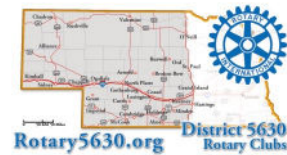


# Rotarians in Action



July/August 2024

## My “Why?”

by District Governor Lorena Beckius

dg.2024@5630mail.org



I was introduced to the Magic of Rotary when I was a little girl in Ambato, Ecuador, where my dad is a Rotarian. I started helping my dad in Rotary projects so that he would be proud of me. When I was 12, Rotary built a school for an indigenous community called Illagua, a very poor community in the Highlands. Through a global grant, a club in California had applied for a Rotary International grant and were able to raise money to build a school and bring trained teachers to the Illagua community.

Every year the Rotary Club of Ambato hosted a Christmas party at the Illagua school for all the kids, which I was able to attend. These children were so happy to receive a bag of popcorn, a bag of chips, and a stuffed animal. It wasn't much, but they were grateful for whatever they received. This made me realize how fortunate I was. I had everything: a family, a house, cars, and a maid. I wanted to give back!

Later on, I became involved with the Rotary Youth Exchange Program through my Dad (he was the chair at the time). I fell in love with learning about other cultures and languages and was given the opportunity of a lifetime as a Youth Exchange student in Ogallala in 2002-03. Later I came back to the States for a wedding, got re-acquainted with my now-husband David, and now Ogallala is my home.

Rotary is the best service organization in the world, because they have members like you, people with different backgrounds, different professions that come together to use their skills and knowledge to make a difference in people's lives locally and internationally.

Just like Aristotle said: What is the essence of life? It is to serve others and do good. And that's what we do at Rotary. I can say Rotary changes lives, as it has truly changed mine.

## Minden Club Uses Global Grant for Ophthalmology Clinic in Argentina

The Rotary Club of Minden is partnering with the Rotary Club of Totoras, Argentina, in a \$33,741 global grant to establish an ophthalmology clinic in Totoras. The clinic will serve low-income patients who do not have the means to pay for treatment or access to insurance. The Rotary Clubs of Ogallala, Neb., and Atwood, Kans., are also helping to fund the project.



The grant will enable the local hospital, which already has an ophthalmologist on staff, to purchase necessary equipment for the prevention, detection and treatment of three prevalent eye diseases: diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and hypertensive retinopathy. Diabetic retinopathy, along with diagnosed diabetes, has doubled in the past ten years and is the main cause of blindness in young adults in the region.

Members of three Nebraska Rotary clubs meet with members of the Rotary Club of Totoras, Argentina: PDG **Dale Schultz**: Hastings Sunrise Club (sitting, first row center); **Steve Brodine**, Kearney Dawn Club (standing back row, 4<sup>th</sup> from left) and PDG **Don Peterson**, Minden Club (standing back row, 3<sup>rd</sup> from right).

The Rotary Club of Minden meets at noon on the second and fourth Thursday of every month at the Minden Opera House. You can visit [mindenrotary.com](http://mindenrotary.com) or their [Facebook page](#) for more information about the club.



# Welcome!



On June 27, DG Glenn Knuth joined in as **Broken Bow Area** celebrated the addition of the **Ansley Area Rotary Club**, a companion club which includes Broken Bow's Past-President Michelle Nelson.



**Lake Mac Rotaract** inducted three new members at their July meeting: **Joe Williams**, **Jose Garcia**, and **Gentry Welsh**, pictured with Club President and District Rotaract Chair, **Stephanie Reed**.



Lexi Wescott - **Minden**



Michala Soundy - **Grand Island**



Alex Harmann - **Grand Island**



**Holdrege** - Jason Sidel, proposed by Karen Stute, Jaimee Anderson, proposed by Allison Fritsche, and Chadd Jacobson, proposed by Dan Janssen - Club President.



Matt Kreutzer (on left) **Grand Island**



Rich Estrada - **Chappell**

## More members added between July 1 and August 8, 2024 (per DACdb):

- Arnold**
  - Grand Island**
  - Hastings Sunrise**
  - Kearney Dawn**
  - McCook**
  - Valentine**
- Kay Lohmiller
  - Kari Hooker Leep and Jay Wren
  - Kittie E. Grace and Brian G. Hoffman
  - Kim Ingram, Jack Pohl, and Amber Lubben
  - Kelly R. Rippen
  - Britni Murphy and Shauna Radant



Marlin Murdoch (on left) - **Holdrege**



## Featured Club: **MAGIC MOMENTS** with Lake Mac Rotaract



Lake Mac Rotaract members, here with Ogallala Public School District Superintendent Dr. Russel, paid off all the overdue breakfast/lunch account balances for the district. The club is committed to ensuring that our children's future is bright.



Lake Mac's officers for 2024-25: **Stephanie Reed**, President; **Brett Guth**, Immediate Past President, **Ariana Mungia**, Secretary; **Macy Coleman**, Treasurer, and **Hanna Davis**, Vice President.



Lake Mac members love to entertain the kids! They sponsored a First Responders photo booth at Ogallala's National Night Out on August 6...



