

Rotarians in Action



Rotary District 5630

2023-24 · Edition 1 · Fall 2023

District Governor's Message

Club Visits



One of the side benefits of making club visits is that I get to see some Nebraska sights I wouldn't have known about otherwise. At my recent **Valentine** club visit, for instance, I discovered the beginning of the Cowboy Trail, which goes east for 200 miles to Norfolk, and

the Bryan Bridge, built in 1932 and named the "Most Beautiful Steel Bridge" that year, out of bridges costing less than \$250,000.

In **Gothenburg** I visited the Pony Express Station, located in their beautiful Ehman Park Arboretum. I still have several club visits to make, so if you have areas of interest in your town, let me know. I'd love to make more discoveries!



Club Goals

A lot of our clubs still have not entered their goals at [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org). I'm encouraging all club presidents to do that by the end of September. Just sign in to [Club Central at Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org). Click on "Goal Center" on the left to view your goals or on "Resources" to learn how to enter them.

Attracting and Engaging Members

As many of you know, if our district does not meet the minimum size of 1100 members by July 1, 2024, we will have to be absorbed by one or more other districts. If clubs work together—sharing ideas, supporting each

other—we can make it through this critical time better than ever before!

As our new District Membership Chair, **Aaron Colwell of Gothenburg** welcomes your input. Add your passion for membership growth to his enthusiasm, bounce ideas off each other. If something has been working for your club, Aaron would like to hear about it so he can share it with the other clubs. See his appeal on page 7 of this newsletter.

Also consider what you can do to keep your members engaged. Are there some who don't participate outside your meetings? Some who don't even attend meetings? Talk to them: Find out their interests, their passions. Do your members know and value both the global and local impact of Rotary? Read about North Platte's "Blue Badge" program [page 8] which they use to educate their new members about all things Rotary.

Simplify Your Foundation Giving

Rotary Direct is the simplest way you can give to the Rotary Foundation. And we have an incentive for you! With every *five* new Rotary Direct signups, your club will be eligible to receive a Paul Harris Fellow you can give to a deserving community leader. Call PDG *Dale Schultz* at 402-460-1137 or email him at dg.2018@5630mail.org for more details.

And – for just \$2.80 per day, or \$85 per month, you'll become a member of the **Paul Harris Society** – Rotary members and friends of Rotary who commit to giving \$1,000 per year to the Annual Fund, PolioPlus Fund, or approved global grants.

It's the Rotary Thing to Do!

District Governor Glenn Knuth
Grand Island Sunrise Rotary Club
308-380-8786
dg.2023@5630mail.org



Can You Help?

Support our Newest Club



Chartered on June 15, 2023, the [Cheyenne County Rotary Club](#) has hit the ground running.

They've sponsored a Kids Cookout in the Park, had a booth at the showing of *The Sound of Freedom* movie about human trafficking, and

helped out in a Backpack Giveaway. On Saturday, September 23, they are raising funds for the PlainsWest CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) at the [Cheyenne County Anti-Bullying Day](#). HotMeals USA will be onsite to serve meals.

To offset HotMeal's food costs and expenses of \$2500, Past District Governor *Bob Mayber* is requesting donations from the more established clubs. Some clubs

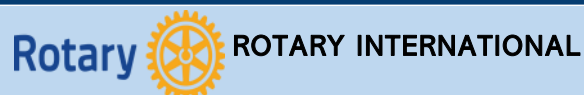
have committed to sending \$250, but whatever you can do as a club—or as an individual—would help the cause and encourage this new club as they show Cheyenne County what Rotarians can do. If you or your club want to help, phone or text Bob at 308-530-1068 or email him at dg.2021@5630mail.org.

Join the District Leadership Team

Want to make a difference on the district level? Do you have ideas for membership growth, foundation giving, or public image that would benefit other clubs?

The District is looking for “Rotary Rockstars” from clubs. Even if you don't consider yourself a “leader,” you have opinions and viewpoints and strengths that would help our District Chairs.

If you'd like to be involved at the District level, just give *DG Glenn Knuth* a call at 308-380-8786, and together you can discover where you'd be the best fit—whether it's serving on or chairing a committee.



A Global Network of Community Volunteers

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

Rotary International President 2023-24

Gordon R. McNally

Member of the South Queensferry Rotary Club
Lothian, Scotland

DISTRICT 5630 LEADERS

District 5630 Central and Western Nebraska

www.rotary5630.org

District Governor 2023-24 and DGE 2024-25

Glenn Knuth dg.2023@5630mail.org

New Club Development

IPDG Deb McCaslin dmccaslinx4@gmail.com

District Governor Nominee 2025-26

Public Image Chair 2023-24
Lore Beckius loreb@wolfauto.com

PolioPlus Chair

Don Kurre donk05@gmail.com

District Membership Chair

Aaron Colwell colwell.aaron@yahoo.com

RAGAS (Rotary Action Group against Slavery)

