

Rotary Across the Heartlands

– CONNECTING ROTARIANS ACROSS KANSAS/OKLAHOMA



District Spotlight

After attending the RI Convention in Taipei, DeAnn Sullivan (Rotary Club of West Wichita) went on to Bangkok to visit her son, Jerry Sullivan. While there she was able to meet up with our incoming Youth Exchange student, Pimnara Ruangprom, and her parents. Her dad is a member and past President of the Rotary Club of Nongkaem, Rotary district 3350. She should arrive mid-August and will be hosted by Mark and Lesley Hazleton, members of the Rotary Club of Wichita.

In the photo: Jerry Sullivan, DeAnn Sullivan, Pimnara Ruangprom, Jantarawimon (Grace) Dujchumeatip, and Udom Rashain

--NEWS, EVENTS, AND STORIES--
FROM DISTRICT 5680



I Need Help!

Does your club struggle to find the next president? Is it a constant struggle of begging, cajoling, and sometimes subterfuge just to get someone to step up and say yes? It is not that people don't want to do the job, it is that the job is too big for one person to take on.

The issue that most clubs face when looking for leadership is that the entire direction for the club rests on the shoulders of the one person you could convince to say yes. They have to keep the programs lined up, they have to plan all the service projects, they are totally responsible for whether the club has a great year, an average year, or a bad year, and most people are not ready to sign up for that kind of responsibility.

So, what is the answer? How can a club break the cycle of perpetually struggling to find the next person to lead the club?

Your club should have a life of its own. It should have a direction and a purpose. That is where visioning and planning come into play. When a club gets together and sets the course of the club into the future, develops a plan on how to reach the goals you have set together, and works together to execute those goals, suddenly the role of the president becomes a lot less about leading the club for a year and more about stewarding the club for a year. When the burden of sole responsibility is removed and distributed out amongst a whole club of interested stakeholders, filling leadership positions becomes a whole lot easier.

But how does a club reach this point? I'm glad you asked because our District Visioning Team would love to help you through the process! Learn more by visiting <https://rotary5680.org/page/club-visioning>

A club with a purpose and a vision is a club that is set up to accomplish more than they ever dreamed possible!

Yours in Rotary Service,
Isaac McNary
The Kilt Guy - (316)-461-0512
isaac@rotarykiltguy.com



UPCOMING EVENTS

✧ Annual District Conference 5680 & 5710

23-24 October, 2026

Join us for a two district combined Conference in Manhattan, KS

✧ DG and Club Leadership Meeting

August 16, 2026 7-8PM

All Club Leadership is invited to join a monthly call with the DG. Check your email for an invite!

✧ PELS President Elect Learning Seminar

Double Tree Wichta
April 15-17, 2027

DISTRICT CLUB NEWS



Eleven Rotarians from the **Rotary Club of East Wichita** Rotarians and friends gathered to help The United Methodist Open Door organization. We packaged 180 boxes of food for seniors. Each box contains 26 food items, consisting of proteins, vegetables, cereal, juice, milk, and other assorted items. Hundreds of individuals from eleven counties are served each month. Open Door provides food, hygiene items, and clothing to the neediest of our community.



Diane and Dave Walker visited WW Rotary member June Costin following the retirement festivities and brought her a cupcake to enjoy from the meeting.

**Satellite Club of the Rotary Club
of West Wichita**

hosts patriotic
party with food and fun
The Satellite Club cooked
hamburgers and hotdogs for
Lake Point Retirement Village on
July 1. Patriotic fun brought
smiles to the residents.





Members of the **Rotary Club of Washington** participated in the annual 4th of July parade in Washington, KS on July 4, 2026.



These plain brown bags don't look like much, but they all hold a simple, nutritious breakfast for local kids. We're so grateful to the Pratt Elks Bistro, Pratt Public Library, **Pratt Rotarians**, SCCF and others in helping keep kids fed this summer! Thanks to the generous support from community members like you, we can continue to work together for Pratt.



At the July 10th meeting, the **Rotary Club of Abilene** celebrated the passing of the gavel from outgoing club president Mary Jean Eisenhower to president for 2026-2027, Michael Anderes. The club took the opportunity to take a group photograph of club members.



The **Rotary Club of Clay Center**, KS repainted the United States map on the elementary school playground. The map was originally installed by Rotary members a few years back and needed some love! The job went a lot quicker with the help of some current and former Lincoln students.



The Rotary Pavilion Partnership

The **Rotary Club of Washington** approached the Fair Board about building a new pavilion, backed by a massive, successful fundraiser.

