

# District 5680 News

Latest News and Bulletin Updates

July 2025

Issue # 1



## ROTARY SADDLE SUMMARY OF THE MONTH

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### August: Membership and New Club Development Month



Fellow Rotarians,

August marks a special focus in our Rotary calendar—**Membership and New Club Development Month**. As your District Governor, I can't think of a better time to celebrate the heart of who we are: **our members**. Rotary District 5680 thrives because of the energy, passion, and commitment each of you brings to your club and

community. Whether you're a new member finding your place in Rotary or a longtime leader guiding others, your contributions matter deeply. I want to personally thank you for the impact you make every day.

This month gives us the opportunity not only to recognize the amazing work happening across our district, but also to ask:

- Who else in our communities would make a great Rotarian?
- What new clubs could we form to better serve underserved or remote areas?
- How can we make Rotary even more welcoming, inclusive, and engaging?

There are so many creative ways to grow Rotary—from launching satellite or cause-based clubs to inviting a colleague to a service project or community event. Even the smallest conversation can be the start of someone's Rotary journey. As we look ahead to a strong year, let's keep membership at the center of our efforts. When we **grow Rotary**, we expand our reach, deepen our service, and ensure that this incredible organization continues to thrive for generations to come.

Thank you for being part of this journey. I am proud to serve alongside each of you.

In Rotary Service,

**Deb Minkler**  
**District Governor, Rotary District 5680**



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FOR  
GOOD**

## Club News from around the District

Mindy Wagner goes to the head of the line of past presidents, assuming her role as president of the club.



Outgoing president Ed Frey receives his congratulatory plaque from incoming president Mindy Wagner.

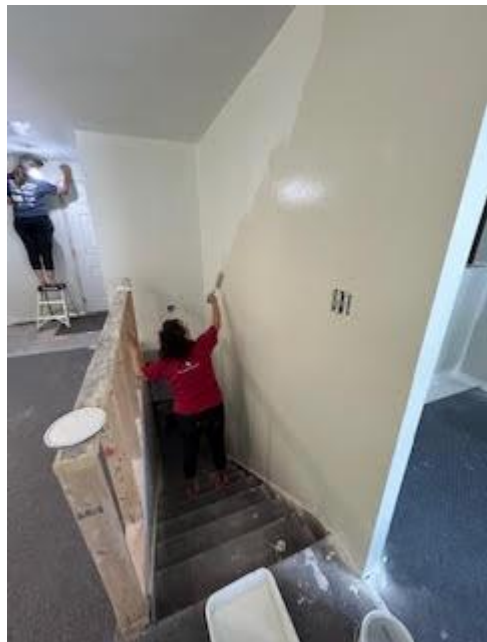
Congratulations to Dr. Bob Nelson on achieving a Paul Harris Fellow +2! We're grateful for his generous support for The Rotary Foundation. Foundation Chair Cindy Hand presented this recognition.



Nathan Haskell begins his new year as president of the Rotary Club of Dodge City taking over from Ryan Ausmus.



Rotary Club of Phillipsburg members were back at it, living out our motto of "Service Above Self" by volunteering their time and talents to help with the Hospice office renovations. Proud to support such a meaningful cause and make a difference in our community!





Hannah Hernandez, 2025 Club Scholarship Winner for the [Rotary Club of Colby](#), presented at a recent meeting. Hannah has attended several RYLA camps and has been an Interact member for several years.

Hannah was the club's April Student of the Month.

The [Rotary Club of Colby](#) has provided community entertainment at the Thomas County Fair for 15+ years. Plinko is a game of chance at our county fair. We have a faithful member who takes care of the maintenance to make sure the game is in top working order before the fair begins each year. Plinko is one of the most popular games among children (and adults) and there is always a line of contenders patiently waiting their turn. Winners can trade their tokens for a variety of prizes.

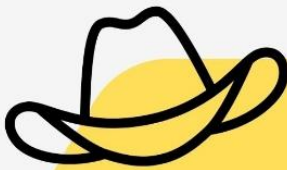


Through a **Rotary District 5680** matching grant, the **Rotary Club of Arkansas City** was able to provide \$4,000 of school supplies to **Angels In The Attic's** annual Stuff the Bus campaign. The club's donation provided assorted supplies including basics such as paper and pencils to more specific needs including calculators and vouchers for shoes. A big thank you to all of our club's volunteers who helped coordinate, collect and deliver these items in support of our area students.



