the local news media give your event attention? Will the project make your club more attractive to prospective members?

Go Online! Take advantage of emails and e-bulletins to spread the word about your club. Post meeting notices, minutes, and general updates online for prospective members to see with just a click of a button. Stay on top of technology! The opportunities are endless!

Climb the Corporate Ladder. Most clubs center their recruitment efforts on specific individuals. Another strategy is to contact business owners and top-ranking managers with an invitation to join. Explain that as a club that strives to represent the community, your goal is to have at least one person from every local company among its membership. If the company is large, you might suggest multiple memberships representing different departments. Though you might not get the CEO, you'll probably gain a member who is truly honored to be part of your club.

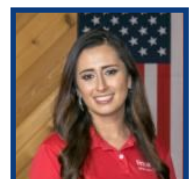
Create Community Partnerships. Consider partnering with other community organizations. Invite their employees to become members of the club or be guest speakers at key events. Ask if they would consider acknowledging your club on their website or newsletter.

Create Inter-Club Partnerships. Joining with sister clubs can significantly enhance the impact of your charitable endeavors. Not only will this create a larger volunteer pool, but it will result in reaching more people and raising more funds, not to mention gaining publicity!

Make Your Meetings Memorable. Create a master list of potential speakers from your community, ranging from the mayor to school teachers. Go out of your way to make new members and guests feel welcome. Your members are successful in the business world because they get results. Are your club meetings producing results?

To improve your club's public image, think of your club as a business. You're dealing with a brand and how you promote the brand is up to you.

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





Grant Training for Rotary District 5630 Clubs

For Rotary Year 2023-24

Offered on April 3, April 4, and April 6, 2023

7:00 p.m. Central via Zoom teleconference

Sessions will last 60 to 75 minutes.

Learn how to:

- Better Understand the Rotary Foundation
- Understand Foundation Giving
- Define the Rotary Foundation Funds
- Understand the SHARE System
- Understand District and Global Grants
- Understand the Grant Application Process

Club Requirements for Receiving District and Sponsor Global Grants:

- At least ONE member of your Club must complete grant training annually.
- The club member attending training MUST have a Rotary.org account.
- ANNUAL MOU (Memo of Understanding) signed by the Club President and President-Elect.
- Current on IRS 990 filing
- Current with District and RI Dues
- Foundation Annual Fund and Polio Plus Goals set at Rotary.org (7/1/23)

To register for one of the sessions, email PDG Dale Schultz at dg.2018@5630mail.org by Friday, March 31, 2023.



How Elvis Helped Promote the Polio Vaccine

The first time Elvis Presley performed on “The Ed Sullivan Show,” some 60 million people – more than a third of the United States’ then-population of 168 million, notes Joanne Kenen for *Politico* – tuned in.



One month after this record-breaking appearance, the King returned to the variety show, delivering rousing renditions of “Hound Dog,” “Love Me Tender” and “Don’t Be Cruel.” But before he took to the stage that day, October 28, 1956, Elvis posed for the press as he received a polio vaccine. Hundreds of newspapers across the country published accounts of the event with photos of the star smiling jovially as a doctor administered the shot.

At the height of outbreaks in the late 1940s, polio paralyzed an average of more than 35,000 people each year; the disease particularly affected children, infecting nearly 60,000 and killing 3,000 in 1952 alone. Spread virally, it proved fatal for two out of every ten victims afflicted with paralysis.

Though millions of parents rushed to inoculate their children following the introduction of Jonas Salk’s vaccine in 1955, teenagers and young adults had proven more reluctant to get the shot. As the *New York Times* reported the day after Elvis’ television appearance, just 10 percent of New York City’s teenagers had been vaccinated to date, “despite the fact that, after young children, they were the most susceptible to the disease.”

Public health officials recruited Elvis, who had skyrocketed to fame that year with his gyrating hips, crooning tunes and rakish good looks, to mobilize America’s teens.

“He is setting a fine example for the youth of the country,” New York City’s health commissioner, Leona Baumgartner, told the *Times*.

Between 1955 and 1957, polio cases in the U.S. dropped 81 percent, from 28,985 to 5,485. Elvis’ pre-show inoculation “was obviously a help in getting teenagers to take up the vaccine,” Stephen Mawdsley, an expert on modern American history at the University of Bristol, told the *Observer*’s Robin McKie in 2016, “but –intriguingly – not an overwhelming one.”

Instead, wrote Mawdsley in a 2016 journal article, much of the uptick in vaccination rates might be more attributable to the teenagers themselves. Supported by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP), later renamed March of Dimes, America’s youth established a group called Teens Against Polio (TAP).

