

# Rotary Across the Heartlands

– CONNECTING ROTARIANS ACROSS KANSAS/OKLAHOMA



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



## District Spotlight

The Rotary Club of West Wichita awarded four \$1,250 scholarships to graduating seniors. Randy Bowles introduced recipient Jameson Russell, a graduate of Bishop Carroll Catholic High School, who will attend Wichita State University to study Industrial Engineering.

## The Kilt Guy is Coming to Town

Rotarians of 5680

I have been waiting for this day for a long time, and it is finally here. The day where men wear kilts and show up to your clubs! Well, one man at least. Me!

All silliness aside, it is truly an honor and privilege to be chosen as your District Governor for the 26-27 Rotary year. As I said last month, my message for the year is simple. MORE. I want all of us to be doing more of whatever type of service you are most passionate about! More on that when I visit your clubs!



## 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**  
Sunday July 19, 7 - 8 PM

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

- \* **PETS/PETS**

Spring 2027

President Elect Training Session. Location TBD

Here is the deal, I need your help. We have openings on all of our District Teams, and I want YOU to join my team. Getting involved at the District level opens up incredible opportunities personally, professionally, and Rotaryally (that isn't a word but I made it one). We need your energy, your ideas, and your passion to help level up our District! You can see the teams and submit your info here.

Cheers to an AMAZING year ahead!

**Yours in Rotary Service,**

**Isaac McNary**

**The Kilt Guy - (316)-461-0512**

**isaac@rotarykiltguy.com**

## Passing of the Pin

If you missed the annual Passing of the Pin Ceremony, You can still watch DG Isaac's Speech!

<https://youtu.be/btQIZBOMJAI>



Click to Watch!

# ROTARY DENTAL MISSION

The Power of Partners

## Heart of America Rotary E-club Hosts



**1<sup>ST</sup> FOUNDING ANNIVERSARY OF  
RUSSELL KANSAS ROTARY CLUB  
Children's Free Dental Clinic**

**MAY 22, 2026, FRIDAY | 8:00 AM**

Bringing Smiles, Building Healthier Futures.  
Providing free dental care, oral health education,  
and a brighter smile for every child.

**A PROJECT OF:** Russell Kansas Rotary Club

**IN PARTNERSHIP WITH:** BigHoop CHARITIES

**120+ CHILDREN SERVED** **5 BARANGAYS REACHED** **100+ TOOTH EXTRACTIONS** **20+ DENTAL FILLINGS**

*One Year of Service. A Lifetime of Smiles.*

THANK YOU TO OUR VOLUNTEERS, PARTNERS & GENEROUS SUPPORTERS!

### The 1st anniversary of Russell Rotary's Free Children's Dental Clinic

The success of the Dental Mission was made possible through strong partnerships, volunteerism and the genuine compassion for service. Thanks to the united efforts of The HELP Foundation and BigHoop Charities, who coordinated the manpower, and the Russell Rotary Club who provided the financing. We also enlisted the help of the local government, the Municipal Dental Office and 5 volunteer dentists from the area. The mission became a powerful expression of collaboration and service. A total of 130 patients were successfully treated during the dental mission. Dental hygiene is sorely lacking this area. This is the first time that most of the children had been in a dental chair. These children will be given a "follow up" appointment in nine months. Our Dental liaison will continue to provide oral health education in the remote villages.



RTN's Keith & Pat Hooper with the volunteer dentists



Dentists at work



Preliminary Examination

# DISTRICT CLUB NEWS

Rotary Club of Old Town Wichita enjoyed our final service project of the Rotary International year at Passageways, Ltd. So glad to help those who've served and sacrificed.



"Growing through leadership" was the theme for the 2026 RYLA. Seventeen youth from 9 rotary clubs gathered at southwestern college. They explored servant leadership through classes, a ropes course, and service projects with habitat for humanity and a local nursery. Highlights included a dinner hosted by the rotary club of winfield and planting a tree with a stone marking 30 years of ryla at southwestern college. Encourage these students as they continue "growing through leadership" in your community.



**RYLA**



The sunrise [Rotary Club of West Sedgwick](#) county celebrated 25 years of service. We spent time sharing stories, favorite memories, and reflecting on the impact rotary has had on our lives and our community. A toast to the friendships we've built, the lives we've touched, and the next 25 years of service above self.



