

Rotarians in Action



Rotary District 5630

2023-24 · Edition 4 · Summer 2024

District Governor's Message

Wow, what a year this has been, and can't believe how fast it went. When people ask about the high points, I have to say that the club visits were the best—getting to know more Rotarians on a better level than just

a name. Also—inducting new members and getting invited to so many special events. I wish I could have made more of those fun things.

Thank you to everyone in Ogallala for all the work in making Lorena's installment dinner and event so wonderful with special guest *Pat Merryweather Argus*. Congrats to all the Rotarians involved in the

"Service above Self" golf tournament in Broken Bow where they raised \$10,000 for the Rotary Foundation.

One of my last official duties will be in Ansley to swear in and pin all their new members in the new "Companion Club." Thank you, *Deb McCaslin*, for all of your work and making this happen.

Thanking *Brooke Robertson* (Ogallala) for serving as District Treasurer.

I think we all know what we need to do this next Rotary year to make this our



Celebrating Glenn's year at the District Conference in April.

best year ever under our *DG Lorena Beckius*. Rotary is such a great organization and we have so much fun.

Bring a friend, because the more people we have, the more dollars we have, the more we can accomplish. Who was the last person you invited to join us?

I know many people don't do much for the "Big Red Blowout" for whatever reason. This was designed to help the district, your club and the Foundation. I challenge each of you to do your share: Buy or sell one book of tickets. Because it's the "Rotary thing to do," and it is "Fair to All Concerned."

In closing I want to give my thanks to everyone, especially our District Leadership, for all of your dedicated work and effort.

Thanks for everything. I'm looking forward to seeing you in "2024-25."

Doing Good in the World,

DG Glenn Knuth 2023-24
Grand Island Sunrise
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With DGE Lorena and RI President Gordon McNally



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Rotary  **ROTARY INTERNATIONAL**

A Global Network of Community Volunteers

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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. McInally

DISTRICT 5630 LEADERS

District 5630 Central and Western Nebraska

www.rotary5630.org

District Governor 2023-24

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New Club Development

IPDG Deb McCaslin dmccaslinx4@gmail.com

District Governor Elect 2024-25

Lore Beckius dg.2024@5630mail.org

PolioPlus Chair

Don Kurre donk05@gmail.com

Public Image Chair 2023-24; DGN 2025-26

Sarah Cathcart dg.2025@5630mail.org

RAGAS (Rotary Action Group against Slavery)

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RYLA Chair

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District Foundation & Grants Chair

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Interact Chair

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District Executive Secretary/Newsletter Editor

Cheryl Bryan daa@5630mail.org

Celebrating in Ogallala



Wow, what a night. Truly blessed! We had over 100 people in attendance for the District Governor Installation Dinner on June 7th. It was SO great to see family, friends, sponsors, and members of organizations such as [Big Mac Kiwanis Club](#) and [Keith County Foundation Fund](#), and my Rotary Family coming from so many places to celebrate with me on a very special night.

As I embark on this journey as a District Governor I would say that it is an honor to serve as a District leader. I am thankful for the trust and for believing in me, but I have found amazing people along the road with strong leadership skills and passion to serve others. These people (50+ members) will be working by my side to make sure we share the gift of Rotary with others and help grow Rotary in District 5630.



I am thankful for my family who raised me, taught me good morals, and planted the seed at an early age to have a serving heart. Lucky to have a dad, *Patricio Soria*, who has been a Rotarian in [Club Rotario Ambato](#) for over 28 years and who opened the Rotary world to me. I am beyond blessed that my mom *Carolina Rosero* and my dad were part of my special night.

I am thankful for my husband, *David Beckius*, and my kids who are my everything and support me through all my dreams.

Thankful for my work at [Allen Capital Group](#), and my co-workers *Phil McBride*, *Morganne*, and *Carter* for their support.

Huge THANKS to *Gloria Yager* for working so hard to make this event possible. Thank you to *Suzi Howe* for the wonderful idea, *Craig Draucker* for talking to the board, and President *Brooke* for bringing this party to life.

Thank you to the Emcee of the night: *Mike Petko*, who was terrific as always. Blessed to have my prior employer as a

friend who helped make a night to remember.

Thank you to *Brooke Robertson*, for opening and closing the event, *Jami McGinnis Fleet*, *Jim Delahunty*, and *Teresa Delahunty* for helping make decorations, and taking registrations.

Thank you to *Kaede*, our student exchange student from Japan, who presented the American Flag. Thank you to a very good friend and sponsor *Todd Adams* for leading us in the Pledge of Allegiance.



