

# Rotarians in Action



Rotary District 5630

2023-24 · Edition 3 · Spring 2024

## District Governor's Message

Spring is here, so I ask, if April showers bring May flowers, what do May Flowers bring?

Of course — they bring pilgrims! Ha-Ha!

**First**, I have to say that I have had a great time visiting all the clubs in our great district and hope to see many of you at our District Conference. It is scheduled for April 12th starting at 3:00 pm with our budget and business meeting. We do need to have a representative from each club to vote, so if no one from your club is able to attend, you will need to vote by proxy. The meeting will be at Boarders Inn and Suites located at 3333 Ramada Road.

Rotary logo and CREATE HOPE in the WORLD logo are at the top. The poster features a photo of a man and a woman holding a sign. Text includes: 'JOIN THE 5630 DISTRICT CONFERENCE open enrollment SATURDAY, APRIL 13TH Platt-Duetsche, 1315 W. Anna St., Grand Island, NE'. It lists 'GUEST SPEAKERS' LEE ELLIOTT (KEYNOTE SPEAKER) and TROOPER TIM FLICK (NSP). It also mentions 'FRIDAY APRIL 12TH' with a 3pm-4pm Business Meeting, 4pm-6pm Rotary 101 Pizza Party at Boarders Inn & Suites, 3333 Ramada Road, Grand Island, NE. A 'TASTE OF GRAND ISLAND' event is listed for 04/13/24 at FONNER PARK, AUBURN COOPERATIVE FACILITY, with 'TICKETS INCLUDED'. A QR code and the URL 'HTTP://TINYURL.COM/2537RYSN' are at the bottom.

From 4:00 to 6:00 there will be Rotary 101 and Public Image information and after that a pizza party where you can bring your own beverage (alcohol if desired). Boarders Inn and Suites is one of the hotels where we've reserved a block of rooms. The other one is Mainstay Inn & Suites (3051 S. Locust Street).

The Saturday festivities will be at the Platt Duetsche, a private club at 1305 W. Anna Street, with check-in from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. There will be many awards and activities, with Rotary Youth Exchange, RYLA, videos and breakout sessions, with special guests *Chuck*

*Corrigan*, our RI Rep; *Lee Elliot* with a very inspiring talk; and *Tim Flick* from the Nebraska State Patrol, speaking about Human Trafficking in our state.

The day will end as we go to Fonner Park for the "Taste of Grand Island," with food and beverages from over 20 different vendors from around the area. You don't want to miss it, and you won't leave hungry!

I encourage you to come to the "[Island](#)" and take advantage of all the activities in the area. Just click on the link to see what might catch your interest. Come early Friday and stay for Sunday for your mini vacation.

**Be sure and get the room by March 30** for the special pricing, or feel free to select any of your favorite places.

It's easy for Rotarians to register through [DACdb](#). Interactors or other non-Rotarians can use [this link](#). When you register, don't forget to order your Special t-shirts for only \$20.00.

*I hope to see you there!!!*

**District Governor Glenn Knuth**  
Grand Island Sunrise Rotary Club  
308-380-8786  
[dg.2023@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2023@5630mail.org)



## Support Mental Health Awareness & Get a T-shirt!

To honor our Rotary International President's emphasis this year, you can pre-order Mental Health Awareness t-shirts for \$20 each when you register for the District Conference. They come in




both men's and women's styles. The shirts will show the District 5630 Rotary logo on the back. (Deadline to pre-order: April 4.)

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**Rotary**  **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

A Global Network of Community Volunteers

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

**Rotary International President 2023-24**  
Member of the South Queensferry Rotary Club  
Lothian, Scotland

**Gordon R. McNally**

**DISTRICT 5630 LEADERS**

**District 5630 Central and Western Nebraska**

[www.rotary5630.org](http://www.rotary5630.org)

**District Governor 2023-24**

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

**New Club Development**

IPDG Deb McCaslin [dmccaslinx4@gmail.com](mailto:dmccaslinx4@gmail.com)

**District Governor Elect 2024-25**

Lore Beckius [dg.2024@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2024@5630mail.org)

**PolioPlus Chair**

Don Kurre [donk05@gmail.com](mailto:donk05@gmail.com)

**Public Image Chair 2023-24; DGN 2025-26**

Sarah Mills [dg.2025@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2025@5630mail.org)

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

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

**District Membership Chair**

Aaron Colwell [colwell.aaron@yahoo.com](mailto:colwell.aaron@yahoo.com)

**RYLA Chair**

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

**District Foundation & Grants Chair**

PDG Bob Mayber [dg.2021@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2021@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)

**Rotaract Chair**

Stephanie Reed [stephreed15@gmail.com](mailto:stephreed15@gmail.com)

**Global Grants Co-Chair**

Jim Delahunty [Jimdelahunty@msn.com](mailto:Jimdelahunty@msn.com)

**District Treasurer**

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

**Rotary Youth Exchange**

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

**Leadership Development**

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

**District Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor**

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



## Grant Training for Rotary District 5630 Clubs

Rotary Year 2024-25

Offered on April 15, 17 and 18, 2024

7:00 p.m. Central via Zoom teleconference

Sessions will last 90 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 (7/1/24)

To register for one of the sessions, email PDG Dale Schultz at [dg.2018@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2018@5630mail.org) by Saturday, April 13.