To change their peers’ perceptions of the vaccine, TAP members employed a variety of methods, including producing pamphlets with such catchy slogans as “Don’t Balk at Salk,” collaborating with public health officials to subsidize injection costs and staging public events that highlighted the ease of getting vaccinated. Other strategies ranged from instituting a “no shots, no dates” policy in which young women refused to court unvaccinated suitors to hosting exclusive “Salk hops” that riffed on popular sock hop dances.

Elvis may not have singlehandedly vanquished polio, but he did play a part in eliminating the widely feared disease. In addition to receiving his vaccine publicly, the rock idol recorded a PSA that proclaimed “[t]he fight against polio is as tough as it ever was.” Months after the “Ed Sullivan” appearance, NFIP even offered photographs signed by Elvis himself to any fan club that could prove all of its members were vaccinated.

Adapted from [Smithsonian Magazine, December 22, 2020](#)

You may not be as popular as Elvis, but you can still do your part to eradicate polio. Show your gratitude for the vaccine and Rotary’s worldwide efforts by donating at endpolio.org/donate.

District 5630 Clubs: New Members, Strategic Planning



The **Chadron** club welcomes new member **Matt Jones**.



New **Hastings Sunrise** member **Brad Lindblad** receives his Rotary button.



McCook President **Joyce Anderson** pictured with new members **Josiah Burggraff** and **Katie Wheeler** with their sponsor, **Tarome Alford**. Well done, Tarome!



Here, **Joyce** is welcoming new member **Saraya Flaig** with her sponsor, **Vince Allen**. Way to grow, **McCook**!



North Platte Noon gained these three members in December and January: Top: **Summer Owen**, greeted by PDG **Mark Mendenhall** and **Misty Robertson**; **Monica Lynch** with club president **David Greiner**; and **Bob Morris**.



District Leaders presented a program on January 17 at **Grand Island Noon** on Leading in Changing Times. DGE **Glenn Knuth** presented on the national Rotary conference, PDG **Jerry Milner** on core values in the 4-way test, and District Trainer **Susan Jensen** on how generations can work together.



Dan Naranjo leads discussion.



John McHargue reporting.



Tonja Brown on membership.

After the January 17 visit from District Leaders, on January 31, **Grand Island Noon** had a well attended planning meeting, discussing what was important to each member, how they could make improvements, learning how much members care about what the club stands for, their commitment to youth, and the path they want to take in the future.

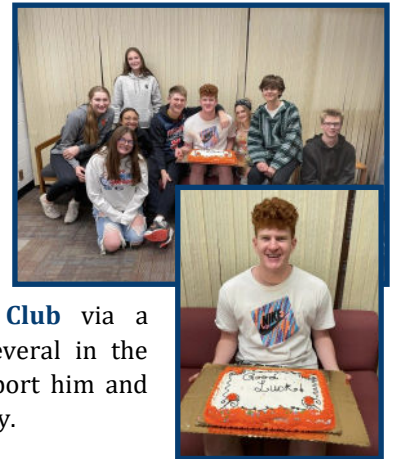
District 5630 Interact/Rotaract News

Interact Club Offering Halsey T-Shirts until March 31



You have until 11 am on Friday, March 31, to order "Halsey Strong" T-shirts, sweatshirts, and hoodies from [Central Nebraska Interact Club's fundraiser](#). All proceeds go to the 4-H Foundation Fund for rebuilding the camp. Find the club on [Facebook](#).

In January, **Ogallala High School Interact Club President Evan Jones** traveled to Kenya to help with an eye care clinic started a few years ago by Dr. **Kim Baxter** of the **North Platte Rotary Club** via a Rotary global grant. Several in the community helped support him and make this dream a reality.



Lake Mac Rotaract



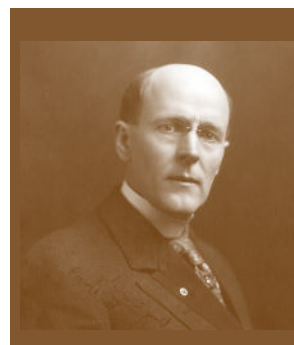
Meet **John Placke, Gracie Ackles, Maya Becker** and **Aidan Anderson**, officers of the **St. Paul Interact Club** who visited the Rotary Club in March. They discussed leadership opportunities, service projects and what was accomplished over the last year. Some of their creative projects included Christmas gift wrapping, hosting the Winter Ball, donating to the school backpack program and sponsoring a movie night for children. They're on Facebook at [facebook.com/InteractSPPS](#).



