

Rotarians in Action



September/October 2024

My "Why?"

by PDG Bob Mayber, District Foundation Chair

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Often, I'm asked why I joined Rotary and why I continue to be a Rotarian.

When I joined in 2005, I joined because I wanted to do everything I could to promote my business. I felt that being a Rotarian would give me

access to the movers and shakers of North Platte and help me be successful. However, once I became a Rotarian, I was soon enthralled with the overall mission of Rotary and the dedication and sincerity of the people I was associated with.

I decided I wanted to become a stronger member of my club and requested to join the board of directors. I did my three-year term and then became Club President. My club did okay during my year, but, as I would find out later, my work didn't make #1496 an "Outstanding" Rotary club.

Then I was invited to join Dr. Baxter on a trip to Kenya. That trip woke me up and allowed me to see the true worth and results that come from the "Magic" of Rotary. As I've told many of you before, I was overcome with emotion in Kenya, seeing the hardships and poverty that these folks endured. Honestly, it changed my life!

What Dr. Baxter was doing there made a real difference in people's lives and inspired me to tell my Rotary story to everyone that I see. I encourage each of you to Open your Rotary hearts as wide as possible. There are so many things that can be done using the teamwork and "Magic" of Rotary. If you have an idea that you want to discuss with me, I encourage you to call or write.

Thank you,
Bob

Ticket winners and sellers had a fantastic time on their bus ride to the Nebraska vs. Northern Iowa game on September 14th! Participants enjoyed a round-trip motorcoach ride, tickets to the game, a delicious buffet at Chances "R" in York, and two tailgate passes.

Thanks to everyone's participation, we raised \$32,680 in net proceeds.

Five hundred dollars will be awarded to clubs with 100% participation, with additional contributions of \$8,170 to the District, \$8,170 to District clubs, and \$16,340 to the Rotary Foundation.



Thank You for Making a Difference!



We would also like to extend our sincere gratitude to the following individuals and businesses for their generous support of the Big Red Blowout fundraiser. Whether through donating football tickets, providing tickets at a reduced rate, sponsorship, or communication, your contributions were vital to making this event a success: **Cindy Schneider, Connie Francis, Town & Country Bank, Five Points Bank, First Interstate Bank, Al Koerperich, Ben & Michelle Huls, Dan Harper, Frank Sibert, University of NE Foundation, Cheryl Bryan, Lore Beckius, Phares Financial Services, Adams Bank & Trust, and Heartland Hosting.**

Thank you to everyone who participated and helped us make a difference this year!

Tiffany Ritchie and Paul Stec

Additional Pictures at <https://photos.app.goo.gl/vt93rbduM1Ax8dDT9>



Welcome!



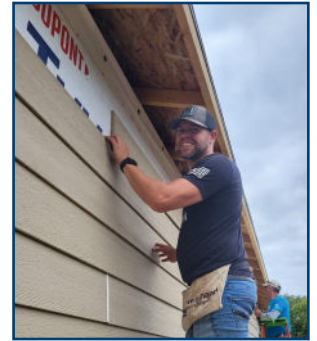
Holdrege: (Above left) **Doug Walker** (transferred from Alma), **Curtis Underwood**, Pastor **Jan Gluth King**, Dr. **Doug Hohman**, and **Derik Light**, inducted by DG **Lore Beckius** during her club visit. (Above right) Membership chair **Karen Stute**, **Dan Janssen** (Club President), New members **Angela Groothuis-Yunz**, **Cody Drudik**, and **Dustin Hammond**, all proposed by **Brett Bebensee**.



(left) Sponsor **Lori Larson**, with new member **Derek Adam Hernandez**, pictured with membership chair **Karen Stute** and president **Dan Janssen**.



Broken Bow: President **Robert Staab**, PDG **Scott McLaughlin**, and DG **Lore Beckius** welcome new member **Tina Hurt**.



Grand Island: New members **Kimberley Hughes** and **Guy Skodmin** receive their membership certificates from President **Dave Plond**. New member **Josh Smidt** is already a "Rotarian in Action," helping with a Habitat for Humanity project in September.



Kearney Dawn: (Left) New member **Bryan Stava**. More new KD members, per DACdb: **Tracie McLaughlin** and **Dave Saylor**. **Lake Mac Rotaract:** New member **Ashley Hensley** is welcomed by club president **Stephanie Reed**.



Lexington: An unforgettable induction for **Oscar Colunga** by RI Director **Salvador Rizzo** and our good friend past RI Director **Suzi Howe**, at the Zone Institute in San Antonio.

Featured Club: **MAGIC MOMENTS** with the Arnold Rotary Club



RYLA campers **Eli, Emma, Ivy, and Klaire**, sponsored by Arnold and Broken Bow (Emma). **Ivy and Eli** visited the club in August to tell about their adventure.



On July 1, **Buzz Lohmiller** stepped up as club president, and as **Ron Cool** stepped down he received a unique gift!



Open Mic Night. At their August 29th meeting, members displayed their talents. Pictured: **Irv Jennings** reading a joke, after which he performed a magic trick; **Buzz Lohmiller's** bird calls; **Kay Lohmiller** reading a passage out of a Southern book; **Irv Jennings'** daughter and granddaughter on their violin and guitar; **Rick and Lana Day's** enactment of sitting on a front porch one night in Arnold. **Bob Hough** read some cowboy poetry, Interactor **Eli Rogers** sang *Hey Good Looking*, and **Karen Hough** read a poem.



Arnold Rotary provided breakfast for 200 volunteers who helped with the 2024 Sandhills Open Road Challenge, a 55-mile rally style open road race through the scenic Nebraska Sandhills.



