

District 5680 News

Latest News and Bulletin Updates

June 2025

Issue # 12



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District Governor

Jeff Horlacher's Letter

My term as District Governor of District 5680 has drawn to a close. It was a wonderful experience, and I have been welcomed to local clubs and received a warm reception from each. I appreciated that, and my confidence in our District and in Rotary has grown throughout the year. I have enjoyed traveling to our district to see clubs and to attend various special events. I was treated to a tour of service projects, many of which have received attention year after year. I have listened to new enthusiasm and excitement at new projects in the works. There have been some discouraged by the lack of new members and at the fatigue of long-established members when it seems there are fewer hands to help. Membership is down in the USA, and although I have not seen the final figures yet, it appears we are down a little in our district.



I believe we can address this by "doing Rotary." Rotary will sell itself, but we need to

have a speech ready to explain what Rotary is. I had a young man come into my jewelry store this year and asked me "I hear you are in Rotary. What is that?" I explained what our club has done locally, and what we have done as a district, as a zone, and worldwide like Rotary International. It is amazing what we can do when we partner with others in our local clubs, and with other clubs in the district, and with other non-Rotarians. As Stephanie Urchick said, "We create magic because we provide opportunities for people to make their lives better." I encourage each club to schedule and participate in the Visioning process. This is a way to help you set goals for the next year, and for a three-year timeline. Look at your club with fresh eyes, as though you were a visitor. Would you feel welcome? Is the venue easily found? Do you feel like you belong?

Sometimes a change reaps great benefits. One of our clubs lost their meeting location and was forced to move. They were surprised when attendance jumped by 30%, and they had not added any new members! We need to think about all the factors in being a club member and offering membership possibilities we have not been. That may mean making changes in your club, or it may mean creating a satellite club, or starting a new club.

I was especially inspired at the Rotary International Convention in Calgary as a Chloe Dubois presented about her project to clean up one of the most polluted rivers in the world, the Motagua River in Guatemala, and how the project had been able to engage local school children and community members. They began clearing plastic, old tires, and other debris that had clogged the river from bank to bank for miles. The project will take a long time to complete, but it has reached a tipping point that has increased the energy as more people join the efforts. [Restore the Motagua River: Join the Alliance! | Ocean Legacy Foundation](#) How does Rotary help?

All clubs that have participated in the Little Free Library project, please submit photos and a caption or short description of how it is being used. Your photos can be included in the next newsletter.

I will be presenting awards at the District Conference this fall. Please send me your club service hours for the year, and your accurate member count. I am excited to recognize the many hours of service provided in our district. I will also present awards for the most Learning Center courses completed this year. Please email your reports to me at:

JeffHorlacherRotary5680@gmail.com

Thank you for the opportunity to serve as your District Governor. It has been an honor and a privilege, and one of the greatest experiences of my life. We have clubs that are irresistible and live the magic of Rotary.

**With a full heart,
Jeff Horlacher, District 5680 DG 24-25.
Keep using your magic wands!**



Club news from across District 5680

Rotarians from the [Rotary Club of East Wichita](#) cooked breakfast for 40 families at the Ronald McDonald House in Wichita. The Ronald McDonald House's mission is "to provide essential services that remove barriers, strengthen families, and promote healing when children need healthcare." Families at the House have a child in the hospital and it provides a respite for the family members giving them a break from healthcare workers, flashing lights, beeping noises, and of course seeing their loved one in pain. Meals are provided as another way to help the families focus only on their child. Thanks EW Rotarians PE and Chef Brittany Sweeney, Service Chair Chris Stanyer, Scott Nelson, PN Andrew Prigmore, Jessica Treadwell, Joyce and Fred Heismeyer.