We are at the onset of another cycle in Rotary Youth Exchange. **2024-2025 Student applicants** were interviewed by their sponsoring Rotary clubs, and advanced to district interviews in mid-November.

### Outbound Students 2024-25

With the assistance of the North Platte Rotarians, and many Rotexes providing excellent insights, four awesome students were selected. *Zoey Dornbier* from Sidney and sponsored by the **Kimball Rotary Club** is looking forward to her year near Barcelona, Spain. *Lyssa Hoffman* from Hastings is headed south to Argentina. She is sponsored by both **Hastings Clubs**. *Haley Holzmaster* from Paxton is being sponsored by the **Ogallala Rotary Club**. She is really revved to be going to Parana State, Brazil. *Iris Robles* from Imperial is hosted by **Imperial Rotary**. She is already packing her bags ahead of her time in Romania next year.

These girls are so excited and waiting to hear about their hosting communities and host families. They are busy purchasing insurance and looking forward to applying for their visas.

### Inbound Students 2023-24

The four students of the Inbound Class of 2023-2024 are learning Nebraska culture and transitioning to their final host families. They are participating in various sports (club and school teams), perfecting their English language skills, and enjoying travel opportunities with Rotarians and host families.

These students include *Juls* (Spain) living in **McCook**, *Kaeda* (Japan) in **Ogallala**, *Fabian* (Germany) in **Imperial** and, *Szymon* (Poland) in **North Platte**. They are each giving back to their communities through service to others: at least one hour each week. Please make the opportunity to get to know these folks better. You will be amazed at the lively personalities of this group of students.

### Outbound Students 2023-24

Members of the 2023-2024 Outbound Class from District 5630 are experiencing amazing travels through their hosting countries. *Sienna Dutton* (**McCook**) is “living the life” in sunny, beautiful Spain, while *Johan Mireles* (**Grant**) is having an amazing time learning the language and culture in Japan.



McCook exchange student *Sienna Dutton* (center in gray), halfway through her year in Spain, transitioned into her second host home.

### 2024-25 Exchanges

We are currently exchanging student applications with our international partners for 2024-2025 exchanges. Once we receive all the inbound applications, we will share summaries of student applications with hosting clubs. Club representatives will review the applicants and offer preferences for which students will be a “best fit” in their schools and communities. Next year we will be hosting *four* 1:1 exchanges and *three* “one-way” agreements, providing lifechanging experiences for students from Ukraine, Ecuador, and India.

This year we offered a student from Ukraine the opportunity to live in Nebraska. Due to the economic conditions resulting from the prolonged war in Ukraine, we were required to cover the expenses for this student (flight and insurance: about \$4000).

Through the amazing generosity and cooperative relationship we have with **District 5650**, (Eastern Nebraska/Western Iowa), *Bob Rauner*, District 5650 Youth Exchange Officer, was able to secure these funds from donors in the Lincoln/Omaha area to cover these expenses, if we would host the student.

Our clubs stepped up to the occasion and confirmed our willingness to take on another student this year. **YOU are all amazing in your support of RYE Nebraska!**

**Paula Witt**

Rotary Youth Exchange Chair  
Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club

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

402-460-0005



# It's Official: The Rotary Youth Exchange Program Is the Best!

I want to share some **good news** with you about what we heard from **U.S. Department of State** representatives who attended the Winter SCRYE (South Central Rotary Youth Exchange) meeting in Tulsa last month.

First of all, they reiterated the fact that they “love” our program. We are “THE Gold Standard” compared to other study abroad programs. We do it right! Consistently!

These representatives not only presented information to us, but they stayed for the entire three days to attend our sessions to learn more about the way we do things.

That is awesome!!

## My Notes

- **Rotary is the BEST program they work with** (inbound exchange visitor programs)
- **To compare:** In a spring 2023 survey: 31% of SCRYE students responded.
  - o 98% of Rotary students reported having a positive experience.
  - o 95% had positive host family experiences.
  - o 100% reported having regular contact with their local coordinators/counselors.
  - o 11% reported mental health issues that affected their exchanges..
- **Other programs:** 16% response rate to the survey.
  - o 21% needed a change in host family placements because of problems.
  - o 26% reported having mental health problems affecting their exchanges.
  - o 16% reported having *no* contact with their local coordinators.

I can tell you from my own recent experiences with other sponsoring organizations: WE DO THINGS RIGHT! and I certainly recognize what “minimum competency” looks like!

KUDOS to each of you in your communities.

KUDOS to each of your Rotary Clubs, communities and schools for embracing RYE students and making them feel so positive about our Program.

## Lessons Learned

- We are the BEST program because frontline **volunteers (YOU!) DO IT RIGHT! YOU CARE!** You pay attention and you respond so well when things need attention.
- We need to get the word out to the schools and students about **ROTARY YOUTH EXCHANGE**. Many of our schools accept students from other programs, and these students have never even heard about Rotary! Once they do, they know they paid too much and received so little!
- Talk it up! Share the good news! Be proud of our reputation and accomplishments!

Thank you for making Rotary Youth Exchange such a great program for our young people! Youth Exchange is the FUTURE of Rotary!