The club sponsored a Hillbilly Bash Run/Walk as a fundraiser during Arnold's Fall Festival. Pictured: **Tony Hall** and his grandkids; a PolioPlus donation table; group picture, including three generations of the **Taylor Snyder** family; **Becky, Payton, Kora Dailey and Val Daly** serving at the registration table.



The club — including a few Interactors — welcomed DG **Lore Beckius** for her club visit and her presentation of the 2024-25 Rotary theme flag to president **Buzz Lohmiller**.

The Arnold Rotary Club meets each Thursday at 6:30 p.m. at the Arnold United Methodist Church, 403 N. Walnut St.



2024 - Polio Emergency in Gaza WORLD POLIO DAY, October 24

The first case of polio in Gaza in more than 25 years emerged this August, raising a **health emergency**. The word “emergency” is not an exaggeration. Consider the fact that BOTH the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) and Hamas cooperated in a humanitarian pause, allowing safe conduct for UN agencies and partners to successfully conduct first-round vaccinations in three phases across Gaza, reaching 560,000 children under age 10. Starting October 14, second doses of vaccine will begin as the process is repeated.

Why such efforts to vaccinate? Because one polio case with paralysis means approximately 200 other individuals (typically children) are spreading the virus without showing symptoms. Such numbers could rapidly multiply. Polio spreads easily to people who have not been immunized.

The Gaza infection has been traced to polio strains most recently detected in Egypt. *Polio can be carried by people who look well. It is only a plane ride away from anywhere.*

Rotary is committing \$500,000 to bolster the initiative, channeling these funds through a dedicated Polio Outbreak Response Fund. This contribution represents Rotary's sustained support of the World Health Organization in combating polio globally. Some 1.26 million doses of the polio vaccine have been delivered to Gaza in preparation for distribution, with 400,000 more due to arrive soon.

OCTOBER is Polio Awareness Month, and special events are being scheduled for WORLD POLIO DAY in an effort to raise funds for PolioPlus. Through PolioPlus, the Rotary Foundation funds the production of Polio vaccines for use around the world.

PolioPlus remains Rotary's #1 worldwide project and over recent decades has protected millions. When the project began in the late 1980s, polio cases worldwide were in the hundreds of thousands each year. Two strains of polio have been eradicated, and the total number of cases of remaining strains is now a small fraction of the numbers seen in the 20th century, even with a vastly greater world population.

Modern medicine has the tools to stop all forms of polio. With full vaccine coverage, it should be possible to eradicate this disease from the entire world. After being closer to the goal of completely eradicating polio, recent setbacks demonstrate the need for wider efforts.

Donate to End Polio on World Polio Day - October 24

This year, World Polio Day will again emphasize fundraising to help provide the world with a much-needed polio vaccine. If your club has not yet planned a fundraising project or event, there is still time. Of course, Polio Plus fundraisers can (and do) happen any time of year!

What is your club doing to promote PolioPlus? Please send a description of your club project(s) and funds raised to arianafmungia@gmail.com. (Photos of your project are also invited.)



The WORLD NEEDS YOUR HELP to continue the work of polio eradication. The creativity of Rotarians shows no bounds as we join forces in this effort.

Rotarians: Consider making a personal donation to PolioPlus. All PolioPlus donations earn Paul Harris points, as they are administered through The Rotary Foundation. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation now matches our dollars 2 for 1.

Through PolioPlus, Rotary provides vaccines to the world.

If you have not recently given, why not donate now? The world needs to END POLIO NOW! Your \$\$ will help!

THANK YOU for anything you can contribute!

Donate to End Polio



More **MAGIC MOMENTS**



Holdrege Rotary recently donated and will maintain a Little Free Library (“take a book, share a book”) in two locations in Holdrege. Pictured: **Dan Janssen, Brad Allmand, Bob Butz, Todd Hilyard, Kim Klein, Karen Stute** and PDG **Bob Taylor**.



Lake Mac Rotaract cleaned up at Lake McConaughy in September. (Front) **Natalia Viveros Cely**. (In back) **Neveah Byers, Dalton Simmerman, Lilly Fisher, Ariana Mungia, Stephanie Reed, Jessop Adams, and Jose Garcia**.

November is Rotary Foundation Month

Why Giving to The Rotary Foundation Is Good Stewardship

- It’s trustworthy, recently receiving [Charity Navigator](#)’s highest rating of four stars for the 16th consecutive year.
- It’s a simple way to achieve your philanthropic goals – whether they are supporting clean water, the eradication of polio, or a particular global grant.
- Administration costs are low: only 5.6% in FY2023, according to [Charity Navigator](#). All contributions to the Foundation’s Annual Fund are invested for three years, after which the earnings go toward operating expenses.
- What you give comes back to your district. Your principal is split 50/50, with half going to your District Designated Fund and half going into the World Fund, a pool that the Trustees of The Rotary Foundation use to match grants where they are most needed.
- Global grants are used for sustainable projects that provide long-term solutions and impact.

According to former Regional Rotary Foundation Coordinator PDG Eric Kimani (District 9200), “Anyone who knows Rotarians sees how we give of our time and resources. They know their money is in good hands.”

5630 Women's Empowerment Summit
 A DAY OF EMPOWERMENT FOCUSED ON WOMEN

Rotary District 5630
NOV 16TH, 2024
9:30 am - 6:00pm
 THE MOCKINGBIRD
506 NORTH DENNY STREET | NORTH PLATTE, NE

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 AMANDA CHRISTENSEN
OUTREACH COORDINATOR/CLIENT ADVOCATE SCIP

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Suzi Howe
 Past Rotary International Director
 Aide for the Rotary International President Elect
 Mario Cesar de Camargo

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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)