Maurice Linnens and his granddaughter, Emme, helped complete the [Rotary Club of West Wichita](#) grocery delivery in May. Thanks for making the delivery and modeling "Service Above Self" to your granddaughter!

There are many outstanding charities in our metro area to support. one is hygiene. They provide toiletries to those in need throughout our community. seven club members of the [Rotary Club of Andover](#) and spouses recently met at their park city facility for a couple hours and had a nice time packing toothpaste. Many hands make quick work!



Rotary Club of Goodland  
presented 4 scholarships to  
2026 graduates.



Satellite Club of the Rotary Club  
of West Wichita makes lunch

The Satellite Club gathered to make  
150 sandwiches to serve lunch at  
Open Door for those in need. A big  
thank you to the Rotary Club of  
West Wichita for helping to  
financially support this important  
community project.



# Flexibility in Modern Rotary

## **Meeting People Where They Are**

Today's members are balancing careers, family commitments, volunteer activities, and personal interests. The good news? Rotary's strength lies in its ability to adapt while maintaining its core values. Flexible clubs create more opportunities for people to participate, contribute, and remain engaged.

## **Why Flexibility Matters**

Many prospective members are interested in Rotary's mission but hesitate because they worry they cannot commit to traditional meeting schedules. Existing members may also experience life changes that make consistent attendance more difficult.

## **Flexible approaches help clubs:**

- Attract younger professionals and busy community leaders
- Retain members during changing life circumstances
- Increase participation in club activities
- Create a more inclusive member experience

Ideas for Club Flexibility

## **Consider exploring:**

- Hybrid meeting options
- Alternative meeting times
- Service-based meetings
- Social gatherings in place of some traditional meetings
- Virtual committee meetings
- Flexible attendance expectations

## **Membership Moment**

Ask members: "What makes it easiest—or hardest—for you to participate in Rotary?"

The answers may reveal simple adjustments that make a meaningful difference.

## **Action Challenge**

Evaluate one area where your club could offer greater flexibility without sacrificing connection or engagement.

**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**

# District Membership Stats

 1,914 Members

 52 Member Decrease  
(-2.7%)

 58 New Members Added by Eight Growing Clubs

Wichita Downtown +41

Guymon +5

Andover, Haskell Cty, Hill City, Liberal,

Ulysses, West Sedgwick Co Sunrise +2



**SAVE**

**THE DATE**

**>** Rotary 5680 & 5710  
District conference  
**OCT. 23-24**

Incredible speakers, great energy and nonstop fun! !

Manhattan, KS

Rotary  
Zones 25B & 29

**END  
POLIO  
NOW**

**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>

**CLICK TO REGISTER**

# Rotary Monthly Theme Calendar 2026-2027

July 2026

## Maternal and Child Health

1 July: Beginning of  
the Rotary year

August 2026

## Membership and New Club Development

15 August: Interact Club  
Excellence Award nominations  
are due

September 2026

## Basic Education and Literacy

October 2026

## Community Economic Development:

Rotary Alumni Reconnect Week  
(Celebrated Monday through  
Sunday during the week of 7  
October)  
24 October:  
World Polio Day

November 2026

## Rotary Foundation

2 November: World Interact Day  
World Interact Week  
(Celebrated Monday through  
Sunday during the week of  
5 November, Interact's  
anniversary)

December 2026

## Disease Prevention and Treatment

15 December: Last day for  
early registration discount for  
the Rotary International  
Convention

January 2027

## Vocational Service

Mid-January: International  
Assembly, Orlando, Florida,  
USA

February 2027

## Peacebuilding and Conflict Prevention

23 February: Rotary's  
anniversary

March 2027

## Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene

World Rotaract Week  
(Celebrated Monday through  
Sunday during the week of  
13 March)  
13 March: Rotaract's anniversary  
31 March: Preregistration  
discount ends for the Rotary  
International Convention

April 2027

## Environmental

30 April: Rotary International  
Convention registration and  
ticket cancellations are due

May 2027

## Youth Service

June 2027

## Rotary Fellowships Month

### Rotary International Convention

26-30 June: Rotary  
International Convention,  
Barcelona, Spain  
30 June: Club Excellence Award  
nominations are due



Past District Governor | Rotary District 5680

As my year serving as District Governor for Rotary District 5680 comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on the many lessons and blessings this journey has provided. This year taught me the value of diversity in people, ideas, and communities, as well as the importance of servant leadership. I had the privilege of meeting incredible Rotarians throughout our district and seeing firsthand how Rotary continues to change lives through service.