Your club can find out more about [Rotary Youth Exchange](https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-youth-exchange) at [Rotary.org](https://www.rotary.org) — or find out how your club can be involved at [Clubs | Rotary District 5630 Youth Exchange \(5630rye.org\)](https://www.rotary.org/en/rotary-youth-exchange)

**Paula Witt**  
Youth Exchange Chair  
Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club  
[wittinc@icloud.com](mailto:wittinc@icloud.com)  
402-460-0005



## Remembering Dwight E. Smith

December 31, 1944 – March 17, 2024

The Chappell Rotary Club has had to say goodbye to their friend Dwight Smith, who had been a part of their club since 1973. The club remembers him for “that big smile he always brought to our meetings and his great sense of humor. He was a great friend to all that knew him and will miss dearly.” He practiced law in Chappell for 20 years before retiring to farm fulltime. He and his wife of 55 years, Vickie, moved to Plattsmouth in August of 2023.

# Making Rotary Simply Irresistible

Since the 2024 Rotary International Assembly in early January, participants at Rotary's annual learning event for incoming leaders have been talking a lot about making our Rotary clubs "simply irresistible." This term was used as the title of a 1988 song and a 1999 movie. In terms of Rotary, it was first used by Past District Governor *Louisa Horne* (District 7815) and recently championed by *Stephanie Urchick*, 2024-25 Rotary International president.

So what does "simply irresistible" mean in terms of an organization? According to Deloitte's description of "The Simply Irresistible Organization,"™ an irresistible organization has five elements.

- ◆ **Meaningful Work.** No one joins a club to do nothing. Our members join for various reasons, but they all join to do something meaningful. This is true whether it be a traditional or virtual club and whether it focuses on local and/or international projects. We need to give our members purposeful opportunities, and we should change up these opportunities somewhat regularly so our members don't get bored doing the same thing. How do you know which opportunities to provide? Give your members what *they* want by conducting a [member satisfaction survey](#).
- ◆ **Supportive Management.** The Rotary International Board of Directors recently implemented three-year goals for its various paired zones. Goal setting and accountability are also happening at the district and club levels. Rotary also invests in its leaders through various learning opportunities. Our Zone Coordinators receive these opportunities at the Global Support/Global Philanthropy Seminars. District Governors-Elect receive them at the International Assembly. Club Presidents-Elect receive them at Presidents-Elect Training Seminars. Members receive them at district seminars and in Rotary's [Learning Center](#).
- ◆ **Positive Work Environment.** Our organization's [Vision Statement](#) starts with the words "Together, we." Most people want to serve, but they want to serve with likeminded people with the same values. Of course, we have to ensure our members feel that they belong and that their opinions matter to other club members and leadership. Again, surveys would help here. If you implement some of the suggestions your surveys generate, people will feel that they're being heard. Rotary International does a

good job of [recognizing its members](#) and other participants with awards of many types. But recognition also needs to happen at the club level. This recognition should not only be for financial giving, but also for things such as being a new member sponsor.

- ◆ **Growth Opportunities.** Our members want to be part of something that allows them to grow. Rotary's Vision Statement reads: "*Together, we see a world where people unite and take action to create lasting change – across the globe, in our communities, and in ourselves.*" These last three words are important. People want to be part of something that fosters self-improvement. Working with others to serve makes this happen, and studies show that the act of serving others makes us happy. Why? Because when we focus on others, we aren't thinking about ourselves. To quote Louisa Horne: "It's not about me, it's about M.E. – the Membership Experience."
- ◆ **Trust in Leadership.** I've spent the last decade getting to know our organization's leaders from the club level (serving on the Presidents-elect Training Seminar Alliance) up to our International Presidents' level (through serving as a president's aide, learning facilitator, and president's representative). These roles have taught me that our Rotary leaders are purpose-driven and inspiring – not only through their words, but also (and more importantly) through their actions. If we continue to have strong leaders, we will have strong clubs and a strong Rotary.

If we focus on helping our clubs improve these five areas, Rotary will become "simply irresistible"!

—adapted from article by Tom Gump,  
Aide to Stephanie Urchick, 2024-25 RI President

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Want an irresistible club? Our Membership Chair, **Aaron Colwell**, is here to help your club grow and prosper.

Check out this incentive: [The Membership Olympics](#). It's not too late to get started. You have until June 30 to win some cash prizes for your club!

## Aaron Colwell

District 5630 Membership Chair  
Gothenburg Rotary Club  
402-841-7023  
[colwell.aaron@yahoo.com](mailto:colwell.aaron@yahoo.com)





Those of you who attended PETS conference in Westminster March 1-3 heard me speak briefly about Bark Technologies, but I wanted to elaborate and to share the information with those of you not in attendance.

Bark has released a cool new piece of technology to aid us parents in our quest to keep our kids safe. I don't know about you all, but I could use all the help I can get in this crazy, ever-changing world.

I have been using the Bark App on both of my daughters' devices since 2021 to monitor texts, social media activity, track their location, block websites and apps, and manage their screen time. You just download the app on your home computer or your personal phone and then download the Bark app on your kids' devices.

With the push of a button, I can request a check-in from them and am alerted when they leave one location and arrive at another. My favorite feature is the alert I get any time one of my girls watches anything related to alcohol/drugs, bullying, self-harm, sexual content, or violence, just to name a few. Included with the alert is the exact video or content they watched so I am able to view exactly what they saw. You will also have access to fun quizzes, informational videos, and blog posts addressing topics such as the 12 most dangerous apps for kids and signs of teenage depression and how to address them.