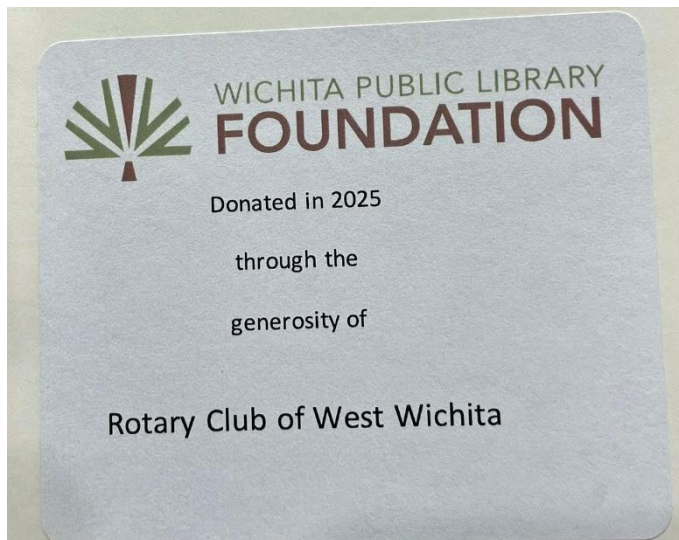
It is Miss Kansas week and that means hosting the annual Miss Kansas and Miss Kansas' Teen luncheon!! President Jack Galle welcomed the Miss and Teen delegates. Special greetings were shared by Miss Kansas Alexis Smith and Miss Kansas' Teen Averie Mountain. Delegates introduced themselves and shared their community service initiative. [Rotary Club of Pratt](#)



[Rotary Club of Great Bend](#) is pleased to announce the 2025 recipients of its annual Jr. Rotarian Scholarships. Each year, the club recognizes outstanding high school seniors who have participated in the Jr. Rotarian program, which gives students the opportunity to attend weekly Rotary meetings, interact with community leaders, and learn about the values of Rotary International. Clarice Snapp and MacKenzie LaViolette are shown with Great Bend Rotary Club President Rebecca Popp and President-Elect Tory Blew.



Members from **Rotary Club of West Wichita** took a field trip to the newly remodeled Westlink library branch to celebrate the club's gift purchase of Wonderbooks. These books enable children to listen along as they read. The gift was facilitated through the Wichita Public Library Foundation.



The [Rotary Club of Ellis](#) recently refurbished the city of Ellis' welcome sign on the east edge of town on highway 40. The sign has been a feature of the city since 2004-2005. It was erected as part of the Rotary International centennial by the local Rotary club.

Pictured are current Rotary members:
Perry Henman,
Nathan Legleiter,
Mark Kell, Janice
Wilson, Steve
Homburg and Jeff
Augustine.



The [Rotary Club of Phillipsburg](#) took time out from work to help feed the kids! In June & July each year Anne-Marie Gower organizes groups to prepare Sack Lunches for children in the community! Today was Rotary's turn! Thank you, Rodger Van Loenen and



son Beau, for your dedication and time for cooking over 140 burgers!



Rotary Club of West Wichita had a fun time at our club's recent baseball outing! It was nice to see such a great turnout from both our



WW and Satellite members. The weather couldn't have been better—and to top it off, the Wind Surge came away with a win! A big thank-you to **John Oswald** for coordinating the event!

Rotary Club of East Wichita Rotary Foundation scholarship recipient Katie Newman explained that her journey has taken her from high school at Goddard to Butler Community College. She will now transfer to WSU where she will strive to earn a degree in Marketing and Management.



With his mother in attendance to cheer him on, East Wichita Rotary Foundation scholarship recipient Blake Dorr shared his thanks to others who have helped him in his quest for success at WSU while studying Chemistry.



The [Rotary Club of Clay Center](#) began a community service project aimed at improving sidewalks throughout Clay Center. Led by Rotary Club President Thomas Mulligan, a dozen local Rotary volunteers set out to repair and replace some of the sidewalks most in need of attention. Sections that were beyond repair were removed entirely, while uneven areas were smoothed out using specialized equipment. Here is a link to the video of the project. [Clay Center Rotary project](#)

The [Clay Center Rotary Club](#) continues its long tradition of service to the community, living out its motto of *Service Above Self*.



About 4 times a year, the [Sunrise Rotary Club of West Sedgwick County](#) offers assistance to the Kansas Food Bank in downtown Wichita. Sorting canned goods was the job at hand for Rotarians at this event. Almost a dozen members volunteered at the facility for a 2-hour event



The [Sunrise Rotary Club of West Sedgwick County](#) provides a meal at the Ronald McDonald House near Wesley Hospital. This service provides a dinner meal to the families of children during their hospital visit. This is one less thing for them to worry about to worry about and less expense for the families to incur during their child's stay at the hospital. This has been a long-term commitment from the club to live out our pledge of 'Service Above Self.'



The [Rotary Club of West Wichita](#) volunteers Joey Timmer, DeAnn Sullivan, and Bob Nelson donated time at the ICT SOS workday.



Congratulations to [Rotary Club of Winfield](#) Treasurer Wehner on her Paul Harris +2! Her exceptional generosity is such a gift to our community and to the work of Rotary!



