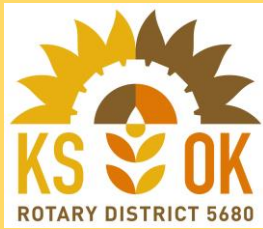


District 5680 News

Latest News and Bulletin Updates

January 2025

Issue # 7



District Governor

Jeff Horlacher's Letter

Page.....	1-2
DG Jeff's letter	
Page.....	3-10
Club news from around the District	
Page.....	11
District Grant mandatory training	
Page.....	11
RYLA	
Page.....	12-13
DGN visits Tanzania	
Page.....	13
District Conference 2025/DG Visits	
Page.....	14
RI in Calgary	
Page.....	15-16
Membership stats District 5680	
Page.....	17
PETS	
Page.....	18
PolioPlus	

As has often happened, I am more impressed with our Rotary Clubs across the District 5680. On a few more club visits, I got to learn about club projects. Two big ones are the community parks established by the [Rotary Club of Winfield](#) and the [Sunrise Rotary Club of West Sedgwick County](#). Decades ago, the Winfield club was instrumental in establishing Island Park.



They had 1700 volunteers gather in one day to build that first park. This certainly shows what can happen when Rotary calls together volunteers from many walks of life and reflects the confidence the community has when Rotary leads a project. I was also provided with a personal tour of the Sedgwick County handicapped playground in the Sedgwick County Park. What an amazing place. The club provided vision for the park and wrote many grants and enlisted the aid of many people and organizations to make this happen. As with many facilities of quality, the equipment and use continue to evolve. Challenges are recognized and improvements are made. The club continues to provide volunteer hours at the park and is quickly aware of challenges and

opportunities for improvement. I am reminded that the local Rotary club is an asset to the community. So many things would not happen if it were not for Rotarians. I learned this last month that one of the considerations a company had in whether to move into a community was whether there was a Rotary club or not. That company recognized the leadership, vision, and organization a Rotary club provides.

I have been asked what we can do and how to respond to the fires in southern California. There are many ways we can help - here is a link from the Rotary International website: (insert here).

[2025 Wildfire Disaster Relief | Rotary District 5280](#)

We also can be aware of many other crises - the plane crash in Washington, DC comes to mind, and the next day the air ambulance Learjet 55 crash in Pennsylvania. That Lear 55 was built in Wichita, and several Kansans were killed in the American Airlines crash. I am reminded that life is short, and I need to take the opportunity to be kind, and to plan and coordinate my District 5680's response to world events.

I am learning the best practices for Public Image in our Zone. The responsibility for the public image of Rotary is not with the District or Club Public Image chair, but for each individual Rotarian to be aware that we are the face of Rotary, to the common citizen. When asked, "What's Rotary?" or "What's that pin about?" do you have your short speech prepared to explain what Rotary is? You may be talking to a future member.

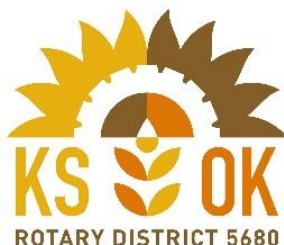
How is your Little Free Library coming along? Is it installed yet? I am still getting a second coat of paint on the one for the Colby club. Those of you with Little Free Libraries, let me know the serial number so we can get it registered in your name with the Little Free Library organization in Minneapolis, Minnesota. I have purchased books from a special author here in Colby to place in each one; please let me know the address I can send these.

A core group of district leaders on District 5680 met for a visioning session in Salina. As with visioning on the club level, we set about forming a set of goals and plans for the next three years. We need greater involvement from you on the district level. That does not necessarily mean being District Governor or a District Committee chair, but we need those also. There are many ways to serve, and we need your thoughts, ideas, and to hear of your interest in serving in a preferred capacity.

Enjoy this last half of the Rotary year and keep pursuing your goals!

Yours in Rotary service,

Jeff Horlacher--District Governor--District 5680



Club News from District 5680

Rotary Club of Garden City Hosted their annual First Responder Chili Feed at Garden City Community College. Food was provided by Great Western Dining, and we had a fantastic turn out.



East Wichita Rotary Club: Two Paul Harris Fellows were recognized. Jessica Dunbar for her first PHF. Fred Thurlow being recognized as a PH+4.



Snowy winter weather didn't keep 14 **Sunrise Rotary Club of West Sedgwick County** members from volunteering at the Kansas Food Bank. We packed 71 boxes of individually bagged food for students in 86 counties across Kansas. That's enough for 568 backpacks.