The **Rotary Club of Salina** helped assemble Birthday in a Box kits for the local Food Bank. We appreciated your service!



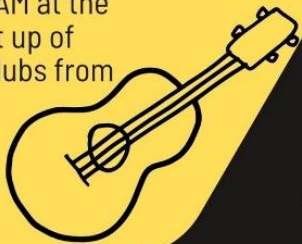


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**ROTARY AT WALNUT VALLEY FESTIVAL**

Join us for a Rotary social at the Walnut Valley Festival! Saturday, September 13<sup>th</sup> at 10AM at the Bradbury Camp! This Bluegrass meet up of Rotarians will be a fun way to connect clubs from all over.

Text Laura for campsite location following Land Rush: 620-222-7593



## Little Libraries across District 5680

### PDG Jeff Horlacher

We want to thank Lori Bone for her generous donation to the Rotary Club of Dodge City's Little Free Library.



Rotary Club of Pratt



Rotary Club of Washington





# 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.

## Share Your Voice: Shape Our Future!

Your insights are vital to making Rotary even better! Both your Rotary club and District 5680 want your honest feedback on your day-to-day experiences and the district.

This survey is your chance to highlight what's working and where we can improve. Your input will directly guide the future of your club and our district.

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Ready to make a difference? [Click here to take the anonymous survey.](#)

Thank you for helping us build a stronger Rotary!



Satisfaction survey:

<https://forms.gle/AnxyGgaA7qjnzpYAl'd>

## DISTRICT 5680 GOVERNOR CLUB VISITS 2025-2026

|                                   |              |              |           |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|
| Abilene                           | Video        | Noon         | Friday    |
| Andover                           | Video        | Noon         | Thursday  |
| Arkansas City                     | Video        | 11:45 a.m.   | Monday    |
| Atwood                            | June 13      | 6:00 p.m.    | Friday    |
| Beaver, Oklahoma                  | Video        | Noon         | Thursday  |
| Beloit                            | Video        | Noon         | Tuesday   |
| Boise City, Oklahoma              | Video        | Noon         | Wednesday |
| Cimarron                          | Video        | Noon         | Tuesday   |
| Clay Center                       | Video        | Noon         | Thursday  |
| Colby                             | August 19    | Noon         | Tuesday   |
| Concordia                         | September 11 | Noon         | Thursday  |
| Derby                             | Video        | Noon         | Friday    |
| Dodge City                        | September 15 | Noon         | Monday    |
| Downs                             | Video        | Noon         | Tuesday   |
| East Wichita                      | Video        | Noon         | Wednesday |
| El Dorado                         | Video        | Noon         | Wednesday |
| Ellinwood                         | Video        | Noon         | Tuesday   |
| Ellis                             | Video        | Noon         | Wednesday |
| Garden City                       | September 24 | Noon         | Wednesday |
| Goodland                          | August 20    | MT 9:00 a.m. | Wednesday |
| Great Bend                        | August 11    | Noon         | Monday    |
| Guymon, Oklahoma                  | Video        | Noon         | Wednesday |
| Haskell County (Sublette)         | Video        | Noon         | Wednesday |
| Hays                              | September 22 | Noon         | Monday    |
| Hays Sunrise                      | November 19  | Noon         | Wednesday |
| Heart of America E-Club – evening | Video        | Noon         | Sunday    |
| Hill City                         | December 9   | Noon         | Tuesday   |
| Howard                            | Video        | 6:30 p.m.    | Wednesday |
| Hugoton                           | Video        | Noon         | Thursday  |
| Hutchinson                        | Video        | 11:45        | Monday    |
| Kingman                           | November 18  | Noon         | Tuesday   |
| Kinsley                           | Video        | 6:00 p.m.    | Monday    |