While it is always rewarding to help improve our local communities, one of the greatest feelings has been knowing that our efforts also impact fellow Rotarians and people around the world. Whether through local service projects, youth programs, disaster relief, or our global initiatives, Rotary reminds us that we are part of something much larger than ourselves. I am proud of what we accomplished together and grateful for every club, member, and family who supported this journey. Serving as your District Governor has been one of the greatest honors of my Rotary life, and I will always cherish the friendships, experiences, and opportunities to serve. Together, we truly did Unite for Good.

As I pass the leadership to the next District Governor, I do so with confidence and excitement for the future of District 5680. Every leader brings their own vision, talents, and passion to this role, and I know our district is in great hands. My hope is that we continue to grow our membership, strengthen our clubs, embrace new ideas, and never lose sight of why we became Rotarians—to serve others and make a positive difference in the world. Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to serve. The memories and friendships from this year will remain with me forever.

## REFLECTIONS FROM RI CONVENTION - TAIPEI

The best way to give a recap of the International Convention is through the words of those who attended. Following are some reflections from the D5680 Rotarians and guests that attended. Thanks to all who attended and represented our district.

I loved all the great speakers we had, especially Salome Agbaroji since I thoroughly enjoy her thought provoking poetry. I am excited about our incoming Rotary International President Olayinka Babalola. He will be an inspiration for all Rotarians in the upcoming year. – PDG Gloria Homeier (Russell)

John Hewkos message hit me about loneliness & we need to be inviting people to Rotary. Malala's story was amazing and her tenacity and gift to others, i can't wait to get her book. The Hub Spot-Supporting the mental health of Rotarians impacted me as well the focus was The Third Place by Richard Kyte and how important that is for social connections, building friendships & creating community outside of work & home. Lastly Inca's Message: go do better than our best!!! – Jenni Jones (Salina)



Rotary International is certainly that! I cherish this event, the spectacle, the energy and the glimpse into the lives of others, but I wish to share a divergent thought. Though Rotary has major universal service initiatives, its the independence of the members and advocates of more original thinking that stood out to me. Its evident that every member of Rotary has their own reason for joining and we have to respect this. Despite thousands in attendance, they are only a small fraction of our organization. I look forward to that opportunity to offer greater sunshine and appreciation to those devoted members who make their greatest contribution through friendship, camaraderie, and fiscal support. They are the part of this iceberg that float this stellar organization and provide the shoulders for our leadership to stand on. We have so much to be proud of. Let us appreciate that there are many ways to embrace service above self. – Bill Gardner (Wichita downtown)

Attending the Rotary International Convention in Taipei as a guest was an incredible experience. I was especially inspired by hearing from Nobel Peace Prize laureate Malala Yousafzai and Salome Agbaroji, whose messages about courage, leadership, and the power of service were a highlight of the convention. Combined with experiencing Taiwans culture and hospitality, the convention gave me a deeper appreciation for Rotarys ability to bring people from around the world together to make a meaningful difference. – Destinee Braun (family of Gloria)

I found Malala to be so inspiring in that she has used her struggles to tell a story of hope and perseverance. It was also wonderful to catch up with old friends from all over the world. – PDG Andrea Krauss (Russell)