Angela Swanson angieswanson@hotmail.com

District Foundation & Grants Chair

PDG Bob Mayber dg.2021@5630mail.org

RYLA Chair

Kiersten Lange kkierstenn@gmail.com

Global Grants Chair

PDG Don Peterson dg.2015@5630mail.org

Interact Chair

Nicole Badgley nicole_badgley@yahoo.com

Global Grants Co-Chair

Jim Delahunty Jimdelahunty@msn.com

Rotaract Chair

Stephanie Reed stephreed15@gmail.com

District Treasurer

Brooke Robertson brooke.robertson@ampf.com

Rotary Youth Exchange

Paula Witt wittinc@icloud.com

Leadership Development

Jerry Milner jerrymilner@hotmail.com

District Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Bryan daa@5630mail.org



DG Glenn Making His Rounds



Aug. 1 - Glenn's first club visit as DG! His passion for Rotary is always evident. He speaks of PolioPlus, the Rotary Foundation, and the availability of global and district grants. As Activities Director for RYLA for several years, he was instrumental in transforming RYLA into a co-ed program. He enjoys working with his hands, and has served on the Red Cross board after giving 11 gallons of blood. He also served on the Big Brothers/Big Sisters board.



Aug. 22 - "When you ask 'How are you?', listen for the real answer." Glenn spoke of *RI President Gordon McNally's* mental health platform and emphasized the importance of membership growth.



Aug. 24 - DG Glenn welcomed three new members: *Bennett Johnson, Michael Krings, and Cody Krull*. After Glenn's program, Cody went back to his office and immediately enrolled in Rotary Direct for \$85/month—making him a member of the [Paul Harris Society](#).



Aug. 28 - "Besides a lovely song about respect to begin his presentation," Glenn shared Rotary knowledge, challenging the club to do great things.



Sept. 5 - Glenn was impressed by **Imperial** club projects and also met RYE student, *Fabian*, from the Leipzig-Centrum club in Germany.



Sept. 7 - "He ate, he sang, he danced, he laughed, he promoted projects, and he informed."



Sept. 14 - *DG Glenn* shared not only the new theme flag but also the message of "Creating Hope in the World."



State Fair Fun!



Inbound Orientation August 25-27 in Kearney Districts 5630/5650

It's September again!. For Rotary Youth Exchange, that means our *outbound* students are leaving for their year abroad, our *rebound* students have returned and are re-adjusting to life in the US, *inbound* students are oriented to living in Nebraska, and *applicants* are busy getting references and sponsors in preparation for interviews next month. Each group of students has different areas of focus and requires Rotarian support. The Youth Exchange committee is busy assisting with the transitions each of these students are facing.

Outbound Students *Sienna Dutton* (McCook) is in Madrid, Spain, and *Johan Mireles* (Grant) is heading for Yamaguchi, Japan (following his visa/passport issues). Rotarian *Lisa Jorgenson* (Gothenburg) is their Outbound Coordinator.

Rebounders *Rudi Anderson* (Ogallala) returned from Brazil and is attending SD School of Mines and *Jordan Mireles* (Grant) successfully completed his exchange in Germany and is currently attending UNO.

Inbound Students are settling in, meeting new friends and Rotarians and are busy making their "wish lists." Rotarian *Todd Madison* (Valentine) is their Inbound Coordinator. *Fabian Arelin* (Germany) attends Chase County High School and plays football in Imperial. *Szymon Romanowski* (Poland) is finding his way around North Platte as he attends St. Patrick's High School. He is student manager for the football team and he plans to play basketball for the school.

Julieta Pintor (Spain) is enjoying her time in McCook. She is looking for opportunities to help younger kids, and *Kaede Tabara* (Japan) is learning about life in rural Ogallala. She loves dance and cheer team involvement. These students are looking forward to opportunities to watch NFL and NBA games, Cornhusker volleyball and football, Colorado skiing, and visiting the Omaha Zoo. They are also focusing on community service projects. Their goal is one hour per week in service to others.

Applications are being accepted through October 15 for students wishing to study abroad in 2024-25. They will be contacting their local Rotary clubs for sponsorships and to host their exchange partners.

Please discuss your club's interest in participating in **Youth Exchange** next year. We need clubs and host families from six to eight communities. Please contact me or a member of the District RYE committee for more information or to learn more about your involvement in RYE in our district. Information and an application are also on our website: 5630rye.org.

Paula Witt

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



Clubs Welcome RYE Students



Thirty-four years ago, **Chappell** Rotary's *Anita Nein* was host to a Rotary Exchange Student from Denmark, *Lars Jorgensen*. Lars and his family, traveling in the States, visited the club to tell a little about his experience and how eye-opening it was. *Lars* and his family, wife *Lone* and sons *Alexander* and *William*, now host exchange students as a way of giving back. Lars said the Rotary Exchange program is by far one of the best programs out there!