2025 RYLA

"Level Up" was the theme for the 2025 RYLA. Fifteen youth arrived at Southwestern College and were greeted by a crew of Counselors ready to Level up on leadership. These youth soared to a new level of leadership by exploring Servant Leadership in class, on the Ropes Course, and while doing a service project. The Service project was at the Wichita City Hall. The ICT-SOS group talked with them about Human Trafficking and then they completed a work project by making Christmas



ornaments to be used as a fund raiser for ICT-SOS. Mayor Lily Wu from Wichita also addressed the group. Lunch was provided by Wichita Rotarian Mike Proctor

with Steward Right Financial. The [Rotary Club of Winfield](#) hosted a covered dish dinner that evening with lots of food and desserts. On the final day the students displayed their leadership skills by presenting a program to parents and friends there to take them home. The Leadership Foundation has been laid, and you will now see these students at a new level of leadership in their community.





we need volunteers

FOR THE FOOLLOWING COMMITTEES

- Membership
- Public Image
- Action Plan
- PETS

CONTACT DEB MINKER AT
308-660-3647 OR EMAIL
DEBRDG2526@GMAIL.COM



We encourage all to step up and lead with purpose and inspire others to follow. Your leadership can light the path for those around you.

The Rotary Action Plan for your Club

The multi-year approach for Rotary Club leaders emphasizes the importance of utilizing the Rotary Action Plan as a foundation for their three-year planning. The Club Challenge serves as a valuable tool for Presidents and their teams, helping them create actionable plans to achieve their goals over time. Recognizing that not all objectives can be met in a single year, involving the President-Elect and current and future club leaders in the planning process is essential. The Club Challenge highlights best practices from successful clubs in key areas, including Membership, Public Image, and Foundation. To encourage participation, the District has developed a set of challenges for each category that demonstrates the adoption of these best practices. We wish everyone the best as we collaborate to achieve goals that will benefit all!

[Action Plan for your club](#)

Deb Minkler

District Governor 2025-2026

debrdg2526@gmail.com

Minkler pinned Rotary District Governor

By Kati Latulip

Rotary District Governor elect Deb Minkler was recognized in a "Passing of the Pin" ceremony held Friday evening in Atwood. The ceremony signifies the change in leadership of the Rotary district, which governs individual clubs. Minkler will serve as District Governor of Rotary District 5680 for 2025-2026. She will assume her position July 1 and serve through June 30, 2026.

Minkler was installed by outgoing District Governor Jeff Horlacher, of Colby, and presented her with his pin.

As District Governor, she will set annual district goals, plan the district conference and conduct

meetings and training seminars as well as the district assembly. She was selected for the role by the district's Nomination Committee in 2023.

Rotary District 5680 was formed in 2019, and brought District 5670 and District 5690 together for a total of 61 individual clubs. The district covers the western two-thirds of the state, to the Nebraska, Colorado and Oklahoma borders, as well as four clubs located in the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Rotary is an international service organization comprised of local leaders who volunteer their time and skills, usually through service projects, to "address community needs and promote peace and goodwill."



Deb Minkler, Rotary District Governor elect, receives her pin from Jeff Horlacher, outgoing Rotary District Governor, Friday evening at the Shirley Opera House in Atwood. Minkler will serve as District Governor for Rotary District 5680 for the 2025-2026 term.

Passing of the Pin
DG Jeff Horlacher
To
DGE Deb Minkler



Left to right: DG Deb Minkler, DG Jeff Horlacher, PDG Gloria Homeier, PDG Ivanhoe Love, PDG Fred Heismeyer, PDG Andrea Krauss D5670, PDG Sterling Hall D5690, PDG Geri Appel D5690



