

# Rotarians in Action



Rotary District 5630

2022-23 • Edition 4 • Summer 2023

## District Governor's Message

One year – 12 months – 365 days - 8760 hours - 525,600 minutes. One year ago I had the honor of stepping into the District Governor's shoes, in the steps of some tremendous Rotarians. Rotary International President **Jennifer Jones** challenged her DG class (me included) to take these precious 365 days – 525,600 minutes – and inspire – impact – do good.

I was humbled by the task, and frankly it's been wonderful. I am more grateful than words can say for each and every one of you. I was impressed and continue to be impressed by your clubs, your members, and your accomplishments at home and around the globe.

The club visits were educational – you had much to teach me. Even communities I visited multiple times through my career in the newspaper world surprised me.

We had 196 \*giving souls at the conference in April – WOW – 20 clubs stepping up to embrace the governor's challenge – another WOW – a new club emerged, Cheyenne County Rotary – again WOW. We had clubs celebrate their centennials and members cross the 50 years of membership mark. We honored our veterans and fed our firemen as emergencies appeared.

We took education seriously, having our first (in a long time) district summit, surrounding it with Zooms and keynote speakers; and on top of everything, hosted the Rotary Impact Tour – two districts - 10 communities – 10 days. Thank you.

**\*District Conference Giving:** \$1,000 to HotMeals; \$10,600 to the Rotary Foundation; \$16,191 to ShelterBox; \$5,033 to Polio Plus, which with the Gates Foundation match totals \$15,099.

When the 4H camp burned down in Halsey, the RYLA team stepped up and started anew; when COVID derailed RYE, the RYE team stepped up, revamped and is off and running. With human trafficking rearing its ugly head, our rock star Human Trafficking chair hit the road, and educational efforts expanded.

All of this happened and is happening not because of me, but because of you!!! You know your communities and their needs; you have friends in far-off lands and know their needs and are taking action.

Former First Lady Rosalynn Carter once said that a leader takes people where they want to go – a great leader takes people where they don't necessarily want to go but ought to be....

As we venture into the new Rotary year, "Creating Hope in the World," don't be afraid to venture into the unknown and try something different – new projects – new meeting times – new friends - new adventures.

As the leaders you are, craft your actions to inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more. Paul Revere was a silversmith – and a good one at that – but it is the work he completed as a volunteer for which he is best known.

Most sincerely,

**PDG Deb McCaslin**

**DG Deb McCaslin 2022-23**  
Broken Bow Area Rotary Club  
308-870-2909  
[5630.dg.2022@gmail.com](mailto:5630.dg.2022@gmail.com)



## Welcome, Cheyenne County Rotary Club!

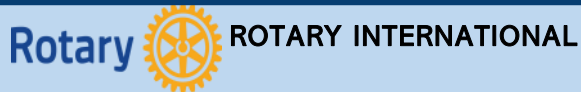


After months of meetings, planning, and high hopes, the [Cheyenne County Rotary Club](#) received its charter on Wednesday, June 21, 2023, with 19 members.

Appropriately, it also marked one of their first service projects: providing fun for local kids at the park with a bicycle giveaway, hot dogs, a bookmobile, and plenty of playground playtime. DGE *Glenn Knuth*, PDG *Bob Mayber*, and PDG *Scott McLaughlin* were on hand when DG *Deb McCaslin* presented the charter to Club President *Toshia Jones*. And the next day, DG Deb proudly awarded all the new members Rotary pins. Other officers of the club are *Kendra Mitchell* and *Jamie Bright*, Secretary and Treasurer.

Jones, president of Sidney Chamber of Commerce since September 2022, got a taste of what Rotary is all about by attending the April 28-29 District Conference in Broken Bow. On May 11, the club enjoyed a social meeting where PDG *Bob Mayber* (North Platte) and DGN *Lore Beckius* (Ogallala) gave a Rotary 101 presentation. Cheyenne County Rotary has spread the Rotary message with a very active Facebook page and by sponsoring a booth at the June 8th "Night Out in Potter."

"They have a great club – movers, shakers ... folks wanting to do good. They have already accomplished a couple of projects and have several on the horizon," said DG Deb McCaslin.