Although an additional grant application was unfortunately denied, the Fair Board proudly contributed \$2,500!! Thank you, Rotary, for driving this project across the finish line in time for the fair. It provided a wonderful gathering space for everyone.

The **Rotary Club of Hugoton** is proud to support our community with the donation of three sets of benches and trash cans along the new sidewalk on 11th Street. At Rotary, our motto is "Service Above Self," and we're grateful for opportunities to invest in projects that enhance the quality of life in Hugoton.



It's almost time for going back to school! The students at IXL elementary in Arkansas City, KS will be greeted with a new U.S. map painted on their basketball court. Another great service project by the members of the **Rotary Club of Arkansas City!**





Isaac McNary, our kilted friend from El Dorado, made his very first appearance at a Kansas Rotary club. [Rotary Club of East Wichita](#), in his new role as District Governor. It was also a first for our club, meeting for the first time in our new home ... Chicken N Pickle. He gifted our club a banner featuring the new Rotary International President's mantra "Create Lasting Impact" which aligns with Isaac's thinking which is to look for the "why" in everything we do. He says that, once we understand our "why," positive results will follow. He encouraged us to make our focus recruiting as the more people who join us in "creating lasting impact," the more people in need will benefit.



The Barton County Historical Society has a project of restoring the little train that ran at Christmas Fantasy Village for many years. Justin Engleman, Executive Director shared the details. They have now committed to matching every dollar that is raised through the fundraising campaign so contributions get doubled through their efforts. The plan is to get the train operational for this coming Christmas season and have a grand opening on Thanksgiving weekend. The attached picture shows the [Rotary Club of Great Bend](#) president Taylor Smith presenting a \$500 check to Justin to go towards the project.



Deb Brinegar (left) and Andrew Prigmore (right) congratulate three of our **Rotary Club of East Wichita** Foundation scholarship recipients - Veronica Quijada (Wichita State University Junior), Taylor Harrington (University of Kansas Sophomore), and Kim Rader (Wichita State University Graduate).



The **Rotary Club of Garden City** rejuvenated a map of the US on one of our local elementary schools. We hope to continue rejuvenating all maps in the area in the future.



It was a great day at the **Rotary Club of Phillipsburg**! We began by dedicating a new automated flag lowering system honoring Dan Heinze Sr. in the main gym at Phillipsburg High School. The funds were provided by the Phillipsburg Rotary Club and the family of Dan Heinze Sr. Dan was a 54-year member of the Phillipsburg Rotary Club.

El Dorado Rotary Club's

THE GOLDEN PICKLE PICKLEBALL TOURNAMENT!



**SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER
26TH**



\$60

PER TEAM

Each team will
receive
T-SHIRTS!



**FUN. FRIENDS. PICKLEBALL.
ALL FOR A GREAT CAUSE!**



2 DIVISIONS

Open Section
Senior Section



**STARTS AT
8:00 AM**



LOCATION

900-1036 N Main St
El Dorado, KS 67042



SPONSORSHIPS

**AVAILABLE
\$250.00**

REGISTER YOUR TEAM TODAY!

[https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/
the-golden-pickle-pickleball-tournament--2026](https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/ticketing/the-golden-pickle-pickleball-tournament--2026)



El Dorado
Rotary
Club



**THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING
OUR COMMUNITY!**

URBAN PREP DISTRICT GRANT PROJECT



The Rotary Club of East Wichita completed its 2025-26 district grant project at Urban Prep Academy. The grant, along with community partnerships, allowed the club to provide gym/sports equipment to the K-8 school and do athletic field grading. Urban Prep serves low-income students, giving them a chance to thrive and opportunities.



EAST WICHITA ROTARY SCHOLARSHIPS



One of the long-standing projects of the **Rotary Club of East Wichita** is providing scholarships for college students. These scholarships are four-year commitments to the students. Each summer the students are invited to a club meeting at which time they give an update on their experiences. It is so great to see the development of the students through their college career.

District Governor Club Visits



Ellenwood



Old Town Wichita



Lyons

East Wichita



Salina

Abilene



District 5680

Passing of the Pin

The “Passing of the Pin” ceremony with the Rotary Club of El Dorado where I was presented with the District Governor’s Pin that has been passed down every year for the last 25 years! (It is in the safe so I don’t break that chain) One of my club members and friend Sarah Madden reached out to a DG in Scotland and he sent over a Pin from their district and a kind note. What a thoughtful gesture! My club also got me a custom bracelet with “The Kilt Guy” on it. I love it. Most importantly, I was joined by my lovely wife Alana (photo next page) and other leaders from our district and Past District Governors. It is an honor to follow in their footsteps and do my level best to lead our district for the next year!