Lake Mac Rotaract held a Valentine's Day Sweet Shop Fundraiser, putting together both "Big Kids" and "Little Kids" boxes of sweet treats to help gift givers. These ladies were hard at work in the kitchen for over 6.5 hours to make it possible.

A special thanks to **Interactors** who helped and to New Hope for the use of their kitchen.

Eli Rogers of the **Central Nebraska Interact Club** is seeking donations to send Dolly Parton Imagination Library books to children in Custer County. His goal is an ambitious \$15,000 to set up a "nest egg" of funds to draw from when parents sign up their children for the program. To help out, send a check to Arnold Community Foundation, % Central NE Interact Club, 508 N Walnut, Arnold, NE 69120. Memo: Interact's Dolly Project. Email Eli at eli.rogers@arnoldpublicschools.org.



The foundation upon which Rotary has been built is friendship; on no less firm foundation could it have stood.

~Paul Harris
Founder of Rotary

District 5630 Clubs: Serving Their Communities - 1



Debbi Runner, president of the **Cambridge** Club, is soliciting support for the next phase of improvements to their downtown park, which includes adding amenities to the shelter they built last year; replacing the current archway and benches; and adding a “rustic” sign and flowers.



In January, **Hastings Noon** and **Sunrise** clubs packed 14,040 meals for Hearts and Hands Against Hunger. They enjoyed the privilege of packing the 8 millionth meal for this amazing organization.



In February, the **Holdrege** Club hosted a “Spread the Love” Wine Tasting & Charcuterie, inviting guests to bring donations of money – and peanut butter and jelly – to the event. Proceeds benefitted the local food pantry.



Also in February, members of the **Holdrege** club helped set up and tear down for the American Red Cross Blood Drive.



Keri Berry and Hannah Wick from **Holdrege** ringing bells for the Salvation Army at Orscheln's.

District 5630 Clubs: Serving Their Communities - 2



In March, the **Holdrege** club packed meals for Backpack Blessings of Holdrege, working with Holdrege Elementary, All Saints, and Legacy to provide children from Pre-K through 4th grade food supplements for weekend meals. They also helped provide snacks to 5th to 8th grade students at Holdrege Middle School.



Imperial is heading a project to obtain new tables for the Chase County Fairgrounds. They will recognize donors with plaques attached to the tables. *Melisa Owens* and *Sara Heermann* are the contacts on the project.



McCook sponsored a Rotary Soup-R-Bowl soup contest in February. Winners were the pork green chili, tomato soup, and dill pickle soup. The contest yielded thousands of items and \$581 in cash for the McCook pantry. At right: MNB bank employees helped unload three pickup loads at the Pantry.



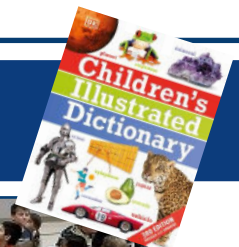
North Platte Noon Rotarians *John Hales* and *Blu McGrath* were among the volunteers helping set up North Platte's new seasonal skating rink.

District 5630 Clubs: Serving Their Communities - 3



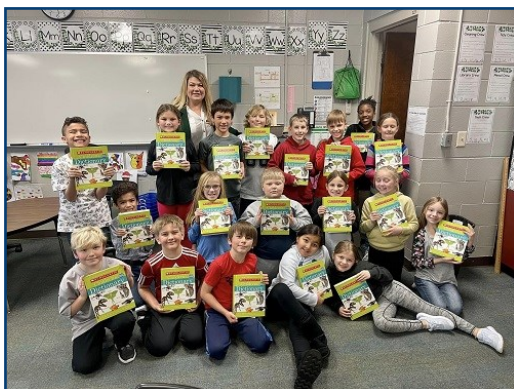
Ogallala Rotarians were at it again, packing up and cleaning after the Red Cross blood drive in January. According to his mom, this young man can't wait to help next time!

District 5630 Dictionary Days



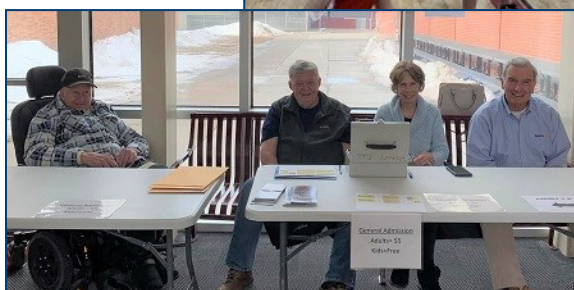
In February, **Chappell** club members took dictionaries to Mrs. Behrend's 3rd grade class at Creek Valley Elementary.