Thank you to PDG *Deb McCaslin* for doing our inspiration, PDG *Scott McLaughlin* for installing me, and PDG *Bob Mayber* for presenting a very special Paul Harris+3 for my dad. Thank you "Grandma" *LuRae Hagan* for such a beautiful toast that came from the heart. How lucky I am to have all of you in my life.

Huge thank you to our keynote speaker Rotary International Vice President and RI Director *Pat Merryweather*. You shined and inspired the room. Thank you for coming to rural Nebraska.

Shout out to [Front Street Steakhouse](#) staff and *Stacey Bauer* for all their hard work preparing the place, cooking meals, serving food and drinks and [Crystal Palace Revue](#) for such an AMAZING show. Thank you to [Best Western Plus Ogallala Inn](#) for the great experience for our out-of-town guests!

Last but not least, thank you to the best photographer that I could have for the night — *David Fowler*.

July 1, 2024, is the start of my year to inspire, connect and change peoples lives. I can't wait to see what District 5630 can do working together and sharing the Magic of Rotary.

DGE Lore Beckius 2024-25

We are ramping-up for a busy Youth Exchange season again.

2023-2024 outbound students are preparing for their return to Nebraska. **Sienna Dutton** (Spain/McCook) and **Johan Mireles** (Japan/Grant) will be returning from their studies abroad. After they spend a couple weeks being loved on by family and friends, they will attend a rebound camp in Fayetteville, Ark. This camp will help them process their experiences and parlay their newfound skills into remarkable scholarship applications and stand-out job applications. Be sure to meet with them and invite them to present at your meetings before they head off to college.



Jules with McCook Club President Michal Swanson

Exchange partners and **2023-2024 hosted students** are either heading home soon (**Juls Pintor**, McCook/Spain) or heading out on their 28-day USA Tour. This month-long bus trip takes them to sites such as the Grand Canyon, Las Vegas,

Hollywood, San Antonio River Walk, New Orleans' French Quarter, Florida's Disneyland and Oceans of Fun, followed by three days in Washington, D.C., over the 4th of July and several days in New York City and Chicago before returning home for final goodbyes and departing for their "other homes." **Szymon** (North Platte) **Fabian** (Imperial), **Juls Pintor** (McCook) and **Kaede** (Ogallala) have all found a tender place in our hearts and communities this year.

At the same time, another four young ladies are preparing for their own travels abroad. **Outbound students for 2024-2025** include **Lyssa Hoffman** (Hastings), who is heading for Argentina, **Iris Robles** (Imperial) is oogling all the amazing pictures of her host community in Romania, on the coast of the Black Sea. **Haley Holzfaster** (Paxton) is preparing for her time in Londrina, Parana, Brazil where she will experience two summers in the same year! **Zoey Dornbier** (Ogallala) is headed for the beauty and splendor of Spain. They are anxiously awaiting their host guarantee forms and visa/consulate visits so they can purchase flight tickets.

Last, but not least, the **Inbound Class of 2024-2025** is preparing for their exciting year in Nebraska. Hastings



Kaede with her Ogallala Host Moms

will host two girls this year: **Ana** from Brazil and **Sofia** from Ukraine. **Andrei** (Romania) will be living in Minden; **Alvaro** (Spain) will learn about life in Gothenburg and hopes to find a club soccer team to play on. **Janna** (Spain) will be attending Grand Island High School and hopes to see more of "The Good Life." **Isabel** (Ecuador) will be hosted in the wide-open spaces of Ogallala.

Please make the opportunity to meet these awesome young people. Your life will be blessed! Also, please make sure they have the opportunity to attend the District Governor **Lorena Beckius'** club visits when she arrives. (Lorena was a former exchange student from Ecuador to Ogallala several years ago.)

These students will be arriving in early August and attending their Inbound Orientation in Kearney in late August. This weekend also includes a trip to the Nebraska State Fair.

I want to thank all the clubs and individuals who responded to the Hastings Sunrise Challenge to support the district Youth Exchange budget. Your generosity and heart-felt support allows us to sponsor gatherings and meetings for the inbound students and to host one-way students like **Sofia** from war-ragged Ukraine, providing her the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate Nebraska life, and perhaps more of the USA.

Through Rotary, you are changing lives every day. Whether it is through Youth Exchange or World Fund projects, or Polio eradication, YOU are making a difference in someone's life. Thank You.

Paula Witt

Rotary Youth Exchange Chair
Hastings Sunrise Rotary Club
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Hot Meals Steps Up Again.

Thank you, Volunteers!