## DISTRICT 5680 GOVERNOR CLUB VISITS 2025-2026

|                                        |              |            |           |
|----------------------------------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Liberal                                | Video        | Noon       | Tuesday   |
| Lyons                                  | Video        | Noon       | Tuesday   |
| McPherson                              | Video        | Noon       | Tuesday   |
| Ness City                              | Video        | Noon       | Tuesday   |
| Newton                                 | Video        | 5:45 p.m.  | Tuesday   |
| Norton                                 | September 17 | 1 & 3 Noon | Wednesday |
| Oberlin                                | October 14   | Noon       | Tuesday   |
| Osborne                                | Video        | Noon       | Thursday  |
| Phillipsburg                           | August 28    | Noon       | Thursday  |
| Pratt                                  | Video        | Noon       | Thursday  |
| Russell                                | September 9  | Noon       | Tuesday   |
| Salina                                 | October 6    | Noon       | Monday    |
| Sterling                               | Video        | Noon       | Monday    |
| Syracuse                               | Video        | MST Noon   | Thursday  |
| Texhoma, Oklahoma                      | Video        | Noon       | Tuesday   |
| Ulysses                                | Video        | Noon       | Tuesday   |
| Washington                             | Video        | Noon       | Monday    |
| West Wichita                           | Video        | Noon       | Tuesday   |
| Wichita – Old Town Wichita             | Video        | 5:30 p.m.  | Monday    |
| Wichita – West Sedgwick County Sunrise | Video        | 7:00 a.m.  | Thursday  |
| Wichita Downtown                       | Video        | Noon       | Monday    |
| Winfield                               | Video        | 11:45 a.m. | Wednesday |

A video DG program will be provided to each club in lieu of an in-person DG visit.

**CONFIRMED** VISIT AS OF July 31, 2025.

If your club would like to request an in-person visit, please contact Joyce Heismeyer by e-mailing her at [5680ExecSec@gmail.com](mailto:5680ExecSec@gmail.com)

## **The H.E.L.P Foundation**

### **Humanitarian Efforts to Lessen Poverty of Underprivileged in the Philippines**

#### **Notes from the Founder: Keith W. Hooper**



You know, when I started the HELP Foundation 24 years ago, my goal was a bit lofty — I wanted to help the less fortunate in the Philippines. I soon came to realize that there were millions of folks who fit into this category! I was trying to help all less fortunate and not doing a very good job. I would fly from Bukidnon to Manila; then

to Cebu City and then back to Bukidnon. I was basically "going in circles" and accomplishing little! My Filipina wife of 57 years, whispered in my ear or maybe I dreamed this word three times — Focus, Focus, Focus! That led me to one of the most impoverished and one of the most beautiful areas in the Philippines, the Keith W. Hooper with Senior High School Graduates Municipality of Talakag in the Province of Bukidnon. Coincidentally that is where I served as a Peace Corps Volunteer 59 years ago. Since that time there have been so many positive changes to the way of life in the Philippines, especially in the urban areas. However, population increase has exacerbated the poverty issue. Since 1968 the population in the Philippines has increased 340% to almost 116,000,000 with a land area of 1 15,831 square miles. In comparison the population of the U.S.A. has increased 170% with a land area of 3,800,000 square miles. We are making a difference in our little corner of the world one person at a time. In the 2025/26 school year, we are sponsoring the education of 55 high school students (\$150/student) and 68 college students (\$500-\$1,000/student) depending on their major. If you have sponsored a high school student who graduated and have decided not to sponsor a college student because of the additional cost, please consider donating to our "college fund" where we "pool" several donations to sponsor one college student. Our microloan project continues to grow. We added 2 new loaning centers in 2024. In total we operate 22 centers servicing over 800 clients. Our livelihood, agriculture, and feeding projects are ongoing and doing well.

One of the major factors in our success in helping the less fortunate in the Philippines is the caring and generosity of Rotary (Individual Rotarians, Rotary Clubs, and the Rotary Foundation). In 2024 we received a \$ 11,000 District Grant from the

Russell Kansas Rotary Club to establish a free dental clinic for children. We had our ribbon cutting ceremony on May 22 with

Renz Sulatan, Mayor of Talakag, and Dr. Joseph Harrison, representing Rotary, formally opening the clinic by cutting the ribbon. We have plenty of potential patients, but we are limited by volunteer dentists. If you know of any dentists who are adventuresome, who like challenges, and want to spend 2 weeks in Paradise, SEND THEM MY WAY!!!

On a more somber note, so many of our faithful and longtime friends who believed in the humanitarian work that we do, passed away in 2024. Namely, Dr. Thomas Weaver, (Rochester, IN), LTG James and Judy Link, (Huntsville, AL), Thomas Jenkins, (Mission Viejo, CA), Edward Mercer (San Diego, CA), Leland Rahjes, (Kensington, KS), and Loretta Beckmann, (Smith Center, KS). These wonderful people were long-time supporters of the HELP Foundation and accounted for 25% of our annual donations! However, many of these wonderful folks remembered the HELP Foundation in their estate plan! God Bless Them!!

