

District 5680 News

Latest News and Bulletin Updates

November 2024

Issue # 5



District Governor

Jeff Horlacher's Letter

12-6-24 (and days after)

We are in the holiday season. I hope each one of us reaches out with kindness and friendship to family and friends this year. The holidays can be stressful, so acts of kindness to friends and strangers can make a huge difference. I experienced someone very close to me attempting suicide just a few days before Christmas. Although she was not successful, it certainly spoiled the joy of Christmas for me. So, be kind. We never know what the other person is experiencing.



I was thrilled with the quality of our District Conference this year. I hope everyone came home inspired and armed with new insights and ideas for their Rotary journey.

December is when clubs should be holding their elections for officers. Your local club nominating committee should have

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met and selected a slate of officers to propose to the club. Hold elections, and report the results to Rotary International, and to your beloved District 5680. Please communicate with both our District Secretary, Kent Erb, and me.

Club Secretaries need to report all new Rotarians to Rotary International and to Kent Erb and me at the District level. We need to know which clubs are growing and which are losing ground. We also need to know which Rotarians have left the club by death, or by choice. An exit survey is helpful to learn reasons people may be leaving the club, and how to make improvements so your club is irresistible.

Speaking of surveys, Rotary International has several excellent ones available in the Learning Center. I encourage clubs to begin using these. A good place to start is the "Membership Satisfaction Survey." It provides an opportunity for club members to express likes and dislikes, and the local board of directors can use the information to improve the club experience. I recommend starting this right away - let us try to get this first round completed by the end of the year. And using this instrument on a regular basis, the process will not be seen as a threat, but as a regular check-in to see how members view their Rotary experience.

I encourage each member to consider attending the Rotary International convention in Calgary, Alberta. The dates are June 21-25, 2025. You will have an amazing experience and learn so much more about our great organization. A discount on registration is still available until December 15th.

We are seeking people who are interested in serving on the district level. You may want to serve on a committee, go on a service project, be a committee chair, or be a candidate for District Governor. Let us know if you are interested and let us begin the conversation.

I need to know who the steward for your Little Free Library is, and the registration number. I can then have the steward reported to the Little Free Library organization. There are privileges to being a steward, and I will no longer be the official steward of all 30 of our Little Free Libraries!

I wish you all a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year, and blessed holiday season. We have many religions represented in Rotary and in our District 5680. I think all of them celebrate during the month of December. Have a good time, stay safe, and find a way to be of service and kindness to others.

Jeff Horlacher--District Governor--District 5680



Club News from District 5680

Dictionary presentation pics are attached from Oakley schools and Tri-Plains from the [Rotary Club of Colby](#).



Oakley



Tri-Plains



OCTOBER 2024 STUDENT OF THE MONTH



EMILIE STRAMEL

Parents:
Todd and Melissa Stramel

SPONSORED BY:
COLBY ROTARY



Emilie Stramel, a Senior at Colby High School, is the Colby Rotary Club's Student of the Month for October 2024. Some of her special honors and activities have included: Superintendent's Honor Roll, National Honors Society-Vice President, Future Farmers of America, Junior Ambassador, Dance, Tennis, and Power Lifting. Other activities have included 10 years in 4-H with state awards, serving as President of the Rotary Interact Club one year, participating in a church youth group going on eight years, and participating in an on-the-job training program with students at the Colby Grade School.

Future plans of Emilie's include attending Kansas State University and Manhattan Christian College to pursue a degree in Elementary Education and Children's Ministry. After college, she would love to join the Peace Corps for 2 years.

NOVEMBER 2024 STUDENT OF THE MONTH



NATALIE WEDERSKI

Parents:
Brooks & Emily Wederski

SPONSORED BY:
COLBY ROTARY



Natalie Wederski, a Senior at Colby High School, is the Colby Rotary Club's Student of the Month for November 2024. Her special honors and activities have included: National Honor Society, Superintendent's Honor Roll, Student Council Class Representative, Thomas County Community Foundation Youth Ambassador, and being a member of the Catholic Youth Organization and their Leadership Team. She has also participated in track and golf at the local and state levels. Besides her experience working with children, the elderly, and cleaning houses, Natalie has completed multiple hours of service in school and community activities including 60+ hours of volunteer service through Prayer and Action in different communities in Kansas.

In the future, Natalie plans to obtain an Associates' Degree from Colby Community College and then obtain a Bachelor's of Arts Degree at a four-year university. Her ultimate goal is to use the knowledge she gains from obtaining these degrees to expand her joy of working with people to make a difference in their lives.



To celebrate World Kindness Day in November, our **Rotary Club of Winfield** collected and packed table setting bags for the local homeless shelter, Cowley House of Hope. Many of our generous members donated the paper goods- plates, cups, napkins, and silverware to stock 50 bags of 5 each that the House of Hope can offer to their overnight guests.