April 2024 - Omaha Area



From Dick Balluff on Facebook:

I cannot thank HOT MEALS USA enough for what they did for the people hit so hard in and around the Omaha area.

When I heard a "Hot Meals" organization was going to be working in conjunction with Bethany Lutheran Church of Elkhorn, I didn't know what to expect. In my wildest of dreams I could not have imagined what I got to see and work alongside.

An AMAZING organization! They brought three trailers, food and equipment to prepare 4000 meals and that's what they did. And when I say, "They," Dick would quickly point out "they" just showed up and it's the volunteers that made it happen. Thanks to Dick-Gary-Greg-Don and those from HMU I did not get to meet.

Did I say, "HOT MEALS USA is AMAZING"?

May 2024 - Greenfield, Iowa

The Kearney-based Hot Meals USA non-profit ventured to yet another tornado struck community, this time Greenfield, Iowa, to serve meals to victims and first responders.

On Tuesday, May 21, an EF-4 tornado with wind speeds up to 185 mph struck the Greenfield community. The tornado killed five and injured 35 people in addition to wreaking destruction across the Iowa community of just over 2,000 people.

The tornado was the deadliest so far of an active 2024 severe weather season.

Hot Meals USA arrived in Greenfield on Friday, May 24, and set up at the Saint John Catholic Church to serve meals from Sunday, May 26, to Tuesday, May 28.

The non-profit was able to serve 2,000 meals for lunch and 1,000 for supper on Sunday. (centralnebraskatoday.com)





Rotary Works with UNICEF to Eradicate Polio

It is sad to say that polio continues to impact Afghanistan, with three new cases and Pakistan with two new cases, as of the end of May 2024. Yes, cases of wild poliovirus (WPV) continue to inflict the people of the world — especially children.

Eradicating polio is a commitment Rotary made to the people of the world. Our work to eradicate polio is not finished as this report indicates.

Our mission is not finished in part because as the old saying reminds us, “out of sight out of mind.” Our work includes, now as much as ever, promoting awareness of the continuing need to eradicate polio. Our work also includes taking action by conducting fundraising to support Rotary’s worldwide immunization efforts.

What can you do?

- Place a tabletop tent on your desk to remind you every day to work toward eradicating polio.
- Share information from Endpolio.org on your social network at least once every week.
- Donate to Polio Plus at rotary.org.
- Create and organize a Polio Plus fundraising event for your club.



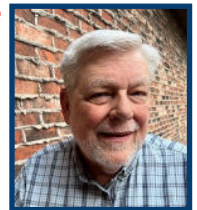
- Plan an activity for World Polio Day on October 24th.

UNICEF recognizes Rotary’s efforts to eradicate polio in a [Thank You video](#) featuring polio immunization in Afghanistan. Please watch the video and share it with the members of your club.

Together we will eradicate polio!

Don Kurre

District 5630 PolioPlus Chair
North Platte Noon Rotary Club
donk05@gmail.com
308-221-1005



We hope you’re taking advantage of all the tools DACdb has to offer your club—it’s invaluable for communication—and keeping up with your members.

With the new Rotary year approaching, it’s important that you update your club records for both communication and billing purposes. Here’s a summary of the [Checklist](#) DACdb recently provided.

If you’re not sure how to follow these guidelines, check out the very helpful training videos under the “Support/Learning” Tab.

— **Remove** any members that are no longer in the club or plan to stop membership on June 30. Also, be sure to **add** any new members by June 30 so your July 1 Rotary invoice will be correct.

— **Check** your Officer Compare before June 30 to ensure all of your club officers are reported to Rotary.

— **Check** your RI Club Info before June 30 each year to make sure changes in club contact information, meeting location, and meeting time have been reported correctly to Rotary.

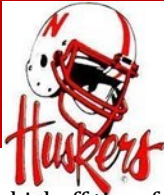
— **Assign** your club positions for the next Rotary year. If you don’t, the previous year’s officers may be assigned to the same positions and new officers may not have the necessary user level to access features available to higher level users in DACdb.

— **Review** the security levels of your club members and make sure the appropriate level is set for the members.

— **Use** Club Verify and send a PMail to members using PMail System Templates 15b or 15w which will allow them to review and edit their DACdb profile.

— **Create** and/or clone your club/district committees for the next year.

— Before June 30th, **Update the DACdb Calendar** with your upcoming meetings, fundraisers and events.



2024 Big Red Blowout

**GO
BIG
RED**

It's kickoff time for the 16th Annual Big Red Blowout Fundraiser!