DG Isaac McNary & PDG Deb





**DG Isaac McNary, DGE Amy Lash Esau, DGN Ed Frey
President of the Rotary Club of Hays, Mehran Shanhidi**



Alana & DG Isaac McNary



PDG's Geri Appel, Dean Kennedy, Fred Heismeyer, Ivanhoe Love, Gloria Homeier, Jeff Horlacher, Deb Minkler & DG Isaac McNary

Reflecting Our Communities

Building Clubs That Look Like the Communities We Serve

Rotary's impact grows when our membership reflects the communities around us. Diverse experiences, backgrounds, professions, cultures, ages, and perspectives strengthen clubs and help us serve more effectively.

Why Representation Matters

A club that is representative of its community:

- Brings new ideas and perspectives
- Better understands local needs
- Reaches broader audiences
- Creates a more welcoming environment
- Strengthens Rotary's relevance and sustainability

Looking Through a Community Lens

Consider:

- Who is represented in our club?
- Who is missing?
- What barriers may prevent participation?
- Are our meetings and activities welcoming to everyone?

Building a more representative club isn't about filling quotas—it's about expanding opportunities and ensuring all community members feel invited to contribute.

Membership Moment

Review your community demographics and compare them with club membership. What opportunities emerge?

Action Challenge

Identify one community group, profession, or age demographic that is underrepresented and create a plan to intentionally build relationships with them.

**In Rotary Service,
Alana McNary
District Membership Chair**

5680 DG Line 26-27



DGN Ed Frey
West Wichita Club

DG Isaac McNary
El Dorado Club

DGE Amy Lash Esau
Old Town Wichita Club

A Week in Guatemala: Service, Friendship, and the Kind of Goodbye That Stays With You

Our annual Rotary trip to Guatemala is never just a service project — it's a week that reshapes how we see community, resilience, and connection. This year was no different. Over several days, our team worked alongside local leaders in Panajachel and San Juan to bring practical, life-changing support to families across the region.

We installed 75 new water filtration systems, each one transforming the way a household accesses clean water. These filters now provide safety, dignity, and relief.

But our work extended far beyond water. We conducted elderly wellness checks, visiting seniors who often live in hard to access places and rarely receive medical attention. We completed newborn baby checks, ensuring infants had the healthiest possible start. We sorted medical supplies, delivered school supplies, and distributed fresh food packages — simple items that make an immediate difference in daily life.



Yet the heart of the trip wasn't the tasks. It was the people.

Every home welcomed us with warmth. Every conversation reminded us that service is a partnership, not a one-way act. And every evening, after the day's work was done, we gathered with fellow Rotarians — sharing meals, laughter, stories, and the kind of nightly activities that turn acquaintances into lifelong friends.

Those relationships matter. They deepen our commitment to the communities we serve and strengthen the bonds within our own district.

When departure day arrived, we found ourselves doing something unexpected: laughing and crying at the same time. We hugged our Guatemalan friends tightly, knowing we wouldn't see them again for another year. The goodbyes were emotional because the connections were real.

Next year, I hope more Rotarians from District 5680 will join us. This community is extraordinary — not because of what we give, but because of what we receive. Perspective. Gratitude. Friendship. And a reminder that service, at its best, is shared humanity.

District Membership Stats

 1,943 Members

 Member Increase 6

Note—This included the 19 members of the Fort Hays Rotaract now included in our District totals (+0.3%)

 10 New Members Added by Seven Growing Clubs

Lyon-3

Wichita Downtown-2

Added a member—Atwood, Clay Center, Guymon, Phillipsburg, Salina

JOINT DISTRICT CONFERENCE



OCT. 23-24, 2026

MANHATTAN, KS

CLICK TO REGISTER

Rotary
Zones 25B & 29



WORLD'S LARGEST POLIO

WALK

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2026

District 5680 is participating in the World's Largest Polio Walk on Oct. 24, 2026. We encourage all of our clubs to host a Walk in their community and raise funds to help End Polio Now. For more information visit:

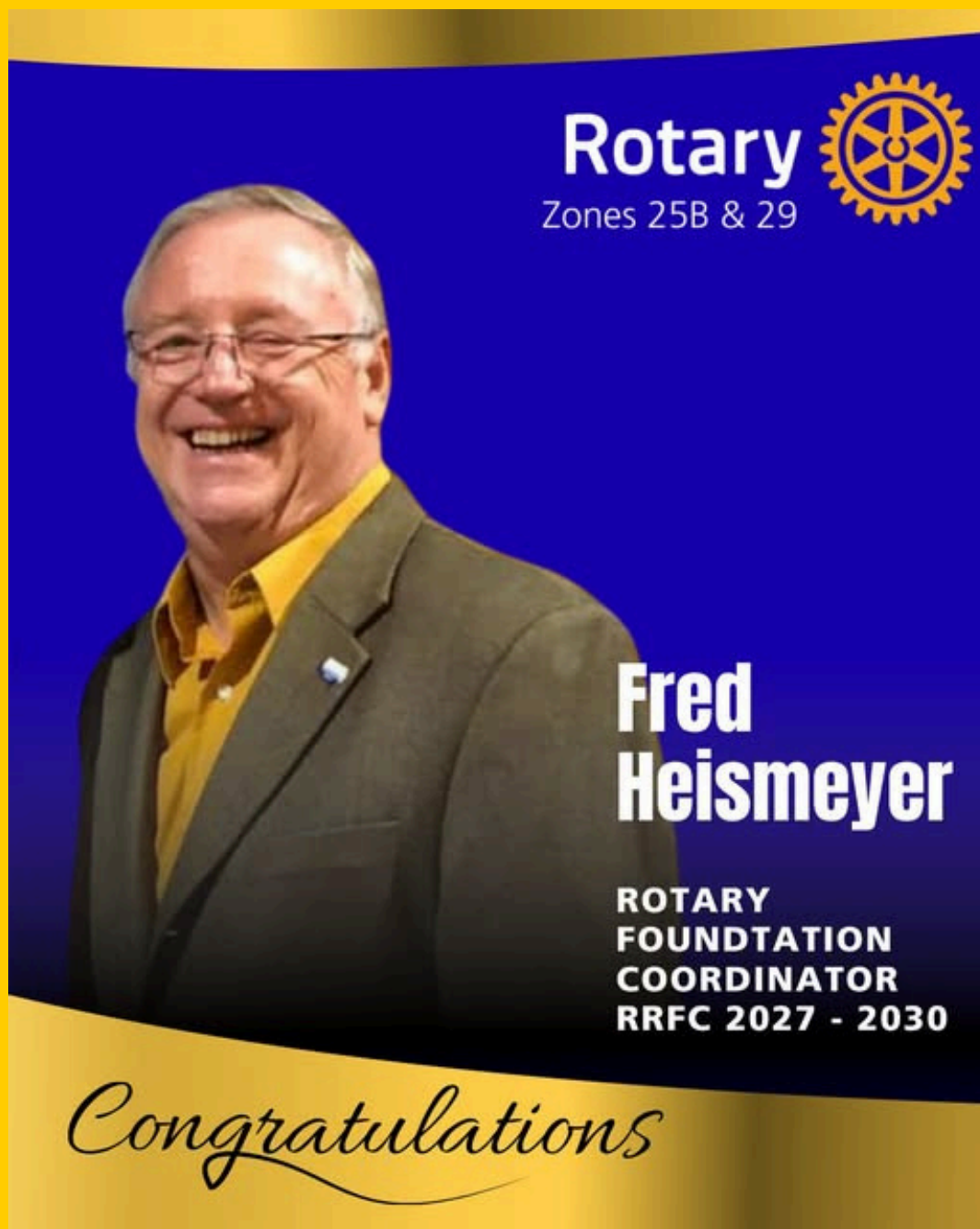
<https://rotary6440.org/events/worlds-largest-polio-walk-2026>



“On the Front Porch” - KFRM 550 AM

DG Isaac had the opportunity to sit down with Rocky Downing to record an episode of “On the Front Porch” for KFRM 550 AM. You can listen to the whole interview here!

<https://omny.fm/shows/kfrm-s-on-the-front-porch/on-the-front-porch-isaac-mcnary>



Congratulations to Fred Heismeyer on his appointment as the next Regional #Rotary Foundation Coordinator (RRFC) for Rotary Region 36: Zones 25B & 29, serving from 1 July 2027 through 30 June 2030. Fred's passion for Rotary, commitment to #TheRotaryFoundation, and dedication to helping clubs and districts grow their impact make him an outstanding choice for this important leadership role. I know he will be an incredible resource to our #Rotarians across our region as we continue advancing #rotaryinternational's mission of doing good in the world.
Congratulations, Fred!