Last year Bark introduced its newest product, the Bark Phone. It was recognized as a safer smartphone in *Time* magazine's Best Inventions of 2023 list and has been featured on the *Today Show*, *Good Morning America*, *CNN*,

in *Forbes* magazine and has received shoutouts from many celebrities, including Drew Barrymore.

Bark's software is built directly into the phone, so it automatically monitors texts, emails, social media, and apps. The app can't be deleted from the Bark Phone, which helps ensure the settings you put in place will stay.

The Bark Phone looks and functions like any other smartphone. As your child matures, the features can be customized to your liking.

Plans start at \$39/month and include unlimited talk and text with no contract required. The Starter plan, meant for younger children and teens, allows only texting and calling, but on the advanced plans, your child can request approval to download games and apps.

You can't turn on the news anymore without hearing stories of mass shootings, murders, kidnappings and human trafficking. The Bark app and phone are just a couple of ways we can ensure our children's safety in this digital world we live in. For more information, please visit <https://www.bark.us/>.

And here's a link to [2023 Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force Report](#), which includes statistics on hotline calls, human trafficking investigations, convictions, and the 2024 Statewide Training Initiative.

**Angie Swanson**

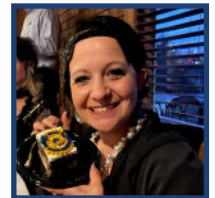
District Chair, [RAGAS](#)

(Rotary Action Group Against Slavery)

McCook Rotary Club

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

308-352-6016



## Special Message from [Mike Hilgers, Nebraska Attorney General](#)

*In an increasingly digital age, human trafficking victims and children are often also exploited online in addition to other crimes. The Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force (NHTTF) is committed to protecting survivors from revictimization online.*

*Since the beginning of the Nebraska Human Trafficking Task Force, many laws have been passed to further protect victims and hold perpetrators accountable. However, no laws have yet been passed in Nebraska that hold online content providers responsible for distributing nonconsensual content of sex trafficking victims and children.*

*This year, the Legislature is considering a new law, LB 1096, that would protect children and sex trafficking victims from online exploitation. **LB 1096 would hold internet content providers responsible if they distribute sexual content of human trafficking victims or minors online.** This bill would label that activity as a deceptive trade practice in our state statutes and subject companies that exploit victims online to fines.*

*These regulations would apply to any company, even those outside Nebraska, that distributes nonconsensual content of abuse victims.*

*The goal of this bill is to reduce the demand for sex trafficking by removing an avenue for traffickers and content providers to make money by exploiting victims online.*



# Time for Good News about Polio

Time for good news! At the end of February 2024, we are still at ZERO cases of wild poliovirus-caused paralysis for this calendar year. The last case was 18 weeks ago!!

While no new wild poliovirus or cVDPV (variant) cases have YET been reported, three positive environmental samples for wild poliovirus were collected in 2024 — all from Pakistan.

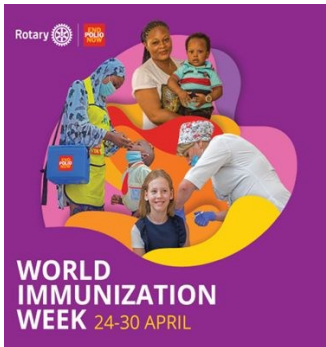
Polio eradication has been Rotary's primary goal for more than 30 years, so it's important to show your support for our number one initiative.

We want to show the world that Rotary members still care about polio eradication and the promise we made long ago to the children of the world. Whether you host an event or a fundraiser, raise awareness of the importance of polio immunization on social media, or make a simple presentation during a meeting, it's essential to show that we're making a difference. What matters is raising awareness for a cause important to all Rotary members and friends of our organization.

I would appreciate it if you would share your club's Polio Plus activities and the contact information of your club's Polio Plus chairperson. For Polio Plus resources and ideas you can reach me at [donk05@gmail.com](mailto:donk05@gmail.com).

Continuing our work to End Polio Now!

Peace,



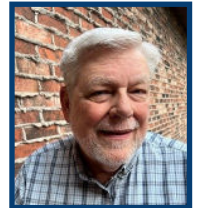
We are making progress, but there is still work to be done. Now is the time to prepare for World Immunization Week the last week in April and for **World Polio Day, 24 October 2024**.

**World Immunization Week is April 24-30, 2024.**

This is an ideal opportunity for promoting polio vaccines and donations to End Polio. After all, the success of the polio vaccine is proof that vaccines do work (as do several other vaccines, by the way). Campaign materials are available now at [www.endpolio.org](http://www.endpolio.org)

**Don Kurre**

District 5630 PolioPlus Chair  
North Platte Noon Rotary Club  
[donk05@gmail.com](mailto:donk05@gmail.com)



Apply online @ [www.GreatPlainsRYLA.org](http://www.GreatPlainsRYLA.org)



JULY 15-19 2024

### Rotary Youth Leadership Awards

Open to any current sophomore or junior. Held at Maranatha Camp - Maxwell, NE.

Discover a world outside the classroom through an intensive leadership experience that builds communications skills, teaches creative problem-solving, and challenges you to change not only you, but the world around you.