We invite you to be part of the WINNING TEAM and participate in what Rotarians do. Support the Foundation, District, and your Club by selling your packet of **10 tickets or more**.

Raffle tickets have been mailed out to the clubs. Please ensure all tickets are turned in to the club and mailed to us no later than **August 21st**. This deadline is crucial to ensure all tickets are received and accounted for in time for the drawing.

The drawing will take place on **Wednesday, August 28th**, at the Kearney Dawn Rotary Club at 7 a.m.

We are looking forward to another successful fundraiser!

Go Rotary!



16th ANNUAL BIG RED BLOW OUT

Thank you for your past years of participation! Great leadership of clubs and great Rotarians have made this project a success! We would like to report what we have accomplished over the last decade, how the project works, and most importantly,

Where does the money go!

FOR EVERY \$100 YOU RAISE...

***\$40 GOES TO THE FOUNDATION IN YOUR NAME**

Funds in the foundation are used for large-scale grants, and 50% of the money given is returned to the district within three years.

***\$20 GOES TO THE DISTRICT**

These reserves pay operational expenses, fund smaller-scale grants for local clubs, and keep dues low. Using this, we haven't raised dues in 15 years!

***\$20 GOES TO YOUR CLUB**

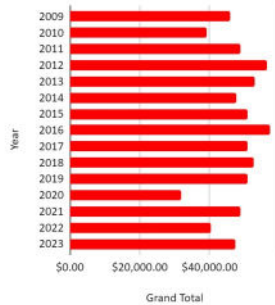
This money is your own club's and can be used however you all see fit.

***\$20 GOES TO THE FUNDRAISER**

On average, 20% of sales are used to fund the event, but the more money raised the smaller the ratio.

**Percentages vary from year to year based on Gross Sales.*

Amount Raised in District 5630 Per Year Since 2009



OVER THE LAST 15 YEARS, BIG RED BLOWOUT HAS RAISED OVER

\$721,496

OVER \$276,000 HAS GONE ON TO HELP THE ROTARY FOUNDATION CHANGE THE LIVES OF MILLIONS, THROUGH PROGRAMS LIKE POLIO PLUS AND BY FUNDING PROPOSED PROJECTS.

For more information contact

Paul Stec: 308-440-3713
soepstec@gmail.com

Tiffany Ritchie: 308-440-4302
tritchie1@gmail.com

Nebraska vs Northern Iowa

September 14th, 2024

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

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 Wednesday, August 28th, 7:00 am at the Kearney Dawn Rotary Club Meeting.



BRB MEMBERSHIP INCENTIVE

From now until August 15, 2024, when you sign up a new paid member, they'll receive 10 FREE Big Red Blowout raffle tickets. Each ticket stub should include the new member's name, phone number, "Sold By" with your name and phone number, and on the back write "NEW MEMBER." If their ticket is drawn, both you and the new member win!

Then if you and your new member sell a packet of tickets, you'll **double** your chances of winning! That is what

members do: support the Foundation, District, and your Club!

Don't miss out on this exclusive opportunity to grow your club's membership and win together! OUR GOAL: Make this the best membership year for District 5630 and achieve record-breaking sales with the Big Red Blowout!

Need more information? Phone or email Paul or Tiffany.

Rotary



DISTRICT 5630 MEMBERSHIP OLYMPICS

Game One - Have your club's Membership Chair complete the Club Membership Committee Basic learning Plan in the Rotary Learning Center!

- Visit the Learning Center in the "My Rotary" section on Rotary.org. Your club's Membership Chair will enroll in and complete the learning plan titled "Club Membership Committee Basics." This learning plan goes through vital topics to club health such as engagement, attracting new members, club culture, and more!
- There is an instructional document available for anyone unfamiliar with traversing Rotary.org to find the Learning Center!

Game Two - Define your club's membership goal early in the Rotary year and develop a plan to achieve it!

- Enter your club's membership goals into Rotary Club Central on Rotary.org in the My Rotary section. Finding this is similar to the Learning Center - check out the instructional document!
- Consider the provided district wide membership chart that shows where clubs are at and where clubs could respectively set their goals to grow proportionally to achieve the overall membership goal of the district

Game Three - Survey your club!

- Conduct a survey of your club. **Find out what your members want in their experience with Rotary.** Perhaps they've got some unique skills that would allow them to contribute to your club in a new way? Perhaps there's an area of service that your club's membership is interested in that hasn't been a part of the normal yearly projects? There may be aspects that are restrictive to their ability to serve or small changes that would open new doors. Anything is on the table!
- An example survey is provided for clubs!