Ogallala Rotary was excited to welcome *Kaede*, their RYE student from Japan. Above, with her host sister. Right: with club president *Brooke Robertson*.



Imperial hosts welcomed *Fabian*, their incoming RYE student, from the Rotary Club of Leipzig-Centrum (Germany). *Fabian* presented his home club flag to club president *Lynne West* the day DG Glenn visited.



Ogallala Rotary's "Rebounder" *Rudy Anderson* is back from her year in Brazil.



The **McCook** club welcomed their RYE student, "*Juls*," (*Julieta*) from Spain and introduced her to the Nebraska good life.

From RYE to DGN: Diary of an Exchange Year

The article below was published in the September 2020 Rotary magazine and on the [Rotary website](#). **Lore Beckius**, our District Governor Nominee for 2025-26, was a Rotary Youth Exchange student to Ogallala 20 years ago. This unique experience helped her to grow and shape her to be the person she is today.

Her love for Rotary started at a very young age when her dad exposed her to the “Magic of Rotary.” She was able to see and be part of different service projects of the Rotary Club of Ambato, Ecuador (District 4400).

Lorena is excited and thankful for the opportunity to be the District Governor and can't wait to meet every one of you and learn about your club projects. If you would like to communicate with her, please email her at DG.2025@5630mail.com.



In 2002-03, Lore Soria traveled from Ambato, Ecuador, to Ogallala, Nebraska, as a Rotary Youth Exchange student. Afterward, she returned home to Ecuador for college. On a visit to Nebraska for a friend's wedding, she met David Beckius. After dating long distance, the couple married; they have twin four-year-old boys [now eight!], and Lore Beckius was 2019-20 president of the Rotary Club of Ogallala — the same club that hosted her 18 years ago. She shares here some highlights from her exchange year.

August

Today is the day. My mom cried all the way to the airport. I was crying too, but I gave her a hug, dried my tears, and went through security. When I got off the plane, my host family was waiting for me, holding a sign that read “Welcome home.” My host mom's name is Michelle, and she has two daughters, Heide and Mallory. When we pulled up to their house, I was surprised at how big and how nice it is. I even have my own room and bathroom!

My host sisters and their friends asked me lots of questions. They don't know much about Ecuador. I told them we have volcanos and so much natural beauty. I'm using my pocket dictionary all the time. I don't understand any of the slang that Americans use, and their accent is so different from the British English I learned in school.

I went to a Rotary meeting and met my Youth Exchange advisor. I also visited my new school. I will take U.S. history, geography, English, chemistry, and math. I also picked a few electives. I can't believe all the fun classes

they have here. We don't have choir or cooking or anything like that in Ecuador. My host family also took me into town. Front Street looks like something out of an old Western movie.

I started school today. I was so worried about what to wear. I've never gone to a school where I didn't have to wear a uniform. Mallory is a junior, and she drove me and Heide, who's a sophomore, to school. I was nervous, but the other students were nice. When they said hi, I kept leaning forward to give kisses — but they don't do that here. I'm learning to say, “Hey, what's up?” and give a little wave instead.

September



My host mom told me I should try out for the school play. That is something I would never have done at home. The play is called *A Service for Jeremy Wong*, and it's about the killing of a gay high school boy.

Today, a really cute and popular boy said, “Hey, what's up?” to me. I replied, “Good!” But I think that was wrong. I asked Mallory what to say so I'll be ready next time.

December

It's almost Christmas! It makes me a little homesick. Christmas is such an important time in Ecuador. I learned that I will switch host families on 23 December. I'm going to miss Mallory and Heide. The next family I'm staying with has three younger boys.

I went to the Catholic church here twice on Christmas Eve. It makes me feel better to be surrounded by familiar traditions. On Christmas morning, there were so many presents with my name on them under the tree. My new family is trying to make me feel at home, but I don't know them yet, so I feel a little awkward.

(continued on next page)

Your District Membership Team: Here to Help!

Your District 5630's membership team is currently working to identify issues within our district related to membership numbers and are preparing to take these issues to the Zone Conference in Chicago this year where we hope to find solutions to share with everyone.

Keep an eye out for communications regarding district-wide membership activities and other membership topics.

Your district membership team is in place to help YOU! If you need anything from us, please reach out! Likewise,

if you have a burning passion within Rotary and think you could contribute at a district level in the area of membership, please reach out!

Rotary is a bottom-up organization. The clubs are the boots on the ground. The members

Aaron Colwell

District 5630 Membership Chair
Gothenburg Rotary Club
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Diary of an Exchange Year (continued)

January

I've become close to my new host mom. We go shopping together and get manicures. She always tells me how happy she is to have another girl in the house. And she is a really good cook. She's always baking something.

February

My host mom includes me in everything she does for the boys, like presents for Valentine's Day. I talk to my family in Ecuador about once a month. One thing I like about my high school is that everyone seems to get along. The kids ask me about Ecuador. Some want to learn the bad words in Spanish, and I did get in trouble for teaching them a few.