A Global Network of Community Volunteers

One Rotary Center  
1560 Sherman Avenue  
Evanston, IL 60201  
[www.rotary.org](http://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](http://www.rotary5630.org)

#### District Governor 2022-23

Deb McCaslin [5630.dg.2022@gmail.com](mailto:5630.dg.2022@gmail.com)

#### Leadership Development

Jerry Milner [jerrymilner@hotmail.com](mailto:jerrymilner@hotmail.com)

#### District Governor Elect 2023-24

Glenn Knuth [dg.2023@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2023@5630mail.org)

#### PolioPlus Chair

Dr. Delane Wycoff [delanew@charter.net](mailto:delanew@charter.net)

#### District Governor Nominee/Public Image Chair

Lore Beckius [loreb@wolfauto.com](mailto:loreb@wolfauto.com)

#### RAGAS (Rotary Action Group against Slavery)

Angela Swanson [angieswanson@hotmail.com](mailto:angieswanson@hotmail.com)

#### District Membership Chair

Kellie Soden [rkasoden@msn.com](mailto:rkasoden@msn.com)

#### RYLA Chair

Kiersten Lange [kkierstenn@gmail.com](mailto:kkierstenn@gmail.com)

#### District Foundation & Grants Chair

PDG Dale Schultz [dg.2018@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2018@5630mail.org)

#### Interact Chair

Nicole Badgley [nicole\\_badgley@yahoo.com](mailto:nicole_badgley@yahoo.com)

#### Global Grants Chair

PDG Don Peterson [dg.2015@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2015@5630mail.org)

#### Youth Exchange Chair

Paula Witt [wittinc@icloud.com](mailto:wittinc@icloud.com)

#### District Trainer

Susan Jensen [jensensm1@unk.edu](mailto:jensensm1@unk.edu)

#### District Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Bryan [daa@5630mail.org](mailto:daa@5630mail.org)

#### District Treasurer

Brooke Robertson [brooke.robertson@ampf.com](mailto:brooke.robertson@ampf.com)

## Message from Glenn Knuth District Governor 2023-24



Hello, fellow Rotarians!

I am looking forward to meeting you as I make my club visits. Speaking of which, *Cheryl Bryan*, our District Secretary, will be reaching out to schedule my visits. But if you want, you can help by checking with her at [daa@5630mail.org](mailto:daa@5630mail.org) to set your date.

I've already been to **Minden** where *Kevin Raun* shared with the club the history of the hand corn planter and his trip to Nigeria. I was at Sidney for the **Cheyenne County** Rotary Charter and their Project 1 in the park where they gave a bike away to every child there that didn't have one and made 15 kids very happy. I was at **Chappell**, where the club of 12 gave out six Paul Harris awards. Two were first time Paul Harris fellows, and the rest had multiple PH awards. If you have a special event or project, let me know, and I'll see if I can make it.

While I was at one of the District Governor training sessions the discussion was about fundraisers, and I realized we have a great one with the "Big Red Blowout." You can help out by selling your tickets or

buy them yourself, because it's the Rotary thing to do. Help keep your dues down, help the District, help your club, help the foundation, because it's the Rotary thing to do.

You can also help RYLA not only by sending campers – "Rylarians" – they are future Rotarians – but with cash donations for all the things lost in the fire at Halsey. Yes, because it's the Rotary thing to do.

Let's not lose our District! Who invited you to join this great organization? Who was the last person or when was the last time you invited someone to a meeting or project?

Think of a fun project where you could invite someone to help. They might want more info, and you can have fellowship and fun!

Looking forward to 23-24!

**Glenn Knuth**

District Governor Elect

308.380.8786

[dg2023@5630mail.org](mailto:dg2023@5630mail.org)



**Rotary Action Group  
Against Slavery**



Sunday, July 30, is **World Day Against Trafficking**. The Rotary clubs in **Ogallala**, **McCook** and **North Platte (Sunrise and Noon)** will be hosting events in their communities to raise awareness on human trafficking.

Also, starting July 3, **Sound of Freedom** will hit theaters. "This movie shines a light on one of the most horrific crime industries in the world: child trafficking," states the Angel Studios website. Based on a true story, the movie stars Jim Caviezel (*The Count of Monte Cristo*, *The Passion of the Christ*) as Tim Ballard, a man who spent over a decade working as a special agent at the Department of Homeland Security. *Sound of Freedom* highlights one of his first missions to free dozens of children from sex trafficking and exploitation. "It is a story of the fight for freedom and hope, even in the darkest of places."

If your club would like the movie to come to your community, go to [Angel.com/freedom](http://Angel.com/freedom). Enter your zip code, and select "Request my Theater."

Here's a link to the trailer: [Sound of Freedom Theatrical Trailer](#).