Game Four - Have a Club Improvement/Retention Meeting!

- Analyze the results of your surveys. Come up with a plan with your leadership team and the district membership team on how your club can implement the feedback from your membership. Take that plan to the membership and let them know how their input is being implemented!

Game Five - Have an Engagement Activity!

- Organize a Membership Engagement event that promotes comradery, personal growth, leadership development, community service, and networking opportunities. **Bring the energy! Make it FUN!**

Game Six - Host a Member Recruitment Event

- Whether it's standalone or is incorporated into something your club is already doing, have an event that puts Rotary in front of the public. Show off the good your club does in your community and invite prospective members to see what Rotary is all about!

Bonus Round!

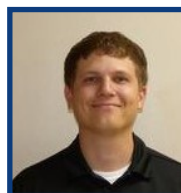
Game Seven - Sponsor or Nurture a new Service Companion or Rotary Club.

- Is there a population that your current Rotary club isn't tapping into? Is there a whole area of need in your community or a surrounding community that isn't being addressed and you know there are people eager to fill that need? Consider exploring the different club options and the process to get one started.

The Membership Olympics is a way for your club to help increase the membership in your club and District 5630 while earning you some money to bring back to do even more good in your community!

Aaron Colwell

District 5630 Membership Chair
Gothenburg Rotary Club
402-841-7023
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How the Whole Village of Arnold Will Benefit from Arnold Rotary's 4-Way Test Essay Contest

I am proud to say that the **Arnold Rotary Club** has reinstated the 4-Way Test Essay Contest. We used guidelines that **Bob Taylor** used in the past and then updated the information, rules and awards. I am a Rotarian and I am a 6-10th Grade English and Journalism teacher, and I am the one who offered the essay contest in my 6th grade classroom.

My students used the materials our Rotary Club purchased, a children's book titled *Andy and Elmer's Apple Dumpling Adventure* and *Becky and Lin's Apple Orchard Park*, to demonstrate the concept of the 4-Way test when it is applied to a community situation. Though they were children's books, they were a fast and effective way to demonstrate how a couple of kids could change their community for the better.



The first place winner of \$100 was **Jose Melendez** with an essay about the need to plant trees in our local park where so many have died. "The campers prefer a shaded area."

The second place \$50 winner was **Carlee Smith** with an essay about the need for a dog park at the state park so campers and walkers could leave their dogs in a safe fenced-in area instead of roaming all over.



The third place winner of \$25 was **Addison Dalrymple**. Her essay spoke about the need for lockers at the local pool. They have to leave their belongings, as well as their phones, on benches around the pool. Several times, people have stolen items when the swimmers weren't looking.



One Rotarian said, "It was nice to see our community through the eyes of a child. They actually see what the village needs that adults never pay attention to."

The kids had some amazing ideas, so when the Rotary members judged them, they kept the essays for future projects. Rotary also took a couple of the essays to the Village Board since some of the work would be under their jurisdiction for repairs.

The students will attend the May 9th Rotary meeting to read their essays and receive their awards.

Editor's Note: In a separate email, Nicole says: "I don't know if we are the only school that is doing this contest, but it is very worthwhile, and the students are very insightful for 6th graders, and have quality ideas. I was really impressed."

She also sees it as a possible recruitment tool when clubs invite the winners—and their parents—to a club meeting.

Nicole Badgley
District Interact Chair
Nicole_badgley@yahoo.com



Bob, Noah, Don, Brian, Tonja, Angie, Sarah, and Lorena—nothing but smiles at the District Conference in Grand Island in April.



Service Above Self Golf Tournament Raises \$10,000 for the Rotary Foundation



The 5th Annual Service Above Self Golf Tournament, which took place at Broken Bow's beautiful 9-hole golf course, focused this year on the District's giving to the Rotary International Foundation.

Through the generosity of our clubs and members districtwide, a check has been issued to the RI Foundation's Annual Fund. Three years from now a portion of these funds will return to the district in DDF and district grants. Moneys, including the match from the district, were donated to the fund in the name of the donor or the donor's business.

As \$5000 was raised, matched by the District for a \$10,000 donation to the Annual Fund, **10,000 Paul Harris points** will be awarded in honor of the donation.

"It was a great day in Central Nebraska," said event coordinator IPDG *Deb McCaslin*. "We had our best turnout ever, and I think everyone had fun."

Area businesses donated great prizes, with prizes awarded to the team with the best score and the team that had the most fun, and a prize for each hole. Twenty two-person teams competed.