March



My English has gotten much better. I've even started dreaming in English. I'm so busy with speech competitions, choir, basketball, and tennis that it's hard to even have time to think about things back home in Ecuador.

April

I'm living out in the country now with my third host family, which has five girls, so it can be a little tough to get time in the bathroom to get ready for school! I'm looking forward to going to prom next month. I'm going with a group of girls, and I already have a dress. We don't have prom in Ecuador, so this feels like a special American thing to experience.

It's a lot of fun living in this family with so many girls. I get along very well with their oldest daughter, who is a high school freshman. We go to the movies together and hang out.

I had so much fun at prom! We danced and danced. I felt like a movie star.



May

Graduation is here. My parents traveled to Nebraska for the ceremony. Even though our principal practiced saying my name, he still mispronounced it. But it was so exciting to get my diploma! He also gave me a little American flag.

July

We went to watch the Fourth of July fireworks, and the song "Proud to Be an American" gave me goosebumps. I go home this month. My exchange has helped me to grow up and be ready to live on my own. I am so proud that I was able to make it through one year by myself.

I'm home now, and it's weird to be back. My parents talk to me in Spanish, and I find myself accidentally answering them in English. My friend Serena came from Ogallala for a visit. We keep in touch online, and I can't wait to go back to visit.

Welcome, New Rotarians!



DG Glenn Knuth was on hand when the **Gothenburg** club held their first new member meeting to give a broad introduction to Rotary. The meeting ended with a brainstorming session about opportunities to do good in Gothenburg.



The **Valentine** club combined a steak cookout/family picnic to induct three new members into the club: *Amanda Davidson, Amber Cozad, and Mark Cozad.*



North Platte Sunrise president *Jobeth Halling* officially welcomed new member Lincoln County Treasurer *Alex Gurciullo.*

North Platte Rotary Uses “Blue Badge” Program to Introduce New Members to Rotary



Aug. 2 - New Members of the North Platte Noon Rotary club soon to become full blue badge members. *Sonja Voycheske* and *Kevin McGahan* conducted the orientation. From left to right *Monica Lynch, Todd Rhodes, Summer Owen, Julie Yanney, Blu McGrath, Ty Brown, and Ashley Lewis.*



Aug. 17 - Four members of the North Platte Noon Rotary club completed their orientation and received their blue badges. Those attending the orientation, led by *Kendi McClain* and *Kevin McGahan*, are *Gina King, Robert Morris, Lori Rodgers, and Joe Wizezorek.*

The **Blue Badge Program** is the orientation program North Platte Noon Rotary uses to get new members acclimated to the club. New members are issued red badges initially and then earn their blue badges by participating in an Orientation session about Rotary, which covers topics ranging from our local club to the district and to Rotary International. During the process of earning their blue badge, new members also learn more about the club by performing club service as a cashier or greeter or assisting on various community service projects the club is involved with locally. The goal is to broaden the knowledge of our new members about all levels of Rotary and then put into practice “Service Above Self” in some way for the club or the community.

–*Brian Phares, President, North Platte Rotary Club*





“God’s Children Are Not For Sale.”

-Tim Ballard, CEO of Operation Underground Railroad.

It’s common to see reports and stories of survivors being rescued from human trafficking, but have you ever wondered what happens to the survivors after that? Homes/shelters are available throughout the country to provide a wide array of treatments and programs to its residents.

While there are several homes for adult survivors of human trafficking in Nebraska, none currently exist for child victims/survivors—until now. *Julie Schrader*, Founder/CEO of Rejuvenating Women, had a vision, and with generous donations through fundraising and incredible support, will soon be opening the first and only home in Nebraska for child survivors of human trafficking.

The Restored Wings Ranch for kids in Omaha will provide its young residents with psychiatric and counseling services, education following the Nebraska Statutes, medical services by community partners, and various therapeutic programs uniquely designed for the development of a child survivor.

Did you know?

- **“One in 10 children** will experience contact sexual abuse in the U.S. before age 18. Townsend, C. & Rheingold, A.A.
- **The average age** a girl is lured or forced into sex trafficking is just 15 years old. National Center for Missing and Exploited Children
- **83% of victims** in confirmed sex-trafficking incidents were identified as U.S. citizens. US Justice Department
- **Child sex trafficking is the fastest-growing crime** in the world. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
- **One in 25 children** (ages 10-17) will receive an online sexual solicitation Wolak J., Finkelhor D., Mitchell K., Ybarra M. Online “predators” and their victims
- **Over one-quarter of male victims** of completed rape experienced their first rape at or before the age of 10. Barth, J., Bernetz, L., Heim, E., Trelle, S., & Tonia, T.
- **Family members are likely to be a child’s first trafficker**, bringing them into the world of commercial sexual exploitation. According to the Polaris 2018 Fact Sheet, 27% of sex trafficking cases

reported to the USA’s National Human Trafficking Hotline in 2018 were instances of familial trafficking. Furthermore, in 2018 and 2019, familial trafficking was the second highest reported means of entering the world of `commercial sexual exploitation. Polaris

- **Ritual Abuse Trafficking (SRA, ORA, RA) is prevalent** and is in large and small cities nationwide. “These child survivors become the adult survivors we meet in our program today.” Julie Shrader from survivor testimonies

“The greatest need according to law enforcement and safe homes across the country is a safe place for girls 12 to 18. Our future desire is to expand and build more homes on this acreage and eventually purchase more land nearby for even younger boys and girls.” Julie Schrader

For more information see links below.