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## **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. Check out the action-packed schedule.

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.

WE ARE STRONG TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG TOGETHER WE ARE STRONG

# EVENT SCHEDULE

## *Wild West Connection*

### FRIDAY

4:00-6:30 PM REGISTRATION

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5:30-6:30PM HAPPY HOUR  
THIRSTY'S BREW PUB AND GRILL  
2704 VINE STREET HAYS

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6:30 PM-10:00PM APPITIZERS PROVIDED.  
ATTENDEES ARE WELCOME TO  
ORDER OFF THE MENU,  
INCLUDING DRINKS, AT THEIR  
OWN EXPENSE

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# EVENT SCHEDULE

## *Wild West Connection*

### SATURDAY MORNING

7:00-8:00 BREAKFAST

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7:30-8:30 REGISTRATION

---

8:00-8:30 OPENING SESSION - DISTRICT GOVERNOR  
DEB MINKLER

---

8:30-9:30 RICHARD BUERRY - ANTI BULLYING

---

FORT HAYS INTERNATIONAL  
9:30-10:30 EXCHANGE STUDENTS

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10:30-10:50 BREAK

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10:50-11:45 KELLY ATKINSON - MEMBERSHIP

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11:45-1:00 LUNCH

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# EVENT SCHEDULE

## *Wild West Connection*

### SATURDAY AFTERNOON

1:00-1:45 KALEY CONNER - MENTAL HEALTH

1:45-2:45 BREAK OUT SESSION

2:45-3:00 BREAK

3:00-3:45 FRED WORKS - ROTARY HELPING

3:45-4:15 AWARDS PDG JEFF HORLACHER

4:15 - 4:30 DECEASED ROTARIANS

4:30-5:00 BUSINESS MEETING

5:30-6:00 HAPPY HOUR

6:00-7:30 DINNER - KEYNOTE SPEAKER TROOPER BEN -  
MOTIVATIONAL

7:30 AUCTION

8:00-10:00 ENTERTAINMENT -FAIRCHILDS BAND



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## District 5680 Membership Report As Of July 31, 2025

| Club                      | 7/1/2025   | 7/31/2025  | NET<br>GAIN<br>2025-<br>2026 |
|---------------------------|------------|------------|------------------------------|
|                           | MEMBERSHIP | MEMBERSHIP |                              |
| Abilene                   | 53         | 53         | 0                            |
| Andover                   | 18         | 18         | 0                            |
| Arkansas City             | 68         | 65         | (3)                          |
| Atwood                    | 24         | 24         | 0                            |
| Beaver                    | 16         | 16         | 0                            |
| Beloit                    | 30         | 30         | 0                            |
| Boise City                | 22         | 22         | 0                            |
| Cimarron                  | 17         | 17         | 0                            |
| Clay Center               | 64         | 63         | (1)                          |
| Colby                     | 35         | 35         | 0                            |
| Concordia                 | 26         | 26         | 0                            |
| Derby                     | 55         | 55         | 0                            |
| Dodge City                | 30         | 31         | 1                            |
| Downs                     | 7          | 7          | 0                            |
| East Wichita              | 67         | 65         | (2)                          |
| E-Club                    | 16         | 16         | 0                            |
| El Dorado                 | 31         | 31         | 0                            |
| Ellinwood                 | 13         | 13         | 0                            |
| Ellis                     | 10         | 10         | 0                            |
| Garden City               | 22         | 22         | 0                            |
| Goodland                  | 13         | 13         | 0                            |
| Great Bend                | 28         | 28         | 0                            |
| Guymon                    | 23         | 24         | 1                            |
| Haskell County (Sublette) | 16         | 16         | 0                            |
| Hays                      | 52         | 52         | 0                            |
| Hays Sunrise              | 12         | 12         | 0                            |
| Hill City                 | 7          | 7          | 0                            |
| Howard                    | 10         | 10         | 0                            |
| Hugoton                   | 13         | 13         | 0                            |



District 5680



[www.rotary5680.org](http://www.rotary5680.org)