Monetary sponsors included eleven Rotarians and six Rotary clubs—**North Platte Sunrise** (\$5,000 with match), **Ogallala, Gothenburg, Arnold, Hastings Sunrise**, and **Grand Island Sunrise** (\$300 each with match). Thanks again to all our event donors, our prize donors and to Broken Bow Area Rotarians for doing the heavy lifting.

Encouraging Thoughts from Pat Merryweather

Always a great time in Nebraska celebrating the installation of District Governor *Lorena Beckius* 2024-2025; District Governor *Glenn Knuth* 2023-2024; and DGE *Sarah Cathcart*!!!

It was an evening of celebration at the Crystal Palace Saloon in Ogallala with Lorena's family, including Rotary parents *Patricio Soria* and wife from Ecuador; husband *Dave* and children; many PDGs; club presidents-elect; District leaders; and Rotarians and Rotaractors. We had great fun and wonderful entertainment with a summer stock musical production on Ogallala that has been in production for the past 60 years!

Today we spent four hours with a large group of District and Club leaders on Growing Rotary in District 5630 — very energizing and engaging planning and commitment meeting. Special gratitude to membership mentors from District 4100 DG *Rafael De La Rosa López* and PDG *Victor Hugo Caballero* as they shared their successful journey in Growing Rotary.

I spent the afternoon in North Platte learning about its history and economic and community developments. I also was able to see the annual grocery cart race by three raffle ticket winners as they raced through Gary grocery store in 3,2,1 minute intervals.

It is always great to be in rural America and to see the passion and commitment of Rotary members to local and international initiatives—there is something very special in rural communities!

My special thanks to *Lorena, Deb, Norm, Bob, Glenn, Scott* and so many wonderful and kind Rotary members in Nebraska!
—Facebook post June 9, 2024

Pat Merryweather
Rotary Club of Naperville, Ill.
RI Board Vice President
Rotary International Director





Our Clubs in Action

Peace and Conflict Prevention



Paula Witt came to **Arnold** to speak at Arnold Public School and Arnold Rotary Club about the Rotary Youth Exchange program. Pictured: *Nicole Badgley and Paula Witt and Interactors Eli Rogers and Delaney Rogers.*

"You can change what the world thinks about a country with one person," said Paula. These students are in the role of an ambassador when they are traveling and living with the host families in the host communities. "They come home with a bigger world view."



In recognition of Rotary's Peace and Conflict Prevention/Resolution month in February, the **Cambridge** club distributed cookies to the Crisis Teams at Southwest Public Schools, Cambridge Public Schools, and Arapahoe Public Schools.

Prevention and Treatment of Disease



For Mental Health Awareness Month. To the Arnold Public School Staff: *We would like to thank each one of you for the hard work, care, and compassion you put forth every day. Remember the struggle can be real, but together we can all make a difference!* –from the **Arnold** Rotary Club.



In the blood drive hosted by **Cambridge** in memory of Addison Samuelson-Carbaugh in May, they collected 80 units of blood. **Thank You** to the Red Cross Crew that did all of the hard work for this drive. "We are humbled by the success of this drive."

Prevention and Treatment of Disease



Ogallala Rotary's volunteers for their blood drive in April.

North Platte's 21st Rotary Bloodhounds Blood Drive resulted in 40 units of blood



Lake Mac Rotaractors joined with Rotary members to help with cleanup at the May 22nd Red Cross Blood Drive.



Proceeds from Taste of **Grand Island** resulted in a \$5,000 donation to PolioPlus. \$12,000 will go to sustain Youth Leadership Tomorrow programs.



Children in Zimbabwe lining up for Polio Vaccinations—photo taken by Deb McCaslin (**Broken Bow**) on her and Norm's recent Africa trip.

"Train the Trainer" program in Zimbabwe. Goal: To train locals to manufacture reusable sanitary pads for young women.





WATER, SANITATION,
AND HYGIENE



MATERNAL AND
CHILD HEALTH

Water, Sanitation and Hygiene

Maternal and Child Health

Empowering Girls & Women, Transforming Lives!



Join us in Hwange District, Zimbabwe as we break barriers and prioritize menstrual health and hygiene. Our groundbreaking project aims to provide reusable sanitary pads to underprivileged girls and young women, both in and out of schools. Together, we're making a lasting impact.

In this inspiring collaboration, the Rotary Club of Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe District 9210, **Broken Bow Area Rotary Club, District 5630**, alongside Jafuta Foundation, Pathways Africa, Children in the Wilderness, and Lubancho House, have united to create change. Our collective efforts focus on empowering individuals through sewing skills training to produce these reusable sanitary pads. Through this empowering initiative, we're opening doors to new opportunities and transforming lives. With 100 singer sewing machines that have been bought and distributed to schools, the project is looking forward to benefit 133 schools in Hwange District. Approximately 8000 girls will be impacted.