**Angie Swanson**

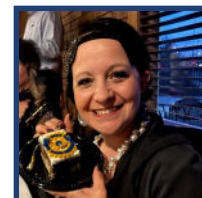
District Chair, **RAGAS**

(Rotary Action Group Against Slavery)

McCook Rotary Club

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

308-352-6016





# Nebraska/Poland Partnership Helps in Ukraine

## District 5630 and Rotary Club Gorzow-Wielkopolski, Poland, Join Hands

In May 2022, Paula Witt ([Hastings Sunrise](#)) joined a tour group of Rotarians from Minnesota to visit Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, and Warsaw, Poland.



Paula contacted her Youth Exchange partner in Poland, **Krystyna Baj-Pawluk**, to determine what assistance their group of Rotarians could give to the Ukrainian refugees in crisis in Poland. In response, the 10 Rotarians in the group transported over 250 pounds of

clothing and supplies for distribution. In addition, over \$6700 was donated by Rotarians and forwarded to Baj-Pawluk. They put this project together with our financial assistance.

Rotarians in Gorzów Wielkopolski recognized the immense needs of the women and children who fled war in their country. Needs varied from shelter, food, and clothing to jobs, language, and education. But Rotarians also came to realize the severe emotional and mental health needs of these women and children, resulting from their displacement, leaving husbands and fathers to fight the war, and all the unknowns of being refugees.

The [Gorzów Wielkopolski Rotary Club](#) determined to provide support, counseling and special equipment to diagnose and treat depression, which was so debilitating for their refugees. Local therapists and psychologists agreed to serve and volunteer as counselors and advisors. In addition, some of the Ukrainian women themselves

volunteered to be trained and prepared to operate the equipment.



This special equipment, from [Sooma Medical](#), is based on clinical research which applies neurostimulation for the treatment of major depressive disorders. It is only available in the EU at this time.

Each unit includes a skull cap with electrodes and saline patches. The electrodes are attached to a portable unit (about the size of a deck of cards). The patient receives a series of mild electro-stimulations over 30 minutes, over 10 to 15 sessions.

The Psychological Assistance Center for Refugees from Ukraine opened August 30, 2022. So far, over 110 women and children have experienced this therapy with the SOOMA equipment. Most patients are seeing significant improvement in their conditions, and there is an increasing demand for these services.

This is an awesome example of Rotarians joining hands with other Rotarians around the world to make a huge difference to those in need.

### Paula Witt

Youth Exchange Chair  
Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club  
wittinc@icloud.com  
402-460-0005



## The Four Way Test

of the things we think, say and do

1. Is it the **TRUTH**?
2. Is it **FAIR** to all concerned?
3. Will it build **GOODWILL** and **BETTER FRIENDSHIPS**?
4. Will it be **BENEFICIAL** to all concerned?



# Feeding the World One Seed at a Time in Nigeria

**P**ast District Governor (2019-20) **Scott McLaughlin** recently posted a summary report on Facebook of District 5630's Global Grant (GG1876785), "Improving Agricultural Economy in Nigeria," which was initiated before his service year as District Governor. He also posted a video of the ceremony in Nigeria celebrating the project and all it will accomplish.

Here is an edited version of his report and a link to a 34-minute video of the celebration and results of the project.

The grant was originally conceived as a project for Uganda, then El Salvador and finally Abuja, Nigeria.

Unfortunately, there were many difficulties, the least of which was the worldwide COVID-19 pandemic, and the project was delayed for a several years. I could not mention all the Rotarians whose dedication led to the completion of the project, but a few need to be mentioned: **Kevin Raun** and **Don Peterson** (Minden), who initiated and completed the global grant; **Fikayo Oyebiyi** (Stillwater, Okla.), who served on the Vocational Training Team; **Pietro Uzochukwu Macleo** (Past President Rotary Club of Abuja Wuse II); **Dr. Usman Ali** of Oklahoma State University; and **Jolomi Eliot**, Project Committee Member.

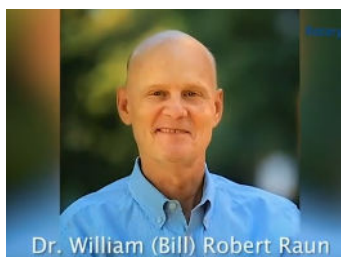
Kevin's cousin, **Dr. Bill Raun**, who passed away in 2021, invented the planter and spent years of development of the hand planter with a vision of leaving the world a tool that would aid in the agricultural development of developing nations.

In addition are the many partners including District 5630 (Nebraska), District 9125 (Nigeria) and Oklahoma State University (Department of Agriculture).