- [Restored Wings - Ranch for Kids](#)
- [Ranch For Kids - Expansion Project](#)
- [Restored Wings Ranch for Kids](#) (YouTube video)

District Projects

[Truckers Against Trafficking’s Freedom Drivers Project](#) (FDP) visited **Broken Bow** August 27-29 and provided presentations to the community along with tours of their mobile experience trailer. **Lexington** will host FDP October 22-24. If you or your club would like more information on FDP, see their website.

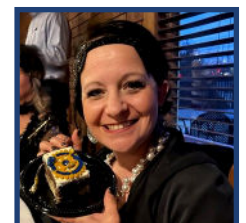
Cambridge Area Rotary coordinated presentations about human trafficking and online safety by *Jim Weber* (Global Connections International) and Trooper *Tim Flick* (Nebraska State Patrol) in their local area schools and communities.

More stories about District club awareness events are on the next page.

If you’re interested in having presentations in your local community, please contact me for more information.

Angie Swanson

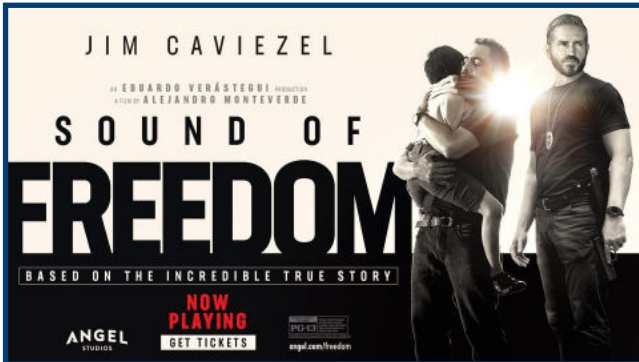
District Chair, [RAGAS](#)
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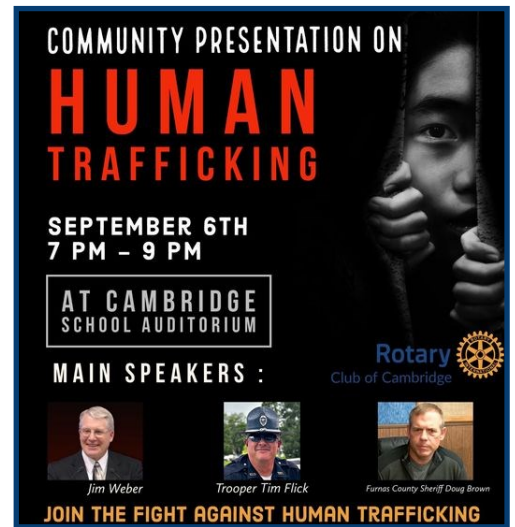
Getting the Message Out about Human Trafficking



Broken Bow: In conjunction with the [Truckers against Trafficking](#) mobile exhibit, a panel of experts educated the people of the community about the realities of human trafficking. Pictured (above left) with PDG *Deb McCaslin*; Trooper *Tim Flick* and Lieutenant *Tim Arnold* with the Nebraska State Patrol and *Brandy Belton*, program director for the Freedom Drivers Project.



Poster announcing the movie showing in **Cambridge**.



The Sound of Freedom movie is a powerful story inspired by the work of *Tim Ballard*, founder of Operation Underground Railroad, which is dedicated to rescuing trafficking victims. In July and August, the movie was shown in **Broken Bow, Sidney, Cozad, Lexington, Imperial, Ogallala, and Cambridge** and publicized by local Rotarians.



July 27 - Turnout for theatre showing of *Sound of Freedom*, sponsored by **Imperial Rotary**.



McCook Rotary and Interact Clubs hosted Freedom Walk, followed by a presentation about community safety and human trafficking by guest speakers Police Chief *Joel Smith* and NE State Patrol Trooper *Tom Flick*. Rotarians and Interactors also served a freewill donation burger meal and root beer floats.



(continued next page)

Getting the Message Out about Human Trafficking (cont'd)



Trafficking can happen to anyone, but some are more vulnerable than others.



HUMANS are NOT for \$ale!