Many thanks to **Deb McCaslin, Broken Bow Area Rotarians**, members of the Rotary Club of Victoria Falls and other clubs that played a pivotal role in making this project a success.

Together we end Period Poverty! Together, we sew the threads of a brighter future!

Shared from [Jafuta Foundation Facebook page](#)



Arnold Rotary provided these shirts for a local soccer team.



Gothenburg raised funds while serving as referees, selling tickets and selling concessions for two youth basketball tournaments. Pictured: *Gary Greer, Brock Massin, and Ray Zimmerman.*



North Platte Sunrise Rotarians helped out at the North Platte Flatrock Youth Baseball Tournament in May.

Basic Education and Literacy



The **Holdrege** Club is purchasing two Little Free Libraries with their District Grant. They are collecting “gently used” and new books to place in the libraries.



In March, Ogallala Rotarians, Rotaractors and an Interactor volunteered their time to read to Ogallala Elementary School students.

For their Book Buddies program, **Arnold** Rotarians purchased books then delivered and read them to local preschool and 2nd graders. Top photo: *Ali Goodenow, Becky Dailey, and Karen Hough* with the 2nd grade class. Bottom photo: *Lana Day* reads to the morning preschool class.



Proceeds from the June 8th Cornhole Showdown sponsored by **Cheyenne County** Rotary will be used to buy 2024-25 bus passes for Sidney Public School students.



Hastings Rotary presented scholarships to three recipients: *Kelyn Henry-Perlich* from Hastings High and *Nicholas Conant* and *Abigail Lauder* from Adams Central.



Cheyenne County was “all fired up” and ready to make some “big moves” as they celebrated their first anniversary.





Community Economic Development



Broken Bow Area Rotarians working to beautify the playground at the Fairgrounds in May.



A local business has contributed flowers to **Cambridge** Rotary's Downtown Park project.

Hastings Sunrise Presents "Overcomer Awards" to Deserving Students



From top: Hastings Sunrise Rotarian *Tim Overmiller* with "Overcomers" *Dominic Stutesman*, introduced by *Becky Fisher*; *McGivney Swanson*, pictured with *Father Rowan* of Hastings Catholic Schools, and *Max Vertin*, who "has overcome several obstacles and has a wonderful story," with *Christian Yost* from Hastings High.



Gothenburg Interact served The Connection, a homeless shelter in North Platte, with a homecooked meal and toiletry bags for both the men and the women.



McCook Interact participated in Youth Service Month by helping assemble shelving units for the Prairie Plains CASA storage room.

The Environment



Interactors were on hand to help **Gothenburg** Rotarians with a highway trash cleanup in April.



The **Cambridge** club welcomed help from members of St. Paul's Lutheran church with their highway trash cleanup. They also had fun(!) afterwards with a pizza/ice cream party.



In May, **Hastings Sunrise** Rotarians teamed up with **Hastings Noon** Rotarians to pick up trash on Highway 281.



To celebrate Arbor Day in April, **Hastings Sunrise** donated a Swamp White Oak and a Catalpa, which were planted at St. Michael Elementary School. City officials and students spoke during the special ceremony, ending with a blessing by Fr. Hazuka.



It was a great turnout for **McCook** Rotary's highway cleanup in April—with volunteers of all ages.



More trees planted! This time on West Fifth in McCook, by **McCook Rotarians** and **Interactors**.



Ogallala Interactors and **Rotarians** did a trash pickup with Keep Keith County Beautiful in April. It also served as a fundraiser.

Clubs Welcome/Honor Members



New member *Ted* is welcomed to the **Chadron** club by longtime member *Norm Martin*.



Grand Island recently welcomed three new members. *Audrey DeFrank* is Director of Marketing and Development for Goodwill Industries of Greater Nebraska; *Katie Vlach* works as the Keep Grand Island Beautiful Coordinator at Clean Community System; and *Alison Larson* is the Executive Director of EPI Discovery Center.



The **Minden** club added three new members in March and April, flanked here by *Kevin Raun* and PDG *Don Peterson*: *Eric Vanhorn*, Director of Craig Funeral Home; *Duane Kristensen*; and *Alan Farlin*, Global Leader at SIL TCK Care and Education.



Club president *Brian Phares* welcomes new member *Jon Siemer* to the **North Platte** club.