**Kevin** and **Fikayo** traveled to Nigeria in April 2023 as members of a Vocational Training Team (VTT) to teach grant beneficiaries how to assemble, disassemble, clean, and maintain the planter. In addition, there was classroom training on the benefits of crop agronomics, fertilization and proper planting techniques.

All beneficiaries were trained in the field, and a test crop was planted using their new planters. They also received seed and fertilizer to plant their own crops when returning to their villages.

This [YouTube Video](#) shows the celebration ceremony; the 50 beneficiaries – many of them female heads of household; inside and field training sessions; plans to manufacture the planters in Africa; and some of the challenges and solutions.



Dr. William (Bill) Robert Raun



Pietro Uzochukwu Macleo,  
Abuja



Fikayo Oyebiyi, Oklahoma



Jolomi Eliot, Abuja



Kevin Raun training a beneficiary to assemble the planter.



Field Training



Some of the beneficiaries.



## District 5630 Clubs Serving Their Communities



**St. Paul** Rotarians building the fence for the new Community Garden.



**Lake Mac** Rotaract collected diapers and baby wipes for the community Diaper Drive to benefit SCIP, Women's Resource Center, CASA & DHHS.



District Membership Chair **Kellie Soden** was one of the **McCook** Rotarians helping at a community supper.



**NP Sunrise** Rotarians **Aaron Halling** and **Jake Rissler** helped rake and prep fields between games at the Flatrock Youth Baseball tournament in May.



**Cheyenne County's** first community service project on June 21: a Kids Cookout in the Park, with hot dogs, a playground, bicycle giveaway and bike repair, music, and a book mobile.



**Cambridge** Rotarians pitched in on ongoing improvements to their downtown park. Pictured: **Cheryl Haakensen, Reg Warner, Sam Jaeger, Russ Wood, Kate Warner** and behind the camera **Debbi Runner**.



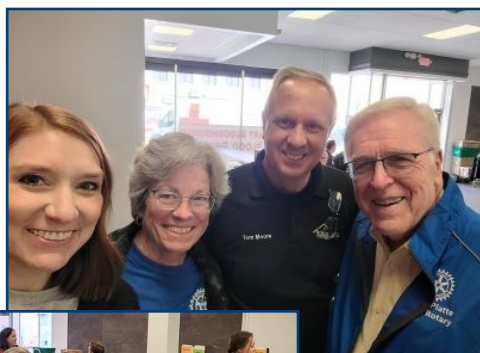
In April, **Hastings Sunrise** Rotarians helped pack meals at **Hearts and Hands Against Hunger** for families in need in Guatemala.



## Serving at Blood Drives



March - Lake Mac Rotaract/Ogallala Rotary



Giving blood: PE *Brian Phares* and Past President *Louise Hoffmann*

April - North Platte Noon: Bloodhounds Blood Drive



May - Cambridge Rotary and Red Cross Crew at blood drive to honor Addie Samuelson-Carbaugh

## Happening Now: District 5630's 15th Big Red Blowout!



### Big Red Blowout 15 2023

Why should YOU participate?

#### 4 Reasons to Participate

1. Your Support to the Foundation!  
(1/2 the money is returned to District)
2. Your Support to the District!  
(No Dues Increase for YOU, last 14 years!)
3. Your Support to your Club!
4. Activities for Your Club! My experience is to attract and retain members is to have FUN projects. Most people like Nebraska football and would love a bus trip to a game.

#### **One Simple Step!**

**Sell 1 or more Packets of Tickets!!**

**Want to Ride the Bus! Be 1 of 3 Top Sellers!!**

#### Sales Secrets: ASK!! Text to Friends!!

#### Questions?

Paul Stec Phone: 308-440-3713  
Tiffany Ritchie Phone: 308-440-4302

Email: [socpstec@gmail.com](mailto:socpstec@gmail.com)  
Email: [ritchieth@gmail.com](mailto:ritchieth@gmail.com)

#### NEBRASKA VS LA TECH - SEPTEMBER 23rd

#### 10 RAFFLE WINNERS

#### How the raffle works!

*At the end of the selling period, we draw 10 winning tickets, and both the buyer and seller receive:*

2 round trip motor coach seats (pick up at North Platte, Kearney & Grand Island)  
(If the winner lives 100+ miles away we will provide a motel room.)