Rotary E- Club members' visit to Philippines



Michael & Bridgette Hooper with their sponsored student, Fredelen Ladra, 2nd year in college major in Business Administration.



Matt & Melanie Williams with son Evan, daughter-in-law Shelby, and their sponsored student, Earl Jemson Valle, 3rd year in college major in Secondary Education.



Laird & Brandy Veatch with their daughter and son, Sydney and Drew, and their sponsored students, Marky John Ypil, 3rd year major in Secondary Education, and Charisse Ann Sengane who recently graduated in college.



Dr. Joseph Harrison, with sponsored student, Azeleah Alison, a 2nd year Accounting student.

This month, 6 Rotarians and their families from our E-club had the privilege of traveling to the Philippines with Help Foundation and Big Hoop Charities. Alongside fellow volunteers, we visited schools, met with families, and witnessed firsthand the impact that generous supporters are making in communities across the country. Everywhere we went, we were welcomed with warm smiles, genuine gratitude, and a deep appreciation for opportunities that many of us often take for granted. One of the most meaningful moments of the trip was meeting students who have been sponsored for years by members of our group. Michael and Bridgette met the young woman they have supported since sixth grade, now a second-year finance student with dreams of starting her own business. Joe Harrison met the student he has sponsored since elementary school and is now a second-year university student. He said it was very rewarding and the highlight of his trip. The Williams family met their student, now thriving in his third year of university. He already is working with local government to give back to his community. Seeing these students succeed was a powerful reminder of how sponsorship can change lives and create opportunities for a brighter future.



Rotarians with Bighoop staff visited the micro loan center in the village of Miarayon.



We also visited women participating in the microloan program and learned how access to small amounts of capital has helped them build businesses and support their families. Their stories demonstrated how opportunity can create lasting change.



Giving of school supplies in the school for the indigenous peoples of Hasaan Hu Katatao Ta Kinulungen in the village of Lirongan.

Our Rotary project was to purchase and distribute 105 book bags and school supplies to the elementary students of Lirongan. Their excitement and joy over such simple gifts were contagious and heartwarming.

Another special experience was watching Tucker and Drew spend a day at a local high school. They attended classes, met students their own age, and learned more about daily life in the Philippines. Despite coming from different backgrounds, they quickly connected through shared interests, laughter, and conversation, creating memories and friendships that will last well beyond this trip.

The trip concluded with a traditional Talaandig tribal dance performance by the children of the mountain village of Lirongan. Their enthusiasm, pride, and energy filled the room and created a memory none of us will forget.

Throughout our time in the Philippines, one thing stood out above all else: the happiness, resilience, and gratitude of the people we met. We are incredibly thankful to everyone who supports Help Foundation and Big Hoop Charities. Because of your generosity, lives are being changed, dreams are being pursued, and brighter futures are being built.

Rotary District 5680 Announces Scholarship Awards

Each year Rotary District 5680 awards international scholarships to outbound or incoming students. The students must attend a college located within the boundaries of District 5680. No applications were received from any outbound student. The following scholarships were awarded to inbound students.

Undergraduate Rotary District 5680 Scholarship Recipients from Panhandle State University, Goodwell Oklahoma:

Name:	Country	Major	Amount
Mr. Pablo Benavides Garcia	Spain	Mathematics	\$1,000
Mr. Ahmed Amaadour	Morocco	Computer Information Systems	\$1,000

Graduate Rotary District 5680 Scholarship Recipients from Fort Hays State University:

Name:	Country	Major	Amount:
Ms. Li Mengyao	China	Information Assurance Mgmt.	\$4,000
Mr. Abdulgafar Uthman	Nigeria	Biology	\$2,118
Ms. Thanina Hamitouche	Algeria	Bioinformatics	\$2,000



INTERNATIONAL CLUB VISITS ARE THE BEST!

After RI convention, Rotarians Joyce and Fred Heismeyer toured Japan and made a serendipitous Rotary connection. The owner/host at the 200-year-old Japanese home in which the couple stayed, saw a Rotary luggage tag on one of the bags. She told Joyce and Fred that her husband was a new Rotarian, and her dad was a charter member of the Kawaguchiko club. Of course, the couple never travels without banners, so they exchanged banners with Mrs. Ide and asked her to present the district banner to her husband and his club. Continued serendipity, Mrs. Ide's assistant, Uchida, is the club secretary and so we captured a picture of Uchida and our district secretary, Joyce, together. Finally, to complete the circle of sharing, Uchida presented our banner to Mr. Ide.