Shown packing are Rotarians Rusty Zimmerman, Bradley Gamber, Sandi Hower, Treasure Wehner, and Cindy Goertz



Thanksgiving Grocery Project for Thanksgiving by the **Rotary Club of West Wichita** and **Interact Club**.



Rotary Club of East Wichita delivered Thanksgiving dinners to needy families in our community. Thanks to all who donated and delivered 69 holiday meals.



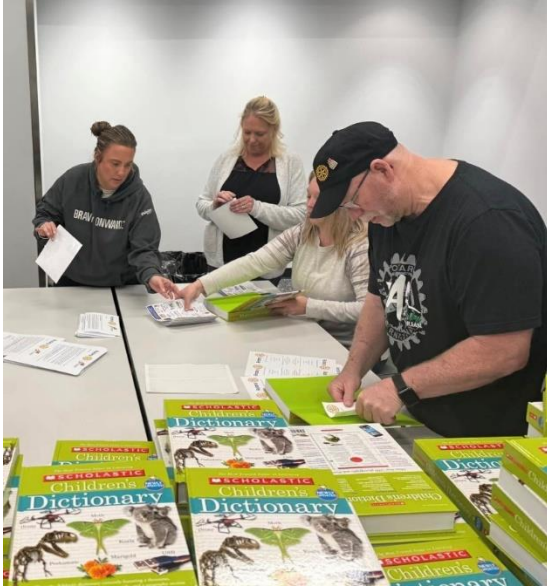


Rotary Club of Derby; Elves Charlene, Rhonda, Gabe, Dana, Jenny, Mandy, and Dan help spread holiday cheer at the Derby Christmas Tree Lighting event! Your hard work serving hot cocoa, handing out cookies, and helping with crafts made the evening so special for everyone who attended.

Hamburgers (of course!) was on the menu at the Ronald McDonald House courtesy of the **Wichita Sunrise Rotary Club** as part of our monthly meal prep commitment to the agency. The weather cooperated for some outdoor grilling at the facility. The meals benefit families with children in medical need who are staying at one of the area hospitals.



Rotary Club of Derby came together to prepare and package dictionaries for all of the third graders in Derby. We're thrilled to support literacy and help these young students on their educational journey!



Congratulations to the **Rotary Club of Guymon** for winning first place in the Halloween Palooza.

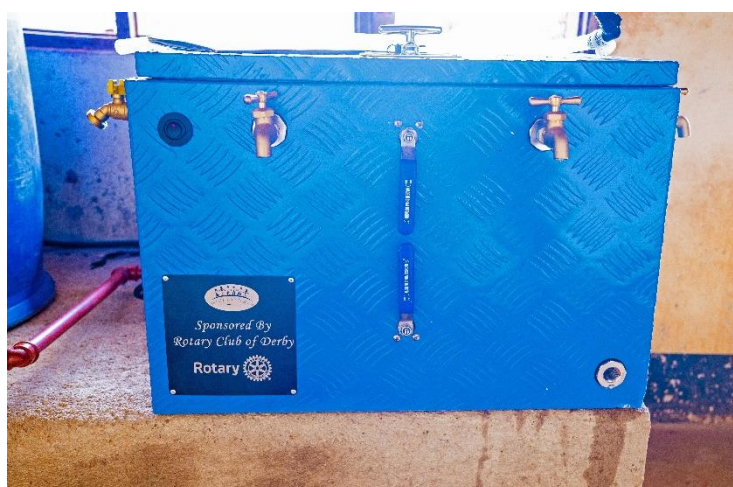


District Governor Nominee off to Africa!

DGN Isaac McNary of the El Dorado Rotary club is leaving for Tanzania on December 31st, 2024 to install water purification systems. This trip will include the installation of 15 water systems into Primary Schools in the Mkalama District, a rural area in North Central Tanzania. Two of the systems he will be installing were sponsored by the Rotary Club of West Wichita, and one was sponsored by the Rotary Club of Arkansas City. These three systems will bring safe water to more than 2,300 students! All told, over 10,000 children will be given access to life by changing clean water on this trip!

The water systems cost \$5,000 each to sponsor a full unit. They are designed to process up to 600 gallons of water a day and last an average of 3-5 years before major service is required. The Primary schools have an average of 800 students each, bringing the cost to bring each student access to clean water to just \$2 per year! Donations are still being sought to fully fund this trip, anything raised above their final goal of \$8,000 will be used on their next install trip tentatively planned for June/July of 2025. Any Rotarians wishing to go along on a service trip with Isaac are invited to email him for more details. isaac@outreachprogram.org

<https://www.classy.org/campaign/water-for-10-000-children/c642709>



DISTRICT 5680 GOVERNOR CLUB VISITS 2024-2025

Andover	January 16	Noon	Thursday
West Wichita	March 18	Noon	Tuesday
Wichita – Old Town Wichita	March 17	5:30 p.m.	Monday
Wichita – West Sedgwick County Sunrise	January 16	7:00 a.m.	Thursday
Wichita Downtown	March 17	Noon	Monday
Winfield	January 15	11:45 a.m.	Wednesday



Rotary International comes to North America



Connect In Calgary

Embark on an exhilarating journey of connection and inspiration at the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary! Engage in riveting discussions, learn from distinguished speakers, and explore enlightening breakout sessions against the backdrop of Calgary's picturesque beauty nestled amid the Canadian Rockies.