Coming out of District Conference 2022, Mark Koch and Elizabeth Cochran with [Rotary Club of Wichita Downtown](#) had a desire to do something in the fight against Human Trafficking. This led to Rotarians across all clubs in the Wichita Metro area forming the [Rotarians Against Human Trafficking \(RAHT\) Committee](#), and ultimately partnering with ICT SOS with a goal to help them move into a new building called *Our Place: A Safe Space for Survivors, Built on Hope and Healing*. ICT SOS's mission is to end human trafficking through prevention and awareness education; advocacy for survivors; and acting as a bridge between direct service



professionals and community members who desire to help. Since the RAHT Committee formed, Rotarians across all Wichita Metro Area Clubs have been educated on the evils of Human Trafficking, brought community members into the room to help ICT SOS get into a new building, helped raise over \$300,000 of our \$2.5 million goal, and helped with volunteer days and research. Between now and the summer of 2026, there will be a "groundbreaking" event, fundraisers, workdays, and other activities to help ICT SOS reach the \$2.5 million goal and expand their services to better serve our community. Information and donation opportunities can be found at [ictsos.org/give/our-](https://ictsos.org/give/our-place)

[place.](https://ictsos.org/give/our-place)



Rotary Club of Winfield prepared I Like Me books for each of the Kindergartners in Winfield, and a dictionary for every 3rd grader in town. We love to promote literacy, and support education! 📖📚



Rotary Club of Winfield celebrated the holidays!




January 2025

Happy 44th Anniversary

**ROTARY CLUB OF DERBY
EST. 01-13-1981**

Thank you to our five founding members of the Rotary Club of Derby for 44 years of dedication and service. We couldn't have achieved all we have without your vision and commitment. Your leadership has brought us to where we are today, and we are deeply grateful for the legacy you continue to inspire.



FOUNDING MEMBERS: Dale Frazier, Gary Oehmke, Jack Gillespie, Roger Thomas and Bill Smith

Page 5 of 15



Thanks District Governor Jeff for stopping in to visit the [Rotary Club of Winfield](#) to help us kick off the new year!

The Rotary Club of Kinsely provided books to the school in Offerle, KS.




Lewis USD 502



Kindergarten got their personalized books from the Kinsley Rotary Club! Thank you!




JANUARY 2025 STUDENT OF THE MONTH



BRENN STANLEY

Parents:
Lori & Gabe Stanley

SPONSORED BY:
COLBY ROTARY 

Brenn Stanley, a Senior at Colby High School, is the Colby Rotary Club's Student of the Month for January 2025. Her special honors and activities include: National Honor Society-Officer, Superintendent's Honor Roll, past Student Council member, and being a multiple letter winner in volleyball, basketball, & track. Through NHS, Brenn enjoys having the opportunity to inspire younger students to be the best versions of themselves. She also enjoys participating in volunteer work with the Catholic Youth Organization, Genesis, and the Colby Tree Board. Other work experience has included pet care, cleaning, landscaping, working at the Aquatic Park, and refereeing or score keeping for basketball and volleyball.

Along with her high school classes, Brenn is currently taking college classes through Colby Community College. After high school graduation, she plans to attend Fort Hays State University to major in Interior Design. Brenn's ultimate goal is to use her kindness to inspire other people to be kind to others, no matter what they have been through.

Mike Gower, Rotarian and Superintendent of schools, captured lots of smiles from these 3rd graders in Phillipsburg & Logan, when they received their personally signed copies of dictionaries. Each year, [Rotary Club of Phillipsburg](#) members order and sign dictionaries, which are presented to the 3rd graders, with messages of encouragement and future scholastic success!



Congratulations to Ron Godsey from the [Rotary Club of Winfield](#)! Your generous donations to the Rotary Foundation have earned you the PHF+4 distinction and a beautiful pin with 4 sapphires. Most importantly, you have funded the important initiatives at the heart of Rotary.



Kylynn Wentz, a sixth grader at Oberlin Elementary School, shows off her book from the Rotary Little Library while the school bus goes by behind her. Rotary District 5680 provided the "library box" and Oberlin Rotarian Warren Bainter supplied the manpower to get it set up. Club members donated money and books to the project; each book has a seal on the front that proclaims that it came from [the Rotary Club of Oberlin](#).



District Grants training will be held on Saturday, March 8 at 9:15 am at the Hilton Garden Inn in Salina in conjunction with PETS. This is an annual mandatory requirement for district grants. A member of your club must attend District Grants training for your club to be eligible to apply for a district grant for the 2025-2026 Rotary year. There is no charge to attend this PETS session. If you have any questions, please contact District Grants Sub-Committee Chair Andrea Krauss at andrea.krauss@johnofarmer.com.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO SUBMIT FOR A DISTRICT GRANT?