Cozad Rotary presented each 3rd grade student at the Cozad Elementary School with their very own dictionary! Rotarian *Claire Bazata* instructed the students how to use their dictionaries.



Holdrege Rotarians presented dictionaries to third grade students across Phelps County. Students in Bertrand, Loomis and Holdrege each received their own dictionary to use as a resource and learning tool.

District 5630 Rotarians: Encouraging the Youth



Gothenburg Promotes Youth Sports for a Good Cause

The **Gothenburg** Rotary Club hosted both a girls and boys youth basketball tournament in January as a fundraiser for their club. More than 20 teams from across Nebraska participated in each of the two weekend tournaments, held two weeks apart.

“This is a huge undertaking that requires the assistance of all our members,” said Gothenburg Rotarian *Tim Strauser*, organizer of the tournaments.

It’s all hands on deck each year for the more than 30 members of the Gothenburg Club, manning the admission table at the door, concession stand, and scoring table and helping referee the games. The Gothenburg High School Interact Club also steps up and helps with the tournaments each year, as does the high school girls basketball team.

While the basketball tournaments are a great money-making project for the club, they also provide an opportunity for the Rotarians to have a presence with the younger generation in the community by serving together. It really is a win-win.



The **Cambridge** club presented **Brenna Deterding**, a junior at Cambridge High School, with the Cambridge Student of the Quarter award. She’s pictured here with Rotarian **Cheryl Haakenson**.

Hats off to **Kearney Noon’s Sarah Cathcart Mills**, who appeared on Kearney’s KGFw’s “Talk of the Town” radio program to talk about their club; how Rotary makes a difference in Ukraine – and the rest of the world; our April 29th District Conference in Broken Bow; and the upcoming Rotary Youth Leadership Awards camp.

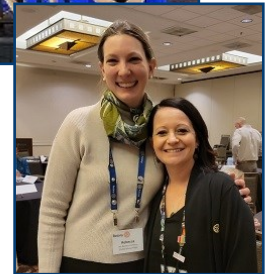


Click [here](#) to listen. It’ll make you proud to be a Rotarian!

High Country PETS 2023 a Resounding Success



Brooke Robertson and Jessop Adams, PE and PEN of the **Ogallala** club, all dressed up for the Saturday evening banquet.



Kearney Noon PE **Jeff Hinrichs** and District Protection Officer **Sarah Mills** pose with Dolly Parton. The club raises money for Dolly's Imagination Library.

Top: **Kearney Dawn's Scott McLaughlin**, District Director of Technology, and Club PE **McKenna O'Rourke**. Bottom: Rotary Friends Forever - **Angie Swanson (McCook)**, **Sarah Mills (Kearney)**, **Lore Beckius (Ogallala)**; Right: Angie with **Wheat Ridge CO** club president, **Rebecca Jeffares**, who lives in Bavaria, Germany.



District 5630 hosted the Saturday night banquet. Our people did us proud. DGE **Glenn Knuth** gave a rousing Nebraska welcome and introduction to **Ogallala's** PE **Brooke Robertson**, **McCook's** PEN **Ben Dutton**, and **Jobeth and Aaron Halling**, PE and PEN of **North Platte Sunrise**, who told their unique Rotary stories.



Club Presidents Elect from six states gathered for the High Country PETS – which has the reputation of being one of the best in the nation. **Gothenburg's Aaron Colwell** shared this photo. He's in there somewhere!

Can you spot the **District 5630 DGs** among the district attendees? There are **SIX** of them – Past, Present, and Future.

Congratulations to These **Paul Harris** Fellows

The Paul Harris Fellow award recognizes individuals who contribute, or who have contributions made in their name, of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation. Thank you for your contributions to continue the legacy of Rotary.



Hastings Sunrise: Doug Koopman receiving Paul Harris award from President Susie Kryzsko.



Kearney Dawn: Club President Scott McLaughlin presenting a Paul Harris +7 to Connie Francis and a Paul Harris +3 to Tom Murphy.



McCook: Catherine McDowell receiving her Paul Harris Fellow from president Joyce Anderson.



Ogallala: Club President Teresa Delahunty sharing smiles with Shelly McQuillan holding her Paul Harris +1 pin and Mike McQuillan, with his Paul Harris +5 pin.



Congratulations to O'Neill's Cindy Cole on her 4th Paul Harris award, presented by club president Amy Shane.

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 **June 23, 2023**.
Please submit your photos and/or articles by **Monday, May 29**, to daa@5630mail.org.

Thanks, *Cheryl Bryan*

Rotary District 5630 - *Rotarians in Action*



2022-23

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