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

ldstoppel@gmail.com

Larry D. Stoppel

785-747-8526

|                          |             |             |          |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------|----------|
| Hutchinson               | 86          | 89          | 3        |
| Kingman                  | 21          | 21          | 0        |
| Kinsley                  | 5           | 5           | 0        |
| Liberal                  | 32          | 32          | 0        |
| Lyons                    | 21          | 21          | 0        |
| McPherson                | 27          | 27          | 0        |
| Ness City                | 21          | 21          | 0        |
| Newton                   | 55          | 57          | 2        |
| Norton                   | 11          | 11          | 0        |
| Oberlin                  | 29          | 29          | 0        |
| Osborne                  | 9           | 9           | 0        |
| Phillipsburg             | 44          | 40          | (4)      |
| Pratt                    | 72          | 73          | 1        |
| Russell                  | 39          | 39          | 0        |
| Salina                   | 96          | 96          | 0        |
| Sterling                 | 13          | 13          | 0        |
| Syracuse                 | 18          | 17          | (1)      |
| Texhoma                  | 8           | 8           | 0        |
| Ulysses                  | 16          | 16          | 0        |
| Washington               | 31          | 31          | 0        |
| West Sedgwick Co Sunrise | 36          | 36          | 0        |
| West Wichita             | 70          | 72          | 2        |
| Wichita-Downtown         | 347         | 350         | 3        |
| Wichita-Old Town         | 8           | 8           | 0        |
| Winfield                 | 60          | 60          | 0        |
| <b>TOTALS</b>            | <b>1973</b> | <b>1975</b> | <b>2</b> |



District 5680



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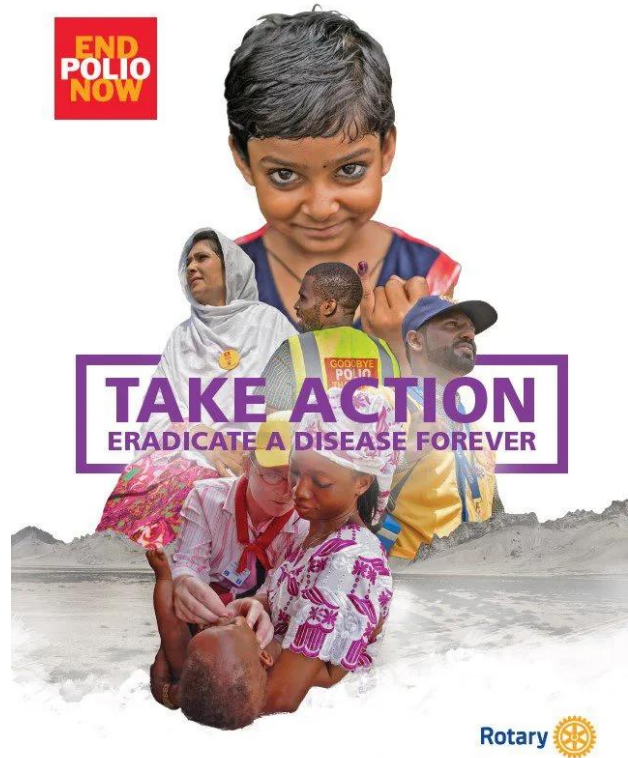
785-747-8526

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## End Polio Now

As we settle into our new Rotary year, I want to take a brief moment to thank all the members of the PolioPlus Society for their continued support and contributions. You are making a difference in the world!

I am proud to take on the role of District Governor Elect this year and am looking forward to working with our amazing clubs over the coming years as I continue into my role as District Governor next year. Unfortunately, this also means that I have growing responsibilities and my tenure as PolioPlus Chair needs to come to a close. I am proud to have been in this role, but we need a new champion for the children of this world. If you are passionate about Rotary's mission to End Polio, I invite you to reach out to me to discuss how you can get involved. I will be there to guide and support you in your new role, but we need a dedicated individual to take up this mantle. Please contact me at [isaac@rotarykiltguy.com](mailto:isaac@rotarykiltguy.com), or by phone 316-461-0512.



As always, if you want to join the PolioPlus Society, you can do so here. <https://forms.gle/AZkijkyDysM8pPcA7>

Yours in Rotary Service  
Isaac McNary  
DGE - PolioPlus Chair.  
[isaac@rotarykiltguy.com](mailto:isaac@rotarykiltguy.com)