YOU MUST ATTEND THE ANNUAL MANDATORY TRAINING

andrea.krauss@johnofarmer.com



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive youth leadership experience organized by Rotary Clubs and districts to develop leadership skills for our youth while having fun and making connections.

The RYLA One-Day session for District 5680 will be held February 22, 2025 at the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kansas and is open for high school Freshmen, Sophomores, or Juniors. The students are selected and sponsored by a Rotary Club but may also be sponsored by a family Rotarian since it is open to Rotarian family members. Do you have a family member, neighbor, or friend that will benefit from this experience? **NOW** is the time to submit those applications. You may also submit applications for the May session as well.

All information is available at www.sckans.edu/leadership and then service outreach/Rotary Camp.

For more information please contact Dean Kennedy at dean.kennedy@communitynational.net.

District Governor Nominee Isaac McNary is not only a passionate Rotarian, but he is also the Vice President of International Development for The Outreach Program, a non-profit organization. In early January, Isaac and Ed Frey, President of the [Rotary Club of West Wichita](#), headed to Tanzania to bring safe water to school children in rural primary schools. Project Tumaini is an ongoing effort developed by Isaac to install WaterPoint systems into schools in Tanzania. This trip, Isaac and Ed installed 15 WaterPoint systems into primary schools and provided 10,250 children with access to safe water! This project has been widely supported by [Rotary clubs](#) in our district since it began in 2022. [Arkansas City \(3\)](#), [Derby \(1\)](#), and [West Wichita \(2\)](#) have accounted for 6 systems installed over the last 3 years, providing safe water to 4,500 students on an ongoing basis. Rotarians are invited to join Isaac on a trip to Tanzania to help install water systems. The next trip is planned for late May and will last 13 days, more trips are planned for Fall of 2025 and January of 2026. If you would like to learn more about this project you can watch this short video: <https://youtu.be/LEIAwVJIABk> or email isaac@outreachprogram.org. Isaac and Ed also represented District 5680 and their respective Rotary clubs at a visit to the [Rotary Club of Arusha](#). They had the opportunity to meet local Rotarians as well as other visiting Rotarians from Australia, Germany, Belgium, and The Netherlands.





DISTRICT 5680 GOVERNOR CLUB VISITS 2024-2025

West Wichita	March 18	Noon	Tuesday
Wichita – Old Town Wichita	March 17	5:30 p.m.	Monday
Wichita Downtown	March 17	Noon	Monday

DGE Deb invites you to join us at District Conference in Hays, October 17-19



Rotary International comes to North America



All RI events take place at Stampede Park, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, unless otherwise indicated. This information is subject to change, so check back often for the latest updates.

Purchase tickets to Rotary-ticketed events when you register for the convention [online](#), by mail, or fax.

Visit the [Host Organization Committee website](#) to purchase tickets to their exciting events, tours, and activities.

Program Overview

- General Sessions will take place Sunday-Wednesday, 22-25 June 2025
- Breakout Sessions will take place Monday-Wednesday, 23-25 June 2025
- The House of Friendship will be open Saturday-Wednesday, 21-25 June 2025

District 5680 Membership Report As Of January 31, 2025

Club	7/1/2024	1/31/2025	NET GAIN
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	2024- 2025
Abilene	55	53	(2)
Andover	20	18	(2)
Arkansas City	68	62	(6)
Atwood	24	22	(2)
Beaver	17	16	(1)
Beloit	37	33	(4)
Boise City	18	21	3
Cimarron	18	16	(2)
Clay Center	63	65	2
Colby	44	45	1
Concordia	25	24	(1)
Derby	58	57	(1)
Dodge City	32	33	1
Downs	9	7	(2)
East Wichita	64	66	2
E-Club	16	16	0
El Dorado	29	34	5
Ellinwood	17	13	(4)
Ellis	8	9	1
Garden City	28	25	(3)
Goodland	13	13	0
Great Bend	28	28	0
Guymon	36	32	(4)
Haskell County (Sublette)	17	17	0
Hays	56	54	(2)
Hays Sunrise	12	12	0
Hill City	7	7	0
Howard	9	11	2
Hugoton	14	13	(1)
Hutchinson	90	85	(5)
Kingman	21	21	0