2 seats in Memorial Stadium

2 passes to the tailgate party in Lincoln

2 buffets at Chances "R", York

#### 3 TOP SELLERS

*The top 3 highest selling members receive:*

2 round trip motor coach seats (pick up at North Platte, Kearney, Grand Island)  
(If the winner lives 100+ miles away we will provide a motel room.)

2 passes to a tailgate party

2 buffets at Chances "R", York

AND COURTESY OF



#### FIRST PLACE

Also, receives 2 club seats at Memorial Stadium.

#### SECOND PLACE

Also, receives 2 tickets to the Champions Club.

#### 100% CLUBS

*Clubs who sell 10 tickets (1 packet) for every member receive an extra \$100 for their club funds!*

Drawing will be held on September 6th at the Kearney Dawn Rotary Club Meeting.



## District 5630 Clubs: Serving the Environment



**Ogallala** Rotarian *Rod Ruzanic* gathered Interactors, Rotaractors, and Rotarians to landscape and beautify the Keith County courthouse.



18 bags of trash no longer littering the highway picked up by **Cambridge** Rotary (against high winds).



The **McCook** club went out on a sunny day in May to pick up trash along the highway.



**Grand Island Noon's** Highway Cleanup Crew



In April, **Hastings Noon's** annual Highway 281 clean-up proved volunteering has its rewards. Sometimes you even find money!



Thanks to the **Broken Bow** and **Kearney** clubs and generous donors, Custer County Fairgrounds now has a pollinator garden!





## District Interact Clubs Doing Their Service Things



**St. Paul Interact** - Highway Cleanup in May



**Ogallala Interact** collected 253 pairs of used eyeglasses for Dr. Kim Baxter (North Platte) to take to Kenya during his next mission trip.



**O'Neill Interact Club** ready to serve! Front Row, left to right: Treasurer Hana Miller, Mallorie Scott, Hailey Scofield, Avery Larson, Vice President Keely Chavez, Kiley Liable. Back Row, left to right: Zuri Moore, Quincy Young, Secretary Sydney Young, President Wreece Liewer, Haley Schluns. Not pictured: Taaler Miller.



**Imperial Interact** seniors received their cords.



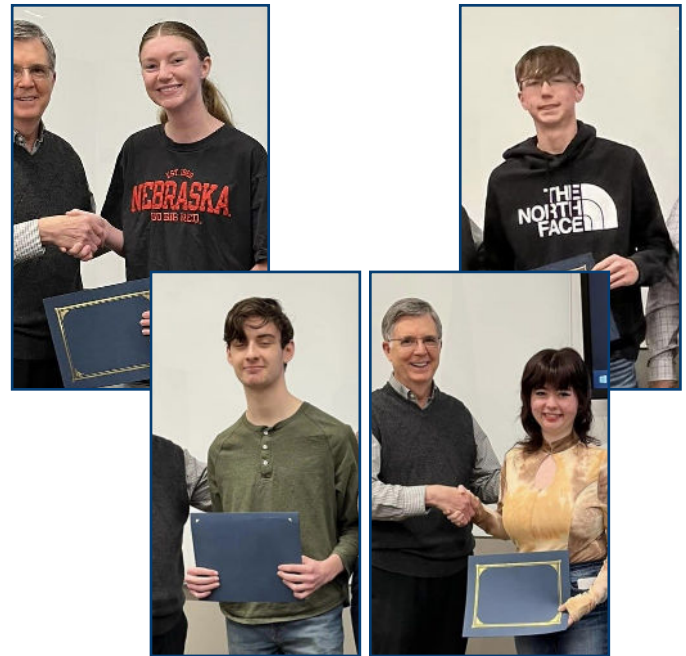
Members of **St. Paul Interact** at the District Conference in Broken Bow. Aiden Anderson (center) received the **Interactor of the Year** Award.



# District Clubs Supporting Our Youth through Scholarships



**O'Neill's** Scholarship winners *Emma Winklebauer* and *Isaac Everitt*, pictured with club President *Amy Shane*.



**Kearney Dawn** awarded \$1,000 scholarships to *Alivia Olson*, *Joshua Sykes*, *Hayley Dickey*, and *Carson Mercer* with instructions to dream big and study hard.



**McCook's** scholarship winners: *Natalie Roberts*, *Carsyn Craig*, *Leah Spencer*, *Madison Tarencz-Rasmussen*, and *Charlie Bortner*.



*Grace Timm* and *Jordan Bocock* received \$500 scholarships from the **Chappell** club.



**Hastings Sunrise** presented "Overcomers Awards" and scholarships to *Campbell Schukei* of Hastings High, *Karol Resinger* of St. Cecilia, and *Maria Martinez* of Adams Central.