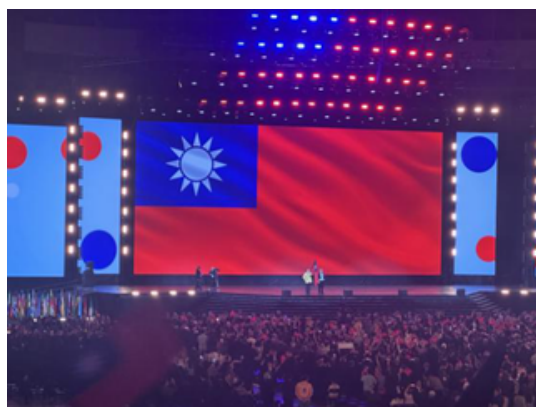
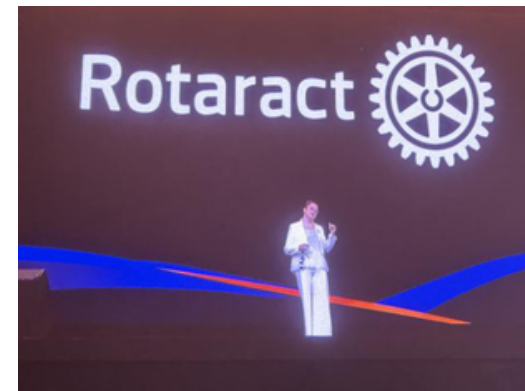


Seeing the breadth and depth of Rotary at the international level is always amazing. I expected Malala to be inspiring, and she was. So articulate and authentic. But more than that, she was willing to share in a most vulnerable way about her own struggles with mental health and why people avoid asking for help. She's been the highlight of this convention for me... as well as the wonderful people I was with! ❤️ - DeAnn Sullivan (West Wichita)



Salome Agbaroji and Alberto Domenighini truly inspired me. Then Olayinka Babalola brought the message home. The message that resonated with me is how our actions inspire hope and hope with action helps us build lasting, impactful organizations for change. I feel very strongly that we have a huge opportunity to engage our youth in helping spread hope and make change in our communities even more than we do today. I feel driven to find the right approach to significantly increase the engagement we have with youth and to create a community Rotoract organization that stands beside us on our journey. – Lesley Hazleton (West Wichita)

The convention is not about the convention. It is about the connections you make, the friendships you start and renew, and the inspiration you harvest along the way. To be surrounded by tens of thousands of people with a shared purpose is a truly magical experience, if I could bring every Rotarian in our district along with me, we would become an unstoppable force for good. – DG Isaac McNary (El Dorado)



My favorite part of the Convention was catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. I was very impressed with the culture and welcoming approach from all Taiwanese we met. – District Secretary, Joyce Heismeyer (East Wichita)

Let us contribute some of the facts and figures. 37,000 Rotarians from over 160 countries. With 2,500 Taiwanese volunteers directing guests to and from the Convention Center and the Dome in Taipei. The flag ceremony during the opening celebration took at least 45 minutes and was very impressive, just like a geography lesson. We are proud to have a Kansan, Larry Lunsford, coming in as RI President-Nominee. – Cindy Elliott and Mehran Shahidi (Hays Noon)



The convention in Taipei was another great Rotary experience. The highlight was hearing Malala Yousafzai, the youngest Nobel Peace laureate, who has spent years recovering from being shot in the face by the Taliban in 2012 recount her recovery and her continued work as a human rights advocate for girls' education. Her discussion about her mental health journey was inspiring and brave. Such an inspiration! Rotary is in good hands with our new RI President Yinka and his successor from Kansas City Larry Lunsford is in good hands!

Of course, the highlight of the trip itself was connecting with a former New Generations Exchange student, Ruby, and her family, and seeing beautiful Taiwan both through her eyes and a short tour after the convention. I love Rotary Conventions! – PDG Geri Apell (Wichita downtown)

The keynote addresses were wonderfully insightful. The entertainment was first class. The House of Friendship was a great meeting-up location and full of inspiring ideas/projects/programs. The social events were fun. And the vibe of 37,000 Rotarians was unforgettable. However, the highlight for me was that all of us from D5680 took time to explore Taipei and other parts of Taiwan. Experiencing different cultures brings us closer together and expands our knowledge of others; thereby making it harder to have conflicts. This is what bringing PEACE to the world is all about. – PDG Fred Heismeyer (East Wichita)



**START PLANNING NOW TO ATTEND THE NEXT ROTARY INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION**

**BARCELONA, SPAIN    JUNE 26 – 30, 2027**



FUN

CULTURES

LEARNING

FRIENDSHIPS

INSPIRATION

MEMORIES