Where **EVERYONE** is a LEADER



#### RYLA Time Table

Feb 15	Great Plains RYLA 2024 Applications Open
March 31	Student applications for Great Plains RYLA must be submitted online
April 15	Rotary clubs complete student interviews and submit the Participant Selection Form
April 20	All RYLA applicants notified of their selection to Great Plains RYLA
April 30	<b>RYLA Commitment Form due to RYLA Chair</b>
May 15	RYLA fees – \$450 – due on or before May 15
JUNE	Participating students should attend a Rotary Club meeting with their parents during the month of June
June 15	<b>Student Health History Form due to RYLA Coordinator.</b>
July 1	<b>Student Transportation Forms submitted to RYLA Coordinator</b>
July 14	RYLA Staff Arrive
July 15	RYLA participants report to Maranatha Camp for Great Plains RYLA – 12:00pm CST <b>**PLEASE HAVE YOUR STUDENTS FED AS NO LUNCH WILL BE SERVED**</b>
July 19	RYLA participants head home
Aug 31	Students complete their RYLA presentation to their sponsoring Rotary Club

District 5630 Rotary Clubs are looking for high school sophomores and juniors they can send to RYLA in July. It's an opportunity of a lifetime! If you know of someone who would benefit, send them to the [Great Plains RYLA website](http://GreatPlainsRYLA.org) or email RYLA Chair [Kiersten Lange](mailto:KierstenLange@GPRYLA.org) ([Chair@GPRYLA.org](mailto:Chair@GPRYLA.org)).



# Ideas, Connections, Dreams

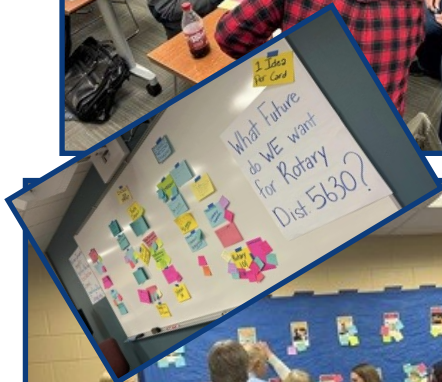
The January 20, 2024 District 5630 Visioning Session was not only successful, but powerful! Thanks to all who took the time to attend, to [Mid-Plains Community College](#) for the venue, and to [Adams Bank](#) for lunch. Here are some thoughts from DGE Lore Beckius about the event:



We had at least one member from 15 different clubs. The visioning allowed us to share ideas, connect with other members, and dream big about the future of our District.

Our fabulous facilitator *Dena R. Beck* – a member of the [Minden Rotary Club](#), helped us identify our Super Powers (strengths), and how we can use our skills to grow Rotary.

We watched two powerful videos from Rotary International leaders: *RI Director Pat Merryweather* and our very own District 5630 Cheerleader, *Past RI Director Suzi Howe*. They both showcased the importance of visioning in clubs and districts to set a path for success.



After lunch, Dena led the participants in a discussion asking, “What Future Do We Want for District 5630?”

We split into groups and brainstormed ideas guided by four Rotary International strategic priorities:

- Increase our impact
- Expand our reach
- Enhance participant engagement
- Increase our ability to adapt



After we finished the exercise, District PR Chair *Sarah Cathcart* talked about branding and its power and how important it is to wear branded swag — with a beautiful display of Rotary items to show everyone there is a wide variety of Rotary swag for everyone.

We thanked *Dena* for her great work as facilitator with a Paul Harris presentation and ended our session with a “closing circle.” People left the session with words like *hope, reenergize, engage, and inspired*.

In a room full of leaders, it was great to see how everyone worked together to dream for our future, to discuss a new beginning where we had a safe space to share ideas, show vulnerability, and tell our stories. When we are all on the same page and align our values, we can create a strong culture and foundation to embrace change and become a successful District.

In the words of DGN Sarah Cathcart: They say “teamwork makes the dream work.” Together, District 5630 Rotarians are an unstoppable team. We can make amazing dreams come true as [#PeopleOfAction](#) because together we are [#5630strong](#).

## Need a Boost? A Companion Club Could Be the Answer.

The **Broken Bow Area Rotary Club** just added a “Companion Club” – 13 new Rotarians from nearby Ainsley, Nebraska. A Companion Club has also been called a “Satellite Club,” but *IPDG Deb McCaslin*, membership chair of the Broken Bow Club, prefers the name “Companion” because it emphasizes that the two clubs work alongside each other. The Broken Bow Club is there to support Ainsley’s projects, and the Ainsley members are ready to be engaged in Broken Bow Area’s service efforts.

Here's a brief summary of the characteristics and advantages of Companion Clubs, adapted from an online article from [Rotary District 6420](#).

### What's the Purpose?

The primary focus of a Service Companion Club is community service. This model offers an alternative membership route for individuals who cannot attend regular Rotary meetings. By doing away with standard meeting obligations, the Service Companion Club adopts an inclusive approach to impacting communities positively.

### How Do They Operate?

The club members meet to plan and execute service projects, either in person or via platforms like Zoom, Microsoft Teams, or WhatsApp. While optional, members can also attend meetings of their Host Club. Despite its separate operational structure, the Service Companion Club is considered a Rotary International Satellite Club of the Host Club, and members pay a nominal annual fee of \$200, covering international and district dues as well as basic expenses.

### How Is It Organized?

**Board of Directors:** Decision-making within the Service Companion Club lies with its Board of Directors, which operates independently but often includes representation from the Host Club. The club can either adopt its Host Club's bylaws with modifications or create its own.