**Imperial** Rotary's Scholarship Winners.



## District 5630 Rotarians: Encouraging Our Youth



**McCook** Rotary organized a “Reality Check” program for 8th graders to learn about managing their finances. Topics included student loans, utilities, communications, entertainment, and groceries. Pictured on left: *Bruce and Cathy McDowell*; Center: *Kellie Soden, Angie Swanson, and Joyce Anderson*. On right: *Jessica Bortner with students*.



**Chappell** invited various Creek Valley high school students in March and April to give programs: Clockwise from top left: the Creek Valley Boys Golf Team; the Creek Valley Ladies Track Team; Creek Valley Valedictorian *Ella Ingen* and Salutatorian *Emily Marin*; FFA officers; and Sidney High School student *Deanna Horst*, selected by the club to attend RYLA this summer.



**Cozad** Rotary invited FFA students *Sydney, Cadence, and Sofia* and their advisor, *Mrs. Bivins*, to present their marketing plan. They placed 5th in the state.



Just a few of the 58 Adams County students honored by the **Hastings Noon** club at a luncheon in April.



# Rotary Youth Exchange: Hellos and Goodbyes



At the District Conference Rotary Youth Exchange Chair *Paula Witt* introduced and congratulated the 2022-23 inbound and 2023-24 outbound students. From left to right: *Annabel* (Germany); *Maria* (Brazil); *Clara* (Germany); *Douglas* (Brazil); and *Iñigo* (Spain). On the right: *Johan* (from Grant to Hiroshima, Japan) and *Sienna* (from McCook to Spain).



The [North Platte Sunrise](#) club said so-long to their RYE student *Annabel* on June 8 – and also celebrated her recent birthday.



*Iñigo* – officially licensed in Lincoln County, Nebraska - with *John Hales* ([North Platte](#)).



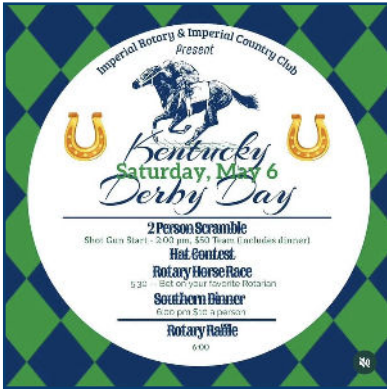
RYE Student *Douglas* visited the [Kearney Dawn](#) club with RYE chair *Paula Witt*, pictured here with club president and PDG *Scott McLaughlin*.



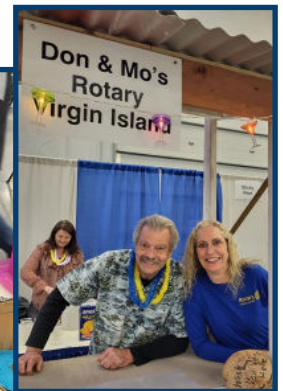
*Iñigo*, [Ogallala's](#) RYE student, served as a Junior class attendant during graduation and received a commemorative American flag.



# How We Raise Funds - 1



**Imperial** put the “fun” into their Kentucky Derby fundraiser, combining golf, “horse” racing, dinner, and a raffle, which raised \$7,000 for the club.



The **Grand Island Clubs** (**Noon** and **Sunrise**) raised money for Youth Leadership Tomorrow and End Polio Now at their April 15th “Taste of Grand Island.”



**O'Neill Satellite** invited local athletes to have fun and win prizes in their March 17th dodgeball tournament. Winning teams, from left to right: *Untouchables*, *Lucky Charms*, and *Major Minorities*.



44th running of **O'Neill's** Shamrock Fun Run.



You could have ordered Easter eggs online from **Lake Mac!**

The **Minden** Club sold root beer floats at the Pioneer Village's 70th anniversary celebration.



Summer 2023







# Clubs Welcoming New Members



**Hastings Sunrise** president *Susie Kryzsko* welcomes *Jennifer Krings*.



**St. Paul's** new member, *Dallas Zimbelman*.



Welcome, *Gregg Mooney*, to the **North Platte Sunrise** club, pictured with club president *Stuart Shepherd*. Gregg is a former Marine and owner of Goosehead Insurance Agency.



**North Platte Noon** club president-elect *Brian Phares* with returning member *Alisa Forbes*.



New member ceremony for Chamber of Commerce Director *Tawny Craig* at the **Ogallala** club.