Over 75 people showed up at **Ogallala Rotary's** Human Trafficking event, organized with the help of *Angie Swanson*, District RAGAS Chair. It included a half-mile Freedom Walk and presentation from State Trooper *Tim Flick*. [Sandhills Crisis Intervention Program](#) (SCIP) supported the event with an information booth.

Congratulations and Thanks! to These **Paul Harris** Fellows



District Officers were on hand to congratulate members of the **Chappell Club** for their Paul Harris Fellows: *Anita Nein* (PHF), *Connie Loos* (PHF), *Dwight Smith* (PHF+1), *Bill Hughes* (PHF+1 & PHF+2), *Dale Fornander* (PHF+3), and *Milton Rogers* (Major Donor)



Ogallala Paul Harris Recipients: *Jim Delahunty* (PHF); *Brooke Robertson* (PHF+1); and *Brian Vasa* (PHF) with club president *Teresa Delahunty*.



North Platte: *Bob Phares* (PHF+5), *Louise Hoffmann* (PHF+7); *Tom Moore* (PHF+5)

END
POLIO
NOW

WORLD POLIO DAY

24 OCTOBER

#EndPolio | endpolio.org

Rotary 

My name is *Don Kurre*, a member of the **North Platte Noon** Rotary Club and the District Polio Plus chairperson. I want to take this opportunity to share some information and some resources and ask for your assistance.

As our Zone leadership reminds us, ending Polio is Rotary's most significant priority and will fulfill a promise we made to the children of the world. While we have made great progress, we must keep going! As polio becomes less visible and our membership changes, we need to work hard to keep the importance of polio's eradication in front of us. Developing plans and acting will help us reach our goal of a polio free world! The job is not done.

Our District goals include establishing a regular Zoom meeting to share ideas, activities, and resources for eradicating polio. We'll share brief monthly emails with your Polio Plus Team leader or club president with information and resources to use in keeping your members aware of our efforts to eradicate polio and the status of those efforts.

It is our plan to increase awareness of Polio Plus within district membership.

We encourage you to review the resources on the EndPolioNow web site.

Please share the name and contact information of your club's Polio Plus team leader with me. If you have not appointed a Team Leader for your club, it is important for you to appoint someone.

As we approach World Polio Day on October 24, I encourage your club to make big plans to celebrate World Polio Day within your club and community to increase awareness and giving to eradicate polio!

In closing I want to share a quote from Angelique Kidjo, singer-songwriter. "I am from a generation who has witnessed the devastating effects of polio. When I discovered how close we were to eradicating polio, I was very motivated to be a part of this movement. It is so rare when you can accomplish something so spectacular."

LET'S DO IT!

Don Kurre

District Chair, PolioPlus
North Platte Noon Rotary Club
donk05@gmail.com
308-221-1005



Rotaract
District 5630



Welcome, Stephanie!

My name is *Stephanie Reed*. I am employed as a Staff Accountant at McChesney Martin Sagehorn, P.C. I am attending Bellevue University to finish my Bachelors in Accounting. Upon graduation next year, I plan to take some time to study for the CPA exam.

I have three wonderful children. Macksen is 7. He loves all things sports, and I enjoy coaching his various teams. Walker, 4, started preschool this year. He is a lover of old school Power Ranger episodes and swords. Every stick he finds is a sword. He started playing soccer this year and is loving taking after his big brother. Selah, my daughter, joined our family in July and is the perfect addition. I can add baseball coach, flag football coach, soccer coach, and basketball coach to my resume. I also teach a 1st grade class on Wednesday nights at my church.

I have been a Rotaractor since 2020 and a Rotarian since 2022. I am currently serving as the Vice President of my Rotaract Chapter and will serve as President in the 2024 term. I am also the **District 5630 Rotaract Chair**. This is

a position I am very excited about. I believe every community should have a Rotaract if possible. I look forward to growing awareness for Rotaract and hopefully chartering many new clubs!

In my time as a Rotaractor I have chaired our annual Christmas Caring and Sharing Project for three years. This anonymous program provides gifts to families in need. As a Rotarian I have helped with numerous blood drive cleanups, fundraisers, sex trafficking awareness events, and spearheaded our club's ticket sales for the Big Red Blowout.

Service is my passion, and I look forward to getting to know and serve alongside my fellow Rotarians in the district.