Committees for Service Projects, Membership, Club Administration, Public Image, and The Rotary Foundation are encouraged.

**Secretary and Treasurer:** These roles manage administrative tasks and financial aspects, ensuring smooth coordination with the Host Club.

### Service Projects

The Service Companion Club has autonomy in designing its service projects, but it also supports initiatives hosted by its Host Club and other Rotary Clubs. In essence, it acts as a force multiplier for service in the community.

### Are Members Considered Rotarians?

Yes, members are considered part of the Host Club, even having "Active" status as Satellite Club members on MyRotary.org. They are listed in and have access to the DACdb club management system, just like their counterparts in the Host Club.

### The Bottom Line

With a Service Companion Club, you are one club meeting at two different times, increasing membership diversity and providing more opportunities for community service. Whether your members are young professionals, working mothers, or those with changing work responsibilities, this model offers a flexible pathway to service.

Check out this [Companion Club Fact Sheet](#). Deb is out of the country right now, but if you'd like to know what it takes to form a companion club with one of your neighboring towns, just corner her at the District Conference on April 13. She's just waiting for you to ask!

**Highlights on YouTube**

# Greetings From 2024

# HCPETS

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# Club News - 1

## Arnold



Arnold Trio PE *Buzz Lohmiller*, Interact Chair *Nicole Badgley*, and Club President *Ron Cool* were delighted to participate in the [Visioning Session](#) in North Platte in January.

## Cambridge



Cambridge honored *Abigail Schultz* (Southwest) and *Annaka Wasenius* (Arapahoe) as Cambridge Rotary Students of the Quarter.

## Broken Bow



Thanks to lots of people donating both panties and money for the cause, IPDG *Deb McCaslin* and crew are boxing up panties to send with Deb on her trip to Zimbabwe this month. The panty project ties in with **Broken Bow's** International Global Grant GG2240455: providing reusable sanitary pads and training to girls in schools in Hwange District, Zimbabwe. The \$67,583 grant will help 6,000 school-age girls stay in school.



*Reg Warner* and *Kathy Benson* received Paul Harris +1 awards while *Russ Wood* (center) achieved the Paul Harris +5 award.

Thanks for your generous contributions to the Rotary Foundation.



Cambridge celebrated the achievements of *Ken and Georgia Dutt* with a Vocational Service Award for their active community involvement and "selfless dedication."

# Club News - 2

## Chadron



Chadron High School's Cardinal Singers donned their finest Christmas-theme sweaters for a rousing performance at the **Chadron Rotary Club** in December.

## Chappell

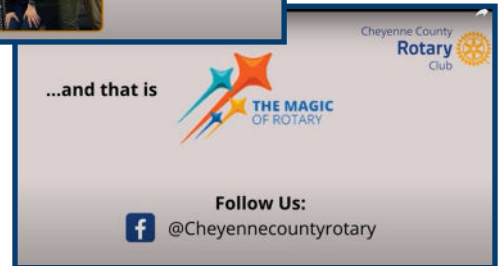


In January, **Chappell** gave dictionaries to Mrs. Behrend's 3rd grade class at Creek Valley Elementary to "assist all students to become good writers, active readers and creative thinkers."

## Cheyenne County



PE Forrest Hershberger's program on March 14 made the local news channel. He spoke of his mission trip to Nicaragua and their need for good quality water. *Above:* Local Rotary Club distributes portable water filters.



**Here's a bright idea!** **Cheyenne County** posted a short You-Tube video summarizing their first year as a Rotary club.

## Hot Meals USA



Hot Meals USA, with Rotary volunteers, fed 120 farmers and ranchers who suffered losses from the Betty Way Fire, which burned more than 70,000 acres northeast of North Platte the last week of February. The fire destroyed at least four residences and damaged countless outbuildings and agricultural infrastructure.

# Club News - 3

## Gothenburg



**Gothenburg** Rotarian *Steve Peterson* (center) was recognized on February 12 as a major donor to the Rotary Foundation, which means he has given at least \$10,000. Steve was the charter president of the Gothenburg club when it was formed in 1980. The presentation was especially meaningful because it was made by *Dr. Kim Baxter* from North Platte. Dr. Baxter's late father, *Neal*, presented Steve with his first Paul Harris pin many years ago. His wife *Ligia* was at his side for the presentation.



The Gothenburg SHARES program began in the 1950s with bags of potatoes given to a few needy families at Christmastime. Over the years, other individuals joined the effort to provide additional food items to families and help with the distribution. Today, baskets are funded by contributions of greater Gothenburg community residents and are assembled and distributed by members of the Rotary and Interact clubs and other volunteers. On December 16, 2023, food boxes were delivered to 65 families.



The **Gothenburg Club** provided free hot dogs during the annual Magic on Main Street holiday celebration with Santa and his reindeer. The club gave away more than 200 hot dogs in about an hour. Pictured: *Aaron Colwell* and *Ray Zimmerman*.



Rotarians at Work provide opportunities for young athletes to play at **Gothenburg Rotary's** Youth Basketball Tourney.