**Cozad** has added two new members: *Anita Powers* (Homestead Bank) and *Wilson Hupp* (attorney at Hart, Huyser & Miller).



**McCook Club** President *Joyce Anderson*, new member *Josiah Burggraff*, and *Tarome Alford*, Josiah's sponsor.



It's a membership celebration! On April 19, **Gothenburg Noon** celebrated the end of their membership challenge with five new members: *Tony Collins*, *Brock Massin*, *Kelly Aden*, *Julie Czochara* and *Cheyenne McVay*.



# And We Celebrate Our Current Members!



**Grand Island Noon** regularly spotlights their members on their [Facebook page](#). Here are their March and April spotlights, which not only build goodwill and better friendships, but publicize to the community the diversity of professions and expertise in the club.



**Don Deitemeyer** (retired-advertising): member of six boards, all-around idea and action man.



**Susan Nickerson** (NE Dept. of Economic Development) is inspired by PolioPlus.



Because **Julie Wright** (marketing) and her husband Dana are both members, their daughter benefited from RYLA.



**Jack Welch** (Southern Public Power District) is part of a Rotary fellowship of scuba divers.



**Kent Brown** (trucking), past president, appreciates weekly programs, service projects, and the benefits of club fundraisers.



**Dana Jelinek** (tourism), who received the club's Spirit of Rotary award, thanked the other members of the club for all they do.



**Russ Wood** of the **Cambridge** club was awarded a 50-year member pin and certificate and a Veteran's pin at the District 5630 Conference. He was unable to attend the conference, so club president **Debbi Runner** presented them at a club meeting.



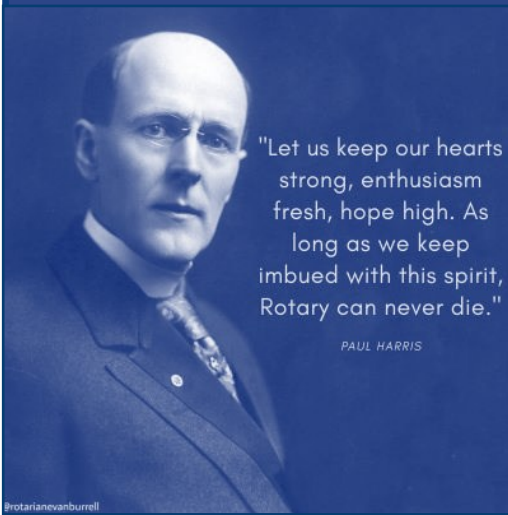
**Holdrege** honored **Keith Nelson** for his 60 years as a Rotarian, pictured with president **Keri Berry** and PDG **Dale Schultz**.



Club president **Randy Burge** presented **Don Kreis** with his **Gothenburg** Rotarian of the Year certificate, awarded at the District Conference in Broken Bow. Don leads the Interact Club, is the club's RYLA rep, and serves on the scholarship committee.



## Celebrating Members - 2



Kearney Dawn's Dick Cochran received the Elks' Citizen of the Year award for his work with HotMeals.



Kearney Noon Past President Sarah Mills presented Carol Renner with the club's Rotarian of the Year certificate, awarded at the District Conference.



Ronna Morse was selected by Valentine as their Rotarian of the Year for her endless dedication and support.

A very special Conference moment: PDG Bob Phares (1996-97) receiving special recognition for his 60 years as a Rotarian from his son, PE Brian Phares. Both are members of North Platte Noon.



Imperial celebrated Don Newman's 89th birthday in June. Don has been a Rotarian since 1981.

## And a Very Special Guest



Recent Kearney Noon guests included Senator Pete Ricketts, DG Deb McCaslin, Brad Stevens (State Director for Senator Ricketts), and Kearney Sertoma Club members. Ricketts is pictured here with club past president Sarah Cathcart Mills.





# What a Good Time We Had at the 2023 District Conference in Broken Bow!

## Welcoming Our Guests



DG Deb and District Secretary Cheryl flanked by special guests Pat Merryweather (RI Director, Naperville, Ill., ) and Suzi Howe (Past RI Director, Houston, Tex.).



DG Deb having fun on stage with Marshall "Fancy Pants" Butler, RI President Jennifer Jones' rep.



**Ready to Ride.** Can you spot our special guests who stayed Sunday morning to visit the McCaslin ranch? **Bob** and **Barb Bartle** (DG District 5650); RIP Rep **Marshall Butler** and **Karen**; Keynote speaker **Allen Beermann**; RI Director/RI VP 2023-24 **Pat Merryweather**; ARC **Faron Barr** (District 5710); PRID **Suzi Howe**.