YAHOO! CALGARY CONVENTION A SUCCESS

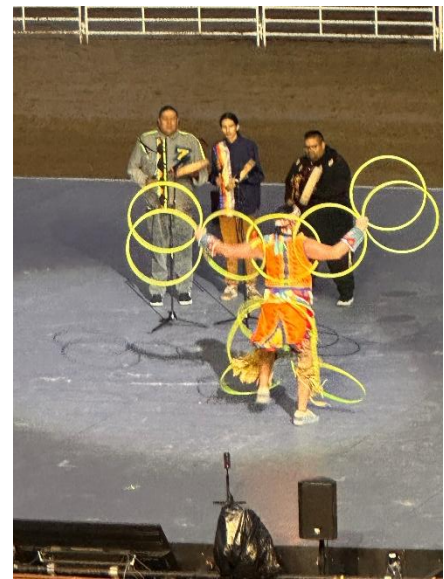


Putting the Rotary International Convention into words is extremely difficult. We can reflect on the warmth of our host city of Calgary, Canada and how the city opened its collective arms to 15,000+ Rotarians. The excitement of seeing Rotarians from around the world joining together to celebrate the Magic of Rotary. The energy generated at the general sessions which gave us hope for the future. The chance to meet with old friends and to make new ones, thus widening the circle of Rotary connections. And the chance to experience the "international" in Rotary International. We can use words like fun, interesting, energizing, amazing, engaging, overwhelming, or inspiring, however, these words do not do the convention experience justice. The best way to give you a taste of what the convention was like is to hear directly from our district's attendees.



I enjoyed the variety of topics offered at the breakout sessions. I found these super helpful and really enjoyed talking to other people from all over the world and learning how their club operates. - **Club President Amanda Otto, RC of Salina**

I think my favorite part of the convention (and really every convention) is getting to not only see the culture of the city that it is hosted in but also get to meet so many different people from around the world and learn their stories. - **Katherine Krauss, Rotary Club of Downtown Naperville (daughter of PDG Andrea)**



I remember Calgary for my classmates who will be district governors, showing their leadership skills. The Wild West rodeo also made my memories special, bringing excitement and tradition together. - **DG Deb Minkler, RC of Atwood**

The general sessions were inspiring and motivating. We can do so much more in 5680! Rotary is flexing its muscle to make the world a better place. In the breakout sessions, my favorite was on water quality and cleaning up a very polluted river in Guatemala. The difference is amazing. Reconnecting with old friends and making new ones was rewarding.
- PDG Jeff Horlacher, RC of Colby



My favorite part of the convention is getting to reconnect with friends, not only from our district and zone, but from other parts of the Rotary world as well.
- PDG Andrea Krauss, RC of Russell



Hearing Francesco Arezzo speak was a great experience. With only two weeks notice he agreed to step up and take on the challenging role of RI President on July 1st. He has a great message regarding his upcoming year. He spoke with humility and confidence. Rotary is in good hands!
- District Executive Secretary Joyce Heismeyer, RC of East Wichita

INSPIRED! My favorite experience was learning from a Polio survivor and what our true mission is. I also loved learning about Rotary fellowship and action groups, especially for mental health which was inspiring. All of the speakers were top notch! - Club Secretary Jenni Jones, RC of Salina

WOW, so many memories to choose from, but my favorite part of the convention is seeing firsthand the great work of Rotarians across the globe. Hearing the inspiring talks at the general sessions, the recognition of individual Rotarians' work in peace building and health, the breakout sessions addressing local concerns and development of Rotary leadership, and the vastness of causes/interests presented at the House of Fellowship. Rotary is doing good around the world and the international convention celebrates this work. - PDG Fred Heismeyer, RC of East Wichita



There is no other Rotary experience like the International Convention. So, Rotarians plan to attend the 2026 convention being held in Taipei, Taiwan from June 13-17. Registration is open and will not be cheaper than it is today.

Join Us for the 2025 District Conference: Wild West Connection!

DGE Deb invites you to join us at the District Conference in Hays. Mark your calendars for an exciting weekend from October 17 to October 19, 2025, as we gather for the 2025 District 5680 Conference: Wild West Connection! This is an incredible opportunity for fellowship, learning, and networking, all set against the vibrant backdrop of the Wild West.

The conference will kick off on Friday night with a fun-filled evening at Thirstys, where we'll enjoy great food, laughter, and the chance to connect with fellow Rotarians. More details will be shared soon, so stay tuned!



Throughout the weekend, we will feature inspiring speakers who will share their insights and experiences, along with engaging sessions designed to enhance our skills and knowledge as Rotarians. This is a perfect opportunity to learn, share, and grow together.

Don't miss out on this chance to connect with fellow members, expand your network, and foster new ideas that will benefit our communities.

We encourage you to reserve your hotel room now to ensure a comfortable stay. [Hilton Garden Inn Hays](#) Or you can

call and use the word **ROTARY** for the discount. We can't wait to see you at the Wild West Connection! Let's saddle up for a weekend of fun, learning, and meaningful connections.