# Club News - 4

## Grand Island Noon

### WOW! Meet Grand Island's newest members!



*Rene Blauhorn,*  
Blauhorn Law



*Draper Sullivan*  
Hall County Sheriff's  
Office



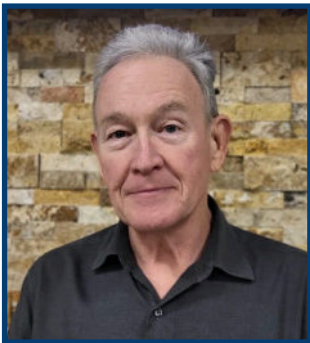
*Jessica Kozakiewicz*  
Leasing and  
Marketing Counselor  
at Tabitha



*Lauren Dunn*  
Starostka Contracting



*Audrey Worthing*  
District Staff Assistant  
for Congressman  
Adrian Smith.



Congratulations to *Tom Pirnie* for 35 years as a member of the **Grand Island** club. Tom exemplifies service above self both locally and through the international Rotary scuba driving group. They have a [Facebook group!](#)

Check out **Grand Island's** new website ([grandislandrotary.org](http://grandislandrotary.org)). It lists their upcoming speakers, information about the upcoming Taste of Grand Island, and a link to a Club Survey. *And* includes a DACdb login!

## Hastings



In early February, both **Hastings clubs** helped pack meals for [Hearts & Hands Against Hunger](#), which is based in Hastings. Volunteers packed 17,928 highly nutritious meals to feed starving children all over the world.

## Hastings Sunrise



PDG *Dale Schultz* utilized his points to present Paul Harris Fellow awards to some outstanding citizens of the community. *Ruth Raun* has been a teacher at Longfellow elementary for 27 years and received her PHF+1. *Rebecca Hernandez* is a NICU nurse at Mary Lanning and was recognized for the outstanding care and devotion she provides. Her bilingual fluency makes her an essential member of the healthcare team.

# Club News - 5

## Holdrege



Monty Vonasek (left) is congratulated by club president Chris McQuillan on earning a Paul Harris +1 Award.



Welcome to new member Conner Brown, proposed by Tom Moomey and welcomed by membership chair Allison Fritsche.



Rotarians assembling weekend meals for [Backpack Blessings of Holdrege](#).



Rotarian Keri Berry with Bertrand third graders. **Holdrege** also delivered dictionaries to Loomis, Holdrege Elementary, All Saints, and Legacy Christian.

## Kearney



February 23: **Kearney** observed World Understanding and Peace Day 2024, the anniversary of Rotary.

## Kearney Dawn



Eighteen schools, 33 classrooms, 698 dictionaries.

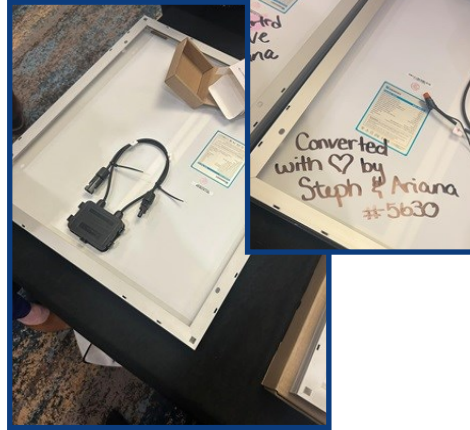


# Club News - 6

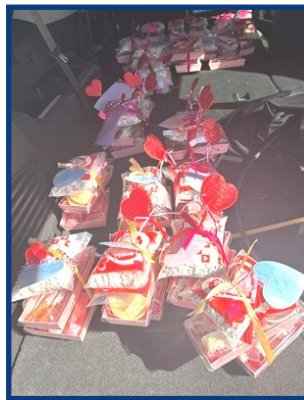
## Lake Mac Rotaract



Rotarians, Rotaractors, and an Interactor volunteered their time this afternoon to read to elementary school kiddos for Dr. Seuss week in early March.



While at High Country PETS, Rotaractors and Rotarians gathered to help convert solar panels into cell phone chargers to send to Ukraine.



Lake Mac's Valentine's Day Fundraiser: 100 chocolate dipped pretzels, 96 marshmallow pops, 225 chocolate dipped wafers, 22 chocolate dipped Rice Krispie treats, 4 dozen cookies dipped in chocolate, 5 batches of puppy chow, and 3 trays of fudge.

## McCook



New member Heather Stamm with her sponsor, Tim Wiebe.



Glam photos from McCook's New Year's Eve Adult Prom.



(left) McCook Rotary sponsored the ribbon-cutting at the 109-year-old Garrett House, which can now be rented on a short-term basis.

# Club News - 7

## Lexington



December awards night at **Lexington**, including multiple Paul Harris awards, with thanks to Immediate Past Club President *Scott McKelvey* (far right).

## Minden



*Dena Beck* is Minden's newest Paul Harris Fellow.



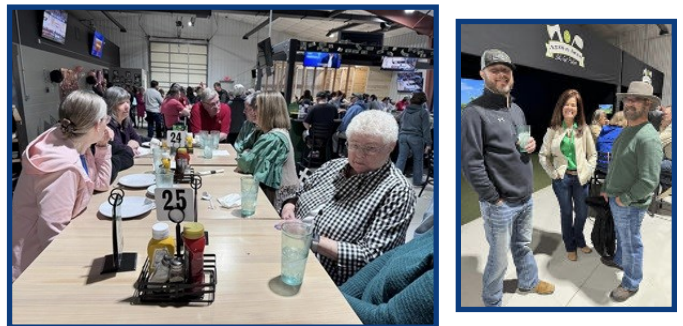
**Minden** Rotarians gathered bags of food to donate to The Closet and Food Pantry of Minden.