District 5680



www.rotary5680.org

This is your newsletter!
Send your articles and
club information to:

ldstoppel@gmail.com

Larry D. Stoppel

785-747-8526

JANUARY DISTRICT 5680 NEWS

Kinsley	5	5	0
Liberal	34	34	0
Lyons	24	23	(1)
McPherson	27	27	0
Ness City	23	23	0
Newton	59	56	(3)
Norton	10	11	1
Oberlin	30	30	0
Osborne	9	9	0
Phillipsburg	31	41	10
Pratt	71	75	4
Russell	38	42	4
Salina	98	97	(1)
Sterling	17	17	0
Syracuse	19	19	0
Texhoma	12	12	0
Ulysses	18	18	0
Washington	32	32	0
West Sedgwick Co Sunrise	37	36	(1)
West Wichita	63	74	11
Wichita-Downtown	342	338	(4)
Wichita-Old Town	10	10	0
Winfield	58	58	0
TOTALS	2020	2015	(5)

MARCH 6-8

SAVE THE DATE

GET READY!

IT'S COMING...

Rotary 

PRESIDENT ELECT TRAINING
HILTON GARDEN INN
SALINA

Presidents-elect:

Registration is now open for Rotary PETS/PELS (March 6-8, 2025).

A few notes: You will select the **2025/26 President - District 5680 & 5710 Only** (Free registration) option, this includes all meals. There is an optional Bowling event on Thursday evening - it is free, however if you plan to attend, we need you to register, so please click on "show options" under *Bowling and Guest meals* if you want to register. You can also register a meal for a guest if you need to.

The hotel has a room block with a special room rate until **February 14, 2025**. The link for hotel reservations will be in your confirmation email after you register for PETS/PELS. Please let me know if you do not receive a confirmation email. Rooms cannot be guaranteed after this date, so reserve a room ASAP.

REGISTER HERE: <https://rotary5710.org/events/2025-heartland-pels/>

Pre-PETS/PELS Zoom Meetings

Please mark your calendar for the following Pre-PETS Zoom meetings. These meetings will be very helpful for preparing for your year as president. **Please plan to attend.** The Zoom link for the first meeting is below. I will send the subsequent zoom links later.

Please note the date change to Jan. 7 for the first meeting. And we added a date for Feb 4 for Foundation 101.

Jan. 7 @ 7:00 pm – Clubrunner and Rotary Club
Central https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83822703936?pwd=Zs1SPnWPt1Gr0zdq12McEj5nlu_aY3Q.1

Jan. 28 @7:00 pm – Membership
Feb. 4 @ 7:00 pm – Foundation 101
Feb. 18 @ 7:00 pm – Club Administration and Rotary International Support

Thank you – and Happy Holidays!

Mandy Sheldon
Rotary Executive
District 5710 & Overland Park Rotary
P.O. Box 394
Gardner, KS 66030



Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) is an intensive youth leadership experience organized by Rotary Clubs and districts to develop leadership skills for our youth while having fun and making connections.

The RYLA for District 5680 will be held May 27 to 30, 2025 at Southwestern College in Winfield, Kansas and is open for high school Freshmen, Sophomores, or Juniors. The students are selected and sponsored by a Rotary Club but may also be sponsored by a family Rotarian since it is open to Rotarian family members. Do you have a family member, neighbor, or friend that will benefit from this experience? Each Rotary Club in the District has a \$100 scholarship from District 5680 available to use for their students. **NOW** is the time to submit those applications.

All information is available at www.sckans.edu/leadership and then service outreach/Rotary Camp.

For more information please contact Dean Kennedy at dean.kennedy@communitynational.net.

Polio Eradication Update **From DG Jeff Horlacher**

I was disappointed to hear of the plans for the USA to pull out of the World Health Organization. We are still committed to eliminating polio from the world, a goal I am proud to endorse. Here is Rotary's response to that news:

Rotary notes the recent announcement that the United States intends to withdraw from the World Health Organization (WHO), a partner in the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). We remain resolute in our mission to eradicate polio. As a founding partner of the GPEI, Rotary has for decades worked closely with all the GPEI partners, the U.S. government, and other governments to end polio worldwide. This effort has reduced the number of children paralyzed by polio by 99.9% since 1988. The global effort to eradicate polio has innovated many times over the years to come close to protecting every last child.

Although this decision creates new challenges, Rotary remains dedicated to ensuring that every child is protected from this preventable disease. We are confident that the GPEI will continue to adapt, to innovate, and to implement effective strategies to keep polio vaccines available for every child in the United States and around the world, especially those in the most challenging and remote regions. The most important decisions leading to a polio-free world are made every day by parents who present their children for vaccination.

We remain committed to working with all GPEI partners to fulfill the promise of a polio-free world. Together, we have ended smallpox, and together, we can ensure that polio becomes the second human disease to be eradicated from the planet.