Stephanie Reed

Ogallala Rotary Club
stephreed15@gmail.com



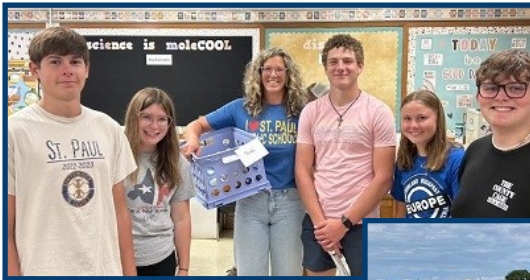
2023

Rotary
District 5630



RYLA
Rotary Youth
Leadership Awards

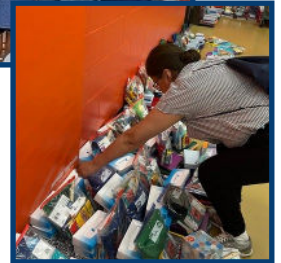




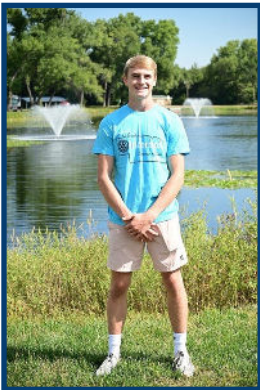
St. Paul Interactors at the Back to School Open House. Teachers sent in their wish lists and the club purchased and delivered the items. They also raised \$275 with their June car wash.



Ogallala Rotarians, Rotaractors and Interactors filled 100 school supply packages. Supplies were donated by local businesses and community members



Arnold Interactor Makes a Difference



The Arnold Recreation Area's new fountains are running, and it only took one 16-year-old Interact member ten months of hard work to get it done.

"I am so incredibly proud of him. It was a lot of hard work and all I could do was encourage him," said Heather Furne, Ethan's mom.

Arnold High School junior **Ethan Furne** envisioned this day almost a year ago with he joined the **Central Nebraska Interact**

Club. At the very first introductory meeting where it was announced that Interact will be a "service above self" club, Ethan knew what he wanted to do for one of their first projects.

"I want to get fountains for the Arnold Rec Area so we can start fishing and swimming there again. The algae is so thick it is really hard to fish," he explained to the sponsor.

What Ethan might not have known is how much it would cost. He did his research and found out what he needed to get this project off the ground.

Ethan knew he had to talk to some adults, especially the village, who owns the pond. However, he also talked to a local agronomist, a chemical engineer, and Nebraska Game and Parks to ensure that any algaecide chemicals used would only kill the algae and would not kill the fish that are already there.

Then he began researching the types of fountains that would be beautiful as well as functional. The fountains would aerate the pond, making it hard for the algae to grow.

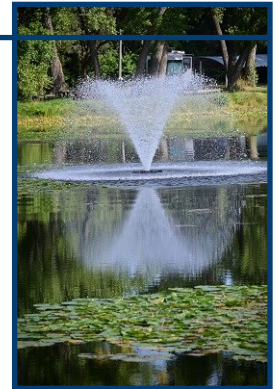
Once he knew the types of fountains and chemicals needed, he knew how much money he needed to raise. He wrote four grants, and managed to get them all.

The Rotary club made the first investment of \$500 in the project so the chemicals could be bought and put on hold while waiting for the grants to come through.

With a total budget of over \$18,000, Ethan knew he would need to apply for many grants because as a service organization, the Interact Club did not have the money in its coffers to fund it. The grants included the Mid Nebraska Community Foundation (\$1,750), the Arnold Community Foundation (\$6,000), the Custer County Foundation (\$5,000), and Custer County Tourism (\$5,000). The Village of Arnold paid for the electrical hookups and electricity to keep the fountains running, and there were several other local donations as well.

Doug DeLaune, Arnold's Zoning Administrator, was instrumental in helping Ethan assemble the fountains, getting them set out in the pond, and installing the electrical hookups. It couldn't have been done without him.

Teenagers, as well as adults, need to realize that teens can have a powerful voice. They can be empowered to do great things if they just talk to the right people. Having a network of people who can direct them leads to successes just like this one.



Nicole Badgley

District Interact Chair
nicole_badgley@yahoo.com





2023 Big Red Blowout Results

**GO
BIG
RED**

The results are in for our 2023 Big Red Blowout Fundraiser.

Thanks to all the District 5630 Rotarians—individuals and clubs—that participated. Please know you are making a difference—in not only supporting The Rotary Foundation and District Grants but keeping our District dues consistent for the 15 years since the Big Red Blowout began.

You sold 4,606 tickets (compared to 4,039 last year), for a total gross amount of \$47,362 (compared to



\$40,390 last year). Forty-one percent of our members participated: Just imagine what it would be if we could increase that to sixty percent!

Thanks again to **Paul Stec** (Kearney Dawn), for your hard work and dedication to this valuable project, and to **Tiffany Ritchie** for using your talents and time in managing this project once again.



Congratulations to the following winners. The 10 winning ticket holders and 10 sellers will each receive 2 tickets to the home game against LA Tech on September 23, round trips via motorcoach, buffet dinners at Changes “R” in York, and tailgate passes. The three top sellers will receive the same package plus two club seats at Memorial Stadium (1st place); two tickets to the Champions Club (2nd place). The 100% clubs will receive \$100 to add to their club funds.