## North Platte Sunrise



**Rotary Youth Exchange** inbound students cleaned displays at Minden's Pioneer Village as a community service project, and enjoyed a tour of the museum.

## North Platte Noon



**North Platte Noon** Rotary club celebrated St. Patrick's Day together at Axes & Aces.

**North Platte Sunrise** Rotarians in action packing "Blessing Bags" that included a bottle of water, socks, a poncho, applesauce, Hot Hands, Kleenex tissues, and notes of support. They also had fun serving up 230 cups of hot chocolate at Cody Park Concessions.

# Club News - 8

## O'Neill



Club President Amy Shane welcomes new member Mike Rotherham.



Another successful Shamrock Fun Run for the O'Neill Rotary Club — their 46th!



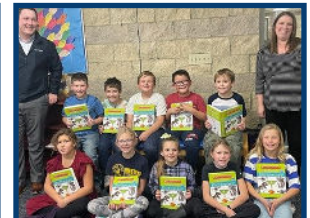
## Ogallala



Thanks to good Facebook voter participation, **Ogallala's** Collister Park Project received **ACE Energy's** Project of the Year.



Serving Christmas lunch at the Ogallala Senior Center.



Delivering dictionaries to St. Paul's, Arthur, and Paxton third graders.



RYE Kaede's Taste of Japan raised funds for her RYE USA trip.



# Club News - 9

## Ogallala Rotary



Mike & Shelley McQuillan gave Paul Harris Fellows as Christmas gifts to their daughters Maddie, Kate, and Lou.



And PE Jessop Adams is now a Paul Harris Fellow!

## St. Paul and St. Paul Interact



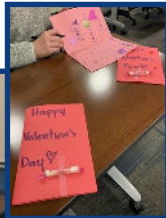
St. Paul Rotary sold and served tacos at a January high school basketball game.



St. Paul Interactors spread Christmas joy by decorating Christmas trees at [Brookefield Park Assisted Living Facility](#).



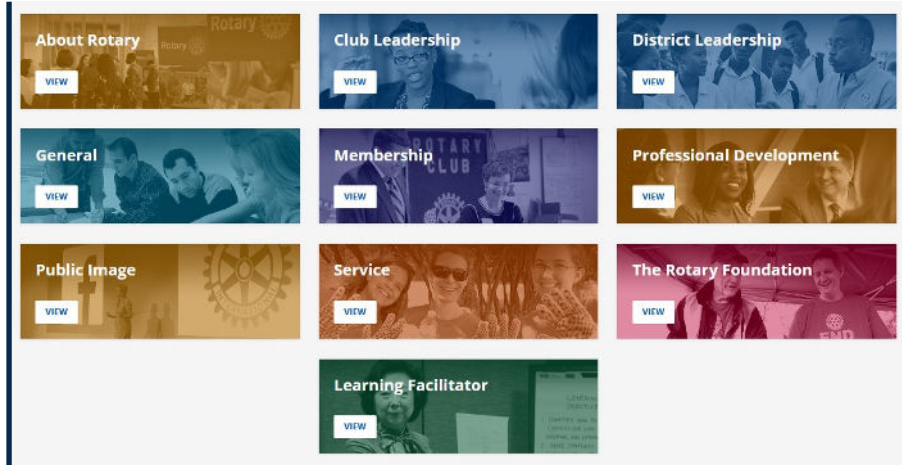
## Valentine



Valentine Interactors are busy making Valentines for Cherry Hills Estates residents.



# What About Club Secretary and Treasurer Training?



Our Club Presidents have just returned from their training at High Country PETS the first weekend of March, all enthused and eager to start their Rotary Year on July 1, 2024.

But what about other important club officers, like the secretary who keeps track of members and updates your records, and the treasurer who makes sure all the dues are collected and bills are paid?

Is there training available for them? With the ever-improving and ever-expanding Learning Center provided by Rotary International, the answer is Yes!

## Secretary Training

First, make sure you've set up your [My Rotary](#) account. Then see the "[Club Secretary Basics](#)" Learning Plan at the Learning Center. It's a 4-hour course in all, broken up into

nine 15- and 30-minute sessions with titles such as Managing Club Business, Working with Your Club Leadership Team, Rotary Club Central Resources, and Protecting Personal Data.

If you've been club secretary for a while, use the course to update your knowledge – and remind you of all the ways you can serve your club.

## For Treasurers

The "[Club Treasurer Basics](#)" is a 2.75 hour course made up of 7 15- and 30-minute sessions. Session titles include Get Ready: Club Treasurer – covering how to pay club invoices and adhering to proper financial standards. Other topics cover Minimizing Risk and how to use Rotary's Action Plan.

If members in your club, district, or zone want to learn more about the Learning Center, they can write to [learn@rotary.org](mailto:learn@rotary.org) to schedule a virtual presentation.

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 **June 14, 2024**.  
Please submit your photos and/or articles by **Monday, May 27**, to [daa@5630mail.org](mailto: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](mailto:daa@5630mail.org))



[Rotary5630.org](http://Rotary5630.org) District 5630  
Rotary Clubs