Francesco Arezzo of Italy selected to be 2025-26 Rotary International President

Francesco Arezzo, a member of the Rotary Club of Ragusa, Italy, has been selected by the Board of Directors to become Rotary International's president for 2025-26. Arezzo will become president on 1 July. The Board conducted a special session following the unexpected resignation of [RI President-elect Mário César Martins de Camargo on 8 June](#). Guided by the RI code and policies, the Board selected the new president-elect from a pool of candidates who were considered by the Nominating Committee for President of Rotary International in August 2023.

The 2025-26 presidential message, announced at the 2025 Rotary International Assembly in February, will remain [Unite for Good](#), which calls on Rotary members to be a force for unity in a world increasingly divided by politics, geography, and ideology.

Arezzo is an orthodontist in private practice. He is active internationally as a member of the Italian, European, and American orthodontics associations. He is vice president of the National Association of Italian Dentists for the province of Ragusa and was the founder and head for seven years of the delegation for Ragusa of the National Trust for Italy. He is a Knight of Honor and Devotion in Obedience within the Sovereign Order of Malta.

A Rotary member for more than 30 years, Arezzo has served as vice chair of the Joint Strategic Planning Committee and as RI director, learning facilitator, and as district conference presidential representative.

Arezzo is a Benefactor of The Rotary Foundation. He is married to Anna Maria Criscione, an entrepreneur in the tourism field. They have two children.



District 5680 Membership Report As Of June 30, 2025

Club	7/1/2024	6/30/2025	NET GAIN
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	2024- 2025
Abilene	55	53	(2)
Andover	20	18	(2)
Arkansas City	68	68	0
Atwood	24	24	0
Beaver	17	16	(1)
Beloit	37	30	(7)
Boise City	18	22	4
Cimarron	18	17	(1)
Clay Center	63	64	1
Colby	44	36	(8)
Concordia	25	26	1
Derby	58	55	(3)
Dodge City	32	31	(1)
Downs	9	7	(2)
East Wichita	64	67	3
E-Club	16	16	0
El Dorado	29	31	2
Ellinwood	17	13	(4)
Ellis	8	10	2
Garden City	28	22	(6)
Goodland	13	13	0
Great Bend	28	28	0
Guymon	36	24	(12)
Haskell County (Sublette)	17	16	(1)
Hays	56	52	(4)
Hays Sunrise	12	12	0
Hill City	7	7	0



District 5680



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Howard	9	10	1
Hugoton	14	13	(1)
Hutchinson	90	86	(4)
Kingman	21	21	0
Kinsley	5	5	0
Liberal	34	32	(2)
Lyons	24	23	(1)
McPherson	27	27	0
Ness City	23	21	(2)
Newton	59	55	(4)
Norton	10	11	1
Oberlin	30	29	(1)
Osborne	9	9	0
Phillipsburg	31	44	13
Pratt	71	72	1
Russell	38	39	1
Salina	98	97	(1)
Sterling	17	13	(4)
Syracuse	19	18	(1)
Texhoma	12	8	(4)
Ulysses	18	16	(2)
Washington	32	31	(1)
West Sedgwick Co Sunrise	37	36	(1)
West Wichita	63	71	8
Wichita-Downtown	342	347	5
Wichita-Old Town	10	8	(2)
Winfield	58	60	2
TOTALS	2020	1980	(40)



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Membership Moments: Every meeting is a chance to invite someone new into the Rotary family. Who in your network might be ready to serve? We're also encouraging clubs to ask a simple but powerful question: Why did I join Rotary, and why do I stay? The answers often reveal the stories that inspire others to join.

End Polio Now

Rotarians,

As we begin the new Rotary year, let us not forget our mission and our commitment to the world to End Polio. While the number of cases reported so far this year is low, there was a recent detection of a Circulation Polio Variant in Germany which reminds us that "Until Polio is eradicated everywhere, it is a threat anywhere!"



Polio eradication is not a political issue; it is a measure of our humanity and care for the most vulnerable people in the world. I encourage you all to search your hearts and remember why Rotary took on the ostentatious goal of ending Polio worldwide, the children. We have the opportunity to transcend the issues that divide and come together on something truly incredible!

Our district has a PolioPlus Society, a group of members who have voiced their commitment to End Polio Now by pledging to donate at least \$100 a year to EPN. We are currently 115 members, we would love to see that grow. You can sign up easily online at [Polio Plus Society](#)

Yours in Rotary Service
Isaac McNary
DGE - PolioPlus Chair.
isaac@rotarykiltguy.com