Fueled by friendship and a spirit of collaboration, exchange best practices, ignite innovative projects, and form lifelong connections with fellow changemakers from around the world.

Take part in this transformative, one-of-a-kind event and experience the Magic All Around at the 2025 Rotary International Convention in Calgary, Canada 21-25 June 2025.

[Register for 2025](#)

District 5680 Membership Report As Of November 30, 2024

Club	7/1/2024	11/30/2024	NET GAIN
	MEMBERSHIP	MEMBERSHIP	2024- 2025
Abilene	55	53	(2)
Andover	20	20	0
Arkansas City	68	66	(2)
Atwood	24	24	0
Beaver	17	17	0
Beloit	37	33	(4)
Boise City	18	18	0
Cimarron	18	18	0
Clay Center	63	64	1
Colby	44	45	1
Concordia	25	24	(1)
Derby	58	58	0
Dodge City	32	33	1
Downs	9	7	(2)
East Wichita	64	65	1
E-Club	16	16	0
El Dorado	29	32	3
Ellinwood	17	15	(2)
Ellis	8	10	2
Garden City	28	27	(1)
Goodland	13	13	0
Great Bend	28	28	0
Guymon	36	35	(1)
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	14	0
Hutchinson	90	86	(4)
Kingman	21	21	0
Kinsley	5	5	0



District 5680



www.rotary5680.org

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

ldstoppel@gmail.com

Larry D. Stoppel

85-747-8526

Liberal	34	34	0
Lyons	24	23	(1)
McPherson	27	27	0
Ness City	23	23	0
Newton	59	54	(5)
Norton	10	10	0
Oberlin	30	30	0
Osborne	9	9	0
Phillipsburg	31	34	3
Pratt	71	72	1
Russell	38	41	3
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	77	14
Wichita-Downtown	342	342	0
Wichita-Old Town	10	10	0
Winfield	58	58	0
TOTALS	2020	2023	3

REMINDER: Clubs need to report their President-Elect for the 2025-2026 Rotary year by the deadline of December 31. Your club's PE can be reported at the following link:

[Report 2025-2026 President-Elect](#)



The situation in Syria has reached a historic turning point with the fall of the Assad regime. This marks a significant moment in the 14-year-

long civil war. However, the security situation remains highly unstable, with various armed groups and opposition forces contending for control. Violence is escalating and curfews are in place in many areas, particularly northern Syria where ShelterBox has been operating for over a decade.

The civil war has caused immense human suffering, displacing over half of Syria's pre-war population. Five and a half million people have sought refuge in neighboring countries, and 6.8 million are displaced internally. ShelterBox has assisted over 400,000 people since 2012. Over 16 million people require humanitarian assistance. Many have been displaced for more than a decade, multiple times, and a generation of children are growing up displaced or in refugee camps. Previous ShelterBox projects in Syria garnered Nobel Peace Prize nominations in 2018 and 2019. ShelterBox has provided shelter for over 25,000 households since 2020.

Now, while there is a renewed hope of returning home safely and reuniting with loved ones, the situation is fraught with uncertainty. Many are making long journeys back to Syria, unsure of what they will find. Large numbers of people are waiting for improved security before returning. Conflicts between armed groups continue to displace more people. It is vital that all factions work together to protect civilians and ensure the safe access of humanitarian aid.

The approaching winter poses a severe risk to those without adequate shelter. Our annual winterization shelter and warm clothing distributions were halted recently due to increased conflict, but we plan to resume distributions soon. We are closely monitoring the situation and scaling up our response to meet the needs of newly displaced people. Keeping people warm and sheltered is critical as winter temperatures drop below freezing.

In summary, while the fall of the Assad regime offers a glimmer of hope, the situation remains volatile and complex, with significant humanitarian challenges ahead. ShelterBox remains committed to provide shelter and more over the cold winter months.

ShelterBox support from all Rotary Clubs in District 5680 is vital to save lives in Syria and in the 14 other countries where ShelterBox is currently responding. <http://www.shelterboxusa.org>

ShelterBox USA

Bill Tobin
Rotary Relations Manager

d: 1 (805) 203-8668
m: (916) 616-6973
w: www.shelterboxusa.org