The **Ogallala** club welcomed two new members in April: *Rachel Allen* and *Katy Hoover* (in blue).



North Platte Sunrise added two new members in May: *Victoria Steffen* and *Natalie Hoffman*.

From Facebook: The **Holdrege** Rotary Club celebrated *Janice Vonloh's* 60 years of service to the club! While in high school, she began playing piano at club meetings. "We wonder how many times she played *Roll Rotary*, *Beautiful Nebraska*, *America* or other songs from the songbook? Janice is loyal and dedicated, and we appreciate her so much!"

Our Paul Harris Fellows



Arnold: Kelly Blevins and Laura Garrison (standing) and Dell Cerney (sitting) are congratulated by Ron Cool (at right).



Gothenburg club foundation chair Joan Windrum presented Amber Burge and Allison Jonas with their Paul Harris pins. Dave Zorn also achieved the honor but was not present. The Gothenburg Rotary Club is proud to be a 100% Paul Harris Fellow Club.



Grand Island club members Barbara Graves, Donald Deitemeyer, and Past President Denise McGovern-Gallagher receive Paul Harris (plus) recognition pins.



Hastings Sunrise member Peter Hedstrom received a Paul Harris+5 pin from club president Josh Johnson.



Lake Mac Rotaract President-Elect and dual member Stephanie Reed was awarded her first Paul Harris Fellow in April.



Valentine's Co-President Regina Osborn congratulates Ray Scholl who received the "coveted" 5-blue-stone Paul Harris Award pin.



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



O'Neill's Past President Amy Shane presented Tammy Ducker with a Paul Harris Award and Marv Fritz with his 6th!



Serving through Interact

NOTE: You'll also see throughout this newsletter where Interactors worked with Rotarians in these Areas of Focus: Peace & Conflict Prevention, Basic Education & Literacy, Community Economic Development, and the Environment.



Central Nebraska Interactors brightened the room at the District Conference in Grand Island. They pose here with **Arnold** Rotary members. Left to right: *Mary Becker, Danah Baldwin, Anna Tullis, Kay Lohmiller, Buzz Lohmiller*. Back row: *Delaney Rogers* (Interact President), *Eli Rogers*, and *Valerie Daly*.



Left: District Interact Sponsor *Nicole Badgley* honors Central Nebraska Interact President *Delaney Rogers* as "Interact Member of 2023."



Graduating Seniors *Delaney Rogers* and *Tahanna Nokes*.



Interact Officers for 2024-25: *Ivy Tullis* (secretary), *Eli Rogers* (vice president), *Anna Tullis* (president), *Delaney Rogers* (past president). Not pictured: *Realta Leach* (Treasurer), and *Taylor Hanna-Mills* (graphic design).



McCook Interact Co-Sponsors *Vince Allen* and *Angie Swanson* presented *Grace Wilhelmson*, a senior and Co-President for the Interact Club, with a sash to honor her commitment to the McCook Interact club.



Ogallala Interact Club made and delivered May Day goodies to the Ogallala EMS and Ogallala Police Department.



Imperial Rotary helped *Don Newman* celebrate his 90th birthday! Don has been a Rotarian half his life: over 45 years.



Fundraisers: Making Service Possible

Topped With Syrup and More...

Rotarians serve up pancakes at 50th annual fundraiser



Rotarian Mary Becker serves pancakes to Jo Ann Keyzer and an unidentified guest at Rotary's pancake feed held last Thursday at the community center.



Aden and Avery Corbin spice up their pancakes with a selection of toppings. Young soccer players and their families came up from Old Mill Park to help make the event a success.



Rotarians scurrying to fill orders for **Chappell Rotary's Burrito Week**. Thanks to **Chappell Feedlot** for their generous donation of meat as well as **Anita Rogers, Irene Roop, Creek Valley FFA** officers and **Toshia Jones and Racheal Linden** from **Cheyenne County Rotary** for their help. Proceeds will help pay RYLA fees for local students.



Imperial's Kentucky Derby featured a stick horse race, a lottery with a \$5,000 grand prize, costumes, food, and lots of smiles.



PDG **Bob Mayber**, RI Director **Pat Merryweather**, North Platte Club President **Brian Phares**, and **Jason Hansen** were on hand to watch Grocery Grab winners **Justin, Lori, and Kate** grab groceries at Gary's on Fourth Street.



With help from Ace Hardware, **McCook Rotary's** fundraisers raised money for a new disc golf course and for Hot Meals USA.

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 **September 16, 2024**.

Please submit your photos and/or articles by **Friday, August 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)



Rotary5630.org District 5630 Rotary Clubs