[Cheyenne County Club](#) Members **Kendra Mitchell**, **Kristina Davis**, **Jacobi Popp**, District Rotaract Chair **Stephanie Reed**, Lake Mac Rotaractor **Ariana Mungia**, outbound exchange student **Zoey Dornbier**, and club president **Toshia Jones** (not pictured) met in July to share ideas about starting a [Cheyenne County Rotaract Club!](#)

**Kids Trivia Night**  
PRESENTED BY  
**Rotaract**  
Club of Lake Mac

**TUESDAY AUGUST 27, 2024 BEGINNING AT 5:00 P.M.**

Driftwood  
118 N Spruce St  
Ogallala, NE 69153

Join us for a fun-filled KIDS trivia night!

- 4 rounds- 1 winner each round
- 10 questions per round, with tie breaker
- One overall winner
- 1st-6th grade students only
- \$5 per individual, \$3 for additional family members
- Parents must remain present

...and will host a Kids Trivia Night on August 27.



Rotaract  
SINCE 1917  
**uganda**  
trip  
2025

Lake Mac's **Ariana Mungia** and **Stephanie Reed** are the only two U.S. Rotaractors who have been chosen to go on the Rotaract Uganda Trip 2025 with participants from nine other countries.

"We will be exploring Uganda's breathtaking landscapes, engage in community projects, and immerse ourselves in local culture. We will witness the magic of Uganda's iconic landmarks while creating lifelong friendships with fellow Rotaractors. We are beyond humbled by the opportunity to go and live out Rotary's mission of 'service above self."

"We are so excited to represent Lake Mac Rotaract, Ogallala Rotary Club, District 5630, NEBRASKA, and most importantly the UNITED STATES!" Steph and Ariana welcome donations to help with trip expenses. Send a private message on the club's [Facebook](#) page.

**Lake Mac Rotaract Club** meets at 6:00 on the second Tuesday of the month at Driftwood, 118 N. Spruce St., Ogallala.

# September is Membership Month in District 5630!

## The (Membership) Olympics Are Not Over!

Featuring 6 Games and a Bonus Game:

1. Complete the "[Club Membership Basics](#)" Course in [Rotary Learning Center](#).
2. Define your club's membership goal and enter it into [Rotary Club Central](#).
3. Survey your club!
4. Have a Club Improvement/Retention meeting.
5. Organize an Engagement Activity
6. Host a Member Recruitment Event

Bonus: Sponsor or nurture a new Service Companion or Rotary Club

Details are in our [DACdb Files](#).

Let DG Lorena know what your club is doing to grow, and she will enter your club's name in a drawing for a special prize. Email her at [dg.2024@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2024@5630mail.org).

Rotary District 5630

# GROW YOUR ROTARY CLUB

Virtual Webinar  
**AUGUST 21ST**  
7 PM CT / 6 PM MT

**Panelists**

- Paul Stec  
Kearney Dawn Rotary Club
- Dan Janssen  
Holdrege Rotary Club
- PDG Dave Long  
District 5580
- Jessica Hendricks  
Grand Island Rotary Club

Moderator: DMC Aaron Colwell - Gothenburg Rotary Club

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- SCOTT MCKELVEY
- TRIANGLE BAR RANCH
- WOLF AUTO

## LUNCH & LEARN ROTARY 101

Wednesday, September 18

12:00 p.m. MDT/1:00 p.m. CDT

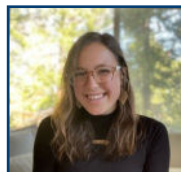
Via Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/2mk5aexw>

### Hosted by

Dena Beck, District 5630 Trainer (Minden)

PDG Scott McLaughlin (Kearney Dawn)

Submit your topic ideas!  
to Dena ([dena68959@gmail.com](mailto:dena68959@gmail.com)) or  
Scott ([dg.2019@5630mail.org](mailto:dg.2019@5630mail.org))



## Phoebe Dunbar of Hastings Begins New Generations Service Exchange

At the end of July, **Phoebe Dunbar** of Hastings flew to Argentina to begin her 6-month New Generations Service Exchange. The host district, Rotary District 4945 (Argentina and Uruguay), posted that Phoebe "will be in our district for 6 months: 2 in Guauguaychú, where she will do work on a private and a public nature reserve; 2 in Columbus, in La Aurora del Palmar, and 2 in Las Parejas."



Phoebe is a former Rotary Youth Exchange Student from District 5630 and has served as a Rotex for our District. She will have four host families during her stay, including **Pedro and Elba Zanini** (at left) in Las Parejas. Both the **Hastings Sunrise** and **Kearney Dawn** clubs have stepped up to support Phoebe as her District Sponsoring Clubs. In 2018, **Candela Sudano** from Rafaella, Argentina (District 4945) was hosted in Kearney for six months while she was studying to become an English teacher in Argentina.

## THANK YOU TO OUR 2024-25 DISTRICT 5630 SPONSORS



MICHAEL HOLZFASTER

SCOTT MCKELVEY

TRIANGLE BAR RANCH

WOLF AUTO

2024-25 RI President: Stephanie Urchick | District Governor: Lorena Beckius

Send your club news items and photos to Newsletter Editor Cheryl Bryan ([daa@5630mail.org](mailto:daa@5630mail.org))