District Conference registrations totaled 196. So much energy in the room!



## All Those Helpful People: District Conference - 2



Panel with a powerful message about Human Trafficking: Nebraska State Trooper **Tim Flick**, Custer County Judge **Tammy Schendt**; 31:8 Survivor and Mentor **Nikki Blowers**; 31:8 Founder **Stacy Schaffer**, and Organizer; and District Trafficking Chair **Angie Swanson**.



Our friendly if sometimes harried registrars: **Cheryl Bryan** (Smyrna, Tenn.) and **Colleen Gates** (Broken Bow).



Whoever heard of such a thing?  
A packed house for the Business Meeting.



The ever-helpful, always smiling [Central Nebraska Interactors](#) (above) and [Rotary Youth Exchange](#) students (below).



Special guests *Marshall* and *Karen Butler* enjoying one of the Friday tours, which included [Becton Dickinson](#), [Adams Land and Cattle](#), and [Kinkaid Brewery](#).



Suzi, Pat, and Deb honoring **Aiden Anderson**, Interactor of the Year



## Where Clubs Gather: District Conference - 3



Sarah Mills ([Kearney Noon](#)), Deb Minkler (Oberlin, Kan.), and Past RI Directory Suzi Howe (Houston, Tex.)



Lorena Beckius and Jim Delahunty ([Ogallala](#)), Angie Swanson ([McCook](#)), and Sarah Mills ([Kearney Noon](#)).



The [North Platte Noon](#) Seven: PE Brian Phares, President David Greiner, Past President Louise Hoffmann, Delane Wycoff, John Hales, Don Kurre, and PDG Bob Phares.



[North Platte](#) Rotarians and [RYE](#) students, all decked out for the BD Broken Bow tour.



[Minden](#), [Lexington](#), and [Kearney Dawn](#) were well represented by PDG Don Peterson, Connie Francis, Sue Bigg, Pam Hidy, Roger Hoffman, Michelle McKelvey, Paul Stec, PDG Scott McLaughlin, and PE McKenna O'Rourke.



The [Ogallala](#) Seven who attended the District Conference, with RYE student *Iñigo*.



[Kearney Noon](#) Rotarians, with a special thanks to [HotMeals](#) cooks Bob and Jeff (in aprons, of course.)



Special weekend guest and very young Rotarian Alex McCaslin ([Broken Bow](#)).



Four from [Grand Island Noon](#): DGE Glenn Knuth; club president Brad Mellema, secretary Barbara Graves, and PDG Jerry Milner.



The Human Trafficking panel held a special session for the Interact students.



Toshia Jones, newest president of our newest club, [Cheyenne County](#), chartered on June 21.



## Congratulations to These **Paul Harris** Fellows



A Paul Harris +4 for *Marvin Fritz* of **O'Neill**.



First Paul Harris for *Mike Eskelson*, member of the **Ogallala** club, with club president *Teresa Delahunty*.



**Ogallala** recognized community member *Rick Bourque* for his generous donation to their Haunted House fundraiser in October, which with the Gates Foundation match, yielded \$10,000 for PolioPlus.

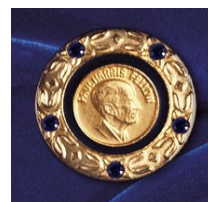


*Scott Orr* (right) receiving his Paul Harris +6 award from **North Platte** PE *Brian Phares*.



**Kearney Dawn** president *Scott McLaughlin* congratulates *Randy Kratochvil* on his third Paul Harris award.

### What is a Paul Harris Fellow?



The Paul Harris Fellow program recognizes people who have contributed \$1,000 or who have contributions made in their name of \$1,000 to The Rotary Foundation.

The honor was established in 1957 to show appreciation for contributions that support our Annual Fund, PolioPlus, or an approved Foundation grant.

Those who choose to contribute \$1,000 per year are members of the Paul Harris Society.

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

The publication target date for the next District 5630 newsletter is **September 15, 2023**.

Please submit your photos and/or articles by **Monday, August 28**, to [daa@5630mail.org](mailto:daa@5630mail.org).

Thanks, *Cheryl Bryan*

## Rotary District 5630 - *Rotarians in Action*



IMAGINE  
ROTARY

2022-23

RI President: **Jennifer Jones**

District Governor: **Deb McCaslin**

Newsletter Editor: *Cheryl Bryan* ([daa@5630mail.org](mailto:daa@5630mail.org))