Big Red Blowout 2023 Winners		
Club	Rotarian	Winner
Imperial	Tonya Wilson	Allison O'Neill
Grand Island	Brad Mellema	Brad Mellema
Kearney	Bob Derr	Martha Herrarte
Kearney Dawn	Glenn Dorn	Denny Scheider
NP Sunrise	Jake Rissler	Jake Rissler
Hasting Sunrise	Mike Tomlin	Mike Tomlin
Kearney	Mick Jahn	Terry Fisher
RYLA	Braden Ham	Brandt Runge
Holdrege	Brad Allmand	Brad Allmand
McCook	Leslie Stramel	Daniel Stramel

Top Sellers

Craig Fidler, Kearney Dawn	\$2,502
Paul Stec, Kearney Dawn	\$2,150
Deb McCaslin, Broken Bow	\$850

100% Clubs

Broken Bow
Cozad
Grand Island Sunrise
Hastings Sunrise
Kearney Dawn

Definitely This....

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?

Probably not this.



"I know membership retention is important but I don't think adding "until death do us part" to the end of the new member inductions will help keep members in Rotary".

People of Action Serving Their Communities - 1



A few **Chadron** Rotarians met at the Dawes County Museum to pose in front of the new door the club purchased for the museum.



Grand Island club members *Barbara Graves, Jennifer Worthington, Dana Jelinek, Samantha Scheuler, and Don Deitemeyer* enjoyed assembling sack lunches for students visiting the Stuhr Museum.

**1973
time
capsule
retrieval**

THURSDAY,
AUGUST 17, 2023
5:30PM
IN FRONT OF
WAYPOINT BANK
SPONSORED BY
THE COZAD ROTARY

150th ANNIVERSARY
John G. Cozad
COZAD, NE | 1873-2023



The **Cozad** club served burgers and chips to those attending the retrieval ceremony for Cozad's Time Capsule, which had been buried in front of Waypoint Bank. Two members of the 1973 Rotary Club, *Doc Holbein* and *Steve Anderson*, are still members.



The **Imperial** club assembled tables for the Chase County Fair, then the "A" team came to help move them.



Hastings Sunrise helped clean up their pollinator project at Prairie Loft and also helped spread mulch to prepare for the Flatwater Music Festival. Service before Self starts early in Hastings!



Whenever people gather, **McCook Rotary** is serving: at the Red Willow County Fair, a community supper, and the Prairie Roots Music & BBQ Festival.

People of Action Serving Their Communities - 2



North Platte Noon club members, AKA Ticket Takers at the Nebraskaland Days Concerts. Representing the club were interns *Menli Nepesova, Sonika Khanal, and Jacob Abaare* - pictured with Ty Brown.



North Platte Sunrise member *Leland Poppe* led a crew to help clean up South Beach of Lake Maloney. The project got great newspaper coverage in the [North Platte Post](#).



St. Paul Rotarians – Happy to serve supper at the Back to School Open House.



July 27 was a productive day for **St. Paul Rotary**. While they enjoyed the traveling sculpture walk, they also pulled weeds along the way, and checked the progress on the new Veteran's Memorial Hall. They finished off the day with pizza and beverages at the Vet's Club.



Cheyenne County helped with the backpack giveaway at Wireless World by handing out backpacks and serving biscuits and gravy.



Congrats to **Kearney**, whose work on the Dolly Parton Imagination Library project received recognition by the Nebraska Literacy Association and the Central Nebraska Reading Council. President *Jeff Hinrichs* and *Carol Renner* are showing the award and certificate

A Thank You Note from the Rotary Club of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe

Dear members of the Broken Bow Area Rotary Club and its partners, Jafuta Foundation and all other clubs who partnered with the Rotary Club of Victoria Falls in our global grant project,

We cannot express enough gratitude for your unwavering support and dedication to our mission of empowering the girl child through the provision of reusable sanitary pads. Your generosity and commitment will make a significant impact on the lives of school-going and out-of-school girls in Victoria Falls and the surrounding areas.

Thanks to your contributions and partnership, we will be able to provide these girls with a basic necessity that many of us take for granted. By providing them with reusable sanitary pads, we will not only have helped to improve their health and hygiene but also ensured that they can continue their education without interruption.

Your support has been invaluable in making this project a success, and we hope that it will serve as an inspiration to others to join in our efforts to empower the girl child. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of these young girls and help them achieve their full potential.

Once again, thank you for your generosity and partnership. We look forward to continuing our work together to make the world a better place for all.

Yours in Rotary,
Sipho Moyo
Project Services Chairperson
Rotary Club of Victoria Falls



Victoria Falls Club President Taph and Monalisa at RI Convention with global grant partners Norm and IPDG Deb McCaslin of Broken Bow.



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 **December 15, 2023**.

Please submit your photos and/or articles by **Thursday, November 30**, to daa@5630mail.org.

Thanks, *Cheryl Bryan*



**CREATE HOPE
in the WORLD**

Rotary District 5630 - *Rotarians in Action*

2023-24

RI President: **Gordon McNally**

District Governor: **Glenn Knuth**

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

